

Ethnic and multicultural materials for children's reading: bibliographical sources

Vivienne Denton

The following listing of bibliographical and resource materials resulted from a search for titles of ethnic or multicultural interest from among works of Canadian children's literature, and should serve as an aid to collecting such titles written by Canadians or for Canadian children. Because excerpts from adult works are sometimes suited to older children, bibliographies and essays which list adult works are also included. There is a growing amount of ethnic creative literature. Canada is a multicultural society, and our literature is rich in accounts of ethnic childhoods, even if most of these are neither written expressly for children nor particularly suited to children's reading. A number of works written for children depict families of different ethnic backgrounds, or deal with problems experienced by immigrant children. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered by books with multi-racial casts of characters.

Books depicting the child's own ethnic heritage can positively foster pride in that heritage. Equally, books presenting the world from different cultural perspectives can assist in producing tolerance, and understanding of other cultures in our mosaic. Both experiences can be important aids to the acceptance of Canada's minority groups within the larger community,

Multicultural understanding, and encouragement to ethnic groups to develop and share their heritages, has been fostered at a number of levels: by educational authorities, government, community groups, and groups interested in children's reading and cultural activities. Cross-cultural understanding is also being promoted in the classroom. The political climate in recent years has, of course, been favourable to the teaching of heritage culture, and to the development of multicultural course materials for schools, and collections in public libraries. To facilitate such activity, a number of resource materials have appeared since the late 'seventies, and the following listing illustrates both the wealth of materials available and the number (and variety) of organizations which have taken up the cause.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES — MONOGRAPHS

Miska, Janos. *Ethnic and Native Canadian literature 1850-1879: a bibliography of primary and secondary materials*. Lethbridge, Alta.:

- Microform Biblios, 1980. (Microfiche. Exhaustive but annotated.)
- Resource guides for the teaching of Canadian literature.* Toronto: The Writers' Development Trust, 1977. (A series of booklets suggesting course materials for secondary school students. Annotated. Particularly useful titles include: *The immigrant experience* and *the North/Native peoples*.)
- Wall, Naomi. *Children's books for learning: a bibliography of multi-ethnic resources for classroom use.* Compiled for the Cross-Cultural Communication Centre, Toronto, 1979. (Includes listings of creative writing from both Canada and country of origin.)
- Wood, Dean. *Multicultural Canada: a teacher's guide to ethnic studies.* Curriculum Studies No. 36. Toronto: O.I.S.E., 1978. (Includes a bibliography of works both fiction and non-fiction.)

BIBLIOGRAPHIES — GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

- Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. *About Indians.* (Several editions of this annotated bibliography have been issued, the latest in 1985. Pan-American in scope.)
- Canada. Department of the Secretary of State. Multiculturalism Directorate. *Publications supported by the Multiculturalism Directorate Government of Canada.* (Free catalogues of publications in the areas of literature and education supported by the directorate can be obtained by writing to the Writing & Publication Program, Multiculturalism Directorate, Department of the Secretary of State, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0M5.)
- Manitoba. Office of the Department of the Secretary of State. *A preliminary list of Canadian materials for multicultural (Social Studies) courses.* Orest T. Martynovych, 1979.
- Ontario. Ministry of Education. *People of Native Ancestry.* 1977. (A resource guide for the intermediate division. Listings include creative materials.)
- Ontario. Ministry of Education/Ministry of Culture and Recreation. *Resource list for a multicultural society.* Compiled by Janet Maxwell, Banuta Rubess, Indra Sabanski & Dorothy-Jean Dodd. 1977. (Adult & children's writing, creative works and resource materials.)

ANTHOLOGIES

- Andrews, Jan, ed. *The dancing sun: stories and poems celebrating Canadian Children.* Victoria, B.C.: Press Porcepic, 1981. (Elementary level)
- Bailey, Leuba, ed. *The immigrant experience.* Themes in Canadian Literature Series. Toronto: MacMillan of Canada, 1975. (Secondary level)
- Mowat, William and Christine, eds. *Native peoples in Canadian Literature.*

Themes in Canadian Literature Series. Toronto: MacMillan of Canada, 1975. (Secondary level)

JOURNALS

The following journals which promote ethnic studies and multicultural understanding contain useful bibliographical and review articles.

Canadian Ethnic Studies. (Journal of the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association.)

Cultures Canada. (A publication of the Multicultural Directorate, Department of the Secretary of State.)

Multiculturalism. (Published by the Canadian Council for Multicultural and International Education in association with the Guidance Centre, Faculty of Education, University of Toronto.)

JOURNALS — SPECIAL ISSUES

Canadian Children's Literature. Special issue — "The immigrant experience." 35/36, 1984.

Communique: Canadian Studies. Vol.3 No.1, October 1976, "Multiculturalism" and Vol.3 No.4, August 1977, "Canadian Folk Culture."

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Blostein, Fay. "Selected fiction bibliography on multiculturalism for grades 5-9." *Multiculturalism*, 1: 4: 1978, pp. 30-2.

British Columbia Library Association. "Multicultural resources." *Emergency Librarian*, 11: 1983, pp. 9-10. (Bibliography)

Butt, Richard L. "The Multicultural Education Materials Animation Project." *Multiculturalism*, 7: 2: 1985, pp. 28-9. (Short article with bibliography.)

Hind-Smith, Joan. "Canadian literature — mirror of multiculturalism." *Multiculturalism*, 1: 3: 1977, pp. 31-2. (Bibliography — adult titles)

Leonard, Anne. "Language and literature in a multicultural classroom." *English Quarterly*, 15: 4: 1982, pp. 31-46.

Marks, Ruth. "Ethnic Studies: a selected list of materials useful for Canadian schools." *Orbit*, 8: 3: 1977, pp. 6-9.

Narang, H.L. "*Multiculturalism*, 6: 3: 1983, pp. 24-32.

Vivienne Denton has taught at Concordia University, McMaster University and L'Université de Montréal. She is now a law librarian in Toronto.