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[Review of] George Herbert: An Annotated Bibliography of Modern Criticism, 1905-1984

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George Herbert

1110. Roberts, John R. **George Herbert: An Annotated Bibliography of Modern Criticism, 1905-1984**. rev. ed. Columbia, Mo., University of Missouri Press, 1988. 433p. index. \$39.00. LC 87-19095. ISBN 0-8262-0487-2.

This revised edition of Roberts's wide-ranging bibliography adds 653 new entries to the 800 from the first edition (see *ARBA* 80, entry 1275). Most of these items were written between 1974 and 1984, although earlier works have been added as well, particularly foreign-language works (most in Japanese). C. A. Patrides has collected and reprinted 64 works that predate Roberts's coverage in *George Herbert: The Critical Heritage* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983).

The arrangement remains chronological, with detailed descriptive annotations, many containing revealing quotations from the cited work. Coverage includes all modern editions, translations, critical books, monographs, critical articles from 152 journals, biographical works, bibliographic essays, and pertinent but minor reviews and commentary. Dissertations are excluded.

The main shortcoming of this work remains the inadequate subject index. Specific items (e.g., pilgrimage, imagery, metrics, mimesis, ecstasy, pain) are the focus of several entries but are not listed in the subject index. Moreover, many entries are so broad that they cause frustration. For example, "Bible (Old Testament, New Testament, biblical figures)" has 153 references with no breakdown to specific books or persons, and no cross-references to separately listed books (e.g., Psalms). The author index and "Index of Herbert's Works Mentioned in Annotations" are complete and accurate.

Roberts's work remains an essential guide to twentieth-century Herbert criticism. Commentary on Herbert's work has greatly increased in this half of the twentieth century, and Roberts is planning a second revision. One hopes he will strengthen the subject index to provide better access to his excellent compilation.

Robert Aken
