

BOOK REVIEWS

REFERENCE

Who's Who in American Art 1980 (Bowker, \$50.00) and *American Art Directory 1980* (Bowker \$49.50) have been published, always bigger and better, always more refined, yet still showing many omissions, perhaps because of the choice of the artist, but many times because of late entries. We hope that by 1982, a larger group of recognized contemporary artists will be included.

Who's Who in Art, the English equivalent (dist. by Gale Research, \$48.00) has more than 3,000 biographical entries of leading men and women in the world of art in Britain today. It is now in its 19th edition, just published today.

Skira has just published *Actual Art Skira Annual 70-80*, featuring the first work of reference on the decade 1970-80 with contributions by Pleynet, Jean Clair, Wolfgang Becker, Carmine Benincasa, Valentine Tatransky for the U.S., and Pierre Restany for everywhere else. The volume seems to cover the decade better than the Biennale at Venice did this year. A complex, but comprehensive guide to the 1970s seen only recently in retrospect for \$45.00 from Rizzoli.

Artists and Galleries of Australia and New Zealand (Lansdowne Press, 1979), the only book on the subject in North America and Australia, includes 2,000 living Australian and New Zealand artists with complete biographical history including education, exhibitions, awards, who represents them, and sometimes a bibliography, edited by Max Germaine, a noted retired fine art valuer and head of an auction house.

This is a finely produced new reference tool that reflects the burgeoning importance of the fine arts down under. Available for \$45.00 (plus \$1.75 postage and handling) from Merewether Press, 420 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017.

ARCHITECTURE

Olbrich by Ian Latham has more than 200 illustrations with 16 color pages, and covers the life, times and accomplishments of this famous Austrian architect (1867-1908) who was responsible for developing the rectilinear style of Art Nouveau which characterized the work of the Secession. (Rizzoli, \$40.00, 1980)

Charles Jencks has been at it again with two books recently published by Rizzoli: *Late-Modern Architecture* which is the first book on this subject defines the major aspects of the movement in relation to other current styles; with analyses of the work of leading Late-modern architects—the Japanese Pluralists, the Rationalists, the Italian Supersensualists, Philip Johnson and James Stirling. 200 pages, over 350 illustrations including over 80 in full color. \$32.50 hardback, \$22.50 paper.

Also recently published is *Skyscrapers-Skycities*, which characterizes the structures as Skypickers, Skyscrapers, and Skycities. The photographs are all in color and delight the eye and the sensitive nature of city-scapes. His essay is most illuminating, tracing the history of the tall building from earliest times to the present. 80 color plates. \$12.50 paperback.

Genius Loci: Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture by Christian Norberg-Schulz aims at defining the concept of place, since the modern world suffers from the "loss of place." The scope of the book is theoretical as well as practical, and is intended to serve as a tool to help us create a better environment. Khartoum, Prague and Rome are investigated in detail. \$19.95 paper, Rizzoli.

GENERAL INTEREST

Tubular Steel Furniture: Conference papers edited by Tim Benton and Barbie Campbell-Cole with an introduction by Reyner Banham, is the first book available on this subject. 72 pages, 100 illus. £10 from the Art Book Co., 91 Great Russell St., London WC1B 3PS. The book covers furniture from Germany, Holland, Italy and Britain.

The Arts & Crafts Movement: A Study of its Sources, Ideals and Influence on Design Theory by Gillian Naylor covers the movement in a clear, logical fashion with many illustrations. \$10.95 paper from the MIT Press.

The Unforgettable Elephant by Laurie Platt Winfrey is an unforgettable iconographical study in illustration of that animal with the long proboscis from Hindu gods to garden topiary, from cartoons to elephant architecture, all from religion, art, crafts and folklore. This book makes you never forget the elephant! \$14.95 from Walker & Co.

Henry Moore's Sheep Sketchbook with comments by Henry Moore and Kenneth Clark is basically a sketchbook of one of the obsessive subjects of Henry Moore, who, in 1972, retreated to a small studio overlooking a sheep meadow. This facsimile edition of that sketchbook shows a real affection that Moore had for the sheep. 96 illus., 4 in color, published by Thames & Hudson. \$19.95

Warren Chappell's *A Short History of the Printed Word* is an elegantly produced and comprehensive short history that is effectively the best overview of the subject now in print! 288 pages, 200 photographs and illustrations, \$9.95 from Nonpareil books ((David R. Godine Publisher).

El Lissitzky by Sophie Lissitzky-Kuppers with an introduction by Herbert Read has been reissued by Thames & Hudson (dist. by W. W. Norton). We are indebted to the publishers for this reissue at such an opportune time, the period when interest in El Lissitzky has been regenerated by the *Avant-Garde in Russia 1910-1930* exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, soon to travel to the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC. The book is a significant documentation of a most revolutionary artist who affected the direction of the visual arts after 1918. Between letters, the illustrations so beautifully reproduced in this volume, as well as two collections of literary documents, we have one of the most important documents of 20th century art again available to us. \$47.50 (Thames & Hudson, dist. by W.W. Norton).