Background and Bibliographical References

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Since the formation of the International Committee of Architectural Critics (CICA) in Barcelona in 1979 a representative organisation for those engaged in architectural criticism exists. Over the past few years members of CICA have presented papers at a number of conferences and seminars including those of the International Union of Architects held in Warsaw, Cairo and Brighton. CICA is an affiliated body of UNESCO (COG) and the UIA These papers and contributions have been, very largely, devoted to the subject of architectural criticism and the role and responsibility of the critic, particularly in relation to the architectural profession and the consumer.

For the purposes of the seminar I have drawn on some of this material to present a viewpoint which, to use a phrase of W.R. Lethaby's, is 'more than one man deep'. Whilst I took care to acknowledge sources where appropriate in the Keynote paper I had no wish to obscure the general thrust of my arguments with too many qualifying notes and references. However, I keenly express my debt of gratitude to the members and invited speakers at the CICA seminars whose contributions have proved useful in this survey as well as to many published sources.

Because of the youthfulness of the discipline of architectural criticism it would be useful to append a short, selected list of principal bibliographical sources on the subject. This list could form a basis for individual reading or aid in the compilation of a course or for curricular outlines for teaching purposes.

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