
This book marks an effort to identify and locate the Victorian periodicals that helped make far-flung British subjects feel at home in the colonies. Some are held at the British Newspaper Library at Colindale; some can be seen only in the national libraries of their countries of origin; and some are so far inaccessible. In tracing the efforts of colonials to emulate British periodical journalism, the editors and their contributors not only assist the reader to locate all extant examples of such but also assess the state of scholarship in each area.

It stands to reason that if in the nineteenth century the sun never set on the British periodical press, then its various components must collectively have had a substantial impact. At least two questions arise from this premise. Was the British influence the same in all corners of the empire and for all types of periodical? And exactly what is meant by the term ‘periodical’?

The answer to the first question may be inferred, chapter by chapter, from the contents. The answer to the second is not so simple, and the result is a lack of consistency. Herein lies the weakness of the book.

In law, periodical (as applied to payments) means appearing at certain regular intervals. When the term is applied to journalism, it may or may not include daily newspapers, or even weekly ones. Newspapers are outside the scope of Walter Houghton’s *Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals*. The catalogue of the British Library, however, includes newspapers in its listing of periodical publications though they are in fact physically separated out. The Newspaper Library at Colindale houses periodicals published at intervals of no more than a week, whatever they called themselves at the time: dailies, weeklies, newspapers, gazettes, reviews, magazines, or journals. Thus one has to know the frequency of a periodical publication in order to know where in London to find it.

In the chapter on periodicals of Southern Africa, Brian Cheadle makes it plain that he does not consider newspapers to be periodicals. Fortunately — since a great deal more bibliographical research has been done on Southern Africa’s newspapers than on its other serials — he includes them in his survey. In keeping with the book’s emphasis on colonial readership, he does not discuss the Black press of South Africa, but he does provide a useful reference for seekers of such material.

J. Reginald Tye, who contributed the section on New Zealand to *Periodicals of Queen Victoria’s Empire*, is the author of a checklist of British periodicals ‘published at longer than fortnightly intervals.’ Such a distinction fits in with Houghton’s view of periodicals, and may be useful for a periodical-saturated territory such as Britain, but in the relatively sparsely populated colonies it would include very little, especially since magazines, much more than newspapers, had to withstand competition from British imports. In New Zealand, says Tye, ‘periodicals in particular’ — and here he clearly does not mean newspapers — ‘were affected by the extensive importation of reviews and magazines from Britain.’ Yet what makes his chapter strong is his recognition of the importance
of newspapers in the pioneer press. He points out that nineteenth-century New Zealand newspapers carried a great deal of material besides news, and, furthermore, that most of the country's newspapers began as weeklies.

Merrill and Linda Distad, who very sensibly decided to include even daily newspapers in their survey of Canadian periodicals, suggest that the only acceptable definition of a magazine would be 'regular publication issued less often than daily.' Their chapter is the centrepiece of the book. It is so thorough that it has not one but two sets of endnotes, 93 of them after the main body of material and another two between the bibliographic essay and the annotated bibliography. The Distads place early Canadian journalism in the context of Canadian history, distinguishing the first stage dating from the eighteenth century, in which newspaper editors had to please representatives of the Crown or risk losing their bread-and-butter government contracts, from the healthy growth that lasted through most of the nineteenth century with the development of entrepreneurship, political organs, daily newspapers, and specialty magazines.

Canada appears not only to have developed a more productive and substantive periodical press than the other colonies, but also to have conserved and recorded its components more effectively, probably less on account of its ties to Britain than on its proximity to the United States. One can judge the extent of the influence of American advancements from the Distads' account of technology, advertising, editors, politics, and women in the history of journalism in Canada.

What of the other colonies? The periodicals of Australia and New Zealand were built on the British model. The first newspapers produced in New Zealand, in fact, were composed in England. Australia had a printing press by 1788, but no one knew how to operate it. The felicitous arrival in 1800 of a convict who had been a printer on the Times, and a number of other English newspapers, led to publication of the country's first newspaper in 1803. Elizabeth Webby, whose interest in newspapers in the chapter on Australia is limited to their initial appearance as weeklies, notes the influence of American newspapers on the Sydney Bulletin and, even more, the Melbourne Bulletin, both established in 1880. In Australia, she says, crime, sport, politics, and the theatre were the four most popular topics on which magazines were based.

Brahma Chaudhuri solves the newspaper/periodical problem by listing 123 Indian periodicals without their intervals of publication. This must have been the least of his concerns in trying to pin down the colonial press in India. Runs are often split and sometimes sparse, with some titles identified but not obtainable: as there is no comprehensive compilation of the periodical holdings of the country's libraries, the listings are limited to the catalogues of the India Office in London and the National Library in Calcutta. Similarly, because it was compiled at a distance, the list for 'Outposts of the Empire,' which takes in Ceylon, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore, Malta, and the West Indies, relies on the sometimes sketchy descriptions provided by various catalogues and includes newspapers but does not always identify them as such.

All in all, this is a handsome, intelligently conceived and substantial book, the title page adorned with a profusion of printers' borders, the dust jacket (which, alas, will never be seen by most of its readers, library users) spread sumptuously
with examples of old-fashioned type, and the various chapters illustrated with antique maps of the territories under surveillance.

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Cette monographie sur le premier siècle d'édition de la maison Beauchemin s'inscrit dans le cadre des travaux du Groupe de recherche sur l'édition littéraire au Québec (GRÉLOQ) en cours depuis les débuts de la décennie 1980. Issue d'une thèse de doctorat soutenue à l'Université de Sherbrooke, ce livre offre plus qu'une simple histoire d'une maison d'édition majeure, de sa création jusqu'à la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. Il y a presque deux livres en un. Dans une première partie, l'auteur expose en quatre chapitres ses prémisses théoriques. Il enchaîne, dans les six chapitres suivants, avec l'évolution proprement dite de Beauchemin: ses structures, ses catalogues, sa contribution aux système de livres de récompense scolaire et ses périodiques à grand tirage.

Le volume s'ouvre d'abord sur un chapitre consacré à la communication littéraire, ou autrement dit, sur la façon dont la pratique de l'édition s'articule avec le processus socialisateur de la littérature. Sont alors présentées les assises méthodologiques et théoriques soutenant non seulement cette étude sur Beauchemin, mais aussi tout le chantier d'histoire de l'édition littéraire au Québec entrepris par le groupe des littérateurs de Sherbrooke. L'auteur expose notamment les conclusions sur le fait littéraire des Robert Escarpit, Jacques Dubois, Roland Barthes, Abraham Moles, Pierre Bourdieu et autres sociologues, avant de discuter le concept d'éditeur. Ce qui le conduit à proposer une définition à double volet de cet acteur principal du monde de l'édition: «positivement, l'éditeur finance ou fait financer la production des œuvres qu'il a retenues; négativement, il exclut d'autres productions qui ne concordent pas avec son projet collectif» (p. 64).

Un bilan du monde de l'édition et de l'imprimé au xixe siècle succède à la présentation du cadre théorique. L'apport des imprimeurs qui produisaient des livres à compte d'auteur, tel Eusèbe Sénécal, Léger Brousseau, Camille Darveau, Augustin Côté ou George Edouard Desbarats est notamment mis en lumière. De même, une attention particulière est accordée à d'autres types d'éditeurs, dont l'abbé Henri-Raymond Casgrain qui, sans avoir d'existence juridique et commerciale, éditait des livres pour le Département de l'Instruction publique. L'auteur évoque également l'importance du passage de l'artisanat à l'industrie, au milieu d'un siècle marqué par d'importantes innovations technologiques dans