Ramsay Cook, general ed. *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. Volume XIII. 1901–1910. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1994. xxi, [1] 1295, [1] pp. \$85.00 (cloth). ISBN 0-8020-3998-7.

The *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (DCB) is, of course, a valuable reference tool well known to historians. This volume, like all of the previous DCB volumes, is a collection of short biographies of prominent (and now happily, some not so prominent) Canadians. It covers the important turn-of-the-century years, and includes the biographies of a number of important figures from the social and political reform era of the closing decades of the nineteenth century.

For those unfamiliar with the DCB, the dates of each volume mark the end dates of its subjects' lives. That is to say, the subjects of the biographies contained within volume 13 all died between the years 1901–1910. This unusual organization has earned the DCB the affectionate nickname of the 'Dictionary of Dead Canadians' by graduate students.

Volume 13 contains biographies of over 600 Canadians, and the editors have done an excellent job of recruiting prominent historians and experts to write these whenever possible. Reading or browsing through it provides a rich and insightful overview of late nineteenth-century historical events and personalities, especially those of national significance. The consistency of style makes the entries readily understood and easily read.

The DCB's general goal is that each volume should be read with both pleasure and profit, and the 1901–1910 volume meets that goal admirably. But the DCB also defines its goal as the inclusion of Canadian women and men from all regions, cultures, and classes, and the editors have been vigilant in attempting to balance entries to better reflect these concerns. While volume 13 overcomes some of the weaknesses of its predecessors, 'balance' remains a goal rather than an achievement. Women (ten percent) in particular remain under-represented. The bulk of the women who are subjects of biographies, most surprisingly, are from central Canada, although several are Maritime women. Yet surely, thirty years into the settling of the West, there were a few (dead Canadian) women? Apparently not, for there are only two biographies of women from north or west of Thunder Bay, and there are no biographies of Native or Métis women.

The problem of balance is even more obvious in the length and breadth of entries. It is here that historians (and the editors of the DCB) really show their age-old central Canadian, WASP bias. For example, Paul Romney's eloquent biography of Ontario politician, Premier Oliver Mowat, is a full eighteen pages in length, while John Tobias's life of Piapot, the noted Plains Cree chief, is summed up in three pages. Surely, even such a notable central Canadian as Mowat could have been abbreviated and readers directed to the numerous secondary sources. Donald Smith somehow fits the life of Peter Jones (Kahkewaquaonaby), the subject of his book-length biography, into one page; some judicious editing could have asked something similar of Romney. The same could be said of Chu Lai (Wing Chong), a prominent merchant in Victoria, who is allotted one page for his biography, while Timothy Eaton, the Toronto department store magnate, is

allotted five. The DCB would be much improved if some of the old stand-bys were trimmed and newer, more interesting figures added. Since figures such as Eaton and Mowat are the subject of major biographies, readers would be better served with a succinct summary and directed to the appropriate monographs, thus making room for more entries such as the one on Chu Lai, a figure with no full biography.

Still, the DCB has done an excellent job in reflecting the great period of social change in the biographies. Where earlier DCBs were notable for biographies of nuns (although there is a healthy sprinkling of these once again), volume 13 contains biographies of women engaged in a wide range of occupations, including teachers, reformers, nurses, and missionaries.

As always, bibliographers can depend on the alphabetical organization and, most importantly, on the extensive source notes at the end of each entry. These contain valuable references to the primary sources (the subject's personal papers or archival collections pertaining to them) and the major secondary sources (their autobiographies and biographies). The DCB, despite its continued struggle to create a regional, gender, and ethnic balance, constitutes an essential and important reference work.

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Edward E. Chielens, ed. *American Literary Magazines: The Twentieth Century*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1992. xii, 474 pp.; \$95.00 U.S. (cloth). ISBN 0-313-23986-X.

Few will dispute the important role literary magazines have played in the transmission of cultural and aesthetic values during the past two centuries. As well, literary magazines are often viewed as invaluable sources which document the early careers of major writers; often this takes the form of the publication of an author's first poem, short story or serialized novel. For the cultural historian, biographer, or bibliographer literary magazines provide the evidence of a literary culture, and this carries particular weight when one considers the history of English-language periodicals whether published in Great Britain, the United States or even Canada, for that matter.

In an attempt to bring some historical and bibliographical order into the world of literary periodical publishing, Greenwood Press has undertaken the publication of an ambitious series entitled: *Historical Guides to the World's Periodicals and Newspapers*. Greenwood's most recent offering is *American*