

## Book Reviews

*Western Canada Since 1870: A Select Bibliography and Guide*, by Alan F. J. Artibise. Vancouver, University of British Columbia Press, 1978. Pp. 312; *illus.*; \$17.50; \$6.95 pa.

*Western Canada Since 1870: A Select Bibliography and Guide* "is designed to provide students, teachers, researchers, librarians and the general public with a ready and reliable guide to significant literature dealing with Western Canada." Western Canada in this case means the four western provinces, not just the prairie provinces, and this bibliography should become an indispensable source for anyone interested in the social history of Western Canada as a whole or any of the four provinces individually or comparatively.

Artibise includes books, pamphlets, periodical articles, and unpublished BA essays and MA and PhD theses in history, political science, geography, economics, anthropology, sociology, urban and environmental studies, but excludes fiction and government publications except for a few of the more important works. The criteria were based on "the relative significance of one item as compared to another" and "the relative amount that has been written about any one topic."

The volume has been organized into sixty-three categories and subdivisions, which are guides to the subjects, with separate indexes to Authors, some Select Subjects (Ethnic Groups, Political Parties and Politicians, Miscellaneous), and Organizations, Institutions and Serial Index. There are seven major categories. The first is General, which has ten subdivisions: General, Immigration and Settlement, Indians and Ethnic Groups, Government and Politics, Railways, Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic Development and Labour, Education and Social and Cultural Development, Urban Development, and Bibliographical and Methodological. The next two categories are Riel Rebellions (subdivided into General, 1870 Rebellion, and 1885 Rebellion) and

Northwest Territories to 1905. The remaining four categories are Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, each with eight subdivisions for: General, The People, Government and Politics, Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic Development and Labour, Education and Social and Cultural Development, Urban Development (including General and one or two major cities), and Bibliographical. Appended is "A Brief Guide to Western Canadian Studies," which lists Newsletters and Journals, Archives and Libraries, Organizations and Societies, and Specialized Series.

The book does have a few faults, aside from the usual minor typographical errors, which it is hoped will be remedied in a second edition. The first problem is the 1870 starting date, which marks the acquisition of the Hudson's Bay territories east of the Rockies by Canada, and the entry of the small colony of Manitoba into the Canadian Confederation, but it has no significance for British Columbia, and it ignores the fact that Western Canada does have a history prior to Confederation and that it is significant in Canadian history. Many of the items included in this bibliography cover the pre-Confederation period as well as post-Confederation. There is much valuable material in government publications, such as reports appended to departmental annual reports in the federal and provincial Sessional Papers, and Royal and other types of commissions. An invaluable bibliography of Canada Royal Commissions is already available in G. F. Henderson's *Federal Royal Commissions in Canada 1867-1966: a Checklist*, but provincial commissions are not as accessible. A general guide including these types of government publications would be most welcome.

On the whole, the selection of items is good, but as a guide it would be greatly improved with a critical comment on each item, although an analysis of 3,662 items might enlarge the book to such an extent that it would be out of the price range of the average student. At least five library catalogues published by G. K. Hall in the last few years could have been included in the General Bibliography section. The two most valuable ones are the *Dictionary Catalogue of the Provincial Archives of British Columbia*, which includes useful analytics to books and periodicals relating to Western Canada, and the *Catalogue of the Glenbow Historical Library*. The *Dictionary Catalog of the Pacific Northwest Collection* of the University of Washington Libraries and the Bancroft Library catalogue have much western Canadian material. The newest and one of the largest catalogues is the fifteen-volume *Catalogue of the National Map Collec-*

tion, *Public Archives of Canada*. Some of the thematic catalogues published by the Public Archives could be included, such as the *Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories* and the *Fire Insurance Plans in the National Map Collection*. Little attention has been paid to maps and historical cartography although a few items of historical geography have been included.

The Brief Guide to Western Canadian Studies, in its Section B, gives a detailed list of major archives and libraries "with the exception of urban archives and museums," but institutions such as the Kamloops Museum and Archives and the Vancouver Maritime Museum are included, and some university and college manuscript collections act as municipal archives, such as Simon Fraser University for Burnaby. It would have been useful to include the major urban archives and museums, such as the Vancouver City Archives, which has valuable holdings not restricted to city records, and little more space would have been required.

A major fault of this bibliography is the lack of a proper subject index. An item about a place might be found by looking through the whole section on the province in which it lies, but with a subject not tied to a specific place one can search the various categories and not be sure of not missing it. The indexes to Authors and Selected Subjects refer one to item numbers, and the Organization, Institution and Serial Index refers to page numbers. The list of Newsletters and Journals could be expanded to include periodicals which, while popular rather than scholarly, frequently contain important articles. Some of the items in the Specialized Series list are included in the appropriate place in the bibliography and others are only in the Series list. The reason for the different treatment is not clear.

Despite its faults, which for the most part are minor, this is an important bibliography which no one in the field should be without. The compilation of this bibliography has been an ambitious project, and Alan Artibise is to be congratulated for undertaking it, and the University of British Columbia Press for making it available to the public.

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