CONTENTS

Introduction, Richard A. Barney . . . . 1

Major figures

Roland Barthes . . . . . . . . . . . . 4
Paul de Man . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 16
Jacques Derrida . . . . . . . . . . . . 20
Eugenio Donato . . . . . . . . . . . . 30
Barbara Johnson . . . . . . . . . . . . 32
J. Hillis Miller . . . . . . . . . . . . 34
Joseph N. Riddell . . . . . . . . . . . 39
William V. Spanos . . . . . . . . . . . 41

Selected Critiques and Commentaries . . 44
A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF DECONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

What Ihab Hassan has said of criticism in general seems also true of deconstruction: there are "paracritics, metacritics, cryptocritics, hypocritics, uncanny critics," and countless others who have contributed to the corpus of this new criticism (SCER 6, p. 74). Since 1967, when Jacques Derrida first published De la gramma
tologie, the number of scholars using "deconstructive" warrants, with their own variations, has grown at a phenomenal rate. With this state of affairs in mind, I have chosen to focus this bibliography on eight literary critics who have made important contributions to an American "version" of deconstruction: Roland Barthes, Paul de Man, Jacques Derrida, Eugenio Donato, Barbara Johnson, J. Hillis Miller, Joseph N. Riddel, and William V. Spanos. Their work is also particularly relevant to the 1980 MLA session of the Society for Critical Exchange. In addition, I have included a limited selection of reviews, articles, and books by scholars who have commented on, critiqued, or challenged their work.

Each of these critics, except perhaps Jacques Derrida and Barbara Johnson, has shifted from advocating the tradition of "presence" to endorse that of "difference" sometime in mid-career. Therefore I have listed only their work after such a transition. In France, literary critics began to turn to the deconstructive mode in the mid-1960s, most notably in the collective effort Théorie d'ensemble, which appeared in 1968 with articles by Barthes, Derrida, and other important Tel Quel critics. I have used that date as the
starting point of Barthes's preoccupation with the
notions of deconstruction; his first book exploring
those ideas was *S/Z*, published in 1970. Derrida's
seminal work in deconstruction began as early as
1963, in articles which would later be published in
*De la gramma
tologie* (1967) and *L'Ecriture et la
différence* (1967).

On the American front, most critics turned to
deconstruction in the early 1970s. J. Hillis
Miller changed camps from Geneva School phenomen-
ology to that of French deconstruction in 1970;
Paul de Man moved to deconstruction in about 1969
or 1970, although I have included some of his
earlier essays that appeared later in *Blindness and
Insight* (1971). Barbara Johnson, who studied with
de Man from 1973 to 1977, has used a deconstructive
orientation in nearly all her work. Eugenio Donato
and Joseph Riddel made their transition to decon-
structive approaches in 1969-70; William Spanos
made his in 1973-74. Spanos' work is allied in
significant ways with the "deconstructive" ap-
proaches of Derrida and the Yale School (de Man,
Johnson, Miller), but he is careful to point out
that as a "de-structive" activity, in the Heidegger-
ian sense of the word, his approach is substanci-
tially different. He outlines that distinction in
his preface to *Martin Heidegger and the Quest
ion of Literature* (1979).

This is a selected bibliography. It omits a
number of important figures who have either influ-
enced or contributed to deconstruction. Few refer-
ences are made to significant forerunners like
Nietzsche, Saussure, Freud, Heidegger, or Lévi-
Strauss. Only a handful of entries mention Lacan,
Foucault, Kristeva, Deleuze, Bloom, or Harn
tam; the same is true of critics such as Lyotard, Kofman,
Lacoue-Labarthe, Nancy, and Spivak. This selection

offers a start, with no pretensions of exhausting
the field.

I have organized this bibliography specifically for English-speaking readers. Barthes's and
Derrida's work is listed chronologically by the
appearance of the English translations, with the
original publication information listed afterwards;
untranslated pieces are entered separately with
full bibliographic data. The bibliography is
divided into two parts: (I) the eight critics' work, and (II) selected critiques and commentaries.
Most of the commentaries are in English, although
I have also included a number of French essays,
mostly on Barthes and Derrida. References to
selected book reviews are listed after each book;
references to other commentaries appear at the end
of each critic's section.

The participants in the 1980 SCE session and
J. Hillis Miller have been most helpful in sending
me their bibliographies; I also thank James Creech,
Vincent Leitch, Edith Miller, James and Patricia
Somoski, Steven Ugar, and the University of
Chicago Press, whose suggestions and assistance
were invaluable.

This bibliography is dedicated to Roland
Barthes, who died on March 26, 1980.
Barthes, Roland.


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<th>Citation</th>
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</thead>
</table>
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