The strengths of this work and the fact that a collective effort of this magnitude could have been accomplished in the short span of three years reflect the dedication of the editors — Milada Vlach and Yolande Buono.

SANDRA ALSTON

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If a bibliography is judged by its comprehensiveness and accuracy, then Bruce Whiteman’s descriptive bibliography of Raymond Souster is a first-rate piece of work. A great deal of effort has obviously gone into the preparation of this volume, and the results are a splendid example of what can and should be done in the field of Canadian literary scholarship.

The first section of the bibliography is devoted to Souster’s separately published books, pamphlets, and broadsides. The descriptions include quasi-facsimile transcription of the title page, collation, pagination, a brief description of binding and dust jacket, measurement of over-all size (in millimetres), date of publication, price, number of copies printed, contents, notes on publication history, and a list of reviews. In some cases, the publication information was not made available to Whiteman, but in general he has done an admirable job in prying the facts out of secretive Canadian publishers.

A check of a dozen of the thirty-nine titles described by Whiteman turned up only one error. The title of A28, given as Charge-Up, should be Change-Up. The error is corrected in the quasi-facsimile transcription. My copy of A20, As Is, bears an inscription from the poet dated October 21, 1967, some time in advance of the publication date of 9 November given by Whiteman. This, of course, does not mean that the book was officially published before the latter date. Similarly, the dust-jacket of my copy of A23, So Far So Good, bears the publication date 15 September 1969, two weeks after the date given by Whiteman. Again, this discrepancy is most likely due to the publisher’s miscalculation rather than the bibliographer’s.

One regrets the absence of title-page photographs when considering the slightly misleading transcriptions of A20, A21, and A27. In the first case, the slashes normally used by the bibliographer to indicate line endings are actually printed on the title-page of this book, though the reader cannot tell this from Whiteman’s transcription. In the case of A27, The Colour of the Times & Ten Elephants on Yonge Street, the two titles are printed side-by-side, but this fact cannot be appreciated without the aid of a photograph. It’s an unfortunate reality of Canadian publishing that the limited market for this sort of book guarantees that a state-of-the-art format such as that of the Pittsburgh Series in Bibliography would be prohibitively expensive to use in this country.

The rest of the bibliography consists of sections devoted to books edited by Souster, separately published poems and prose, translations, tapes and records,
contributions to anthologies, and a brief list of works on Souster. Appendices list
doubtful works and manuscript collections. A random check of listings again
revealed only one error. The issue number of Tamarack Review has been dropped in
item c283, but this is hardly a major flaw as the number is given in the preceding
item. It is slightly misleading that poems in Section c are listed only under their first
appearance with a cross-reference to later printings. Thus a reader checking Souster's
publications for 1964 would not know that he published three poems in Yes #13
rather than just the two listed on page 132. The third poem had been previously pub-
lished in 1957 and is listed with other poems published in that year.

The comprehensive index of titles will be of great value to students seeking to
trace the various printings of specific poems. Some problems may arise, however,
with different poems given similar titles by the poet. A parenthetical citation of the
first line of such poems would have been very useful. For instance, the index informs
us that ‘Journey’ appeared in A11, A15, A20, A29, and A37, with a cross-reference to
appeared in A11 and as ‘The Voyage’ in A35. But the poem titled ‘The Journey’ in A35
is not the same poem as the one called ‘The Journey’ in A20, A29, and A37. The latter
is a short poem beginning ‘Single drops of water,’ whereas the former is a longer
poem, beginning ‘She stops on the sidewalk,’ which was later reprinted as ‘On the
Way to the Store.’ The quotation of the first line would have eliminated this confu-
sion, which is also apparent in poems entitled ‘Highway’ and ‘The Highway,’ ‘Amuse-
ment Park’ and ‘The Amusement Park,’ and ‘Yonge Street’ and ‘Yonge Street, Saturday
Night.’ In all cases, the index is inaccurate in its cross-referencing of these titles.

This failing is a minor one, however, in the light of the very real achievement of
this work. Anyone who is seriously interested in the study of Souster’s work will
agree with the comments of the poet himself in Volume 4 of his Collected Poems: ‘I
would venture to predict that this work will prove to be a model of its kind in Cana-
dian studies for years to come.’ Given this seal of approval, one can only regret the
publisher’s decision to treat this bibliography as just another volume of Souster’s
Collected Poems. The title page suggests that this is a book by Raymond Souster with
‘Bibliography’ and ‘Bruce Whiteman’ printed in smaller type at the bottom of the
page. Even worse, the spine of the book reads ‘Souster Collected Poems Oberon’
making no mention of its true subject and authorship. Only the astute cataloguer will
realize that this book belongs in the reference section of the library, not in the stacks
with the other volumes of Souster’s Collected Poems.

MICHAEL DARLING

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bibliographies of Mordecai Richler [ECW Press, 1979] and A.J.M. Smith [Véhicule
Press, 1981].]

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