That this is an essential reference tool goes without saying. What is perhaps less obvious, at least until a volume is actually open in one’s hands, is that it is addictive to the browser, a thing sufficiently unusual in reference tools to be worthy of special remark. There are, of course, ups and downs; no absolutely uniform standard of excellence could be expected from nearly 200 reviewers. But the quality of commentary is commendably high. For the most part, these are serious, responsible, lively reviews, drawn from people who are informed in the subjects of the books they undertake to discuss and who thus are able to evaluate with some authority. There is very little mechanical ‘book notice’ reviewing evident here.

The mechanical nature of modern book production, however, gives rise to one small objection. The sub-heading ‘8. Children’s Literature’ appears at the foot of a column on p. 240, something which, for both aesthetic and practical reasons, ought to have been avoided. Otherwise, the level of technical excellence is high, and the general ‘readability’ of the volume is heartily to be praised. May the CBRA live forever!

LINDA DOWLER

(Ms. Dowler is a former Collections Librarian for English at the D.B. Weldon Library, University of Western Ontario.)

Canadian Illustrated News (Montreal): Index to Illustrations. Vol. 1-3, 1869-1871 [January-June]. Compiled by Andrea Retfalvi. [Toronto]: Department of Fine Art, University of Toronto, 1977. paper, $5 per issue (price subject to change)

A weekly newsmagazine (1869-1883), the News covered current and social events in Canada and abroad. G.E. Desbarats, its founder, and William Leggo, its engraver, pioneered the consistent and lavish use of photographs. Its half-tone photographs were a first. Numerous engravings and photographs of Canadian scenes, as well as the Canadian Portrait Gallery, entertained the reader during an eventful period of Canadian history.

Published on the occasion of the Sesquicentennial of the University of Toronto and the fortieth anniversary of its Department of Fine Art, the index is expected to be complete in twenty-four volumes. It is arranged in three main sections:

First there is an ‘Index to Engravings as Given in the Original Publication’, a subject index in contemporary style.

Section II is a chronological, numbered listing of illustrations with caption; dimension in mm; name or initial of the artist or photographer; indication of ‘Leggotype’; and issue number, date, and pagination.

The last section, ‘Topical Indexes to Section II,’ refers to illustrations by numbers. Categories are alphabetically arranged. Artists, photographers, printed sources as given in the publication, and ‘Leggotype’ are some categories. The form heading ‘Portraits’ includes the Canadian Portrait Gallery; this Gallery can also be found in Section I, which lists the portraits by their own numbering, followed by the name of the person depicted. Finally, there are broad subject categories: current events including typical scenes, Canada; the same, international; fashions; fiction and incidental; social commentary, including cartoons; topography including monuments, Canada; the same,
The entire range of numbers must be scanned in a category to find the individual item, unless it is found sooner through the original index in Section I.

This Index greatly facilitates the access to illustrations in the News, even though the broad subject categories make it somewhat cumbersome to use at times.

EVE ALBRICH
(Ms. Albrich, Music / Art Librarian at Queen's University in Kingston, was formerly Music / Rare Books cataloguer at the same institution.)


This is a landmark bibliography in the field of Canadian philately in its wide ramifications: it will be a valued reference tool whether a person is researching some miniscule variety in the 'Admiral' issue of 1912-1925 or the 'Three Cent Small Queen', both of them a nit-picker's paradise, or some related matter such as transportation history or printing history, both of which have numerous entries.

The author has, in 281 carefully composed and very legible pages, recorded 3,481 references to the subject. He admits to the existence of a very large body of newspaper materials which simply could not be included due to lack of space and the limitations of one's own lifetime of bibliographical endeavour, which is understandable. He confesses to the exclusion of government publications as a class; this, however, is a regrettable decision on his part, for the main series, most useful for research, such as Postmaster Generals' Reports, Postal Guides, and Distribution Lists, would not have taken much more work to compile. They would have been a great boon to reference librarians, who have some knowledge of government publications, and would have popularized these vast, largely uncharted areas of research for postal historians and stamp collectors, who, in this reviewer's experience, are unwittingly deprived of a lot of minutiae and hundreds of hours of enjoyable research by not being aware of government publications as a source.

Not everything could be included which should have been, even in the categories declared to be relevant. This reviewer is, of course, disappointed that his own monograph on Lambton County postmarks was omitted. It ought to have appeared at the bottom of page 214, following item 3019. The explanation for this may lie in the very simple root cause of much Canadian discontent: the failure of the Canadian postal system to deliver on its promises. (The reviewer attempted to mail the book to the National Postal Museum on two separate occasions and found out that neither copy had ever been received.) As the volume was certainly submitted for Canadiana, perhaps M. Morin did not search that enormous work as thoroughly as he should have! But then he has only one life to live.

The immensely detailed classification scheme, utilizing almost three hundred headings, will take the stamp specialist some getting used to, especially the non-book- or reference-oriented collector or dealer. The use of cross-reference numbers helps somewhat. So many of the standard handbooks deal with the field comprehensively that the