A Concise Bibliography of English-Canadian Literature, by Michael Gnarowski. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1973. 125p. \$2.95.

This concise guide provides the student and interested reader with a much-needed compact introduction to the bibliography of English-Canadian literature, condensing into a slim volume both a good representative listing of primary works and a selective checklist of criticism. The bibliographic information is accurate, usually complete, and admirably up-to-date, containing many citations for 1972. Arrangement is quickly ascertained, enabling the user to obtain information without difficulty; authors are listed in one alphabetic sequence with primary works separated by genre and listed chronologically within each subdivision.

As a recent checklist of primary works, this bibliography extends Reginald Watters, *A Check List of Canadian Literature and Background Materials 1628-1960* about twelve years, and provides information on younger writers of the sixties and early seventies, such as b p nichol, John Newlove, Gwendolyn MacEwan, Margaret Atwood and Bill Bissett. For those requiring a selective list of criticism rather than comprehensive coverage, this compendium will eliminate the rather tiresome task of checking through the annual lists in *Canadian Literature* (to 1970), *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* and *Canadian Periodical Index* to 1972.

The criteria for selection of authors included could have been more clearly stated in the preface. The author emphasizes that "the omission of a writer does not suggest in any way an adverse or negative estimate," but does not offer any further explanation. Non-Canadian writers who have spent productive years in Canada, such as Malcolm Lowry, Brian Moore, Joyce Carol Oates, Stanley Cooperman, are excluded, perhaps justifiably, in a guide of this size. More popular authors such as Gilbert Parker and Pauline Johnson are also omitted. Less justifiable, perhaps, is the exclusion of several notable authors especially wellknown for one work: Sheila Watson (*The Double Hook*), Adele Wiseman (*The Sacrifice*), John Marlyn (*Under the Ribs of Death*). Since this reference work is intended for the student, one might also expect to find Julia Catherine Beckwith, author of the first novel by a native Canadian (*St. Ursula's Convent*). Nevertheless, we are provided with a good representation of the more significant Canadian authors from the eighteenth century to the present, extending from Henry Alline to b p nichol (the youngest writer in the list).

Professor Gnarowski has assembled quite a diversified listing of secondary sources, considering the compact format of this work. In addition to articles, books, reviews (except for widely published authors) and some reprints in collections, there are also a few citations to unindexed articles in newspapers and little magazines, and to some French language criticism. To have extended this coverage would have defeated the author's purpose. What we need now is a more exhaustive work on the subject, and hopefully this concise bibliography will provide the necessary stimulus.

Jennifer Forbes

(Ms. Forbes is Reference Librarian in the Humanities Division, University of

British Columbia Library. As Jennifer Gallup, she collaborated with Inglis F. Bell in compiling the now-standard annotated checklist, *A Reference Guide to English, American, and Canadian Literature*, 1971.)

PAST IS PROLOGUE: A COMPENDIUM REVIEW OF SOME RECENT LOCAL HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHIES

New Brunswick History: a Checklist of Secondary Sources. First Supplement. Compiled by Eric L. Swanick. Fredericton: Legislative Library, 1974. vi, 96p. \$3.00.

A Bibliography of Works on the Two Soos and Their Surroundings . . . By Cathy MacPhail. Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.: Sault Area International Library Association, 1972. 1 v. (various pagings) OOP (photocopies available at \$5.00)

Heritage of York; a Bibliographical Study Related to the History of the Township of York, 1793-1840. Ivar Heissler, Project Co-ordinator. Toronto: Borough of York, 1973. 1 v. (various pagings) Free (OOP)

Canadian studies have come into their own in recent years, as we never stop telling ourselves, but in no department of Canadiana has there been more activity than in that of local history. The boom began, perhaps, in Centennial year, 1967; but it has hardly subsided since. In the larger cities and the smallest hamlets, and in every kind of settlement area between, local historians have been poring over municipal documents, dusting off primary sources, and pounding their typewriters. Small-town newspaper presses and national publishers have been pouring out these records of our country's growth at the local level. Even the Canada Council has moved from relative indifference to active recognition of the importance of this field of research, and now offers encouragement (in the words of its 13th *Annual Report*), with "Grants for the production of works designed for the general public in the neglected areas of local and regional history . . ."

This phenomenal publishing activity in local history has required a concomitant growth in the bibliographical organization of local materials. This growth has been slow; but while Canadian bibliographers are far fewer than Canadian historians, their number is increasing. This much is evident from the growing number of bibliographies of Canadian local histories and of local history (there is a difference) now becoming available. The quality varies however, and while one does not wish to be discouraging in a field where there is so much to be done, there are instances where one might wish that the time and funds expended might have been at the disposal of more experienced hands.

Such is not the case with Eric L. Swanick's *First Supplement to New Brunswick History*, the basic volume of which was compiled by Hugh A. Taylor and published in 1971 (see volume X of these *Papers* for a review).