occupied with her *Publications of the Government of Ontario, 1867-1900*. This work will list the publications of the Legislature issued under authority of the Legislative Assembly or department of Government. Accompanying it will be a brief description of the powers and duties, and legal authority for publication, of each department as laid down in legislation. Professor Peter N. Oliver of the History Department, York University, has completed a bibliography of Ontario since Confederation, in the Ontario Historical Studies Series. It is intended to be of special interest to students of Canadian history. Publication has been delayed, but is now hoped for early in 1974.

Two important 'works in progress' completed this year (1973) are author revisions of familiar works long standard in their fields: Watters' *Checklist of Canadian Literature* (reviewed below), and Peel's *Prairie Provinces*; but unfortunately no review copy of the latter was available in time for review in this issue of the *Papers*. It is being published by the University of Toronto Press.

William F. E. Morley, Review Editor,
Bibliographical Society of Canada Papers,
Douglas Library,
Queen's University, Kingston,
Ontario K7L 5C4

Contributions to a Short-Title Catalogue of Canadiana, by Bernard Amtmann. Montreal, 1971-73. Bound: 4 vols., \$225; 5 vols. (interleaved), \$275.

Until several years after World War II, pamphlets about Canada or by Canadians, if they were in libraries at all, tended to be left in uncatalogued obscurity in basement or attic storage. This indifference to our cultural heritage was exemplified by the claim that the most complete collection of volumes of Canadian verse reposed in an American library. While there had been Canadiana dealers who at irregular intervals issued catalogues, most notably Dora Hood, it was Mr. Amtmann who made libraries and book collectors aware of the variety of Canadian titles which had been published at one time or another. Moreover, prospective buyers were astonished at the good money — as indicated by the Amtmann catalogues — that other buyers would pay for what they had heretofore regarded as little more than trash.

After a quarter of a century of issuing catalogues, Mr. Amtmann now offers a bibliography listing the 29,000 titles which have passed through his Canadiana store. Considering the lack of systematic recording of Canadian publications, and particularly of those that were less pretentious than hard-cover books, this compilation is a major contribution to Canadian bibliography. Until such time as the National Library publishes the Pellerin bibliography, the years 1867 to 1900 are unrecorded except in regional bibliographies such as Dionne's for Quebec. Likewise, no general bibliography lists Canadian publications in this century, although the Toronto Public Library began publishing an annual bibliography of Canadian writings in 1923.

In the Amtmann *Short-Title Catalogue of Canadiana* the listing is alphabetically by author, or, in the case of anonymous works, by title. The entries under each

letter are separately numbered. As might be expected, there are more numbers — 3,636 — under the letter 'C', because of the frequency of the word Canadian as a corporate author or title than under any other letter. Under each entry the author's name, the title, the place, the publisher and the year are given. Place of publication is usually indicated by a single letter as 'M' for Montreal and 'T' for Toronto. The reviewer wishes that the compiler had given some indication of pagination, even if incomplete by bibliographic standards; but doubtless this information was not available from his sales records.

The bibliography is also a source of information on book prices over the last two decades. The compiler lists the prices for which a book was sold in separate years; by and large, prices seem to have been doubled over the several years from the mid-1950's to the mid-1960's. If copies of a publication were sold in several different years, the prices for all years are given. In all probability, the number of sales recorded is a rough indication of the availability of the title.

Mr. Amtmann has established himself as "Mr. Canadiana" in the book trade; now he has put us in his debt as a bibliographer with his four-volumed listing of Canadian books and pamphlets, many of which are unrecorded elsewhere. One is reminded of the Toronto bookseller, W. R. Haight, who, before the turn of the present century, issued three thin catalogues which are still consulted by those of us interested in Canadiana; Bernard Amtmann's *Contribution to a Short-Title Catalogue of Canadiana* will continue to be consulted for at least as long a period of time.

Bruce B. Peel

(Mr. Peel, whose reputation as a bibliographer rests securely on his standard *Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces* (Toronto, 1956, and now published in a revised edition), is a prolific writer in the fields of Canadian bibliography, history, and librarianship. He is past president of the Bibliographical Society of Canada, and is Librarian to the University, University of Alberta, Edmonton.)

Canadian Reference Sources: A Selective Guide, edited by Dorothy E. Ryder. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association, 1973, x, 185p. \$10.00
ISBN 0-88802-093-7

Reference Aids in Canadian History in the University of Toronto Library, compiled by Jane Clark. Reference Series No. 14. Toronto: Reference Department, University of Toronto Library, 1972. 75p. \$5.00

How Index-learning turns no student pale,
Yet holds the eel of science by the tail.

Granted that an index volume may be a reference book these lines from *The Dunciad* (1729 ed.I, 233-4) suggest an apposite *leit-motiv* for these two guides to the expanding corpus of bibliographical, historical, and other scholarly activity on the current Canadian scene. The larger of these also meet a much wider and more international need.