and Hardy’s *Time’s Laughingstocks and Other Poems* to Florence Henniker.

If there are any criticisms to be made of the *Catalogue*, they are in the omission of certain elements such as an index that would have helped with the cross-referencing, or perhaps a list of manuscript items; or illustrations of some or many of the rare book bindings, title pages, or manuscripts. Despite the lack of an index, the catalogue is a record of publishing in the period, a portrait of the age, a detailed account, in some instances, of the bibliographical variants of particular editions of individual authors. Together with manuscripts, inscriptions, dedications, marginalia, and book plates, the lists provide us with a wonderful sense of the interconnectedness of authors and texts.

The collector himself looms large in this narrative of the books’ histories. We may not have Wolff’s wonderful plot summaries, but we do have a sense of the man who has single-mindedly pursued the thousands of books – the variants in bindings, in lettering, in sewing, or in first printings of poems in book form, if not in the author’s own collections. The mind is present that has surveyed the authors’ individual bibliographies, and there is a certain vicarious pleasure as Colbeck adds a new variant or discovers a lost text. At times, he appears to us sitting in his apartment treasuring in his hands the object he is describing in the catalogue – we move from card file or computerized listings of title, date, and factual description of binding colours, material, and lettering, to the intimate space of Colbeck’s home.

This is done, as well, in the Preface by Colbeck and the Introduction by Fredeman, reminding us of Sadleir’s ‘Passages from the Autobiography of a Bibliomaniac.’ The catalogue, in both Colbeck’s and Fredeman’s minds, is to be not only a record of the books held in the UBC library, but a record of the achievement of one man’s lifetime of collecting. It is, of course, ‘A Bookman’s Catalogue.’ We follow him from his early childhood, establishing a lending library from his kitchen for his schoolmates, through to his introduction to A.J.A. Symons and the First Edition Club, and to the establishment of his bookselling business, an adjunct, Fredeman says, to his avocation of collecting. We follow him through various estate auctions in England as he amasses an impressive collection, and finally to the wooing of him and his collection to UBC. We are fortunate that UBC was willing to fund this project and that Colbeck was willing to give his collection such a hospitable home. The catalogue will be indispensable for prospective researchers in nineteenth-century poetry and belles-lettres.

MARY O’CONNOR

*Mary O’Connor is an assistant professor of English at McMaster University. Her book John Davidson was published in 1987 by the Scottish Academic Press."


The *Inventory of Ontario Newspapers* is a project undertaken through the National Library of Canada’s decentralized programme for Canadian newspapers. Under this
programme financial assistance has been provided to the provinces to compile inventories of extant publications from their areas. The results of these surveys will update and replace the Union List of Canadian Newspapers Held by Canadian Libraries, published by the National Library in 1977, and form the basis of a new union list to be issued on microfiche. They will also lead, it is hoped, to much needed programmes for conservation and microfilming. The Ontario project was under the direction of a task group chaired by Karen Harrison. Brian Gilchrist, who compiled the Inventory, worked for a number of years as a student assistant in the newspaper section of the Archives of Ontario.

Although not the first province to publish a newspaper, Ontario in the last two hundred years has produced the largest number: Ontario titles account for nearly one-third of the Union List. More than 2,900 titles are included in the Inventory, double the number in the earlier publication. Quite a few communities appear for the first time, some because of newspapers begun after 1977, but others because their papers, dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, have not been reported before. Gilchrist states that only 125 libraries and repositories contributed to the Union List. The Inventory was able to increase that number to 345. (It is regrettable, nevertheless, that fewer than half the institutions surveyed replied.) The holdings of the Archives of Ontario, the largest repository of older newspapers in the province, are comprehensively listed, rectifying a serious limitation of the Union List.

Entries in the Inventory are arranged by place of publication, using present-day designations with cross references from earlier names. Each entry includes masthead title (omitting the place name if it forms part of the title), dates of publication, frequency, notes about changes in title, mergers, and other details of publishing history, and the holdings of contributing libraries. These institutions have been designated by a curious mixtures of acronyms (for public libraries) and the National Library's codes, following the province-city-institution format (for all other repositories). Further, they are listed according to an initial 'data sort code,' which for public libraries is the Ontario Library Service area (the areas are mentioned in the introduction but not individually identified). Major national and provincial institutions, including both the National Library (oonl) and the Archives of Ontario (otar), appear under the initials NL, and all other institutions in whatever province under OH, presumably standing for 'other holders' but reminiscent of the early code for the Hamilton Public Library. This mixture of styles and of a geographical with a classified arrangement can only confuse the user, despite the inclusion at the end of the volume of an alphabetical list of the codes used and a table of institutions giving both the National Library and Inventory codes. The work also contains a title index referring the user to the place of publication and incidentally revealing the popularity of such titles as the Herald (53 places), the News (75), and the Times (66).

The Inventory has followed the National Library's 'rather limited definition of a newspaper,' excluding the publications of such groups as fraternal and labour organizations, educational and religious institutions, and 'ethnic' publishers. In historical terms, perhaps the most serious exclusion is that of the religious papers. Although these church-sponsored publications reflected the viewpoint of their parent organi-
izations, they were no more limited in their outlook or their coverage of the news than the secular papers, which were often strongly partisan. Further, they carried such vital information as birth, marriage, and death notices, much sought after by today's researchers. Throughout much of the nineteenth century the Methodist Christian Guardian was the most widely circulated, and in its comments on all aspects of life, one of the most influential publications in the province. Unlike labour and ethnic newspapers, which have been the subject of specialized bibliographies such as Duncan McLaren's Ontario Ethno-Cultural Newspapers, 1835-1972 (University of Toronto Press, 1973), the church papers have never been adequately listed and many are difficult to locate. The exclusion of publications in all languages other than English and French also distorts the historical picture for communities such as Kitchener and Waterloo, whose first newspapers were in German. The Inventory does, however, include the Provincial Freeman, the first paper published for the Black population of Ontario.

The Inventory of Ontario Newspapers is a large project carried out in record time. The haste is evident in minor spelling errors and inconsistencies in such matters as the capitalization of titles. Reproduction directly from computer-produced copy has resulted in many widowed lines, particularly irritating when place-name headings appear at the bottom of the page. But all users will be grateful for a reference work issued in hard copy, in a sturdy binding.

The work is described as a first edition, intended to 'form the foundation for a future, even more detailed compilation.' It is not, as the compiler admits, 'the definitive bibliographic guide to Ontario newspapers.' Indeed, it might have been better limited to a survey of extant publications. A substantial number of titles of which no copies are known have been included. (The Inventory does not follow the Union List in adding a 'No holdings reported' statement, a practice that would have clarified the status of these titles.) An attempt has been made to give approximate dates of publication, but many titles lack even an 'extant' date. Gilchrist states that 'back issues of various newspaper directories were examined ... and many local histories and directories ... were also consulted,' but he provides no list of these works and except in a few cases does not indicate the source for individual titles. A comprehensive bibliography of Ontario newspapers would involve the searching of such contemporary sources as Meikle's Canadian Newspaper Directory (Toronto, 1858) and the lists included in several Lovell publications (the Canada directories for 1853 and 1857-58 and those for Ontario published in 1871 and 1882), as well as the McKim newspaper directories beginning in 1892. The compiler appears not to have made use of W. Stewart Wallace's excellent checklist of early Ontario newspapers published in the Canadian Historical Review in 1931, a source that would have provided more accurate dates (1826-27) for the Farmers' Gazette of Markham and the correct title for the Magnet (not Magnate) published in Hamilton in 1840. In its present form the Inventory is neither a bibliography nor simply a union catalogue.

An important goal of the task group on Ontario newspapers is the preservation of papers located in the course of this survey. In a recent speech from the throne, the Ontario government made a commitment to increased funding for the microfilming of the province's early newspapers. The Ontario Community Newspapers Associa-
tion currently films several hundred weekly papers, and this is a programme that promises well for historical research in the future. Although much work remains to be done, the documentation and preservation of Ontario's newspaper heritage is well under way.

ELIZABETH HULSE

(Elizabeth Hulse is the author of A Dictionary of Toronto Printers, Publishers, Booksellers, and the Allied Trades, 1798-1900. She is currently researching the printing trades in other areas of Ontario.)


In March and April of 1986 the Vancouver Arts of the Book Exhibition was mounted to introduce to the public 'one of British Columbia's most intriguing yet least known arts, and to introduce to one another the craftspeople working in the area today.' The catalogue for this exhibition is divided into five parts, each prefaced by an essay reviewing the history and development of an aspect of the book arts in British Columbia: printing and publishing; bookbinding; calligraphy; papermaking; typography and type design. The selection of items is excellent, and one can only wish that this had been a travelling exhibition. The descriptive entries, arranged chronologically within each section, include brief biographical or historical notes and clear, detailed bibliographical information. A variety of typefaces has been used to give entry elements distinction. The illustrations, all in black and white, are well-chosen, and those accompanying the section on typography are superb.

In part, this catalogue covers the same subject as Ocean Paper Stone: The Catalogue of an Exhibition of Printed Objects Which Chronicle More Than a Century of Literary Publishing in British Columbia, compiled by Robert Bringhurst (Vancouver: William Hoffer, 1984). The two complement one another, and underscore the importance of the private press and small press movement in British Columbia within the mainstream of the book arts in Canada. However, only Robert Bringhurst's From Hand to Hand essay, 'Typography & Type Design,' places regional development into a wider Canadian context. Both of these catalogues belong with the two volumes of Reader, Lover of Books, Lover of Heaven: A Catalogue Based on an Exhibition of Book Arts in Ontario, compiled by David B. Kotin and Marilyn Rueter (Willowdale: North York Public Library, 1978 and 1981).

The introductory historical essays, while necessarily brief, are interesting and well-written. The first, 'Printing & Publishing,' by Anne H. Tayler and Glennis Zilm, overviews printing in British Columbia from the mid-1850s to the present. However, while the authors give good coverage of the mission presses in the province, their essay does include an error which must not be perpetuated. The first press in British Columbia was not sent to Bishop Modeste Demers by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the missionary agency of the Church of England; it was given for the use of the Oblates by l'Association de la Propagation