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RECENT REVIEWS

Magill's Literary Annual

The length and quality of the annual reviews serve to bring academic insight to assist the selection process of recent literature—saving the time of the librarian and interested reader alike.

-Stephen J Shaw

“This annually produced reference selects and reviews the most compelling literature, both fiction and non-fiction, that has been published over the course of a particular year. Criteria for selection from the greater pool of published works include a book’s general appeal, its reflection of publishing trends, and its ability to enhance a curriculum regarding authors explored in academia. Books selected run the gamut through biography, short story, debut works, young adult fiction, essays, and much more. Users of this reference (and of this specific edition) will recognize well-established authors such as David Mitchell or Joan Didion, and perhaps be introduced to up-and-coming writers like Kerry Howley.

Alphabetically arranged and produced as a two-volume reference, the reviews are standardized in that they, in an orderly fashion, provide a book’s general information from the complete title down through the author’s name, publisher, type of work, main characters, etc. The reviewers employ criticism from a variety of sources, referenced at the end of each review to present a balanced, well-researched essay.

The reviews make sure to note a book’s intent and perspective, and further, whether an author has successfully met these particular goals. Reviews of fiction do well to generally examine plots and tone without revealing too much. Essays are mostly of equal, sufficient length and provide enough information for users to truly get a taste for the subject and quality of a book without overwhelming them with unnecessary opinion and detail.

In addition to the essays, the volumes contain supplementary information that will be of great interest to readers, including a brief author biography, an annotated list of titles, a category index whereby books are aligned by subject areas, a title index, and an author index. Volume one covers books titled A through K, while Volume two reviews titles L-Z. Magill’s is a valuable, easy-to-use reference for any librarian, literature teacher, or avid reader among us.”

-American Reference Books Annual, Feb. 2016

“Libraries with standing order for the print Magill’s Literary Annual should by all means activate their online access to the online archive. As a no-cost enhancement for libraries that purchase the subsequent print editions of the annual or have a standing order, this online archive is a fantastic deal.”

-Choice, Jan. 2014

“...contains well-organized, informative, and cogent reviews of novels, biographies, histories, poetry, and books on current affairs and other topics.”

-Booklist

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“ Magill presents information that can be of great value to scholars and general readers...Obviously, a long run of the Annual would be more useful than scattered sets. Large-and medium-sized public libraries should consider standing orders.”

-American Reference Books Annual

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