Books in Review / Comptes rendus

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Carl Spadoni. *A Bibliography of Stephen Leacock*. Toronto: ECW Press, 1998. 714 pp.; \$45.00 (hardcover). ISBN 1-55022-365-8.

Carl Spadoni's Leacock bibliography is a landmark in the field of Canadian descriptive bibliography. There are virtually no precedents in Canada for a work of this size — 714 pages—and complexity — 134 separately-published volumes are described, in various editions, numerous issues, and multiple printings. It's fair to say that this bibliography not only makes the scholarly study of Leacock a good deal easier, but also promotes an enhanced appreciation of the enormous range of Leacock's interests. There is scarcely a subject imaginable on which he did not have something to say, and hardly a month passed between 1910 and 1943 in which Leacock did not publish.

This bibliography is based to a considerable extent on Carl Spadoni's own collection, and I would venture to say that the book would not have been possible *without* the collection. The frequency with which the designation 'CS' — and only 'CS' — appears under 'Copies examined' suggests that there are a large number of unique Leacock items in Spadoni's possession. It is to be hoped that the collection will eventually find a home in some Canadian institution.

The organization of the bibliography is as follows: Section A consists of separately published books and pamphlets by Leacock. The length of this section — 324 pages describing 134 titles — gives some idea of the scope of the work, but not of the great complications that the publication history of Leacock's works presents. For instance, as Spadoni notes in describing his own collection, he has 'over fifty different editions, issues, variants, and printings of *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*' (39). Dust jackets are described, as well as binding variants, but as is usual in books of this era, the jackets are infrequently encountered, and there remain a good number unseen by the compiler. A copy of the first Canadian issue of *Sunshine Sketches* in its original dust jacket — an item of considerable interest to a Leacock collector — may no longer exist.

For the publication history of Leacock's books, Spadoni has been able to make good use of the fonds of Macmillan, Dodd, Mead, and McClelland and Stewart at McMaster University. Also, the Leacock Museum and the McGill University Archives have proved invaluable sources of information.

But publishers' archives often provide more information than a bibliographer reasonably needs, and it is not always easy to separate the wheat from the chaff. It is to Spadoni's credit that his notes on each book are remarkably readable.

Section B consists of contributions to books, giving full bibliographical descriptions and locations of copies examined. Section C, contributions to serials, is as impressive in its comprehensiveness as Section A. Leacock's articles were syndicated far and wide, and frequently condensed and reprinted in obscure journals years after their initial publication. It would be impossible to trace all of his periodical publications, but as it is, Section C extends to 104 pages, including reprintings in anthologies, and on the National Library of Canada's Leacock web site.

Sections D and E are unusual in a bibliography in that they record Leacock's lectures and the reports of those lectures in the press. Normally, a lecture would not be considered a publication and would be excluded from a descriptive bibliography. But in Leacock's case, it makes good sense to include such information, for Leacock's lectures inevitably parallel his writings, and many of the lectures were eventually published in book form. It helps, of course, that Leacock recorded all the relevant information in his notebooks, which are now in the National Archives of Canada.

Section F lists interviews with Leacock; Section G, separately-published stage adaptations; Section H, translations, for which sources are given, as not all of the translations have been examined (Spadoni's own collection includes translations into Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, and Russian); Section I, recordings, talking books, and films; Section J, dictionary and encyclopedia articles, including a large number by other people for the 1943 edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* which Leacock either revised or simply inspected; Section K, contributions in articles and books by others; and Section L, 'lost leads,' articles not found but presumed to exist. There is a 60-page index of names and titles of works — a remarkable achievement in its own right — and 29 pages of black-and-white photographs of title-pages and dust jackets grouped together at the front of the bibliography.

It would be easy enough to stop here and register no reservations about this monumental achievement; however, on the principle that the more likely a book is to have lasting value, the more scrutiny it deserves on first publication, let me conclude by mentioning the few problems I did find with it.

Let's start with the index. Coming from the compiler of a bibliography with no title index at all, any objection to this comprehensive index must seem churlish indeed. However, I do think there are potential problems of which the Leacock scholar needs to be aware. A number of Leacock's articles were published with variant titles; one such is 'How We Kept Mother's Day,' which appears in the index followed by its designated

locations: 'A105, A108, A130, C24.42, H25 (French), I44, I48.' The next title in the index is given as 'How We Kept Mother's Birthday As Related by a Member of the Family.' There follows another list of places of publication: 'A44, A56a-c, A75, A111, A131.' The problem here is that these are variant titles of the same article, and yet there is no overlap in the locations given for its reprinting. That the compiler is aware that they are the same is apparent from a glance at C24.42, where the article's first appearance in a newspaper is given, followed by all its subsequent printings in journals, with variant titles given. All of these variant titles find their appropriate alphabetically-arranged position in the index, but are not necessarily cross-referenced to the books in which Leacock and subsequent editors of anthologies collected the essay. The problem is compounded by the fact that Spadoni has got the title wrong in at least one case. According to his description of the text of *Winnowed Wisdom*, the title of the essay is 'How We Kept Mother's Birthday As Related by a Member of the Family.' But when I checked a copy of the first edition of *Winnowed Wisdom* (the Macmillan issue), I found that the title was 'How We Kept Mother's Day' (with 'As Related by a Member of the Family' in smaller type) — a variant which, according to Spadoni's index, isn't supposed to be in *Winnowed Wisdom*. What seems to have happened is that Leacock made one small textual change to the article to make it appropriate for different occasions, and probably left it up to his editors to change the title accordingly. In *Winnowed Wisdom*, for instance, despite the title reference to 'Mother's Day', the relevant sentence in the text reads as follows: 'So we decided to have a special celebration of Mother's birthday.' In *Laugh with Leacock*, however, that sentence has been changed to accord with the title: 'So we decided to have a special celebration of Mother's Day.' Does this matter in any way to the appreciation of Leacock's work? Not at all, but it does matter to users of the bibliography, because they may in fact have access to articles by Leacock that they wouldn't know they had, given that the cross-referencing of articles to their subsequent reprintings may be misleading and occasionally inaccurate. Let me just add that this is a problem with more than just one article.

In Section A, Spadoni includes as separate publications by Leacock what are in effect advertising leaflets printed as promotional items for a forthcoming book. Thus, item A89a, the American edition of *The British Empire*, a book of 263 pages, is followed by A89b, a leaflet consisting of a single sheet folded once to form four unnumbered pages containing excerpts from the American edition. This is in no sense an 'edition' of a book; it is Leacockiana, to be sure — an interesting item to have in a collection as part of the publication history of the book, but not deserving of its own numbering in the bibliography.

I have few means of checking the accuracy of Section C, but based on my own notes on McGill publications, I can make a handful of additions

and corrections. Item C24.49 is an article on Randolph Ketchum Jones in the *Financial Post*, 21 Nov. 1924. But a signed article by Leacock, unrecorded by Spadoni, had previously appeared in the *McGill Daily*, 13 Nov. 1924, pp. 1, 4: 'Randolph Ketchum Jones Passed Away Monday Night, Had Been Severly [sic] Injured.' Item C25.54, 'The Flight of College Time,' in the *McGill Fortnightly Review*, was reprinted in the *McGill Daily*, 24 Nov. 1925, p. 2. And of item C26.9, 'On Debates at Colleges,' *McGill Daily*, 6 Feb. 1926, p. 2, it is noted: 'Apparently also in *McGill Fortnightly Review*, I (16 February 1926): 47-8.' Actually, the issue of the *Fortnightly* containing Leacock's article was published on the 6th of February, not the 16th, and reprinted the same day in the *Daily*. Also, the essay continues on p. 51 of the *Fortnightly*. These are small errors, to be sure, but they do suggest that Spadoni has not seen all the items he describes.

There are a handful of misprints throughout the book, none of them serious, though Leacock himself would no doubt have been amused to read that he was admitted to hospital for 'prostrate surgery' (24).

The photographs are very welcome indeed, but it would have been better if they had been placed in the text closer to the descriptions of the books they show. Ideally, plate 18, which purports to show the English edition, the American issue, the American edition, and the Japanese edition of *Humour and Humanity*, might have been rearranged. The caption rather misleadingly suggests that this is a photograph of four books, when in fact it shows six, two of which are in variant jackets, but the photo is reproduced in too small a format for my poor eyes to read the printing on the jackets. It is necessary to add that at the published price of \$45, the presence of any photographs at all is a bonus, and frankly, the fact that a 714-page specialized reference book of this kind can be published for less than \$100 is such an unexpected pleasure that I would strongly recommend that every library buy two copies, just to boast of the bargain.

MICHAEL DARLING
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Gillian Fenwick. *George Orwell: A Bibliography*. New Castle, Del. and Winchester: Oak Knoll Press and St. Paul's Bibliographies, 1998, 426 pp.; \$85.00 U.S. (hardcover). ISBN 1-884718-46-9. £55 (hardcover). ISBN 1873040059 (UK).

This is a distinguished addition to an excellent series of bibliographies. It will be most useful for anyone who wishes to trace Orwell's writings, the multiple editions of his books, and where his powerful essays are to be found, particularly those that are less well known. We are provided with a