analysis of what is there, he chose to pull a sample of publications and identify the kinds of items that might be considered representative of certain time periods. This approach could provide the researcher with some leads, but he would still find it necessary to search the files in a more systematic manner than that outlined in the guides. It would probably have been more useful to operate within a thematic approach, and to present newspaper comment on specific issues rather than representative comments from the newspapers themselves. The compiler does go to a lot of trouble selecting and identifying issues from various small town and larger city newspapers, and this is quite helpful.

In the fourth volume, because of the quantity of available materials, the compiler chose to analyse the educational correspondence of one year – 1865. The measurements of files are provided and I suppose it might be helpful for the researcher to be aware that the file of outgoing correspondence between 1847-1875 takes up 19 feet. The classification of letters is useful, but this entire volume is difficult to justify.

There is no question that these guides will help the educational historian do a more effective job in a shorter time. There are some mechanical problems of layout and of criteria for annotation, but overall, the first four volumes in the series should prove useful.

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PRINTING AND PUBLISHING IN CANADA


Professor Gundy’s essay in the Royal Commission report is one of several dealing with historical aspects of Canadian publishing. Altogether, the nineteen essays on the industry comprise the most extensive survey of book publishing that has appeared in Canada. Without more space for comment, it would be impossible to deal fairly with all of these essays. In any case, they are likely to be topics for comment for years to come. In brief, they are uneven. Some writers have dealt with strictly defined subjects within short spans of time. Others, such as Professor Gundy, C. J. Eustace, and Sheila Egoff, cover wide territories that require more effort in research, and more space for detail, than
were allowed. Whatever the occasional weaknesses of these hastily prepared *Background Papers*, they do form a worthwhile reference for any Canadian library, public or private, at a bargain price. It would not have hurt to have tacked on another fifty cents for an index.

Professor Gundy’s essay ranges in nearly every direction, giving an informative and entertaining account of trade publishing. The great copyright fiasco that backfired and so incensed Mark Twain, is delightful, and a compliment to the ingenuity and gall of our publishers.

Consideration is limited mainly to literary and historical publishing, which form only a small part of the total output, but the lack of scattershot can be appreciated, when the reader finds the writer aiming cleanly at point after point in the narration. Occasionally, some important statement bears more elaboration. For example: “With the westward spread of the English-speaking population, it was inevitable that the centre of English publishing would gravitate from Montreal to Toronto, though the former held its ascendancy up to mid-century”. The inevitability is doubtful. Publishing also gravitated away from the Maritimes, but the rising commercial importance of Toronto is not the whole answer, any more than the drift of population is. In Europe, great centres of learning became great centres of publishing, without large population as a necessary factor. U.S. population also pushed west, but publishing did not gravitate to Cincinnati and Chicago altogether. It remained firmly established in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, none of them central distribution points. What are the factors that explain the lack of a Canadian parallel? This phenomenon has never been explained satisfactorily.

Considerable space is given to the Lovell empire, without making it clear that Lovell's success was not due entirely to enterprise and agentry, but that much accrued from the quality of the better reference productions, which are thorough and generally reliable to this day. In discussing the Lovell Library of 1,500 titles, there could have been mention of the successful formula, tested years before in Leipzig and New York. In summarizing market acceptance, Professor Gundy states: “We recognized the merit of our authors only after they had received the accolade of a British or American publisher. There are signs that this attitude has changed”. For which, all concerned may be duly grateful.

The other conclusions are the familiar themes of domestic control of publishing, foreign competition, the difficulties of capital investment, and the problems of promotion. Neither this essay nor George Woodcock's “On the Resources of Canadian Writing” takes notice of the importance of media other than book publishing in Canada. They have not escaped the eye of Jack McClelland, who has been quick to add well-publicized figures to his ranks of authors. Exposure is the thing, and in recent years Canadian writers have not been getting it. For that matter, neither have writers in other countries, except those in the Soviet Union when in disfavour.

Half a century ago, Canadian book publishers had the magazine market as an advance agent to their selling. Writers whose names today are household words from their books, were household words then before the books were published. There is no turning back the pages of a radio or television program to see who
wrote a good script. What we are being offered as popular writers (i.e., trade book writers) are television personalities, columnists, and politicians. Ironically, this takes Canadian book publishing right back where it started two centuries ago, by substituting the preachers of the pulpit for those of the talk shows.

The monograph printed in Amsterdam is not a happy subject. The series is reported to be uneven, and Colin Clair, its editor, has been receiving harsh comments in the pages of The Private Library (Private Libraries Association, Rye, England). The series is concerned with early printing outside Continental Europe and Britain.

Professor Gundy has previously established his authority on the history of printing in Ontario and Quebec. Here, the text is the most thoroughly researched, the most evenly balanced, and the best written. Each colonial area across what is now Canada, is treated separately and chronologically. The author has made clear the colonial isolation and frequently intricate relationships between local printing and local government.

The monograph was prepared in a rush and under the pressure of other work. Personally I wish for his reputation and the prestige of Canadian publishing that he had not undertaken it in such circumstances. Far less space was utilized than could have been devoted to the text. Two volumes were projected; one short tract resulted. The monograph suffers proportionately. Reliance on secondary sources, some of them long out of date, has been great. Inaccuracies are glaring. Printing in the eastern and western provinces is skimped over and was not given sufficient attention of specimen examination. Such inadequate preparations have thrown the work off balance.

The monograph is of little bibliographical value, and unreliable historically. It is interesting as social history because the writer knows how to be interesting, but sometimes it is inconsequential to the subject. For example, he devotes his attention to Anthony Henry’s impressing the wrong sheets. More value could have been achieved if the writing had been concerned more directly with the printing.

Illustrated specimens of typography are taken from the Lawrence Lande collection, a fine source but inadequate for the subject. More important examples must be found elsewhere. No specimen is illustrated from the first press in Canada, although excellent examples survive from its half-century. The two Nova Scotian imprints are late by several decades, and mediocre. The plates in general do not speak well for the great tradition of quality printing in Holland, where they were impressed. Early printers in Canada did not use types with furry edges (in keeping with economic history). They did use first-quality fonts from the house of Caslon. Ortelius published much better maps of this country.

Canadian printers deserve better than this. Those who would make odious comparison, might place this Amsterdam effort beside a copy of “Canada’s Printing Pioneers,” designed by George A. Gundersen, and written by Eric Haworth, with its tipped-in vignettes from the British American Bank Note Company’s original plates. This will show who’s what in the printing business. The standards are formidable in this 1966 Canadian production, which was published as a full issue of the Provincial Paper company’s house journal,
distributed to its principal customers. It was not available to the general public, and is out of print. The Provincial Paper monograph gives fair play to the history of publishing in eastern and western Canada. It lists every detail of its production, including press speeds. The Amsterdam monograph, with evident reasons for lack of pride, tells nothing of its production. The Provincial Paper monograph is well worth the considerable price being asked for the Amsterdam publication.

Only Professor Gundy's good name and the poverty of reference material in print about Canadian printing history are likely to encourage Canadian librarians and collectors to invest in the monograph as an historical introduction. Advanced students of the Canadian imprint may agree with me that the monograph is like a hatful of acorns: great potential for oakdom, and desirable for squirrels.

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RECOMMENDED READING OR ARTICULATE NATIONALISM:
TWO VIEWS


1. This useful little book contains twenty-nine short bibliographical essays by experts in particular fields, along with the lists of Canadian books which they recommend. Thus Michael Cross writes briefly (seven pages) about Canadian historiography and recommends some thirty titles. Other contributors include Jean-Pierre Wallot (Quebec history), Hart Bowesfield (the West), George Rawlyk (the Atlantic provinces), Trevor Lloyd (the North), Mel Watkins (economic history), Irving Abella (labour history) and so on through such topics as Canadian society, drugs, poverty, urban studies, literature (both French and English), and many others.

The book also contains a list of what the contributors and editors consider to be the ten best Canadian books; an essay on "Publishing in Canada" by David Godfrey and James Lorimer, along with their recommendations for strengthening Canadian publishing; and a list of Canadian-owned publishers.

The principles of selection which guided the essayists are far from clear, and their bibliographies naturally have some surprising gaps. The historians have omitted nearly all the good biographies of recent years, as well as best-sellers such as Pierre Berton's volumes on the C. P. R., while including some doubtful items such as Bergeron's history of Quebec. James Lorimer, writing on "poverty", advises those who want to understand the history of Canada to read Stanley Ryerson's *Unequal Union*, Marcel Rioux's *Quebec in Question*, and