Vol. 2. The switch to double columns and the inclusion of colour illustrations have added to the overall attractiveness of the journal. A few minor spelling errors slipped by in Vol. 1 (p. 8 'cermony,' p. 69 'Nottman'), but Vol. 2 appears to be error free. A few additional features would make *Fontanus* an even more useful journal, especially for those who intend to follow up on an interest sparked by the articles published. A brief description of the collection policies, facilities, and addresses of the McGill libraries, museums, and archives would be useful. From the list of contributors it is obvious that there are many talented and knowledgeable individuals on staff at the McGill repositories. A list of contact people would be a useful feature. Since the primary goal of the journal is to draw attention to the collections it would also be useful to have quantitative and access information about each collection summarized in a standard way at the conclusion of each article. As it stands now, *Fontanus* is a very readable and interesting guide to research collections at McGill University.

KAREN SMITH

(Karen Smith is the Special Collections Librarian at Dalhousie University Library.)

Daniel Gauvin. *Canadian Guide to Rare Books / Guide canadien du livre rare*. Translated by / traduit par Kathryn Sabo. Montreal: Daniel Gauvin Éditeur Inc., 1989. xii, 217, [5] pp.; \$40 (paper). ISBN 2-9801501-0-X.

There is a need for a clear, well-organized and accurate guide to rare book collecting in Canada to be used by collectors at all levels of expertise. Daniel Gauvin, rare book librarian at the Université du Québec à Montréal, has recognized this need and has prepared a bilingual guide to the field, including information on basic book collecting, reference works, evaluations and preventive conservation, as well as directories of antiquarian and specialized book dealers, both in Canada and abroad, auction houses, conservators and conservation suppliers. Regrettably, Gauvin has not included a section on rare book libraries.

Divided into two parts, *La Bibliophilie / The Bibliophilism* and *Annuaire des adresses utiles / Directory of Useful Addresses*, the book is in the style of Alice D. Schreyer's *Rare Books 1983-84: Trends, Collections, Sources* (New York & London: R.R. Bowker, 1984) and Albert Labarre's *Annuaire du livre de collection 1985-1986* (Paris: Éditions Promodis, 1986). Unlike Schreyer and Labarre, however, Gauvin has not invited authorities in the rare book field to contribute; he has written all of the brief introductory essays himself. While the framework of the book has merit, the work is seriously marred by information which is too often incomplete, inaccurate, or even misleading. There is, among other errors, one dangerous mistake which must be corrected. Saddle soap should never be used on leather bindings, nor should potassium lactate, which was discredited some years ago. Other errors and omissions seriously affect the value of this work. For example, several Canadian dealers have been omitted from the directory, while no fewer than three of those listed are dead. For some of those included, the addresses or telephone numbers given are incorrect, and, inexplicably, Gauvin has chosen not to identify all dealers who

specialize in Canadiana, which is surely of major importance to both dealers and collectors in this country.

Gauvin has made a brave beginning. It is to be hoped that in future editions the full range of rare book expertise in Canada will be represented, and that the work will be more carefully prepared.

JOYCE M. BANKS

(Joyce M. Banks is the Rare Books and Conservation Librarian at the National Library of Canada.)

Andrea Retfalvi, comp., with the editorial assistance of Ann Hilty.
Canadian Illustrated News, Montreal, 1869-1883: An Index. Toronto:
University of Toronto, Department of Fine Art, 1989. xvi, 368 pp.; \$25.00
(paper). ISBN 0-7727-2432-6.

Nothing gladdens the heart of researchers in nineteenth-century Canadiana more than the appearance of an index to one of the publications of the period. So it was with great anticipation that I settled down to work my way through Andrea Retfalvi's new work on the *Canadian Illustrated News*. Alas, I was disappointed. The book is indeed 'An Index,' but it is not 'the Index.'

To index the *Canadian Illustrated News* (hereafter *CIN*) is certainly a daunting task, and it is entirely possible that no single volume could contain all the elements of an adequate index. Published weekly over a period of more than fourteen years, the periodical is best known today as the principal source of late nineteenth-century engravings of Canadian scenes. However, the *CIN* actually contained more text than pictures. Each number included editorial comment on contemporary international as well as Canadian activities, non-fiction articles on a variety of subjects, poetry, fiction, and brief miscellanies. As a weekly compendium of Canadian perceptions about what was significant both here and abroad, the *CIN* is a valuable resource for historians studying the decades immediately following Confederation. An index to the non-visual contents would be of great assistance to Canadian scholarship in a number of fields.

Retfalvi's introductory material is brief and assumes that a reader who wants detailed information about the *CIN* will have read Peter Desbarat's history of the periodical and its founder contained in the *Commemorative Portfolio* published by McClelland and Stewart in 1970. Because much of the Introduction is taken up with listing all the categories omitted from this work, the compilers begin with the statement that 'This index has been designed to allow a user to browse and get an impression of the contents of the *CIN*.' And indeed, it is a browser's, rather than a researcher's book.

There are five nominal indexes, followed by a subject index. The nominal indexes list artists, photographers, authors of articles, poets, and authors of fiction. Nationality and birth and death dates are given for some names, but not for others for whom the same information is readily available. In the literary indexes, some pseudonyms are decoded, others are not. Information about people who appear in more than one section is sometimes given at first mention, sometimes at all men-