

# ***BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES***

## **ARKSEY, Laura, PRIES, Nancy and REED, Marcia**

<sup>01</sup> American Diaries; An Annotated Bibliography of Published American Diaries and Journals Volume I: Diaries Written from 1492 to 1844 and Volume II: Diaries Written from 1845 to 1950<sup>1</sup> Detroit, Michigan, Gale Research Company, 1983 and 1987, pp xviii & 370 (double column) and xviii & 501 (double column). This listing of the work of 6,048 diarists supersedes William Matthews' *American Diaries* (qv). All the diaries listed by Matthews are included here except for a few Canadian diaries with no evident American content, some foreign diaries with no locatable English translations, and some items which neither Matthews nor the present compilers were able to locate. Additional material includes, as well as diaries started after Matthews' cut-off date of 1861, many which have been published since 1945; and also Alaskan, Hawaiian and many Spanish American diaries, which at the time fell outside his definition of 'American', as well as those of American missionaries serving in foreign countries, which he also omitted. The compilers have accepted Matthews' definitions of diaries but have applied them more strictly to new material, without excluding any of the old. Although, as is usual, no attempt has been made to give the complete publishing history of every diary, care has been taken to list modern reprints of otherwise inaccessible works. The organisation of entries follows the earlier work by listing diarists in alphabetical order under the year in which the diary begins, but there are changes to the internal layout while retaining the same general content. Annotations are more consistent, disciplined, and often fuller than those of Matthews, and the compilers have eschewed all expressions of opinion.

There are name, subject and geographic indices to both volumes, but these are not cumulated.

## **BATTS, John Stuart**

British Manuscript Diaries of the 19th. Century: An Annotated Listing London, Centaur Press, 1979, pp xi and 345. There are listed more than three thousand manuscript diaries which were started between 1800 and 1899. Their locations are given, together with the dates and occupations of the authors, if known, and brief descriptions of the contents. The list is arranged in the now conventional order of the year in which the writer's first entry occurs and are indexed by name; there is also a good attempt at a subject index. The scope of the bibliography is best explained by this extract from the introduction:

"The annotated list presented here focuses on the unpublished diaries of the nineteenth century; to have included published diaries would have been to make the list excessively bulky and to duplicate diaries covered in Matthews' (qv) collection; and whereas certain diaries have been published since *British Diaries*, it was felt that these would already be known to those who might wish to use them. Furthermore, partial publication of a manuscript diary has been judged to constitute a published diary, for in such cases the editors usually give some indication of the volume of omitted material, its nature, and its location.

"Many of the unpublished items which appear in *British Diaries* also appear here, sometimes with additional information incorporated. For example some of the manuscripts are now deposited in different locations; in some instances additional volumes or facts about the diarist have been brought to light; some attributions of anonymous manuscripts have been since confirmed; occasionally dates have been corrected; and finally I have found out from a few private owners of manuscripts that no diaries as such exist among the papers in their possession even though cited in *British Diaries*;....."

## **BELL, Peter**

Victorian Biography; A Checklist of Contemporary Biographies of British Men & Women Dying between 1851 and 1901 Edinburgh, Peter Bell (Bookseller), 1993, pp 193 plus introduction and preface, A4, spiral bound. The listing is primarily concerned with biography and autobiography, and specifically excludes diarists mentioned by Matthews, but there are some references to diaries and probably clues to many more.

---

<sup>1</sup> The two volumes of this bibliography are known as 'Arksey' in the body of this publication. Entries in Arksey are referenced in this publication by the letter M, followed by the Arksey reference number, to the right hand of the first line.

**BITTON, Davis**

01 Guide to Mormon Diaries & Autobiographies Provo, Utah, Brigham Young University Press, 1977, pp xi and 417. A listing of the printed and manuscript diaries of 2,894 Mormon diarists, arranged alphabetically by the author's last name, which appeared in the holdings of the libraries searched up to 1973. The bibliography gives the dates of birth and death of the diarists; classification as autobiography, journal or diary; dates of coverage and extant form; indications are given of location, length, and often of physical size. Annotations are very full, detailed and informative, often with short quotations. There is a subject index, which relates principally to Missions and geographical locations.

**CLINE, Cheryl**

01 Women's Diaries, Journals, and Letters: An Annotated Bibliography New York and London, Garland Publishing, 1989, pp xxxviii and 716. The bibliography lists 2,632 published private writings of women, without restriction of date or geographical location, and includes some in languages other than English. Diaries, journals and letters are listed by author in alphabetical order; usually her dates of birth and death are given, followed by a few words of biographical information; the title of the book follows, with names of editors and translators, publisher, place and date, and often the number of pages. Annotations are not always present and are usually very brief notes of content. Also listed in separate sections are bibliographies, critical works, anthologies and family collections: a further 358 items.

The introduction discusses the motivation and characteristics of women's personal writing from a feminist standpoint and is particularly interesting for its examination of the distortions and excisions inflicted by editors, which are shown to be particularly significant when applied to women's writing.

The bibliography itself is particularly useful for its wide coverage, but location of a work by date is not possible: this differs from the usual practice in bibliographies of this sort, in which authors are listed by the initial date of their earliest published composition; it is therefore more than usually difficult to discover listed publications which have been missed by other bibliographers: a difficulty which is only partly overcome by extensive indexation by 'profession or significant characteristic', by subject, by location (a particularly broad classification, in which the United States of America is treated as a single unit), and by the title of the published work.

**CREATON, Heather**

02 Unpublished London Diaries: A Checklist publication by the London Record Society is announced for 2002.

**GARD, Robin**

02 The Observant Traveller: Diaries of Travel in England Wales and Scotland in the County Record Offices of England and Wales London, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, for the Association of County Archivists, 1989. Six hundred and eight diaries are catalogued, written by three hundred and sixty diarists from 1629 to the 1970's including five from the seventeenth century, one hundred and sixty from the eighteenth, four hundred from the nineteenth and forty from the twentieth century. The catalogue is ordered by Record Office, with addresses given, and there is an index of diarists and of places. Each entry consists of: catalogue number; name and any details of diarist; counties, places or areas visited; year of journey; the number of volumes if more than one; the approximate size of volumes; number of pages; if illustrated; and the document reference number. The major part of the book is devoted to characteristic extracts from one hundred and thirty seven diaries, few of which have been printed elsewhere. (See entry in Bibliography of Anthologies, Collections and Studies).