The catalogue itself was attractively printed in Vancouver by Benwell-Atkins. The type and papers have been carefully selected to do justice to the subject. Thirty pages of illustrations, primarily in black and white, are inserted a third of the way from the beginning of the book.

Ocean Paper Stone is a valuable addition to Canada's printing history, and its eclectic selections and personalized comments take it beyond the dryness of descriptive bibliography.

MAUREEN BRADBURY

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Thinkers of the Twentieth Century: A Biographical, Bibliographical and Critical Dictionary. [Edited by] Elizabeth Devine *et al.* Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1983. x, 643 p., cloth, \$75.00 ISBN 0-8103-1516-5

The current century has witnessed many eminent people of intellectual distinction. The underlying presupposition of this reference tool is that seminal thinkers can be grouped together intelligibly as an identifiable class much in the same way, for example, as the class of physicists or the class of mountain climbers. Cutting across disciplines and geographical boundaries, this tool features critical essays with bibliographical information on approximately four hundred thinkers of the twentieth century. Given that the century will not conclude for some years yet, the title is a little premature, if not presumptuous.

The thinkers were selected for inclusion in this volume on the basis of recommendations from ten advisors. Although the names of the advisors and contributors are identified with their academic credentials, there is no general introduction specifying the criteria for the selection of the thinkers. Moreover, it is not altogether apparent whether an early death date in the century automatically precludes an individual from consideration. The American philosopher and psychologist, William James, who died in 1910, is included, but Leo Tolstoy, who died in the same year and whose views on pacifism and art are well known, is excluded. Perhaps the advisors believe that Tolstoy's novels overshadowed his intellectual accomplishments. Tolstoy is not the only thinker who has been overlooked. Philosophers not included are Mortimer Adler (the editor of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*), F.H. Bradley (the most important philosopher of his generation up to 1920), and Saul A. Kripke (generally acknowledged as the most brilliant living analytic philosopher). Mathematicians not included in this reference work and who made profound contributions to the foundations of mathematics are Gottlob Frege (an exponent of logicism), Georg Cantor (the inventor of transfinite arithmetic), and Ernest Zermelo (the author of the axiom of choice). These are but a few examples of major exclusions from philosophy and mathematics, respectively. The examples could easily be multiplied for both fields, and, without too much trouble, one could find similar kinds of exclusions from other disciplines. Only three Canadians (two are Canadian born) are included – the media theorist, Marshall McLuhan, the economist, John Kenneth Galbraith, and the sociologist, Erving Goffman. So much for Northrop Frye, George Grant, Harold

Innis, and a host of other Canadian intellectuals. To be fair, this tool does contain a hard core of thinkers such as Einstein, Schweitzer, and Shaw. Nonetheless such notable exclusions seriously undermine its claim to represent twentieth-century thinkers.

Each entry consists of a biographical sketch in *Who's Who* style, a checklist of all books written by the thinker in question with details of original publication, a selection of critical studies, and a signed essay. Entries are alphabetically arranged according to the thinker's surname. There are no indexes or cross-referencing apparatus. Some of the 'Who's Who' biographies are quite detailed; some are not. In the case of the American philosopher, H.P. Grice, only his university address is given. Unfortunately, the essays which are intended to appeal to advanced high school and university students and university graduates are uneven in quality. Thus the essay on I.A. Richards by John Paul Russo is an excellent analysis of Richards's influence on literary criticism, semantics, and education. However, Russo's essay on the idealist philosopher, J. McT. E. McTaggart, gives one the distinct impression that Russo has never actually read any of McTaggart's works and that he has relied wholly on secondary sources for information. The length of the essays naturally varies supposedly ranging between 1,000 and 3,000 words. Yet, too often there is a discrepancy in the length of these essays. Is there any reason, for example, why the essay on T.S. Eliot is a mere 500 words while the essay on Jacques Maritain is nearly 4,000 words? Similarly, the contribution of certain thinkers is at times unnecessarily slanted. The reader is told, for example, that Bertrand Russell was actively involved in many issues of social and political concern, but aside from the fact that he was a champion of peace, one learns practically nothing about his philosophy of politics. In contrast, the meager essay on Karl Popper is devoted almost entirely to Popper's critique of totalitarianism with a few brief lines on his significant work on the philosophy of science.

This work also cannot be recommended as a completely reliable bibliographical guide. Although the checklists attempt to be comprehensive and accurate and a bibliography is usually cited for pursuing the entire canon of a thinker, omissions and mistakes do occur with some frequency. Thankfully, in many cases, it can be said that the checklists appear to be error-free or nearly so. With respect to the checklist of Russell, for example, there are many omissions and the publishing information is wrong for at least a dozen of his books. Russell's *Philosophical Essays* is said to be published by 'London, Allen and Unwin, and New York, Longman, 1910.' In fact, the first edition was published in London by Longmans, Green, and Company. in 1910, and in 1966 George Allen & Unwin published a revised edition; the first American edition published by Simon and Schuster in 1967 is of the revised edition.

In summation, *Thinkers of the Twentieth Century* is a flawed reference tool. The criteria of selection have not been sufficiently scrutinized. The critical essays are variable in quality though often genuinely informative and incisively written. Generally speaking, the bibliographical information is serviceable only for preliminary purposes of research.

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