

NOTES AND REVIEWS

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E. M. Forster: An Annotated Bibliography of Writings about Him.
DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1976. Pp. 924. \$30.00.

Announced as early as 1969, Professor McDowell's contribution to the growing volumes of the Annotated Secondary Bibliography Series on English Literature in Transition, 1880-1920, which appeared in 1977, is most impressive, running to 924 pages of which the "Bibliography" proper accounts for 837. A "Preface," a "Checklist" of primary works, and an "Introduction" precede the listing, and five indices offering varied approaches to the contents of the "Bibliography" close the work. Following the plan of others in the ASB Series, the Forster volume, however, surpasses earlier issues in the nature and extent of its inclusions, since it aims at completeness and adequate cross references for material from the seventy years between 1905 and 1975. The care and sound scholarship one has come to expect from Professor McDowell as critic and bibliographer over the last two decades are everywhere apparent, the few aberrations and omissions becoming significant only when measured against the comprehensiveness stated as the goal. Some limitations, nevertheless, result also from what appears to be the lack of a clear editorial policy.

In examining the "Bibliography" itself, comparison with an earlier volume in the same series is instructive. The Maugham bibliography, prepared as a "representative body of the criticism of (Maugham's) works from 1897 through 1968" contains 2355 entries spaced over 367 pages. The Forster volume offers 1913 items in 837 pages. Professor McDowell's aim of completeness extends, thus, beyond the range of inclusions to the annotations themselves. Whereas previous bibliographies offered gists and brief outlines, this one provides substantive, at times even extensive abstracts, critical evaluations, information on important reviews of both primary and secondary works, and cross references. Emphasis lies not on the relative consequence or otherwise of individual items, but on the intrinsic value of each as material contributing, however modestly, to the total personality of Forster criticism.

A strong sense of this personality emerging through the pages of the book is, indeed, the most striking characteristic of the "Bibliography." Offering more than an annotated list of writings, the work succeeds in conveying an impression of the essential kinship of the material, a kinship brought into being not merely by shared subject matter nor, certainly, by agreement in critical opinion and method, but by the energy Professor McDowell has expended in revealing each item, its significance, and often its place in the corpus of Forster criticism. Such connection incorporates the more scholarly labors of cross reference and editorial judgement, both of which gain point and consistency from the single mind that directs them. One might say, in fact, that Professor McDowell has pushed annotated bibliography to its logical conclusion of providing a work which generates its own internal dynamic. That this has harmed other legitimate

functions of a bibliography is, as is argued below, unfortunate, but the valuable compensation offered the user is that of being able to experience either the larger kinship, or of being able to follow in detail the development of specific critical ideas and even of individual critics. In this context, the generous annotations make meaningful the arrangement of the "Bibliography," chronological for the years covered, but alphabetical for each year or group of years. The author, primary title, newspaper and periodical indices similarly take on added significance. Useful as the "Bibliography" is for conventional purposes, it will also stimulate work of its own in the nature of studies of criticism in transition.

For all its achievements, however, the "Bibliography" falls short in two respects. On the one hand are the almost inevitable errors of citation, typographical and otherwise, many of which, though not all, have been corrected in an inserted page of *errata*. Those overlooked range from the misspelling "Lord." for "Lond." in #1267, and the switching in the author index under "Shahane, V. A.," of the location #831 for 813, to the misnomer *Shenkar's Weekly* in all relevant entries for *Shankar's Weekly*. On the other hand are organizational problems, aberrations and omissions which go unexplained but which limit the usefulness of the work even as they contradict the aim of completeness.

Organizationally, the chronological/alphabetical pattern has its advantages, but one wonders why items for the years could not also have been listed chronologically. This would have facilitated the tracing of the developing pattern of, say, book reviews in a given year without the sacrificing of the efficient location of individual items to which the indices provide quick access. Again, as the "Bibliography" is not arranged by subject, one must thumb through the entire volume to consult entries on a given text. The obvious example is *A Passage To India*, the leader with 729 entries, all, however, unidentified in the primary title index, identified but listed alphabetically with all other items in the secondary title index, and appearing mostly on separate pages.

As for omissions, some are unsettling, others quite disconcerting. An example of the former is the treatment of bibliographies. The "Preface" states that bibliographies are to be included in the volume, but there is no entry for the first annotated checklist which appeared in *EFT*, 2 (Spring, 1959), nor for the next list published in *MFS*, 7, 3 (Autumn, 1961), which relied heavily on the first. Neither is Professor McDowell's bibliography in *ELT*, issued annually since 1967, listed, and though the *EFT* and *ELT* materials are gathered into this volume, there is no reason to have omitted the items themselves. The omissions are more puzzling when one finds other bibliographies included, such as Alfred Borello's *Annotated Bibliography of Secondary Materials*, appearing as #1721, and sharply criticized in an annotation that, to confuse matters, cites the earlier listings.

Finally, a point of particular interest to a reviewer from India, a point inspired ironically, by one of the book's indices, is the index to foreign languages. Ten languages are listed, but none of India. This is startling not because information might have been neglected but because here of all places, and in Indian of all languages, criticism on Forster should have appeared. And, indeed, it has. Indian bibliography is, however, yet in its infancy, and even cited material is hard to recover, but India's interest in Forster is and has been especial, and one wishes greater attention had been paid to writings concerning him from this country. Such writings are of two kinds, those in Indian languages

and those in English. The latter are represented in the "Bibliography," though inclusions are limited to items fairly freely available in Western bibliographies. Some entries provide exceptions, but only establish that Indian bibliographical sources seem not to have been consulted in preparing this volume. Omissions, thus, range from a lack of any information regarding Ph.D. dissertations by Indian scholars presented to Indian universities to the absence of titles devoted wholly or in part to Forster. A few examples will have to suffice. Of the dissertations, one might mention Shanti Sharma, "A Study of Indian and Anglo-Indian Life in the Prose Works of Kipling, Steel, Edward Thompson and Forster" (University of Allahabad, 1952), A. A. Hamid, "The Development of E. M. Forster" (University of Agra, 1963), and Chitra Ray, "The Mind and Art of E. M. Forster" (University of Calcutta, 1975). Rajinder Singh's slim volume, *E. M. Forster's A Passage To India: The Sad Incompleteness of Life: Theme and Technique* (Delhi: S. Chand & Co., 1968), was written as a study at the University of Rhode Island and later published. A more significant work, not by an Indian but published in India, Kai Nicholson's *A Presentation of Social Problems in the Indo-Anglian and the Anglo-Indian Novel* (Bombay: Jaico Publishing House, 1972) includes discussions of *Passage* and *The Hill of Devi*. An earlier collection of essays, M. K. Naik, et. al., eds., *The Image of India in Western Creative Writing* (Dharwar, Karnataka: Karnatak University, 1970), offers three papers relevant to Forster. Mulk Raj Anand's "Anglo-Saxon Attitudes: Twentieth Century English Fiction about India" appears in the "Bibliography" as "English Novels of the Twentieth Century on India," *Asiatic Review*, July 1943, but the reprint is not noted. The other two, Prema Nandkumar, "The Two Faces of Kingship in India: Ackerley's 'Hindoo Holiday' and 'Forster's 'Hill of Devi'," and V. A. Shahane, "The Image of India in E. M. Forster's *A Passage To India*," are absent, the exclusion of the last being somewhat unusual even though the anthology itself goes unnoticed.

With careful work, such a listing of Indian materials would grow considerably, the major bibliographical sources being the *Indian National Bibliography* (Calcutta: The National Library), *Index India* (Jaipur: Rajasthan University Library), N. N. Gidwani and K. Navalani, eds., *A Guide to Reference Materials on India* (Jaipur: Saraswati Publications, 1974,) not wholly reliable but an acceptable guide, R. G. Prasher, et. al., *Indian Books: An Annual Bibliography* (Delhi: Researcho Publications), *Indian Books in Print* (Delhi: Indian Bureau of Bibliography), *Accessions List, India* (New Delhi: U. S. Library of Congress, American Libraries Book Procurement Center), V. K. Jain, ed., *Guide to Indian Periodical Literature* (Gurgaon, Haryana: Indian Documentation Service), annual bibliographies in *Indian P.E.N.* and *Indian Literature*, and trade directories. In addition, nothing would be more useful than a network of correspondents surveying the output in newspapers, journals and books around the country, with an eye particularly for material in Indian languages. This reviewer, for instance, is indebted to Professor G. K. Das for information concerning two essays on Forster which appeared in the leading Oriya daily, *The Samaj*, of Cuttack, Orissa, in its "Weekly Literary Review" for July 28, 1970, p. 7. One, by Mahesh Chandra Mahapatra, "Edward Morgan Forster," is a bio-critical obituary, the other, by the well-known Oriya author Manoj Das, "E. M. Forster: A Tribute," a more personal account of Forster's impact on Indian writers with a focus on the originality of the portrait of Indian character in *Passage*. Difficulties inherent in compiling such material have inhibited further exploration for this review, but such items must form a part of any proposed supplement to the *Bibliography*.

The decisions a bibliographer makes regarding the organization and character of his work can never satisfy the demands of all users. Nevertheless,

flexibility, accuracy and, in the context of this volume, comprehensiveness are basic requirements. Professor McDowell has gone a long way towards meeting them, and though one might have looked for shorter annotations in favor of greater inclusiveness, or more systematic organization, such compromises would have rendered impossible the special achievements of the work. Now that these have been gained, however, perhaps a supplement will satisfy those who look for other connections from the material of a bibliography.

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Kola-Lappish Folk Tales

The Lappish (Lappic) people, live in four Northern European countries: Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Russia. They speak different dialects, but can, more or less, understand one another. Kola-Lappish is the part of the Lappish people who live in Russia, on the Kola Peninsula. There is one area of great similarity, however, irrespective of the country in which they live: that is their beautiful folk tales.

In this article I would like to survey briefly a few of the typical features of Lappish stories which I collected some twenty years ago, translated into German¹ and Hungarian,² and studied from a linguistics point of view.³ These stories are extremely exciting and fascinating, for they not only reflect the realities of everyday life in the North, but also deal with fantastic motifs such as demons, ghosts, monsters, and biform creatures. A special place is reserved in these stories for their favorite animal, the reindeer, which is always depicted as a half wild and half tame friend. Recurring characters in these tales are an old man and an old woman who are in the center of most of these narratives. A plot outline of the following story might illustrate this point.

An old man made a clay ball, and went into his tent to repair his fishing net. He told his old wife, who was knitting and cooking: "Look what I made!" The old woman looked out of the window and saw that the clay ball had come alive, and was entering the tent. After it came in, the clay ball swallowed the old man and the old woman; then it proceeded to swallow three young girls who were going for water, three women who were going to pick berries, three fishermen who were going to fish, and three men who were going to build a house. At this point, it saw a beautiful reindeer on the hill. It called to the reindeer: "I'll eat you up!" The reindeer answered: "Wait, I'll come down to you and jump right into your mouth." The reindeer then shook its beautiful head, ran down the hill and hit the huge stomach so powerfully that it burst freeing all those who had been swallowed. The old man and the old woman went back to their tent, the three girls went to haul water, the three women

¹Laszlo Szabo, *Kolalappische Volksdichtung: Texte aus den Dialekten in Kildin und Ter* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1966); and *Kolalappische Volksdichtung (aus den Dialekten in Kildin und Ter): Zweiter Teil nebst grammatischen Aufzeichnungen* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1968).

²Laszlo Szabo, *A ravasz pókasszony: Lapp népmesék* (Budapest: Móra Könyvkiadó, 1968).

³Laszlo Szabo, "Das Referat im Kolalappischen," *Glossa: A Journal of Linguistics*, 3, No. 2 (1969), 165-89.