PRELOGUE

Bibliography is a key to literature in any field, as a tool facilitating access to bibliographical items on particular topics or in specific areas of knowledge and for specific individual purposes of seekers or users of knowledge. It is invaluable. It is only through bibliographical listings the original materials find use. Sometimes depending upon the value of permanance, the original items might even get renewed by way of reprints, republications and also revisions. In addition to bringing the original items into active use and life, bibliographies contribute naturally also to the growth and expansion of knowledge in all specific areas. Perhaps, the many gaps in our knowledge system are explainable, quite often as the direct consequence of inadequate bibliographical listings. This, in other words, also means the progress of knowledge is also conditioned by bibliographical measures of control and organisation.

In an age of knowledge-explosion characterised by boom in publications some kind of control, both by listing and adding as well of a sifting device (i.e., inclusion of summary/abstract/annotation) is essential.
In spite of the plea and plan like the UBC, a larger portion of the world's literary output is yet to find coverage under the plan of UBC. Indian publications thus suffer neglect. Barring a part of publications in English, the rest of the publications have no coverage under the bibliographical control. This is true of all primary/secondary as well as macro/micro literature. This is also true of publications in many subject areas. Indo-English literature is no exception.

The English language as the favoured language of many aspects of our social and cultural life has established itself firmly in this country and has accumulated a history of about three centuries. Our emotional-make up has also perforce found expression in it in a wide variety of forms. The phrase Indo-English connotes no more than the imaginative writings in English by Indians who have adapted the language for self-expression in fictional garb. They have established a tradition which is distinctly their own and surely comparable. It is also possible, like literary writers elsewhere many will emerge as major writers and their works provide scope for research by scholars.

The objective in attempting the compilation of this bibliography therefore, is to facilitate this scope. There have been no, conscious efforts made at compiling literary
bibliographies to fulfill this need. The following are rather the only few that exist:

   XXII, 631 p.
   [Comprehensive general annotated bibliography of primary and secondary materials.]

2. Mohanty, Jatindra Mohan, Comp.
   XII, 186 p.
   [General bibliography of translations of prose, poetry, drama and fiction from Indian Languages excluding Sanskrit and including journals that publish translations from Indian Literature added as supplement.]

   VI (XXV, 632 p.).
[Retrospective Bibliography of Primary materials which include publications in English as well as Assamese, Bengali and Gujarathi.]


123 p.
(Mimeograph).
[A general bibliography of translations of Commonwealth literature excluding translations of classical/medieval Indian fiction written before 1800. New readings or translations of traditional folk tales, short stories and other forms of fiction listed selectively.]

5. John, A.

167 p.
[A bibliography exclusively of Indo-English literature listed under Poetry, Drama, Fiction, Biography, Autobiography, Criticism, Essays]
and Prose. Excludes works of Anglo-Indian writers, writers of Indian origin but born, brought up and are citizens of other countries.]


XIV, 296 p.

[An annotated list of Novels, Tales, collections of Short Stories written by Indian or foreign depicting aspects of India.]


74, 21 p..

[Index to the articles including listings of citations in the articles.]


20 p.

[Index to the articles.]
9. Spencer, Dorothy, M.


98 p.

[An annotated list of fiction and autobiography, written by Indians in English or translated into English.]


[Bibliography of Indian writing in English; No.2.]

[Comprehensive annotated bibliography of primary and secondary materials.]

It is obvious that the two Indian woman writers are happily among those who are at the crest of fame. Their works are claimed as superb articulations of art and ideas. In the Indian Universities, there is seen everywhere wide interest and genuine desire among research scholars to study many Indian writers. It is as such a work undertaken to fulfill a real need and is certainly the first of its kind.

The methodology, as natural in all bibliographic compilations, consists of painstaking search for
references/works. Being a personal bibliography, it includes both the works by and about. As an annotated bibliography, it also has some pretensions to the claim of research.

The conspectus consists of a brief but a clear perspective of bibliography from the professional as well literary points of view in chapter one followed by descriptive, critical presentations on annotations; the bibliographical status of Indo-English literature; biographical sketches of Nayantara Sahgal and Anita Desai; bibliography of works by them and about them in chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and seven respectively. The last chapter (chapter eighth) is analysis and conclusions summed up.