Anomalous is the classing of the primarily literary bibliographies *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies* (178) and Hatzfeld, *A Critical Bibliography of the New Stylistics* (174) in the 'Special Categories — Linguistics' subsection.

The question of precisely which specific works should be included in, or excluded from, a guide of this nature is most vexatious. I would only note, among the small number of useful titles omitted, such compendia of literary terminology as those of Berardi, Galdi, and Traversetti; compilations of proverbs such as those by Arthaber and Gluski; the excellent bibliographical *Introduzione allo studio della lingua italiana* of Muliaci, the *Dizionario d'ortografia e di pronunzia* of Bruno Migliorini et al., Parenti's *Prime edizioni italiane*, Pownall's *Articles on Twentieth Century Literature*, the *Index to Book Reviews in the Humanities*, perhaps Umberto Eco's *Come si fa una tesi di laurea*, and the new MLA *Handbook for Writers*, vitiated admittedly by its paradoxically cavalier attitude to 'foreign' languages, nevertheless the generally received, particularly in North America, authority on matters of scholarly documentation.

Its flaws notwithstanding (and bibliographies are not to be adjudged so much by the presence or absence of blemishes as by the number and hue thereof), *Italian Reference Aids* deserves to be put to thorough use by graduate students in Italian and Comparative Literature and could also find application among librarians as a guide to the selection of materials.

**JOHN KEITH WIKELEY**

(*Mr. Wikeley is a Reference Librarian at the University of Alberta, is an MLA Bibliographer, and edits the annual Comparative Literature abstracts issue of the Canadian Review of Comparative Literature.*)

---


*The Journal, no. 1/1977, is composed of the selection for the year 1977 and appeared mid-1978. (While this review is concerned with no. 1 only, let it be noted that no. 2/1978 successfully appeared in time for the Canadian Library Association conference in mid-1979.) The Journal is a continuation in more or less identical format (with most of the same participants involved) of *Canadian Library Progress* (volume 1-111, for the years 1973 through 1975; volume IV, for 1976, was suppressed). CLP and the Journal both bear the name of Stephen Johnson, of the University of British Columbia Library, as founder; according to F.A. Best, president both of Versatile Publishing Co. Ltd. and Best-Printer Co. Ltd., who produced and published CLP, it was Mr. Johnson's 'powerful dedication ... to his profession' which sustained CLP through three issues, with a total output of 1,046 pages — surely a substantial contribution to the professional literature in Canada.

CLP, volume IV, which included the production for the year 1976, regrettably found-
ered late in 1977 over some unfortunate imbroglio concerning the copyright release on the articles to be included. F.A. Best scrapped CLP, IV, at a loss he reported as $3,000.00 for the remnant which he did in fact publish; this was Professor Neill and Laura Bond's 'Annual Review of Canadian Libraries'. The details are discussed by Mr. Best in a foreword attached to the unbound remnant. For the record, this reviewer cannot pass up the chance to thank Mr. Best and his company Versatile for their imaginative and indispensable contribution to the Canadian library and antiquarian bookman fields: *Canadian Publications Out of Print, 1967-1972* (1973). This could not be continued because of lack of support from those who would have benefitted the most — the librarians and booksellers of the country.

The *Journal* is now the financial responsibility of a new company, Parabola Systems; its publisher is Janpaul Shason, and it is primarily under the editorial control of Matt Hartman, also of Vancouver (UBC Library). This first issue is an impressive compilation, albeit of only a portion of Canadian library literature for 1977. It is a chronology (Part I), a book of readings (Part II), and a collage of library magazine title-pages, mastheads, and contents lists (Part III). It has not been widely circulated or promoted, apparently, and is unknown to many libraries and professional librarians. For example, when this reviewer mislaid his copy and had to search frantically for another, both his library and the adjacent library resource collection failed to produce the issue or any record that it was in fact available. Professional colleagues could not recollect it with any certainty, and only a copy loaned by the editor rescued the review for this edition of the *Papers*.

As the journal of a society, this volume would be expected to contain: the record of proceedings; something on the aims, objectives, and chartered officers; the location of the head office; qualifications for membership; and so forth. None of this information is offered in no. 1/1977 or no. 2/1978, the sole business address being that of the publisher: Parabola Systems, No. 200-55 Water Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1A2. The 'ordinary membership' in this elusive society is $12.00, the 'student membership' $9.00; mail your money to Parabola, I am advised through a personal interview, and you will receive at least the *Journal*. The *Journal* and its Society will become curios in future Canadian library history research; in order to save future library school students hours of labour, some elucidation of the history of CLP, the Society, and the *Journal*, together with the Society's present organization and future objectives, would be a public service.

Three parts make up the *Journal*. Part I is Sheila Gibb's 'Annual Review of Canadian Libraries', which, despite its impressive title, is a *selective* listing of data under twenty-seven headings oriented mainly towards public libraries; technical developments and some current topical questions (for example, 'technicians') were added as categories to the 1977 list. Part I draws upon sixteen major library journals and is exclusively limited to library journals. About half of the nineteen pages are composed of organizational trivia and name-dropping, of which a fine example occurs on page 29: 'A committee of AMPLo [Administrators of Medium Public Libraries in Ontario] was active, undertaking performance surveys designed to provide decision-making information.' Ho-hum. The general impact of the 'Annual Review' is summed up in this marvellous excerpt from page 28: 'The University of Lethbridge was seeking funding for the establishment of an experimental automated library that would eliminate browsing. Books would be arranged by number and tracked down, using the computer.' Somehow, even in this
reviewer's somnolent days at Old McGill (BSs 63), the idea had not yet been bludgeoned into oblivion that books were meant for people, and vice versa. The Journal, no. 2/1978, does not enlighten us upon the success of Lethbridge's search for a solution to its problem of the irritating nuisance of people. Certain arcane specialities, such as book reviewing, special collections, archives, and collection building generally, have been omitted from the 'Annual Review', but as a working archivist I look upon this omission with considerable relief. A fifteen-page bibliographydocuments the Review with detailed citations.

Part II of the Journal is the 'main course', comprising just over two hundred pages. This consists of reprints drawn from thirteen journals. It is interesting to note that four of these are not used in Part I, while six journals excerpted in Part I are not drawn upon for Part II. Ten journals are common to both; these upon examination appear to be the major periodicals in the field. The selection of the articles is, like that in Part I, primarily concerned with current, operational issues and appears to be a useful cross-section of the professional literature, and of fairly long-term reference value. In this respect the Journal will become a valuable book of 'readings' for library science instruction. Most of the volume is clearly reproduced, no small feat considering the range of typefaces and sizes used and the density of the printing, factors which affect the reproductive quality of the original articles when reprinted by offset. An exception is those portions of which the original copy used was typewritten and which reproduced badly – in a few places not at all. Such problems can be foreseen by an experienced printer; the only solution is to have such passages set anew in type, which is a minor, though expensive irritation.

Part III ('Title Pages and Contents') is a disappointment. It consists of a confusing mass of collage-type reproductions of mastheads, contents pages, and front covers. Two unifying factors run through this 35-page portion at the end of the Journal: the subject is indisputably libraries and librarianship, and the titles are in apparent alphabetical order. There is no list of contents and no prefatory note explaining the grounds for selection and the rather curious omissions and inclusions. Some of the reproductions would require the services of a reference librarian to identify and locate them. Given the amount of space devoted to this section, a bibliography of current library science publications in Canada would have been of far more use in any context.

The over-all effect of the volume is twofold. One is left pondering why the editors and contributors have adopted such an inward-looking overview of the library field. There is, for example, no mention whatever of any government publications on librarianship, nor any reference at all to trenchant articles in newspapers, such as the Globe and Mail, Le Devoir, or the Vancouver Sun, which have commented on such relevant matters as postal costs and their effect on library service, the survival of Canadian periodicals, and attempts to censor high school libraries. This reviewer has glanced at the Journal, no. 2/1978, and it is a great improvement. This fact pre-empts my critique of the Journal, no. 1, to the extent that, given the nature of the material and the scholarly capabilities of the personnel involved, the Journal, no. 1, should have been better. Its survival into the second year proves the dedication, nay, the tenacity, of the editors and publishers and their determination that this series will find a useful place in Canadian library literature.

EDWARD PHELPS