The Media Society: Basic Issues and Controversies


The Media Society was written because, in its author's words, "Canadian students have long suffered from the lack of a Canadian textbook on the mass media." For Canadian teachers of introductory courses in Communications, one or two uneven and quickly-dated anthologies have long been the only alternatives to the standard American texts in the field. Eaman's book on the mass media, based on a first-year undergraduate course he has taught for years at Carleton University in Ottawa, is a welcome first step towards remedying this.

As those who regularly receive examination copies from publishers are aware, producing introductory textbooks for those disciplines which deal with audio-visual media — such as Film Studies or Mass Communications — carries a high level of risk. While literature departments may build introductory courses around perennially-reprinted standard anthologies of canonical primary texts, leaving methodological questions to be worked out in the classroom, media textbooks have come to concentrate on questions of methodology and theory. For obvious technical reasons, they may not include examples of many of the phenomena to be analyzed (e.g., films and television programs), and any attempt to dictate specific examples to supplement analyses within the textbook confronts, especially in Canada, the problem of their availability or relevance.

The chief virtue of Eaman's book is that it has confronted these risks and to a great extent resolved them. In particular, he has deftly juggled the three demands made on an introductory textbook of this kind: (1) that it provide an overview of the discipline, and in particular of the ways in which particular models of communication have grown up within that discipline; and (3) that it lay out, for stu-

Canadian Feature Films Index 1913-1985

Public Archives of Canada — National Film, Television and Sound Archives Division.

This publication is indexed, in this case, to the year 1985. It is likely to be useful for researchers who are looking for information on Canadian feature films from 1913 to 1985. The book is divided into two sections: films produced in Canada and films produced outside Canada. Each entry includes information on the film's title, director, cast, crew, and production details. The book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of Canadian film.