

SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FRANCE IN SASKATCHEWAN

The Murray Memorial Library of the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon is best known among historians for its collection of Canadiana. However, over the years a large number of books concerned with French history have been assembled. The collection is far from being complete in any area but a significant body of material has been gathered for the Revolutionary and Napoleonic period and for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The purpose of these comments is to give some idea of the holdings of the University of Saskatchewan library in the latter field, specifically in the period from the beginning of the Wars of Religion to the death of Louis XIV.

A general picture of the holdings of Murray Memorial Library may be gathered from the fact that the library possesses the greatest part of the books discussed in William F. Church, "Publications on Cardinal Richelieu since 1945: a Bibliographical Study," Journal of Modern History, XXXVII (1965), 421-444; and in John B. Wolf, "The Reign of Louis XIV: A selected Bibliography of writings since the war of 1914-1918," Journal of Modern History, XXXVI (1964), 127-144. If a similar article were written on the Wars of Religion the same statement could be made.

In addition to these recent works there is an uneven collection of older secondary works. The most important books in this category are continually being added to the library as they become available either on the second hand market or in reprint. Some recent examples in this area are Haag and Haag, La France Protestante, 10 vols. (reprint Geneva, 1966); L. Guerin, Histoire maritime de France, 2 vols. (Paris, 1843-1863); A. Roncière, Histoire de la Marine Française, 6 vols. (Paris, 1909-1932). Some of the multi-volume sets such as Berthold Zeller's on France in the first quarter of the seventeenth century are as yet incomplete.

The library houses most of the standard printed collections of sources such as Michaud and Poujoulat's collection of memoirs, the correspondence of Catherine de Médicis, Henry III, Henry IV, Richelieu, Mazarin, Colbert, Bossuet, Sevigné, Louis XIV, Isambert's collection of laws, and Depping's collection of administrative correspondence. The reprinted publications of the Société de l'histoire de France are present in their entirety; but the large sets of the Collection des Documents inédits sur l'histoire de la France series and the Histoire Générale de Paris are as yet incomplete.

These standard items are supplemented by more unusual holdings such as printed (not microform) editions of the Mercure de France and Archives curieuses de l'histoire de France, seventeenth and eighteenth century editions of memoirs, lives of Louis XIV, and diplomatic histories. There is also the nucleus of a collection of royal ordinances and codifications of local laws.

Finally on microfilm the library has a large number of pamphlets and diplomatic correspondence. The latter is a unique collection in North America.

In related areas the standard editions of the complete works of all important and many minor literary figures are present from Villon and Rabelais through Bellay and Ronsard to Urfé and Balzac and on to Molière, Fénelon and Bayle. Many of the standard works of religious history are available such as Hurter's Nomenclator literarius theologiae catholicae, Tassin's Histoire littéraire de la congrégation de Saint Maur, Cherest's Matricula

religiosorum professorum . . . Congregationis Sanctorum Vitane et Hydulphi, and Holstenius', Codex Regularum. Gremond and Sainte Beuve are of course present. The many volumes of documents collected by Lucien Ceysens along with the above works and the complete works of Antoine Arnauld (43 volumes) make Jansenism one of the best covered subjects in the period. There is even a "do it yourself" book for inquisitors, Tractatus de officio sanctissimæ inquisitionis et modo procedende in causis fidei . . . Cremona, 1642.

French local history is an area that is beginning to be developed. At present there are fair collections for Normandy and for Paris. Two areas of Parisian history in particular are being developed, social and religious. This is exemplified by such works as Roland Delachenal, Histoire des avocats au Parlement de Paris, 1300-1600, (Paris, 1885) and Pierre Feret, La faculté de théologie de Paris et ses docteurs les plus célèbres: Epoque moderne (XVI, XVII, XVIII siècles), 7 vols. (Paris, 1900-1910). These and other volumes of a similar nature in addition to the Histoire générale de Paris mark a good beginning for this section.

Beyond France the library has excellent holdings for the study of Prussia during the reign of the Great Elector (1640-1688). Many of the standard source collections for English history as well as a growing number of North American sources are also available for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

To return to France, the library has a good selection of national historical journals including XVIIe siècle as well as two specialized journals Annales de Normandie and Revue d'histoire de l'église de France. The holdings of the latter journal begin with the first volume. All of the standard bibliographical aids are present from Bibliographie annuelle de l'histoire de la France to Hauser, Bourgeois and André, Cioranescu and Franklin. Also available are many aids for literary history such as L. C. Lancaster's nine volume French Dramatic Literature in the Seventeenth Century, Barbier's Dictionnaire des ouvrages anonymes, Grente's Dictionnaires des lettres françaises as well as the available volumes of Dictionnaire de Biographie Française. The catalogues of the Bibliothèque Nationale and the British Museum are among other general aids present in the library.

If the field of sixteenth and seventeenth century French history is subdivided by period and by topic the following pattern becomes apparent. For the first half of the sixteenth century there are scattered sources available; the fields covered best are administrative, religious and Parisian history. For the period of the Wars of Religion there is a good range of secondary material and a fair number of primary sources. The strongest areas are the origins of the wars and economic and social history. The best material for the reign of Henry IV is in the areas of diplomatic and administrative studies. The period from the death of Henry IV in 1610 to the coming of the power of Richelieu in 1624 is the timespan with the best original sources; most areas are covered in fair depth, outstanding are the fields of administrative, economic and social history and public opinion. The part of the reign of Louis XIII dominated by Richelieu is perhaps the second best covered field; the one major difference is that there is much less material for the study of diplomatic history, though there is more on religious history.

The reign of Louis XIV can be divided into three parts. For the period of Mazarin the holdings of the library include the standard sources and administrative history is the area best covered. For the thirty years after 1661

religious, social, diplomatic and administrative history are all fairly well covered. The library holdings for the last twenty-five years of the reign of Louis XIV are strongest in the fields of social, diplomatic and administrative history. Throughout the whole of the two centuries there are numerous possibilities for research in intellectual and literary history.

With a general idea of the holdings in mind we can proceed to look at the areas within the broader field in which the library of the University of Saskatchewan is particularly strong. In each case specific mention will be made only of the most noteworthy volumes.

Diplomatic history is one area of great strength. Here the most important holdings are on microfilm. The library has copies of ten volumes from the Archives d'Affaires Etrangères, fifteen volumes from the Bibliothèque Nationale, seven volumes from the Archives nationales, all in Paris; seven volumes from the Archivio di Stato in Florence; five volumes from the Archivio Segreto Vaticano; and four volumes from the British Museum. Together these volumes of diplomatic correspondence and instructions form a unique collection for the study of the diplomatic history of France during the first quarter of the seventeenth century. This collection continues to expand. At present French relations with England, Spain, Rome and the Ottoman Empire are covered best, as are the relations of England, Spain, Rome and Tuscany with France. Some material for the Holy Roman Empire, the German Princes, Holland, Savoy and Venice are also included.

The microfilm holdings are complemented by many printed collections of diplomatic correspondence including those of the Venetian and Tuscan ambassadors in the sixteenth century, Alexandre Teulet, Relation politique de la France et de l'Espagne avec l'Ecosse aux XVIe siècle (Paris, 1862), the correspondence of Fourquevaux, Du Perron, Ossat, Bongars and Estrades among others.

Finally the library has a group of books of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries dealing with the wars of Louis XIV, for example, Mémoires et négociations secrètes de la France touchant la paix de Munster ... (Amsterdam, 1710); La conduite de la France depuis la paix de Nimegue, (Cologne, 1683); Actes et Mémoires des négociations de la Paix de Ryswick, 4 vols., (La Haye, 1699). More general books in the same area include M. de Massiac, Faits mémorables des guerres et des révolutions de l'Europe ... 1627 jusqu'en 1721, (Toulouse, 1721) and E. Bruneau, Estat présent des affaires d'Allemagne ... (Paris, 1675).

While the library has only fifteen French political pamphlets in their original form (1587 - 1631, especially 1610 to 1617), it does have 220 others on microfilm. This microfilm collection, drawn from Newberry Library, the Bibliothèque Nationale, the British Museum and the Archivio di Stato in Florence, is strongest for the years 1610 to 1619 and especially 1614-1615 but reaches from 1576 to 1634. The subjects treated in these pamphlets are most importantly, the Estates General, finances, public opinion, sorcery and foreign policy.

This collection is complemented not only by the Mercure de France and by the source collections mentioned earlier, but also by such works as a 1614 edition of Jacques de Thou's history by Mathieu de Morgues, Diverses pièces pour la defense de la Royne Mere du Roy tres chrestien Louys XIII, 2 vols. (Anvers, 1637); Le theatre universel des princes ou histoire generale ..

(Paris, 1613); Recueil des pieces les plus curieuses qui ont esté faites pendant la regne du connestable M. de Luynes (n.p., 1625); Simon Goulart, Le quatriesme recueil . . . histoire des choses plus memorables . . . (n.p., 1595).

Among the individually published memoirs available in Murray Memorial Library two groups are particularly interesting: 1. those of which there are several editions spread over four centuries, for example Queen Marguerite, L'Estoile, Sully, Richelieu, Bassompierre, Retz, Choisy, La Fare, Condé, Saint Simon. 2. Those memoirs which are not available in standard collections such as those of Vauban, Turenne, Fouquet, Villars and Chavagnac. In addition there are assorted seventeenth and eighteenth century works of varying value such as Des Maizeaux, La vie de Monsieur Boileau Despreaux (Amsterdam, 1712); La véritable vie d'Anne Geneviève de Bourbon, duchesse de Longueville (Amsterdam, 1739); Discours merueilleux de la vie, actions et deportemens de Catherine de Médicis . . . (selon la copie imprimé à Paris, 1649); Lettres historiques de Monsieur Pellisson, 3 vols. (Paris, 1729); Les amusens de l'amitie rendus utiles et enteressans. Recueil de lettres ecrites de la cour vers la fin du regne de Louis XIV (Amsterdam, 1729).

Related to the above category of works are assorted contemporary or semi-contemporary histories. Particularly interesting here are a series of books that were written in or translated into English: James Howell, Lustra Ludovici or the Life of the Late Victorious King of France Lewis the XIII . . . (London, 1646); Vassor, The History of the Reign of Lewis XIII, 2 vols. (London, 1700-1701); Benjamin Priolo, The History of France under the Ministry of Cardinal Mazarine (London, 1671); Lord Arundel, Monsieur Colbert's Ghost or France without Bounds (Cologne, 1684). Books of this nature along with translations of Franco-Gallia (1711 for example), others like An Account of the Persecutions and Oppressions of the Protestants in France (n.p. 1686) and the translations of the memoirs of Montluc, Sully, Richelieu and others available open the way for a study of English opinions of France in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The last major area of concentration is the general one of laws and ordinances. In addition to the works of men like Guy Coquille and Antoine Loysel the library has Georges Louet, Recueil d'aucuns notables arrests donnez en le Parlement de Paris, (Paris, 1614). Ordonnance du Roy Louis XIII . . . 1629 (Toulouse, 1630); Ordonnance de Louis XIV roy de France et de Navarre pour le commerce . . . 1673 (Paris, 1762); Ordonnance de Louis XIV roy de France et Navarre du mois de may 1680 portant reglement sur le fait des gabelles . . . (Paris, 1734); Ordonnance de son Altesse royale pour l'administration de la justice . . . 1707 (Nancy, 1725). As a complement to these the library has: Coustume du bailliage de Troyes avec les commentaires de M. Louis le Grand (Paris, 1681); Coutume generale des pays et duché de de Bourgogne avec le commentaire de Monsieur Raisand (Dijon, 1698); Coutume du pays et duché de Normandie (Rouen, 1700).

When the holdings of the library have been carefully sifted (and such topics as economic history added — the library has most of the modern works and several early ones such as Forbonnais) it becomes apparent that Newberry Library need not panic yet. At the same time it is evident that there are other things in Saskatchewan than siwashes and mukluks.

In practical terms Murray Memorial Library can support honours and graduate seminars in most areas of French history from the mid-sixteenth through the seventeenth century. With some reliance on the good will of other

libraries through interlibrary loans, Master's Theses can be prepared by Saskatchewan students in a number of fields, particularly Jansenist studies, diplomatic and literary history and selected areas of administrative, social and religious history. In a few carefully selected areas, especially French diplomatic history in the first quarter of the seventeenth century, a Ph.D. candidate could get a decent start on his work before he set off for France.

Plans are now underway to utilize the available library resources in a new way. The three seventeenth century specialists in the History Department at Saskatoon (France, England, North America) plan to offer a seminar in trans-Atlantic seventeenth century studies. The interests of the men involved and the library resources available mesh and it is hoped that the result will be a study of the intellectual-institutional-social history of the Atlantic countries in the seventeenth century; in other words a study of the different ways in which the same things were done.

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