CANADIANA 1867 - 1900: A BIBLIOGRAPHY IN PROGRESS IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA

Origin and Progress of the Bibliography:

The project of compiling a bibliography of Canadiana for the years 1867-1900 was undertaken by Dr. Raymond Tanghe soon after he came to the National Library in 1953 as the first Assistant National Librarian.

The National Library is required by statute to compile and publish a national bibliography and publication of the current national bibliography, under the title *Canadiana*, had begun in 1950¹ with the establishment of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre. The Centre became the National library on January 1, 1953 following passage of the National Library Act. It was a short and obvious step to extend our interest to retrospective national bibliography.

The particular period, 1867-1900, suggested itself because no even remotely comprehensive bibliography existed for those years. The earliest period was covered by Marie Tremaine's *A Bibliography of Canadian Imprints, 1751-1800* published in 1952, and the ensuing period up to 1867 was served, not completely but extensively, by *A Bibliography of Canadiana, Being Items in the Public Library of Toronto Relating to the Early History and Development of Canada*, edited by Frances M. Staton and Marie Tremaine. *A Check List of Canadian Imprints, 1900-1925* by Dorothea D. Tod and Audrey Cordingley was published in 1950 and this, together with plans to expand the *Canadian Catalogue of Books Published in Canada, about Canada, as well as Those Written by Canadians, 1921-1949*, issued annually by the Toronto Public Library, seemed to mark the beginning of a general bibliography for the years between 1900 and 1950, when the current national bibliography, *Canadiana*, began.

Some guides to the publications of the years 1867-1900 did of course exist. H. J. Morgan included reviews of books in his *Dominion Annual Register and Review, 1878-1886* and the period is included in Haight, Gagnon, Dionne, in catalogues of Canadiana collections in the Douglas Library of Queen's University and in the Library of Acadia University, in the catalogue of the pamphlet collection in the Public Archives of Canada, and in bibliographies such as W. G. MacFarlane's *New Brunswick Bibliography* and R. J. Long's *Nova Scotia Authors*. Peel and Watters were yet to come.² There was nothing in existence which was both comprehensive and detailed.

In addition to the fact that a large gap existed in the bibliographical record for 1867-1900, the period is intrinsically interesting. The epoch is sometimes described as one of stagnation because neither the growth of the population nor the expansion of the economy was remarkable. Nevertheless, these were stirring and eventful times. There is ample justification for providing a guide to the

¹ Appeared first under the title "Canadian Catalogue, 1950," published in six instalments in the Canadian Library Association *Bulletin* 1950/51. Became *Canadiana* in 1951. 1950 cumulated in *Canadiana 1950 & 1951*.

² See Bibliography at end.

materials of research for the period. It was the time when Canada took dominion over half a continent, acquired the Hudson's Bay Company's lands, confederated seven provinces and a number of territories, established its central parliamentary and legal institutions, pioneered settlement in the West, added the first pieces of the mosaic, founded the North West Mounted Police, built the Canadian Pacific Railway, founded the Royal Society of Canada, launched some periodicals and many newspapers, suffered rebellion, plague and depression, enjoyed an economy which if limited was colourful, for these were the days of the lumber drives and they ended with the Klondike gold rush of '98. People amused themselves with bicycle clubs and snowshoe clubs and lacrosse matches and skating parties and sleigh drives and elegant dancing. They settled, at least temporarily, political, religious and racial dissensions with an excess of vigour which one might describe as violence had we not our contemporary efforts for comparison. And they spiced the whole with scandal. Our not so distant ancestors were not so dull nor so dusty. Nor, again in view of the contemporary scene, do their photos any longer look so quaint.

To return to the project of compiling the bibliography of the time, although the period was selected because it lacked any comprehensive list and although national bibliography should by definition be complete, in fact the listing undertaken was not all-embracing. It was decided to include:

- Canadian imprints.

- Foreign imprints when author or subject is Canadian.

- Monographs, pamphlets and reprints.

- Publications of government at all levels if of particular subject interest.

- Conference proceedings.

It was decided to omit:

- Periodicals and newspapers.

- Elementary textbooks.

- Government publications of an administrative nature, such as departmental annual reports.

- Parliamentary papers such as debates, journals and statutes.

- Posters, circulars and advertising matter.

Why the scope of the bibliography was thus limited is not recorded. Obviously some material was considered to be trivial, although ancient advertising has a charm of its own, besides being of value to the historian of taste, of manners, of commercial art, of printing, of trade and doubtless of many other attitudes and activities. Routine federal government publications were already extensively listed in Marion V. Higgins's *Canadian Government Publications*. British Columbia and Saskatchewan had produced retrospective bibliographies of their own provincial publications and Olga Bishop's list for the Maritimes was in the offing. The decision against including periodicals and newspapers is less clear. In general, it is probable that it was felt to be prudent to set some practical bounds to the effort. At the outset there was no conception of how long the list would become but it was clear enough that no small task was being undertaken.

Dr. Tanghe set to work and was soon joined by an assistant, Mlle Madeleine Pellerin. After Dr. Tanghe retired from the National Library in 1963, Mlle

Pellerin carried on alone and continued until October 1970 when illness forced her to stop work. Mlle Pellerin died in April 1971, a sad and regretted loss to the Library and to the world of bibliography.

Although Mlle Pellerin had spent an increasing amount of time on the bibliography, it was never a sustained full-time occupation for even one person. From the beginning of the project entries were added at the rate of 1,500 or 2,000 a year until, by 1967, they had reached a total of some 25,000 records. Preparation of the index then began. Work was interrupted by Mlle Pellerin's illness which began in 1968, and was further delayed by budgetary restrictions.

In addition to published bibliographies in existence for the period, the principal sources for the bibliography were, first, the extensive and valuable collection of pamphlets in the library of the Public Archives of Canada, together with those in the Library of Parliament. Then Mlle Pellerin, with incredible and meticulous industry, checked the Library of Congress printed catalogue, entry by entry, to 1962, amounting to more than 2,000,000 records in 209 volumes, and extracted 3,480 relevant entries. Then she checked the Canadian National Union Catalogue to 1965, comprising at that time some 5,000,000 cards. Items were also found in the catalogues of second hand booksellers and some rarities were reported by librarians and bibliographers and collectors with whom Dr. Tanghe and Mlle Pellerin corresponded.

Present State of the Bibliography:

Work on the bibliography was suspended a year ago. Let us consider the nature of the work at the stopping point.

Scope: Inclusions and exclusions have already been described. Briefly, the list includes everything except periodicals, newspapers, routine government publications, and advertising matter.

Style and Fullness of Detail: Entries follow the style of the older Library of Congress catalogues, thus reflecting ALA rules for headings and L.C. rules for description and omitting capitals. Subdivisions are not, however, indicated either by underlining or by italics.

Where available, full bibliographical detail has been given, i.e., full names and dates, real names instead of pseudonyms, full description and notes. Binding and price are omitted. Location of copies is not given.

Verification: Imprints from some uncatalogued collections in the Public Archives Library and in the Library of Parliament have been examined, but for the most part items listed have not been seen except in cases where lack of detail in sources has made identification uncertain. In such instances the books have been examined in local collections in Ottawa or borrowed on interlibrary loan. A collection of such problems remains and they may be more easily solved by a visit to one or more major collections of Canadiana than by borrowing the books.

Arrangement: It has been planned to arrange entries alphabetically by author and to number the entries.

Editions: Subsequent editions are not entered separately but are described in

notes appended to the entry for the first edition. Dates and variations in paging, etc., are noted.

Index: The index is by title and by associated names, such as joint authors, editors and others and includes the names of subjects of biography and of criticism. No other subject approach and no chronological approach have been planned.

References will be to numbered entries. Cross references, for example from pseudonyms to real names or from form of name not used to form used, will be in the index, not in the body of the text.

Language: Publications in English have been described in English, publications in French described in French. Preliminary matter is to be in both languages.

Size and Status: The bibliography was effectively complete in 1967 at an estimated total of 25,000 entries. A few additions have been made subsequently as items were found in collections of gifts and of uncatalogued material in the Archives Library and in the National Library. Text has been made ready for press as far as the letter "S", that is, entries have been reviewed, missing detail added, manuscript notes typed, index entries prepared.

Future of the Bibliography:

So much for the past and the present; what of the future of the bibliography?

Retrospective National Bibliography Division: The project is of course far from being abandoned. While work on the bibliography has been in abeyance, plans have been made for the creation of a Retrospective National Bibliography Division. Its terms of reference will be to co-ordinate and complete the entire national bibliography of the country from the beginning to the point where the record is kept currently. The Division will come into being as soon as a Chief of Division has been appointed. We hope that the appointment will be made by the end of this year. The first task of the new Division will be to complete *Canadiana 1867-1900*.

Completion of the Bibliography as Originally Planned: To finish the work as planned, entries from S to Z will have to be reviewed and edited where necessary, and index entries prepared. The whole file, now in a working arrangement, must be put in strict alphabetical order. As mentioned before, some problem entries remain and to clarify these travel to other centres may be required in order to examine the books in question. Plans for the style and format of the actual publication have in the past been discussed with the Queen's Printer but these will have to be reviewed in the light of new techniques, new proposals considered, and final decisions made.

Changed Circumstances: More than printing techniques have changed, however. There are other developments which we must take into account, even at the expense of still further delay in completing the bibliography.

Fichier Ducharme-Malchelosse: First, the search for entries had been considered to be complete, but now a new source has appeared. This is the card catalogue known as the Fichier Ducharme-Malchelosse. The "fichier" is a

handwritten record on cards of Canadian imprints and of items relating to Canada maintained over many years by the antiquarian bookseller, Gonzague Ducharme of Montreal, and by his successor at the Librairie Ducharme, Gérard Malchelosse. The catalogue lists Canadian and foreign imprints, books, pamphlets and periodical articles, and includes biographical and book notes. Many items have been noted from dealers' catalogues. Entries total approximately 250,000. Order appears to be roughly alphabetical.

Part of the fichier is now in the Archives du Québec, the rest in the university library at Laval. Through the kindness of Laval the National Library has obtained a microfilm copy of the whole catalogue. We do not know how much new material the fichier might contain but it seems evident that we must check the microfilm against our bibliography. Sampling may reveal how many new items within the 1867-1900 period are likely to be found among the quarter of a million entries. Whether the fichier is checked completely or only in part, the task will be an arduous one.

Anglo-American Cataloging Rules: A development which cannot be ignored is the publication of a new cataloging code, the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules*, and their adoption by the National Library both in the catalogue of its own collection and in the current national bibliography, *Canadiana*.

Meanwhile, as indicated earlier in this paper, *Canadiana 1867-1900* has been compiled in accordance with the superseded code, the American Library Association *Cataloging Rules for Author and Title Entries* and, modelled in part on the older Library of Congress catalogues, reflects in some entries an archaic style. For example, only the initial letter of the first word in a corporate name is upper cased, entries for complicated names such as those of noblemen, married women, or persons in religion are sometimes very elaborate, titles may be preceded by dots for omission indicating that something, perhaps the author's name, occurring on the title page above the title, has been transposed. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with the old style. In fact, it is generally more precise and more informative than the newer style. Nevertheless, old style entries offend the eye now accustomed to something else, are inconsistent with some other entries and their presence will puzzle some users. Modernization would seem to be indicated.

More important, in these days when libraries are more deeply concerned than ever with standardization, is the use of the new cataloging code. It would be neither practicable nor desirable to apply the Anglo-American rules to their fullest extent. For example, the bibliography gives authors' names in full, adds birth and death dates, and uses real names in place of pseudonyms. In the new code, however, the basic rule for headings for persons specifies that the author's name be entered in the form in which it is commonly used in his works. It is unthinkable, even if it were possible, that we should now replace the full names with the more abbreviated forms found on title pages or put all the entries now under real names back under pseudonyms. Revision of some headings, however, especially in the case of corporate authors, is both desirable and possible. To apply the Anglo-American rules and to modernize the style would require the scrutiny again of each of the 25,000 entries and the revision and re-editing of some.

International Standard Bibliographic Description: Another innovation of great interest and importance is the International Standard Bibliographic Description. This was drawn up by a Working Party established by the International Meeting of Cataloging Experts in Copenhagen in 1969. Members of the Working Party were drawn from Britain, France, Hungary, the Netherlands, the United States and West Germany. Work began two years ago and the final draft of the standard is about to be issued. This standard applies to monographs. As an aside, I should mention that a similar international Working Group has just been formed jointly by the IFLA Committee on Cataloging and the IFLA Committee on Periodicals to draw up a standard for serials. Canada is to be represented in this group. It should also be added that these efforts to standardize bibliographic description are an extension of the work begun by IFLA in 1961 when it called an International Conference on Cataloging Principles in Paris. The outcome of this conference was a *Statement of Principles* applicable to the choice and form of headings and entry-words in author/title catalogues, especially those in large general libraries.

The ISBD has nothing to do with choice or form of heading or content of the entry. In the simplest terms, the immediate objective is to reach international agreement on the bibliographic elements necessary to describe a monograph and the order of their arrangement and to adopt a uniform system of punctuation to mark off the elements from one another. The ultimate purpose is to enable libraries to make use of entries in foreign national bibliographies and in published catalogues of foreign libraries in order to catalogue imported books. The cataloguer, dealing with a book in an unfamiliar language, and an entry for it in a foreign bibliography, will know from the position of the bibliographical element, marked off by a punctuation code, whether, for example, he is looking at the name of the publisher or the name of the editor, the size of the book or its price in a foreign currency. He has in his hand the beginning of the clew of thread which may unravel the meaning of the entry. If the standard has been adopted by the local library, there will be no need to rearrange the foreign entry. If the standard has not been adopted the cataloguer will at least be able to identify the elements which he has to transpose or perhaps omit in order to suit local practice.

The nature and purpose of the ISBD is best explained by quoting from the most recent report of Mr. Michael Gorman, Secretary of the Working Party, to the IFLA Committee on Cataloging meeting on August 31, 1971.

“Content

The draft standard specifies the elements required for the description of monographic publications, assigns an order to these elements, and specifies a system of punctuation for the description.

The elements of the description as specified by the standard are (in outline):

1. The title and statement of authorship.
2. The edition.
3. The imprint.
4. The collation.
5. The series.

6. Notes.

7. The ISBN, binding and price.

Purpose

The first purpose of the standard is that of international standardization. The working party has tried to incorporate the maximum amount of common international practice so that the standard may prove acceptable to cataloging agencies all over the world, with a consequent saving of time, money and intellectual effort. In particular it is hoped that the standard will be of great use as a basis for the machine-readable international exchange of bibliographic information.

Secondly, the widespread adoption of the standard will greatly increase the comprehensibility of bibliographic records, even those in a language unfamiliar to the user of the records. At present there is a bewildering diversity of methods of presenting descriptions of publications, and this diversity is a barrier to the understanding of these descriptions.

Thirdly, bibliographic records constructed in accordance with the standard and using the standard system of punctuation can be transferred to machine-readable form with a minimum of effort”.

The order of elements does not differ from that used in Canadian library catalogues and very little from that used in current *Canadiana*. The last element, namely the International Standard Book Number, binding and price is not given in *Canadiana 1867-1900*. The information is not available. The other elements are already in ISBD order.

The question is whether to adopt the artificial punctuation code which serves a purpose other than that of ordinary punctuation and may appear peculiar to the user of the bibliography. Its use will also mean still further editing of the 25,000 entries.

Standardization: With regard to the question of whether *Canadiana 1867-1900* should be revised so as to modernize its style and to apply the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* and the International Standard Bibliographic Description, my own answer is an unequivocal yes.

In a file in the National Library on the bibliography project, I have come across a somewhat caustic note in an unidentified hand saying that *Canadiana 1867-1900* is to be a bibliography, not a guide for cataloguers. This is only one intimation among many that cataloguers are an Ishmael breed, outcasts of outcasts. The AACR and the ISBD are cataloging tools. Therefore, it is, or at least it should be, with temerity and trepidation, that I, who am also an Ishmaelite, suggest their use in a bibliography. That I do so may be in part the result of “déformation professionnelle”, as our French-speaking compatriots so aptly put it. A more cogent reason is that the distinction between cataloging and bibliography, at least national bibliography, is disappearing.

Librarians have long been convinced that to cope with the flood of publishing and the costs of cataloging, they must reduce duplication of effort, make use of one another's work, facilitate the distribution and exchange of bibliographic information. To this end efforts to standardize are being made both nationally

and internationally. The obvious and practical vehicle for the distribution of cataloging information is the national bibliography. The movement toward coalescence of catalogue and national bibliography on the international level is strengthened by the fact that, by historical accident, a library catalogue constitutes the national bibliography of the biggest of them all. I refer to the catalogue of the Library of Congress.

Expansion: If we think of some revision of the bibliography of 1867-1900, should we also think of expansion, that is, the inclusion of categories of materials now omitted and the provision of other approaches.

I can see no value in delaying publication of the bibliography still further by attempting to add periodicals, newspapers and all government publications. These materials can be the subject of companion bibliographies undertaken at a future date.

Arrangement by Date: I do not believe either that it is feasible at this time to provide other approaches, desirable as these would be. According to the present plan of the bibliography, retrieval is possible by author, by title and by personal name. It has been suggested that a chronological arrangement by imprint date would be much more useful than the planned alphabetical order by author.

The arrangement by date is probably the one most desired by the historian in search of primary sources of information or contemporary comment on events. *Canadiana 1867-1900* is an historical bibliography. The suggestion for a chronological order is a perfectly valid one. There are, however, certain objections to arrangement by date of publication:

It separates works by the same author and editions of the same work.

It is not a substitute for a subject approach for the historian since it does not bring together primary sources published at various dates or secondary sources published at much later dates.

It is defeated in its purpose of producing a useful breakdown if there is a great mass of material. Search would still not be sufficiently limited for practical purposes.

It would require an additional index by author.

It is a much less useful arrangement for a check list.

The arrangement by date still has merit, nevertheless. In this connection it is interesting to note that the current national bibliography is by definition first a chronological list. It is then broken down partly by classification, partly by author. If *Canadiana* ever cumulates its annuals over a longer span, those interested in chronological order should not discard the superseded annuals. The same is true of every other cumulating bibliography.

Arrangement by subject: Another obviously desirable approach is by subject. In fact, the original plan was to arrange the bibliography by Universal Decimal Classification. UDC was subsequently abandoned in favour of Dewey. It was not practicable, however, for the compilers to examine many of the items and titles alone proved to be so unrevealing as to content that finally, in 1965, the plan to arrange by classification was given up and an alphabetical order was adopted.

A classified order would have required indexes by author, title, personal name and, if close classification were applied, subject indexes in English and in French.

An arrangement under subject headings would have encountered the same practical difficulties in analysis of unseen items, would have required author, title and name indexes and would probably have required two editions, one under subject headings in English, the other under subject headings in French. The time and effort required would have been of astronomical magnitude.

Arrangement by author: The bibliography arranged alphabetically and indexed as now planned is the most economical to produce, the most easily consulted, the most useful as a check list and thus most likely to attract additional material concealed in other collections, and perhaps most important, the one which can conceivably be completed and published within the foreseeable future.

Automation: The more distant but still, one hopes, the foreseeable future, is full of the most interesting possibilities. One day soon we shall begin the mechanization of the National Library by automating *Canadiana* and some day later we shall complete it by automating the Union Catalogue.

If we automate the current national bibliography we can also automate the retrospective national bibliography. Then records could be retrieved by any bibliographical element that is tagged and coded and be printed out in hard copy, shown on a screen or output directly on to microfilm, in any order desired.

Nothing will come out of course which has not already been put in by dint of human effort and by exercise of human judgment. The computer will not examine publications and analyse their subject content. It could, however, match machine-readable bibliographic records which lack subject headings or classification against machine-readable catalogues of major libraries and pick up the subject analysis already done by the cataloguers in those institutions.

In addition to being able to provide lists of materials of research, a comprehensive bibliography in machine-readable form could be in itself a primary source. The publications of a country reflect its interests and activities, intellectual, political, social, religious, cultural, recreational, or whatever they may be. Given a national bibliography and a capability of manipulating its elements, the research worker, by bringing together entries in a variety of patterns, combining them for example by such aspects as place, language, date and subject, could see in outline what was occupying the minds of men and when and where. It is a truism that if two facts or two ideas are put together they frequently produce a third. Insights, sometimes unanticipated, would be gained from the mere juxtaposition of bibliographic entries. The facts and ideas which could be made to emerge from apparently simple descriptions and superficial subject analysis of books would be limited only by the ingenuity and the imagination of the searcher — and, of course, by the wit of the bibliographer who had, or who had not, thought to put the information in because it might be needed.

Bibliographie rétrospective du Québec: Meanwhile, another important development is taking place in Quebec. The Bibliothèque nationale du Québec has undertaken to compile the retrospective bibliography of the province. After preliminary discussion and planning the work began last spring under the

direction of Mlle Gabrielle Bourbonnais. The project now has a staff of four librarians, three library technicians and a clerk-typist.

The plan is a very ambitious and comprehensive one. It foresees an inclusive list but one which will be compiled in stages. Rather than attempting to do everything at once the compilers will tackle groups of material in succession. Categories will be determined partly by date, partly by form of publication. The basic list will probably be monographs and pamphlets published between 1821 and 1967. Descriptions will be based on an examination of the items themselves. *The Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* have been adopted, with some minor variations. There is no clear decision yet with regard to subject approach but some effort will be made to capture subject information by noting classification or using some form of free vocabulary. From the beginning plans have been made for the automation of this bibliography. It is the intention to use the formats and standards which will be finally adopted after the Task Forces organized by the National Library to study cataloging and automation standards have completed and presented their recommendations.

The Bibliothèque nationale du Québec takes a very wide view of the enterprise. It sees the bibliography of Quebec in a form which will be consistent with national and with international standards and it proposes to co-operate with other institutions in every possible way. To this end, Mlle Bourbonnais, in charge of the project, has a committee representing the Bibliothèque de la Législature du Québec, the French-language universities of Quebec, the English-language universities of Quebec, and the National Library of Canada.

We look forward to a continuing and fruitful association with the project. The complete retrospective bibliography of the province of Quebec, with its long history and its active publishing, will indeed be a major contribution to the retrospective national bibliography of Canada. It will be particularly valuable because it will be so designed that it can be readily added to a national bibliographic data bank in machine-readable form.

Meanwhile, *Canadiana 1867-1900* may make some useful contributions to the bibliography of Quebec, and that project now in progress may assist us in solving some of the puzzles remaining in our bibliography.

Conclusion:

To recapitulate, it is presently proposed to complete the bibliography as originally planned except to edit and, where necessary, to revise entries in accordance with the Anglo-American cataloging code and with the International Standard Bibliographic Description. Work will be resumed as soon as the Retrospective National Bibliography Division is established, possibly by the end of this year.

The long-range objective is the completion of the entire national bibliography and the co-ordination of all efforts to this end. In order not to waste those efforts we need a clearing house for information about work in progress; a detailed description of what has been done, with respect not only to coverage but also to fullness and to accuracy of treatment; a statement of what is lacking; a plan for accomplishing what remains to be done; and an agreed

standard. The standard should be such that it will facilitate the conversion of all bibliographic data to machine-readable form. The work of all hands should then be combined in a national bibliographic data bank and the information thus stored should be made available to all who seek it.

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For an outline of Canadian bibliography see the article "Bibliography" by the author in the *Encyclopedia Canadiana*.

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