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REVIEWS

Without offering yet another fashionable re-interpretation of the complex phenomenon that is modernism, Prof. Hilský's wide-ranging study, both erudite and accessible, will fascinate serious students of the period and general readers alike.

In the 'Postmodern Postscript' the author ponders the significance of postmodernism, and with elegant wry humour raises questions about the term with which we have so readily, and perhaps hastily, labelled our time.

Milada Franková

Slovník spisovatelů (Dictionary of Writers), Praha: Libri 1996, 756 s.

This new arrival on our bookshelves and desktops is good news. The much needed and welcome *Dictionary of Writers* lists 1,410 entries from the ever-increasing range of literatures written in English with the exception of the literature of the United States (available separately in the series published by Odeon in 1979). User friendly in size and scope, it is the result of a joint effort of twenty-six Czech and Slovak (and one Canadian) specialists in the literatures of the British Isles, including the Celtic literatures in Irish, Gaelic and Welsh, Australian literature, Canadian literature in English and the other New Literatures in English. The dictionary proper is preceded by introductory studies of the literatures included in the form of concise surveys of writing from the beginnings to the present time. The individual entries on writers as well as important anonymous works vary in length from compendious biographies cum critical studies in some cases to brief biographical and bibliographical data in others. Included is also very useful information on existing Czech translations. Users will appreciate the pronunciation guide to surnames as they appear in the text and first names as listed in an appendix.

Against many odds, the editors, Zdeněk Stříbrný and Martin Procházka, and their team have provided the Czech reading public with a valuable well of information and an indispensable tool for learning about the literary production of a large part of the world.

Milada Franková

