

Buffy's Continuing Relevance: Some Bibliographical Reflections

J. Gordon Melton

While many scholars are moving to place *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* in the larger context of the accomplishments of Joss Whedon, the show has also remained important in the emerging field of vampire studies especially with the continuing evolution of the vampire myth in the popular culture. The authors of this paper, who are completing a comprehensive bibliography of writings on vampires, have noted the significant role (both quantitatively and qualitatively) that the focus on *Buffy* in the last generation has had in affecting the popular image of the vampire and changing the trajectory of vampire studies as a whole. An overview of the mountain of scholarship on *Buffy*, which constitutes over a third of all scholarly writing on vampires in the last decade, suggests a variety of trends in the scholarly assessment of the permeation of the vampire in the popular culture, the shift of attention from literature to other media (especially television and cinema), and a new appreciation of adolescents in the recasting of the myth as a whole.