

Artibise, Alan F. J. *Western Canada Since 1870; A Select Bibliography and Guide*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1978. Pp. xvi, 294. \$6.95 paper, \$17.95 cloth

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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It is a difficult task to review a newly issued "select bibliography." The only meaningful test of such a work is its usefulness to the "students, teachers, researchers, librarians and the general public" which the compiler declares to be its intended market. Two or three years will reveal whether these groups find the volume a relevant aid in study and research. Until that time the best the reviewer can do is try to anticipate what this ultimate test will prove.

It does appear that the work is well done and organized in such a way as to provide easy accessibility. The division of the bibliography into both topical and provincial categories is well designed for those concerned with a particular area. At the same time the organization is simple enough so as not to confuse the inexperienced. In addition an author index provides a useful tool for those who are searching for a particular work but who have forgotten the exact citation. The organization and contents also reflect Professor Artibise's interest in urban history. Bibliographical guides to each of the major Western cities are included and the contents in these categories are especially comprehensive. These sections will be useful both to the urban historian and to those, whether teacher or student who wish to explore some of the literature in the area. Last, but not least, the existence of a paperback edition makes the work affordable and thus more likely to be used.

As a select bibliography the contents are impressive. There are a few omissions, especially of works published between 1975 and 1977. There are also a few questionable inclusions. J. Murray Beck's Pendulum of Power and W. M. Baker's "A Case Study of Anti-Americanism in English Speaking Canada," (C.H.R., 1970) do contain material on the West but then so does every monograph or article dealing with Canada at a national level. It is questionable whether such materials really belong in a regional bibliography. These criticisms, however, are minor. The inclusion of items is a matter of judgement and it is better to err on the side of comprehensiveness than on the side of selectivity. As for the omissions, they can easily be corrected in future editions. For the point is that there are likely to be future editions. Unlike some other bibliographies this work will probably survive the demanding test of student and professional use in coming years.

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