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

Read Canadian: A Book about Canadian Books, edited by Robert Fulford, David Godfrey and Abraham Rotstein. Toronto: James Lewis & Samuel, 1972. xi, 275p. \$1.95 (paper) and \$6.00 (cloth).

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 Bowsfield (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

Gustavus Myer's *A History of Canadian Wealth*, all three very questionable recommendations.

The bibliography appended to the essay on "Indians, Métis and Eskimos", contains only nine items and is clearly inadequate. It names the author of *Strange Empire* as Howard Kinzey, instead of J.K. Howard. Because of the topical divisions there is unavoidable duplication, and some books, such as John Porter's *The Vertical Mosaic*, appear on a number of lists. For the same reason other works, such as Carl Berger's splendid book *The Sense of Power*, have been left out entirely. A few of the contributors have included bibliographies among their recommendations, and the others might well have done so where possible.

Yet despite these instances of subjective preferences and inevitable gaps, the volume is most welcome. The selections are in most cases at least a good beginning and the essays generally informative.

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2. In its widest sense bibliography means "information about books," where the word is taken most readily as a reading list, a guide for further study, or a list of works which have been consulted by an author. Most works with any pretensions to scholarship include such a list of books and other references bearing on the subject at hand. When a bibliography is intended to direct the reader to other works for further information and study, an annotated bibliography evaluating the contents of the items referred to is most useful. An annotated bibliography may in turn take the form of a bibliographic essay, in which the writer treats the literature of the field discursively.

While generally a more modest effort, the bibliographic essay is a near relative of the comprehensive "guide to the literature." Usually more informal, more sharply focused, and shorter than the "guide," the bibliographic essay frequently merits a closer look. But at times it is not so easy to come by. Often it masquerades under names such as review of the literature, or essay review, and, more clandestinely, as a mere appendix. Then it may shade off into elaborate notes or suggestions for further reading. It surfaces in a variety of formats, tucked in at the end of a chapter, or in the back matter, of a book, as an article in a journal, but also as a separate publication ranging from a thin pamphlet to a more substantial paperback, and occasionally as a solid hard cover volume. Compared with the garden variety of bibliographies, the best of the bibliographic essays are tempting, and invite further perusal. Such essays can provide pleasure as well as profit, particularly if the works dealt with are judged, ranked, described, damned, compared, and otherwise invested with personality. The function of criticism here too is to help the reader to read for himself.

Some excellent and lively examples of how informative, infuriating, and illuminating the bibliographic essay can be have recently been spelled out in all the variety of changing attitudes and current trends of articulate nationalist

viewpoints in *Read Canadian*. "The main purpose of this collection is to serve as a handbook, a guide to a couple of dozen separate fields of expertise that can be approached in a Canadian context." Grouped into four chapters on history, economics and politics, society, literature and the arts, 29 topics are discussed. In each case an overview of the literature is followed by a "summary bibliography". Where appropriate the works cited are listed under headings of general, advanced, and professional. The final chapter consists of a brief article on the issue of ownership of Canadian publishing, a list of Canadian-owned publishing houses, and a list of "The Ten Best Canadian Books" (also dubbed Ten Golden Oldies), an attempt to create a kind of pantheon of Canadian writing by a vote among the contributors and editors of this volume.

Most of these essays have come from the groves of academe and they reflect only too well shifting boundaries and evolving definitions, those signs of the times that are to be found here and elsewhere today. These essays provide a composite but capsule commentary on the condition of arts, letters, and ideas in contemporary Canada. Probably the most up-to-date piece is that by Abraham Rotstein on foreign control of the economy. Now that publication of the "real" Gray Report (*Foreign Direct Investment in Canada*, published by the Government of Canada, 523p.) has become a fact, the items listed in this essay will overnight become required reading for following the vigorous public debate that is now taking place about an industrial strategy for Canada. (*The Citizen's Guide to the Gray Report* published in December 1971 by the New Press of Toronto is one of the very first indigenous, "instant", paperbacks to appear on the Canadian scene.) Possibly the most skilful and perceptive handling of what is relevant versus what is not in a Canadian framework, is the essay on the literature of sociology by Kathleen Herman. Dennis Lee's words about how to come to grips with Canadian poetry – forget about the poetry and read some of the poets; the systematic approach can come "after you have scouted the territory for yourself" – apply just as well to all of the topics considered in these essays.

Read Canadian has been announced as an open-ended project, with new editions to appear at irregular intervals. This should allow such obvious gaps to be filled as religion, the increasing body of literature of ethnic groups, popular fiction, and children's books.

Read Canadian has also provided a "Canadian content" side note to the motto of International Book Year 1972 "Books for All." Different people perceive the world in different ways. While this collection of bibliographic essays may not be exactly heady stuff, it does go a long way towards answering that increasingly frequent query "Well, I'd like to read Canadian, but I don't know where to start".

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