Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. II, 1701 to 1740. General Editor David M. Hayne, Directeur adjoint André Vachon. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1969. xli, 759 p. \$15.00.

The publication of this second of a projected 20-volume set, which will be the Canadian counterpart of Britain's *Dictionary of National Biography*, and the United States' *Dictionary of American Biography*, extends the scholarly biography of Canadians to the year 1740.

The 578 entries (selected from an initial slate of 1200 names for consideration, and varying in length from 200-word notes to 10,000-word essays) deal predominantly (377) with subjects from the colony of New France. The range, however, being broader than in volume I, reflects "the gradual expansion of Canadian activity in the early years of the 18th century" (Introduction, vii) and includes in the remaining 201 entries persons from Acadia, Newfoundland and New England, in addition to Indians and Hudson's Bay Company figures inhabiting an area from Manitoba to Louisiana.

The desire of the editors is to present each biography as an "informative and stimulating treatment of its subject ... against the background of the ... events in which he or she participated," and concluding "with an equitable and discriminating evaluation" (*Directives to Contributors*). The contributing specialists have conformed admirably to these high standards and have achieved, in addition, a remarkable quality of readability, so often absent in a work of this kind.

Easily used (arrangement, like that of volume I, is alphabetical), the *Dictionary* is enhanced by numerous cross-references to alternate forms and variant spellings of names. The contributors have continued (again, as in volume I) to base their facts upon primary sources (published and unpublished; public and private) and a noteworthy feature of the *Dictionary* is the superb list of these sources, cited at the conclusion of each biographical entry. A general bibliography of sources with their locations is included in an appendix, and an introduction with preliminary notes provides a useful historical framework for the forty years covered.

The period arrangement which was adopted for this series, each volume being intended to cover a designated span of years and thus to be self-contained, is undoubtedly most convenient, but a disadvantage is that a death date must be known to locate a subject. It is to be hoped that the editors will publish frequent cumulative indexes to alleviate this difficulty, especially since the anticipated date of completion is still some 30 to 35 years away.

This volume is a highly successful contribution to a valuable series which, when completed, will take its place as one of the most comprehensive and authoritative research tools available to scholars.

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