les catalogues de vente aux enchères publiés au Québec et se décide à donner un pendant québécois ou canadien à l'oeuvre de George L. McKay, _American Book Auction Catalogues, 1713-1934_.

L'ouvrage de Vlach et Buono en est un d'une valeur sûre à plusieurs points de vue et, comme première publication du service de la Bibliographie rétrospective de la Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, il nous fait espérer que la suite ne se fasse point trop attendre, conserve, et si possible améliore même les hauts standards de réalisation auxquels il nous aura habitués. L'investissement d'efforts continus que l'on sou- cconne de la part des deux secteurs de la Bibliographie rétrospective depuis déjà dix ans, ainsi que l'apport important des techniques d'informatique, laisse présager la publica- tion future d'outils fort valables.

DANIEL OLIVIER

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Toponomy, or the study of place-names, is an absorbing pursuit, not the least of its fascinations being the history securely embedded in so many place-names: a descriptive Indian term, a nostalgic Old World name harking back to a settler's birth place, or commemoratively the name of the first settler or a contemporary event. A glance at this attractive volume will indicate the richness and diversity of our toponymic roots. In fact, it is for the pleasure of dipping into this sort of thing that the work has its chief attraction, and not as the 'outstanding work of reference' the jacket claims for it.

Dr. Hamilton has used the measures of size, history, and human interest to guide his selection, but the result is 2,500 entries for names of places and physical features, of the more than 300,000 he admits there are in Canada. Armstrong's _The Origin and Meaning of Place Names in Canada_ (1930) is mentioned in the Preface as being inadequate; yet it contained about 1,500 names, and predominantly in the one province of Ontario, while Dr. Hamilton's work spans the entire country. Moreover, while the latter's entries are a model of conciseness, Armstrong delved into the history of his places.

One further comparative figure: volume 11 of the _Encyclopedia of Ontario, Places in Ontario_, compiled and published [part 1, A-E, so far] by Mika Publishing Company, Belleville, Ontario, will contain capsule histories of no fewer than 5,000 places [physical features not included] in Ontario alone. _That_ is a work of reference; _this_ is more of a bedside entertainment. No doubt there's a place for both [though another $5.00 would buy the Mika book], and two parts of the Hamilton book do have more than amusement value: the first chapter is a very good brief introduction to the subject, and the 8-page Bibliography is a fair and useful representation of the literature of toponomy relating to Canada.

REVIEW EDITOR


Abbreviated periodical citations have proliferated despite organized efforts to abandon
their use or to standardize them. Librarians and researchers working with abbreviated
titles will be grateful for the second edition of this standard translation tool. The first
edition, compiled by C. Edward Wall, was published in 1969. It was limited by its heavy
concentration of periodicals from language, literature, and linguistic sources. The sec-
ond edition, compiled by Leland G. Alkire, Jr., has been expanded to include nearly
20,000 abbreviations, representing twelve languages. These have been culled from
sixty-seven indexing and abstracting tools which include major social science and
scientific sources as well as those representing the humanities. Full titles are given for
each abbreviation. The strict letter by letter filing order of the second edition is a great
improvement over the complicated filing arrangement of the first edition. Canadian
periodicals are well represented, the Canadian Periodical Index was one of the sources
used, and a quick count of titles with the word Canada or Canadian produced one
hundred sixty-seven titles.

This is a practical, easy-to-use translation tool which would be extremely useful for
reference, periodicals, and inter-library loan personnel.

BARBARA VITOLS

(Ms. Vitols is Librarian in Charge, Serials Services, at the D.B. Weldon Library, Univer-
sity of Western Ontario.)

Reader, Lover of Books, Lover of Heaven: A Catalogue Based on an Exhibition
of the Book Arts in Ontario. Compiled by David B. Kotin. Checklist of
Ontario private presses by Marilyn Rueter. Introduction by Douglas Loch-
head. Willowdale: North York Public Library, 1978. (Canadiana Collection

This catalogue is the first book ever devoted to Canadian fine printing and would be
significant for that reason alone. Although Kotin prepared the exhibition at North York
Public Library, the importance of the book lies in Rueter's checklist.

Twenty-eight Ontario presses are included, and the checklist 'endeavors to list
chronologically every book or pamphlet issued from each press to the end of 1977' [p.
15]. This means ephemera and broadsides — often the most revealing work of a private
press — are excluded. Although an understandable omission in the preliminary list, one
hopes Rueter will include such items in her larger work on Canadian private printing (of
which this is an offshoot), since she seems to be ideally placed to obtain such elusive
information.

Rueter is apparently aware of all Ontario small press activity. If a press has been
excluded, that is because it does not meet her clearly stated criteria for defining a
private press. In her criteria, however, we see the private press mystique at work, as we
do in the book's fey title [from Blake's Jerusalem], in Lochhead's reference to William
Morris, and William Rueter's to the individual printer growing 'culturally, intellectu-
ally, ... with one's press ...' [p. 16].

There is much fine printing done by small, or partially commercial, presses which
inevitably gets excluded from such catalogues because the private press mystique relies
on body counts for criteria: one or two individuals raptly contemplating their Albion,
far from the material world's hurly-burly.

The reason private press bibliographies are important is the unspoken assumption by
author and reader that private printing usually equals fine printing. My reservation is