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- 1 *L'Édition littéraire au Québec de 1940 à 1960*, sous la direction de Jacques Michon, (Sherbrooke: Université de Sherbrooke, Département d'études françaises, Faculté des Arts, «Cahiers d'études littéraires et culturelles, no. 9», 1985), 217 p.; Louis Chantigny, Silvie Bernier *et al.*, *Bernard Valiquette* (Montréal: Publication et Association des éditeurs canadiens, «Collection Éditeurs du Québec», 1986), 109 p.; *L'Édition du livre populaire. Études sur les éditions Édouard Garand, de l'Étoile, Marquis, Granger frères*, sous la direction de Jacques Michon (Sherbrooke: les Éditions Ex Libris, 1988), 204 p.; *L'Édition de poésie. Les Éditions Erta, Orphée, Nocturne, Quartz, Atys et l'Hexagone* [. . .], sous la direction de Richard Giguère avec la collaboration d'André Marquis (Sherbrooke: les Éditions Ex Libris, 1989), 259 p.; *Éditeurs transatlantiques. Études sur les Éditions de l'Arbre, Lucien Parizeau, Fernand Pilon, Serge Brousseau, Mangin, B.D. Simpson*, sous la direction de Jacques Michon (Sherbrooke: les Éditions Ex Libris et Triptyque, 1991), 244 p.
- 2 Pierre Hébert, «Quand éditer, c'était agir. La bibliothèque de L'Action française (1918-1927)», *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française* 46, 2, (automne 1992): 219-44; «Le Devoir, éditeur littéraire 1910-1920», *Les Cahiers d'histoire du Québec au xx^e siècle* 1 (hiver 1994): 11-24. François Landry, «Le métier et la fonction d'éditeur de 1840 à 1940. Évolution d'un support logistique au service des idéologies dominantes. Le cas de Beauchemin», Thèse de Ph.D en cours, Université de Sherbrooke; Manon Poulin, «Eugène Achard, éditeur», Thèse de Ph.D., Université de Sherbrooke, 1994; Sylvie Faure, «Les Éditions Leméac (1957-1988): une illustration du rapport entre l'État et l'édition», Mémoire de maîtrise ès arts, Université de Sherbrooke, 1992.

LUCIE ROBERT

Université du Québec à Montréal

Carl Spadoni and Judy Donnelly. *A Bibliography of McClelland and Stewart Imprints, 1909-1985: A Publisher's Legacy*. Toronto: ECW Press, 1994. 862 pp.; \$75.00 (cloth). ISBN 1-55022-171-X.

In 1955, Jack McClelland wrote to the poet Phyllis Webb concerning the publication and promotion of her collection of poems *Even Your Right Eye*: 'It was fun meeting you, Phyllis. I think you should deliver your manuscript to us personally. If the men around here had a look at you I am sure they would sell far more of your poetry' (McClelland to Webb, 4 August 1955). Selective quotations from primary sources, such as the above quotation from the papers of Phyllis Webb, are often helpful in enlarging our historical understanding of the state of Canadian

authorship and the conditions of publishing, in learning something about what it was really like to be a Canadian publisher. Bibliographies of Canadian publishers, such as *A Bibliography of McClelland and Stewart Imprints, 1909–1985: A Publisher's Legacy*, provide the researcher with a less accessible kind of history and virtually no interpretation. Instead, compilers Carl Spadoni and Judy Donnelly attempt 'to record and to describe all editions published by M&S, its predecessors and associated companies, from the founding of the firm in 1906 to the end of Jack McClelland's active involvement in the company and his selling of it in 1985' (p. 54), and are successful. *A Bibliography of McClelland and Stewart Imprints* is an accurate and useful record of the imprints of one of Canada's major and dominant publishers, its length commensurate with the importance of the publisher. In addition, through effective inclusion of introductions and appendices, compilers Spadoni and Donnelly are able to suggest, albeit indirectly, some approaches researchers might take to tell other versions of M&S history.

A Bibliography of McClelland and Stewart Imprints is particularly admirable because it contains more information to assist researchers than previously published descriptive and enumerative bibliographies of Canadian publishers. W. Stewart Wallace's *The Ryerson's Imprint* (1954) is really a checklist of publications. *A Bibliography of Macmillan of Canada Imprints, 1906–1980* by Bruce Whiteman, Charlotte Stewart, and Catherine Funnell (1985), a comparable endeavour, had fewer enhancements. Given the relative dearth of publisher's bibliographies, Spadoni and Donnelly should be congratulated on the scope of their initiative. In his foreword, Graham R. Hill, University Librarian at McMaster University, rightly situates the bibliography as contributing to the definition and development of Canadian society; Jack McClelland's preface adds a human dimension to the project; lengthy acknowledgments suggest the arduous nature of the work involved and the importance of professional cooperation. While the chronology of the press is brief and selective, it is supplemented by a well-researched, thirty-five page historical introduction to McClelland and Stewart and to Canadian publishing of the period. Although greater reliance on original research in the papers of McClelland and Stewart and Jack McClelland listed in appendix C might have enlivened and enriched their introduction, Spadoni and Donnelly maintain an even-handed objectivity as they recount major milestones in the history of the press. Perhaps only cultural historians of a certain bent would prefer analysis, more about the inner workings and life of the press, more on the people and socio-cultural context in which they worked, than Spadoni and Donnelly offer.

Next is a useful explanation of bibliographical method and principles. Although a number of debatable decisions have been taken, such as the exclusion of M&S catalogues from the bibliography, the compilers have considered and countered most objections. Each bibliographical description is comprised of the following information: (1) item number; (2) main entry; (3) quasi-facsimile transcription of the title-page; (4) pagination; (5) size; (6) binding note; (7) printer; (8) other authorial responsibility; (9) historical note; (10) series; (11) bibliographical references; and (12) copies examined. Although this combination of descriptive and

enumerative bibliography is exemplary, it would be wonderful if bibliographers would consider including information about the number of copies published, if not the numbers sold. As well, historians of reading history and book design will lament the lack of description of the binding of paperback books and the minimal description allotted to hardcover jackets. When will bibliographers treat paperbacks as they treat hardcover books? Twentieth-century bibliographies should reflect the realities of the twentieth-century book trade. The bibliography of imprints contains descriptions of 3,677 titles published between 1909 and 1985, a natural cut-off date with the departure of Jack McClelland from the press. While the number of imprints is significant and impressive, it is possible that research drawing on a wider range of databases and libraries might have turned up even more imprints, particularly for known-item searches. The primary bibliography is followed by appendix A: 'Imprints not Located,' a staggering list of 1,326 titles listed in various sources but not found. While it was and is common practice for publishers to publicize forthcoming works, the numbers here merit attention. How many of these titles were actually published? How many were published under a rival publisher's imprint? Together, the bibliography and appendix A will assist booksellers and collectors hoping to track down and verify Canadiana and could equally serve as a desiderata list for Canadian libraries attempting to develop a comprehensive collection of Canadian imprints. It is hoped that additions and corrections to the bibliography will be gathered and made available as they are discovered.

Appendix B is an exciting addition to the bibliography; it pulls together an exhaustive list of all of the M&S series complete with a description of the editorial direction and publishing history when known. This appendix alone could provide fodder for research. Ambitiously titled series — the Canadian Best-Seller Library Series, the Indian File Books Series, the New Canadian Library Originals Series, and the aborted Canadian Heroes Series — reflect McClelland and Stewart's aim to shape national perceptions of Canadian culture. Groundbreaking original research by scholars like Margery Fee and Sandy Campbell about Canadian canon formation and the packaging of Canadian culture at the hands of Canadian publishers will continue to be a fruitful area of research for students of Canadian studies; any of these series merits closer examination.

Appendix C, Archival Resources, is a welcome description of primary material available for research at the William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections at McMaster University. It is regrettable but not surprising that all of the accessions of the fonds McClelland and Stewart and Jack McClelland have not been thoroughly organized and described. While signalling its important holdings, McMaster University has lost an opportunity to promote the combined resources available for researchers studying Canadian publishing history in general or McClelland and Stewart in particular. Institutions holding invaluable resources need to package them and render them accessible so that important research may ensue.¹

Access to the bibliography is provided by separate author and title indexes. Derived from both the list of imprints located and not located, these contain all the information a researcher would hope to find including, cross-references for

pseudonymous works and entries under corporate bodies. Scanning the names and number of entries for each gives the researcher some idea of the stable of McClelland and Stewart writers, another subject worthy of research. While it would have been a difficult task, an indication and index to genre of publication would have been an invaluable addition and boon to the researcher interested in, say, poetry as a symbol of a publisher's prestige and largesse. As well, a subject index would have been an exciting innovation which would have rendered the bibliography perfect raw material for a searchable CD-ROM product. Compilers and publishers of twentieth-century bibliographies should consider the possible wishes of researchers and the advantages of publishing in alternative formats. The value and necessity of printed reference tools in a world of electronic information retrieval and sophisticated research strategies may well be questioned.

However, to have succeeded in such a monumental task, much credit should be given to Spadoni and Donnelly. In his foreword, Graham R. Hill, McMaster's University Librarian, expresses the hope that the publication of the bibliography 'will stimulate further research on the interactions between Canadian writing and publishing, and on the influence that they have had on the definition and development of our society' (p. 8). An indispensable reference tool for any Canadian Studies library, this bibliography will indeed stimulate further research. Although it is conceivable that Spadoni and Donnelly might have included more information and packaged it differently, diligent and inquisitive researchers will find much in these 862 pages to pique curiosity. This reviewer, although pleased with the quality and enhancements *A Bibliography of McClelland and Stewart Imprints* offers, would have been delighted if researchers' needs had pushed innovation further.

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- 1 Since publication of the bibliography, the Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections obtained a grant to organize and describe the remaining sections of the McClelland and Stewart archives (primarily part I of the company records). The resultant finding aid is available in hard copy and electronically through McMaster University's Gopher.

LORNA KNIGHT
National Library of Canada