se référer à la distinction établie par Lucie Robert entre *texte* et *livre* pour préciser l'objet de leur analyse et évaluer l'utilisation de matériaux aussi divers que les contrats d'édition, les lois sur le droit d'auteur, les catalogues de librairies ou de bibliothèques collectives. Tous ces matériaux peuvent servir, comme le suggère Lucie Robert, à comprendre le processus d'institutionnalisation du littéraire. Finalement, les sociologues et économistes seront amenés à préciser des concepts usés ou sous-utilisés pour parler des institutions artistiques.

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Gloria M. Strathern. *Alberta Newspapers, 1880-1982: An Historical Directory*. Edmonton: The University of Alberta Press, 1988. xxxiv, 568 pp.; \$55.00 (hardbound), \$40.00 (paper). ISBN 0-88864-137-0 (hardbound), ISBN 0-88864-138-9 (paper).

A small sheet, five by seven inches, called the *Bulletin*, published under the editorship of Frank Oliver, was issued on 6 December 1880. This was the first newspaper to be published in the area that is now Alberta. It was followed by the *Fort MacLeod Gazette* in 1882 and the *Calgary Herald* in 1883.

To date, studies of Alberta newspapers have concentrated on major urban papers and the publications of significant political organizations. Information about Alberta newspapers existed in lists of the holdings of institutions, directories and union lists. Bibliographies such as Bruce Peel's monumental *Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces to 1953*, Ian Dew's *Bibliography of Material Relating to Southern Alberta Published to 1970*, Alan Artibise's *Western Canada Since 1870*, and Gloria Strathern's *Alberta 1954-1979: A Provincial Bibliography* all excluded newspapers.

Gloria Strathern's *Alberta Newspapers, 1880-1982: An Historical Directory* is a substantial, comprehensive list of publications in Alberta and a review of the role of the press. It fills important gaps in the historical record.

The *Directory* identifies 1,092 newspapers (and 23 fugitive titles) published in Alberta between 1880 and 31 December 1982. Publications eligible for inclusion were determined after an acceptable definition of the term 'newspaper' was established. Strathern chose not to follow the National Library's rather limited definition with its exclusion of the publications of such groups as fraternal and labour organizations, educational and religious institutions, and ethnic publishers. Since these types of publications played an important part in the development of Alberta, to exclude them would skew the record.

After an extensive literature search for a good, workable definition of a newspaper Strathern based her definition on Jean Whiffen's observation that:

There is no internationally accepted definition of a newspaper, but this kind of serial is usually printed originally on newsprint, in a format of no less than four columns of type per page, is issued at least once a month, without a cover, and has a masthead. It usually contains general news coverage, rather

than being oriented towards specific subject matter, but certain types such as financial, student, ethnic, etc. are common to many countries. ('Union Catalogues of Serials,' *Serials Librarian* 8, no. 1 [Fall 1983]: 73.)

Strathern points out that not all newspapers in Alberta met these criteria: 'some were published less frequently than once a month, a few were handwritten in a single copy while others had no masthead, though all had a banner title on the first page' (p. xiv).

Newspapers included in the *Directory* were considered by their publishers to be newspapers or were so identified either through examination or through secondary sources. Newspapers excluded were: church bulletins, community league organs, election campaign papers, papers published by and for juveniles, including college and school organs, bulletins and newspapers of companies, organizations and professional and trade associations, shoppers that comprise 75 per cent or more advertising content and were not eligible for second class mail as defined by the *Canada Postal Guide*, and tourist papers comprised solely of advertising and information about tourist attractions.

The organization of the *Directory* makes it easy to use once the 'User's Guide' has been consulted. Newspapers are arranged chronologically by first date of issue under the name of the geographic area or place that they principally served. The geographic areas are arranged alphabetically and, where necessary, cross-references are provided from earlier or related place names. If the place of printing or publication differed from the area served, this information is provided in the Notes Section.

Each newspaper title entry consists of a number of elements: (1) item number: each newspaper has a unique item number. These numbers are used to cross-reference newspapers and to locate variant titles in the Title Index; (2) title: taken from the front-page banner; (3) publication date: whenever possible full dates (day, month, year) are supplied for first and last issues of a newspaper; (4) frequency: records how often a newspaper was published; (5) special interest or ethnic group affiliations; (6) language: English unless otherwise indicated; (7) notes: provide information about the publishing history of the paper, including any explanation of irregularities and discrepancies, and any additional sources of information; (8) special features: supplements, sections, special and anniversary issues; (9) relationships between newspapers: absorptions, amalgamations and mergers, continued by, splits, superseded / superseded by; (10) holdings: records those institutions possessing copies of the paper and the extent of their holdings. The acronyms used for institutions are logical and mnemonic: for example, AC = Calgary Public Library; ACG = Calgary Glenbow-Alberta Institute. If there are no known locations, this is stated. (One reads with regret the frequent notation, 'no issues located.') It should be noted that the *Directory* is not a union list of institutional holdings. Only significant or unique holdings have been recorded.

Information in the entries is heavily abbreviated. Upon first glance this is irritating but the entries are soon handled with ease, thanks to the common sense use of abbreviations and the clear 'User's Guide.'

The newspaper listing portion of the *Directory* comprises 257 pages. It is followed by six indexes which provide detailed access to the newspapers. The Bio-

graphical Index consists of 199 pages and provides information on editors and publishers. The information is uneven and ranges from one word for Barry Schofield of the *Sherwood Park Star* to eleven lines for Arnold Platt of the *Organized Farmers*. However, it is a useful starting point for further research. The source of the biographical information is listed either in the entry or in the geographic entry. The next five indexes provide access through the Chronological Index of Daily Newspapers, the Chronological Index of Newspapers Other than Dailies, the Ethnic Index, the Subject Index (the largest number of papers were agricultural, 71, followed by labour, 38), and finally the Title Index which includes bilingual and alternative titles. All the indexes are cross-referenced by item number to the main listing.

The indexes are easy to use and greatly enhance the value of the *Directory*. They were, incidentally, manually produced. The *Directory* concludes with a bibliography of 23 pages listing the principal sources consulted and their locations. This list is itself an excellent guide to readings in Alberta history.

Physically the *Directory* is a handsome volume. It is printed on permanent paper in small but legible type and is further enhanced by black and white illustrations and maps on the endpapers. Work began in 1982, and the *Directory* was eighteen months in press. There are a few typographical errors and inconsistencies but nothing that jumps off the page at the reader.

To some extent the *Directory* flows from the National Library's decentralized programme for Canadian newspapers. The purpose of this programme is the compilation, on a provincial basis, of inventories of extant publications from the provinces for eventual inclusion in a union list on microfiche to replace the sadly out of date *Union List of Canadian Newspapers Held by Canadian Libraries*. Provincial response has varied. Official response from Alberta has been slow. The *Directory* is the work of one individual with one or two researchers and financial assistance from federal and provincial governments. J. Brian Gilchrist's *Inventory of Ontario Newspapers, 1793-1986* is the Ontario counterpart to Strathern's *Directory*. Gilchrist employed the National Library's definition of a newspaper, and consequently excluded important publications of labour, religion, education, and ethnic publishers. He also excluded publications in all languages other than English or French. Strathern's work is much more comprehensive in its inclusions and in the amount of information provided for each entry, as well as in the variety of access points.

Gloria Strathern brings a wealth of bibliographical expertise to the *Directory*. Currently Professor in the Faculty of Library Science at the University of Alberta, she is the author of *Navigations, Traffiques and Discoveries, 1774-1848: A Guide to Publications Relating to the Area Now British Columbia* (1970) and *Alberta 1954-1979: A Provincial Bibliography* (1982). Both have been characterized as indispensable to library collections and researchers. The same can be said of the present work. The *Directory* is a valuable reference tool and a distinguished addition to the study of Alberta's history. Gloria Strathern was the 1989 recipient of the Tremaine Medal awarded by the Bibliographical Society of Canada for her contribution to Canadian bibliography, and deservedly so.

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