
This work brings forward by ten years Dr. Olga Bishop’s fine Bibliography of Ontario History, 1867-1976 (2 vols., Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1980), so it is proper that it has adopted the identical title, with the later date span. It is useful to note, though, that unlike Dr. Bishop’s, this later compilation includes works dealing with the pre-Confederation period. It is also bilingual.

The editors, as the compilers style themselves, are all connected with Laurentian University in Sudbury: Mr. Gervais, responsible for the classification scheme of the book and for reviewing the French entries, is a professor; Ms. Hallsworth, who compiled most of the entries and kept the records, is a researcher; while Mr. Thomson, a librarian, modified the classification and supervised the computer inputing. All three have worked successfully together for some years, producing the Ontario Historical Society’s Annual Bibliography of Ontario History / Bibliographie annuelle d’histoire ontarienne (1981-86), and the Bibliographie: histoire du Nord-Est de l’Ontario / Bibliography: History of North-Eastern Ontario. (Sudbury: La Soc. hist. du Nouvel-Ont., 1985). The various sources of financial support are acknowledged on the verso of the title-leaf.

It is interesting to observe, on reading the Introduction and Acknowledgements, that the workload was spread over many more hands than those of the three editors: the division of labour extends to several assistant compilers and revisers, and even the indexes and proofreading were undertaken by others. A truly massive amount of work was involved, however (I estimate 12,000 entries – an indication of the vitality of historical research on Ontario during the period), and solitary bibliographers are an endangered species today. That aspect of the book which makes its information equally available to French and English users, so successfully accomplished, has added tremendously to the labour invested here.

Intending users would do well to study the guide at the front, as well as the outline of the classification system. The arrangement is quite intricate, but works well when understood. The elaborate classification plan, along with its separate index at the end, plus an index of names, make available a very precise search strategy; but this is a reference book, not a computer. Having in mind that reference books, of which there are many indeed, are best when they yield their information quickly, one wonders if an alphabetical arrangement of the items in the bibliography, with a single alphabetized analytical index, might not have been an improvement. But this is an old and contentious question, and there are advantages and disadvantages to both plans.

One feature lacking here, which would have helped users, is the employment of running heads. These, thoughtfully planned, are so valuable in works of non-fiction, and particularly in reference books. They give yeoman assistance to the typographic and layout design of captions for Parts, Sections, and Subsections, to facilitate quick reference. In the present work it would be helpful to have the span of sections and subsections named at the head of each page, or divided over each opening. The span
of item numbers in the running head, too, would help readers in finding their way from the indexes, whose entries are keyed to the numbers of the items in the Bibliography.

The numbering system for these items works very well, and is unique for citation purposes. The bibliographical descriptions are brief [once this would have been called a checklist], but sufficient for identification: author, title, with imprint and pagination for books; and for journals the journal title, volume and issue numbers, date, and page-span. Analytics for parts of books indicate only the monographic title and page-span; 'In' before the title is the only sign in the entry that this is an analytic ('indexed' item), and that full information is given in a 'Books Indexed' list at the front. The brief descriptive annotations or notes to about 20% of the entries are most useful, and though subjects are often self-evident, one still wishes that the editors had found time to increase this percentage.

There are two indexes at the end. The 'Index to Names / Index Onomastique' refers only to authors and editors (cf. p. xv, col. 1), a limitation which should have been noted at the start of this index. It stood up well to my random testing of entries against the text, and vice versa, but I do have a minor criticism. Why are 'Traves, Tom' and Traves, Thomas Donald' separate entries, even though one is clearly the published version of the other, a Ph.D. thesis by the same person? Similarly with 'Lochhead, Douglas' and Lochhead, Douglas G.,' and there are numerous other obvious or likely duplicate entries for the same person. I suppose the fault arises from mechanical compilation, and the fact that book paper is cheaper than research time. After all, this index comprises about 55,000 entries! But why 'Talman, J.J. (James John),' as though an outside intelligence were sometimes perfectly willing to impose itself upon the machine?

The other index is 'to the Classification Scheme / Index au système de classement,' augmenting the outline of the system in the preliminary pages. As the headnote explains, the entries refer only to the sections and subsections in the classification [over 2,000 of them!] as displayed in the text, so it is not a complete subject index. It does not refer to subjects within the individual entries. As a random example, item 71:6 (the biography section of persons whose names begin with the letter 'T'): this is an article about Albert Tavernier and the Guelph Opera House. The next entry refers to York Factory. None of these subjects can be found in the indexes. (I hark back to my argument for an A-Z arrangement of entries, with a single analytic A-Z index.) I do, however, commend the idea of capitalizing the subjects' names in this biography section; being already in alphabetical order, the entries for biographes can be readily found.

In the matter of book design, which to some extent may be regarded as being governed by personal taste, I would prefer a somewhat smaller format that could more easily be held in the hand while turning the leaves, even at the cost of greater thickness. The paper weight, colour, and texture are agreeable, and the binding functionally adequate for the reasonable price. The title-page typography leaves something to be desired: it is too large for good taste [the reader, after all, is only inches away and need not be shouted at], and the half-title, that wonderful opportunity for a gracious entrance, is simply a replica of the title with the imprint omitted. It serves no purpose. The type-size of the dedication [so appropriately to Olga Bishop!] must
be about 30 points; as with the title-page, a type half that size would have given dignity to these pages. The type-face and size of the text are a happy selection, attractive and legible, as is the type-size range for the various levels of headings and subheadings, bringing clarity to the user. The margins of the preliminaries are less appealing. They are uneven, and usually unbalanced on the page: the foot is sometimes under a centimetre wide, while the head might be 3 or 4 cm. Even in the text, the inner and outer margins tend to be disproportionately narrow. In short, the appearance of the book would have benefited from the services of a book designer.

This is an exhaustive work, yet it represents only a single decade for one province; the mind reels—and blesses the computer. It is an invaluable reservoir of titles, and should be available to students and scholars, local historians and genealogists, and everyone interested in Ontario during the period and before.

William F. E. Morley
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UNESCO declared 1972 International Book Year. Its primary objective was ‘to focus attention on the role of books in society.’ One of the themes suggested was ‘developing national library documentation services as well as bibliographic tools, particularly current national and regional bibliographies.’ As a result of this directive, the Department of the Secretary of State made available a grant for a National Conference on the state of Canadian Bibliography. A conference was organized by the School of Librarianship of the University of British Columbia and was held on 22-24 May 1974 in Vancouver. Two hundred people from across Canada attended the conference, 25 of whom presented papers. Of the 66 bibliographies on Ontario listed by William F.E. Morley at the conference, only 21 pertained to a county such as Lambton or to a town such as Sudbury. Generally, these dealt with only one aspect of the literature and were never published.

Increasingly, teachers and students of local history, archivists, genealogists, museum staff, heritage and other groups want information pertaining to a given area. As the number of heritage and conservation groups, as well as genealogists, continues to increase, comprehensive bibliographies of a region are invaluable. This bibliography of Guelph and Wellington County since 1800 is such a research tool.

This bibliography, which is the first major undertaking of the Guelph Regional Project, established in 1987 to study the Upper Grand River Region, contains 1,716 annotated items dealing with the history of Guelph and Wellington County from