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 Ammann'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 Ammann.

DAVID P. EWENS
(David Ewens is an Ottawa bookseller.)


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*
of Manuscripts. It is noted with regret that the 1977 and 1979 supplements to the latter appear not to have been consulted, though they were available in plenty of time to be included.

The author, as one might anticipate from her long and distinguished track record of previous publications (pp. 90-92), demonstrates an encyclopedic knowledge of French-Canadian genealogical sources. About 75 percent of the author / title / parish entries in volume 1 are French, while about 90 percent of the entries in volume 2 (Index, A-C) are French. I noticed only one curious French omission, the Drouin firm's *Dictionnaire national* ... [Montreal, 1958], of which the author 'was unable to obtain a copy' (p. x). Entombed deep in an Anglo Western Ontario University there reposes a copy; one can't help but look askance at the lack of availability of a copy of this massive work in the National Capital region!

Turning from the French to the English portion of the work, one is left with the over-all impression that the author should have confined her efforts to the French alone. She might well have associated an Anglophone colleague from one of the major genealogical societies to sort out the English portion or produced a separate volume, for the English material appears, upon analysis, to be only a minor and casual adjunct to the French. Its quality is seriously defective, to the extent of throwing a pall of doubt upon the reliability of the whole. Awkward passages and curious entries abound. These would not normally be expected from an investigator with comprehensive access to the National Library of Canada, the Union Catalogue located there, and such specialized repositories as the Public Archives Library.

Three or four examples will bear out my critique. On page 25 she lists J.E. Beers' *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of Essex, Ontario*.... Four editions are cited (1904, 1905, 1906, and 1907) and the citation is repeated under 'Ontario' as a subject (p. 452). This aroused my curiosity, as I have used the Beers works for thirty years and knew of only one edition of the Essex County volume. I turned to an old and familiar stand-by, Tod and Cordingley's *A Check List of Canadian Imprints 1900-1925*, which confirmed my suspicion that the four editions of the Essex County volume were, in fact, the different volumes for Essex, Kent, Lambton, and York Counties.

On page 234 (and repeated on page 469) occurs a peculiar citation for *Ontario History* (‘Quarterly journal of the Ontario Historical Society, vol. 1, 1908-’) which would surprise the Society. Its *Papers and Records* from which *Ontario History* developed are cited immediately above; it almost appears that two separate hands were at work here, for both journals are annotated as being partially indexed. At page 433, 'Upper Canada. Registers. Marriage Bonds ...' is cited as a 'Parish,' thereby effectively burying well out of sight one of Ontario's major sources of genealogical information. Minor errors are disconcertingly common. On page 384, for example, the Norfolk Historical Society is said to be located in Brantford rather than Simcoe, Ontario.

Finally, the casual concern for the English section, which is perhaps indicative of the unevenness of the whole effort, is fully revealed when we learn in the ‘List of Periodicals’ (pp. 467-70) that a number of major journals in English are present in Laval University Library only in incomplete sets. Despite the author's praise for the
interlibrary loan services at Laval, and the help she obtained from the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library (pp. xi and xv), she states that these journals were incompletely indexed for her bibliography. These are not just little ‘parish pump’ antiquarian ramblings; they include such important sources as the Nova Scotia Historical Society’s Collections, Saskatchewan History, the Waterloo Historical Society’s Bulletin (sic – its actual title was Annual Report and subsequently Annual Volume), York Pioneer, and Western Ontario Historical Notes. The author kills off this last journal (which was published at the University of Western Ontario Library) at volume 16 (1957), when in fact it continued to publish until 1972 and published a number of significant items which fall within the bibliography’s categories of inclusion.

With great respect, then, I suggest that the author of this work, her publisher, and their eminent co-publishers should be enjoined from further publishing or circulating material which can only be described as inaccurate, incomplete, and consequently misleading. It cannot improve the academic reputation of any of them. With all its faults this set of volumes will be an important adjunct to anyone requiring a thorough entrée into nearly four centuries of French-Canadian family history. However, any library wishing to enlarge its resources on English-Canadian genealogy would be advised instead to invest the purchase price of this work in selected bibliographies and guides produced by genealogical societies, publishers, and libraries; and last but not least to acquire its own set of the Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories and its four supplements.

EDWARD PHELPS

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Le livre de Jean-Paul de Lagrave est une contribution importante aux études sur le premier imprimeur de Montréal. La vie de Fleury Mesplet, ses activités comme imprimeur et éditeur, ainsi que ses imprimés ont déjà été examinés dans un certain nombre de publications: articles, thèses, bibliographies, etc. Notons entre autres celles de R.W. McLachlan [1906], Aegidius Fauteux [1930 et 1934], Marie Tremaine [1952], Peter E. Greig [1974], Claude Galarneau [1979], Yolande Buono [1980], le Catalogue collectif des impressions québécoises [1984] et le catalogue de l’exposition sur les imprimés de Mesplet à la Bibliothèque nationale du Québec [1985].