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., 4°, 8°), 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
done by non-librarians and without computer networks or consortia — and an example that other holders of important printed research materials, Canadian and otherwise, might well emulate.

PHILIP M. TEIGEN

(Dr. Teigen is Osler Librarian, and Lecturer in the History of Medicine, at McGill University, and is completing an edition of Thomas Sydenham’s seventeenth-century Medical Observations.)


This is without doubt one of the most useful and interesting reference books on the Canadian North ever published. It has the same breathtaking sweep through history, from the Viking expeditions forward, as has Barrow’s great Chronological History of Voyages into the Arctic Regions (to 1818) and his subsequent Voyages of Discovery and Research within the Arctic Regions (to 1846); and this present work has a similar lucidity of style, but added to it is the improved accuracy of twentieth-century research.

One is impressed beyond measure by the wealth of material between the covers of this one volume, and it is not surprising that its compilation occupied ten years of the lives of its authors, both of whom have been associated with the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge. In fact, one wonders how so much could have been accomplished in a single decade! The work is a compendium of summaries of arctic expedition narratives and a comprehensive guide to explorations; a chronology of events; a roster of explorers’ names; a bibliography of their accounts; an index to persons, ships, placenames, and events involved in the long history of arctic exploration; and an atlas of detailed maps. There is even a large, coloured, folded map of Canada in an end pocket, so that one can trace any or all expeditions for their entire course in the North.

The work was first published in preliminary form in eleven issues of the Scott Institute’s journal Polar Record, and its compilation was financially supported by the National Museum of Man, Ottawa. The authors inform us that the study is modelled on a similar work by Brian Roberts, Chronological List of Antarctic Expeditions (1958), which also appeared in the Polar Record. The background and plan of the work is clearly and concisely described in the Introduction. The main body of the volume (p. 11-348) consists of the Chronology, from St. Brendan [ca. 500 A.D.] and Eric the Red [982] to several voyages in 1920, the cutoff date because aircraft then brought multitudes of visits to the North. Each entry provides the places of departure and return, the key persons and vessels involved in the voyage, and a compendious account of its objects and accomplishments, and concludes with a bibliographical source or two. Following this main section is the record of personal names, A-Z [including many Canadians], each entry showing forenames, rank, name of vessel, and dates of the voyage, and sometimes other biographical details; the bibliography of books and articles on the North [many by Canadians]; and the index, atlas, and folded map all mentioned above.

The work is attractively planned, in a legible typeface, and arranged for convenient use; it is sturdily bound in a pebble maroon plastic with padded covers gold-stamped.

As a long-time collector and devotee of Canadian arctic narratives, I am sure that anyone interested in arctic voyages will seize this volume with eager hands, just for the