

1989

Buchan, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Entries on the mystery writings of other writers such as Bram Stoker and H.G. Wells also appear. The arrangement is alphabetical and each entry gives both biographical and critical information about the authors and bibliographies of both their writings and works about them. The entries vary in length depending upon the author's importance. Illustrations enhance the volume, but the lack of an index is regrettable (a cumulative index to main entries in the series is provided in place of individual volume indexes). **Recommendation**--This book is a welcome addition to critical and reference literature. *Library Review*, Vol. 38, no. 2, 1989, p. 50-51

Dictionary of American Literary Characters, by Benjamin V. Franklin. N.Y.: Facts On File, 1989. 512p. \$50 ISBN 0-8160-1917-7.

■ This large volume is an alphabetical listing of over 11,000 American literary characters created between 1789 and 1980. It covers characters from popular novels as well as from renowned authors. Entries are brief (about 20 words), objective, and well indexed.

Recommendation--Although this work is finely compiled, it will only be helpful to the occasional reader who has encountered an unfamiliar character.

Reviewer--Charles N. Nash
Library Journal, Aug. 1989, p. 122

Recommendation--This work, with its emphasis on novelists of the present century, is welcome. The author saw a gap in the literature and filled it.

Reviewer--James Rettig
Wilson Library Bulletin, Sept. 1989, p. 136

Horror: A Connoisseur's Guide to Literature and Film, by Leonard Wolf. N.Y.: Facts On File, 1989. 320p. \$24.95 ISBN 0-8160-1274-1. LC 88-11126.

This book is designed for the horror enthusiast, high school age to adult. There are entries for most novels, short stories, and films with horror as the central theme, from the 18th century to 1986. Entries are alphabetical and provide well-written annotations. This is comparable to Stephen King's *Danse Macabre*, but Wolf does a better job. Included are many black-and-white illustrations and a lengthy bibliography.

Recommendation--This guide is an optional purchase. Its price and potential appeal within your library should be considered.

Reviewer--Betsy Hobgood
The Book Report, Sept./Oct. 1989, p. 59

*See also Apr. 1989 p. 35

Masterplots II: Nonfiction Series, ed. by Frank N. Magill. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Salem Press, 1989. 4 vols./1,745p. \$300 ISBN 0-89356-478-8. (Permanent paper.)

■ The nonfiction series, the fifth of six series in *Masterplots II*, covers autobiographies, mem-

oirs, and other works "that the culturally literate person will encounter." Most of the selections are 20th-century, English-language writings. Clear, objective, and well-written entries summarize and analyze the nonfiction titles and place each in a critical context.

Recommendation--"This set's narrow scope makes it the least valuable part of this costly series."

Reviewer--Peter Dollard
Library Journal, Sept. 1, 1989, p. 182-84

Modern Fantasy: The Hundred Best Novels; An English-Language Selection, 1946-1987, by David Pringle. N.Y.: Peter Bedrick, 1989. 284p. \$17.95; \$8.95 (paper) ISBN 0-87226-328-2; 0-87226-219-7 (paper). LC 89-33072. (Dist. by Harper, N.Y.)

■ In this volume the British sci-fi magazine editor Pringle presents brief, informative essays concerning each of the 100 novels in the title, in chronological order. The essays include a synopsis, a discussion of the author's contribution to fantasy literature, commentary on the title's importance, and a short publishing history. There is also a brief bibliography.

Recommendation--Although subjective and hardly definitive, this entertaining guide provides a good introduction to fantasy literature, and is recommended for most libraries.

Reviewer--Jackie Cassada
Library Journal, Sept. 1, 1989, p. 186

A New History of French Literature, ed. by Dennis Hollier. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press, 1989. 2 vols./1,280p. \$49.95 ISBN 0-674-61565-4. LC 88-27027. (Permanent paper.)

■ The 164 essays in this set "provide an original and outstanding overview of French literature from 842 to the present." Arranged chronologically, beginning with the *Serments de Strasbourg*, the essays variously cover genres, literary movements, historical events, and large surveys, and demonstrate both depth and breadth. The contributors are American and English specialists.

Recommendation--Highly recommended, this unique and "stimulating survey . . . goes beyond dates and summaries and . . . raises social, political, literary, and philosophical issues."

Reviewer--Anthony Caprio
Library Journal, Sept. 1, 1989, p. 184

Music

The Art of the Piano: Its Performers, Literature, and Recordings, by David Dubal. N.Y.: Summit Books, 1989. 480p. \$40 ISBN 0-671-49238-1. (Dist. by Simon & Schuster, N.Y.)

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■ This handbook for piano enthusiasts is informative and well researched. Capsule biographies in the first section assess pianists' stylistic or pianistic traits and cite recordings or (for historical figures) contemporary reports as documentation. The second section constitutes a critical survey of solo and concerto literature, with selective discographies. Although the book is necessarily subjective and has some surprising omissions, Dubal's opinions reflect careful judgment and love of the subject.

Recommendation--This work assembles much useful information in one volume.

Reviewer--Susan Kagan
Library Journal, Sept. 1, 1989, p. 182

Contemporary Musicians: Profiles of the People in Music, Vol. 1, ed. by Michael L. LaBlanc. Detroit: Gale Research, 1989. 253p. \$49.95 ISBN 0-8103-2211-0. ISSN 1044-2197. Published semi-annually.

■ The purpose of this new semi-annual series is to "provide in one ongoing source, in-depth coverage of the important figures on the modern contemporary music scene, in a format that is both informative and entertaining." According to the editor, each volume will provide information on 80 to 100 musical artists from all popular musical genres. (Included in the first volume are such well-known figures as Frank Sinatra and Debbie Gibson, and lesser-known musicians including Sweet Honey in the Rock and Kitaro.) Each biographical entry contains personal information about the artist, such as address, awards won, vital statistics, as well as critical essays on the artist's music. Discographies and selected bibliographical sources for

further reading are also included. Entries are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the list. Although the information contained in *Contemporary Musicians* can be found elsewhere, this source is unique in that it does indeed seem to cover the broadest spectrum of contemporary music imaginable. Where else could you find information on Dean Martin, Mötley Crüe and Joan Baez, all in the same book? However, there are some serious flaws within the work itself. For example, many of the articles are stylistically and grammatically clumsy and overly repetitive. Some contain erroneous information regarding song and album titles. Other irksome features to readers are the lack of complete bibliographical information for the sources cited and inconsistent and questionable discographical information.

Recommendation--With a little digging, the information found in *Contemporary Musicians* can be found elsewhere. Unfortunately, the inclusion of too many clumsily written sentences and errors keeps me from recommending this source at all to anyone. Bob Diaz, Assistant Librarian, University of Michigan Library

Irish Folk Music: A Selected Discography, comp. by Deborah L. Schaeffer. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1989. 180p. \$39.95 ISBN 0-313-25312-9. ISSN 0192-334X. LC 89-1886. (Discographies, no. 31.) (Alkaline paper.)

■ The 205 entries in this discography of Irish folk music represent recordings from the 1960s through spring 1987; most date from the 1970s forward and are currently in print, and many are released on U.S. labels. The arrangement is alphabetical by principal artist (individual or group) and then by recording title. Entries list the title, year of release, record label and number, all performers and their instruments, producers, titles of all selections, and format (LP, cassette, CD). For most entries Schaeffer, who appears to be thoroughly familiar with the repertoire, has furnished critical annotations which cover the history of the artist(s), musical style, performance, and sound quality of the recording. A few of the annotations are culled from reviews, liner notes, and commercial catalogs. The discography is followed by: a glossary of 15 terms associated with Irish folk music; an annotated directory of mail order establishments and recording companies; an artist index, which includes members of groups as well as principal performers; and a title index of all selections listed in the entries. A brief historical introduction concludes with a short list of relevant books and collections of music. This book was apparently photographed from typescript, and would benefit by the addition of guide words naming the artists covered on each page.--Eds.

Jazz: The Essential Companion, by Ian Carr, Fairweather, and B. Priestley. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1988. 562p. \$24.95 ISBN 0-13-509274-4. LC 88-2498.

This informative encyclopedia provides brief biographies of major jazz figures, along with

critical assessments of their music. Subject essays and entries for jazz terminology are also included. The coverage is international.

Recommendation--Schools that have strong music collections or jazz-oriented students should consider this volume. Smaller libraries may be deterred by the price.

Reviewer--Coralie J. Clark
Book Report, Sept./Oct. 1989, p. 57

*See also Apr. 1989 p. 32; Nov. 1988 p. 32

Music and Dance Periodicals: An International Directory and Guidebook, by Doris Robinson. Voorheesville, N.Y.: Peri Press, 1989. 395p. \$65 ISBN 0-96178444-X.

■ This work arranges by subject 1,867 current periodicals and annuals for art, folk, and popular music and dance. Scholarly journals, commercial publications, and fanzines are all included. Each directory entry includes the serial's dates, price, publisher, audience, indexing, and contents. A bibliography is included, and although extensive, the international list is not comprehensive.

Recommendation--This will be a very useful reference in many public, academic, and music libraries.

Reviewer--William A. Wortman
Library Journal, Aug. 1989, p. 126

The Penguin Encyclopedia of Popular Music, ed. by Donald Clarke. N.Y.: Viking, 1989. 1,376p. \$40 ISBN 0-670-80349-9. LC 88-40587.

■ Nearly 3,000 highly readable entries in this encyclopedia cover artists, albums, labels, and genres and encompass rock, country, jazz, gospel, heavy metal, reggae, rap, ragtime, new age, folk, zydeco, funk, punk, and the blues. A web of cross references and the 90-page index pull together most of the loose threads.

Recommendation--Meeting a long-standing need, this highly recommended reference tool is also a bargain.

Reviewer--Donald W. Maxwell
Library Journal, Sept. 1, 1989, p. 184-86

Popular Music 1900-1919, ed. by Barbara Cohen-Stratyner. Detroit: Gale Research, 1988. 656p. \$70 ISBN 0-8103-2595-0.

Popular Music 1987, Vol. 12, ed. by Bruce Pollock. Detroit: Gale Research, 1988. 181p. \$48 ISBN 0-8103-1810-5.

■ These two volumes expand Gale's *Popular Music* series to cover the years 1900 to 1987. Each work presents a selection of the popular songs of the period covered. Entries are alphabetically arranged by title, and include country of origin, author or composer, publisher, and copyright date, as well as selective tidbits on performers, etc. Indexes of lyricists, composers, performers and performances are included. Both of these works have clear introductions, and selection seems to provide fair coverage of

foreign titles.

Recommendation--These two volumes will be both useful and popular in musical collections as well as at the reference desk.

Library Review, Vol. 38, no. 2, 1989, p. 65-66

Political Science

The Arms Control, Disarmament, and Military Security Dictionary, by Jeffrey M. Elliot and R. Reginald. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1989. 349p. \$44.50 ISBN 0-87436-430-2. LC 88-37151. (Permanent paper.)

■ This wonderfully concise and comprehensive dictionary provides a wealth of information on such topics as the arms race, conventional and nuclear weapons, nuclear strategy, and disarmament. The 268 entries include lucid definitions of words and concepts as well as paragraphs on historical and current significance. Cross-references and an index facilitate usage.

Recommendation--Valuable to both general readers and specialists, this resource is an essential purchase for academic and public libraries.

Reviewer--Jennifer Scarlott
Library Journal, Sept. 1, 1989, p. 182

Congressional Publications and Proceedings: Research on Legislation, Budgets, and Treaties, 2nd ed., by Jerrold Zwirn. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1988. 300p. \$27.50 ISBN 0-87287-642-X. LC 88-12395.

This revision of Zwirn's 1983 work focuses on congressional policy and procedural details. Additional discussion on congressional documents is also included, such as elaboration on the many calendars of the House. The largest amount of new materials consists of procedural details and policy implications of congressional activity. Two appendices are also included: one on specific standing committees, the other "Legislative Information Sources," a supplement to the chapter references.

Recommendation--This guide serves as an overview to the legislative process and some of the actual documentation it produces. Analysis of the process and the policy decisions that drive the process as its strength.

Reviewer--Kerry A. Keck
Government Publications Review July/Aug. 1989, p. 409-10

*See also June 1989 p. 9; Nov. 1988 p. 8

Current Events Transcript Service: Guide to Statements and Interviews of Leading Public Figures. Susan I. Jover, editorial director. Bethesda, MD: Congressional Information Service, Sept. 1988-. Quarterly, monthly, or weekly. Printed indexes: \$450, \$695, \$995. Indexes + microfiche: \$1,395, \$1,650, \$2,395.