myth of the primal curse accompanying the European settling of North America, cruising along the St. Lawrence long before it ambled down another great river to fetch up in Yoknapatawpha.

No reader will fault, and the serious will thank, the editor for his meticulously detailed introduction and explanatory notes. It is really necessary, however, to include a verse of 'Old King Cole' among the latter? Must we really allow for that benighted a generation of future readers?

Since I am not a bibliographer, I only note rather than evaluate the thorough and elaborate procedures for text-establishment that mark the CEECT series. They are in force here as well. At times, the essential fascination of the origins, publication, and reception-history of the novel gets submerged beneath the many details that the introduction marshals. But the 'overkill' can be easily neutralized, particularly when the reader realizes that virtually everything that one needs to know about the circumstances of publication rests at one's fingertips. 'Virtually': this reader would have liked to have seen some speculation on the effect of the American publisher's anti-Catholic ideology upon the Gothicizing of Matilda Montgomerie, though that is no more than a quibble.

Important, far more important, to express is the sense of gratitude every student of Canadian literature must feel at the CEECT's splendid refurbishing of John Richardson's two major claims upon our critical attention.

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In the past decade, materials about Canada's native peoples, Indians, Métis and Inuit, have proliferated. In early 1992 a group of people working in native studies
attempted to choose the ten 'best' books published in a variety of categories over
the last decade to present to the Bibliographical Society of Canada at the annual
meeting of the Learned Societies. The task turned out to be more daunting than
had originally been anticipated due to the overwhelming number of works
published.

A comprehensive bibliography in native studies simply does not exist in
Canada. Instead, bibliographies on specific topics are being published. While this
has proven a godsend to certain researchers, the lack of overall bibliographical
control has made life a great deal more difficult for the non-specific user.

The purpose of this essay is to review bibliographies that have been compiled
for two specific projects: the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations of Queen's
University project on aboriginal peoples and constitutional reform, and Prairie
Justice Research of the University of Regina's project on seeking ways to reduce
the over-incarceration of aboriginal people. Both projects have a legal, political
basis, and both have produced several research documents as well as bibliographies.

Aboriginal Self-Government in Canada: A Bibliography, 1987–90 by Evelyn
J. Peters is the second bibliography that she has compiled under the aboriginal
peoples and constitutional reform program. The first was published in 1986. The
goals of the project are twofold: to study 'what aboriginal self-government
involves at the local level . . . and to theorize on the entrenchment of the right to
aboriginal self-government at the constitutional level' (p. 1). Peters's bibliog-
raphies were published to enable researchers to find background information on
the research topics. The original bibliography referred to over 700 articles, books,
and reports which were housed at the National Library of Canada, the Assembly
of First Nations Library, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Devel-
opment Library, the Historical Treaties and Research Centre, the Library of
Parliament, and the Native Council of Canada. The 1987–90 bibliography is a
continuation of the earlier publication. It is not intended to stand alone since it
does not 'reproduce the references already contained in the previous volume'
(p. x). Because of this, the two bibliographies should be reviewed as one work.

While the 1987–90 bibliography continues to record works on aboriginal self-
government, Peters explicitly includes accessibility to the documents as a crite-
rion for inclusion. The 1987–90 bibliography only includes materials in academic
publications and works that are available in the Ottawa-based libraries.

These bibliographies are an excellent resource for information on native self-
government. Besides providing up-to-date listings on the various approaches to
self-government, they also cite all of the published documents produced by the
First Ministers' Conferences on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters between 1983
and 1987. While these documents are often available in the government publica-
tions departments of larger libraries, it is not always easy to find a complete and
accurate listing of what exists. Both bibliographies include author indexes and
the 1987–90 work has a title index as well. Unfortunately, the bibliography is not
annotated, and items are listed in only one category. The categories are extremely
broad. Finding specific information on topics such as financing self-government
means that the researcher has to scan the whole title index with the hope that
the original author used the term finance or a synonym in the title. Overall,
however, the Peters bibliographies on aboriginal self-government in Canada are a useful addition to native bibliography.

The second set of publications reviewed here results from Strategies to Reduce the Over-Incarceration of Aboriginal People in Canada: A Research Consultation. Sponsored by Prairie Justice Research of the School of Human Justice at the University of Regina, the publications are a result of a conference held in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, in 1990. The ‘purpose of the Consultation was to provide a forum for researchers from across Canada to discuss their research findings on Aboriginal Peoples and justice issues and to identify future research directions on this theme’ (p. 1). Among the themes identified by the conference participants was the need for information on community-based alternatives to the dominant criminal justice system.

This need has resulted in two bibliographies. The first is a rather complex publication entitled An Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal-Controlled Justice Programs in Canada by Jim Harding and Bruce Spencer. One has to question whether the term bibliography is the most accurate description of this work. It may be better described as a compendium or directory of programs since many of the annotated entries are of photocopied letters and reports — ephemeral rather than published works. It is open to debate whether the value of the book lies simply in the compiling of the materials or in the discussion of the work needed to be undertaken to improve the lot of incarcerated native peoples.

The material in this volume results from a computerized literature search and a mail-out to 275 people and organizations involved in justice programming in aboriginal communities. Although the response rate was under ten percent, the researchers decided not to add anything else such as government-sponsored programs. The researchers placed the reports in the following categories: general, policing, courts, corrections, and diversion. Each entry is extensively annotated. Although an index is unnecessary because there are so few programs, there is an appendix of programs by province.

What then is the value of a bibliography such as this? The authors conclude that ‘Aboriginal-controlled justice systems [are] still very much at a conceptual stage’ (p. 83). One wonders, facetiously perhaps, how long the gestation period will be since nearly half of the programs reviewed were completed prior to 1985. More to the point is the decision on the part of the compilers to exclude government programs, particularly in light of the healing lodges which are now being built by governments in partnership with native peoples. Perhaps the need for justice programs controlled exclusively by aboriginal peoples is not as important as working together with the dominant system. A great deal of thought went into categorizing and annotating the materials for this bibliography. Unfortunately, it looks as if the work will end up a historical curiosity because of the data limitations.

Harding and Beryl Forgay have taken a more traditional approach to bibliography with Breaking Down the Walls: A Bibliography on the Pursuit of Aboriginal Justice. Like the Annotated Bibliography... previously mentioned, this bibliography is a result of the Prince Albert consultation. Its purpose is to highlight materials that take into consideration traditional aboriginal approaches to conflict resolution. At the same time, it presents materials that support these
traditional methods as a part of the movement toward self-government and self-determination.

The researchers began with an extensive search of computerized literature databases. They also looked at materials located at the University of Saskatchewan Native Law Centre and at the Prairie Regional Office of the Solicitor General of Canada. Once the material had been gathered, the compilers classified it into six categories: research approaches, criminal justice system, judicial inquiries, socio-economic issues, self-government, and self-determination. Most of the items were written after 1980. Once the materials had been categorized, the authors classified them by source and type, so each section has up to eleven further categories. These include newspapers, items from aboriginal and non-aboriginal periodicals, university and government reports, and films and videos. There is no author index, and as in the Peters bibliography, works are confined to citations in single categories.

This bibliography has great potential. It is an excellent source for aboriginal justice materials, and the breakdown by category and type of publication makes up for the lack of annotations. Researchers will also find it useful because the information given about databases and search strategies used make it relatively simple to update.

All of the bibliographies described here highlight the problems inherent in native bibliography today. The researchers used resources that were more or less local to them — Peters in Ottawa, Harding et al. in Saskatchewan. All of the sources are excellent but so are many others. Although there is some English-language information about the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreements, no one listed other resources available in Quebec. In a sense, even though the bibliographies were intended to be very specific, they are incomplete because of these overlooked resources. There is a definite need for a bibliography on aboriginal political and legal issues with a national scope.

At the same time, the materials covered are very useful not only to the experienced researcher, but to the undergraduate sociologist, political scientist, and lawyer, as well as to those in native studies programs.

The obvious question that arises in this era of cutbacks is the one concerning the accessibility of bibliographies such as these. University library budgets cannot handle the number of such specific bibliographies in any subject area, especially if there is an indication of overlap. Because of its interdisciplinary nature, native studies will lose out to more general bibliographies in political studies, history, sociology, and so on. Specific works such as these will be lost to the researcher.

Native studies will be better served by a comprehensive electronic database of its own. The University of Saskatchewan is attempting to mount the library holdings of local institutions including the Native Law Centre, the University of Saskatchewan Indian Teacher Education Program, and the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre. The Saskatchewan Indian Federated College catalogue is accessible through the University of Regina's library system. Although these databases are not integrated, the potential is there. Through the internet, access to the listings is cheap and immediate. The materials in Peters and Harding et al. will be a part of this larger bibliography, and therefore available to all scholars. We can
only hope that a team of bibliographers will see the importance of integrating, updating, and annotating them.

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A wide range of materials about Canadian children is included in this bibliography. Its compilers claim that, together with its soon-to-be-published companion volume on contemporary childhood, it 'include[s] virtually every serious piece of writing about Canadian children that has appeared in English.' There is undoubtedly a great deal of information in the book, and many hard-to-find items are listed, but the information may not serve students and scholars as well as it should because of the way the book is structured.

The brief introduction is not informative about the scope of the work. Neither the time period covered nor the types of material included and excluded are made explicit. Journals that were systematically searched from their beginning through 1990 are listed, but no explanation is given about how decisions were made on which articles from these journals would be included. Articles published before the 1970s are listed whether they deal with historical or contemporary problems. The listings from the 1980s appear to include only historical articles, for example, Manfred Prokop's 1989 article, 'Canadianization of Immigrant Children: Role of the Rural Elementary School in Alberta, 1900-1930.' Some of the articles from this period no doubt will appear in the companion volume Contemporary Canadian Childhood and Youth: A Bibliography, but a scholar has no way of knowing the dividing line between the two works. Articles or monographs published outside of Canada but dealing with Canadian children seem to be excluded, but that limitation is not mentioned.

The entries for journal articles give the usual bibliographic information, but only the author, title, publisher, and date are given for monographs. Some of these items appear to be brief pamphlets, but there is no way to distinguish between these and full-length books. There is also a disquieting lack of information about a few items. The second listing in the bibliography is given as follows:


Neither publication nor date of publication appears, although the information that the publisher is Lester & Orpen Dennys and the date 1990 is easy to obtain from almost any research library catalogue.