

**The Labour Companion: A Bibliography of Canadian Labour History Based On Materials Printed From 1950 to 1975.** G. DOUGLAS VAISEY. Halifax: Committee on Canadian Labour History, 1980. 126 p. (Available from Labour/Le Travailleur, Department of History, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 1W4) \$5.00 pa.

**The Hamilton Working Class, 1820-1977: A Bibliography.** Edited by WAYNE ROBERTS. Hamilton: McMaster University Labour Studies Program, 1978. 66 p. \$1.50.

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.

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**Bibliography of Ontario History, 1867-1976.** OLGA B. BISHOP assisted by BARBARA I. IRWIN and CLARA G. MILLER. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1980. Vol. 1, xviii, 823 p. Vol. 2, x, 937 p. ISBN 0 8020 2359 2 (set) \$75.00.

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

which can be found in the "Local History" section. The *Bibliography's* two appendices list periodicals that were either completely or selectively indexed for this edition. An author, subject and title index nearly 400 pages in length is also provided.

A reviewer's standard test for research guides like the *Bibliography* checks the distance it takes him into specific and familiar subject areas. Following my interest in Ontario Agricultural College I was pleased to find that the *O.A.C. Review* had been selectively indexed for the period from 1889 to 1919. My joy will be complete when our industrious bibliographers and librarians locate a complete run of this valuable source for the study of Ontario's rural past. So far it eludes us all. One flaw was discovered when I checked the index for James Mills, the president of O.A.C. from 1879 until 1904. There are two references to "Mills, J."; the first leads to the 1899 report of the provincial commission Mills chaired which inquired into the operation of the San José Scale Act; however the second turned up an article in the *O.A.C. Review* written by "Jason Mills". Should it read Jas. Mills or James Mills?

More regrettable than any oversight is the periodization imposed on the *Bibliography*. Why does the *Bibliography* begin with 1867 when the Series' editors say the Series embraces the Upper Canadian phase of the province's history (viii) and one book on pre-Confederation politics has already appeared, J.M.S. Careless ed., *The Pre-Confederation Premiers* (Toronto, 1980)? Finally, although this bibliography deserves a place on the bookshelf of every student of Ontario's past, at \$75.00 it will rarely find its way past institutional collections and the lucky few appointed to review it. Already, covetous glances have been directed toward my trophy by once harmless colleagues. Who can be anything but nostalgic for the still helpful Series bibliography purchased in 1973 for a paltry \$3.00?

Regrets aside, we can look forward to the revised and supplementary editions of the *Bibliography* envisaged by the Series editors. Olga Bishop, assisted by Barbara Irwin, Clara Miller and a host of bibliographers and librarians cited in her acknowledgements, has given us a *tour de force* in her craft. For that, this archivist doffs his cap.

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## Notices

### Handbooks

**Local Government Records: An Introduction to their Management, Preservation and Use.** H.G. JONES, Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1980. xii, 208 p. illus. ISBN 0 910050 42 2 \$6.95 pa. \$5.25 to AASLH members. (Available from AASLH, 1400 8th Avenue South, Nashville, Tenn. 37203, U.S.A.)

Jones writes for public officials, not specifically for archivists. His special experience over 20 years has been in records management dimensions of archives administration (especially in North Carolina) and he writes with authority and good sense. After his indictment of U.S. federal records keeping in *Records of a Nation* (1969), Jones turns to local public records in the States with similar precision. "Progress in records management at the local level", he writes in the Preface, "has been minimal throughout the nation." He outlines the reasons succinctly: "Only in rare instances have archivists and records managers been willing to go into the counties and municipalities and skillfully