A descriptive bibliography of the Canadian prairie novel, 1871-1970

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Abstract:
This Bibliography attempts to provide as complete an index as possible to novels of the Canadian prairie written for adults and published in English within the 100 years from 1871 to 1970. Excluded from consideration, accordingly, are the many short stories which are part of Canadian prairie fiction in general, as well as novels written for a juvenile audience. Novels written in languages other than English are included only if they were eventually published in English. To establish the literary parameters of the term "Canadian prairie" is a more difficult task. Politically, the boundaries of the Canadian prairie are clearly defined: the Canadian prairie is comprised of the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. These boundaries, however, were formulated subsequent to the settlement of the area geographically regarded as the prairie and in turn to the time the first novels to come from this area were written and published. Consequently, the locus of the Canadian prairie novel should be flexibly defined as the largely agricultural area bounded on the west by the Rocky Mountains, on the north and east by rocky terrain and forests, and on the south by the 49th parallel. How one should delimit the Canadian prairie novel with respect to subject matter and to the nature of a given writer's relationship to the prairie poses the second major difficulty. A novel written about the prairie by someone who was living on the prairie at the time is obviously a Canadian prairie novel; but it is also obvious that such a definition is too exacting and too mechanically restrictive. For the purposes of the present study, therefore, the Canadian prairie novel will be defined as either: a novel written by someone living on the prairie at the time regardless of subject matter or a novel with a prairie theme or setting written by someone who once lived on the prairie regardless of where the writer resided at the time of writing. The basic criterion, in short, is the writer's personal experience of living on the prairie, and thus excluded from consideration will be novels written about the prairie but by a writer who never lived or who was only a visitor there...

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An important feature of early prairie literature is the "almost simultaneous social and literary creation" (Jackel 961). After the turn of the 20th century, urbanization, immigration, WW I and its aftermath impressed the literature of the Canadian West as well. Whereas in the first half of the century, prairie writing was something remote and even dubious, since the 1980s, "a growing number of new and innovative periodicals record the poetry and fiction of an energetic region that feels no compulsion to apologize for its location, its history, or its distance from Ontario" (963), as Aritha van Herk wittily observes. Rev. narrative. o Protagonist is reminiscent of those in Sinclair Ross' four great novels. 61. o The novel is "[a] complex and compelling story of her fitful reunion with both her father. Introduction Bibliography may be described as the listing, in descriptive detail, of items of printed literature; in a wider sense the term embraces the research and the theories employed toward this end. No distinct term exists to describe the listing of scores; bibliography, within the context of this entry, includes noted music. On p xxi EMC provides a bibliography of many of the basic sources of information about music in Canada and the abbreviated names used to refer to them throughout EMC. There also are selective bibliographies appended to many of the individual entries.