international. 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 minuscule 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 minutae 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 _Canadiiana_, 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
section 'A2' would have been useful as a slightly expanded 'mini-list' with some annotations, placed at the start of the book, in order that the reference librarian, whose acquaintance with the subject is perhaps that of a non-specialist, would not be overwhelmed by the sheer mass of information in this volume and be unable to scan and study the field. At the risk of being too demanding, this reviewer feels that a brief, annotated, qualitative bibliography, limited to perhaps fifty major works, would have been a major addition to this vast, well-arranged, but qualitatively undigested gold mine of detailed information.

For a reference book the binding, while visually attractive, is not substantial. A cloth-bound edition for libraries would have been helpful.

There may be some disagreement on what constitutes 'bibliography' or what determines the eligibility of a class of materials to be listed. M. Morin has not specifically excluded dealers' catalogues in his introduction, and while he has included selected auction catalogues, showing generally good judgment in his choice, he has omitted serial runs of dealers' catalogues such as the Richard M. Lamb lists, which have considerable merit as works of reference both philatelically and historically, given the nature of some of the documentary items listed and sold as stampless covers. Here, a selection would be essential. The J.N. Sissons company is the only auction house or dealer to hold the honour of having its set of catalogues listed as a series (item 82); this is not to be interpreted as intentional favouritism on behalf of a single firm, albeit perhaps the best known; but others are entitled to a listing for bibliographical reasons, quite exclusive of business.

EDWARD PHELPS and MARVIN POST
(Mr. Phelps is Regional Collection Librarian, University of Western Ontario, and Mr. Post is the proprietor of Attic Books, London, Ontario. Both are keen philatelists.)


These ambitious series are quite in keeping with the generous imagination which lies behind so many Gale Research publications. Volumes 85-88 (a single physical volume) contain articles (A-Z) on over 57,000 authors of non-technical works, mostly living but also some who have died since 1960. Included are writers in all genres, but not authors who are published by vanity presses. 'Native language and nationality have no bearing on inclusion' says the introduction, as long as the authors' works 'have been published in the United States or translated into English.' I have the impression that importance in the U.S. is a persuasive factor in selection though; a random sample showed these nativities: U.S. 24, U.K. 16, Europe 11, Other 5 (Canada 2, Australia 1, South Africa 1, Barbados 1). I checked eight well-known Canadian writers pulled out of the air and found not one present (the two found in my sampling were Randolph W. Johnston, a Toronto writer of country craft books, and Harry M. Orlinsky, a biblical and Torah