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

(William F. E. Morley is the former Curator of Special Collections at the Douglas Library in Queen's University. He was the Review Editor of the Papers / Cahiers from 1968 to 1980. In 1977 he was awarded the Marie Tremaine Medal for his outstanding contribution to Canadian bibliography. He lives in Kingston, Ontario.)


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
In 1860, included are general histories of the area, local histories of many hamlets and towns (24 individual townships and urban centres have been listed in the table of contents, each of which has a number of references), special editions of newspapers (both historical and industrial), local historical society publications, university essays and theses, and some fiction based on activities in Wellington County. A few maps have been listed. Archival material has not been included. However, a further volume containing such material will be part of the Guelph Regional Project. While the two volumes will appear separately in print, they will be integrated in one data base and will be accessible in machine-readable format, thus providing researchers with the most comprehensive guide to historical resources of any local region in Canada.

The material has been listed under eight major sections with several subdivisions in seven: general surveys and sources, settlement process (pioneer settlement, urbanization), demographic and social structure (ethnicity, family structure and relations, migrations, social structure and elites), economic development processes (farms and farming, agricultural improvement, agricultural education and research, finance land and capital, manufacturing industry, transportation and communications, trade and commerce), landscapes (natural environment and resources, architecture and the built environment), culture and social institutions (schools and education, literary culture, popular culture, religion and churches, sports and recreation, voluntary associations), government and administration (definition of areas and boundaries, judicial administrations, municipal government and local services, militia law and order, politics), and specific townships and urban centres (24 in number). In addition there are five indexes covering fifty pages: author (600 persons), place (175 places), topical index (500 index terms), personal subject (1,700 persons cited), and corporate subject (1,000 businesses, municipalities, churches, schools and societies).

The work begins with a 30-page introduction which is divided into two parts. In the first part, Gilbert A. Stelter (chairman of the Guelph Regional Project) identifies some of the problems of determining a geographical region. In the second part, Elizabeth Bloomfield (co-ordinator) discusses 'creating and using the bibliography.' Two people, Joe Gabriel and Jane Turner, worked full-time on the project, while two others, Patricia Abbott and John Warecki, worked part-time.

The data structure provides for the following elements: a unique number, personal or corporate author(s), title or article, chapter, thesis or report, published title of book or journal, names of editor(s), place of publication, details of collation, medium, abstract or scope and content note, library location, start and end dates of time span, and abbreviated library location code(s). A map of the county, divided into the twelve townships, shows Dufferin County to the northeast and Waterloo County to the south. Two of the townships are divided between two counties: Luther W. in Wellington and Luther E. in Dufferin, and Garafraxa W. in Wellington and Garafraxa E. in Dufferin. No such division appears between Waterloo and Wellington counties. However, there are a few entries for each of the townships in Waterloo County.

As expected, Guelph Township has the most citations listed in the 'Place Index.'
In the ‘Corporate Subject Index’ 133 organizations are listed, showing Guelph as the first word in the name of their organization.

When a letter is listed such as one written by John Galt to settlers in 1828 (item 107) one wonders why the date 1828-1828 is used in the period covered rather than just 1828. There are a number of such items which cover just one year. On the other hand, when the annotation states that the work covers several years (items 38 and 39) it might be questioned why the period covered lists only one year. As invariably in all publications there is the occasional typographical error such as assessment ‘roles’ instead of assessment rolls (item 39). With such a major work as this, these complaints are insignificant.

The bibliography is a tribute to the dedication and infinite patience of Elizabeth Bloomfield, Gilbert A. Stelter and their assistants who searched out the material, classified, and annotated it for this very comprehensive work. It should serve as a model for other regions not only in Ontario but also for the other local regions of Canada.

OLGA B. BISHOP

(Olga B. Bishop is Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Library and Information Science at the University of Toronto. She was awarded the Marie Tremaine Medal for her contribution to bibliography in 1981. She has completed several bibliographies on nineteenth-century publications of the Ontario government as well as Bibliography of Ontario History, 1867-1976.)


Local histories of Ontario counties, cities, towns, townships and villages have been published for more than a century. There can be hardly a place among Ontario’s 27 counties, 10 districts, 12 regional municipalities, 49 cities, 146 towns, 119 villages, 478 townships and 7 ‘improvement districts’ that lacks at least one local history of some kind. Jubilees, centennials, sesquicentennials, and bicentennials of a particular locality or of the whole province or nation, have become occasions for publishing local history. And if many local histories make dull reading, they are usually treasure troves of essential facts in which we all want to prospect. How can librarians cope with local history materials in the information revolution?

Barbara Aitken, Acting Curator of Special Collections in the Douglas Library of Queen’s University, has long been active in the bibliography of Ontario local histories. In the early 1970s she began compiling lists that were duplicated and distributed by the Kingston Public Library Board. In 1978 the Ontario Library Association published her Local Histories of Ontario Municipalities, 1951-1977: A Bibliography that listed about 1,700 titles. The present book closely follows the model of its predecessor in principles of selection, format of entries, layout and even cover design.

This volume lists about 1,050 titles in Ontario local history, including books and pamphlets published or reprinted since 1977 as well as Women’s Institute