of Contents' which will prove to be one of the strengths of the Supplement: it is a most
detailed and thorough subject index. That it is not alphabetically arranged will not deter
either the serious scholar or the casual browser. Rather, it will cause one to focus on the
immense wealth and scope of the listed materials.

The work has been printed from camera-ready copy, prepared, it appears, by a most
dedicated typist. It is easy to read and not difficult to use. Except that the cost would
have been astronomical, the text would have been enhanced by the use, in each entry, of
a different font to distinguish author and title. Nonetheless, it is a very serviceable and
effective publication.

BETH MILLER

The Provinces
Bibliography of Ontario History, 1867-1976, Cultural, Economic, Political,
The Ontario Historical Studies Series. Toronto: Published for the Govern-
ment of Ontario by the University of Toronto Press [1980] 2 vols.: xviii, 823 p.;
x, [825]-1760 p., cloth, $75.00 ISBN 0-8020-2359-2

The original concept of a bibliography of Ontario history was advanced early in the life
of the Ontario Historical Studies Series, and it resulted in the volume Ontario Since
1867: A Bibliography, published in 1973. This proved to be most incomplete and unrelia-
ble [see Mr. Phelps' review in these Papers, vol. xiii (1974): pp. 115-116] even for the
working bibliography it claimed to be. It contained only about 3,000 entries, and though
these were spread under about thirty-five subjects with no guidance from running
heads, there was no index.

Everyone will be pleased to know that in Bibliography of Ontario History — BOH, I
suppose, will become its brief appellation — Dr. Bishop and her associates have rectified
every one of these sad deficiencies. The new work is massive, with about 15,000 entries
appearing in two large volumes, each with a contents table of subjects (such as those
referring to bibliography, biography, climate, economic and social history, politics,
cultural history, urban planning, local history, and environment) and subject subdivi-
sions (e.g., agriculture under economics, minorities under social history, and literature
and science under culture). Running heads throughout indicate the main subject on the
versos and the subdivision on the rectos. But the crowning glory of the work is its index,
which embraces authors, titles, and subjects in a single convenient alphabet. This index
spans four hundred two-column pages, or almost twenty-five per cent of the entire
work: that's access!

The bibliography includes monographs, periodical articles, and theses, and each sub-
ject subdivision is further divided into the form headings 'Bibliography' (usually),
'Monographs and Pamphlets', 'Periodical Articles', and 'Theses'. Manuscripts and maps
are excluded, though maps are noted in the collations of the individual entries, and the
splendid series of Ontario county atlases (originals and reprints) are included. A typical
entry gives the author — personal (full names and dates) or corporate — a very full title,
place, publisher, date, pagination (with preliminaries), and illustration statement
specifying the kind. Each entry concludes with the symbol for one and sometimes more
locations, with the occasional non-Canadian location; it is not stated if the symbols are
for the locations of those copies actually seen. The locations of journals appear in an appended list, rather than laboriously under each periodical article listed. Theses are usually to be found at the university granting the degree. The entries are unnumbered. All this, and more, will be found in the concise Preface by the principal author. One has the clear impression that the Board of Trustees of the Ontario Historical Studies Series has quite redeemed itself where Ontario bibliography is concerned, through the dedicated and monumental services of its new compilers. Bravo!

Nothing is perfect in this imperfect world, however, and a couple of questions disturb the mind of this reviewer. I note, first, a certain amount of duplication of work already existing elsewhere: the county atlases in several places, notably in Betty May Kidd's *County Atlases of Canada* (PAC, 1970), and the atlas reprints in both Barbara Aitken's and my own bibliographies of Ontario local histories; then, the local histories section is also covered by these last two works; and, of course, the section on local directories is well taken care of in Dorothy Ryder's *Checklist of Canadian Directories* (National Library of Canada, 1979). The decision to avoid duplication was made early enough in the project (see p. ix), but the explanation for the failure lies in the cutoff date of 1976 for a work not published till late in 1980. The compilers simply fell victim to the immense size of their undertaking, and the extended time consequently required for its compilation and passage through the press. I can well understand Dr. Bishop's reluctance to excise and discard the fruits of her patient industry. In fact, so broadly is Ontario history interpreted here that one has a clear impression that, with relatively little extra labour, this work could have been extended to fulfil the long-standing desideratum of a bibliography of Ontario, what a pity the series prescription limited the coverage to history! It seems as if a funded opportunity has been lost.

The mechanics of Dr. Bishop's work are a bit puzzling in places. Why are the initials of personal authors spaced as if on catalogue cards in the good old days, when it was always hoped that forenames would be discovered and the spaces filled? And can there be any good reason why journal article titles are not given within quotation marks, in the accepted fashion? And why are the titles of periodicals not given in italics? (Or hardly ever: I note one title that is, conspicuous on page 237.) With the small variety of typefaces provided on the average page, these common devices would have helped the reader, I think, by differentiating components on the page. The use of italics in the periodicals list of Appendix 1 is equally strange (as is the old spelling 'supercede' throughout), in that only former titles are italicized.

The splendid index is not without fault; or perhaps the brief explanatory paragraph on page xii is really too short. It does not explain the use of italics, for example. Taken at random, I find on page 1519, column 2: 'Hydro and Ontario history' in italics, but 'Hydro changeover' not, yet both are journal article titles. And working the other way, from text to index, I find the Burton title, in roman on page 228, is given in italics in the index. The adjacent Bushell title, incidentally, I could not find in the index at all. My feeling is that the explanatory note on the index should not only have been expanded, but would have been more usefully placed immediately preceding the index.

There can be no question, though, that this is a major Canadian work of reference and the most important bibliography yet published dealing with Ontario. Both the first edition (p. [1]) and this second edition (p. ix) suggest the possibility of supplements. I hope this idea will be adopted, to provide the opportunity to correct errors, to omit the
sections duplicated elsewhere, and to keep this magnificent sourcebook of Ontario up to date.

The volumes are attractive and well planned (though more typographical differentiation would be welcome), of handy proportions, sewn not just glued, and protected in buckram covers. They are made to withstand the heavy use that will assuredly be made of them, especially since, at $75.00 the set, most private users will have to consult public copies.

REVIEW EDITOR


This interesting little book came about because of an action taken at the Council of Head Librarians of New Brunswick general meeting held in the spring of 1978. The resulting inventory is probably just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Stated in the introduction is the fact that there was a seventy-five percent response to the questionnaire which was sent out. Isn't it enticing to know that if you can't find what you are looking for in the wealth of material covered by the inventory, that someone, somewhere may have that diary or that missing census or that long-lost baptismal record!

The format indicates ease of use: entries are alphabetical by place name with any exceptions covered by the index. There are also several excellent appendices which are cross-referenced with the entries. The scope of the material will interest everyone from the amateur genealogist [e.g., Church records, newspaper files, etc.] to the student of political science [e.g., Premier Richard Hatfield’s speeches, collective agreements, etc.]

The inventory answers all the questions that the researcher might ask as to the holdings of the organization, the extent of the holdings, their location, access, and even whom to contact. That latter bit of information may be a minor fault of the inventory in this day of staff mobility and cut-backs. The indicated contact person may no longer be in that position or even with the organization.

Finally, the bilingual nature of the province of New Brunswick is demonstrated by the fact that the inventory covers material in both French and English. This is a definite asset. The Council of Head Librarians of New Brunswick appears to have a very useful item here.

LYALL MANSON

(Mr. Manson teaches with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Board of Education and is an executive of the S.D. & G. Historical Society. He is the author of the invaluable index to Pringle’s Lunenburgh, or similar works.)


This is the Saskatchewan Provincial Library’s major undertaking in its Celebrate Saskatchewan programme, in honour of the province’s Diamond Jubilee, 1980; and for a mere seventy-five years, the total of 6,377 main entries demonstrates an impressive literary heritage. There could hardly have been a better project to mark the occasion, for