

Albu, Rodica

[Dimitriu-Panaitescu, Corina, ed. *Canada francofonă: dicționar de autori. A-B.* ; Ciobanu, Carmen, ed. *Canada anglofonă: dicționar de autori. A-B*]

The Central European journal of Canadian studies. 2008, vol. 6, iss. [1], pp. 163-164

ISBN 978-80-210-4943-7

ISSN 1213-7715 (print); ISSN 2336-4556 (online)

Stable URL (handle): <https://hdl.handle.net/11222.digilib/116086>

Access Date: 16. 02. 2024

Version: 20220831

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▮ reviews, report | comptes rendus, chronique

Corina Dimitriu-Panaitescu (ed.).

Canada francofonă. Dicționar de autori, vol 1: A-B

[Canada francophone. Dictionnaire d'auteurs, vol.1: A-B].

Iași: Demiurg, 2007, 268 pp. ISBN 978-973-152-013-1

Carmen Ciobanu (ed.).

Canada anglofonă. Dicționar de autori, vol 1: A-B,

[Anglophone Canada. Dictionary of Authors Vol. 1: A-B].

Iași, Demiurg, 2007, 197 pp. ISBN 978-973-152-043-8

Rodica Albu

Al. I. Cuza University of Iasi, Romania

December 2007 was the month of a twofold editorial surprise offered by Demiurg Publishing House, a Romanian institution specialized in academic publications: the bringing out of volume 1: A-B, of the twin dictionaries of Canadian authors, one devoted to Francophone Canada and the other to Anglophone Canada. The former was coordinated by Corina Dimitriu-Panaitescu and the latter by Carmen Ciobanu, both from the Al. I. Cuza University of Iasi. The two books have brought together a large number of contributors – school teachers and university teachers, PhD students, MA students, and even undergraduate students – and have thus disseminated the Canadian Studies “microbe” among faculty, students and school teachers of different generations who have been turned into authors of dictionary entries.

These dictionaries offer brief introductions to the lives and works of 140 Anglophone and almost 100 Francophone authors. Both are “works in the making” and will later be incorporated in the vast Dictionary of North-American Authors designed and coordinated by Sorin Pârnu, a professor at the English Department of the same university. The scheme

of each entry is clearly designed as a three-paragraph structure and has strictly been observed by the contributors: (1) name (followed by year and place of birth) and short biographical note, (2) writing carrier, (3) list of published works. The length of each of the three sections depends to a large extent on the importance of the author presented, a relative criterion, still to be worked on.

The compilation of this set of dictionaries has been prompted (a) by the very richness and diversity of the Canadian cultural space, (b) by the ever increasing interest in Canadian matters, which is visible in more and more academic centres in Romania (Baia Mare, Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, Sibiu, Timisoara and others) as well as outside the academic world, and (c) by the scarcity of reference books, although more and more Canadian literary works have been translated and published and more and more MA dissertations and doctoral theses have been elaborated on Canadian subjects.

These dictionaries have some precedents in Romania: the dictionary of both English and French Canadian writers (Dicționar de scriitori canadieni, Editura Argonaut, Cluj-

Napoca, 2006), compiled by Margareta Petruț (Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj) and a dictionary of American and Canadian writers of Romanian descent (Dicționarul scriitorilor români din Statele Unite și Canada, Bucharest, 2001), by Aurel Sasu (the “Avram Iancu” University of Cluj), both attempting to bridge an important information gap for the interested Romanian reader. However, through the vast design, through professionalism and through this successful start, the recently published first (A-B) volumes of the twin dictionaries represent the promising beginning of an extensive reference work in the Romanian

language devoted to the Canadian space. This work is to be subsequently integrated into the Dictionary of North American Writers. The global treatment of the North American cultural space will make it possible in certain cases to transcend the dictionary-makers’ framing question raised by Canadians that have become US citizens and by American authors who have become naturalized in Canada. Last but not least, there will be room for those writers coming from various parts of the planet who have continued to cultivate their mother tongue or, at least, the spiritus loci inoculated by their original home place.

“Questioning Identities: The Canadian Context”

Second International Conference in Canadian Studies

Rab, Croatia, 17-20 May, 2007

Éva Martonyi

Les organisateurs, Ivan Lupić (pour la section anglophone) et Evaine Le Calvé-Ivečević (pour la section francophone) ont lancé un appel en encourageant « les contributions qui aborderont les identités en tant que sujets et/ou objets et qui, à la fois questionnent et font l’objet d’un questionnement, en adoptant des approches théoriques et méthodologiques diverses. » Il a été précisé que « La variété des contextes canadiens et comparatifs, depuis la littérature et la linguistique jusqu’au contexte culturel, historique, économique, juridique et autres – devraient fournir l’occasion d’appliquer une réflexion soutenue à un sujet en rapport étroit avec notre moment dans l’histoire et qui par conséquent continue d’être important. »

Le nombre des participants (une bonne cinquantaine) et la diversité de leurs origines (Croatie, Serbie, Hongrie, Bulgarie, Allemagne, Italie et, bien sûr, le Canada, etc.) a bien prouvé que les identités en question intéressent nombreux chercheurs, non seulement ceux qui travaillent dans le domaine des recherches quasi canoniques de la linguistique et de la littérature, mais aussi ceux qui sont les spécialistes d’autres disciplines, économiques, juridiques, etc. La conférence s’est déroulée dans un cadre fort agréable, sur l’île de Rab. Grâce à la compétence et au dévouement des organisateurs, les participants pouvaient non seulement écouter les communications fort intéressantes et enrichissantes, mais aussi mener des conversations, des échanges de

