

# BOOK REVIEWS

## REFERENCE

*An Index to Artistic Biography: First Supplement* by Patricia Pate Havlice is the new addition to the *Index to Artistic Biography* published in 1973 in 2 volumes, which now includes 70 additional titles containing approximately 47,000 names. The dates of publication range from 1926 to 1980. Format for this is the same as the original work—a listing by surname with birth and death dates, nationality, media, and a code referring to bibliography of titles indexed. (Metuchen, New Jersey, Scarecrow Press, 1981, \$45).

*An Illustrated Dictionary of Jewelry* by Harold Newman contains 2530 terms relating to gemstones, jewels, materials, processes, styles, designers and makers from antiquity to the present day, with 685 illustrations, 16 in color. (New York, Thames & Hudson, 1981, \$29.95)

## ARCHITECTURE

*The Skyscraper* by Paul Goldberger is a celebration and history of the skyscraper, an art form as American as jazz, written by the *New York Times* architectural critic. In his narrative style, Goldberger introduces the reader to the people, events and forces that have shaped this art form, even showing the "duel" between New York City and Chicago. This is a visual feast, with photos not only of individual buildings but also of cityscapes, showing the effects of the tall buildings on the look of a city, with exterior and interior details. \$25.00 from Knopf, New York City.

*Glasshouses and Wintergardens of the Nineteenth Century* by Stefan Kopplekamm has 157 illustrations, 6 in color, emphasizing the development of glasshouses, prime examples of the requirements of science forcing architects to develop new concepts in structural engineering. Some of the structures featured are the glasshouses at Kew, Bicton Gardens, Syon House, and the wintergardens in Kassel and Stuttgart, as well as the Bronx Botanical Garden and the Palm House in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. \$29.95 from Rizzoli.

*American Picture Palaces: The Architecture of Fantasy* by David Naylor (New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1981, \$29.95) includes over 250 photographs, more than 70 in color, of the remarkable structures that reflected the glamour and excitement of the movies themselves, the local picture palaces. Included is an appendix of theaters in chronological order, and bibliography and index.

*The Heroic Period of Modern Architecture* by Alison and Peter Smithson is a period just before and after the First World War, documented from original existing sources by the authors and Christopher Woodward. Included are Gropius, Le Corbusier, Loos, Oud, vonDoesberg, Mies, Bayer and many more. \$12.50 paper (New York, Rizzoli).

## PHOTOGRAPHY

*Frank Matsura: Frontier Photographer* by JoAnn Roe (Seattle, Madrona Publishers, 1981, \$24.95) is the first book to collect the best of the frontier photographer, Frank Matsura,

a Japanese who stepped off a stage in Conconully, Washington in 1903 and spent the final decade of his life photographing the activities of his colorful neighbors—cowboys and Indians, farmers and citizens young and old. The period was one of transition in the American-Canadian West, but his photos full of humor, imaginative composition, and a keen sensitivity went unnoticed for 41 years, until they were rediscovered, cataloged, and retrieved at the Okanogan County Historical Society. Here, a selection of Matsura's finest work, including 144 duotone photos of industry, pleasure, costume, customs; even the end papers carry self-portraits of the photographer with all kinds of expressions that show his humanity and his humor. A delightful book available from 2116 Western Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121.

*The American Daguerreotype* by Floyd and Marion Rinhart (Athens, Georgia, University of Georgia Press, 1981, \$65) documents the seminal period of early photography from 1839 to 1860 when daguerreotypists of Europe and America were flourishing. They analyze their materials and techniques and widespread influence after more than 20 years of research. With more than 400 photographs, we see how this significant period of portraiture flourished, flowered, giving us glorious images of the famous and the unknown. There is a detailed historical description, putting this new art in context of its historical, social and cultural period, and then the authors discuss the plates, lighting, mechanics, processing and casing, as well as composition. In addition, there is a biographical index of more than 2000 daguerreotypists, suppliers, casemakers and engravers. Extensive notes, a dictionary of daguerreotype terms, and an index make this an important reference tool for all libraries and collectors.

*Visions and Images: American Photographers on Photography* includes interviews by Barbaralee Diamonstein with Harry Callahan, Cornell Capa, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Elliot Erwitt, Horst P. Horst, Andre Kertesz, Ray Metzker, Joel Meyerowitz, Duane Michals, Barbara Morgan, Arnold Newman, Aaron Siskind, Frederick Sommer, Burk Uzzle, and Garry Winogrand. (New York, Rizzoli, 1982, \$30.00 hardcover, \$17.50 paper) with 102 black and white photographs.

*The Negative*, the second book in the New Ansel Adams Photography Series published by New York Graphic Society, is an updated revision of Ansel Adams' approach to the negative, linking the creative act of visualization to the characteristics of modern film and processing. The early chapters are devoted to a discussion of flight, film and exposure, and their effect on the negative image while later chapters are on natural and artificial light, the darkroom and processing. 180 illustrations are used for pointing out examples from Adams' 50-year career. 30 line drawings and charts are provided to clarify concepts. \$18.95 from New York Graphic Society, Boston.

## GENERAL INTEREST

*The Nelson A. Rockefeller Collection: Masterpieces of Modern Art* is an elegantly printed anthology of Rockefeller's consummate connoisseurship in contemporary art, featuring Matisse, Moore, Calder, Boccioni, Brancusi, Braque, Gris, Klee, de Chirico, Giacometti, Leger, Lachaise, Maillol, Miro,

Nadelman, Noguchi and 33 pivotal works by Picasso. There are about 225 colorplates, most newly photographed by Lee Boltin. Much of the sculpture has been photographed outdoors at the sculpture garden at Pocantico Hills, New York. Texts include the story of Rockefeller's involvement and collecting over a half-century and William S. Leiber's analysis of the collection and individual works. 47 black and white illustrations also adorn this volume, which includes bibliography and index. (New York, Hudson Hills Press, 1981, \$45.00)

*Insects Etc.: An Anthology of Anthropods featuring a Bounty of Beetles*, with paintings by Bernard Durin, includes a literary anthology selected by Paul Armand Gette, and entomological commentaries by Gerhard Scherer. Although not necessarily an art book, if you see the paintings, you will understand how exquisite Mother Nature really is. The paintings dazzle. \$50 from Hudson Hills Press.

*Jules Olitski* by Kenworth Moffett is an album of 229 illustrations, including 74 plates in full color, with some tricky foldouts. Both the artist's paintings and sculpture are treated in great detail by Moffett. Included is an extensive chronology with photographs, statements and interviews with the artist, a list of selected exhibitions, collections, and selected bibliography. (Abrams, 1981, \$65)

*Artistic Buildings and Homes of Los Angeles* by Joseph C. Newsom was an advertisement for the architectural firm of Samuel and Joseph C. Newsom and some 20 of their Victorian homes and buildings designed by them from 1886 to 1888, when first published. Already well known in Northern California for such buildings as the Carson Mansion in Eureka and the Vollmer Dwelling in San Francisco, the Newsoms issued this book which became rare quite soon. This is a reproduction in facsimile with homes and buildings of Victorian vintage, including material about the Bradbury House, the J.W. Robinson home and many others. \$9.95 paperbound with 21 historic photographs. Order from Calliope Press, P.O. Box 2273, No. Hollywood, CA 91602.

*The Making of the Micro: A History of the Computer* by Christopher Evans, author of the *Micro Millennium*, is an absorbing, fully illustrated history of the calculating machine, from the counting frame to the computer. This book is an essential reference tool for the 1980s, fully illustrated with diagrams and photographs, both entertaining and informative and in layman's language for all to understand. \$14.95 from Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York.

*Lives and Works: Talks with Women Artists* by Lynn F. Miller and Sally S. Swenson has been conceived by Miller, who is the coordinator of the Women Artists Series at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library of Douglass College in New Jersey and Swenson, who is an artist and oral historian of art. The artists included are Louise Bourgeois, Judith Brodsky, Deborah S. Freedman, Alice Neel, Howardena Pindell, Betye Saar, Susan Schwab, May Stevens and others. Each artist has a photograph, a short biography and the transcribed interview. Scarecrow Press, 1981, \$14.00.

*Performance: Text(s) & Documents, Multidisciplinary Aspects of Performance: Postmodernism*, edited by Chantal Pontbriand, is a gathering of the proceedings of the conference which was held in Montreal in October 1980, as well as a documentation of the performances and installations, organized by *Parachute* magazine. There are 236 packed pages with 100 illustrations. Essays are by Bruce Barber, Benjamin Buchloh, Douglas Crimp, Germano Celant, Peggy Gale, and others. Artists included are Asher, Buren (with a wonderful fold-out red and white striped piece), Dean, Graham, Laurie Anderson, Brisley, Campbell, Chaimowicz, Chitty, Foreman, Haimsohn, La Barbara, Sherman, Rainer and Wilson.

The book comes in two languages, but that depends upon the language of the speaker, writer, or performer. There are no bilingual translations, which would have made this a monstrous volume. The abstracts in the back must suffice for the essence of some of these pithy texts. The volume, however, is important in that it does document a symposium at the end of the 1970s illustrating where performance was at that period of time, at least from the Montreal point of view.

There are biographies of all the artists and biographical notes on the critics. \$20.00 plus shipping outside Canada from Editions Parachute, 4060 Saint-Laurent, Suite 501, Montreal H2W 1Y9.

*The International Dictionary of Women Workers in the Decorative Arts: A History Survey from the Distant Past to the Early Decades of the Twentieth Century* compiled by Alice Irma Prather-Moses is another in the practical scholarship in women's art studies which adds to the literature in a significant way. (Scarecrow Press, 1981, \$12.50) The book documents 883 women who specialized in the various branches of the decorative arts trades. Index of subjects, bibliography.

*The World of Art Deco* with text by Bevis Hillier is a product of the 1971 exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, offering the most authoritative record of the 1930s moderne style. Nearly 300 objects, ranging from sculpture to atomizers are documented in this book with 16 color plates and over 300 black and white illustrations. The book is designed in the art deco design of the period with full bibliography included. \$12.75 paper, \$20.75 cloth from Elsevier-Dutton Publishing in New York.

#### REPRINT

*Art Museums of America: A Guide to Collections in the United States and Canada* by Lila Sherman now comes in paperback with 20 photos and index. Published by Morrow Quill Paperbacks, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY. \$6.95

**CORRECTION:** The price for *New Studies in Dada*, edited by Richard Sheppard, reviewed on page 122 in the November issue of *Umbrella*, was mis-stated as £49.50. The correct price is £9.50, a bargain book for this most scholarly edition. Order from Hutton Press Ltd., 16 Howl Lane, Hutton, Driffield, YO25 9QA, England.