American Literary Bibliography in the Twentieth Century

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WALT WHITMAN once wondered whether the "elder races" had halted in their human and universal task "wearied over there beyond the seas." And with characteristic optimism he asserted that the pioneers of the new world were at once ready to "take up the task eternal, and the burden and the lesson." In their willingness to assume such a mandate, in their diligence and zeal, the bibliographers of American literature in the twentieth century have been conspicuous among research scholars.

Even the most cursory survey of the field reveals astonishing range and quality. In the three years 1905-1908 single volume bibliographies of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and James Russell Lowell appeared. These were subsequently followed by bibliographies of a number of major authors, in some cases while the authors were still alive. *The Cambridge History of American Literature*, the first comprehensive history of our national letters, appeared in 1917-1921 and included extensive bibliographical material. In 1948 the cooperative *Literary History of the United States* was published in three volumes, the last of which (790 pages in length) was completely bibliographical. This work has since been revised and the supplementary bibliographical volume published in 1959 (239 pages) was incorporated in the edition of 1963. Between the individual bibliography and the collective, cooperative bibliography, one can see a whole spectrum of bibliographical activity.

A survey of contemporary trends might well begin with a reference to the most ambitious project now under way, Jacob Blanck's *Bibliography of American Literature*, a work which when completed will deal with some three hundred American authors. The work has some limi-
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tations, as reviewers have noted. The definition of an American au-
other is arbitrary since even the most minor belletristic figures are in-
cluded whereas historians, theologians, and scientists are omitted;
moreover, the figure of three hundred is more convenient than justi-
ifiable. It is also unfortunate that the basic plan of the work excludes
any author whose death occurred after 1930. But Blanck's project, four
volumes of which have already appeared (New Haven, Yale Univer-

Several important volumes deal with critical and secondary material
as well as with literature itself. In 1959 Clarence Gohdes published
his Bibliographical Guide to the Study of the Literature of the U.S.A.
(Durham, Duke University Press, 1959), a comprehensive and yet
succinct volume which reached a second edition in 1963. The author's
prefatory statement is illuminating: “The present volume undertakes
to provide lists of books which will aid the professional student of the
literature of the United States in the acquiring of information and in
the technique of research.” Thirty-five lists of annotated material
cover fields ranging from literature itself to history, philosophy, the
periodical field, and the book trade, and an appendix tabulates the
principal biographical studies of a hundred American authors.
The Guide to American Literature and Its Backgrounds Since 1890,
edited by Howard Mumford Jones and Richard M. Ludwig, has
The volume has of course a strict chronological limitation but within
its period is amazingly inclusive. According to the editors, the chief
purpose of the work was to help the student to comprehend “the so-
cial and intellectual setting of American literature in the years under
survey.” Thus, they divided their material into several categories and
did not hesitate to go beyond the normal conception of literature.
Books relating to education, the fine arts, the popular arts, education,
and science are listed, not to speak of magazines which publish rele-
vant material. The fifty-one lists which comprise the second half of
the book organize items under different and useful headings: regional-
ism, historical fiction, juveniles, naturalism, social reform, the genteel
tradition. Despite some unavoidable overlapping, the order of presen-
tation is amply justified. A valuable reference tool of another kind,
which contains musical, regional, and anthropological as well as lit-
erary material, was compiled by Charles Haywood in 1951, A Bibli-
ography of North American Folklore and Folksong. A second edition
containing some new material but without substantial revision ap-

There are also other bibliographical tools available for those who need to consult articles which have not appeared in books. Lewis Leary's *Articles on American Literature, 1900-1950* (Durham, Duke University Press, 1954) is an invaluable compilation of such material; Fortunately, too, it is not limited to American journals since the editor made a valiant effort to incorporate both European and oriental contributions. The majority of the space, over three hundred pages, is devoted to an alphabetical tabulation of both major and minor authors, but considerable material is listed under such topical headings as humor, the Indian, the Negro, regionalism, religion, and science. There is no index of contributors, probably because it would have inordinately increased the bulk of the book. In 1956 Floyd Stovall edited for the Modern Language Association a selected bibliography entitled *Eight American Authors*, a volume which includes critical and bibliographical essays by specialists on Emerson, Poe, Whitman, Hawthorne, Melville, Twain, Thoreau, and Henry James. The selection is again arbitrary since Cooper and Howells are not among the chosen eight and no strictly twentieth-century authors are included. But the essays are specific and forthright, various kinds of material are evaluated, and trends in contemporary scholarship are indicated. A supplement including a selective checklist of the material which appeared in the years 1955-1962 was provided by J. Chesley Mathews for the second edition of *Eight American Authors* in 1963. A volume with a different focus and which despite a time limitation casts a wide net is James Woodress' *American Literary Scholarship, An Annual/1963* (Durham, Duke University Press, 1965). This is also a cooperative venture which takes the form of bibliographical essays by specialists; it includes both individual authors (for example, Melville, Twain, and Faulkner) and surveys of period criticism as well as literary genres. As the title implies, the volume will have annual sequels and will eventually include even a wider coverage.

There are also important bibliographies in literary histories other than those already cited. Harry Hartwick contributed a bibliography of well over two hundred pages to Walter Fuller Taylor's *A History of American Letters* in 1936. A revised edition appeared twenty years later entitled *The Story of American Letters* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1956). Arthur Hobson Quinn's *The Literature of the American People*, a single volume history in which the editor had the
cooperation of Kenneth Murdock, Clarence Gohdes, and George Whicher, devoted pages 987-1107 to a bibliography arranged chiefly as extensive notes to the various chapters (New York, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1951). The method involves some repetition and the order is not always alphabetical by authors.

Book-length bibliographies of individual authors, familiar since the beginning of the century, have continued to appear although some writers seem to have defied such study. There is still no bibliography of Jack London, and of Herman Melville it has been observed that no adequate bibliography is possible until "after the subsidence of the present wave of biographical and critical writing." As early as 1933 Sydney S. Alberts published *A Bibliography of the Works of Robinson Jeffers* (New York, Random House, 1933), although the California poet did not die until 1962. Dorothy Ritter Russo compiled *A Bibliography of George Ade 1866-1944* in 1947 (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1947), and two years later collaborated with Thelma L. Sullivan in *A Bibliography of Booth Tarkington* (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society, 1949). Early research on the writings of Robert Frost was synthesized and amplified by Louis and Esther Mertins in their volume, *The Intervals of Robert Frost: A Critical Bibliography* (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1947). William M. Gibson and George Arms compiled their valuable *Bibliography of William Dean Howells* in 1948 (New York, New York Public Library, 1948). Although incomplete because it omits some foreign editions and translations as well as minor periodical items, it is an important tool in the study of a major writer and its annotations add to its significance. Jack Potter compiled *A Bibliography of John Dos Passos* (Chicago, Normandie House, 1950) and Eleanor M. Tilton edited the *Bibliography of Oliver Wendell Holmes* which Thomas F. Currier had published in 1937 (New York, New York University Press, 1953). The year 1952 saw the appearance of Donald C. Gallup's *T. S. Eliot: A Bibliography* (London, Faber and Faber, 1952), a work which had appeared in at least two earlier and briefer versions, and a decade later Gallup published as the eighteenth of the Soho bibliographies, *A Bibliography of Ezra Pound* (London, Rupert Hart-Davis, 1963). Merle Johnson had published a list of Mark Twain's works in the year of the writer's death and a substantially revised and enlarged edition twenty-five years later, *A Bibliography of the Works of Mark Twain: Samuel Langhorne Clemens* (New York and London, Harper & Brothers, 1935), but neither edition included periodical contributions
or secondary material. The spate of work concerning Mark Twain is well indicated in the significant compilation by the French scholar Roger Asselineau, *The Literary Reputation of Mark Twain from 1910 to 1950* (Paris, Librairie Marcel Didier, 1954), a volume which cites 1,333 items, many of which are described or evaluated. Some twenty-eight of these, carefully selected, refer to the years prior to Twain's death in 1910; the great majority are later, over four hundred items having appeared in the decade of the 1930's alone.

The early bibliography of Henry James which LeRoy Phillips published in 1906 and expanded in 1930 has been superseded by the more comprehensive *Bibliography of Henry James* compiled in 1957 by Leon Edel and Dan H. Lawrence and subsequently revised (London, Rupert Hart-Davis, 1961). Almost a half century after the death of Stephen Crane, Ames W. Williams and Vincent Starrett compiled their *Stephen Crane: A Bibliography* (Glendale, John Valentine, 1948), and a few years later Frances Joan Brewer completed her *James Branch Cabell* (Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 1957). In the summer of 1957 the Princeton University Library held an exhibition of the manuscripts and typescripts of William Faulkner. This display became the source of the bibliographical study of Faulkner which James B. Meriwether published four years later under the title of *The Literary Career of William Faulkner* (Princeton, Princeton University Library, 1961). Meriwether's book includes an account of the place and date of publication of Faulkner's work in the United States, a description of the manuscripts, a tabulation of the English editions, a list of translations into other languages, and a catalog of the motion pictures and television plays adapted from Faulkner's writings. George J. Firmage compiled *E. E. Cummings: A Bibliography* (Middletown, Wesleyan University Press, [1960]), a model study which appeared two years before the death of Cummings. A recent example of a bibliography of a single author is William W. Kelly's *Ellen Glasgow: A Bibliography* (Charlottesville, University Press of Virginia, 1964). Not only is the usual tabulation of the novelist's work provided in chronological order but miscellaneous and uncollected contributions to periodicals are listed, selective reviews are cited, and biographical and critical material about Miss Glasgow is given. Doctoral dissertations devoted to her writings are likewise enumerated.8

Quite frequently the most useful bibliographies of individual authors are printed as appendices to biographical or critical studies. Thus the checklist which occupies pages 252-291 of Milton Sterne's *The Fine
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_Hammered Steel of Herman Melville_ (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1957) remains comprehensive. Jean Holloway appended a bibliography to her _Hamlin Garland; a Biography_ (Austin, University of Texas Press, 1960) but omitted book reviews, letters, and fugitive pieces in general. In 1961 John Brown published his _Hemingway, a study of “l’homme, l’oeuvre, les livres,”_ with a natural emphasis on the novelist’s foreign reputation. The section entitled “Documents” (pp. 279-296) lists Hemingway’s works, his introductions and prefaces, the principal uncollected articles and poems which appeared in periodicals, translations into French and other languages, and a useful list of films made from Hemingway stories, televised recordings of excerpts from these films, and even an _iconographie_ (Brown comments, “Il existe très peu de portraits de Hemingway, mais il y a d’innombrables photos.”) The extensive tabulation of the books and periodical contributions of James Hall which Randolph C. Randall added to his _James Hall, Spokesman of the New West_ (Columbus, Ohio State University Press, 1964) is definitive although his secondary sources are obviously incomplete. George McMichael included a thorough list of the writings of Alice French in his study of that neglected middlewestern novelist who wrote under a pseudonym, in his _Journey to Obscurity, the Life of Octave Thanet_ (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1965).

A good deal of bibliographical material is included in the ambitious editions of major American authors which have become one of the characteristic publishing projects of the second half of the twentieth century. Lavishly subsidized by newspapers, eleemosynary foundations, or universities, these editions are cooperative works destined to appear in many volumes and generally including correspondence as well as books, pamphlets, and contributions to periodicals. Thus the year 1965 saw the appearance of Volume 17 of _The Papers of Thomas Jefferson_, edited for the Princeton University Press by Julian P. Boyd. In 1965 also appeared the fifth volume of the new Belknap Press edition of _The Journals and Miscellaneous Notebooks of Ralph Waldo Emerson_, edited by Merton M. Sealts, Jr. The first volume of this edition, which will replace the original edition of Emerson’s journals published in 1909-1914, was the joint work of William H. Gilman, Alfred R. Ferguson, George P. Clark, and Merrell R. Davis; following volumes will be prepared by other editors. L. H. Butterfield began to edit the Adams Papers for the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the _Diary and Autobiography of John Adams_ (Cambridge,

Various universities have taken special responsibility for new and variorum editions of major American authors. The first volume of the Ohio State University centenary edition of Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter, was published in Columbus in 1962 with a special introduction by William Charvat and an extensive textual note by Fredson Bowers. Similar editions of Mark Twain and Herman Melville are being sponsored respectively by the University of California and Northwestern University although the first volumes have yet to appear. The collected work of Jonathan Edwards will appear under the aegis of Yale University. The Collected Writings of Walt Whitman, under the general editorship of Gay W. Allen and E. Sculley Bradley for New York University Press, already include three volumes of correspondence, two volumes of early prose works, one volume of early verse and fiction, and the comprehensive reader's edition of Leaves of Grass.

One of the interesting bibliographical phenomena of the second half of the twentieth century has been the appearance of special issues of periodicals devoted to single authors. Unique of course was the publication during the author's lifetime of Faulkner Studies (Denver and Minneapolis) which began in 1952 and continued through four volumes until 1954, when it was reorganized and its name changed to Critique. Faulkner Studies contained brief biographical and critical articles but was valuable chiefly for its tabulation of current Faulkner bibliography. There are a number of single issues of academic journals important for their bibliographical contents. The Summer 1951 issue of the Princeton University Library Chronicle (Volume 12) was devoted to F. Scott Fitzgerald and included a survey of his manuscripts, several articles dealing with his writings, and a checklist of his works by Henry Dan Piper. The Spring 1957 issue of the same periodical (Volume 18) dealt with William Faulkner and included relevant essays as well as a checklist compiled by James B. Meriwether. Although secondary material was omitted, Meriwether provided a careful chronological list of the novelist's publications with valuable data about the place and date of their initial appearances. Several issues of Modern Fiction Studies, published at Purdue University, focus on individual authors. The August 1955 number (Volume 1), devoted to
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Ernest Hemingway, contained several critical articles and a useful checklist of his work by Maurice Beebe. The Autumn, 1956, issue (Volume 2) performed the same function for William Faulkner, with the editor, Maurice Beebe, again arranging titles for both books and articles alphabetically and listing relevant criticism under each title. The largest of these special issues, published in Autumn 1962 (Volume 8), dealt with Herman Melville. Seven articles occupied one hundred pages, and the selected checklist of Melville criticism, compiled by Maurice Beebe, Harrison Hayford, and Gordon Roper, required thirty-four additional pages. The arrangement follows the pattern established for all special issues of Modern Fiction Studies: a large section of general material about Melville precedes a tabulation of articles dealing with individual works, both novels and short stories. There is no critical annotation, and routine notices in encyclopedias and literary handbooks are disregarded. Foreign studies also, unfortunately, are excluded. The most recent special numbers of Modern Fiction Studies to deal with a single American author appeared in 1965 (Volume 11). The Spring issue concerns John Steinbeck and includes a brief selected checklist of material compiled by Maurice Beebe and Jackson R. Bryer. The Autumn issue is devoted to Thomas Wolfe and comprises nine essays on Wolfe as well as a tabulation of Wolfe criticism by Beebe and Leslie A. Field. The list is not subdivided under individual titles, however, as the editors felt it was wiser to consider Wolfe’s fiction as a single, virtually autobiographical unit.

Several other special periodical issues of this kind should be cited. The Winter 1952 number of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society (Volume 45) was a tribute to Carl Sandburg on his seventy-fifth birthday. The bulk of the issue was taken up with articles both biographical and reminiscent, but Ralph G. Newman provided a brief enumeration of Sandburg’s works (pp. 402-406). The Spring 1957 issue of the North Dakota Quarterly (Volume 25) paid special attention to Maxwell Anderson, an alumnus of the University of North Dakota. The Winter 1958 number of Critique (Volume 1) contained articles about James Gould Cozzens and a checklist of the novelist’s work by James B. Meriwether.

The midcentury period also saw the appearance of several newsletters, which often were originally circulated in mimeographed form before attaining the dignity of print. The “Melville Society Newsletter” first appeared in March 1945, but became a printed journal with
the March, 1949, issue (Volume 4). The Emerson Society Quarterly edited by Kenneth Walter Cameron was initiated in 1955. The "Walt Whitman Newsletter," originated by Gay W. Allen and published by the New York University Press, appeared in the same year and eventually reached four numbers. In March 1956, the periodical was taken over by Wayne State University and three years later it was renamed the Walt Whitman Review. Since March 1959, it has appeared under the new name. Current bibliography about Whitman is supplied in each issue by William White. All these journals publish factual notes and critical discussions about the author with whom they deal, but perhaps their most important function is to collect the increasing amount of bibliographical data.

Several academic journals annually devote a whole number to bibliography, a substantial amount of which relates to American literary material. The May or "B" issue of the Publications of the Modern Language Association of America, though partly concerned with addresses and presidential announcements, is primarily bibliographical. Of the 290 pages devoted to this purpose in the May 1965 issue (Volume 80), pages 112-134, printed in double columns, include American items, grouped chronologically by centuries first alphabetically within the century tabulations. A brief initial section lists material arranged by types. Both books and articles are included, and the compilers have taken special pains to insure the citation of foreign contributions. A special feature of this Modern Language Association bibliography is the listing of the names of the contributors; since each item is numbered, reference to both author and title is facilitated.10 Each March issue of the Southern Folklore Quarterly, published by the University of Florida, presents the folklore bibliography of the previous year arranged by topics—such as prose narrative, drama, and ritual—and alphabetically within the topics. Since this list is universal in scope the American material is not isolated or otherwise defined but is scattered throughout; the order is substantive rather than national. The tabulation in the March 1965 number was compiled largely by Merle E. Simmons. A similar work is the Abstracts of Folklore Studies which is annotative rather than simply enumerative. In the September 1964 issue (Volume 2) an annual bibliography was first included. The September 1965 issue (Volume 3), edited by W. Edson Richmond, devotes pages 111-196 to an extensive list of books and articles about folklore, many of them in foreign languages, and classified in thirteen categories ranging from customs and superstitions to prose narrative, folksong, dance, and drama.
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In 1955 the American Quarterly, published at the University of Pennsylvania, began its summer supplement devoted to American interdisciplinary bibliography. The original tabulation included 164 periodical items, which were not divided into categories but which occupied twenty-one printed pages. In 1957 categories were introduced and eleven headings were devised; eventually the categories numbered seventeen. The bibliography for 1964, published in the Summer supplement for 1965 (Volume 17), included 696 items and required sixty-one printed pages. Nevertheless, the list, while full, is not exhaustive. The selective criterion for inclusion is "the extent to which it [an article] manifests a relationship between two or more aspects of American Civilization." The titles of masters' theses and doctors' dissertations are also listed. A good many of the items included have only a remote relevance to American literature since the subject categories include, for example, economics, psychiatry, and physical science, yet no item is listed which does not have dual significance. The annotations appended to the later tabulations increase the value of the bibliography and make quick reference facile. Another important bibliography in the general field of American civilization is the Jahrbuch für Amerikastudien published at Heidelberg since 1956. The first editor was Walther Fischer of the University of Marburg; after his death in 1961 an editorial board assumed control. Each issue includes articles, at first entirely in German but more recently in both German and English; reviews or "Besprechungen"; and a valuable list of material bearing on the United States which was originally compiled by Bernhard Fabian and later by Ursula Sassen. Many of the articles printed in English consist of papers given before German seminars or congresses by visiting American lecturers. Volume 10 of the Jahrbuch appeared in 1965. Each March issue of the New England Quarterly, published by the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, includes a "A Bibliography of New England" which lists books and articles of northeastern regional interest which appeared during the preceding year. Thus the March, 1965, number tabulates bibliography for 1964, and is the work of Walter Muir Whitehill and Mrs. Wendell Garrett. Although a good deal of material relating chiefly to history, economics, and maritime life is included, the literary studies cited are numerous and the interpretation of the New England label in selecting items for inclusion is liberal.

There is also, of course, the Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature published in England by the Modern Humanities Research Association. This includes material arranged under twenty
headings with an alphabetical listing by authors within the categories. Although reasonably complete the work has two limitations for American scholars. American material is not segregated but is scattered throughout the volume so that it is occasionally difficult to find. An additional vexation is its delayed appearance. Volume 38, appearing in 1965, deals with material published in 1963, and this two-year gap is normal. The bibliography is especially helpful in its listing of European contributions. In Volume 37 (Cambridge, 1965) one hundred and two items concern Faulkner, seventy-eight items Hemingway, and twenty-three O'Neill. All items are numbered consecutively and there is a satisfactory index of contributors.

To the professional student of American literature, however, the most useful tabulation of periodical material is the section entitled "Articles on American Literature Appearing in Current Periodicals" which has been a feature of every issue of the journal American Literature since its inception in November 1929. The original compilers of this list felt that the number of periodicals which included American material was so enormous that some kind of guide was essential. From the beginning books and reviews were excluded but occasional summaries were printed, and chronological divisions were imposed on the material cited. Thus the first list included the following temporal categories: a. 1607-1800; b. 1800-1870; c. 1870-1900; d. Contemporary Literature. In the November 1965 issue, the first two divisions were retained; but the third category now reads 1870-1920, and the fourth 1920-1965. There is also a general heading, as there was in November 1929, and within the divisions the arrangement is alphabetical, first by the authors discussed and secondly by contributors. The initial issue of the journal also contained a list of research in progress, consisting of both doctoral dissertations and other projects, compiled by Ernest E. Leisy, the first bibliographer for the American Literature group of the Modern Language Association. This section of the journal has also been retained but has been considerably amplified.

An extremely useful Analytical Index to American Literature, Volumes I-XXX, March, 1929-January 1959, compiled by Thomas F. Marshall, comprises both an author-subject index and a book review index (Durham, Duke University Press, 1963). This bipartite organization insures the maximum utility of the volume. Since a large proportion of the significant research done in the field of our national letters has appeared in the pages of American Literature, the analytical
index is of inestimable value. As one reviewer pointed out, the index of reviews alone is "a list of the most important books on American literature published during the same period [1929-1959]." 14

Another kind of bibliographical compilation, that devoted to special geographical regions, to literary genres, or to special subject areas, has achieved unusual significance in recent years. Probably no regional bibliographical manual has been more widely used or discussed than J. Frank Dobie's Guide to Life and Literature of the Southwest, which originally appeared in 1943 in an uncopyrighted edition.15 Dobie with characteristic aplomb announced that "anybody is welcome to help himself to any of it in any way." A revised and enlarged edition, which doubled the original number of pages, was published at Dallas in 1952 by the Southern Methodist University Press. Dobie's book not only lists relevant material but is also enriched by uninhibited personal evaluations of the items cited. His remark about the work of the cowboy writer Will James is perhaps typical: "Will James knew his frijoles, but overboiled them before he died, in 1942."16

No other regional bibliography has the personal flavor of Dobie's guide but several others have comparable utility.17 A Canadian journalist and scholar, Harry Bernard, brought out in 1949 his Le Roman Régionaliste aux États-Unis, 1913-1940 (Montréal, Fides, 1949), the first study of American regional fiction which embraces all parts of the country and which provides plot synopses as well as critical evaluation. A short bibliography at the end lists a number of works (unpublished theses as well as published books) relevant to the main subject, but much more important are the lists of regional fiction which Bernard appended to each chapter. The chapter titles are also revealing: "En Nouvelle-Angleterre," "Vers le Sud," "Climats semi-tropicaux," "Au pays des noirs," "Le Centre-Ouest" (the Middle West), and "Côte du Pacifique."

The most ambitious regional literary study which has thus far appeared is Jay B. Hubbell's The South in American Literature, 1607-1900 (Durham, Duke University Press, 1954), in which almost one hundred pages are devoted to bibliography. Hubbell's terminal date precludes of course more than nominal discussion of such twentieth century authors as William Faulkner and Erskine Caldwell but within his period the author has been encyclopedic. Some thirty pages list background studies, social, historical, economic, and cultural. The special author bibliographies do not list the individual works but provide full listing of biographical data and criticism. Reviews are fre-
quently cited and the periodical literature has been exhaustively searched.

The bibliographical work of Lyle H. Wright in the field of early American fiction is well known. His *American Fiction, 1774-1850* (San Marino, Huntington Library, 1939) tabulates and identifies American fiction located in nineteen institutional libraries and private collections and lists the authors and titles alphabetically. The revised edition of 1948 included 2,772 titles. A sequel, *American Fiction, 1851-1875* (San Marino, Huntington Library, 1957), carried the story twenty-five years later and included 2,832 titles. Each volume omits annuals, gift books, juveniles, dime novels, folklore, jestbooks, and collections of anecdotes but includes novels, novelettes, short stories, fictitious biographies, and romances. Wright was interested chiefly in cataloging authors and titles; he did not collate editions and seldom examined more than one copy. But despite these limitations his modestly subtitled “contribution toward a bibliography” has immense value for the student of early American fiction.

A more limited work, *America in Fiction*, compiled by Otis W. Coan and Richard G. Lillard in 1941, subsequently reached a fourth edition (Stanford, Stanford University Press, 1956). Subtitled “an annotated list of novels that interpret aspects of life in the United States,” it contains extremely useful annotations indicating the time, the region, and the general subject matter of the fiction with which it deals. Some of the divisions are geographical, some economic, some social; thus novels dealing with various aspects of religion are tabulated separately as are those concerned with minority ethnic groups. A ten-page index of authors provides a convenient cross-listing. Another compendium, *The American Novel 1789-1959*, by Donna Gerstenberger and George Hendrick (Denver, Alan Swallow, 1961), is a checklist of twentieth century criticism of American novelists arranged alphabetically by authors. Criticism appearing in selected foreign journals as well as in American periodicals has been included but there is no annotation. The decision of the compilers to exclude all short fiction seems both arbitrary and at times even eccentric. Thus Poe is listed only as the author of *The Narrative of A. Gordon Pym* and O. Henry and Washington Irving do not appear at all.

Important bibliographical lists occasionally appear as part of the studies of special subjects, ranging for example from Puritanism and historical fiction to the proletarian novel and rural chronicles. In 1938 Perry Miller and Thomas H. Johnson compiled an anthology entitled
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The Puritans (New York and Cincinnati, American Book Company, 1938) which represents Puritan thought in considerable detail under a variety of captions. One important reason for the publication of the book was the desire of the editors to make available the writings of Puritan divines and philosophers which had been published in small editions and in obscure places. Another was the wish to present an overall bibliography of Puritan materials. The authors chose twelve categories in which to group their titles, including among others theology, theories of the state, biography, verse, literary theory, Puritan books, reading, and libraries. The importance and scope of the bibliography may be suggested by its length, some fifty closely printed pages.

Ernest E. Leisy appended to his study of historical fiction, The American Historical Novel (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1950), a forty-page list of American historical novels arranged in chronological order by their publication dates but not keyed to the chapters of the book. Thus more than 125 titles relate to the Civil War and some thirty-five of these were published in the 1940's. An even more extensive tabulation of similar material, which considerably expanded Leisy's original list, is American Historical Fiction, by Arthur T. Dickinson. The second edition of this work (New York, Scarecrow Press, 1963), enumerating novels published chiefly between 1917 and 1961, includes some 1,909 titles. Dickinson annotated the books and supplied a useful index which even includes historical celebrities who figure in the novels themselves.

Walter B. Rideout devoted eight pages of his study The Radical Novel in the United States, 1900-1954 (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1956) to a compilation of American socialist and proletarian novels of the twentieth century. The books are arranged chronologically and many of them receive full discussion in the text. W. Tasker Witham's The Adolescent in the American Novel, 1920-1960 (New York, Frederick Ungar, 1964) is an exhaustive treatment of the fictional adolescent since World War I. Pages 285-332 give not only a list of novels in which adolescents appear but provide a tabulation in which the nature of the adolescent problems discussed (sex, economic status, education) and the prevalent tone (serious, satirical) are immediately apparent. Roy W. Meyer focused on a very different theme in his volume The Middle Western Farm Novel in the Twentieth Century (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1965). A bibliographical section of fifty pages lists the important farm novels alpha-
betically by author and provides a succinct statement of subject matter as well as a brief aesthetic judgment.

Fiction has obviously attracted more bibliographical attention than other major literary genres but these have been by no means neglected. In 1945, Allen Tate, then a poet in residence at the Library of Congress, compiled a list of *Sixty American Poets, 1896-1944* (Washington, Library of Congress, 1945) which not only listed the chief works of the poets Tate selected but also provided refreshingly individualistic judgments about their merits and importance. This list was revised and amplified by Kenton Kilmer in 1954. A recent anthology of American verse designed for college classes, *American Poetry* (New York, Harper & Row, 1965), was edited by Gay W. Allen, Walter B. Rideout, and James B. Robinson. Pages 1069-1246 include extensive notes but also extremely important bibliographical listings, both for the individual poets included in the book and as general background material. Since thirteen of the poets represented in the volume have twentieth-century birthdates, the anthology has special utility for students of contemporary literature. An extremely diversified catalog of American verse is *Three Centuries of American Poetry* (Bloomington, Indiana University, The Lilly Library, 1965), the list of a special exhibition prepared by J. Albert Robbins and David A. Randall. The exhibition contained original printings of both major and minor work by an extraordinary number of American poets. In general the arrangement was chronological since the majority of the books were grouped in the centuries in which they appeared. But other categories included a random selection of American poetic classics (*Leaves of Grass*, of course, and *The Spoon River Anthology*), a collection of debut volumes, a representation of the work of anthologists, and a grouping of "quondam poets," writers like Dreiser, H. L. Mencken, and Willa Cather who made their literary reputation in other fields. The catalog reproduces the title pages of selected volumes of verse and includes both brief essays about the substance of the books and a careful bibliographical description (the work of David A. Randall) of each. The scope of the exhibition was large, from the *Bay Psalm Book* of 1640 to Wallace Stevens' *Harmonium* of 1923.

The best bibliographies of American criticism have been appended to anthologies of critical essays so that the books serve a dual purpose. The earliest substantial volume of this kind was *Literary Opinion in America*, edited by Morton Dauwen Zabel (New York and London, Harper & Brothers, 1937). In four appendices Zabel listed recent
works of criticism, collections of contemporary American criticism, magazines publishing literary criticism, and notes both biographical and bibliographical on the contributors to the book itself. A revised edition in two volumes appeared in 1962. A somewhat more ambitious bibliography appears in *Critiques and Essays in Criticism 1920-1948*, edited by Robert Wooster Stallman (New York, Ronald Press Company, 1949). Stallman included useful biographical notes on the contributors to his anthology and also compiled a selected bibliography of the critical work of the preceding twenty-eight years. The list comprised British as well as American material, also occasional translations of important continental writing, and represented criticism of aesthetics and the fine arts as well as of literature. The editor called attention to the originality of his bibliography in the final sentence of his prefatory note: "Many of the poets and critics here included are bibliographed for the first time."

Clarence A. Brown's *Achievement of American Criticism* (New York, Ronald Press Company, 1954) is again both an anthology and a bibliography. Divided into four basic sections, the origins of American critical theory, the aesthetics of romanticism, realism and aesthetics, and trends in modern criticism, the volume presents its bibliographical data according to the same plan, although each section of references is further divided into primary, secondary, and individual material. Some forty pages comprise the inclusive bibliographical tabulations. A briefer listing of much of the same material is incorporated in John Paul Pritchard's *Criticism in America* (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1956), in which the citations are grouped in accordance with the chapters to which they relate. Pritchard dealt with about a century and a half of American critical writing. His book spans the period from E. T. Channing, Thoreau's teacher at Harvard, to the Chicago Critics of the mid-century.

The most satisfactory bibliography of twentieth-century American drama is still the tabulation of a hundred pages which Arthur Hobson Quinn appended to his definitive study, *A History of the American Drama from the Civil War to the Present Day* (New York, F. S. Crofts, 1927, revised edition, 1936). The initial section of this list consists of the history and criticism of both drama and the stage in the period chosen. Next come bibliographies of plays, a tabulation of the biographies of actors and managers, and a list of anthologies of American plays. But the focus of the bibliography is the alphabetical listing of playwrights with their plays cited chronologically (both date of pub-
lication and date of first production are scrupulously given). The list of dramatists runs from George Abbott to William Young. Despite frequent reprintings, however, Quinn's volume was not revised after 1936 so that the secondary material is seriously out of date. Quinn's familiar anthology, Representative American Plays (New York and London, Appleton-Century Company, 1917), on the other hand, has been consistently revised and amplified. The first edition contains twenty-nine plays; the seventh edition appeared in 1957 and includes thirty-one plays, some of which replaced earlier selections. A compilation of quite another sort was begun by Burns Mantle in 1919 and continued until his death in 1948, The Best Plays of 1919-1920 and the Year Book of the Drama in America (New York, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1920). Subsequently this annual compilation was edited by John Chapman, Louis Kronenberger, and Henry Hewes. Including as it does excerpts from and synopses of the best American plays of the years as well as a tabulation of all performances in the New York theater, it is an invaluable survey of theatrical activity. The latest volumes have been expanded to include a survey of off-Broadway productions as well as performances in little theaters and college and university playhouses throughout the nation. Among the various volumes which are devoted to aspects of the drama a typical example is American Dramatic Literature (New York, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1961) edited by Jordan Yale Miller. Miller's book includes an extensive survey of the nineteenth century American theater, the texts of ten contemporary American plays, and considerable bibliographical material.

The special field of American humor is best represented by Walter Blair's Native American Humor (1800-1900), a landmark which was originally published in 1937. A second edition appeared twenty-three years later (San Francisco, Chandler Publishing Company, 1960) and included an additional chapter devoted to twentieth-century humor. Blair's volume is virtually three things in one: a critical survey of the field with emphasis on southwestern and western humorists, an anthology of representative selections, and a bibliography of both the original works and secondary material. Later volumes have approached the field from a different point of view, notably Brom Weber's An Anthology of American Humor (New York, Thomas Y. Crowell, 1962), but Blair's bibliography remains indispensable.

The close connection between American literature and American journalism is suggested by two volumes which provide considerable
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bibliographical material for students of the American magazine. An invaluable guide to the regional periodicals of modest circulation and of limited duration is The Little Magazine, A History and A Bibliography, edited by Frederick J. Hoffman, Charles Allen, and Carolyn F. Ulrich (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1946). Pages 233-403 give a chronological survey of American little magazines, including important data about length and frequency of publication, contents, and editorial changes. Since these periodicals, often fugitive and generally insolvent after a few issues, welcomed the work of writers like James Joyce, William Carlos Williams, and Ernest Hemingway during their early obscurity, a record of their publishing history is invaluable. A comparable volume devoted to mass circulation magazines, Theodore Peterson's Magazines in the Twentieth Century, appeared first in 1956 and reached a second edition eight years later (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1964). The book is especially significant because of its inclusion of revenue and circulation statistics and because of its wide coverage. Bibliographical data are supplied within the various chapters, and references are collected in an appendix. The extensive index facilitates the identification of contributors to the large commercial magazines.

Useful bibliographical tools of another sort, although they are rarely annotated and often lack completeness, are the biographical dictionaries or tabulations restricted to individual states. A good example is Richard E. Banta's Indiana Authors and Their Books, 1816-1916 (Crawfordsville, Indiana, Wabash College, 1949), which is arbitrarily limited to the first century of Indiana's statehood and which excludes periodical contributions. In attempting to define an Indiana author Banta had the usual difficulty encountered by editors of state directories; thus Joaquin Miller, who happened to be born in Indiana but who spent all his life on the Pacific Coast, is included, but Abraham Lincoln, who lived fourteen years in the Hoosier state, is omitted. William Coyle's Ohio Authors and Their Books (Cleveland and New York, World Publishing Company, 1962) provides brief biographical summaries of authors in any way identified with the state of Ohio and then lists their works chronologically, often with abbreviated titles. The bibliographical material is far from complete, however, since the editor arbitrarily excluded textbooks, manuals, published sermons, gazetteers, technical and medical works—in all, ten different categories of publications.

In the 1930's and 1940's the writers' program of the Works Project
Administration produced guides for each of the forty-eight states then part of the federal union; these followed a general pattern but were issued by various publishers. Since these volumes are now a quarter of a century old their data are limited and often obsolete; nevertheless, the bibliographical material which they incorporated is still useful. Each volume contained a tabulation of relevant books, sometimes consolidated into one list, sometimes divided by subject matter. Texas; a Guide to the Lone Star State (New York, Hastings House, 1940) devotes five pages to "a selected reading list of Texas books"; Florida: a Guide to the Southernmost State (New York, Oxford University Press, 1939) includes a compilation of historical and travel literature but omits any listing of Florida novels; Illinois: a Descriptive and Historical Guide (Chicago, A. C. McClurg & Company, 1939) gives space only to "fifty books about Illinois," provides brief but helpful annotative comments, and omits all verse and prose fiction; and Missouri: a Guide to the Show Me State (New York, Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1941) includes a fifteen-page "selective bibliography" of which the final item is a tabulation of thirty-two "stories with a Missouri background." The somewhat eccentric nature of this last list, however, might be suggested by the fact that it includes both Charles Lindbergh's autobiography and a book on arithmetic by Raymond Weeks.

Brief but extremely important bibliographical material often appears in the form of catalogs of book exhibits issued by the public or institutional libraries sponsoring these exhibits. The displays are generally arranged to illustrate the resources of the library in which they appear, but often of course material is borrowed and then the descriptive catalog takes on additional significance. A good example is "The Sandburg Range" issued by the University of Illinois Library in 1958 in conjunction with an exhibit of materials from Carl Sandburg's personal library and compiled by John T. Flanagan and Leslie W. Dunlap. This brochure not only listed Sandburg's juvenilia, essays, verse, and biography but also described books which Sandburg had owned and which contained comments or inscriptions to him. Similar catalogs recording exhibitions have been published at irregular intervals by the Morgan Library of New York, the Grolier Club of New York, the New York Public Library, and the Newberry Library of Chicago.

Obviously the world of the bibliographer has many mansions, with different levels, rooms of various sizes, and multiple entrances. The Bulletin of Bibliography, which has been published since 1897, prints
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in almost every issue lists of books with a thousand focal points: perhaps a bibliographical compilation about America's least known Nobel Prize winner, Pearl Buck, perhaps a list of novels in which Jews or doctors or spinsters appear, perhaps a tabulation of poetry about hunting, war, or outer space. But with all this commendable activity, there are still gaps, both surprising and serious.

In an excellent recent article Willard Thorp surveyed American literary scholarship and observed significant trends in critical, biographical, and bibliographical approaches. He pointed out the enormous progress made in the production of full-scale adequate biographies, in regional studies, and in cooperative or multi-author literary history. He also observed the recent development of the American Studies movement with its fruitful and provocative interdisciplinary focus. Thorp declined to designate any single definitive trend and cited eight recent books about Melville as confirmation of the various interests of the authors. But he remarked that despite all the professional literary activity of the mid-century, only two American authors—Sidney Lanier and Emily Dickinson—have received satisfactory editorial treatment. Thorp's suggestion of work remaining to be done is especially relevant to the field of bibliography.

Probably no American author was more widely known and more frequently read in the nineteenth century than Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and probably no American novelist was more familiar in the first quarter of the twentieth century than Jack London; yet neither figure has been the subject of an adequate bibliography. The early bibliographies of Emerson and Hawthorne seriously need revision; recent editions and the spate of contemporary scholarship will require volumes twice the original size. No complete bibliography of James Fenimore Cooper has ever been published, the bibliography of William Dean Howells needs supplementation, those of Sinclair Lewis and John Steinbeck are incomplete. The various periodical listings about Robert Frost, Vachel Lindsay, and F. Scott Fitzgerald need to be incorporated into one work. For maximum utility, tabulations of secondary critical material which exist only in magazines need to be conjoined with the bibliographies of the authors to whom they relate. Furthermore, there are a number of recently deceased authors who either have no available bibliography or only an incomplete one: for example, Theodore Roethke, William Carlos Williams, Maxwell Anderson, Richard Wright, and Clifford Odets. Continued and more ex-
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tensive bibliographical work needs to be done for Robert Penn War-
ren, James Baldwin, Archibald MacLeish, Conrad Richter, Edmund
Wilson, and Thornton Wilder.23

There is also need for bibliographical work of a different kind.
Special topics demand attention: the immigrant in American fiction,
with subheadings to indicate the various countries of origin; long nar-
rative poems; an up-to-date tabulation of the American Indian as he
appears in imaginative literature; listings of certain professional types
as they have been treated by American writers to supplement the ac-
ccounts of the businessman and the doctor that have already appeared
—perhaps the career military or naval officer, the lawyer, the journal-
ist, the teacher, the engineer, the scientist; tabulations of fiction deal-
ing with American cities other than New York, Chicago, and San
Francisco; the vast and varied literature dealing with the cowboy; the
Mississippi River in American literature. Literary genres can be profit-
ably explored and brought up to date too: science fiction, detective
fiction, the nature essay, verse satire, the literary magazine, perhaps
even a bibliography of Festschriften.

The student of American literature today can profit from an enor-
mous amount of bibliographical work which a quarter of a century
ago did not exist even in outline. Certainly no major figures and few
minor figures have completely escaped bibliographical attention. But
the spate of new editions of older writers, publication of juvenilia or
fugitive pieces, biographical and critical evaluations continues unim-
peded. And there are always new authors looming on the literary
horizon whose work must be described and arranged for the benefit of
later scholars. The bibliographer's work is always ahead of him, and
among those with competence and interest there can be no unem-
ployed.

References

1. See the perceptive reviews of the first three volumes which James D. Hart
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 May 1961. Two other volumes which contain a good deal of useful data but are
not primarily bibliographical should be cited here: Millett, Fred B. Contemporary
American Authors. New York, Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1940; and Hart,
James D. The Oxford Companion to American Literature, which originally ap-
peared in 1941 and recently reached a fourth edition, New York, Oxford Univer-

2. Gohdes, Clarence. Bibliographical Guide to the Study of the Literature of


7. Donald C. Gallup's bibliography of Eliot went through three stages. It began as a catalog to accompany an exhibition of Eliot's work at the Yale University Library in 1937. Ten years later Gallup compiled A Bibliographical Checklist of the Writings of T. S. Eliot. New Haven, Yale University Library, 1947. The London bibliography is of course the most complete form to date.

8. A critical review of William W. Kelly's bibliography of Miss Glasgow appeared in the London Times Literary Supplement, November 26, 1964, p. 1096. The reviewer criticized the compiler for not providing adequate technical descriptions of the books he dealt with and called the work "a taut and muscular bibliography, but one with an enervate introduction."


16. Ibid., p. 65.


18. Gohdes, op. cit., p. 75, called Zabel's work the "best bibliography of 20th-century American criticism."


20. An earlier example of this kind of bibliography is the catalog compiled by John D. Gordan for the Ralph Waldo Emerson exhibition of materials included in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library, New York, New York Public Library, 1953.


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