
Languages and literature

RR 2011/119

100 Most Popular Science Fiction Authors: Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies

Maura Heaphy

Libraries Unlimited

Santa Barbara, CA and Oxford

2010

xix + 565 pp.

ISBN 978 1 59158 746 0

£44.95; \$65

Popular Authors Series

Keywords Fiction, Bibliographies

Review DOI 10.1108/09504121111118889

In the selection of any enumerated list there will always be omissions or surprising appearances, and from a personal standpoint there are some authors this reviewer was surprised not to make the cut. For example, both Peter F. Hamilton and Alex Reynolds are major modern SF&F writers and yet they are conspicuous in their absence. When Margaret Attwood, whom has published within the genre but hardly to an extensive degree, is included in the 100, there is clearly some degree of bias evidenced. However, Heaphy clearly acknowledges such limitations in her preface, seeking rather to provide a book that would sit as a broad, if not comprehensive, biographical and bibliographic introduction to science fiction across three centuries of publication. With this in mind this book does offer a balanced and largely representative listing. Coverage spans from early greats such as Verne and Shelley through the grand masters of the literature like Asimov and Heinlein to contemporary giants like Iain M. Banks.

The preface details the book's selection criteria and considers how it meets the needs of its anticipated audience. It also offers a breakdown of the individual entry structure aiding in the scholastic usage of this work. That said, any reader should be readily able to follow the alphabetic contents listing, by family name, or by simply flicking through the entries to locate a particular choice. Each individual's entry runs to a few pages in length; starting with the author's subgenres, benchmark titles, biographical dates and a quote from one of their works. This is followed by an essay detailing their life and publishing history

lasting around a couple of pages. Heaphy's style is both engaging and informative, and for the casual reader as well as the serious scholar there is much to be relished. Following each essay there is a list of awards, where appropriate, and then a bibliographic listing split into novels, series, short fiction and sundry works. For the more prolific authors this is restricted to notable publications, rather than a complete listing. Finally, further reading and bibliographies, where available, are listed as well. All textural content is cleanly laid out with excellent use of white space.

Many entries are illustrated with a headshot that offers a hint at the author's personal style, from the smirking Douglas Adams to the stentorian Harry Harrison. It is perhaps a shame that not every entry is illustrated in this way. Within entries there is unsurprisingly no cross-referencing, save for mentions of related contemporaries who may or may not be included in the book. However, a detailed 50-page author/title index more than compensates and makes navigating to topics of special interest easy. There is even a one-page supplementary index guiding you to those authors writing within each sub-genre.

Overall, this is both a compelling and well written overview of the luminaries of SF&F. It would serve as an excellent resource for the scholar and student of the literature and please any fan of the genre. It would make a worthy addition to an educational or public library and is highly recommended for purchase.

Gareth J. Johnson

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RR 2011/120

The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of Los Angeles

Edited by Kevin R. McNamara

Cambridge University Press

Cambridge

2010

xxii + 211 pp.

ISBN 978 0 521 51470 5 (hbk);

ISBN 978 0 521 73554 4 (pbck)

Cambridge Companions to Literature

Keywords Literature, United States of America

Review DOI 10.1108/09504121111118898

It is interesting that I have been able to review two books focused on the city of Los Angeles for this journal this year. The first was *A Companion to Los Angeles* (Deverell and Hise, 2010) (RR 2010/346), which examined the city of Los Angeles from a wide variety of topics and critical themes. This



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book focuses specifically on the literature produced in Los Angeles throughout its illustrious history, from its discovery in 1769 by Spanish explorers up to the present. It starts with short biographical notes on the various contributors, and then provides a wonderful chronological history of Los Angeles interspersed with population statistics and various important literary moments. In the introduction, the editor provides a brief synopsis of the important literary figures and books that defined the growing metropolis of Los Angeles, along with a structural outline of the contents of the volume.

The 15 essays are divided into two parts. The first half deals with a somewhat chronological examination of Los Angeles and its literature, while the second half discusses particular genres. The first essay looks at the writings of the Californios, those early settlers and explorers whose myths and inventions about this region guided future expansion and ideals about the developing city. The second essay explores the literary output in the first 70 years of Los Angeles's history, when topics like its distinctive climate, its topography, and its culture helped to convince settlers in the Eastern USA to move out west. The boom years before the Second World War make up the third essay, when the population quadrupled in the space of 30 years. The idea of the West as the future, as fast, as motion, was tied to the writings by various Los Angeles authors during this time period. The fourth essay examines the influence of expatriated British and German writers who created European cultural islands on the West Coast or worked in Hollywood (some references to expatriated German and Soviet composers and musicians would be ideal here as well). The fifth essay focuses on the development of the suburb as part of the Cold War masterplan for the West Coast, and how Los Angeles helped to develop that myth through its literature. The African-American influence and literary culture is explored in the sixth essay, while the Asian and Latino/as literature comprises the seventh essay.

The second part of the book, as indicated earlier, examines genres. Chapter 8 looks at the literature of urban rebellion, born out of the many riots and uprisings that influenced the development of Los Angeles, including the 1943 Pachuco Riots, the 1965 Watts Rebellion, and the 1992 Justice Riots. Chapter 9 explores authors, books, and the social geography of Los Angeles in the LA detective story genre. Science fiction futures make up the content of Chapter 10, including the region's development of weapons of mass destruction as a creative influence. Chapter 11 examines Hollywood and the movie industry as a specific genre that spurred economic and political developments on a broad

scale both locally and internationally, and how LA's production of detective and science fiction stories were transferred to the big screen. The whole concept of Hollywood and the silver screen is important to the growth of Los Angeles as a metropolis, and the literature of the city as translated to the big screen helped to shape the popular concept of Los Angeles as America's modern city in Chapter 12. Chapter 13 discusses the poetry production of the city, which is often eclipsed by San Francisco/the Bay Area. The changing roles and perceptions of nature in the Los Angeles region are the topic of Chapter 14. The final chapter examines four major Los Angeles writers/interpreters, from Carey McWilliam's circus analogies, to Reyner Banham's urban myths, to Joan Didion's dichotomy of Eden vs. chaos, to Mike Davis's focus on class wars. The book ends with a guide for further reading, and an index.

This is an excellent compilation and chronology on the literature of the second largest city in the United States. I highly recommend it to English and American history classes that want to explore the richness of diversity, myth, fantasy, and fact that is Los Angeles, and how its literature helped to create its image.

Bradford Lee Eden

Associate Librarian for Technical Services and Scholarly Communication, University of California, Santa Barbara, California, USA

Reference

Deverell, W. and Hise, G. (2010), *A Companion to Los Angeles*, Wiley-Blackwell, Malden, MA.

RR 2011/121

The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language (3rd ed.)

David Crystal

Cambridge University Press

Cambridge

2010

iv + 516 pp.

ISBN 978 0 521 51698 3 (hbk);

ISBN 978 0 521 73650 3 (pbck)

£60, \$99 (hbk); £24.99, \$45 (pbck)

Keywords Encyclopaedias, Language

Review DOI 10.1108/09504121111118906

Originally published in 1987, with a second edition ten years later (*RR* 1997/359) and now this third edition, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language* is obviously – and deservedly – a well-established reference book. If David Crystal chose to describe it more as an “embryo encyclopedia” in its first edition, that embryo has surely now grown

into an accomplished and handsome adult. Thoroughness of coverage, lucidity and authority of content and attractiveness and clarity of presentation all combine to make this a truly excellent work. The final embellishment is, of course, that this third edition now brings the subject matter up to date.

That the encyclopaedia needed updating is stressed in the preface. Two areas in particular are highlighted. New sections deal with linguistic effects on and consequences of electronic communications in all forms, and, sadly and in many ways worryingly the threat of extinction facing many of the world's languages. Add to those the thorough updating of the entire text, taking account of the rapid and sometimes far-reaching developments in linguistics and language study over the last decade, and this is clearly if not a new work then a very much revised one.

Within a compact-looking quarto volume of just over 500 pages, the coverage of a vast subject is remarkable. Language and linguistics are not only discrete subjects of study in themselves, but affect or are affected by so many other subjects. The book is divided into eleven major chapters, starting with Popular Ideas about Language, which gives a perspective on the whole subject, within such topics as The Equality of Languages, The Magic of Language and The Functions of Language. Section II, Language and Identity, considers seven aspects of identity from physical to contextual and stylistic identity and literature.

The Structure of Language includes two sub-sections of particular interest to readers of this journal in successive sections on dictionaries and on names. The Medium of Language is covered in three major sections: On Speaking and Listening, On Writing and Reading, and On Signing and Seeing. Section VII on Child Language Acquisition leads naturally into Section VIII Language, Brain and Disability. At Section IX we reach The Languages of the World, explaining origins of language, language families and language change among other topics. Language in the World examines "the problems of communication posed by the diversity of the world's languages and varieties, and the search for solutions". Finally, section XI deals with Language and Communication.

Major appendices give a thorough 20-page glossary of specialized terms and a list of special symbols used in the encyclopaedia, together with phonetic symbols. Appendix II is an alphabetical table of about 1,000 languages currently spoken around the world, including such details as where they are spoken and numbers of speakers. A choice of further reading arranged by major sections is followed by an alphabetical list of references to all

the works cited within the text. The index is divided into three parts: Of Languages, Dialects, Families and Scripts; Of Authors and Personalities; and Of Topics.

If the coverage of the subject is thus literally encyclopaedic, the content, too, is of the highest quality. Professor Crystal's name as the author is alone a guarantee of the accuracy and quality of the text. He is a world authority on his subject in its entire breadth as well as an experienced author of many titles for both academic and more general audiences. As a result his text is both authoritative and accessible to student or general reader alike. Not that the encyclopaedia is solely textual. Where appropriate information is presented in tables, or diagrams, and throughout the book is attractively and relevantly illustrated. Boxes and marginal notes give additional information or down-to-earth examples: under Word Order, for example, there is a box with a colour illustration of Yoda from *The Empire Strikes Back* with a few examples of his idiosyncratic form of speech. The section on dictionaries comprises a text and an annotated discussion of three types of modern dictionary; a margin note with discussion on How Big is a Dictionary?, illustrated boxes with short accounts of Doctor Johnson, James Murray and Noah Webster, five colour illustrations, a history of lexicography, 20 questions to ask when you buy a dictionary, and a table of Some Important Events BJ (Before Johnson). Another marginal note covers Words That Have Never Been Used – Outside the Dictionary! All that in four attractive pages: now multiply that example by all the subjects covered and you have an idea of just how enticing this encyclopaedia is and how easy to consult. Even highly technical, in some parts almost medical, information is explained and illustrated clearly.

The order of the contents and a clear contents page enable the user to navigate the encyclopaedia, but the indexes are still vital. Following up an item in this morning's newspaper I have used the topic index to look up jokes and language; and Groucho Marx has an entry in the personality index as well. On the other hand, while I find no specific reference to "globish" there is an easily found section on World English. There are also excellent discussions of Language for Special Purposes, starting with the plain English movement then covering language of science, of medicine, of law, the press, advertising, and broadcasting. Finding information in this book is no problem: stopping yourself from following up on related topics is more so.

Like other reference works for Cambridge by Professor Crystal, this is an exemplary demonstration of how a book can be constructed

and designed using a whole array of techniques including text, tables, boxes, illustrations and more, both to accommodate and make accessible a vast amount of information. The computer still has some tricks to learn from the printed book. Quite simply, if you have an earlier edition of this book in your stock then you must replace it with this. If you do not have this in your collection then you should buy it anyway and find out what your users have been missing. Suitable for more or less any reference collection, this encyclopaedia will be a wise investment.

Stuart James

Past Editor, Reference Reviews and Formerly Librarian, University of Paisley, Paisley, UK

RR 2011/122

A Companion to Crime Fiction

Edited by Charles J. Rzepka and Lee Horsley

Wiley-Blackwell

Malden, MA and Oxford

2010

xviii + 629 pp.

ISBN 978 1 4051 6765 9

£110; \$199.95

Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture, No. 66

Keywords Crimes, Fiction

Review DOI 10.1108/0950412111118915

Crime fiction has enjoyed a great rise in output and in popularity over the past 30 or 40 years. This substantial and informative book covers a wide variety of themes within the genre and also a long time span from the eighteenth century to the present. Thus we have contributions on gangs and mobs and literature for young people alongside essays on *The Newgate Calendar* and crime, forensics and modern science. Scholars from both sides of the Atlantic have contributed an impressive series of original essays. An introductory essay sets the scene by reflecting on differences between crime and detective fiction. Crime fiction is no longer the preserve of North Atlantic readers but now has a global perspective.

The book is arranged in three parts: History, Criticism and Culture; Genre of a Thousand Faces; and Artists at Work. The second section covers a very wide range of topics. Predictably themes such as The “Hard-Boiled” Genre feature but so does Ethnic Postcolonial Crime and Detection (Anglophone). Sections on African-American fiction and on crime writing in other languages were both informative and encouraged me to explore writers with whom I was unfamiliar. It was slightly disappointing to find that the increasingly popular genre of legal crime novels was given cursory treatment. However, crime

fiction now has a large number of specialist themes: ranging from the cat detective to archaeological investigations with links to present day crimes and they could not all be included.

The final section on writers was the most disappointing: why should Sara Paretsky deserve a chapter but Kathy Reichs and Patricia Cornwell be denied one? Hard choices obviously had to be made in this section but many of the great names are featured, such as Agatha Christie, Raymond Chandler and P.D. James. Many other authors can be traced via the excellent index and it is encouraging to find that Henning Mankell and Val McDermid can be easily located in the text.

As an avid consumer of crime fiction, I found this a delightful companion. Its comprehensiveness and breadth of coverage led me to explore new authors such as Japrisot and Arnaldur. There were some disappointments, such as the omission of the series about the “No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency” in Botswana, but there were compensations too. The range and depth of coverage is commendable. It will give all aficionados of the genre hours of enjoyment. It is indeed a trusty companion that will entertain and add to our knowledge.

Diana Dixon

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RR 2011/123

A Companion to Jorge Luis Borges

Steven Boldy

Tamesis

Woodbridge

2009

x + 208 pp.

ISBN 978 1 85566 189 9

£50; \$95

Keywords Literature, South America, Spanish language

Review DOI 10.1108/0950412111118924

The Argentinian Jorge Luis Borges was one of the key writers of the twentieth century. He started out as a poet in the 1920s, but his reputation is largely based on the completely original short stories he wrote through the 1940s. He introduced an intellectual playfulness to literature that has had a worldwide influence. His stories, or fictions, as he preferred to emphasise, dazzle the reader with paradoxes and philosophical puzzles of time and identity. His reputation spread to Europe in the 1960s.

The book under review is part of a new series from an imprint that specialises in Hispanic literature. It is designed to be a “lively, scholarly, accessible introduction” aimed at undergraduates, postgraduates, but “also responsive to the general

reader". The first third of the book covers Context, with chapters on the historical background, on Borges' own life, and on a few key themes. The remainder of the work focuses on Borges' two ground-breaking collections of stories, *Fictions*, and *The Aleph*, giving detailed and lucid discussions of the individual stories in these books, stories that certainly deserve the close critical attention they have received. There is a page of suggestions for Further Reading and a short bibliography.

This account of Borges is clearly written and fair-minded in that it is willing to be critical of Borges' weaker writings and in its acknowledgement of the work of other critics. But the general reader would probably want something bolder, with more character. As a whole the book seems to suffer from constraints, probably imposed by the publisher. With a text confined to 186 pages and the focus on the two important collections, there is little room for wider aspects of Borges. There is virtually no discussion of his poetry, and very little of his influence. It is not always fair to judge a book by its omissions but, on the other hand, this does have the ambitious title of a "Companion". This volume is rather short and narrow in scope for that claim, so it remains at the level of an introduction, at which point one notices the high price: £50. There are other, cheaper introductions in print. This, therefore, is a book whose appeal will be limited to university libraries, for undergraduate courses in Spanish-American literature.

Michel Petheram

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RR 2011/124

Encyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their Work

Geoff Hamilton and Brian Jones

Facts on File

New York, NY

2010

ISBN 978 1 4381 2970 9

URL: <http://ebooks.infobasepublishing.com/Bookdetail.aspx?ISBN=143812970X&eBooks=1>

Last visited November 2010

Contact publisher for pricing information

Facts on File Library of World Literature: Literary Movements

Also available in hardback (ISBN 978 0 8160 7578 2 \$75)

Keywords Electronic media, Literature, Twentieth century

Review DOI 10.1108/09504121111118933

The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their Work covers a selection of authors that have been writing since the 1980s and their most well known and critically evaluated works. The collection was

chosen by Geoff Hamilton and Brian Jones. This review focuses on the electronic book format of this work and what benefits or drawbacks it has compared to the physical copy.

Facts on File provide this book along with their online electronic book reader. Users should be immediately comfortable using the interface for the book, especially if they have used the Adobe reader prior to this resource. Clearly defined arrows and keys help the user navigate the resource and the ability to skip ahead through a sidebar displaying the table of contents helps locate the particular needed resource quickly. As with most electronic readers available, using the pagination found in the table of contents or index as a guide while using the electronic reader's pagination display can create conflicts. The reader sees the cover page as "page 1", which is at odds with the table of contents, which shows "page 1" as the beginning of the encyclopedic entries.

Leafing through the book is possible to an extent. The user can simply press the forward arrow, moving through the pages until the desired entry or page is located. This is somewhat more agonizing if the computer displaying the e-book or the internet connection is slow. The easiest way around this and the aforementioned issue of pagination is to use the search function.

A patron can search any word, though this is most beneficial for a specific topic search, such as a book title or author name. The reader then supplies a list of pages the searched term appears on as well as the preceding and proceeding words to give context to the desired term and its relation to the page. It is then a simple click to go to the listed page. The results list is sorted by relevance, which appears to be based on number of instances. It would be very difficult to use this search feature effectively if the user did not have a precise term for which to look.

The precision needed to use the search function effectively is wrapped up in the content this book really offers. This resource is not meant to be a comprehensive collection of contemporary authors but rather over 200 entries that discuss the works of well-known and critically analyzed authors who have been born after 1959 and writing since 1980. Because it does not contain general information about a particular movement or era in literature, it is best used when a user has a specific author or work in mind. From there, it would be a simple task to search a title or name and locate the appropriate entries or look for them in the index to see if their term is mentioned within a particular entry. Because the entries are about a specific selection of contemporary authors the user will find little in the way of synopses of works or thorough biographies of authors. The entries are

focused on the criticism and literary life of the subjects. The entries often contain information that is scattered among several different critical works. Once again, this makes this resource very useful once the user has already come to a precise topic.

The e-book version of *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their Works* is very accessible due to the reader search feature but is best used to find information on particular topics relating to the included authors rather than contemporary writing more generally. Recommended for mid-secondary education and higher.

Shane White

Library Instruction Librarian, University of Evansville Libraries, Evansville, Indiana, USA

RR 2011/125

Encyclopedia of Contemporary LGBTQ Literature of the United States

Edited by Emmanuel S. Nelson

Greenwood Press

Santa Barbara, CA and Oxford

2009

2 vols

ISBN 978 0 313 34859 4

£134.95; \$195

Keywords Encyclopaedias, Homosexuals, United States of America

Review DOI 10.1108/0950412111118942

The *Encyclopedia of Contemporary LGBTQ Literature of the United States* is a two-volume reference source covering an impressive selection of authors. Entries consist of biographical profiles of individual authors as well as several additional entries covering the history of LGBTQ literature, various genres and forms within this tradition, and articles on queer pedagogy. The primary organization is alphabetical by author or entry name. This arrangement works well since the vast majority of the entries are about individual authors and I suspect that most users will be looking for author profiles when they use this source.

In practice, the focus on contemporary sources means that only authors published since about 1980 are included. The editor has made two exceptions to this rule: James Baldwin and Tennessee Williams receive entries for their foundational influence on the queer literatures of today. Over 120 scholars contributed to these volumes; altogether there are around 300 entries. The encyclopedia contains several useful access points. These include an alphabetical list of entries, which makes it possible to see at a glance

whether a certain author is included, and a guide to related topics, which lists entries under broad topics such as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender literatures as well as general topics. Individual entries are signed by the author and include further reading references, generally consisting of two to five titles. A thorough index and selected bibliography are also included at the end of the second volume along with brief profiles of all the contributors.

Although other sources exist forbiographical information on some of the more well-known authors, this encyclopedia is unique in its focus on connecting these authors to the queer literature tradition and in providing insight into how their personal lives affect and influence their work. This reference also includes entries on a large number of less well-known authors, giving the overall source a unified perspective and defining LGBTQ literature as a whole in a new and useful light. The entries are thoughtful and well researched. They are written from a variety of perspectives, but nevertheless form a coherent whole when taken as part of the overall resource.

This encyclopedia is an invaluable resource for researchers and scholars in contemporary literature in all its forms. Additionally, this resource provides insights into popular culture and social issues of the last thirty years through its examination of a thoughtful sampling of LGBTQ authors and literatures from that time period. I highly recommend this source for all libraries.

David S. Bell

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RR 2011/126

Linguistic Bibliography for the Years 2005-2008 and Supplement for Previous Years/ Bibliographie Linguistique des Années 2005-2008 et Complément des Années Précédentes

Edited by Hella Olbertz and Sijmen Tol

Brill

Leiden and Boston, MA

2009

cii + 1,354 pp.

ISBN 978 90 04 17486 2; ISSN 0378 4592

\$739; €499

Keywords Bibliographies, Linguistics

Review DOI 10.1108/0950412111118951

The *Linguistic Bibliography for the years 2005-2008* is the successor to the impressive 2004 volume (RR 2009/309) and continues to be published by the prestigious Permanent International Committee of

Linguists (CIPL) under the auspices of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies. This volume does however differ from its predecessors which contained the linguistic publications of a single year as the editors explain in the preface: “from now on the year of the title page and the back will represent the year in which the indexed literature was collected, independently of the actual date of publication of the individual works”. A result of this four-year accumulation is the greater currency of the entries in what is already an indispensable reference resource for linguists.

The format of the 2005-2008 volume remains the same though additional entries on non Indo-European languages and lesser known Indo-European languages have been given greater emphasis as part of a revised editorial policy. The continued use of the editors’ English translations of many of the titles in hundreds of languages assist readers with better understanding the content of the book or article. Additional funding and staffing have allowed the editors to also keep the print publication more up to date. Another of their aims is to reduce the backlog of more general publications in the next two volumes.

Although a few contributors have changed since the 2004 volume, the range and depth of the *Linguistic Bibliography* have been maintained as seen in the extensive Index of Languages (pp. 1253-87) from Abipón to Zuni. The other two indexes Subjects (pp. 1288-354) and Names (pp. 1121-252) contribute to the volume’s usefulness to academic staff and researchers in this field and academic librarians. However a word of warning! The Names Index should not be used, as it is the wrong index for this publication. A separate enlarged Index of Names (pp. 1-177), together with an apology from Brill, accompanies the main volume. A positive benefit of this error is that when locating an entry in the Names Index, the supplement can be left open at the correct place rather than having to flick back and forth within the main volume or noting down the entry numbers.

Librarians and researchers alike should use either the print or the online version depending on the size of their budgets and space on their shelves. Details of the online version of the *Linguistic Bibliography* can be found on the Brill website at lb.brillonline.nl. Unlike the 2005-2008 volume the coverage of the online *Linguistic Bibliography* is from 1993 to the present and is updated monthly.

Penny Dade

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**RR 2011/127
Looking for a Mystery?**

Linda Bertland

Philadelphia, PA

URL: www.sldirectory.com/mystery.html

Last visited October 2010

Keywords Electronic media, Fiction

Review DOI 10.1108/09504121111118960

Virtual Middle School Library (see www.sldirectory.com/virtual.html#start is the parent webpage for this site, and *Looking for a Mystery?* is a one-fourth component. The remaining three-fourths are titled *Web Sites for Students, Resources for Teachers and Parents*, and *The Reading Room – For Book Lovers of All Ages*. The virtual library itself is only the largest section of the *Virtual Middle School* selection, which includes Virtual Wall Calendar (events), Magazine Rack (daily newspapers and magazines), the Computer Lab, Search the Internet and The Librarian’s Office.

The focus of this review, *Looking for a Mystery?*, has its main page arranged in two columns: Looking for a Mystery by a Date and Other Places to Look. The former column is a nicely divided chronological view of the genre with subsections on Early Mystery Novels, Novels of the Golden Age (1914-1945), British Mystery Novels Since 1945, American Mystery Novels Since 1945, Modern American Mystery Novels After 1990 and International Mystery Novels.

Categories, such as Novels of the Golden Age, are presented chronologically by the author’s date of birth. G.K. Chesterton, for example, leads the list of golden age authors, since he was born in 1874 and the list concludes with Anthony Boucher, born in 1911. Authors are presented with dates and in paragraph form with at least one to three links for each author. A quick, random survey of links found them all in working order. Other Places to Look includes mystery novels by topic and location, a chronological listing of “mystery firsts”, mystery publishers and bookstores, mystery magazines and conventions, and general mystery websites subdivided into true crime, mysteries on film and TV and book reviews.

Looking for a Mystery? is an excellent introduction to the genre and a thorough presentation of the many facets of mystery and detective fiction. For the mystery reading novice, this site might be over-whelming, too much detail to digest. Users looking for a single author on the web might be better served by employing a search engine. For the veteran mystery reader, however, this site offers an extensive background on the history of the genre, an overview of the major

authors by place and date, and easy to use finding aids that enhance the online user's experience.

Randy L. Abbott

*Head Reference Librarian, University of
Evansville Libraries, Evansville, Indiana, USA*

RR 2011/128

The Routledge Linguistics Encyclopedia (3rd ed.)

Edited by Kirsten Malmkjær

Routledge

London and New York, NY

2010

xxxvii + 724 pp.

ISBN 978 0 415 42104 1 (hbk);

ISBN 978 0 203 87495 0 (e-book)

£130, \$225 (hbk); £130, \$225 (e-book)

Keywords Encyclopaedias, Linguistics

Review DOI 10.1108/09504121111118979

This substantially revised, larger third edition of the 2002 second edition (RR 2002/336) of *The Linguistics Encyclopedia* retains its experienced editor, Kirsten Malmkjær, from the previous two editions as she and the contributors both build on, revise and update all the good work contained in the first and second editions from the last 19 years. The aim of the encyclopaedia, which covers linguistics and its related subjects, remains to provide a reference work in which to find “term or subject [...] appearing in alphabetically determined place with a page reference or several, which will tell you where in the main body of the work it is defined, described and/or discussed”. The encyclopaedia's title now includes the publisher's name, which the first two editions did not, and although the typeface is smaller the overall size of the book is larger than the 643 page second edition.

The majority of the contributors are either British or based at British institutions and the others possibly reflect the spread of the editor's and publishers' contacts covering 15 countries including America, Japan, Norway, Belgium and Australia. For those new to the discipline the book contains a 15-page introduction to the history and development of linguistics. This is not particularly useful for those working already in the linguistics field, but invaluable for those A-level and university students, who have just embarked on the study of linguistics.

Of the 79 entries in this 724-page book, 11 are brand new and 28 have been substantially revised or re-commissioned. The new entries include Attitudes to Language; Conversation Analysis; English Language Teaching; Gesture and Language; Idioms; Language and Advertising;

Language and New Technologies; Linguistics in Schools; Optimality Theory; Research Methods in Linguistics and lastly Slang. Particularly useful is the entry on Slang, which is a constantly changing area of language. Although the references are to British English slang only, it provides a taster for students of linguistics to learn more by consulting such publications as *Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (Dalzell and Victor, 2008) as well as the titles in the further reading section at the end of the entry.

Another welcome addition to this edition is the section on Language and Advertising, which is of interest to those studying linguistics for reasons outlined on page 297. These include advertising “interweaves linguistic with other modes of communication such as pictures and music” and “provides a major example of contemporary persuasive language”. Angela Goddard, the author of the new entry Language and New Technologies, points out that although the use of the latter term is “problematic as newness becomes old very quickly”, the “message is that technology is always on the move and language is on the move with it”. Examples of this are SMS (text messaging), MSN chat and virtual learning environments (VLEs), which are already well embedded in contemporary language and society and on the brink of being replaced by ever new technologies and accompanying language. The final example of useful new entries is the section on Research Methods in Linguistics. This would be very helpful for research students from Master's level upwards on how and what to collect as well as where to locate sources of already available material published either in book format or on the internet. The revised entries can be found throughout the encyclopaedia but include some obvious ones such as Language and Gender with the additional term Sexuality and Computational Linguistics to Language Engineering. The section on Historical Linguistics is based in part on an entry by James M. Anderson that appeared in the first and second editions and has been extended by two other authors, Hope C. Dawson and Brian D. Joseph.

The book contains a very comprehensive index, which has been increased from 22 to 73 pages. These terms can be found in bold within the book's entries, which although visually annoying within the text, when looking for specific topics they justify their inclusion. Another minor quibble is that anyone looking up the term Phonetics would not find it under the letter P. Instead it is listed as the International Phonetic Alphabet. This entry does, however, contain an extra page of diagrammatical illustration of the alphabet.

The bibliography has been extensively enlarged and updated from the previous edition providing

an excellent source of further references and reading for those using the encyclopaedia, who perhaps in the early stages of their studies or careers in linguistics may not be too sure of the major authors within the discipline. The further reading sections at the end of many entries have been updated and/or extended. For example, the entry on Psycholinguistics contained four titles from 1989 to 1999 in the previous edition. These have been replaced by three titles dating from 2006 to 2008. The more up to date these titles, the better for students and academic staff, who can study the various topics in greater detail.

Expensive though the hardback version of this encyclopaedia is, it is an excellent reference work for all levels of students and academic staff because it has such full entries, a comprehensive index and extensive bibliography. Although priced to be out of reach of most students it is likely to be found in most university and college libraries. Malmkjær's *The Routledge Linguistics Encyclopedia* more than holds its own beside the few other twenty-first century competitors such as *Encyclopedia of Linguistics* (Stranzy, 2005) (RR 2005/306) and the *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics* (Frawley, 2003) (RR 2004/87).

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Where the Wild Books Are: A Field Guide to Ecofiction

Jim Dwyer

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Jim Dwyer, a bibliographic services librarian at California State University (Chico) has written an excellent extended bibliographic essay on ecologically themed literature. The first three

chapters provide an overview of what he means by “ecofiction” and places it in historical context, looking at its early roots and contemporary examples. The remainder of the volume comprises individual essays detailing various niches within the world of ecofiction: mysteries, westerns, speculative fiction, romance, ecofiction by Native American and Canadian authors, and ecofiction from around the world.

In exploring the term “ecofiction”, Dwyer offers several descriptions, examples and subcategories (e.g. “nature-oriented literature” and “environmental literature”), as well as describing some of the debates around the use of the various terms. The clearest definition provided comes from Mike Vasey, who defines ecofiction as “stories set in fictional landscapes that capture the essence of natural ecosystems [. . .]. [They] can build around human relationships to these ecosystems or leave out humans altogether. The story itself, however, takes the reading into the natural world and brings it alive” (p. 3).

Works may feature the natural world in a variety of ways, and much debate exists over the ways in which nature is portrayed: dangerous; wholesome; something to be preserved, tamed, or feared; something that is being destroyed; something that perseveres. Dwyer’s opening chapters describe some of these debates and perspectives, offering the reader a framework for understanding the context in which the subsequent chapters present different facets of the world of ecofiction, including but not limited to works approaching nature from utopian, dystopian, feminist, philosophical, spiritual, and activist perspectives.

The individual chapters on ecofiction in various genres and cultures are exceptionally detailed. Each begins with a few pages providing a wealth of information and cultural context for understanding the landscape of ecologically minded fiction in that area, followed by an exhaustive listing of books and authors. Each book generally receives a sentence or two describing the book; sometimes this includes mention of the ecological orientation of the book, though this could have been more emphasized. Longer entries would be welcome generally, though Dwyer’s choice to sacrifice depth for breadth is understandable.

The book’s back matter is substantial: a top-10 and top-100 list of the “best” ecofiction, a 60-page (unannotated) bibliography, and an index to the preceding chapters. The bibliography largely replicates, in condensed form, the listing of books included in the prior chapters, but also includes many books not mentioned in the text (perhaps especially additional volumes by more prolific authors). The index is useful for identifying

passages of the text that deal with particular themes or subjects. It could be improved by inclusion of individual authors mentioned in the text; that would be a substantial undertaking, but would be a significant asset to the user.

The comprehensive scope of the book is impressive. Nearly every author the reviewer could think of was included; the one exception is Ernest Hemingway, whose omission is curious given the significant place of the natural world in many of his works. Meanwhile, the bibliographies included many works the reviewer would not have thought

of as having an ecological theme, but whose inclusion makes sense upon further reflection.

Although volumes of ecocriticism and anthologies of ecofiction abound, this book may represent the first book-length bibliography of ecofiction in print. This work will be an invaluable reference for those interested in the emerging study of ecological and environmental themes in literature. It is appropriate and relevant for most universities and public libraries.

Ken Irwin

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