books, cards, etc. Separate French and English subject indexes are also included. No author or title indexes have been included. At the end there are separate lists for relevant bulletin, newspaper, and periodical titles, and for films. Only the films and the publications issued by the Metric Commission itself can be borrowed.

Given the current importance of this topic to Canadians, and given also the general lack of other bibliographies on the topic, many librarians and others interested in this field will wish to acquire it, particularly as it emphasizes Canadian materials.

Peter F. McNally,

(Peter McNally is an Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Library Science, McGill University, Montreal.)


I am of two, not entirely separate, minds about this book. As a collector, whose heart still thumps when encountering a sleeper, I welcome it. As a bibliographer, I have reservations about it and count it as one of the many recent additions to the vast, uneven literature of book collecting.

Mr. Theberge is a knowledgeable collector, and he has provided a useful 'how to' guide for the curious beginner. His book briefly outlines the development of Canadian printing and publishing, and sketches the recent rise of Canadiana as a popular collecting theme. Descriptions of basic collecting techniques and terminology are interwoven with examples of possible subject areas for the potential collector, and Mr. Theberge includes short anecdotes based on his own experiences. The book concludes with three short appendices: a brief glossary of terms, a highly selective list of books about books, and some advice on the care of books.

Historically, it is not a rich field to which Theberge contributes; to my knowledge this is the first book solely devoted to collecting Canadian books. John Britnell’s Books and Booksellers in Ancient and Modern Time... (Toronto, 1923) and Percy Ghent’s Literary and Historic Fragments... (Toronto, 1927) barely touch the subject. There are articles by W.S. Wallace and Victor Morin in some of the early issues of the Canadian Magazine, as well as the signed and anonymous pieces in ‘The Collector’ section of the Canadian Bookman. More recently there has been Edith Firth’s ‘Books and Broadsides’ in Donald Webster’s The Book of Canadian Antiques (Toronto, 1974), and the one related landmark, Dora Hood’s The Side Door... (Toronto, 1958).

As a first work, Theberge’s effort is sincere and unassuming, but hardly one to establish a tradition. The text and information are accurate, save for referring to headpieces as headbands; but some of the illustrations are poorly reproduced and captioned. There is no index and the bibliography is, in reality, notes (unnumbered) of works cited in the text. Mr. Theberge does not caution the reader regarding some of the dangers of attempting to restore books, nor does he mention the current authorities in the field such as Cunha, Horton and Spawn.

As Lawrence Clark Powell has stated, the shelf of good bookseller’s memoirs is short; so too is that of good books about book collecting. Canadiana on Your Bookshelf;... may not merit a place on this short shelf, but it does deserve to be used as the perpetual missing chapter on Canadiana in the few standard and classic works.

David B. Kotin

(Mr. Kotin is Librarian of the Canadiana collection, North York Public Library, and he teaches a course on antiquarian books and book collecting at Seneca College, Willowdale, Ontario.)


The compiler of this ‘listing’ of the writings of Canadian poets between 1960 and 1973 is, by his own description, ‘a literary critic and historian.’ Somewhat charily, if not limpily, he suggests that the practice he has followed will be frowned on by many bibliographers. Unless there are errors of fact why should he demonstrate such uneasiness? These are, after all, the “field notes” of a “literary critic and historian.” This is a checklist, and the country’s literature needs such reference works providing they are well done.

Part I of the work comprising 61 pages bears the title “Books by Various Hands.” There is good reason to believe that the
Checklist is also the work of several hands. A number of spot-checks reveal that titles published in 1974 and 1975 are also included in the list. Incorrect dates are assigned to titles as well as incomplete publisher information. The Checklist then is misleading, and should be treated with some care. It is reasonable to assume that titles published after 1973 are also included in the statistics used to point out the expansion of poetry publishing during the period 1960-1973.

Part II of the Checklist includes “anthologies and collections by various hands” and occupies three pages.

There can be no doubt that this Checklist will prove of use to librarians, collectors and to other literary historians. It should however be used with caution.

A final word on the format of the book itself. It is handsomely produced by the Golden Dog Press of Ottawa, and is available at a reasonable price.

Douglas Lochhead

(Douglas G. Lochhead is the Davidson Professor of Canadian Studies, Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, and he is himself both a bibliographer and a poet.)


Grace Heggie’s massive bibliography will become a standard reference work for students of Canadian politics and history. She has compiled some 8,850 titles, including books, articles, theses and collections. Brief annotations describe items “wherever there is a need to clarify the content or the nature of the item cited.”

The book is unusually well organized. It is divided into two parts, the titles of which, “The Federal Political Parties of Canada” and “Government and Political Institutions,” illustrate Ms. Heggie’s broad and intelligent definition of politics. Under these broad heads the entries are organized both chronologically and topically. Hence we have such sub-heads as “The Twenties,” “The Diefenbaker-Pearson Years,” “The Constitution” and “Parliament”. Themes that have received unusually intensive treatment by scholars are dealt with separately. Both Louis Riel and Manitoba Schools, for example, are treated as bibliographical units.

More important are the first-rate author and subject indices. For those who teach Canadian history (and not just political history) these indices are veritable gold mines. One example will suffice. The Canada First movement is a perennially popular essay subject amongst undergraduates. Ms. Heggie’s subject index refers the reader to sixteen items, including three theses, eight nineteenth-century articles, three recent articles, and a couple of books. This is not a definitive bibliography of Canada First, because the bibliographer cannot include in her subject index a variety of items that treat the movement or one of its leaders as part of a biography or much larger theme. However, if the student wants to proceed he can check some Canada First leaders in the subject index. I arbitrarily selected Charles Mair, G.T. Denison, Goldwin Smith and W.A. Foster; the subject index led me to an additional thirty-two items. Most Canada Firsters were authors, so the author index was checked for the same four men; the result was another thirty titles. In a very few minutes over seventy-five titles related to Canada First were found. A student can easily take these as a preliminary list and work out an excellent bibliography on which to base an essay.

Ms. Heggie’s bibliography should be a major aid to teachers of college courses in Canadian history. Its subject index will suggest dozens of essay topics to any careful reader. It will also be enormously useful to the researcher who, no matter how well read, will find large numbers of references to hitherto unknown works; an impressive aspect of the work is the inclusion of a great many titles published in the nineteenth century and in the early years of this century.

As with most large works of scholarship, Canadian Political Parties includes some flaws. There are technical errors. In the subject index, for example, Stuart Sinclair Garson becomes two separate individuals, Sinclair Garson and Stuart Garson. The Prime Ministers of Canada by Ondaatje and Catherwood (1967) is included, but an enlarged subsequent edition (1968) with a new co-author is missed. Slips of this sort are minor, and can easily be corrected in a new edition.

More important is the fact that the bibliography does not include articles published after 1969 or other material published after