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Call for Papers-1998 Charleston Conference

Editor

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is the volume which is the subject of this review. Judging from *Civil War And Reconstruction*, this set is useful for the information it contains but its real contribution may be in the organization of the material. This book is arranged to allow a review of the Civil War and Reconstruction from a variety of perspectives. The first chapter is a chronology of world events giving students a sense of context followed by ten others offering a variety of perspectives. Chapters on the arts, business and the economy, communications, education, government and politics, law and justice, life styles and social trends, religion, science and medicine and sports and recreation are included. Each of these "perspectives" chapters starts with a chronology of events followed by a section which overviews the topic being covered. In the next section, "Topics in the News," specific developments and events as well as their impacts are discussed. After this is a section called "Headline Makers" which focuses on important individuals. Brief bibliographies are interspersed throughout "Topics in the News" and "Headline Makers" as topics and individuals are covered. Each of the ten perspective chapters ends with a list of relevant

contemporary publications, giving students the opportunity to pursue and sample works directly reflective of the time. This list of primary source publications is a valuable addition. There are other more specific sources giving more in depth information but *Civil War and Reconstruction 1850-1877* does the service of bringing the history of the times together in a useful and understandable way. With its multi-perspective approach, this book, and hopefully the rest of the set, offers students a broader viewpoint stressing issues like lifestyle and education as well as politics and business. Teachers will also find this approach of value in helping them integrate developments in these areas. Overall, this set merits consideration as a source for hard core information as well as providing background from which more in-depth research can spring.

Modern Irish Writers: A Bio-Critical Sourcebook edited by **Alexander G. Gonzalez** (1997, Greenwood, 0-313-29557-3, \$95) is the most recent entry in the growing canon of Irish literature reference works. It, along with the publication of the *Oxford Companion to Irish Literature* (1996, 0-19-866158-4, \$55) by

Clarendon Press and **Robert Hogan's** revised and expanded *Dictionary of Irish Literature* (1996, 0-313-29172-1, \$135) give libraries interested in this area the basis for a solid collection. In a sense, *Modern Irish Writers* supplements and enhances Hogan's fine work (which I reviewed in the June 1997 issue of *ATG*, p.68) offering more coverage of major themes as well as brief sections on the critical reception afforded the authors discussed. The bibliographies at the end of each entry are also more substantial in that they contain references to criticisms as well as a list of the author's writings. Although the arrangement is alphabetical by author, there is also an index as well as a list of contributors including their credentials. While Hogan's *Dictionary of Irish Literature* covers over 1,000 Irish writers from the eighteenth century to the present, *Modern Irish Writers* covers less than eighty authors, the vast majority of whom wrote and gained prominence in the twentieth century. Libraries in need of a general reference on Irish literature would obviously be advised to select Hogan's work first. But *Modern Irish Writers* is a worthy enhancement.

Call for Ideas/Papers/Speakers/etc. The 1998 Charleston Conference — November 5-7, 1998, Charleston, S.C.

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If you are interested in leading a discussion, acting as a moderator, coordinating the lively lunches or simulation rooms, or would like to make sure we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The Charleston Conference prides itself on creativity, innovation, flexibility, and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. We'll probably like it ...

The Planning Directors for the 1998 Charleston Conference include — **Barbara Dean** (Arlington County Public Library), **Robin Lent** (U. of New Hampshire), **Heather Miller** (SUNY-Albany), **Katina Strauch** (College of Charleston) and **Judy Webster** (University of Tennessee).

Send ideas by **June 30, 1998**, to Barbara Dean, Technical Operations Center, 4000 Stringfellow Rd., Chantilly, VA 22021. Phone (703)222-3139; fax (703)222-3135. Internet: <bdean@leo.vsla.edu>.



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