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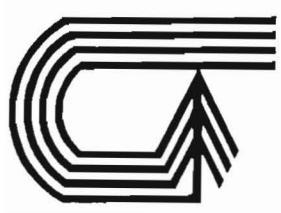
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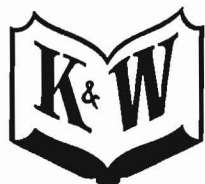


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Hope Bridgewater

FALL 1972, VOL. 36 NO. 3

BOOKMOBILE SERVICES IN NOVA SCOTIA

CATHERINE SKLAR
STANLEY SQUIRES

Bookmobile service in Nova Scotia provides the greatest element of the provincial public library service. In a total population of 750,000, approximately 450,000 are served by the 18 bookmobiles of the ten regional libraries of Nova Scotia.

The standard of service varies from region to region, with several of the regions still in their infancy in development. In order to determine the level of services provided, a questionnaire was compiled and distributed to all ten regions as a project of the *Tatamagouche Group*. A 100% rate of return was achieved for the completed surveys, thus giving a comprehensive picture.

The emphasis of the questionnaire lay in services provided and the means available to achieve this. The area of detailed physical specifications for bookmobiles was omitted as sufficient data was already available.

1. *Resources.* Whereas the average bookmobile was able to carry 2,350 books, the available book collections averaged 5400 adult volumes and 4500 juvenile. Some of the bookmobiles had separate collections whilst others were integrated with those of the branch or Headquarters collections. Thus some regions were unable to provide an accurate figure for the collection. More than half of the bookmobiles carried large print material and the majority paperback materials. Whereas 80% carried adult periodicals ranging from four to 25 titles, the same percentage did not provide juvenile periodicals.

Replies were in the main negative to the holding of foreign language materials. The majority carried French material although the numbers carried represented token collections. Gaelic and Dutch materials were the only other languages covered.

In the field of non-book materials, no bookmobile reported carrying any items. In some instances the regional libraries lacked non-book materials in any form and in the remainder, materials were available to bookmobile patrons on request.

2. *Scheduling.* The schedules of the bookmobiles varied greatly according to the nature of the community served. Rural areas, villages and schools provided the basis of the service. Whereas in some areas an attempt is made to visit trailer courts, in general they are ignored. Similarly hospitals, prisons and homes for the aged received little attention from the bookmobiles.

The length of the schedules varied from one week in the totally urban region of Halifax, to one of five weeks. Less than one quarter operated on Saturdays and none reported Sunday scheduling. Evening services are operating with success in more than half of the regions. One third of the bookmobiles make overnight stops and all receive compensation for food and lodging. No region supplied a noon meal allowance on daily trips.

3. *Request service.* The number of requests per week varied greatly and likewise the policies on juvenile requests.

Approximately 75% of the requests were reported satisfied by the next visit. The majority of regions mailed popular titles to the borrowers.

Few bookmobiles carried reference materials, or the staff to answer reference questions.

4. *Services.* 70% of the bookmobiles serve the schools in their region, spending an average of seven hours per week on this service. The methods of distributing the books varied from prepackaged boxes to pupil and teacher selection.

In the area of special services, a variety of replies were received. During Y.C.B.W. 50% of the bookmobiles had no programme and of the others, posters, booklists and displays provided the staple diet. Displays were limited for the reason of space, although the use of store windows and schools were cited as means to overcome this problem. Story hours were provided by the majority of bookmobiles. All regions reported the provision of instructions and regulations to the public.

The use of radio and television for publicity was not widespread, the most common method of publicity being the printing of schedules in local newspapers.

Extension services during the summer remained unchanged from that of the winter although a few provided programmes for children in the form of contests and story hours.

5. *Statistics.* The comparison of monthly and annual circulation statistics did not provide any worthwhile conclusions with so many variables in force. The majority reported increasing circulation and of the two that did not, one bookmobile was phasing out school services and the other losing a section of the region.

The amount of time spent on the road per week varied from two days to six. The majority reported four days. The amount of travel time per day varied from 45 minutes to five hours, with an average of two hours

twenty-five minutes. The actual service time to the public varied from two and a half hours to five, and from sixteen to thirty-nine per week. The average daily mileage varied from four in the city of Dartmouth to 146. Annual mileage varied from 1,000 again in the city, to 21,000 miles.

6. *Staff and organisation.* The total staff ranged from two to five, although only two persons travelled on the bookmobiles at any given time. The majority of bookmobile staffs in the regions consisted of librarian, driver-clerk and clerical assistant. The greater percentage of librarians working on bookmobiles were non-professional in the sense of not having a degree in librarianship. The qualifications of the staff appeared to be very heavily weighted in terms of experience, with drivers ranging up to 21 years of experience. Many of the bookmobiles did not have professional staff on the bookmobile at any time. Some supervisors do travel occasionally but few consistently and some never. Very few of the actual bookmobile librarians had any influence on the ordering of materials for the bookmobile.

7. *Operation.* There were many varied systems of book charging in operation, although few appeared satisfactory to the staff, pressured by the time element and having to maintain strict schedules.

To the question of fines one third replied that fines had been abolished.

A very brief section on the physical aspects of the bookmobile provided an assorted list of complaints which provided a far from negative aspect to the survey. The most frequent faults reported with the heating systems were those of noise, overheating, lack of regulation, and air locks. The failure of doors to fit and the subsequent leaking of snow and rain was a popular comment. Similarly the lack of room, insufficient natural lighting, and failures with the artificial systems were common problems.

Engine noise and fumes were reported in several instances and in greater proportion

to the age of the vehicle. Snow and rain proved to be a major problem especially with regard to the type of flooring required to minimise the problem. Whilst recognising that much snow and rain leaked into some vehicles, the major problem arose from the amounts brought onto the vehicle in a confined space.

Essential equipment for bookmobiles included clocks, safety flares, safety belts, snow shovel and chains, but many reported the lack of one or more such items.

The object of the survey and questionnaire was to determine the state of bookmobile services in Nova Scotia and as such, several qualifying comments must be added. Several of the regions are commencing bookmobile service and many of the problems and deficiencies mentioned will be alleviated in the course of development. Further, that limited resources, mainly financial, but also personnel, prevent the much needed expansion of services in this area of public library service.

Whilst recognising these factors, the compilers of the survey presented several recommendations based on the statistical evidence collated.

1. *Resources.* That bookmobile collections be expanded to include an on-the-shelf selection of audio-visual materials. That consideration be given to the acquisition of juvenile periodicals. That foreign language materials be introduced or improved in line with the needs of the areas involved.

2. *Schedules.* That bookmobile schedules be examined annually. That the period of time between visits by the bookmobile be reduced to the absolute minimum. That meal allowances for daily trips be available to staff on all bookmobiles in line with current business procedures.

3. *Reference Services.* That reference materials be carried and consulted on all bookmobiles.

4. *Schools.* That service to schools as educational institutions be withdrawn as quickly as possible from bookmobile activities, permitting the expansion of services to children in the community setting and permitting the shortening of the bookmobile schedules.

5. *Special services.* That more time be spent on these as valuable public relations as well as improving the service to the public. That story hours, displays and speeches are areas which cannot be ignored through lack of finances.

6. *Hours of service.* That the time spent on the road be increased in many instances. That weekend and evening service provide the basis of a more economic use of the bookmobile.

7. *Staff.* That supervisory staff spend more time on the bookmobiles. That there be in-service training for bookmobile staff in at least the areas of reference and request.

8. *Fines.* That there be a complete abolition of fines.

9. *Advertising.* That far greater use be made of advertising in as many ways as are available.

10. *Physical aspects.* That there be ample consultation with bookmobile staff and recognition of problems already existent in present vehicles, when ordering replacement vehicles. That provision be made for essential safety and other equipment.

These recommendations have been forwarded to the Provincial Director of Libraries and are awaiting further action from the Regional Chief Librarians.

Copies of the survey, including statistical evidence, report and recommendations are available from the compilers.

**OPPORTUNITIES IN
NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL LIBRARIES**

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NEWSTART AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN KING'S COUNTY, P.E.I.

FRANKLIN L. PIGOT

On August 23, 1967, Prince Edward Island NewStart began operations from its headquarters at Montague, King's County. Provincially incorporated, but part of the nation-wide Canada NewStart Programme, its purpose was "to identify and test new ways of training and counselling disadvantaged people so that they could more effectively respond to employment opportunities as they developed."¹

Under the direction of Dr. Austin L. Bowman and a small group of professionals in the field of education, a preliminary survey of the human resources of the area was begun early in 1968. The survey covered every home in King's County and included every person over the age of 13. All were asked a series of questions designed to find out what they were doing at that time and what they might like to do in the future.

Using the survey results as a point of departure, Dr. Bowman and his associates undertook a large number of projects designed to achieve the NewStart objectives. Notable among these was the Comprehensive Manpower Development Programme, a novel scheme which permitted the entry of any person at any educational level from illiteracy to high school, at any point in time, and allowed him to proceed at his own speed until he was ready to enter the labour market.² Involving, as it did, people who had a long record of chronic unemployment, the project was a phenomenal success. Of the 121 persons who received basic education upgrading,

initial skills training, pre-occupational training, or any combination of these, during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1971, 89 were employed as of April 30 of the same year.³

Another project, that of Community Development, was inaugurated on the premise that the development of an individual and his improvement depends, to some extent, on the development and improvement of the community in which he lives. It was hoped that this might be realized through the establishment of community service centres. Two centres were opened: one at Morell, on the north shore; the other at Souris, an old seaport on the eastern coast. From these centres a four-part programme of outreach to the disadvantaged was begun — basic community development, counselling, establishment of day care centres and the teaching of homemaker service. The effectiveness of such a programme is, of course, far more difficult to quantify than that of a project to promote employment directly; nevertheless, it was reported that "perceived changes resulting particularly from the day care centres and teaching homemaker services are most encouraging."⁴

Assuming an adequate library system to be an important resource for the maintenance of educational and technical skills, once achieved, and for their continuous improvement, NewStart carried out two studies on the availability and utilization of library facilities. In the first of these studies, A. Hamid Saleemi, Research Librarian at NewStart headquarters, and his co-worker,

Thomas R. Connor, reported the library facilities of King's County to be inadequate by national standards. They went on to state that even these inadequate facilities were not being fully utilized.⁵ In a subsequent paper, Mr. Saleemi outlined the history of the library system in Prince Edward Island, emphasizing factors which caused the system to be less than adequate. He then suggested means by which this situation could be improved. "Piecemeal approach" and "absence of any central direction" are cited as the chief inhibiting factors.⁶ "That the libraries be provided with a foundation in law" and, predictably, "additional funds and necessary manpower resources" appear among his suggestions for "bridging the gap."⁷ As indicated in Mr. Don Scott's article in a recent issue of the *APLA Bulletin*, strenuous efforts are currently being made to effect an improvement.⁸

Even though the experience of those in the field indicated the stipulated life-span of four years for each NewStart operation to be unrealistic, Prince Edward Island NewStart was required to surrender its charter on schedule. August 31, 1971 did not, however, mark the final solution to the problems of human resource development relating to the disadvantaged in King's

County. Continued research and experimentation into a constantly changing, intricate problem is essential, and while the work continues at other levels, the benefits to be gained from a grass roots approach at the regional level are lost. In the words of Dr. Bowman, the termination took place, "without anyone saying as much as boo."⁹

Footnotes

1. C.C.H. Canadian Limited. *Canadian Government Programmes and Services*. 5th ed. Toronto, 1972, p. 318.
2. Rogers, T. and C. Nicholson. *Final Evaluation of the P.E.I. NewStart Comprehensive Manpower Development System*. Montague, 1971, p. 1.
3. Prince Edward Island NewStart Inc. *Annual Report*, 1970-71, p. 6.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 7.
5. Saleemi, A. Hamid and Thomas R. Connor. *An Assessment of Public Library Service in King's County, Prince Edward Island*. Montague, 1970, p. 1.
6. Saleemi, A. Hamid. *Library Services in a Rural Setting; the Case of Prince Edward Island*. Montague, 1971, p. 18.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 21.
8. Scott, Don. "P.E.I. Libraries." *APLA Bulletin*, Vol. 36, Summer 1972, pp. 35-37.
9. *Journal-Pioneer*, Aug. 25, 1971.

Correction. Members of the *Publications Committee* of APLA are as follows:

J. Clement Harrison, Chairman
Mrs. Linda Harvey
Miss Margaret Williams
Miss Pamela Mills
Stanley Squires
Miss Barbara Hann-Ex-Officio

Members of this committee were incorrectly listed in the Minutes of the 33rd Annual Conference, as published in the *Bulletin*, Summer 1972, p. 32.

ARE THERE ANY CANADIAN LIBRARIANS?

RESHARD GOOL

The word, "communicate" comes from the addition of the Latin, "communicare", to two suffixes: the factitive "-ic-" and the verb-forming "-ate". Because it also derives from the word "common" it retains some of the latter's original meanings, namely, "com- + munis (bound, obliged) or + unis (one)".

I offer the above not merely because etymology fascinates me, but more importantly, because in our departure from origins we sometimes also leave behind significant meanings. When, for example, we declare that books are media of communication, I wonder how often we mean more than a pompous abstraction. After all, who but Robin Matthews and a handful of allies, has really taken the trouble to link Canadian books or literature to the continuation of an uncertain, yet crucial, Canadian identity?

Whither Canada?

To put the matter bluntly: the persistence of Canada as a distinctive culture depends not only upon the degree to which Canadians are willing to recognise and actively foster the obligations of a common heritage. It depends also — given an environment that is increasingly gathering U.S. imperial markings — upon whether, if Canadians do not act now, *they will be able to act at all*. George Grant in "Lament for a Nation" has posed the undeniable alternatives: either we disappear behind the giant, striding shadow of U.S. continentalism, or we do more than formal lip service to those media that can bind Canada into a common polity. While the mass media — television, radio, and those sections of the press not already owned or controlled by multi-national corporations —

have, in the last six or seven years, recognised the need for "Canadian content", book publishing and its attendant services (bookstores, the reading public, libraries, etc.) have, with a few notable exceptions, shown remarkably little consciousness of the national plight.

Roy MacSkimming, an editor of one of our more responsible publishing houses, New Press, speaks, for example, of "the decline of the agency business" and of "the buying practices of Canadian librarians".¹ Many Canadian houses, he says, "depended upon being able to distribute in Canada, books from abroad, on an agency basis". In particular and increasingly, American houses are locating "directly here and sell their books directly to the Canadian public"; and what, MacSkimming argues, makes the situation worse is "the buying practices of Canadian librarians". Many are university librarians "who, instead of buying books from the Canadian agent, bypass him and buy directly from the foreign house": a practice that "does a great deal of harm to the Canadian industry, and needs to be stopped." In the end, these are secondary and merely adherent harms. The larger threat is twofold.

The Current Situation

Foreign domination of books means not only that the homegrown commodity is driven off the market, but quite as important, that Canada is saturated by books which intensify reliance of Canadians upon foreign standards of thinking and behaviour.

It would be tiresome to spell out the situation among all its grotesque corollaries — e.g., the way in which U.S. television re-

enforced the sale of U.S. books in Canada, the control the U.S. has over book distribution in Canada, the ability of U.S. houses (with larger runs) to price Canadian books off the small Canadian market and thereby to offer authors bigger allowances, royalties and fees. To those who have been reading Canadian magazines (The Last Post, Mysterious East, Saturday Night, etc.) listening to Walter Gordon or George Grant on those rare occasions when the C.B.C. drops its uncommitted "there-arc-many-sides-to-every-issue" position, noticing the plethora of senseless violence on cinema and television screens, all the foregoing is household knowledge. Here the finger of U.S. domination threatens blatantly.

What is not quite so obvious are two side-effects. The first involves what I call *the mystery of the all-alike books*; the second is a related evil — the insidious way in which the *contents* of U.S. books have come to penetrate Canadian publications.

The mystery-of-the-all-alike-books signifies a disappearance. As the larger commercial operations take over, the business of publishing becomes increasingly centralised. The economic *zeitgeist* which rationalised the take-over, continues to rationalise subsequent activities. Value stops having a social or political measure; it becomes what cost-benefit analysts can show to be profitable. For a multitude of reasons the big firms employ editors cast in their own images: men attuned to purely commercial thinking, editors unwilling to take chances, watchful only for price tags i.e., demonstrated commercial return for investment. The result is the publication of established writers only. This is not so bad since writers like Farley Mowat and Pierre Berton must be published. The ill-effect is the disappearance of the regional writer. If the regional writer is to be successful he must cater to imperial tastes and values; he must cut the cord that connects him to the only values that he can best represent. The consequent shrivelling up of talent introduces what Robert Fowler, referring to the related medium of Canadian Broadcasting, has called a "desert of mediocrity".² It is what I call the-mystery-of-the-

all-alike books, or the Howard Johnson syndrome.

Think of Howard Johnson food. The fish tastes like hamburger; the hamburger, like breaded shrimps; the shrimps, like fried, aerated cotton wool. My wife believes it is a communist or zionist plot.

But jokes aside: isn't this also the taste of literature all across North America: the rootless taste of big money? Consider a work like Robert Hunter's "Storming of the Mind" published by McClelland and Stewart?³ What is Canadian or specific about *that* book? It is filled with the airless logic and doubtful generalisations that crowd the pages of *Playboy* magazine.

This sterility leads necessarily to the second side-effect of U.S. domination: the penetration into Canadian books of U.S. attitudes, models, and values. Hunter's "Storming of the Mind" represents the imperial vacuum not only in general, but specifically, too. But Hunter is a journalist; hence, he cannot be expected to be too fastidious in his thinking. What happens, however, when Canadian scholars show contamination?

The U.S. Model

On my desk is a work I have been using in introductory political science courses. It is entitled "Canadian Provincial Politics",⁴ If it was not edited and written by Canadians, I would not have chosen it as a text. (I have found Americans almost incapable of looking beyond their own territorial navels. Moreover when they do write about themselves they are only a little less smug and shallow than when they write about others. When they write, for example, about the Russians — e.g. Brzezinski and Huntington — they mistake Soviet issues and pre-occupations for American ones.)

If "Canadian Provincial Politics" were published by a Canadian firm, instead of Prentice-Hall, it would, however, still leave me unhappy. I open the book at page 168, and find the following statement:

"The analysis that follows attempts to relate the Nova Scotian party system to the broader milieu of political and social systems, using a rough approximation of David Easton's concept of inputs and outputs".

Ye Gods! The matter would be trivial if Beck were an American; but he is not — he is one of the big brass at Dalhousie. I examine the article more closely, and find the historical section to be well-drafted, well-documented. Why did Beck feel obliged to bolster his case with U.S. buncombe of "the input-output communications model"? Was he so uncertain, naive and unstable, so lacking in native philosophical chastity that he had to adopt a third-rate U.S. model of a second-rate and pseudo-scientific, German sociologist, namely, Max Weber? Since he does think for himself — his grasp of Nova Scotian politics shows that — why didn't he drop David Easton? Why, if he had to use U.S. authorities, didn't he use Wolin or Leo Strauss, i.e., more sophisticated and discriminating writers than the banal Easton?

While to some, this may be sad; for me, it is painful. I would like to be proud of my countrymen: to see them thinking for themselves, applying the international humanist heritage to the Canadian experience. Instead I find imitations of imitations. This is the cesspool into which U.S. domination has sunk what could be a proud heritage.

But what — given immediate surroundings of U.S. television, business practices, films, art, architecture of shopping plazas — can we expect?

A Canadian Renaissance?

A year or so ago, I had the unhappy experience of hearing Professor Pinsky of the Fine Arts Department of Sir George Williams University explain to a Montreal audience how critics in Canadian publications, like *Arts Canada*, increasingly tended to use U.S. standards and jargon. Some of the art critics, Pinsky attacked, were either personal friends or friends of my wife, who is a graphic artist. The experience was un-

happy not because Pinsky was a bad lecturer. On the contrary, he was excellent. I was saddened because of the truth of his observations, and because of the damaging significance it placed upon old and tried friendships. E. M. Forster's choice of friends before country is a little too facile for my liking.

Has the rot set in beyond repair? MacSkimming is optimistic. "We have", he says, "the books and we have the authors and we have the public that wants to read them . . ."⁵

He goes on to be blocked by a big "but": numbers. Yes, indeed: we are a small reading public in Canada, "less than 10% of a similar market in the U.S." I know no way in which to challenge this argument, except perhaps by an act of faith. A few years ago the prospects were blacker. What could have possibly brightened Canadian horizons?

Recently I went to Fredericton to get some advice about distribution from Fred Cogswell, the Editor of Fiddlehead Books. The enterprise was delicate, fraught with peril, because a year or so ago I had publicly attacked Cogswell at a Charlottetown poetry reading. Now, because my press — Square Deal Publications, Charlottetown — was about to print a group of P.E.I. poets and writers, I needed his help.

Cogswell was attentive and characteristically oblique. He met me cordially at his house and rushed me over to his office in U.N.B. There, while I laboriously collected addresses from his invoice books, he muttered to himself and picked books off surrounding shelves. When I had finished, he had, too. Beside me on his desk was a pile of all the books he had published in the last two or three years — some fifty or sixty in number. "Here", he said very simply, "take these — a gift: something to read when you get back."

The United States is frequently held up as the paradigm of liberal democracy: of "rugged individualism". In one sense I hope that Canada, too, continues the liber-

al tradition: that she does not remove liberty from among her political values, that the mosaic is not irreparably buckled by the heat and violence that comes from the U.S. melting-pot. In another sense, I also hope that in Canada we carry all the pieces of our federation into the future. I hope we accept both the mosaic and the political conditions that make it possible.

If you ask what these "conditions" are, I have difficulty answering. They have something to do with being capable of adjusting freedom to co-operation.

Oakeshott once wrote:

"A society must not be so unified as to abolish vital and valuable differences, nor so extravagantly diversified as to make an intelligently co-ordinated and civilised social life impossible."⁶

Hope is an Image

This is the extent to which Oakeshott, a Conservative, is willing to compromise with liberalism. Canada is a conservative country: how may she maintain, within unity, variety? What, in other words, freshens the hope I wrote of a few paragraphs ago? At the back of my mind I have the image of Fred Cogswell — medium build, scholarly, in manner slightly obtuse so as to mask an innately shy and gentle disposition. I have an image of the man and his achievement: his perseverance in the face of overwhelming financial and organisational odds, his loyalty to unrecognized talent, his refusal to dissolve his portion of the larger mosaic, and above all, his generosity — the pile of books (a creative testament) that made me, in more senses than the physical, stagger when I left his office.

It is because we still have operations like Cogswell's Fiddlehead, Anansi, New Press, Hurtig, James Lewis & Samuel, Peter Martin Associates, Contact Press, Delta Canada, Prism International, Tundra Books, Harvest House in Montreal and Oberon Press in Ottawa — to name only the more outstanding houses — that the Canadian "communications" future is potentially neither an

American fraud nor an empty, irredeemable dream. Here is the creative promise: our own "communications" model.

To paraphrase Roy MacSkimming: we have the authors — and my, what riches! Margaret Lawrence, Mordecai Richler, Irving Layton, Earle Birney, Hugh McLellan, George Grant, Rene Levesque, Farley Mowat, Leonard Cohen, Henry Beissel, and in my own province, Milton Acorn (again to name only a few) — and we have the publishing houses.

What we need now is a matching Cogswell dedication among agencies, bookstore owners, reading public, supporting mass media, and certainly not least, above all, Canadian librarians.

FOOTNOTES

(1) Address at "National Symposium" of National Committee for Canadianization of Canadian Universities; May 14th, 1971, Loyola University, Montreal.

(2) An expression used by Mr. Fowler during a television interview that followed the 1965 Fowler Report on Broadcasting. The Report, in that section dealing with the content of foreign broadcasting, makes this observation:

"... we would emphasize that it is not the large number of American programs that concerns us; it is the fact that so many of them are light entertainment of mediocre quality and little permanent value."

— and later, on the same page:

"The heavy infusion of American light entertainment dilutes the quality and destroys the balance of the total program content available to Canadian television viewers... What is needed is better program balance in the total programs available to Canadian viewers."

R. M. Fowler and others, *Report of the Committee on Broadcasting* (Ottawa: Queens Printer, 1965), p. 36.

(3) Robert Hunter, *The Storming of the Mind* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1971).

(4) Martin Robin, ed, *Canadian Provincial Politics* (Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice-Hall of Canada, Ltd., 1972).

(5) MacSkimming, *op. cit.*

(6) Michael Oakeshott, *The Social and Political Doctrines of Contemporary Europe* (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1944).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The word that the Dalhousie Library School has not been accredited strikes me as being disheartening news.

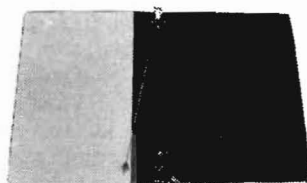
After interviewing students, employing several of its graduates in our Library Regions and attending extra-curricular programmes, I have been under the impression, mistakenly it seems, that the School has been doing a first-rate job, particularly for the eastern provinces.

In the normal course of events, I take it that the School will eventually be seeking its rightful place. Meanwhile, I hope that this little display in public will help encourage Harrison, Horrocks et al to keep up the good work.

Yours very truly,

James F. MacEacheron
Director
New Brunswick Library Service

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WHEN IS AN UMBRELLA NOT AN UMBRELLA?

A report and background information on some of the problems facing
CLA Council at their November 1972 meeting.

Heather Harbord (CAG Representative for the APLA)

CAG stands for Council Advisory Group. Back in 1967, the presidents of all the provincial and professional library associations in Canada met in Winnipeg and produced the *Winnipeg Memorandum* (see *Feliciter* Vol. 12, nos. 11-12 July-Aug. '67 p. 4) in which they outlined the need for more coordination of provincial activities and better communication between the national and other associations. Consequently, at the fall 1968 Council meeting, CLA invited each association to appoint a representative to a newly constituted body, to be known as the Council Advisory Group, which would attend all Council meetings and be able to speak at them, but not to vote.

The provincial associations did this quickly and before the spring 1969 Council meeting, CAG members had (i) studied the problems of similar large organizations (ii) circulated questionnaires to their memberships based on this research (iii) coordinated the results which showed large scale dissatisfaction with the CLA: Fees too high for the amount of meaningful service rendered, especially to members not able to get to conferences, was the general verdict.

When the results were communicated to Council they asked CAG to come up with a draft proposal for the reorganisation of CLA. This they did and presented it to Council before the St. John's CLA conference hoping that Council would release the report immediately to the membership so that we could have immediate feedback during the conference. Council voted not

to release the report, though they eventually did so several months later, and distributed it along with *Feliciter* Vol. 14, nos. 10-12, June-August 1969, at which point it was severely criticised in the Sept.-Oct. *Feliciter*, Vol. 15 Nos. 1-2, 1969. The biggest objection to the proposal was the idea of reorganising all the myriads of sections, committees and groups under four coordinating pillars in order to reduce the amount of red tape and concentrate efforts and talent more, in order to improve the quality of programs and publications. Although there were some who admitted that this would be a good thing, and a movement was started to merge a number of groups into a Public Libraries Section, there were others who strenuously objected to losing their autonomy.

As some form of change seemed to be desired, CLA then set up the first of a series of committees. This was the Aims and Objectives Committee, whose report was printed in *Feliciter* Vol. 17, Nos. 5-6, May-June 1971 p. 3, and accepted by the membership at the Conference in Vancouver in 1971. It was followed by the Structural Committee, whose report was printed in the *1971-72 CLA Annual Reports* p. 17 and accepted by the membership at their Conference in Regina this year. The latest in the series is the Implementation Committee, which has not yet reported. The original CAG members were interested to note that when the reports of the first two committees were released they were very similar to the CAG proposal.

Before the suggested changes can be implemented, the CLA has to have a new constitution. The draft for this, presented at this fall's Council meeting by the Constitution Committee, was severely criticised and sent back to the Committee for a re-write, because it was felt that the draft was merely a revision of the old constitution instead of the creation of a new one. If the second draft is approved at the spring council meeting then it will go to the membership at the Sackville, N. B. Conference June 16-22, for approval. (If you join CLA now or sometime before next June and attend the conference, you will have a vote!) One of the things which the new constitution will do is to give each CAG member and therefore each provincial association, a vote on CLA Council.

Also of special note, was that provision had been made for the existence of two "Select Committees" of the Association: Technical Services and Information Services, which seemed to be divisions in everything but name and representation on the Board of Directors. This provision was included against the recommendations of the Chairman of the Constitution Committee, and I feel that it defeats the whole purpose of the reorganisation of the Association into four umbrella-like divisions. The proliferation of sections which generally were prone to have more weak years than strong years, was the main reason for CAG's original suggestion to have all these groups attached to one of the four types of library pillars. The CLA Structural Committee's Report, which was adopted by the Association at the Regina Conference, endorsed this view and furthermore at the same time, the Association defeated a resolution to form what in effect would have been another division to take care of Information Services.

If Technical Services and Information Services are allowed to exist outside one of the four umbrellas, I am sure they will be joined by Audio-Visual Services, Personnel Services, Map Libraries etc. etc. and a host of others, so that the divisions will be reduced to little more than the sections we have at present, and the CLA will be very

weak. Instead, these groups which involve people from more than one division, could be potent forces in uniting the divisions, and therefore the whole CLA. Surely it would not be a sin for two or more divisions — even all four, to agree on saying the same thing about something? Doubtlessly, there will be many things they should cooperate on.

Many details still have to be ironed out and suggestions for this will be made by the Implementation Committee which consists of:—

1. The Vice-President, or some other representative chosen by each of the new 5 divisions:— Canadian Association of College and University Libraries (CACUL), Canadian Association of Public Libraries (CAPL), Canadian Library Trustees' Association (CLTA), Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services (CASLIS), and Canadian School Libraries Association (CSLA).

2. A representative from the present Technical Services Section (TSS).

3. A representative from the present Information Services Section (ISS) — not to be confused with CASLIS.

4. The Chairman of CAG.

5. The Treasurer of CLA.

6. The Executive Director of CLA.

7. One person at large (preferably younger members) from each of the new divisions (see 1. above). These are to be chosen by the Committee on Committees. This will give a total of 15 members to the Implementation Committee.

Other CLA Council tidbits:—

- (i) 1st Vice-President, Harry Campbell of the Toronto Public Library, would like suggestions for the theme of the 1974 Conference (Winnipeg) to be sent to him before March 1973.

(ii) Elected CLA Councillors now get their travel expenses paid. Members of the Board of Directors get the same, and a per diem allowance.

(iii) The Copyright Committee has examined the recommendations of the *Report of the Economic Council on Intellectual and Industrial Property*, regarding copyright, and Council approved a letter to go to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs commenting on individual points.

(iv) CLA is now the 7th or 8th largest conference in Canada and the registration at Regina was 930. Future conferences will be held as follows:—

- 1973 — Sackville, N. B.
- 1974 — Winnipeg
- 1975 — Toronto
- 1976 — Halifax
- 1977 — Montreal (Joint with ACBLF)

(v) As part of International Book Year, the Federal Government has given the CLA a grant of \$10,000 for the Regina Conference, and a further \$20,000 for supporting local projects in connection with IBY. There is still a small amount left in the latter, and Harry Campbell would be glad to receive suggestions for projects as soon as possible.

CAG usually meets on its own once during each CLA Conference and also just before each CLA Council meeting. At the June 11th CAG meeting, I was elected Chairman for the coming year to replace Don Meadows of Saskatchewan, whose term is up. In addition, this means that I represent CAG on the Implementation Committee. Each CAG member gives the other CAG members copies of a written report of the activities of his or her organization since the last CAG meeting. These are very interesting and often serve to re-emphasize the need for coordination

of provincial activities, as we are often concerned about the same things.

At the CAG meeting before this fall's council started, several associations reported that practical experiments have taken place in their areas to see if joint school-public libraries will work. In reporting this to CLA Council, I suggested that CSLA and CAPL might get together, perhaps with a joint committee, write up this information and publish it as a CLA Occasional Paper. Libraries of any kind are not cheap to operate and municipal officials should be glad to know ahead of time that a particular kind is less likely to be successful than some thing else.

Other highlights of the CAG meeting were:

(i) *Press Report*. Most associations have committees working on it and in provinces where there are new Queen's Printers, some headway is being made. (*Editor's Note: Further mention of the Press Report occurs in the "Out of the In Box" section of this issue.*)

(ii) *Meetings and Conferences*. Most associations have only one meeting a year but those like Ontario serving denser populations are able to have local groups which put on workshops more frequently. In addition several have monthly newsletters in addition to their more formal journals.

(iii) *Quebec Legislation*. Book prices have gone up and provincial grants have gone down, placing the public library system in serious jeopardy. Less than \$1 per person was spent on public libraries in 1970.

(*Editor's Note: Opinions and comments on this report or to do with CLA are invited by Miss Harbord of the Dartmouth Regional Library.*)

Dalhousie School of Library Service

The School began its fourth year of operation in September 1972. It welcomed back 34 students from the previous year who were joined by 39 students embarking on the now standard, two-year programme. The 39 new students were chosen from 120 applicants. This year the School introduced a seven day Orientation programme designed to introduce the new students to the School and its programmes, as well as libraries and librarians in the area.

The A.P.L.A. Prize for 1972 for the student showing the most professional promise was awarded to *Miss Mary Norton*, a graduate of the April Class. Miss Norton is now employed at the Toronto Public Library.

The K & W Enterprises Scholarship for the academic year 1972/73 has been awarded to *Mr. Thomas Flemming*. Born in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, Mr. Flemming is a graduate of Saint Mary's University and Dalhousie University. Last year he was a teacher in Gander, Newfoundland.

More detailed information on the School's activities is now provided in its *Newsletter*, which appears twice a year. Copies of earlier issues have been widely distributed but any library not on the mailing list and wishing to receive future issues is asked to write to Dr. Norman Horrocks, *Newsletter* Editor, at the School.

The School announces its Fall term lecture series, to be held at the Killam Library Auditorium, Fridays at 10:15 a.m. All librarians are cordially invited to attend, and no prior notification of attendance is needed.

September 29 —

Mr. Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director, American Library Association.

"The American Library Association: Present Position and Future Prospects."

October 13 —

Dr. F. W. Matthews, Associate Professor, School of Library Service, Dalhousie University.

"INFOCARE: The Place of Government in Information Service."

October 20 —

Mr. John E. Dutton, Chief Librarian, North York Public Library.

"A Helicopter View of North York and the Administration of its Libraries."

November 3 —

Mr. John N. Berry III, Editor, *Library Journal*. "Libraries: The Politics of Survival."

November 17 —

Miss Kay Hill, Author.

"An Author looks at the Canadian Book Scene."

December 1 —

Mr. Bernard J. McNamee, Executive Director, Canadian Library Association.

"The Future of the Canadian Library Association."

December 8 —

Mrs. M. Eileen Travis, Chief Librarian, Saint John Regional Library.

"The Library Administrator Looks at the Library School Graduate."

News from Newfoundland

West Coast Library Association

Mrs. Esperanza Aquino sends this release on the recent establishment of the West Coast Library Association, in Newfoundland.

On the evening of October 3, 1972, a group of twenty-nine dynamic library-minded people, including parents, teachers, principals, library assistants, and six professional librarians — finalized the forming of the West Coast Library Association.

This group originated last April, with Brother P. V. Shea, the then Library Supervisor of the R. C. School Board-Humber St. Barbe.

This West Coast group of library workers had wanted to be affiliated with the School Library/AV Council of the Newfoundland Teachers Association. However, the more flexible West Coast Librarians were unwilling to have meaningless restrictions put on them by St. John's. In Brother Shea's words: "The St. John's Branch (of the SL/AV N.T.A. Council) is to be the 'parent branch'. We really need a Provincial Executive instead of a St. John's Executive Body."

The West Coast Library Association is open to all persons in libraries, whether teacher, parent, or librarian, — on the whole West Coast of Newfoundland. At Tuesday's meeting, there were representatives from Deer Lake, Stephenville and the whole Bay of Islands region.

Executive for the West Coast Library Association:

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. Esperanza Aquino, Librarian
Regina High School (Senior)
Corner Brook, Nfld.

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Mrs. Connie Butt, Concerned Parent
S. D. Cook School

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

Mr. Paul Cook
Miss Yvonne Earle
Mr. Maxwell Mullett
Mrs. Sieglinde Stieda-Levasseur

Tuesday night's business meeting was followed by a demonstration on book-repairing, held by Miss Bernie Conran.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 1972.

Government Publications

A recently released report, *Government publishing in the Canadian provinces, a prescriptive study*, should enable librarians to discover, acquire and organize provincial government publications more easily than is now possible. The report, by Professor A. Paul Pross, a political scientist at Dalhousie University, and his wife Catherine, formerly a librarian with the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, points out why the job of collecting and organizing these publications has largely been an exercise in frustration. These include poor distribution, lack of an automatic system for depositing provincial government publications in libraries, and inadequate handling of publications once they reach the library.

One recommendation, particularly endorsed by C.L.A., is that a Supervisor of Documents be appointed in each province to examine all provincial documents, in conjunction with the issuing departments, to ensure that as many documents as possible are given the widest circulation to individuals and libraries both within and outside the province.

Atlantic School of Theology

Sister Margaret Flahiff was recently appointed Librarian at the Atlantic School of Theology. Also appointed was Mrs. J. Clement Harrison. One of the first projects at the School will involve the immediate transfer of the library of *Holy Heart Seminary* to the library facilities of the Atlantic School.

Notes from New Brunswick

Albert-Westmorland-Kent Regional Library

Terence Amis, School and Extension Librarian, is currently teaching an extension course for the *University of Moncton*. The course is Library Science for Teachers (ED 2710) and is given at the Moncton Public Library.

News/Nouvelles will be published for the second year. Published by the Extension Department of the library, it deals mainly with information regarding school libraries of School Districts 11 to 17.

Legislative Library

Appointments: Miss Jocelyne LeBel is presently Supervising Librarian, as of August 1. Miss E. Sharon Barker has been appointed as Cataloguer.

Plans for the future include building up the French collection; a complete index to the Telegraph-Journal; a revision of Hugh Taylor's *New Brunswick History's: a checklist of secondary sources*; and the publishing of a ten year cumulation checklist of New Brunswick government documents.

NewStart Programme

Alain Roberge of New Brunswick NewStart, Richibucto, reports that books are presently being taken to two Senior Citizens' homes. Film shows are also being presented on Saturday mornings. NewStart has received a gift of 200 books to help it on its way.

Library Programme — New Brunswick, 1972-1973

Provision has been made in the Legislative Grant to libraries not only to expand, but also to improve existing library service in New Brunswick. The overall increase in the grant of fifty per cent breaks down to 75-25, for improvement and expansion of

services respectively.

It has been fairly well decided by this time that the Province should be divided into five Library Regions (the Act reads a maximum of eight Library Regions). With the partial establishment of the Haut Saint-Jean Library Region a year ago, the way has been cleared to expand, rather than create new Library Regions.

The *Haut Saint-Jean Library Region*, Edmundston, will be expanded this year to include all of Madawaska and northern Victoria Counties. The *York Library Region*, Fredericton, will be expanded to include Carleton County and the larger part of Victoria. This arrangement makes it possible to add to York, Queens and Sunbury Counties. The *Saint John Library Region* will be enlarged to include a Public Library in Sussex.

The original intention of 1957 will be fulfilled this year when Kent County becomes, in fact, a part of the *Albert-Westmorland-Kent Library Region*, Moncton. The *Chaleur Library Region*, Campbellton, a combination of the former Restigouche and Nepisiguit Library Regions, will be extended to include a Public Library in Caraquet.

With the library programme this year, service is available now to 460,000 or approximately 74 per cent of New Brunswick.

Special Libraries Association

Special Libraries Association for the 18th year is offering scholarship awards for study leading to the Master's degree in library and information science. Four \$2,000 scholarships will be granted for the Academic Year 1973/74. For further information contact SLA Membership Department, 235 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10003.

News from Nova Scotia

The official opening of the *South Shore Regional Library* was held in the attractive Branch Library and Art Centre, Town of Lunenburg, on September 11, 1972. The main speakers were The Honourable Victor deB. Oland, Lieutenant-Governor, Province of Nova Scotia and Mr. Lynton Martin, Director, Cultural Services, Province of Nova Scotia. Service began in the Town of Lunenburg on September 12, 1972. Colourful ribbon-cutting ceremonies highlighted the initiation of bookmobile service in the towns of Bridgewater and Mahone Bay on October 12 and 13 respectively.

Miss Gwynneth Hughes, Chief Librarian, *Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library*, has resigned for health reasons. *Miss Diane MacQuarrie*, Supervisor, Public Libraries, will be Acting Librarian until a new appointment is made.

A staff meeting of the Nova Scotia Regional Librarians was held on November 1 and 2, 1972. Topics discussed included a new interlibrary loan manual for the regional public libraries, the expansion of audio-visual services and the extension of borrowing privileges. Staff requirements and 1973 estimates received the attention of the regional librarians. A session on bookmobiles focused on new supplies and suggested changes in specifications as well as changing directions in bookmobile service.

Mr. Don Padmore, Information Canada, and *Mr. Eric Dennis*, Nova Scotia Communications and Information Centre, highlighted a discussion on information centres. *Dr. Joseph Lauwerys* also visited the Staff meeting and discussed services available from the Atlantic Institute of Education.

Eastern Counties Regional Library held a most successful *Open House* on September 16, including children's story hours and an exhibition of local arts and crafts.

Grant to APLA

The *Publications Committee* of APLA is pleased to announce the receipt of a Grant of \$3,000 from the C.L.A. — International Book Year Committee for the purpose of reviving the *Atlantic Provinces Checklist*. It is planned to establish an advisory body to consider procedure. The last volume of the *Checklist* covered the year 1965, and it is understood that some work has been done for the years 1966 and 1967.

In Tribute

Librarians, particularly in the Atlantic Provinces, have been saddened to learn of the death on October 4, 1972 of *Mary D. Falconer*.

Miss Falconer's active association with libraries in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick goes back to 1945. She came as chief librarian to Mount Allison University following several years as a children's librarian in Boys and Girls' House of the Toronto Public Library, where she went after graduation from the University of Toronto Library School.

At the time of her death *Miss Falconer* was living in Halifax, having been forced by poor health into early retirement from Dalhousie University Library. At Dalhousie she had held responsible positions including that of Acting Director jointly with two other senior staff members.

Mary Falconer will long be remembered in Halifax by public and fellow staff members as the first head of the Circulation Department in the Halifax Memorial Library which was opened in 1951. She devoted her considerable skills to building up from absolute zero a fine book collection and enthusiastically introducing Haligonians to the services of their new library. Her amazing ability to convey to others

her own appreciation of good reading proved a great strength at a critical time in the library's development. So too, did her high standards of book selection provide the strong basis for today's greatly enlarged collection.

Even in retirement Miss Falconer retained her keen interest in libraries and librarians. Having been one of the original members of the Maritime Library Association she continued as a loyal member of its suc-

cessor, the Atlantic Provinces Library Association. She was also a member of the Canadian Library Association from 1950, being particularly active in the Halifax conferences.

But to those librarians who knew and worked with Mary Falconer the things which are remembered now, as they were appreciated then, are a delightful sense of humour, a never failing loyalty and the warmth of genuine friendship.

CONTRIBUTORS

Hope Bridgewater is Children's Librarian at the Halifax City Regional Library and Chairman of C.A.C.L. of the C.L.A. *Heather Harbord* is Chief Librarian of the Dartmouth Regional Library, and President Elect of the APLA. *Franklin L. Pigot* is Reference Librarian at Kelley Memorial Library, University of Prince Edward Island. Formerly Bookmobile Librarian with the Cape Breton Regional Library, *Stanley Squires* is presently Librarian at the Nova Scotia Teacher's College, Truro. *Catherine (Ayers) Sklar* worked until recently as Bookmobile Librarian at Annapolis Valley Regional Library. *Reshard Gool* is the Editor of Square Deal Publications, which will shortly be bringing out collections of P.E.I. folklore; folksongs, poetry and plays. A number of books are also in preparation for P.E.I.'s Centennial Year.



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THE NEED FOR AUTHENTIC CANADIAN BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Hope Bridgewater

There is a great need to have quality books about Canada for our children, and to have such books published and edited in Canada. Canadian librarians should be more active in informing publishers of this need and suggesting to them types of books for which our children are asking.

Here in Nova Scotia, the absence of children's books on local people and themes is almost total. When school children ask for detailed information on Joseph Howe and Sir Charles Tupper, we can only give them *Canadiana Encyclopedia* (written for adults) and adult history books.

Children are enthusiastic about the new emphasis on Canadian materials in school social studies, but when they come to the public libraries asking for biographies of well-known local people, for ethnic histories, and for county histories, we have almost nothing to give them — except material meant for adults.

Not long ago a teacher in a Halifax city school sent her children to our library to find Nova Scotian novels. Unfortunately, we soon ran out of titles. We have a few charming novels about Nova Scotia, now mostly out of print, and, with two exceptions, written for the elementary rather than the junior high level. For our Nova Scotian children we need to have more novels with our own province providing the background, we need biographies about important people of the past and present, and we need several short ethnic histories. We need Nova Scotian books not only about

children of the racial majorities (i.e. children of English or Scottish descent) but as well, books about Nova Scotian children from racial minorities (i.e. children of Indian, Chinese, Jewish, Black and Acadian descent).

If we ever do get to the stage of having several books a year published about Nova Scotia and its people, let us hope we will have more accuracy than in the picture book titled, "When Great-Grandmother was Young", by Maxine Kumin, an American writer. This picture book was published in 1971 by Putnams, an American publishing firm, and simultaneously in Canada by Longmans in Toronto.

Mrs. Kumin has written a pleasant and nostalgic story about her great-grandmother's life on Gerard's Island, just off Nova Scotia. Her book, however, is seriously marred by several errors which vividly point out the need for having books about Nova Scotia edited and published in this province. I noticed three errors immediately. On page 5, Mrs. Kumin spells Sydney, Cape Breton, as "Sidney", and on the same page she claims Gerard's Island is shaped like an egg. Well, it isn't, unless eggs have changed their shape. On page 13 she says tides along the eastern shore are the highest in the world (tides on the eastern shore are at the very most 7' 6" whereas the Bay of Fundy tides may reach a span of 45'). By confusing the tides of the Eastern Shore with the Bay of Fundy, Mrs. Kumin commits an error which most Nova Scotian school children would not make. Realizing the book might contain more errors, I

took copies to three people knowledgeable of Nova Scotian history (Mr. Niels Jannasch at the Nova Scotia Museum, Dr. Charles Armour at Dalhousie University Archives, and Miss Phyllis Blakeley at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia) and they noted even more errors, which I now relate. On page 9 the illustration of a sailing vessel bears no resemblance to the real thing, for it is a hotch potch of Columbus' *Santa Maria* together with ropes, spars and so-called ship's fittings altogether an insult to any Nova Scotian. The illustrator should have looked at any of the many available photographs of two-masted schooners used in the coastal trade. On page 14, Mrs. Kumin says ships were launched from Gerard's Island but no ships were ever built or launched at that part of the Eastern Shore. On page 27 the text and illustrations are both misleading. The text talks about bow-yoke while the illustration shows a head-yoke — maybe. The illustrator obviously didn't know a thing about yokes and therefore tried to get away with a few impressionistic scratches.

On page 37 the illustration of a horse on a scow towed by two rowboats is certainly open to questioning. You cannot lash a rowboat to the side of a scow, and neither can you tow the way shown in the illustration, for the boats would have to be in front of the barge.

On page 38 a stern-wheeler is shown and a stern-wheeler would never have been in that district at that time. It may have been a small paddle-wheel tug but more probably the steamer encountered was one of the coastal steamers, at that time already screw-propelled.

On page 46 Mrs. Kumin tells of a boy skating from Gerard's Island to Tangier. Everyone I've talked to says this is highly unlikely.

I'll stop counting the errors, even though

there are other items in this book which are incorrect. This pleasantly sentimental story of Nova Scotia is almost ruined by its many errors. What a pity the author and illustrator did not take greater care in researching details. There is a danger that in the present generation the errors in this picture story book about Nova Scotia are not recognized by children, and a danger as well that in another generation adults will believe that many of the errors in this book are indeed authentic historical facts. Once again I should like to stress that such errors would not have gone unnoticed if this picture book had been edited and published in Nova Scotia.

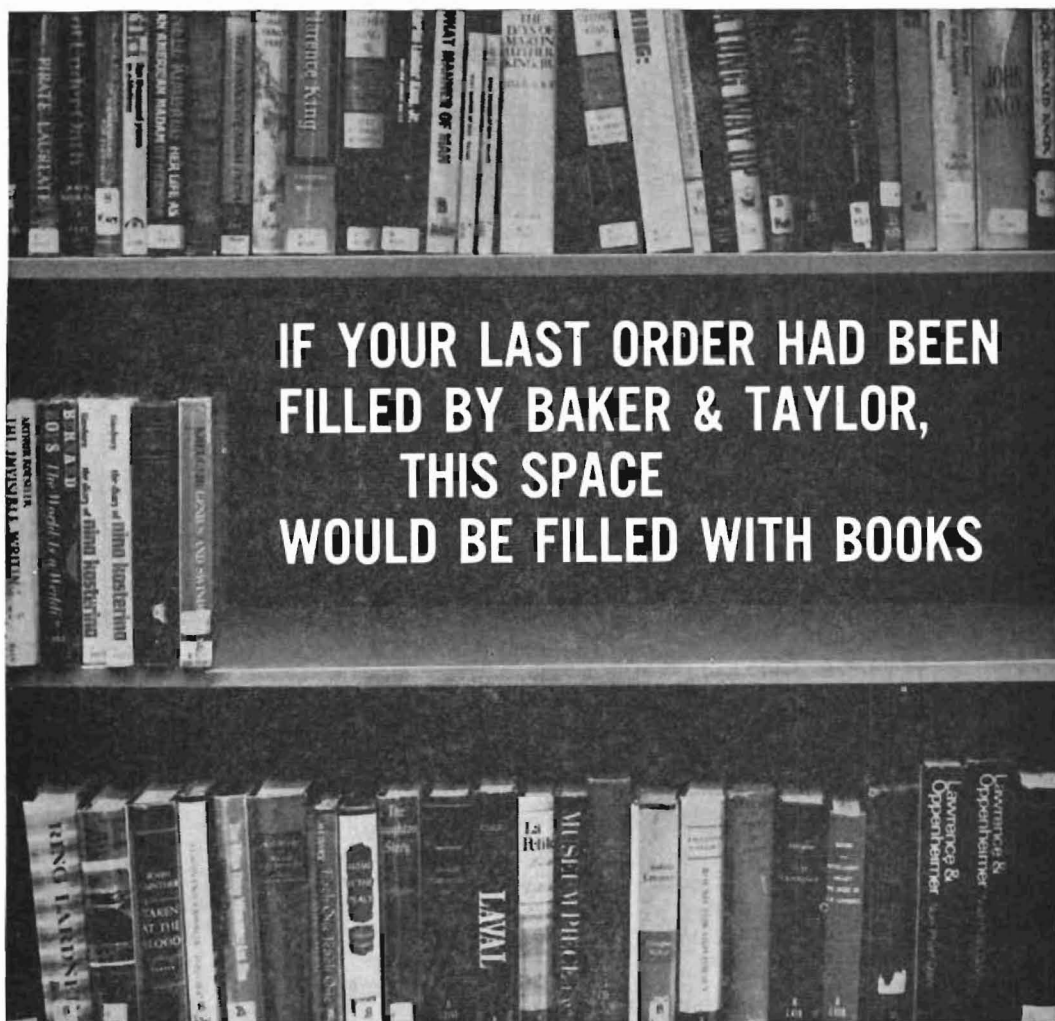
Certainly Canadian libraries should always welcome the best children's books from other countries. We owe a debt of gratitude to both the United States and Great Britain for their great contributions to Children's literature. It is literally true that we would have to close our children's libraries in Canada if we were suddenly deprived from getting books and other media from the United States and Great Britain, and certainly Canadian children have benefited greatly from the rich heritages from both these countries. Surely the time has come however for us to have more Canadian books in our libraries, but I must stress *well-written* Canadian books. Children should not be given a poorly written and inadequate book just because it has been written by a Canadian.

What we need are Canadian children's books equivalent in quality to the best published anywhere in the world. Where the money is to come from to promote the publishing of Canadian books in the Maritimes and elsewhere in Canada is a problem which must be solved if we are to develop a genuine Canadian culture. I am convinced that the printed page is still one of the best ways to guarantee the preservation and continuation of any culture.



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