
It was a thrill for me to hear Northrop Frye address the convocation at Athabaska University in June 1985. Frye had come to honour some twenty new graduates. In his address, ‘Language as the Home of Human Life,’ he maintained that since being is only through language, critical and articulate use therefore is of major import; that books, particularly fiction, can illustrate for succeeding generations Canada’s shared cultural myths; that education should be used in the war against ignorance, prejudice, and malice; and that by mobilizing the public to appreciate their own culture, Canadians will grow further in the process of civilization. Although I have heard Frye speak many times at our major centres of learning, the ceremony at Athabaska returns to my mind because it symbolizes for me the humanism that Frye has always generated.

Frye’s areas of interest and influence include literary and critical theory, literary criticism, social and moral criticism, education, the Bible, Blake, and Shakespeare. He has played an important role in Canadian letters, public life, educational theory, and culture. Frye was associated with the Canadian Forum for several decades, and for a decade he reviewed poetry for the *University of Toronto Quarterly’s* ‘Letters in Canada.’

Frye’s twenty-four books have gone through 111 editions and have been printed in at least twelve countries. He has written over 400 published essays, introductions, reviews, and criticisms, and has participated in numerous interviews, radio programmes, and films.

‘A recent study of 950 journals revealed that among the most frequently cited authors in the arts and humanities Frye ranked only behind Marx, Aristotle, Shakespeare, Lenin, Plato, Freud, and Barthes’ [p. ix]. The ever expanding encyclopedic body of Frye’s writings and that of his critics requires over 2,500 entries.

Robert Denham’s *Northrop Frye: An Annotated Bibliography of Primary and Secondary Sources* is an impressive record and guide to the body of work by and about Northrop Frye. Professor of English at Emory and Henry College, Denham is a distinguished Frye scholar. He has authored *Northrop Frye: An Enumerative Bibliography and Northrop Frye and Critical Method*, has edited *Northrop Frye on Culture and Literature*, and has written numerous articles on Frye. Continuing and expanding on his enumerative bibliography published in 1974, Denham has now
provided a comprehensive annotated bibliography of writings by and about Frye. His aim has been not only to provide a guide to the study of Frye but for it 'to stand as a testimony to the large space Frye occupies in the world of critical discourse' (p. ix).

The bibliography is organized into two main parts. Part One, containing over one thousand items, is divided into ten sections, A to J of Primary Sources, each chronologically arranged. Manuscripts [I] and Unpublished Correspondence [J] are listed chronologically according to location of the repository or chronologically within each special collection. The sections provide an annotated catalogue of Frye's work to June 1987: books (including translations), essays, reviews, introductions, contributions to books, interviews, dialogues, short fiction, sermons, editorials, letters to periodicals, tributes, university reports, replies to questionnaires, undergraduate writings, manuscripts (published and unpublished) and unpublished correspondence. Also included are descriptions of sound recordings, films and videotapes.

In the annotations Denham succinctly states Frye's general argument or conclusion, often quoting directly from Frye himself. Only occasionally does Denham make judgements. The annotations accurately elucidate the form and content of Frye's work.

Part Two is an annotated list of over 1,500 writings about the work of Frye, alphabetically arranged by author within each of the six sections K to P of the Secondary Sources: books and collections of essays, essays and parts of books, reviews, theses, bibliographies, and miscellaneous items, including news stories, biographical notices, letters, and anecdotes.

In Part One, section A, all editions of Frye's books and their translations are listed. Each has a separate entry number and descriptions of the imprint and contents, as well as reprint information, except where the hardcover and paperback were issued simultaneously. When translations incorporate additional material, the translator, title and pagination are given. The individual essays in each of Frye's six collections of essays are listed under 'Contents' following the book's entry information, with each essay cross-referenced to its primary entry.

Denham has provided an excellent system of cross-references throughout his bibliography. By using both the cross-references and the title index, the reader is able to acquire, for example, information about some of Frye's uncollected essays as well as some reprinted materials published under different titles. [Editors and titles of reprints are not indexed.] The review essays, where 'Frye goes beyond commenting on the book under review to develop a constructive position of his own or to expand the discussion in some other way' (p. x), are included in section D while all Frye's brief book reviews are in section E. There is no similar division of the reviews of Frye's books, section M of the Secondary Sources. The reader thus can readily see in one sequence the reception of Frye's books. The approximate number of words in these reviews is a useful addition.

Access to the bibliography is achieved by two indexes: a combined name and selected subject index and a title index. Because of Frye's significant involvement with, and influence on, Canadian literature and culture for the past half-century, greater subject access in addition to individual names for English-Canadian poetry,
Canadian literature, Canadian culture, and Canadian social criticism would have been highly useful. The value of the index would have been enhanced if the seven existing subjects could have been increased to include at least critical theory, myth, and science.

The title index contains titles of the 'primary and secondary sources, titles of books reviewed by Frye, and titles referred to in the annotations' (p. 430). Unfortunately not all of the titles (and names) referred to in the annotations are listed in the index: some explanation by the bibliographer is needed for what appears to be inconsistent indexing. A useful feature is the inclusion in parentheses of the author’s or editor’s name: Frye is the understood author or editor when a name does not follow the title.

For books and essays about Frye’s criticism in sections K and L, the appendix provides a chronological listing of the entry numbers which refer to the author arrangement of the items within the two sections. This functional aid assists the reader ‘to determine the historical contours of the reaction his work has received’ (p. x).

The University of Toronto Press is to be commended on the design and physical format of the book. The black dustwrapper is elegant. Sturdy grey cloth is used for the binding, lettering is white, and the endpapers are scarlet. Printed on acid-free paper, bound in sewn signatures, complete with headbands, it is a reference work which will withstand heavy usage.

In the Preface, Denham acknowledges his debt to ‘Frye for the profound way his essays and books have helped to shape my life over the past two decades.’ Denham then states: ‘Yet what goaded me on above everything else was my profound admiration for the subject himself. Perhaps this volume will stand as a symbol of gratitude for the instruction and delight Northrop Frye has given me, for his exemplary life as a teacher and critic, and for his providing occasional glimpses of that third order of experience about which he speaks so eloquently’ (p. xii). Denham’s bibliography is certainly a comprehensive guide which will be used extensively by Frye scholars. Through its excellent annotations, it is fascinating reading for anyone interested in twentieth-century literature, philosophy, humanism, education, culture and criticism.

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Students of science and technology in Canada have long welcomed the prospect of R. Alan Richardson’s and Bertrum H. MacDonald’s bibliography. The realization of this ambitious project certainly constitutes a milestone in the maturation of the history of science as a discipline in this country, and lives up to Raymond Duchesne’s