

The Critical Wager: Essays on Criticism and the Architecture of Ideology



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Reviews

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THE CRITICAL WAGER: ESSAYS ON CRITICISM AND THE ARCHITECTURE OF IDEOLOGY

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BPS Books, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Back in print! A wide-ranging tour of such topics as philology as criticism, the Marxist impasse, and literature and the flight from determinism. #8220While more complex and subtle than a manifesto, The Critical Wager has something of a manifesto s sense of historical moment. Gairdner feels all the ideologies he examines to be equally interesting, but strongly favors #8212 and articulately advocates #8212 a broadly existentialist position, which holds the hope for humanity of a responsible and creative freedom . To this extent, The Critical Wager is an optimistic book. It is also an uncommonly attractive one, argued, as it is, with intelligence, verve, and grace.#8221 #8212David Halliburton, Professor Emeritus, Department of English, Stanford University #8220William Gairdner has successfully achieved an original explanation of the main critical systems which are alive today . By comparing these various approaches according to their characteristic driving forces and the problems to which they are characteristically blind, The Critical Wager makes it possible for the average reader to understand the whole progression of critical thought since the Romantic period . Gairdner writes with a rare first-hand immediacy, and an incisive and commonsensical enthusiasm which commands attention and respect.#8221 #8212Ian Watt, Former Chairman, Department of English, Stanford University, and author of *The Rise of the Novel* William D. Gairdner, Ph.D., Stanford University (1970), has had a distinguished career as an athlete, businessman, and bestselling author. While completing his undergraduate studies he competed for Canada, in track and field, at the Olympic Games in Tokyo (1964), and then in two Commonwealth Games #8212 1966 (Jamaica) and 1970 (Scotland). After obtaining his Ph.D. he taught English Literature and Critical Theory at York University for...

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