A DICTIONARY OF PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, BOOKSELLERS,
STATIONERS, ETC. IN THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES,
1751 - 1900

A biographical dictionary of publishers and printers and others connected with the business of printing and publishing who worked in the Atlantic Provinces up until the beginning of this century is now being compiled by Douglas G. Lochhead¹ assisted by Shirley B. Elliott².

The purpose of the dictionary is to provide accurate information about those persons who introduced printing to Canada in the eighteenth century and about their successors in the nineteenth century. The compilers are aware of the very considerable biographical material contained in Marie Tremaine's great work A Bibliography of Canadian Imprints, 1751-1800 (1952) and feel that the major contribution of the proposed dictionary will be the biographies of those who took part in that prolific period of publishing which accompanied the "awakening" of Eastern Canada in the nineteenth century. It is felt, however, that the information contained in Tremaine relating to the printers of the Atlantic provinces may well be combined with the later material to provide a more comprehensive background of printing in relation to this country's growth. It is the hope of the compilers that the dictionary will provide a useful and basic reference source for any systematic study of that important aspect of our social history -- the development of printing and publishing in Canada.

Compilation of the dictionary has been underway for several years and the manuscript now consists of four large note-books. Considerable research remains to be done, chiefly in the checking of provincial newspapers, but the compilers are hopeful that the first draft will be ready by 1966.

What has been impressive in the work to date is the large number of persons who were actively engaged in printing and publishing in the Atlantic area during the years 1751-1900. In Nova Scotia, for example, some two hundred and seventy-eight entries

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1. Douglas G. Lochhead, Librarian, Massey College, in the University of Toronto, Toronto 5, Ontario.
 2. Shirley B. Elliott, Legislative Librarian of Nova Scotia, Province House, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

have already been collected. The study of imprints from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island has also revealed interesting information relating to the growth of Canadian publishing at home and in the United States and Europe through co-operation amongst publishers. As is well known some of the most colourful and influential personalities of the last century in religion, education, politics and business were actively engaged in the publishing and printing trades.

Entries in the dictionary will contain as much information as possible and will include the full name of the individual, dates of birth and death, addresses of places of business, noteworthy titles published and all details considered relevant. The various dictionaries published by the Bibliographical Society such as A Dictionary of the Printers and Booksellers Who Were at Work in England, Scotland and Ireland from 1726-1775 by Plomer, Bushnell and Dix (1932) are typical of the work envisaged.

The compilers are anxious to bring this undertaking to the attention of members of the Bibliographical Society of Canada and to invite their assistance in providing any information that might prove suitable for inclusion in the dictionary. Considerable biographical material has been obtained about many publishers, printers, stationers and booksellers but much additional information must still be uncovered before the work is ready for publication. Any individual members of the Society who possess material in the form of letters, invoices, newspapers, pamphlets and books published during the period under consideration are asked to contact the editors.

D. G. L.

ROSSVILLE MISSION PRESS: SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

To the imprints listed in the article with ¹ this title which appeared in Volume I of the Papers of the Society, I should like to add the following booklet. A copy is listed in the New York Public Library's Catalogue of the History of the Americas Collection.

Imprint No.7a: The Sunday service of the Wesleyan Methodists
translated by John E.
Harriott, Esq...
Rossville, 1847.
10 l. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ cm.

Chief Factor Harriott (1797-1866) was variously in charge of Rocky Mountain House and Fort Edmonton, and no doubt made the translation for the Rev. Robert Rundle, the first Wesleyan missionary on the upper Saskatchewan.

The number of copies of the 1851 edition of the Gospel of St. John (Imprint No. 11) printed was 300, according to the report of the Wesleyan Missionary Society covering the year ending April, 1852. "This (number of copies) is far from sufficient to meet the loudly expressed wishes of the people."

The same Society's report covering 1857-58 gives the following information on the printing of Imprints Nos. 15 and 16 by the Rev. Thomas Hurlburt.

"... he, after much application, in translating and mechanical matters, assisted by an Esquimaux pressman, has made the Society's small and somewhat rude printing establishment at Rossville very serviceable - one of the Gospels and the four Epistles having been printed in the syllabic character, to the extent of three thousand copies, the stitching and binding of which were willingly undertaken by Miss Adams, the devoted school teacher."

Bruce Peel.

1. Vol. I (1962), pp. 28-43.