

HART, KEVIN. The Trespass of the Sign: Deconstruction, Theology, and Philosophy. Cambridge University Press, 1989, 280 pp.

"Jacques Derrida's theory of deconstruction has commonly been pictured as a direct attack against philosophy and as a celebration of God's death. Yet almost as frequently, it has been criticized as a displaced negative theology, a quest for a deep truth beyond all categories of being and non-being. This book argues that neither view is correct. Deconstruction, in Dr. Hart's analysis, seeks a vantage point from which metaphysics is seen to be structured by alterity rather than identity."

GROSZ, ELIZABETH. Jacques Lacan. Routledge, (forthcoming 1990), 280 pp.

"Jacques Lacan is the first introduction to Lacan from a specifically feminist perspective. Assuming no previous knowledge of psychoanalysis or French theory, this volume places Lacan in the context of Freud's writings and the contemporary debates in French intellectual and political life."

GUTTING, GARY. Michel Foucault's Archaeology of Scientific Reason. Cambridge University Press, 1988, c. 250 pp.

"This is an important introduction to and critical interpretation of the work of the major French thinker, Michel Foucault. Through comprehensive and detailed analyses of such important texts as *The History of Madness in the Age of Reason*, *The Birth of the Clinic*, *The Order of Things*, and *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, the author provides a lucid exposition of Foucault's 'archaeo- logical' approach to the history of thought, a method for uncovering the 'unconscious' structures that set boundaries on the thinking of a given epoch. The book casts Foucault in a new light, relating his work to Bachelard's philosophy of science and Georges Canguilhem's history of science. This perspective yields a new and valuable understanding of Foucault as a historian and philosopher of science, balancing and complementing the more common view of him as primarily a social critic and theorist."

WISEMAN, MARY. The Ecstasies of Roland Barthes. Routledge, 1989, 208 pp.

"With her insistent pushing against the boundaries of our standard academic assumptions, Mary Bittner Wiseman succeeds in interpreting Barthes' effort to join the traditional and the new. She clarifies the inner dynamics of his career and focuses on the project governing his last works, combining an acute sense of his individual achievement with a clear grasp of how he represents significant cultural movements."