
This fine bibliography, the product of an energetic researcher supported by a Local Initiatives Project (LIP) grant during the winter of 1972/73, is one of several valuable new single-county bibliographies appearing in the last five years. It is one of the more permanent and useful types of LIP (in the summer, OFY) projects, from the standpoint of the much-harrassed librarians in charge of local historical and genealogical collections.

There are eleven subject and/or form subdivisions, with a helpful index. Call numbers and locations are given (e.g. pink shelf, blue shelf, locked cupboard,) which tie this work into the direct accessing of the locally-held collections. As the library moved in the summer of 1974, one hopes the pink and blue shelves were not left behind, and were re-established! A few words are sometimes given by way of a qualitative analysis of the item described. A few entries are rather incomplete; more consultation with other librarians could have filled them in. Two hundred and forty-five entries are listed in all, a respectable number for an Ontario county lacking a large city.

Physically this is an attractive booklet, clearly reproduced and easy to use. It is a valuable model for other similar projects; one would hope the entire province could soon be covered in this way. The libraries of St. Thomas and Elgin County have become widely and favourably known for their enthusiastic and effective support of local history studies. This volume will serve to make their efforts more widely known and, one would hope, emulated.

Edward Phelps

* * *


This work, the first attempt at any extensive bibliographical treatment of Ontario, is evidently the product of several hands over several years, overseen by several learned professors of history. The general editors are Dr. Goldwin S. French and Dr. Peter N. Oliver. In their preface they stress the tentative nature of the work in the following disclaimer:

We are sure that, despite our best efforts, assorted errors have survived our scrutiny. More importantly, we are aware that many works worthy of inclusion probably have been overlooked or omitted. In these circum-
stances we can only stress that this is a working, not a definitive bibliogra-
phy. We intend to publish a revised version within a few years . . .

Should this book be taken as an example of the work to be produced by
the Series, the entire scholarly validity of the said series is placed under a
cloud. There can be no excuse, despite the 'disclaimer', for placing this book
in circulation at the expense of the people of Ontario through the government-
supported Series, in its present state. Many and incredible are the assorted
errors and omissions which have survived what obviously was only a casual
scrutiny of the completed manuscript, unless it be that those responsible are
unfamiliar with the history of Ontario.

The book, be it to its credit, digs deeply into the rich vein of data, uncovering
sources previously overlooked. The original researchers have been industrious,
though the resulting product is uneven, and methods of citation are not uniform.
The work as a whole suffers from the 'too many cooks' effect, and a subsequent
lack of careful editing at the top level. A librarian of long experience in reference
work should have been asked to make a final check. Conscientiously done, this
would have eliminated a great many of the errors and omissions which render
this work incomplete and unreliable. A numbered system with author indexing
and cross-references, if feasible, would have provided access less ponderous than
that through thirty-five separate and inter-related categories of subjects.

The first chapter, on bibliography, exhibits the annoying defects found
throughout: a profusion of avoidable, needless errors. Early or obsolete editions
of major works are cited in preference to recent or current editions: for
example the Joint Catalogue . . . on page 2, which is also two pages out of
sequence. Mr. Bill Morley must be more than slightly embarrassed by a 'ghost'
entry: we are assured that his long-awaited Ontario bibliography was actually
published in 1969 (page 6). On the same page, a single Ontario government
bibliography is twice cited under a different form of corporate entry, and
with a different title. The excellent Public Archives of Canada County Atlases
of Canada, 1970, is regrettably omitted, as is the Ontario Library Review's
bibliography of artists, from its issues in the mid-1940's. On the other hand,
many obscure and local bibliographies are fully listed. Incorrect collations, dates,
and forms of entry, and inexplicable omissions, follow page after page, chapter
after chapter.

Format and binding are good, the volume sturdy, the type-size excellent,
the paragraphing and spacing make for an easily-usable volume. But, let us
hope that the revised version is not far off!

Edward Phelps

(Mr. Phelps is Librarian-in-charge, Regional Collection, The D.B. Weldon Library,
The University of Western Ontario. He is a specialist in Ontario history and
bibliography.)

Aspects of Nineteenth-Century Ontario: Essays Presented to James J. Talman,