but somehow missing Canada!), and various appendices listing poetry societies worldwide are fringe benefits to two works which because of their size and scope have value, but which have nowhere near as much value as they should.

TERRENCE CRAIG

Children's Authors and Illustrators: An Index to Biographical Dictionaries. 3d.ed. Edited by Adele Sarkissian. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1981. xxxvi, 667 p., cloth, \$85.00 ISBN 0-8103-1084-8

This third edition of *Children's Authors and Illustrators* is indispensable for any library collecting children's literature at any level. More than 275 reference books are indexed for biographical information on children's authors and illustrators. Full bibliographic citation is provided for each title, including notes on how to locate biographies if the book is difficult to use. Of the 275 reference books, about 25 are British publications, 10 Canadian: a good representation of available non-American biographical sources. *Children's Authors and Illustrators* aims to be comprehensive and includes all known writers and illustrators of children's books whose work is available in English.

The index is not restricted to authors writing only for children but includes those whose writings for adults have been adopted for children (such as Mark Twain) and those who have written the occasional book for children (such as Margaret Atwood). No attempt to choose the best biographical information has been made; all citations occurring in all biographical sources are given.

The third edition retains all material included in the previous editions and adds new books or new editions of previously indexed books. It excludes material from journals, magazines, and newspapers except for periodicals included in *Biography Index*. To the names found in the 275 biographical sources was added an extensive list of known children's writers and illustrators. All names were then computer-matched against Gale's data bank, then refined by hand. The result produces the category 'NF': 'No biographical references found,' for such authors as John Burrell, Geda Mathews, Percy Proctor. This is invaluable, time-saving information for the serious researcher.

Children's Authors and Illustrators is useful on its own as a source for authors' dates and pseudonyms. Dates of birth and death, if known, appear with each entry. Links are established between real names and nicknames, name variants and pseudonyms. At the end of the entry for the person's real name appears a list of his pseudonyms. Each name is expanded to its fullest form, adding middle or maiden names if possible.

The index provides an easy way of finding biographical information in such complex series as *Contemporary Authors* or *Something About the Author*. Instructions on how to read the index are clear and concise, the index itself is legible and uncluttered, and the short form of the key to title codes appearing on the endpapers makes the index quick to use.

ELLEN PILON