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 clothbound 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
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scholar born in Owen Sound); but my gloom was dispelled when I checked the comprehensive index to all 88 volumes which appears at the end and found every name of my sample eight was listed.

Entries vary greatly in length (which shows some discrimination) and in their content, but most contain at least sections for: Personal (vital statistics, education, addresses), Career, Writings, Sidelights (description and critique of the writings), and Biographical / Critical Sources. The longer entries might include Work in Progress, Memberships, and Avocational Interests, while the shortest entries include only Obituaries (1960-79) but also cite fuller entries elsewhere in Contemporary Authors.

The latter volumes are added to regularly, and they are revised every five years. The two volumes in the Permanent Series however are intended to be definitive: the approximately 4,000 bio-bibliographical sketches in these volumes are from Contemporary Authors volumes 9 to 36, but each is revised, and only deceased or retired and dormant authors are included. My sampling this time revealed 19 authors born in the U.S., 14 in the U.K., 1 in Canada, and 13 elsewhere.

Since the regular Contemporary Authors volumes are under constant revision anyway, it is not surprising that Gale Research announces this volume 2 is to be the last in the Permanent Series.

REVIEW EDITOR


This is the third major bibliographical work produced in the last five years by this emeritus professor of English history and literature at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1975 he published the Check-list of Works of British Authors Printed Abroad, in Languages Other Than English, to 1641 and in 1976 Sixteenth-Century Imprints in the Libraries of the University of Pennsylvania. The present work is a continuation of the latter volume.

Characterized in the Preface as 'simply a finding list', it records seven thousand or so books and broadsides in several University of Pennsylvania libraries. Subject coverage of the collections is broad (law, science, drama, poetry, theology) and in several instances very deep (drama and chemistry).

The brief entries, arranged in alphabetical order, consist of a short title, a compressed imprint, the date, a statement of format (e.g., fol., 4o, 8o), a number referring to the relevant editions of Pollard and Redgrave or Wing, a reference to other bibliographies at times, a collation sometimes (frequently ambiguous or unclear), locations at the University of Pennsylvania if the book is not housed in its Rare Book Collection, and infrequently a terse note.

Although the work is intended to, and will assist in, locating copies of books, it can also serve other important functions as well. For example, it is a documentary source for the study of the transmission of knowledge between the Old and New World and for the history of the University of Pennsylvania, its libraries, and benefactors.

In short this is a genuinely useful work, a communicating of information – it can be