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.
The bibliography is arranged in six sections: General, British Columbia, the Prairies, Central Canada, Atlantic Canada, and Northern Canada. This arrangement is useful for someone interested in regional studies, but it is inconvenient for a reader tracing a particular subject across the country. Such a reader would have to use the index and search out materials from each of the sections. Within each section the arrangement is alphabetical by author.

The index is arranged by broad subject categories with the number of each relevant item listed. A scholar seeking information about elementary education is confronted by a listing of more than 800 numbers with no breakdown for sub-divisions within the subject area. Some of the headings used in the index are almost useless for finding information. 'Autobiographical Accounts,' for example, lists hundreds of numbers of undifferentiated items. Surely someone looking for such items has in mind a particular period, occupational group, or geographical area.

Not only does the index contain unhelpful listings, but the lack of annotations for individual items makes the reason for the inclusion of some titles difficult to fathom. Biographies listed include Sir Robert Falconer: a Biography, Gordie Howe, and The Life of the Venerable Marguerite Bourgeoys, but there are no criteria to indicate why these biographies are included and others are not. Is there a particular emphasis on the childhoods of these particular individuals? There is no way of knowing.

The audience for the book will surely be historians, social scientists, and students, but many of the articles are on medical subjects. It seems unlikely that someone searching for an article such as 'Asphyxia Neonatorum and Resuscitation Methods' would use an historical bibliography such as this rather than a standard medical index. The fact that this article was published in Canada in 1954 is of less interest than the medical information it contains. Articles such as 'The Prognosis of Henoch-Schonlein Nephritis' (1962) and 'Fatal Duodenal Haemorrhage in the Newborn' (1954) appear to be listed more to swell the number of items given than to serve a useful purpose for historical or medical research, especially since they are indexed under the broad general heading of 'Medical Care' rather than under the specific disease discussed.

Although problems in indexing, arrangement, and explanatory material limit the value of this book, it is not without merit. The author index contains a listing for all authors, including each author of a multi-author work. Scholars searching for obscure works of known authors will be well-served by this approach. The sheer number of entries is also impressive. Many works listed here, especially those produced by small regional publishers or government departments, and unpublished Master's theses are probably missed by other, less inclusive bibliographies. The effort to prepare a comprehensive bibliography of historical material on Canadian children is commendable. A new edition which overcomes some of the problems noted would be even more useful to the scholarly community.

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