

RESEARCH REPORT

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORK ON DORIS LESSING

AS IS POINTED out below, in L.B. Rix's review of recent criticism of the writings of Doris Lessing, her work has become something of a cult in North America. The output of theses and articles, as shown in the following select bibliography, is such that it is rapidly achieving the status of an *oeuvre* that deserves study in its own right. This may sound scholastic but it is unusual for a living writer to attract such attention; and what would be particularly interesting would be to have Ms Lessing's own views on the subject.

A bibliography of Doris Lessing appeared as long ago as 1967¹ but much has appeared since then. S. R. Burkom has produced two 'checklists', but these concentrate on literary reviews of Lessing's work, as it appeared, rather than on academic, interpretative articles;² and two of the books that Rix reviews below include similar listings.³ The select bibliography that follows excludes book reviews, interviews with and articles by Doris Lessing, general books and comparative articles which may refer to Doris Lessing among other writers, and the works reviewed below by Rix. As one of the objects in compiling this select bibliography is to chart the rise in interest in Doris Lessing, entries have been arranged in chronological order, as far as is possible within the vagaries of non-calendar academic and publication years'.

It will be seen that academic interest in Doris Lessing's work began in the earlier 1960s; the enthusiastic review of *The Golden Notebook* in the *New Republic* of 15 December 1962 by Irving Howe may have been influential in North America; but the two interpretations from East Germany in 1963 seem to spring from other, Marxist, interests, which, however, seem not to have greatly developed, with the result that the focus of concern has remained feminist and 'psychological'.

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¹ C. Ipp, *Doris Lessing: A Bibliography* (Johannesburg, Univ. of the Witwatersrand Press, 1967).

² 'Doris Lessing checklist', *Critique* (1969), 11, 69-81; *A Checklist of Primary and Secondary Sources* (Troy (N.Y.), Whitston, 1973).

³ A. N. Krouse, 'A Doris Lessing checklist', in A. Pratt and L. S. Dembo (eds), *Doris Lessing: Critical Studies* (Madison, Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 1974), 166-72; P. Schlueter, *The Novels of Doris Lessing* (Carbondale, Southern Illinois Univ. Press, 1973), 139-42.

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