entry: Burpee, Lawrence J., 'A Plea for a national library,' University Magazine, v. 10, February 1911, p. 152-163, tells something of how long Canadians had to wait for a national library after the need was publicized.

Any librarian who entered the profession after 1950 should make a point of reading this work. Not only will he or she learn a great deal about the origins and accomplishments of a relatively young institution, which we now can take for granted, but will also realize how desperately poor Canada was in library service as recently as that date.

J.J. TALMAN

(Dr. Talman, writer, scholar, editor, long-time member of the Bibliographical Society of Canada, was Chief Librarian at the University of Western Ontario, 1947-1970, and is now a part-time member of the Department of History, UWO.)


One's eye is immediately caught by the bright burnt-orange cover, on which is reproduced a mural by Canadian artist Alfred Pellan. The original, which hangs in the Reference Room of the National Library, represents the many subject fields to be found in books. The mural does not, however, have a symbol to locate the footdragging and unbelievable procrastination committed by elected officials which effectively thwarted, for seventy years, the establishment of a National Library of Canada.

It was in 1882 that Sir John A. Macdonald rose in the House of Commons to make a strong plea for the necessity for Canada to establish a National Library. In 1953, the National Library of Canada was established. W. Kaye Lamb was appointed to the post of National Librarian, and legal deposit began.

This cautious aspect of Canadian cultural history has been the source of many articles, briefs, presentations, and at least seventeen bibliographies, all of which are cited in Larouche's work. Larouche's publication, however, is a most ambitious and praiseworthy effort to collate and annotate most of the literature concerning the establishment of the National Library of Canada from 1882 to 1953 and its subsequent development and expansion from 1953 to 1978. This compilation, which includes a chronological résumé, is destined to become a well-thumbed reference-tool in libraries, library schools, and political science classes; and in the offices of librarians' associations, cultural organizations, and community groups. To assist in locating materials quickly the work includes a table of contents, a list of abbreviations, and an integrated index of authors, titles, and subjects, in addition to the previously mentioned bibliography of sources consulted.

The text is well set out in an attractive typeface, making it a work easy to consult and to read. In the copy I received the roman-numeral pagination began with 'x'; thus making it awkward to locate the foreword by Dr. Guy Sylvestre [in English, page vii; in French, page viii] or the introduction, which in English begins on page ix, and in French on page xii.

BETH MILLER

(Ms. Miller is the Rare Books and Special Collections Librarian at the D.B. Weldon Library, University of Western Ontario, and Editor of the BSC Bulletin.)