

For Memorial itself, the change from college to university status posed intellectual as well as administrative challenges. How could the university, as the only local institution of its type, serve the particular needs of the province while remaining true to the essential mission of all universities, that is to say the pursuit of learning for its own sake? The answer given by a gifted generation of scholars who appeared on the scene at Memorial in the 1950s was that regional work characterized by the highest standards of scholarship would *ipso facto* be of transcending interest and importance. Thus, in the interest both of the province and of learning in general, a number of major and long-term scholarly projects were started at Memorial in the 1950s, all of which have now come to fruition. In 1971, after many years of enquiry, E.R. Seary published his seminal *Place Names of the Avalon Peninsula of the Island of Newfoundland*. Eleven years later appeared the internationally-acclaimed *Dictionary of Newfoundland English*, edited by G.M. Story, W.J. Kirwin, and J.D.A. Widdowson. Yet another project started at Memorial in the 1950s, namely the creation of a Newfoundland archives, stimulated the establishment of the flourishing provincial institution housed in the Colonial Building in St. John's. With the publication of the *Bibliography of Newfoundland*, the last of these big projects has now been brought to a successful and striking conclusion.

Agnes O'Dea's work on the project goes back to 1955. Her early efforts led to the creation, in 1964, of the Centre for Newfoundland Studies, of which she became head, within the Memorial University Library. In 1978, by which time the Centre had become multifarious, she was joined on the original project by Anne Alexander, who saw the bibliography through its final editing stages and eventual publication. The accomplishment of the compiler and editor, and of the Centre for Newfoundland Studies which nurtured their work, is truly monumental. Agnes O'Dea is a pioneer of modern Newfoundland studies while Anne Alexander, who now resides in England, leaves behind her a major contribution to Newfoundland letters.

The bibliography covers books, pamphlets, government documents, unpublished theses and reports, letters, diaries, and films to 1974. The listing is chronological and there is a separate list of "Annuals" arranged alphabetically. There are also invaluable author, title, and subject indexes. The bibliography will not only facilitate enquiry but will suggest subjects for possible research. In sum, it is by definition an indispensable reference work for students of Newfoundland and Canadian history. One is on the Trans-Canada Highway of the Newfoundland past, and the view is expansive. The publication of this complex and comprehensive bibliography is a proud achievement for all concerned, and a salutary reminder in a time of contract research of just how much can be accomplished by a university that reflects on its goals and has the courage to set its own agenda.

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**British Library Occasional Papers 1. Canadian Studies. Papers presented at a Colloquium at the British Library 17-19 August 1983. PATRICIA McLAREN-TURNER, ed. London: The British Library Reference Division Publications, 1984.**

In August 1983, the British Library hosted a three-day colloquium on Canadian Studies. This volume consists of the twenty-eight conference presentations, plus listings of items

on display at the gathering and reproductions of some of the photographs. The conference was one in a series designed to consider the Library's role in scholarship pertaining to former British colonies, and part of a general institutional review of collection and service policies.

Most of the papers fall into one of three categories: overviews of the development of Canadian Studies in Canada and Britain; descriptions of British Library holdings and services of interest to those in the field; and discussion of current and retrospective Canadian bibliographical projects. The oracle of Canadian Studies, T.H.B. Symons, reviewed the situation leading to the appointment of his Commission on Canadian Studies by the Association of Universities and Community Colleges, while James Page of the Secretary of State discussed improvements and continuing problems since publication of the commission's landmark report in 1975. Two British academics, Cedric May, President of the ten-year old British Association of Canadian Studies, and Ged Martin, Director of the Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, reflected on the fledgling state of Canadian Studies in Britain and how it might be assisted by governments, libraries, and those directly involved.

The six presentations by senior British Library staff on resources for Canadian Studies, in manuscripts, maps, government publications, Quebec and French Canadian imprints, and newspapers vary considerably in content and interest. Helen Wallis of the Map Library contributes a fine review of the development of the holdings of maps and plans relating to Canada, from the "foundation collections" of the British Museum in the mid-eighteenth century to acquisition of current National Topographical System maps, spiced with interesting anecdotes and details. Also of note is the piece by Canadian Patrick O'Neill whose research into early drama (see *Archivaria* 6, pp. 164-67) led him to the 40,000 Canadian copyright deposit items in the British Library. O'Neill and John Ettliger of the Dalhousie School of Library Service claim that this is the most complete extant collection of French and English Canadian printed material — books, pamphlets, maps, insurance plans, photographs, sheet music, artistic prints — for the period 1895-1924. The Library of Parliament's holdings were devastated by the fires of 1916 and 1953, and the set deposited with the Canadian Copyright Office was almost totally destroyed in 1938 at the direction of the Privy Council Office, because it required too much space. O'Neill and Ettliger elaborate on the series of checklists which they are preparing for this collection of Canadiana.

The final section of the conference opened with an informative overview of bibliographic developments in Canada by Anne Piternick of the University of British Columbia library school. More specialized presentations followed, on the retrospective bibliographical projects of the National Library and the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, and Patricia Flemming's work on Upper Canadian imprints, 1801-1841. In a slightly different vein, Frances Halpenny spoke about the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography/Dictionnaire biographique du Canada* and Ernest Ingles outlined the objectives and methodology of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions. John Robson discussed Carleton University's Centre for Editing Early Canadian Texts. Concluding remarks by Guy Sylvestre, then the National Librarian of Canada, focused on ways in which the institution might assist the British Library to support Canadian Studies.

In the opening address, the Director General of the British Library Reference Division, Alex Wilson, referred to the conference objective of bringing together academics,

bibliographers, librarians, and archivists from both Canada and Britain “to create a context for our discussion of Library policy.” Also, according to Wilson, the Library was “convinced that national and international cooperation of librarians and archivists is essential for the undertaking of major retrospective cataloguing, microfilming and preservation programmes.” Unfortunately, the Library was unable to convene such a cross-professional, multinational group, with the result that the colloquium was not the lively interchange of new ideas and comment on Canadian studies that had been anticipated.

Two reasons why the conference seems to have failed are readily apparent. First, it was totally dominated by librarians and bibliographical projects. More than half of the seventy registrants were practicing librarians or teachers of library science, representing six Canadian and eight British institutions. In stark contrast, only three archivists attended: the Keeper of Manuscripts of the British Library, and the chief and staff archivist of the London Office of the National Archives of Canada. Daniel Waley’s short and uninspiring description of the Library’s holdings of private papers of relevance to Canadian studies was disappointing. The only occasion during the two-day meeting in which archival matters were considered to any extent was the paper given by Bruce Wilson, then Chief of the London Office of the National Archives, on that institution’s British copying and acquisition programme.

The other group absent from the colloquium was the Canadian research community. Not one practicing historian or other social scientist even attended — save for those involved in bibliographical work. Hence the second problem: the conference’s failure to recognize and accommodate in the programme the night-and-day difference between Canadian Studies as they are prospering in Canada today and their marginal status in Britain. What the conference needed, and what the British Library surely required for its own institutional analyses, was a full picture of the diversity, richness, and directions of current research and teaching about Canada in the homeland. That should be the starting point of any discussion about the contributions that libraries and archives may make to the development of Canadian Studies.

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**Vancouver Past: Essays in Social History.** ROBERT A.J. McDONALD and JEAN BARMAN, eds. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1986. 327 p. ISBN 07748-0256-1 \$24.95.

This special Vancouver Centennial issue of *B.C. Studies* brings together ten essays examining various aspects of Vancouver’s social development over a sixty-year period. Works by established historians of Vancouver, Robert McDonald, Pat Roy, Deryck Holdsworth, Paul Yee, and Irene Howard are mixed with scholarly articles by others writing about the city for the first time.

These essays focus on the most current topics in Canadian history: labour, women, medicine, ethnicity, and education. These subjects have not been widely explored in relation to Vancouver; previous writers have examined an earlier period and concentrated on political and biographical studies, studies which place the city in relationship to the surrounding regions, or anecdotal histories of people and events.