
Les auteurs Jean Hamelin et André Beaulieu s’étaient déjà fait la main avec la publication des Journaux du Québec de 1764 à 1964, ouvrage qui a connu un grand succès auprès des chercheurs. Cependant, le titre et le choix de la documentation n’avaient pas permis de repérer tout de qui se rapprochait du thème choisi. Dans le but d’en inventorier le maximum, les auteurs ont décidé d’en agrandir le champ: celui-ci “inclus les journaux et les revues, et exclut les périodiques des associations et institutions, tels les prospectus de collège, les annuaires d’université, les publications sérées qui, pour appartenir à la catégorie des périodiques, n’ont cependant rien de commun avec la presse”. (p.v)

Que comprend cet ouvrage? Une liste des abréviations et des symboles utilisés pour décrire chacun des titres ainsi que des sigles de localisation de collections se trouvant au Québec et en Ontario. Vient ensuite la description analytique des titres qui sont classés par ordre chronologique. C’est la partie essentielle de l’ouvrage. Pour terminer, il y a un index des titres de périodiques pour pallier la difficulté de repérage créée par l’ordre chronologique des analyses. En tout dernier, on retrouve un index onomastique qui se compose de noms aussi prestigieux que Napoléon Ier et Louis XIV, aussi littéraires que Victor Hugo et Alfred de Musset et aussi connus politiquement parlant que John A Macdonald et Louis-Joseph Papineau.

L’avant-propos nous invite à parcourir chaque titre de périodique qui y est analysé. Car, en plus de la description bibliographique qui se targue d’être la plus complète possible, les auteurs de cet ouvrage essaient vraiment de faire connaître chacun des périodiques soit par les gens qui étaient responsables de la publication ou par les idées pronées par les journaux en question. Ces analyses ont été rédigées d’une manière plus ou moins longue selon l’importance des titres mentionnés dans l’ouvrage. Certains d’entre eux sont seulement signalés soit parce qu’ils étaient éphémères ou parce qu’ils étaient introuvables.

Qui peut avoir besoin de cet ouvrage? Le bibliothécaire de référence ou de prêt-entre-bibliothèques, le bibliophile, l’historien ou l’amateur tout simplement. En conclusion, 450 ouvrages sont dépouillés. Cet excellent répertoire est vital dans toute bonne bibliothèque qui se respecte.

Monique Lecavalier-Thériault


Although the short title might suggest a pioneering work in the burgeoning field of Canadian textual bibliography and criticism, this book is, for the most part, a compilation of reports of works in progress. The five papers printed were de-
livered at the University of Toronto's eighth Conference on Editorial Problems; the volume is one of the eleven that have been published on specific topics, as a result of these annual meetings.

The first paper, William H. New's, "Some Comments on Editing Canadian Texts," is "more a series of questions than an organized editorial policy, a suggestion of possibly useful lines of research rather than the considered judgments of research already done". New surveys the textual terrain of Canadian literature citing examples from Kirby, Lowry, and Godfrey, to illustrate problems and questions encountered in editing. He emphasizes the need for further research to produce dependable and available texts of the work of major and minor 18th and 19th century writers.

New's remarks are followed by papers from editors working on specific projects and texts. The most intriguing, Bruce Nesbitt's report on his continuing work on Lampman, assesses the posthumous editions of Lampman's poetry edited first by Duncan Campbell Scott and later by Scott and E.K. Brown. What this analysis reveals is reminiscent of Burns's fate at the hands of his friend, Dr. Currie: good intentions, bad texts. Nesbitt's summary of his search for copy-texts leaves me unsure regarding the relationship between the works published in Lampman's lifetime, and the manuscript material now available. However, his research and recent discovery of lost manuscripts attest to the need of a re-editing and re-appraisal of Lampman's work.

In the late Desmond Pacey's essay on his editon of the letters of Frederick Philip Grove, the search is not so much for copy-texts as for Grove. This 1972 account, of particular interest in light of the book's recent publication, is an instructive case history of the evolution and problems of a project. It also relates the editor's gradual swing to acceptance of Spettigue's theory of Grove's identity.1 The value of Pacey's work and his edition of Grove's correspondence will be felt by students, critics, and bibliographers for years.

Papers by Pierre Savard and Heila Fischman conclude the book. Savard describes the early stages of editing Francois-Xavier Garneau's L'Histoire du Canada, and outlines the plans and proposals for an edition of Garneau's complete works. When brought to fruition, the work will be a landmark in Canadian scholarly editing. Since Sheila Fischman discusses the editing of current French and English literature in translation, her paper is not in the general tenor of this book. Yet it will be of interest to critics and bibliographers as it chronicles the establishment, procedures, and goals of Ellipse, an important and uniquely Canadian journal.

As this book will appeal mainly to specialists, parts of Frances G. Halpenny's introduction seem superfluous. There is also something to be said for immediacy in publishing such a work; with the three year delay one would have hoped for an index.

While Editing Canadian Texts is not an essential book, it is of value because it documents the ongoing work, and points to future work that will be done, by pioneers in this early period of Canadian bibliographical studies.

David B. Kotin

1See Douglas Spettigue, "A Monument to Pacey and to This Elegant Dilettante and Suffering Hero Called Grove", The Globe and Mail, Toronto, 3 Jan., 1976, p. 31, for Spettigue's essay on The Letters of Frederick Philip Grove.

127

Efforts to make bibliography a more effective tool of scholarship, as a part of a broad and continuing study of the history of ideas and their transmission through books, have always had a prominent place. However during the past quarter-century a great deal of serious thought has been given to general principles of bibliographical theory, policy, and method. The acknowledged turning point for this increased emphasis was the appearance in 1949 of Fredson Bowers' Principles of Bibliographical Description and Curt F. Buhler, James G. McManaway, and Lawrence C. Wroth's Standards of Bibliographical Description.

This collection of fourteen essays is meant to update and consolidate much of the work done in descriptive bibliography since the publication of the Bowers volume. It is an anthology conceived as a "selective supplement," a handy compendium of post-Principles theories, techniques, and application intended for (1) practicing bibliographers, (2) graduate students of literature, and (3) collectors, dealers, historians of printing, and librarians who may not now have ready access to the issues of the journals in which these essays originally appeared.

The scope of this collection is broad in both content and objective. The articles are arranged in two groups. First, those of a general nature which touch on all periods of bibliographical study. Second, those with a more specific orientation, arranged chronologically from incunabula to the present century according to the modes of book production to which they apply.

The first section begins with Bowers argument for bibliography as a scholarly discipline. Included are two essays by G. Thomas Tanselle (1) on tolerance and accuracy in bibliographical description and (2) a very technical proposal for the description of paper, plus an overview of music bibliography by Cecil Hopkinson.

The second section begins with two short pieces on incunabula by Curt F. Buhler. These are followed by Allan Stevenson's detective story of the application of beta-radiography to the study of watermarks (a technique pioneered in Leningrad by D. P. Erastov) to date undated books. An analysis of half-sheet imposition by Kenneth Poyer is followed by David Foxon's discussion of printing at one pull and determining imposition by point-holes. Then comes William B. Todd's study of descriptive techniques coupled with book reviews in the eighteenth century, plus Tanselle's survey of techniques for recording press figures. The nineteenth century is represented by Oliver L. Steele's account of imposition sheets in machine-printed books. The concluding essays concern problems of description of printing by duplicate sets of plates (Matthew J. Brucoli) and the redefinition of "issue" by distinguishing the printing history from the publishing history of a book by James B. Meriwether and Joseph Katz.

Never far away from the reading and writing of essays such as these is the debate of old versus new, the traditionalist as opposed to the modernist. The best bibliographer, after all, is "the simple scholar (armed only with spectacles