

Horst Prießnitz und Marion Spies, Neuere Informationsmittel zur Literatur Australiens: Ein bibliographischer Essay.

Hamburger Beiträge zur Erforschung neuerer englischsprachiger Literaturen, ed. by Gerd Dose und Bettina Keil, 3. Hamburg: LIT Verlag 1996, 67 pp., DM 19.80.

The growing importance of the Pacific region has led to an increasing interest in the literary cultures there, many of which are anglophone and thus a legitimate object of academic preoccupation for Anglistik. What makes Australia's cultural and literary history a particularly rewarding area of study is that it is the result of a long and sometimes painful interaction between an Anglo-European and an autochthonous cultural sign system in the course of which both came to be modified. The influx of immigrants from all over the world has further enriched the cultural pattern and made it into what can be called a cultural patchwork.

The Essay tries to introduce the reader to some of the problems involved in this process by collecting, arranging and commenting on current and retrospective bibliographical material as well as standard handbooks or monographs published since 1980. This year offered itself as a point of departure as the period up to then is covered by Fred Lock's and Alan Lawson's Australian literature: a reference guide (Melbourne: OUP, 2nd edn.). Without aiming at being as comprehensive as Lock and Lawson, the compilers of the Essay have attempted to adjust the scope of the guide to research interest in this part of the world and to update some of the rubrics in the guide.

The Essay is a bibliography of bibliographies and standard works of information. It offers bibliographical and related information on the following areas: General sources of information; bibliographies and indices; encyclopaedias; historical reference books; works on theology and religions; guides to private and public collections of Australiana in Britain, the US and Australia; standard bibliographical works; bibliographies of poetry, drama and

theatre, fiction and short stories, children's literature, autobiographies and film; literary criticism; periodicals; culture and literature of Australian Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders; contributions of women to literature; literary multiculturalism; Jewish-Australian, German-Australian and French-Australian cultural relations; literary regionalism; bibliographical aids in current publications. The selection of rubrics, subjective though it may be, has been informed by the view that the traditional disciplinary compartments have become permeable so that a broader basis of information in literary studies is inevitable. As often as possible, the categories included in the Essay have been enriched by footnotes with further references to anthologies or relevant monographs. The essay form was chosen in order to brief the reader on how the work in question is structured and what kind of information he/she can expect from it.

The Essay is aimed at advanced students in search of bibliographical information about special areas of the cultural and literary history of the fifth continent. At the same time it is conceived as a guide for librarians who are on the lookout for advice when it comes to building up a reference section in this particular field of cultural history.