écrits policiers, écrits relatifs à la loi sur le vol. La bibliographie ne manque certainement pas pour les chercheurs intéressés au sujet.


Réjean Saint-Jacques,
Queen’s University Law Library


A wonderful bird is the ibid.
In appearance it’s pale and insibid.
It stands as a sage
At the foot of the page

To tell where the passage was cribbed. (As this was, from the News Letter of the Institute of Early American History and Culture, June 1958.) Guides, vade-mecums and the like for attaining this scholarly ideal have been available in academia for at least the past two generations. But it may be symptomatic of the times that books about literature continue to increase and multiply. During the past decade the number of handbooks and manuals in the field of English studies has swelled to enormous, not to say alarming, proportions. However, the usefulness of a reference guide for the student of English (or of the humanities generally) may still best be measured by the degree to which it points out the essential sources which will enable the user to find his way quickly and surely to the more particular books and articles he will need: a task this volume succeeds in doing admirably.

The aim of this Reference Guide is to meet the specific needs of the undergraduate specializing in English by listing material needed to locate information for courses, essays, and examinations in English, American, and Canadian literature. The bibliographies and other works included here cover the novel, short story, essay, drama, and poetry from Old English to the twentieth century. Selection of items listed reflects criteria of usefulness, general availability, importance, and quality. Occasional annotations indicate particular
advantages and limitations of specific works to be considered in determining those best suited to a particular topic. The text provides a built-in but painless introduction to the methods of literary research in the “How to Use” paragraphs — a step-by-step approach with explanation and examples — that begin the two main divisions (general references and individual authors) of the text. Headnotes and cross references provide direction to appropriate library catalogue subject headings and other sources of information. Of the more than 250 authors indexed, 140 authors emphasized in undergraduate courses are listed with the location of the best secondary bibliographies for each, and 122 authors, for whom comprehensive bibliographies do not exist, are cited with references to general sources. A brief glossary of terms concludes the volume, and the 569 entries are given in one or both of the indexes (contributors and subjects).

While the undergraduate organization and emphasis of A Reference Guide to English, American, and Canadian Literature is apparent from the first sentence, use of this handsomely designed and produced volume shows it to be a well-rounded guide that will facilitate the search for background information and critical comment that may be outside the special field of interest of anyone concerned with the whys, whats, and hows of investigating the literature of Canada, Britain, and the U.S.A.

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New Brunswick History: A Checklist of Secondary Sources, compiled by Hugh A. Taylor. Fredericton, N.B.: Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, Historical Resources Administration, 1971 [i.e. 1972] xii, 254 p. $10.00, paper; $14.00, buckram

This work was originally produced in mimeographed form to meet the daily needs of the New Brunswick Archives (where the compiler was until recently the Provincial Archivist), by listing and locating secondary sources available not only within the Archives but elsewhere too. The author is at pains to advise users that the work has no pretensions to being a bibliography, for it offers only sufficient information to identify a title and locate a copy. The entries are indeed brief, and one misses a statement of publisher and place of publication, but the work admirably serves its stated purpose as a guide.

The Introduction explains that printed books, journal and newspaper articles, some government publications, and unpublished theses are included, and details the exclusions. The plan of the work may cause difficulties for some users, the individual entries being arranged in no discernible order under no fewer than seventy different subject classifications, with no list of these class headings provided; but the arguments for and against classed arrangements are as old as booklists themselves, and the author has anticipated them by supplying two excellent indexes. The author index and the general index (persons, places, subjects) occupy between them over fifty pages, or one fifth of the entire work.

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