

Over the past few years, Doug Vaisey has annually compiled bibliographies of new material on Canadian labour history. This volume is the logical extension of his work. By the author's own admission, the listings are neither definitive nor comprehensive. It is a "working" document, drawing heavily on the files of labour historians John Battye and Greg Kealey, supplemented from other bibliographical sources.

It consists of a list of publications arranged alphabetically by author and a subject index, linked together with an alpha-numeric code. Photographs of various working class scenes provide a welcome break from dreary bibliographic entries.

Aimed at both the layman and the scholar, the Hamilton bibliography was compiled to encourage research into working class conditions, problems and institutions in the Hamilton region by providing an inexpensive guide to known and potential sources. The authors also hoped that members of the labour community would deposit their historical records at the McMaster University Archives. Its contributors are all recognized specialists in Hamilton's working class history.

The guide is arranged chronologically. Each chapter consists of a brief historical sketch of the time period covered, followed by a critical commentary on relevant published and archival sources. Unfortunately, this style of presentation has resulted in considerable repetition. I would have preferred one annotated bibliography of published sources, a list of newspapers and a guide to primary sources arranged by archival repository. This would have left the authors with more freedom to discuss creative approaches to these sources. Despite these limitations, the guide is full value for the price.

Danny Moore
Labour Archives
Public Archives of Canada


The Ontario Historical Studies Series Bibliography of Ontario History 1867-1976 will be an indispensable research aid for anyone studying Canadian History. The Bibliography is a revised, vastly expanded version of Ontario Since 1867, A Bibliography which was published for the Series in 1973. The Series' editors are well within the bounds of discretion in proclaiming the revised edition "the most extensive bibliography of Ontario history in existence" (ix). Its two volumes and 1760 pages contain approximately 15,000 entries grouped under four major research areas: economic, social, political, and cultural and intellectual history.

That outline alone does not convey a fair impression of the range of topics and publications the Bibliography includes. By itself, the Bibliography stands as evidence of growing interest in regional history, and the history of Ontario. New topic areas identified in this edition coincide with the expanding base of historical research in Canada. Sections are devoted to "Early Childhood Education", "Sports and Recreation", and the "Environment". At the same time, heavier reliance on long-overlooked sources like city directories is reflected in the index to directories published between 1867 and 1912.