Both volumes are rich in plans, diagrams, tables, and illustrations, and are replete with indexes. Each contains a good beginning bibliography of the book's subject, of 18 and 19 pages, unannotated, and listing books and articles; that in volume I itself includes bibliographies, and volume II includes publications of both the 19th and 20th centuries.

Review Editor


It is now 12 years ago since the first volume of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography/ Dictionnaire biographique du Canada was published. Since 1966 four more volumes have appeared, while another six volumes are in preparation. In 1972 the DCB published the first volume (X) for the nineteenth century, concurring the decade of 1871 to 1880. Volume IX deals with persons of Canadian interest who died during the Confederation decade of 1861-70. Hopefully, the next volume to be published will be number XI (1880-90). After all, the men and women who died between 1860 and 1890 represent together all the major themes of Canada's checkered nineteenth century.

Volume IX consists of 524 different biographies, written by more than 300 contributors, many of whom are professional historians. The articles range from brief summaries to full-scale biographical essays of up to twelve thousand words. There is perhaps some irony in the fact that the two longest essays deal with the two great antagonists of the second quarter of the nineteenth century: W.L. Mackenzie, the rebel of 1837, and J. Strachan, the godfather of the Family Compact. The biography of each runs fourteen pages.

The fact that the nineteenth century was in a unique way the age of politics and politicians is reflected in a preponderant number of articles dealing with governors, politicians and public men. In addition to the biographies of Mackenzie and Strachan, there are articles on D'Arcy McGee, Allan MacNab, J.B. Robinson, W.H. Merritt, L.H. La Fontaine and J.B.E. Dorion - almost household names to those familiar with Canadian History. At the same time, there is a wealth of information about significant Canadians in other areas: religion, education, commerce, fur trade, exploration, cultural life. Laura Secord, the heroine of the War of 1812, is included as well as Theophile Hamel, the Quebec portrait painter, who was commissioned in 1853 to paint the portraits of all the speakers of the assemblies and legislative councils since 1791.

Refreshingly, there is little evidence of a "centralist" bias in the selection of biographies. The editors have made a successful attempt to include significant Canadians who died between 1861 and 1870 from Newfoundland to British Columbia. As is the case with the four volumes published previously, Volume IX is comprehensive, scholarly and, yet, eminently readable. The biographies have been written according to the directives to the contributors, namely to write an orderly account of both personality and achievements "against the background of the period in which the person lived and the events in which he or she participated."

Those who have a special research interest will benefit from the bibliographical information in the list of primary and secondary sources which follows every article. One minor improvement which could have been made is the addition of a separate index of all the biographies in this book. As it is, they now have to be culled from a lengthy cross-reference index which runs 52 pages in length.

The volumes of the DCB are of absorbing interest to the professional historian and the university student. They should also have a wide appeal to all those who are fascinated by Canada's past. It is perhaps too much to expect that this volume will be read "from cover to cover", as the jacket suggests, but it certainly is a thoroughly enjoyable book "to be dipped into at leisure". As a scholarly reference text on Canada's nineteenth century, it is indispensable.

Anthony J. Looy

(Dr. Looy teaches Canadian history at Queen's University. His Ph.D. thesis dealt with Indian administration in Western Canada in the late nineteenth century.)

This is the sixth volume in the American Literature, English Literature, and World Literature in English Information Guide Series, which is itself part of the Gale Information Guide Library. It is to be followed by two other volumes, one on Canadian Prose and one on Canadian Poetry, both of which are now in preparation by Peter Stevens. Clearly the three Moyles and Stevens volumes are intended to supplement and, to some extent, supersede existing bibliographies in the area of Canadian literature, an aim that they share with the forthcoming Annotated Bibliography of Canadian Literature, the first two volumes of which (again, one on fiction and one on poetry) are optimistically scheduled to be published by Peter Martin Associates in the Spring of 1979. For the first time, it would appear, Canadian bibliography (not to mention the publishers willing to print bibliographies of Canadian literature) are suffering from what looks like an embarrassment of riches.

In English-Canadian Literature to 1900, Professor Moyles has, in his own words, "attempted to provide a list of all the important primary and secondary sources for a thorough study of this literature." At the core of the compilation are its two central chapters covering twelve 'major' poets (including Campbell and Crawford — choices that will seem idiosyncratic to some) and prose writers (Seton is here, as are Richardson and Duncan) and thirty-six 'minor' ones, including such less well-known writers as R.M. Ballantyne, Lily A. Dougall, and one May Agnes Fleming whose novels, in Moyles' words, are "shallow, unrealistic treatments of English high society into which, out of token respect for her native land, she introduced a few Canadian characters." (In view of this, and the fact that a brief reference on page 111 of The Literary History of Canada "is the only critical notice which could be found" to Mrs. Fleming, one is inclined to wonder why she is included at all.) For each author, whether 'major' or 'minor', there is a brief introductory note outlining his/her life and critical reputation, followed by a bibliography, annotated where the compiler has thought appropriate, of primary and secondary sources. One strength of the introductory notes is that, in several instances, they assert that an author has been unjustly neglected and, hence, indicate fruitful avenues of study and research. One weakness of the lists of primary and secondary sources is that they are already (and, because time, tide, and bibliography await no man, necessarily) out of date; thus — to give just two examples — The Charivari (Montreal, 1824) is still attributed to Levi Adams, and the list of items by and on Archibald Lampman tapers off in about 1973 ("about" because no definite cut-off date is given by Professor Moyles), omitting the numerous editions, reprints, articles, and books to which recent interest in Lampman has given rise. Time, as it always must, has thwarted the bibliographer's attempt to provide "all the important... sources."

On either side of the volume's two central chapters are useful chapters, again annotated where appropriate, listing "General Reference Guides," "Literary Histories and Criticism," "Anthologies," the "Literature of Exploration, Travel, and Description," and some "Selected Nineteenth-Century Journals," together with valuable Author and Title indices. It is towards Professor Moyles' brief but frequently animated and vivifying annotations to works of Exploration, Travel, and Description that the devotee of nineteenth-century writing in Canada will find him or herself most readily gravitating. Dull would be he of soul who could pass by the following tantalizing description of Samuel Phillips Day's English America; or, Pictures of Canadian Places and People (1864) without wishing to flesh it out with the original:

Descriptions of Upper and Lower Canada with such telling titles as "Kakouna, the Brighton of Canada," and comments on the social conditions, the inter-colonial railway and on such unusual subjects as "Sensational Puffing" (newspaper advertising), combine to make this book a delightful one.

At $18.00 English Canadian Literature to 1900 is by no means inexpensive. Yet annotations such as the above which, like much else in the volume, serve as sign posts to further reading and research make 'Moyles' an interesting and useful book, particularly for those to whom B.C. means, not only Before Christ and British Columbia, but also Before Confederation — and that is not "Sensational Puffing."

D.M.R. Bentley

(Those who receive this have not seen the book)

Dr. D.M.R. Bentley teaches Canadian Literature at the University of Western Ontario. He has published on the "Confederation poets," has completed an "Index to the
Literary Materials in the Week," and is co-editor, with Michael Gnarowski, of "Canadian Poetry: Studies, Documents, Reviews."


The literature of the health sciences is expanding so rapidly that librarians in this field face a great variety of changes, modifications, and innovations in their daily tasks and long-range planning. This book brings together in one handy volume a bibliography of publications relating to all aspects of health science librarianship.

It is organized into sixteen major sections which deal with general health sciences librarianship, collection use and processing, rare books, microforms, audio-visuals, learning resources, computers, architecture, manpower and training, networks, union lists, bibliographies and catalogs, directories, and a library publishing program. Emphasis is on the most recent publications in the United States and Canada.

Within each section, each book or pamphlet is described in correct bibliographical form, followed by critical annotation. Prices and location of publications are not given. Journal articles are not included.

The book has three index approaches to the material — by author, title and subject. Inevitably there are a few errors and omissions — for example, Canadian Standards for Hospital Libraries, 1975. Nevertheless, Health Sciences Librarianship is thoroughly researched and will prove to be an invaluable aid to the busy health sciences librarian. Typography and format of the book are pleasing; it is hoped that it will be updated on a regular basis.

Mae Morley

(Ms. Morley is Medical Librarian of the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital, Kingston, Ontario.)

History and Philosophy of Science: A Student's Guide to Reference Sources.


This is a select list of the reference material available for the History of Science in the various libraries of McGill University. Some material for the History of Technology is also listed, but there are (perhaps necessarily) few entries for the Philosophy of Science. There are six sections: Histories, Encyclopedias and Dictionaries, Bibliographies, Periodicals, Biographies, and Book Reviews. Each entry includes a brief note giving useful information on the contents.

Most of the classic reference works that have appeared in English, French and German are included, for instance the multi-volume surveys by Daumas, Sarton, Taton and others. The list of bibliographies is fairly comprehensive and includes the very useful Isis Cumulative Bibliography. However, the Royal Society Catalogue of Scientific Papers, an indispensable guide to primary material, is not mentioned. The list of periodicals is very restricted and refers the reader to the bibliographies for more detail. The bibliographies include the new Dictionary of Scientific Biography.

Although a useful guide to the reference material available, a list such as this has its limitations. The standard histories mentioned here are still important, but any student wishing to get seriously involved with the subject would need to be aware of the ever increasing amount of specialized research now being published. The current bibliographies would help, but would be no substitute for the guidance of someone experienced in the field.

Peter J. Bowler.

(Professor Bowler who teaches the History of Science in the Department of History at the University of Winnipeg, has published a book and several articles on the history of evolutionary theory.)


Cette bibliographie réalisée par deux professeurs en sciences politiques de l'Université d'Ottawa et publiée par la Bibliothèque nationale du Québec vise à établir un inventaire des études (livres, articles de revues,