authority control for names was not used, author names in the bibliographical list-

ings are often different from the main entry headings. Further, for many publica-
tions with multiple authors, not all authors are identified as main entries and no
explanation is given for the exclusions.

The indexes, which provide some of the most helpful information 'are based
solely on the information contained in the biographies.' But some main entries lack-
ing biographical information have been included in at least some of the indexes. In
the index of scientific disciplines, scientists are usually categorized under only one
discipline, yet the publications of some scientists suggest more than one area of
work. Other indexes would have been better served with summary tables and in the
case of the 'Periods Active in Ontario' index where over 600 entries per category
occur, the time periods should have been reduced to prevent such a large body of
information confronting a user.

Since only one copy of this *Biobibliography* was examined it may be unfair to
comment on the printing and binding standards, but there are problems. The verso
of p. 399 is blank and p. 400 follows on the next leaf. Page 441 and the verso of all
subsequent leaves through to the end of the book at p. 525 were improperly posi-
tioned when printing. The text, however, is clear since the *Biobibliography* was
printed by laser technology from computer printout.

In his introduction Enros is careful to comment that the *Biobibliography* 'should
be viewed as being useful rather than authoritative.' This, of course, begs the ques-
tion of whether a bibliography can be useful when it is not authoritative. Large
bibliographies inevitably contain errors even when they are authoritative; but by
means of systematic design and stringent methodologies the number of errors can be
kept to a minimum. The value and authoritativeness of Enros' *Biobibliography*
could have been markedly enhanced by the application of better design and method-
ology. Some bibliographies are published prematurely. This is one of them.

BERTRUM H. MACDONALD
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John Mappin and John Archer. *Bernard Amtmann, 1907-1979: A Personal
Memoir*. Toronto: The Amtmann Circle, 1987. 78 pp., $50.00 (cloth),
$25.00 (paper).

The authors of this book, John Mappin, a Montreal bookseller, and John Archer, an
archivist, librarian, and the retired President of the University of Regina, have writ-
ten an intimate tribute to their friend, the late Bernard Amtmann. It was not their
intention to write a critical biography, but rather to offer the reader an outline of the
career and accomplishments of Amtmann, to portray his passions and foibles, to
give a brief history of the public controversies so dear to Amtmann's heart, and to
regale the reader with a number of amusing anecdotes of their friend. All of this suc-
cceeds quite well and leaves the reader with a vivid picture of one of Canada's best-
known booksellers of recent years.
The book begins with a sketch of Amtmann’s early life before coming to Canada, his subsequent development as a bookseller, and his several controversies with librarians and archivists. The three Appendices contain a chronology of Amtmann’s life and career, a list of his publications, and a short history of Montreal Book Auctions. A final note provides us with biographical sketches of the authors.

A large portion of the Memoir is devoted to discussion of the philosophical views Amtmann held in regard to Canadiana, its sale, and its preservation. Optimistic, forthright, inflammatory, and completely unschooled in the subtleties of bureaucracy, Amtmann often found himself at odds with a large segment of his clientele, the librarians and archivists of our public repositories. Amtmann felt that appraising the monetary value of items of historical importance was the province of the antiquarian bookseller and that librarians and archivists were merely the custodians of the material. The authors do well to present a good summary of both sides of the argument; they ‘sympathize’ with the fox, while understanding the point of view of the hound.’

Another interesting aspect of the memoir, particularly for bookpeople, is the many examples of unusual Canadiana that are mentioned by the authors. However, the two examples used to show Amtmann’s flair for recognizing rare and important material, Parry’s *Voyage* and Hearne’s *Journey*, do not really do justice to Amtmann. His abilities went considerably beyond recognizing these two well-known classics. In the same vein, the discussion of the Sir John A. Macdonald letter advocating the invasion of California seems somewhat gratuitous. Although a most remarkable item, the authors might have demonstrated better Amtmann’s keen sense for publicity by choosing an example which was actually sold by Amtmann himself. Two which come to mind are the Riel Diary and the Norman and Coles Map of the Four New England States, the latter of which brought twenty-one thousand dollars in 1976. A better idea of the scope of Amtmann’s bookselling career might be shown by looking at some random examples from the records of Montreal Book Auctions. Some which come to mind, with their prices realized, are: the reward poster for the arrest of Louis Joseph Papineau in 1837 ($2,200 in 1973); a set of Audubon’s Quadrupeds ($11,000 in 1970); the declaration of the Provisional Government of Lower Canada in 1837 ($1,900 in 1973); Anderson’s handbook and map of the Fraser Gold Region ($2,600 in 1977); Catlin’s North American Indian Portfolio ($5,200 in 1972); the claim of the Mission of St. James, Vancouver for 640 acres of land in 1863 ($5,000 in 1975); and Jacques DuHamel’s unrecorded play, *Acoubar ... voyage de Canada*, written in 1603 ($3,500 in 1972). A quick glance through these auction records shows that Amtmann sold no less than seventeen copies of Hearne’s *Journey*, twenty-two of Mackenzie’s *Voyage*, thirty-two of Bartlett’s *Canadian Scenery*, sixteen of Heriot’s *Travels*, and fourteen of Kane’s *Wanderings of an Artist* – all between 1967 and 1979! During this same period Amtmann sold one or more copies of most of the works of most of the early French travellers to Canada: Champlain, Lescarbot, Sagard-Theodat, Lafitau, Charlevoix, and numerous original Jesuit Relations. In 1970, Amtmann sold one of the most outstanding copies of a twentieth-century classic of Canadiana ever offered, copy number one of Hémon’s *Maria Chapdelaine*, Governor-General Georges Vanier’s copy, with each of the plates...
retouched by hand by the illustrator, Clarence Gagnon.

These minor criticisms aside, and with the regret that the authors did not expand more on the foundation of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of Canada and Amtmann's significant contribution to it, this memoir offers intriguing insights into a complex and controversial Canadian bookseller, and it will bring back many warm memories to those who had the privilege of knowing Bernard Amtmann.

DAVID P. EWENS
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Ms. de Varennes' work can justly be regarded as the capstone of a long and distinguished career in librarianship with special reference to genealogy and local history. It is, quite simply, the most massive attempt to get under bibliographical control the rich mosaic of Canadian family history.

The volume under review is in fact 'the tip of the iceberg.' Volume 1 is the 'nerve centre,' the source data; Volumes 2-6 are the indexes. As of September 1987 the publishers report that the first four volumes are available; each is priced at $50.00 for a total investment of $300.00 when the set is complete. I consulted Volume 2 as well in order to throw further useful light on this enterprise.

Produced in this fashion, evidently by the traditional hand-compiled, labour-intensive method (or so one gathers from the Introduction), this volume and its indexes could well be the last non-mechanized effort on this scale that could, or should, be attempted. It appears that the vast outpouring of works on genealogy in the last ten years has largely escaped the control of the author, who gives a cut-off date of 1980 (p. x), though she managed to squeeze in her own 1981 output (pp. 90-92).

In its physical form, this set of books can be regarded as a latter-day 'dinosaur'; it must inevitably give way to the computer revolution if the author should, in the future, attempt to keep up with recent genealogical literature, and to rectify the omissions, declared and undeclared, of this edition. An updatable microfiche version of this information source will of necessity become the next useable and affordable manifestation.

Despite the monumental nature of this 'labour of love,' certain misgivings on the part of the reviewer must with reluctance be passed on. In the first place, the jumbled mixture of formats included in the Author / Title portion of volume 1, and to some extent repeated in the Parishes / Paroisses part, is a source of confusion. Librarians will have difficulty interpreting for patrons the variety of published books, articles, near-print, and esoterica which have an uneven supply of location notations, as well as the massive infusion of entries transcribed from the *Union List*