catalogues de vente à l'encan à partir d'un dénombrement de 195 bibliothèques personnelles vendues à l'encan. Les auteurs ne prétendent pas à l'exhaustivité et soulignent plutôt qu'un dépouillement plus large de la presse périodique ou de l'histoire d'encanteurs toujours en activité enrichirait cet inventaire. Les notices sont classées par ordre alphabétique du nom des propriétaires des bibliothèques, sauf dans les chapitres 4 et 5, dans lesquels les propriétaires ne sont pas identifiés. On y fournit des données utiles sur les propriétaires, des notes explicatives et au moins une localisation du catalogue lorsqu'il a pu être examiné. L'ouvrage est facile de consultation mais y gagnerait si les éléments bibliographiques de chaque notice étaient renforcés ou mieux présentés.

On remarque, en parcourant ce catalogue, que les auteurs appliquent le principe même de ce genre de publication en l'illustrant à l'aide de tableaux statistiques fort pertinents et d'extraits de catalogues de vente à l'encan. Le plus intéressant (tableau 3, p. 14) énumère les 'occupations des propriétaires de bibliothèques vendues à l'encan (19e-20e siècle)'. Intéressant et révélateur. Les chiffres sont là: 'hommes de savoir' (avocats, juges, notaires, politiciens, médecins, ecclésiastiques, hommes de lettres) arrivent en tête de liste de cette élite propriétaire de bibliothèques personnelles substantielles permettant leur vente à l'encan. Les possédants étaient les notables de la place, ceux qui avaient de l'influence et des 'lettres' à l'époque. Est-ce que les choses ont vraiment changé?

La valeur historique et sociologique d'un répertoire portant sur une brève période (1860-1930) est limitée par le biais d'une activité bien précise telle que la vente à l'encan de bibliothèques personnelles. Et comme le soulignent les auteurs, l'intérêt de ce type de document 'résid[e] moins dans la généralité de son utilisation que dans son usage pour la biographie intellectuelle, pour l'histoire intellectuelle d'une pratique professionnelle ou d'un domaine du savoir ou pour l'histoire de phénomènes spécifiques grâce à une meilleure connaissance des lectures des contemporains sur ces sujets' (introduction, p. 23).

Cet inventaire s'adresse à une clientèle restreinte (bibliothécaires, professeurschercheurs) et devrait réjouir les quelques passionnés-bibliophiles-collectionneurs de raretés, sans oublier les historiens et biographes qui voudraient analyser de plus près le contenu de ces catalogues pour tenter d'établir le profil des professionnels d'une époque.

JEAN-MARIE BRIÈRE

(Jean-Marie Brière est bibliothécaire aux Services de référence et d'information de la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada.)


During the course of his graduate studies John C. Fredriksen became aware of the lack of a comprehensive reference work relating to the War of 1812. It is that gap
which his *Free Trade and Sailors' Rights* is intended to fill. In undertaking his task
Fredriksen first solicited photocopies of relevant catalogue cards from some two
hundred libraries in Canada and the United States. Eventually he acquired over
6,000 citations dealing with various aspects of that conflict. Unfortunately, while
the number of items listed is impressive, the shortcomings of this bibliography are
equally remarkable.

Some of the deficiencies associated with this work are merely annoying but oth-
ers are of a more serious nature. Under the former category one cannot help but note
the number of typographical errors. One may find William R. Riddell’s name spelled
as ‘Riddle’ and the name of the traitor Willcocks spelled with one ‘l’. Similarly the
lack of annotation, though understandable, is at times distressing.

Of greater concern is the method of organization employed by the author.
Fredriksen has based the divisions of his work upon seven geographic regions. Thus
there are chapters on areas such as the Niagara district and the Chesapeake Bay
region. As well, there are six additional chapters dealing with subjects such as tacti-
cal considerations and the war at sea. According to Fredriksen this system allows for
any topic to be ‘at the fingertips’ of interested researchers. In practice, however,
using the bibliography can prove frustrating, particularly when other deficiencies
are considered. Let us suppose that a student was interested in the social impact of
martial law and she has been informed that William Riddell has written an article
on prohibition during the war. Rather than waste time scanning the stacks of jour-
nals which might contain the article, the student obtains Fredriksen’s book. Natu-
rally she would turn first to the index of authors. Imagine her surprise upon discov-
ering that no such list exists. As the subject index is of no help, she is forced to scan
the ‘Niagara Frontier-Lake Ontario’ section but again emerges empty-handed.
Undaunted she next examines the ‘Miscellaneous’ chapter. Once again the search
proves futile. If she is really still interested at this point, the student might try exa-
mining the ‘Tactical’ section, under ‘Quartermaster,’ since prohibition was imple-
mented to preserve grain to feed the troops. Alas, even here she finds no reference to
the article. At that juncture the student would make her way toward the stacks to
investigate the indexes for the *Canadian Historical Review*. Perhaps the Riddell
article is listed in the bibliography. If it is, a great deal of patience will be required to
unearth it.

The greatest number of omissions appears to occur in the ‘Manuscript’ section.
Fredriksen lists only twenty items relating to the war that are to be found in the
Public Archives of Canada. There is no mention of the voluminous correspondence
to be found in the Colonial Office documents or in the Upper Canada Sundries.
While the archives contain the papers of such notables as Isaac Brock, Abraham
Markle, and Joseph Willcocks, Fredriksen makes no note of them. In light of this,
the *Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories* remains the best source for
information on archival holdings dealing with the War of 1812.

All of this is not to say that Fredriksen’s bibliography is without merit. Merely by
flipping through pages a student will find articles and books that may prove useful.
Of course, it is due to the organizational problems of the work that one is eventually
forced into scanning pages. Although the author has collected an impressive num-

ber of items dealing with the War of 1812, he has failed to provide the researcher
with the tools required to utilize that information.

GEORGE SHEPPARD

(George Sheppard received his MA from Laurentian University in 1984 and is completing his doctorate in Canadian history at McMaster University.)


This bibliography of 2,698 entries is published by the Eastern Townships Research Centre at Bishop's University. Its author describes it as 'the first interdisciplinary attempt to encompass the subject of English Quebec studies' and notes that its primary aim is 'to lay to rest the misconception that there is a scarcity of published source material for the study of Quebec.' Research for the bibliography was funded by the Quebec Government and publication was subsidized by Bishop's University.

Despite the fact that the volume is annotated and handsomely presented, there are major difficulties:

1. **Organization:** The short two-page introduction gives no direction as to the bibliography's organizing principles. Fifteen general sections are presented in alphabetical order (although the Eastern Townships is placed after Finance). The alphabetical structure leads to incongruous situations. The general section 'Biography,' for example, is followed by 'Clubs' which is in turn followed by 'Culture.' Other sections include Education, History, Medicine, Politics, etc. It is not clear why 'Clubs' are not included as part of 'Culture' or what parts of 'Medicine' would be included under 'Education.' And how does the user relate all of these to the section entitled 'History'? There is, for example, a section entitled 'History: 1760-1810 – Biographies.'

   It is also unclear just how material was chosen for each section. There is a specific section on the Eastern Townships but not on Anglophones in Montreal, Pontiac, or the Gaspé. And how would the reader from those regions find material in this book?

   Within the general sections there are also organizational difficulties. Why was 1920 chosen as a dividing date for the section on Finance, Commerce, and Economics? Are there only thirteen entries treating the subject in the half century since then? And why divide religion by the dates 1810 and 1867?

2. **Lack of Index:** Difficulties caused by the introduction and by the organization are fatally compounded by the lack of an index. How, for example, does the user find the work of Ron Rudin or Michel Brunet, to take two authors mentioned in the introduction? There is an interesting entry (#73) on cheesemaking in the Chateauguay Valley, but how could it be found without combing all twenty-seven pages of entries under Finance, Commerce, and Economics?