ses imprimés selon les méthodes de la bibliographie matérielle.

NOTES
3 La Gazette du commerce et littéraire, pour la ville et le district de Montréal [juin-sept. 1778]; La Gazette littéraire ... [à partir de septembre 1778 jusqu’en juin 1779]; The Montreal Gazette. Gazette de Montréal, publié par Mesplet du mois d’août 1785 jusqu’à sa mort en janvier 1794.

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The community of scholarly bibliographers in Canada has always been relatively small when compared with other disciplines. Despite the size, its dedicated members have managed, over the past fifty to sixty years, to produce some impressive and fundamental records of the publications which relate to Canada. Amongst these
bibliographers who have compiled enumerative bibliographies, for example, the names of Staton and Tremaine, Peel, Morley, Watters, and Bishop are prominent. To this list of bibliographers may now be added the name of Agnes O'Dea. Hers is the impressive, formidable, and monumental two-volume, 1,450 page Bibliography of Newfoundland, already known as ‘O’Dea.’

With each appearance of a provincial or regional bibliography we are reminded of those geographical areas, say, which still need to be documented in a bibliographical way. And there are Canadian subjects such as our literature in English which cry out to be recorded. The shadow of the still to be attempted ‘Bibliography of Canadian Literature in English’ awaits to be dispelled. French Canadian literature would seem to have been adequately and expertly dealt with. The point is, however, that enumerative bibliographies provide the base upon which all forms of scholarship thrive, Fredson Bowers notwithstanding. They deserve adequate financial support from our federal funding agencies. This is not to say that other forms of bibliographical endeavour should be ignored. It is healthy to have all levels of bibliographical scholarship in progress at the same time. But the enumerative enterprises, which assemble information about books and related materials into a logical and useful arrangement, are crucial if we are to have an adequate record of ourselves. Agnes O’Dea’s bibliography, which has been more than thirty years in the making, provides just such information – exhaustive, clear, and concise – about Newfoundland.

Bibliography of Newfoundland is chronologically arranged and places on record ‘the printed works relating to Newfoundland from the early voyages of discovery to 1975.’ As the Preface continues: ‘Items have been arranged and analysed so as to make them intelligible and interesting by recording the chronological sequence of contemporary events, and for subject historians to illustrate the historical development of a particular subject.’ Volume 2, by the way, is made up of six hundred and twenty-three pages which include a listing of annuals (57 pp.) with the remainder devoted to author, title, and subject indexes.

Contained within the Bibliography, each with its appropriate number, are books, in whole or in part, printed in or relevant to Newfoundland; pamphlets; provincial and federal government documents as well as those of other countries; atlases and maps, when accompanied by text; published collections of photographs or drawings; periodical articles; literary works by Newfoundlanders and some Eskimo texts. Also included is some [sic] sheet music and a few film strips and motion pictures; theses, government reports, society lectures, addresses, and speeches, some not available except in typewritten form. Only from the compiler’s delineation of the bibliography’s dimensions in her Preface is it possible to appreciate the thoroughness with which Agnes O’Dea and her co-workers have approached the subject. Not included are periodical articles, periodicals and newspapers, maps, prints, textbooks, and works by Newfoundlanders not relating to Newfoundland with the exception of literary works. In all some two hundred libraries and special collections were consulted during the compilation of the work, a fact which presents further evidence of the thoroughness of Miss O’Dea and her colleagues.

As the compiler points out in her prefatory remarks, there were few bibliographical studies of Newfoundland when she, in the 1930s, became interested in the sub-
ject. This continued to be the situation until 1960 when her preliminary list of material about the new province appeared. As one reads something of the history of the project one is struck by the seemingly insurmountable difficulties caused by this very paucity of reference materials. When Agnes O'Dea was commissioned to compile a Newfoundland bibliography, the US National Union Catalogue had not been published nor was the Canadian National Union Catalogue available. It was very much a ‘from scratch’ undertaking which grew slowly, but richly, and then expanded as resources in Newfoundland and elsewhere became available. During all of the time spent on her project Agnes O'Dea visited many of the main libraries in Canada, the United States, England, and Ireland to collect information and to confirm entries. Hers was a long trek which she accomplished with rare tenacity.

Although the Bibliography is chronologically arranged by historical subject, the user will not find a listing of imprints by date. The first numbered item is an edition of The Norse Discoverers of America: The Wineland Sagas published in 1970 which contains thirty-five pages relating to Newfoundland. Richard Hakluyt's The Principall Navigations ... (1598) does not appear until 8a and then only as a facsimile edition which was published in 1965. The Bibliography does not attempt to describe all editions of an important work. George Heriot's famous Travels through the Canadas ... (1807) is listed under its first publication date but the edition described is the Hurtig reprint of 1971. Scholars who require a description of the original Heriot edition, for example, must go elsewhere. This ‘subsidiary feature’ is outlined as follows in the Preface: ‘A work is usually arranged by the date of the first edition, when ascertained, and followed by entries or notes of other editions or imprints examined. Not all editions are included.’

Other ‘features’ or characteristics of the Bibliography include the placing of diaries, correspondence, documents, and journals in their historical period rather than by date of publication; recurrent issues of publications, such as Pilot guides, are placed in the date of the first publication. One feature of particular interest to printing and publishing historians is the indication by asterisk of all Newfoundland imprints to 1949, ‘thus drawing attention to the names of many Newfoundland printers and publishers since 1807.’ An index of these early pioneers might have made up a relatively short but highly useful adjunct to the book.

One feature of the work which might also have been extended is the reproduction of title pages of representative works, particularly those by Newfoundland publishers. A list of reproductions at the front of volume 1 would have made such information more readily available to the user. One title which would seem worthy of illustrative commentary is the famous A Discovrse and Discovery of Nevv-foundland ... (1620) by Sir Richard Whitbourne.

Such comments add up to merely asking for more of the very rich fare already provided in Agnes O'Dea's Bibliography. It is a first-rate addition to the shelf of great Canadian bibliographies and one of which all who laboured to bring it to completion can be very proud.

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