

HEDA JASON, *MOTIF, TYPE AND GENRE: A MANUAL FOR COMPILATION OF INDICES & A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INDICES AND INDEXING*, "Folklore Fellows Communications", 273, Helsinki 2000, Academia Scientiarum Fennica. 279 pp.

Isabel Cardigos

Heda Jason's *Motif, Type and Genre* is a very welcome companion for all those who step into the task of organising an archive and then turning it into an Index of folk literature, or ethnopoetry — the term always used by the distinguished scholar. This manual comes from perhaps the most experienced literary folklorist in classification matters, namely in genres, an area which has deserved her much attention.¹ In fact Heda Jason's praxis combine and extend the Aarne - Thompson with her own genre classification, which not only goes well beyond folktale genres² but also encompasses the "Euro-Afro-Asian" cultural area (pp. 142-150)

I shall simply let the readers peruse over the contents of this concise manual, and let them judge for themselves. It is divided in 6 parts (numbered from A to F): Concepts (A), dealing at length with the notions of Motif, Type and Genre; Praxis (B), the core of this manual, a guide for the making of an index, expounded in eight parts, each of them meticulously organised into clear subheadings; Auxiliary Registers (C), a guide on how to improve the utility of an index with clear and user-friendly cross-referenced information; Sample Analyses (D) using four versions of one particular tale for a close analysis of the plot, from which a classification of motifs, types and genre arises; an Appendix (E), defining and giving a list of Euro-Asian-African genres, referred to above. Finally a Bibliography (F), opening with a numbered list of indices (339 items) organised by languages; a numbered bibliography on classification problems (284 items in all), organised by subjects/ themes (such as "B. Reports on the *Enzyklopädie des Märchens*"; "C. General problems"; "D. Discussions of the composition of repertoires"; until "P. Preliterate cultures") and nearly 30 pages of auxiliary registers for these last two sub-headings, such as the "Level of indices" (A), which lists "those arranged according to Thompson's Motif Index" and eight other schemes; down to a list of all the "Indices in FF Communications" (K).

This extraordinary model of clear and concise organised thought and data, becomes a most helpful reference book that should be available in digital form so as to become regularly updated. It is indeed a pity that very soon this bibliography will be destined to become out of date, if it remains a book. We

¹ Heda Jason expounds her concept and classification of genres in *Ethnopoetry: Form, Content and Function*, Bonn, Linguistica Biblica, 1977

² In her index *Folktales of the Jews from Iraq: Types and Genres*, (Or Yehuda, The Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center, 1987), Heda Jason includes legends within the genres surveyed.

already note with regret the absence of indices like *O Romanceiro Português e Brasileiro: Índice Temático e Bibliográfico* (2 vols.) by Manuel da Costa Fontes (Madison, The Hispanic Seminary of Medieval Studies, 1997), or Julio Camarena's *Catálogo Tipológico del Cuento Folklórico Español* (Tales of Magic and Animal Tales, Madrid, Gredos, 1995 and 1997). Omissions like these could easily be amended in a digital support. Heda Jason's new FF Communications book, the object of the present review, deserves the fate of having her unvaluable information regularly corrected/ updated. For the benefit of us all.

