'Proceedings of the First Symposium on Canadian Library History.' Edited by Peter F. McNally. *Canadian Library Journal* 38 (December 1981): 350-432.

As the first publication of the fledgling Library History Interest Group of the Canadian Library Association, this work stands as a landmark in the study of Canadian library history. Eleven papers are presented, of which seven were delivered at the Group's first annual symposium (Hamilton, CLA, June 15, 1981). A broad geographical scope is covered from libraries in Winnipeg and the Maritimes to Mechanic's Institutes in Ontario and Montreal. Most of the papers discuss nineteenth and early twentieth-century institutions, although David M. Hayne provides a brief survey of Quebec library history from the beginning of the seventeenth century to the present day. The papers are well-documented, and it is the bibliographical aspect of the study of Canadian library history that should be of interest to members of this Society.

Canadian library history has been a long-neglected area of study, and the absence of any worthwhile bibliography of Canadian library history is truly distressing. Just as American and British groups have long been engaged in the study of library history in their respective countries, so too have they established effective bibliographic control of both the retrospective and current literature of library history. In the American case, Michael H. Harris and Donald G. Davis, Jr.'s excellent *American Library History; A Bibliography* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978) provides a selective listing of 3260 books, articles, and theses which were seen by the compilers to be the most important works relating to the historical development of American libraries published through 1976. Studies in American library history published since 1976 are listed in 'The Literature of American Library History,' a biennial survey which appears in the *Journal of Library History*. In addition, during the 1970s a 'State Bibliography Series' appeared as a supplement to this journal and provided a useful survey of retrospective works, including manuscripts and unpublished materials.

In Britain, library history enjoys a similar level of bibliographic control. *British Library History; Bibliography 1962-68* (London: Library Association, 1972), edited by Denis F. Keeling and compiled through the efforts of the Library History Group of the Library Association, is a selective listing of works on British library history published during those years. Supplements have been published for the periods 1969-72, 1973-76, and 1977-80. The Library History Group also coordinates publication of *Library History* which includes notes regarding recent publications on British library history.

There are no standard bibliographical tools devoted to either retrospective or current studies in Canadian library history. New works are sometimes reported in the 'Recent Publications Relating to Canada' section of the *Canadian Historical Review*, or in other Canadian historical journals. *ABHB; Annual Bibliography of the History of the Printed Book and Libraries* (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1970-) makes a token effort to list current works on Canadian library history, but it is far from adequate. The same may be said of the *International Bibliography of the Book Trade and Librarianship/Fachliteratur zum Buch- und Bibliothekswesen*. 12th edition, 1976-1979 (Munich: K.G. Saur, 1981).

Peter McNally, the editor of these papers and convener of the Library History Interest Group, deserves praise for his dedication to the study and promotion of Canadian library history. A great deal remains to be done in this area, however, and until a good standard bibliography is compiled the study of Canadian library history will remain as disjointed as it is at present. Such a project might be approached in a number of ways. A retrospective bibliography of Canadian library history might be either comprehensive or selective in scope. It could be compiled in one volume and take a national approach, or be compiled in parts according to a regional or provincial focus. English and French language material would be included. Supplements might be issued every few years or perhaps a periodic survey of recent works on Canadian library history could become a regular appendix to the *Canadian Library Journal*. In any case, such a project would be a natural candidate for a Canadian Studies Research Tools grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and should also attract interest and support from both the Canadian Library Association and the Bibliographical Society of Canada.

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