searched, for free, on the World Wide Web at <www.ucalgary.ca/library/Speccoll/litarch.htm>. Having grown accustomed to the exceptional quality of access provided by both the printed and electronic versions available for several authors' archives, we now wait with eager anticipation to see more.

SHEILA LATHAM

Anne Innis Dagg, *The Feminine Gaze: A Canadian Compendium of Non-Fiction Women Authors and Their Books, 1836-1945*. Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2001. viii, 346 pp.; \$45.00 (hardcover). ISBN 0-88920-355-5.

Most publications about Canadian women writers are about writers of fiction. Here, for the first time, is a bio-bibliography of Canadian Anglophone women writers of non-fiction: 476 women writers who produced over 677 non-fiction titles. Dagg includes writers of books published between 1836 and 1945, who lived in what is now Canada. They wrote about their own lives or other mainly Canadian interests, and about Canada or its inhabitants. The writers are from all walks of life; among them are a Governor-General's wife, Lady Aberdeen, and Grey Owl's companion, Anahareo.

In her informative introduction, Dagg comments from today's perspective on some writers' observations, and summarizes their backgrounds and motivations. The writers include professional women (usually scholars); religious women; well-known women, such as feminists/activists; and professional writers. Wide-ranging in subject matter and scope, their non-fiction books in the fields of history, autobiography, travel and description, biography, social issues, religion, science and medicine, arts, and education are important sources for the study of women's interpretations of many aspects of Canadian life during the second half of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries.

Dagg describes her difficulty unearthing information about some writers because they are women; for example, they change their names when they marry and are often reluctant to reveal their birth dates. Hence, the author entries themselves vary in length according to the amount of information that Dagg was able to uncover. However, even the shorter entries provide an informative look at the author's relationship with her particular surroundings.

Arranged alphabetically, the entries describe each writer's life and achievements, along with (in some cases) anecdotes about her personality and living conditions, a short synopsis of major writings, and a concise bibliography of primary and secondary publications. The names of the author's friends are highlighted in bold type, a feature which is particularly helpful for anyone seeking to identify a network among the writers. Browsing through the entries is especially rewarding: I discovered all sorts of new and stimulating information about early Canadian women writers and their works.

Notable additions to this compendium are three appendixes, a general bibliography, and an index. Appendix A lists, by discipline, authors who received honorary degrees from Canadian universities; Appendix B lists authors who were scholars and medical workers; and Appendix C is a short discussion about publishing and support of authors during the period. The general bibliography of "books consulted and used in at least two entries" directs readers to other sources of intriguing information about the writers and their times.

An excellent and practical cross-referenced index includes subjects in the name entries. Subject entries are broken down into more specific topics that include the names of other authors who wrote on the same topic. The cross-references in the subject entries pull together all writings on a particular subject.

This well-written, well-organized compendium is a lively read, and easy to access as a reference tool. It is an excellent starting point for literary, historical, and bibliographical research about the little-explored area of non-fiction writing. Many of the early authors themselves might be as surprised as today's readers to find that some of their issues are as relevant in the twenty-first century as they were in the last two centuries. *The Feminine Gaze* is recommended for anyone interested in the history of women and culture in Canada, and for anyone teaching or studying in this field.

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