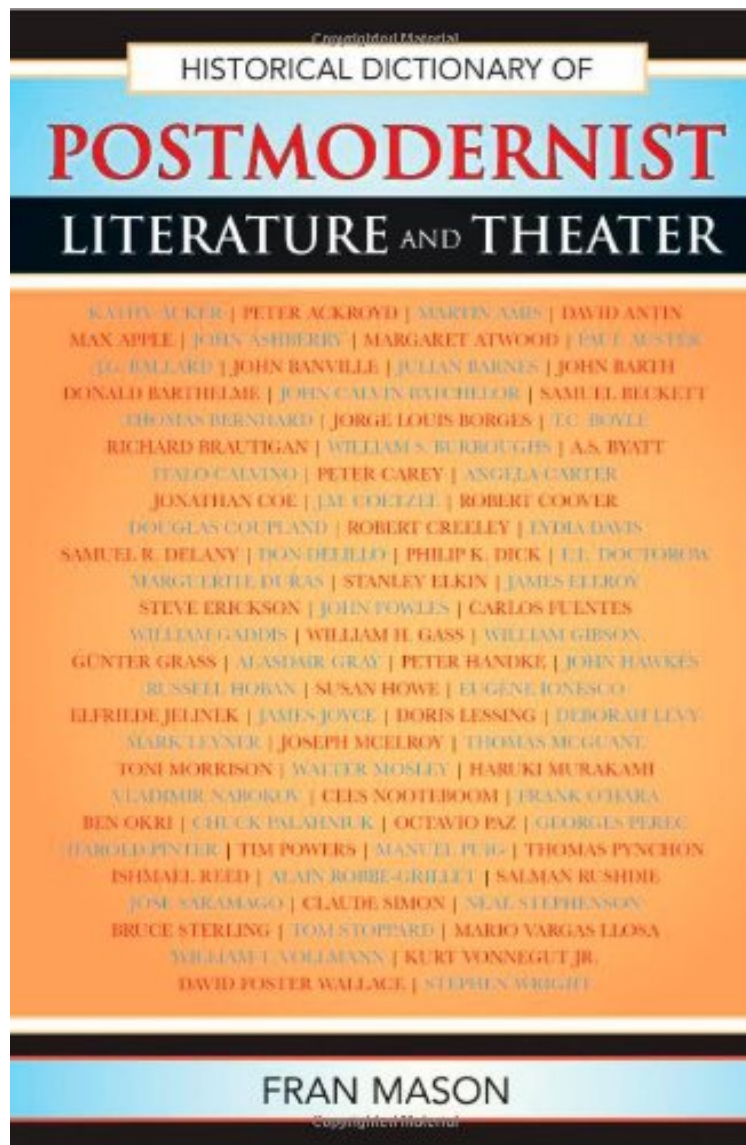


(Ebook pdf) Historical Dictionary of Postmodernist Literature and Theater (Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the Arts)

## Historical Dictionary of Postmodernist Literature and Theater (Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the Arts)

Fran Mason

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**Fran Mason : Historical Dictionary of Postmodernist Literature and Theater (Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the Arts)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Historical Dictionary of Postmodernist Literature and Theater (Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the

Arts):

Postmodernist literature embraces a wide range of forms and perspectives, including texts that are primarily self-reflexive; texts that use pastiche, burlesque, parody, intertextuality and hybrid forms to create textual realities that either run in opposition to or in parallel with an external reality; fabulations that develop both of these strategies; texts that ironize their relationship to reality; works that use the aspects already noted to more fully engage with political or cultural realities; texts that deal with history as a fiction; and texts that elude categorization even within the variety already explored. For example, in fiction, a postmodernist novel might tell a story about a writer struggling with writing (only, perhaps, to find that he is a character in a book by another writer struggling to write a book). The *Historical Dictionary of Postmodernist Literature and Theater* examines the different areas of postmodernist literature and the variety of forms that have been produced. This is accomplished through a list of acronyms, a chronology, an introductory essay, a bibliography, and several hundred cross-referenced dictionary entries on individual postmodernist writers, the important postmodernist aesthetic practices, significant texts produced throughout the history of postmodernist writing, and important movements and ideas that have created a variety of literary approaches within the form. By placing these concerns within the historical, philosophical, and cultural contexts of postmodernism, this reference explores the frameworks within which postmodernist literature of the late twentieth and early twenty-first century operates.

Mason has written a handy and useful reference tool... (Library Journal, 15 June 2007) Mason's contribution to the field is extremely significant and should be acknowledged as such and this will be a very valuable entry point for students of postmodernist literature. (Of Contemporary Fiction, Summer 2007)...essential reading...for any student of critic desiring to understand one of the major directions of contemporary literature. (American Reference Books Annual, March 2008) On the whole, this dictionary will be very helpful both to the average reader and to the scholar in need of quick and reliable information on authors, works, and intertextual relationships among them. The material covered in this book is rich and wide-ranging, consolidating but not necessarily revising in essential ways our understanding of postmodernism. (American Book, September 2008) Overall though, the bibliography is superbly researched, comprehensive, and an excellent resource for further study. The same can be said for the entire Dictionary, which will be a reasonably priced acquisition for any academic library. (Reference s) Writers, movements, forms of writing and textual strategies, critical ideas, and texts are cited by Mason (U. of Winchester). He also includes scholars, journals, and cultural processes that he feels to be relevant to an understanding of postmodernist writings. He provides a chronology from 1939 to 2006, extensive cross-references, and a topically arranged bibliography, but no index. (Reference and Research Book News, May 2007) About the Author Fran Mason is a British scholar who lectures at the University of Winchester.