

if flawed, experiment in the making of a German university.

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**E.G. Finley, comp. *Education In Canada: A Bibliography*. 2 Vols. Toronto: Dundurn Press in cooperation with the National Library of Canada and the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, 1989. \$65.00.**

The publication of *Education In Canada: A Bibliography* has a significance which transcends its value to an intended audience, namely, specialized educational researchers plus faculty and students in related fields. It marks the "coming of age" of education as an academic discipline in Canada. If this comment appears a trifle pretentious, then the sceptic must consider the situation some twenty years ago, in 1969, and ask whether a venture of this sort could or would have been considered for publication at that time. Aside from advances in technology which have made a computerized database possible, educational scholarship has taken a dramatic step forward in the last two decades. This bibliography bears eloquent testimony to the amount of scholarly writing and research in education in recent years.

Published by the National Library in conjunction with the Publishing Centre of the Department of Supply and Services and Dundurn Press, the two volumes contain over 14,000

entries. These range from secondary sources such as books and monographs to reports, research studies, and major government documents. Non-published theses are also included. Education is very broadly interpreted to take in the formal system from pre-primary through to post-secondary levels, with both academic and technical/vocational streams incorporated within the entries. The time span begins in the seventeenth century and concludes in the early 1980s. The author index is designed to provide the main part of the compilation and it alone specifies complete bibliographic data for any particular item. Titles are listed alphabetically in a separate index while the subject guides consist of three divisions: (a) political jurisdiction (province or territory); (b) level of education (general, pre-secondary, secondary, post-secondary); and (c) historical period (Pre-1763, 1763-1866, 1867-1945, Post-1945). From the foregoing it is obvious that the National Library has gone well beyond its custodial role with the publication of *Education In Canada: A Bibliography*. As National Librarian, Marianne Scott expresses it: "with this venture...[we] recognize the importance of Education in Canadian life and the usefulness of the bibliography to Canadian Studies and to the history of Canadian Education."

After this thumbnail sketch of the overall approach of the bibliography, two questions remain for consideration: Is it complete? Is it useful? Since no reviewer would have the temerity (or the time) to openly

challenge 14,000 entries, I decided to apply a totally "non-scientific" and "non-computerbased" test. My survey attempted to ascertain if the bibliography contained all the important references to the life and contribution of two of the patron saints of Canadian education: Egerton Ryerson and John Strachan. Ryerson passed with flying colours; all the significant works were cited along with a number of more obscure references. Curiously, Strachan did not fare so well. The most obvious omission was J.H.L. Henderson's *John Strachan 1778-1867*, published in 1969 and reviewed and listed in many sources. A few problems in other areas may also be noted. In the field of bibliographic research Granatstein and Stevens, *A Reader's Guide to Canadian History, Confederation to the Present* (1982) was included but volume I of the same series, *Beginnings to Confederation* (1982), was not. Some books published as late as 1985 receive mention while others of equal importance were left out (for example, A. Wayne MacKay's definitive *Education Law in Canada*, published in 1984). One problem with *Education In Canada: A Bibliography* is the fact that the cutoff date is hazy and should have been pinned down to a specific year. Furthermore, difficulties were obviously experienced with publications of educational societies and organizations. Thus, some publications of the Association of Atlantic Universities are included while others are not to be found. A case in point is the significant study by Andrew Hughes published in 1979: *Public Attitudes Toward Post*

### *Secondary Education in the Maritimes.*

To be fair on the matter of omissions, the compiler has issued a disclaimer in the foreword listing articles, briefs, courses of study, curriculum guides, directories, house organs, text books, annual reports, and yearbooks among the most prominent exclusions. Fortunately for the completeness of the bibliography, the list was not rigidly followed. Thus, some yearbooks are included, most notably the significant and important annual publications of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education. One anomaly is the listing of some (but by no means all) books written by Canadian authors on topics external to this country. However, on balance, the above comments *do not* detract from the importance of *Education In Canada: A Bibliography*. For the post-1945 period the bibliography is very complete and it will undoubtedly become (either in hardcopy paper, diskette, or microfiche form) an indispensable tool for all who are involved in Canadian educational research. The individuals and organizations responsible, from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (which provided the original seed money through a grant in the summer of 1984) to the National Library, deserve credit for bringing this gargantuan task to fruition. Canadian scholarship is the richer for their efforts.

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