

SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2020

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Salem Press Announces the 2020 Edition of *Magill's Literary Annual*

Magill's Literary Annual, 2020 follows a long tradition, beginning in 1954, of offering readers incisive reviews of the major literature published during the previous calendar year. The *Magill's Literary Annual* series critically evaluates 150 major examples of serious literature, both fiction and nonfiction, published in English, from writers in the United States and around the world. The philosophy behind the selection process is to cover works that are likely to be of interest to general readers that reflect publishing trends, that add to the careers of authors being taught and researched in literature programs, and that will stand the test of time. By filtering the thousands of books published every year down to 150 notable titles, the editors have provided the busy librarian with an excellent reader's advisory tool and patrons with fodder for book discussion groups and a guide for choosing worthwhile reading material. The essay-reviews in the *Annual* provide a more academic "reference" review of the works than is typically found in newspapers and other periodical sources.

Organization and Format

Each volume begins with a complete alphabetical list of the works covered, which includes the title and author. In addition, readers will benefit from a brief description of each work included in the volume. Every essay is approximately four pages in length and each one begins with a block of reference information in standard order:

- **Full Book Title**, including any subtitle
- **Author:** Name, with birth year, and death year when applicable
- **First Published:** Original foreign-language title, with year and country, when pertinent
- **Original language and translator name**, when pertinent
- **Introduction, Foreword, etc.**, with writer's name, when pertinent
- **Publisher:** Company name and city, and the number of pages
- **Type of Work:** (chosen from standard categories) *Anthropology, Archaeology, Autobiography, Biography, Current affairs, Diary, Drama, Economics, Education, Environment, Essays, Ethics, Film, Fine arts, History, History of science, Language, Law, Letters, Literary biography, Literary criticism, Literary history, Literary theory, Media, Medicine, Memoir, Miscellaneous, Music, Natural history, Nature, Novel, Novella, Philosophy, Poetry, Psychology, Religion, Science, Short fiction, Sociology, Technology, Travel, and Women's issues.*
- **Time and Locale:** Period and Location represented, when pertinent

- **Capsule** description of the work
- **Principle of Characters** (for novels, short fiction) or **Principal personages** (for bibliographies, history): List of people, with brief descriptions, when pertinent

The text of each essay-review analyzes the focus, intent, and relative success of the author, as well as the makeup and point of view of the work under discussion. Essays are supplemented by a list of "Review Sources" for additional study. Every essay includes a sidebar offering a brief biography of the author or authors. Thumbnail photographs of book covers and authors are included as available.

Three Indexes can be found at the end of volume two which makes continuing research easy for users of *Magill's Literary Annual, 2020*. The indexes include: **Category Index**, which groups all titles into subject areas such as current affairs and social issues, ethics and law, philosophy and religion, etc; **Title Index**, which lists all works reviewed in alphabetical order with any relevant cross references; and Finally, **Author Index**, which lists books covered in the *Annual* by each author's name.

Free Online Access to the Archives with Print Purchase

When you purchase the 2020 *Literary Annual*, you get online access to over 40 years of past *Annuals*. That's over 7,500 reviews and essays on three decades of the most important fiction and nonfiction. This complimentary archive is available through Salem Literature on our new online database. To make it available to your students and patrons you need to purchase the latest two-volume edition. In order to continue access to this resource, you will need to purchase each subsequent edition of the *Annual*.

"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."

-ARBA

Magill's Literary Annual, 2020 (2 Volume set)

Pub. Date: April 2020

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-64265-433-2

771 pages

\$210.00

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-64265-434-9

Publisher: Salem Press