rest of the book—run alongside the relevant text for easy reference. One is thankful that recent cuts to the government’s printing budget were not enacted before the completion of this book. Otherwise, the public would be deprived of this handsome text which describes an important part of our past in such an attractive and competent manner.

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In 1969 Edgar and Dorothy Davidson of Ottawa endowed a Chair in Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. Part of the gift from the couple was their collection of Canadiana, a collection of nearly 600 rare first editions published from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. They gave funds for the Davidson Room in the Ralph Pickard Bell Library where the collection is now housed and for a bibliography of the collection to be produced. This book is that bibliography produced by a team composed of members of the staff of the Centre for Canadian Studies and the Library of Mount Allison University, under the general editorship of Larry McCann, Davidson Professor of Canadian Studies. (The work, incidentally, is misnamed. It is not a bibliography, rather it is a descriptive or bibliographical catalogue. Such catalogues, according to Bowers, are ‘distinguished from the simple catalogue in that they offer details which, though incomplete, provide some basis for precise identification of issues and editions. They differ from a bibliography in that they do not pretend to offer the last word on any book described’ (Fredson Bowers, Principles of Bibliographical Description [New York: Russell & Russell, 1962], p. 4).)

The books are arranged under general headings: French and French influence, 112 titles; English and English influence, 183 titles; exploration of the Arctic, twenty-three titles; the Western frontier, 146 titles; early Canadian imprints to 1820, seventy-three titles; and an unnumbered section of miscellaneous items, forty-two titles. Each section is introduced with an alphabetical index arranged by main entry with brief title, date of publication, and reference number. The miscellaneous section, described on entirely different principles from the rest of text, is composed of ten miscellaneous texts, seventeen reprints, and fifteen bibliographies. These books are not included in the indexes to the text as a whole. The team chose one general heading which best fit the work in hand. The major problem which this arrangement causes is somewhat mitigated by the number of indexes present: author-title, subject, genre, maps, cartographers, illustrators,
publishers, printers, bookplates, and inscriptions. There is, unfortunately, no chronological index.

The works included are catalogued based on current cataloguing practice, somewhat expanded by the use of some rules of bibliographical description. Main entry follows AACR2. The title-page is transcribed in its entirety. Description is quasi-facsimile to some extent, in that some attempt is made to transcribe upper case and also lower-case italic; rules and line-endings are noted. Small capitals and upper-case italic are ignored as is the use of the long ś. With few exceptions, no attempt has been made to supply an imprint if the information does not appear in the volume. The collation statement has been expanded to allow a full description of the pagination in that all pages are accounted for, including blank and unnumbered pages. The height of the book, the added title-page, illustrations, maps, and cartographers are mentioned, as is any inscription or bookplate. Reference is made to other standard bibliographies. Signature collation and format are not given. Sometimes frames are mentioned; sometimes they are not. Binding information is not given.

The indexes could have been one of the strengths of the work. The author-title index provides access to every title mentioned in the text, including added and series titles, except, as mentioned previously, the miscellaneous section. At first sight I thought that some titles had been dropped from the list, but closer scrutiny showed some problems with the alphabetical arrangement, the H section being particularly confused. The subject index has been compiled only from title key-word with spelling modernized; genre provides a descriptive characteristic to each of the works and is very strange indeed – among the genres chosen are abridgements, annals, communications, descriptions, documents, and quotations. Works whose titles give no clues to categorization are listed under 'other.' Maps are listed by the subject subdivision of the bibliography, i.e. 'French and French influence,' 'English and English influence,' and so on, and then by main entry. To find a map of Louisbourg, one would, therefore, have to try to imagine a title of a book which might have such a map, guess the general subject subdivision, and then check the titles of the maps there listed. The date of the map is given only if it appears on the map itself. The cartographer index lists only those names explicitly named on the maps themselves. All artists, lithographers, engravers, and photographers are listed under the most complete name possible, and where this could not be determined, initials are given. The printer and the publisher indexes give name followed by city where possible. The bookplate and inscription index includes names or initials of all personal names or corporate bodies of bookplates and all those mentioned in inscriptions, except for Edgar Davidson who is, of course, omnipresent.

Several questions immediately come to mind after examination of this catalogue. Why was it produced? For what audience is it intended? Is it supposed to be a work of serious reference or a commemorative memorial? The collection itself, while including some high spots of Canadiana, shows no overall meaning or purpose. The books themselves are described in a straightforward manner with no
attempt made at historical or bibliographical analysis. There are mistakes in transcription – unfortunate in those cases where an illustration of the title-page is present. If the information is not present in the text no attempt at research seems to have been attempted. There are no notes other than those describing some element of the text. No attempt has been made to place these works in some historical context other than the imposed general subject arrangement. This decision is particularly unfortunate with regard to the first item described. Given here in its entirety, the entry reads: ‘AUX HABITANS DU DISTRICT DE MONTRÉAL. Aux Habitants du District de Montréal. 1 sheet; 23 x 15.7 cm. The names of D.B. Viger and twelve others appear at the bottom of the sheet. E.D. 597.’ What is this broadside? To what does it refer? What is the extent of the text? To what time period does it belong? This entry does not answer any of these questions, and one must, therefore, demand what purpose this description serves.

The book itself has been handomely produced. Masterful use of Baskerville type with well-spaced entries and wide margins produces an attractive work to look at. There are sixty attractive illustrations. The book itself, however, is large and somewhat unwieldy with unfortunate deckled edges. It is bound in maroon cloth in a limited edition of 500 numbered copies. Today's economy, which has meant shrinking budgets both institutionally and personally, demands judicious use of available resources. At $200.00 this catalogue is a very expensive pretty face. A well-produced book in trade wrappers sold at a reasonable price would have been of use and of interest to those involved in the history of book collecting in Canada. Alas, this catalogue is not a reference tool that I can recommend to any institution or individual interested in the history of the book, in Canadian imprints, or the press in Canada.

SANDRA ALSTON
University of Toronto Library


On peut difficilement imaginer l'existence d'une vie littéraire canadienne et francophone au XVIIIème siècle. Les conditions générales, et particulièrement la Conquête de 1763 qui marque la cession définitive du Canada à l'Angleterre, ne sont guère favorables à l'élosion et à l'épanouissement d'une vie culturelle et littéraire au Canada français. Néanmoins, si aucune œuvre marquante n'a, semble-t-il, été produite et reconnue au cours de cette période, un long processus de mise en place des infrastructures culturelles (imprimeries, journaux, librairies, bibliothèques, et troupes de théâtre) s'est mis en marche au lendemain de la Conquête. Mais face à quels enjeux et au-delà de quelles contraintes ce processus d'émergence et de formation d'une littérature canadienne et francophone a-t-il pu se développer? Voilà l'essentiel de la problématique du premier tome d'une série de cinq sur La vie littéraire au Québec, dans lequel Marcel Lemire et son équipe