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Review. Guide to the Gothic III

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Guide to the Gothic III: An Annotated Bibliography of Criticism, 1994-2003

Frederick S. Frank
Scarecrow Press Inc.
Lanham, Maryland
2005
2 vols
ISBN 0 8108 5101 6
\$200.00
Keywords Gothic, Horror, Supernatural, Literature

With this new two-volume set, Frederick S. Frank, Professor Emeritus of English at Allegheny College, updates his earlier Gothic guides for Scarecrow Press. In *Guide to the Gothic III*, 1,651 new annotated entries covering 1994-2003 are combined with the previous 4,055 entries in short form from *Guide to the Gothic* (Scarecrow, 1984) and *Guide to the Gothic II* (Scarecrow, 1995). Researchers, however, will still need to consult the first two volumes to obtain the full citation for the short form references (which may cause some inconvenience if the GGI and GGII are not in close proximity to the present set). It is unknown whether complete citations can easily be found using other sources.

As the author acknowledges, “the sheer volume of critical writing on the Gothic made necessary the expansion of the project into two volumes, ...” Contributing to that expansion has been the broadening use of the term “Gothic” in literary studies. To reflect this ever-widening description of what constitutes Gothic literature, Frank has included in this set new subject areas such as “Gothic Chapbooks, Bluebooks, Shilling Shockers and Short Tales of Terror,” “Pre-Gothicism and Graveyard Verse,” and “Classical English Authors and the Gothic.” Of interest to teachers who wish to incorporate media in their Gothic courses is the new section “On Teaching Gothic Fiction: Classroom Approaches, TV and Audiovisual Material and Presentation.” In addition, as the effects of

globalization have had a marked influence on literary studies, Volume Two contains new author sections reflecting French, German, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Japanese, Australian and Indian/Pakistani Gothic writing. Also included in many entry sections are links to appropriate Web resources and Internet sites.

Each volume contains an “Index of Critics and Editors” followed by an “Index of Titles and Authors” that corresponds to the volume in hand as opposed to containing a cumulative index in Volume Two. The bold numeric sequence, indicating a primary entry, makes it easy for the researcher to refer to the main entry dedicated to the author. This should be standard practice for all indexed reference works but, unfortunately, is not.

Libraries that already own GGI and GGII will certainly want to obtain *Guide to the Gothic III* to supplement an already excellent guide to selected works appropriate for reader’s advisory, collection development as well as scholarly research in the Gothic genre.

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