and happy eroticism of his oeuvre. This book properly celebrates a life's work.

In such an excellent showcase of Ouvrard's work, the failure to include a bibliography of works about Ouvrard is a significant omission. The translation leaves something to be desired since it sometimes misses key meanings. Binding fanatics will probably wish that the descriptions of binding materials and techniques were more extensive but this is asking too much since the publishers have been extremely generous in illustrating every work described. Despite these drawbacks, the book sets a new standard for this kind of publishing in Canada, and one expects it will be a long time before this production is bettered.

A simultanelously-printed 20-page pamphlet, *Pierre Ouvrard Master Binder a Retrospective/Maitre Relieur une rétrospective*, lists the 43 items exhibited from 15 May to 15 August by the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library of the University of Alberta. The Library was not only able to draw on its splendid collection of Ouvrard's work but was able to borrow four bindings for Governor General's Literary Award books. The descriptions are the same as those used in the work reviewed above, but there are no illustrations since this publication was designed for use by those attending the exhibition. As such it succeeds.

With its fine display cases, offering plenty of scope to the exhibition designers, the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library was an elegant venue for such an exhibition. By and large the exhibition did justice to the material displayed, but the subdued lighting muted the impact of the bindings. The conflict between conservation needs and the public's right to see such treasures in their full glory is often difficult to reconcile. Perhaps an investment in more specialized lighting would pay off handsomely in terms of the increased impact of future binding exhibitions.

RALPH STANTON

Simon Fraser University Library

Michel Brisebois. *Impressions: 250 Years of Printing in the Lives of Canadians*. Toronto: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1999. 64 pp.; \$20.00 (paper). ISBN 1-55041-408-9.

I would like to call this book by the National Library of Canada's Rare Book curator a bibliographic descriptive catalogue of the exhibition he conceived of and developed, *250 Years of Printing in the Lives of Canadians*, displayed at the National Library from April 1999 to January 2000. The catalogue achieves the exhibition's stated intention of being a reflection of two hundred and fifty years of printing in the everyday lives of Canadians.

During this period great quantities of books were imported from Europe and United States. Nonetheless the books in this catalogue show that printing in Canada has been alive and well since its inception in Halifax in 1751. The majority of items are from the nineteenth century, that being the period when the greatest diversity and change occurred as we evolved from colonial localized printing to mass-market publishing. The catalogue's 267 items and 123 illustrations, including 6 colour plates, are grouped thematically in ten chapters: 'Children's Literature and Education,' 'Immigrations and Transportation,' 'Household and Family,' 'Trade,' 'Judicial and Political,' 'Newspapers and Magazines,' 'Leisure and Literature,' 'Religion,' 'Health,' and 'Book-Object.' The sequence of the chapters is intended to reflect a person's development through their lifetime.

One has the sense that many hours were spent pouring over the shelves at the National Library of Canada, from which all the items were carefully selected, considered, researched and reviewed to represent the subjects they were to illustrate. Each entry includes author, title, place, publisher, pagination, and an always interesting and precise description. As an antiquarian book cataloguer, I understand the extraordinary amount of time required to produce these excellent descriptions as in most cases there would be no ready references. One senses the author's considerable knowledge of Canadian bibliographic history, as only one so endowed could take such different bits and turn them into such a harmonious and complementary whole.

Unlike many thin catalogues which spend most of their lives being overlooked, this one is truly useful. It is attractively type set and illustrated, visually interesting, informative, and enjoyable. It is Canadian history as reflected through its publishing—a visual extension of Parker's *The Beginnings of the Book Trade in Canada*. Who should have this catalogue? Every Canadian bibliophile, bookseller, rare book and special collections librarian, typographer, book designer, printer, publisher, high school and university student—really just about everyone.

PATRICK MCGAHERN

Ottawa

Brian Gobbett and Robert Irwin. *Introducing Canada: An Annotated Bibliography of Canadian History in English*. Magill Bibliographies. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 1998. 373 pp.; \$45 US (hardcover). ISBN 0-8108-3383-2.

The Magill Bibliographies series covers a wide range of topics in various disciplines such as mystery and detective fiction, Napoleon, human rights,