Canadian Libraries, by H. C. Campbell. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1969. 89 p. \$5.95. (Published simultaneously by Clive Bingley, Limited, London)

This volume, by the Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Libraries, was prepared for the English publisher's series on Comparative Library Studies.

In his introduction, the author indicates that he has attempted to provide no more than a brief introduction to some of the highlights of the Canadian library scene. Moreover, he states that the book is "based entirely on the personal knowledge of the author, assisted by conversations with librarians from various parts of Canada over the past twenty-five years."

The reader does well to note these warnings, for in the brief space of 89 pages the book essays to cover: "Canadian Libraries, 1900-1960"; Reference and Research Library Resources"; "Provincial and Regional Public Library Systems"; "The Canadian Library in the 21st Century"; and includes as well two appendices and an index. A formidable task indeed. The result is a compendium of facts and figures, drawn chiefly from secondary sources, with little opportunity for interpretation or evaluation. Mr Campbell's personal knowledge lends strength and interest, but inevitably there is greater emphasis on the areas with which he might be expected to have the greatest acquaintance. The section on public libraries in Ontario, for example, runs to nearly five and a half pages, whereas the three prairie provinces together take up only a page and a half. University libraries do get their share of attention; special libraries rather less; and school libraries only token recognition.

The proof-reading has been particularly lax. Accents on French words swing from left to right with no regard for rules of spelling or pronunciation. On one page the Association canadienne des Bibliothécaires de langue française becomes the Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques [*sic*] de langue Française. English words too are frequently misspelled. There is a map whose errors and omissions include the misspelling of Ottawa and the total elimination of the province of Prince Edward Island.

Nevertheless, used judiciously the book has a place in Canadian library annals. It is to be hoped, though, that the author and publishers will see fit to correct the errors and to expand the content should a new edition be undertaken.

SHIRLEY ELLISON,
School of Library Science, University of Alberta