CANADIAN THESES: AN OMNIBUS REVIEW

Guide bibliographique des thèses littéraires canadiennes de 1921 à 1969, par Antoine Naaman. Préface de Jean Houpert. Montréal: Editions Cosmos, 1970. \$10.00

Répertoire des thèses littéraires canadiennes (janvier 1969 – septembre 1971) 1896 sujets, par Léo A. Brodeur et Antoine Naaman. Sherbrooke, Québec: Centre d'étude des littératures d'expression française, 1972. (Cahiers franco-phones, 2)

Theses on British Columbia History and Related Subjects in the Library of the University of British Columbia, by Frances Woodward. Revised and enlarged. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Library, 1971. (Reference publication no. 35) \$4.00

Here are two very different contributions to the bibliographical control of Canadian theses.

Miss Frances Woodward, of the Special Collections Division of the University of British Columbia, has now produced a second edition of her *Theses on British Columbia History and Related Subjects*. The first edition, published in 1969 as the Library's *Reference publication no. 29*, contained a total of 296 titles comprising 244 from thirteen departments of the University of British Columbia and 52 presented in other universities. The second edition lists some 451 theses from eighteen departments of the University of British Columbia and 94 theses from other universities. An examination of new titles in the second edition reveals additional pre-1967 items as well as subsequent ones. Improvements to the apparatus of this edition are item numbering and a subject index to complement the author index.

The publication of two editions in two years suggests that the work has proved useful to scholars in the field of British Columbia studies. One would like to know the rationale for the compilation of the list. For whom is it intended? Why have theses in Business Administration, Social Work and Community and Regional Planning been omitted? Is it proposed to expand the work into a comprehensive listing of theses in the subject field, or is it to remain purely a record of the theses held by the Library? The usefulness of a third edition would be greatly increased by a fuller and more explanatory introductory section.

Dr. Naaman's *Guide* is a more complex and ambitious undertaking. His purpose is to provide a working handbook for writers of Canadian theses on

literary subjects and their supervisors. He has combined a *Répertoire systématique des thèses littéraires* with a veritable vademecum for students and their supervisors.

The Avant-propos outlines the purpose of the work and explains its general arrangement. This is essential reading, or the user will fail to appreciate the wealth of information available to him. Included here is a list of twelve bibliographies of Canadian theses, with a note of additional sources. It would increase the value of the promised second edition in 1976, if the various reference lists supplied were all arranged alphabetically.

Section I of the main text is entitled "Etude introductive et documentaire." The "Etude introductive" is Dr. Naaman's survey and analysis of general trends in existing literary theses, with tables of those presented in both Canadian and foreign universities. Complementary to this is the "Etude documentaire." Here are lists of scholarships and bursaries available, addresses of useful organizations and Canadian research centres, a list of relevant Canadian French-language periodicals, a list of the principal Canadian publishers, and, finally, a basic bibliography for literary scholars, including guides to research methods and thesis preparation and to the literature of the subject field. An "Index onomastique" refers the reader to those mentioned in the various bibliographical sections and other lists.

Section II is entitled "Répertoire systématique des thèses littéraires canadiennes de 1921 à 1969." It is divided into three broad subject divisions: (1) thèses en lettres canadiennes anglaises et françaises, (2) thèses en lettres françaises et de langue française; (3) thèses en lettres anciennes et étrangères. 2,851 theses are listed. There are three indexes: a subject index, an index of authors and supervisors of theses, and an index of authors studied.

Already a supplementary *Répertoire des thèses littéraires canadiennes* (janvier 1969-septembre 1971) has been issued by another publisher in the series *Cahiers francophones*, and in a totally different format. This compilation lists a further 1,786 titles. Interestingly, the title, introduction, contents list and section headings in the supplement are given in both official languages.

This considerable body of information has been collected by Dr. Naaman as a necessary resource for his own research and teaching. He has generously decided to make this information available to the scholarly community. One wonders whether the French-speaking scholar has greater difficulty than his English-speaking colleague in finding much of the material in Section I in existing reference works, or whether it was considered desirable to bring it together in one compilation. Certainly, as already suggested, it would be possible to make the total package less complicated in a subsequent edition. It is possible too, that the "Etude introductive et documentaire" could be re-issued as a physically separate work for the desk and brief case of the scholar.

The usefulness of the *Répertoire* is immense. Above all, the industry and scholarship required to produce this formidable work demand our admiration.

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