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[Review of] Stephen Collins Foster: A Guide to Research

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Elliker, Calvin. **Stephen Collins Foster: a guide to research**. Garland, 1988. 197p
indexes (Garland composer resource manuals, 10) ISBN [0824066405](#), \$30.00

Elliker (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) has compiled 423 references to Foster commentary and artifacts. A list of Foster's works and selected editions is followed by a 120-item bibliography, citing biographies, catalogs, dissertations, and children's fiction, as well as popular and evaluative articles. Additional sections treat known photographs and selected portraits of Foster; personal effects; transcriptions of his letters; memorials; films, plays, and poems about Foster; and musical tributes. Excellent critical annotations accompany citations that often include LC call numbers, ISBNs or ISSNs, OCLC numbers, and an indication of the item's inclusion in the Foster Hall Collection at the University of Pittsburgh. LC call numbers drawn from non-LC OCLC records may cause confusion. Some OCLC records are incorrect (e.g., the wrong Rumo is cited in item 64). The text contains a few typos and is occasionally confusing: one of two references to Randy Newman's use of a Foster song is incorrect, and the correct one fails to explain Newman's limited use of "My Old Kentucky Home, Goodnight" in his album 12 Songs. Three indexes cover Foster's works, subjects, and various creative contributors. The last two could be combined, since some people appear in both and others do not appear in either. A useful, wide-ranging guide; for upper-division and graduate collections.

--*R. A. Aken, College of William and Mary*

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