contains some 11,000 entries — nearly double the number which appeared in his earlier work. It includes primary and secondary materials, in both official languages, from the common law jurisdictions and Quebec civil law. Under each subject heading, there are separate listings of monographs and journal articles.

It is, perhaps, in the subject approach that the Boult bibliography displays its greatest weakness. Many areas of law are grouped under general headings with no further subdivision; for example, under the topic ‘Criminal and Penal Law’, the researcher is faced with 63 pages of material, arranged by author, through which he must sift in order to locate relevant references. This arrangement would pose no major difficulty if the quality of the subject index were higher. Unfortunately, the coverage there is often sporadic. There are, for example, references made to articles dealing with ‘sentencing’ and ‘writs of assistance’, but no mention is made of topics such as ‘insanity’ or ‘intoxication’. (Admittedly, the subject index is proffered as simply a guide, and one is directed to consult the analytical table of contents; but even this additional step does not aid greatly in approaching the bibliography by subject.)

The author index is generally quite good except for the fact that, in several instances, variant forms of name are used. An author with whose work I am familiar is listed twice: once as Cooper, K.D. and once as Cooper, Ken. The fact that Professor Cooper has recently been publishing under the surname Cooper-Stephenson will only add to the researcher’s confusion.

Despite these criticisms, Mr. Boult’s work remains an invaluable tool. It should be included in any collection that contains Canadian legal materials.

W. KENNETH WHITNEY
(Mr. Whiteway is both a lawyer and a librarian. Formerly a cataloguer at the National Library of Canada, he is presently Reader Services Librarian, Law Library, University of Saskatchewan.)


This unwieldy and incomprehensible volume is a bibliographical junkyard. It, together with the NCC’s volume The Wrights, also reviewed in this issue of the Papers, are the finest evidence this observer has yet seen favouring stringent government spending controls over such quasi-governmental bodies as the NCC or over anyone else who pours the public monies into such misguided, wasteful publications.

This volume attempts to be all things to all persons and bears the additional burden of a slavish adherence to bilingualism or, when the occasion calls, unilingualism, out of obvious political necessity. It runs needless and ineffective competition with the Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories and with any number of concise, annotated bibliographies and library and archival finding aids of whatever description (which exist in great numbers in the NCC area), as well as with certain aspects of the National Union Catalogue.
The book is clearly a manuscript working bibliography. It should have stayed in the NCC office in that form or have been produced in microfiche in the cover-pocket of a clear, concise, annotated bibliography and list of sources. It will be partially replaced or superseded or supplemented by the ongoing series of regional archival resource guides now being compiled under Toronto Area Archivists Group auspices, of which the Peterborough area volume is the first to appear. This massive tome of 310 leaves, rather than pages, wastes 50 percent of the paper by being printed only on one side of the sheets. Half or more is useless repetition of portions of existing bibliographies, or lists government publications and various other volumes so general in nature that they belong in a comprehensive bibliography of Canada or Ontario or of some special subject.

Clearly no professional librarian or archivist worthy of the name was consulted in the preparation or title selection of this volume. The introductory material suffers from a slipshod compilation which is a fair sample of what follows. The English introduction is a stilted and inadequate translation of the much more literate French introduction, quite evidently the language of the original compilation (p. i-iv). The list of place-names and former place-names is next to useless — it should either be the subject of a geographical glossary, identifying locations and linking them with current and former place names, or else be omitted. It would have formed part of a useful index, which this book does not contain, much to its permanent disadvantage. The list of municipalities on p. vii is laughable in its uselessness, for it gives neither municipal status (e.g., city, township, etc.) nor location. Here a map would have helped; a simple reproduction of the area from detailed provincial maps would have sufficed. The ‘subject index’ (p. viii) confuses subject, i.e., description, with form, e.g., annual reports. Given the vast bibliographical literature and expertise available to the NCC and its employees in Ottawa, the technique of bibliography employed here is over-simplified, confusing, and ultimately insulting in its disregard of the methodology of librarianship and archival science.

Examining the so-called ‘revised edition’ which this volume claims to be, it staggers the imagination to consider the condition and usefulness of the original edition! The NCC has not deemed it necessary to place the ISBN number, the name of the publisher (presumably themselves), nor the price on this lamentable book, so this review is unable to include this data. Any future publications of the NCC for distribution should come under the publishing auspices of the Canadian Government Publishing Centre and the editorial supervision of the National Library of Canada.

EDWARD PHELPS

(Mr. Phelps is Regional Collection Librarian at the University of Western Ontario.)


The 1976 Canadian Book Review Annual has enlarged its roster of reviewers and lightened its typeface, but otherwise remains unchanged from the inaugural and well-received 1975 volume. A few subject categories have been added, particularly under the heading ‘Science and Technology’, but the general format established at the outset by competent and experienced editors has required no second-thought revision.