

perience, cultural contradictions, the new novel as access to Cabala, and a questioning vision of Judeo-Argentine history.

*Jewish Issues in Argentine Literature* adroitly summarizes and comments upon challenging issues related to both literary and social concerns as well as presenting a close reading of fictional works that deserve a wider readership. The book expands the focus and our knowledge of Latin-American literary criticism to encompass the important role of Jewish Argentine writers. Writing from a somewhat marginal perspective, many of the authors studied are shown to be able to perceive sociopolitical truths that are often lost to those who occupy the mainstream. The book will also be of interest to the general reader who wishes to learn more about a Diaspora community whose uniqueness is underscored throughout Lindstrom's text.

John Hildebidle

*FIVE IRISH WRITERS: THE ERRAND OF KEEPING ALIVE*

Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press, 1989. Pp. 245. \$29.50

Richard J. Thompson

*EVERLASTING VOICES ASPECTS OF THE MODERN IRISH SHORT STORY*

Troy, NY.: Whitston, 1989. Pp. 105. \$15.00

Reviewed by Frank L. Ryan

Almost fifty years ago Sean O'Faolain lamented the absence of a tradition in Irish fiction that adequately expressed Irish nationalism and other matters. However, after O'Faolain's statement the five writers under consideration certainly created enough fiction to provide the material for a tradition and it remained for scholarship to determine whether or not a tradition had emerged. Professor Hildebidle's study is part of that scholarship. It contends that as a group these five writers "represent the most important voices in a distinct generation of Irish fiction writers, those who began their active careers in the decade after the appearance of *Ulysses*." Within this context the study has two major goals: (1) to uncover new meanings in the writers and (2) to prove that Kate O'Brien and Elizabeth Bowen are central, not peripheral, figures in the tradition.

In the first instance Professor Hildebidle succeeds admirably because of the similarities he discovers among the five. The most notable of these similarities are a shared language of disillusionment, perception of changes from "stasis to change to stasis" in Irish history, and attempts "to consider life as it is actually lived" in Ireland. The new meanings emerge principally from the analysis of each writer within the contexts of the analyses of the others. For example, the disillusionment of O'Flaherty's characters is not isolated from that of the other writers' characters, and therefore rendered static, but integrated and thus made dynamic in the complex relationships which result.

Of the other goal I speak more hesitatingly. The inclusion of O'Brien and Bowen is strained. Hildebidle himself seems uneasy about having them write