lengthy excerpts from the author’s introduction or table of contents, to short notes on organization. Occasionally, there are judgments on the work’s usefulness or applicability.

The Canadian Newsletter of Research on Women contains a wealth of information on publications: books, essays, government documents, and periodical literature. Reports on ongoing research, theses, status of women reports, and book reviews are informative. However, its poor organization detracts from the newsletter’s usefulness. It is much more than a newsletter, both in content and in length. The confusion over what to do with all that information is evident throughout this issue. There is no clear statement of objectives, and this is reflected in the editorial preoccupation with details. Many of the letters to the editor would be more appropriately included in the section about ongoing research. The discussion forum is unnecessarily long, and could be replaced with a bibliographic essay. The bulk of the bibliographic information is itself poorly organized, and many entries are from the same source. The indexing should have been included in this issue. As well, the attempt to be interdisciplinary need not exclude selectivity.

The special issue of the newsletter, *Women, A Bibliography of Special Periodical Issues*, is, in contrast with the regular issue, well organized. Again, the selection criteria are clearly explained. Most selections are of academic quality, as stated. However, in this respect there is a bias toward periodicals in the education field, reflecting either the author’s or the publisher’s subject interest.

All three publications reflect their common, Toronto, central Ontario source. The authors have included that which is available in Toronto. This, granted, is a great deal; however, there appears to have been little thorough searching to see what is available in the rest of the country. For example, the research being carried on by the Saskatchewan Department of Labour, Women’s Division, has not come to the attention of the authors. In the light of this lack of searching in Canada, the international content appears pretentious. The newsletter in particular seems to be trying to fill its pages with everything in sight. It begs research and editing.

Despite these shortcomings, all three publications are valuable resources. The bibliography of bibliographies and the bibliography of special periodical issues are more useful, because the purpose of each is clearly defined and followed through. The newsletter has great potential for a continually useful periodical, which should be included on the subscription list of everyone researching women’s studies, academic or not.

Nancy C. Leitch

(Ms Leitch, who lives in Regina, Saskatchewan, has long been interested in women’s rights, and in the bibliography of works relating to Canadian women.)

The State of Canadian Bibliography


One of the themes of Unesco’s International Book Year was “developing national library and documentation services as well as bibliographical tools, particularly current national and regional bibliographies.” Taking their cue from this stated aim, Anne B. Piternick of the School of Librarianship, University of British Columbia, and others at UBC, obtained funding from the Secretary of State for a conference on the state of Canadian bibliography. The long awaited proceedings of this conference, held in Vancouver from May 22-24, 1974, were published by the National Library of Canada in 1977. The ultimate value of this conference will depend on the results which it inspires; publication of the *Proceedings* should help make it known to a wider audience. In this review it is possible only to describe the work of the conference in brief, and to stress its importance to anyone involved in Canadian studies.

“Canadian bibliography” was interpreted as the bibliography of source materials for Canadian studies. The conference began with three papers on general bibliography, retrospective and current. (While current publications in Canada are relatively well covered, the gaps in our past, particularly the period 1867-1900, remain as great as ever nearly four years later.) These general surveys were followed by formal position papers and informal discussion of the bibliography of six
regions and a wide range of subjects and forms. Inevitably when read together these papers seem uneven, though this is in part a reflection of the unevenness of past research. For some speakers their own work represented the major bibliographical record in the field, and they spoke eloquently of the hazards and difficulties involved. Some papers on specialized subjects included a brief history of the discipline in Canada. The bibliographies appended to individual papers also provide a useful checklist of work already done. Many speakers in the subject areas stressed the importance of suitting terminology and emphasis to the Canadian experience. In addition to the text of the formal papers, these Proceedings also include brief summaries of the subsequent discussion. As delegates as well as speakers were selected for their expertise, these discussions frequently brought to light work in progress not known to the speaker.

The conference concluded with papers on standards and criteria. In an important and wide-ranging paper entitled "The Bibliographical Temper," Dean Frances Halpenny demonstrated the need for sound bibliographical research as the foundation for all aspects of Canadian studies. At its final meeting the Conference adopted one major resolution, for the establishment of a national advisory council on bibliography, and sixty-two other recommendations. In 1975 the National Library acted on the resolution by establishing the Committee on Bibliographical Services for Canada. To the inspiration and hard work of the conference organizers we owe this evaluation of the state of Canadian bibliography; the results remain with all of us. May some future conference be able to write "accomplished" beside many of the recommendations.

Elizabeth Hulse

_Good News_ Miss Hulse, on the staff of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, is Editor elect of the BSC Papers


Cet ouvrage reprend le texte des communications présentées lors de la conférence tenue à Vancouver au printemps de 1974. Ceux-ci sont clairement regroupés sous les titres "bibliographies nationales", "bibliographies régionales", "bibliographies de forme", "normes et critères". Précédés d'une préface et d'une introduction, les textes sont suivis d'une liste des résolutions adoptées et des recommandations, du registre des présences et d'un index des bibliographies canadiennes figurant dans le texte.

La section "bibliographies nationales" examine les bibliographies rétrospectives et courantes entreprises par la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada et la Bibliothèque nationale du Québec. Le désir des chercheurs du Québec de compiler une bibliographie nationale est assez évident et cette province semble être la plus engagée et la plus préparée à cette entreprise. D'autre part, les bibliographies régionales semblent préoccuper les chercheurs de toutes les provinces du Canada. Pour cette deuxième section, les textes sont écrits par les bibliographes les plus reconnus dans le domaine.

Les bibliographies idéologiques couvrent presque toutes les principales disciplines enseignées dans les universités. Malheureusement, deux sujets très importants n'ont été mentionnés que brièvement (sans communication): la linguistique et les sciences économiques. Il est surprenant que ces domaines n'aient pas encore attiré les bibliographes canadiens. En ce qui concerne l'économie, par exemple, les bibliothèques de compagnies les plus importantes pourraient constituer une source de base pour un travail bibliographique dans ce domaine. Il convient également de signaler que la médecine a été presque complètement ignorée. Elle devrait constituer une section spéciale, voire séparée des sciences.

Une seule communication fut présentée dans la section "bibliographies de forme" et elle portait sur la littérature de jeunesse en anglais. Malheureusement aucune mention ne fut faite de la littérature de jeunesse française; le Québec devrait très rapidement combler cette lacune. Cette section traite également des bibliographies de cartes géographiques, de périodiques et de journaux. En terminant, les "normes et critères", la partie la plus technique, complètent les autres sections plutôt descriptives.

Il est difficile de commenter à fond un tel ouvrage sans en examiner minutieusement chacun des textes. Règle générale, toutefois,