

## *Book Notes*

**Journal.** CANADIAN ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'HISTOIRE ORALE. Vols. 1—2; 1975/76-76/77. Ottawa. Included with membership in the Association or \$3.00 per copy. (Available from the Association, P.O. Box 301, Station "A", Ottawa, Canada K1N 8V3).

This annual publication demonstrates the advances in the practice of oral history in Canada. It carries contributions about oral history from a variety of perspectives and reflects an important ongoing discussion about the direction and future of oral history. The 1976 issue included Léo La Clare's survey of the development of oral history in Canada, Richard Lohead's "Three Approaches to Oral History: The Journalistic, the Academic, and the Archival," and Peter Oliver's penetrating and critical "Oral History: One Historian's View." The second issue grew out of the September 1976 conference of the Canadian Oral History Association and the colloquium of the Oral History Association, and includes pieces by Peter Stursberg, Bernard Ostry, Hugh Taylor, as well as Don Page's presentation about the possibilities of videotaping oral history interviews.

The *Journal* also reflects some of the oral history projects contemplated or underway across Canada. Examples are Arthur Blanchette, "Histoire orale et politique étrangère," George L. Cook, "The Frontier College History Project," C.R. Meyers, "An Oral History of Psychology in Canada," Laurel Doucette, "Family Studies as an Approach to Oral History," Charles C. Hill, "Oral History and the History of Canadian Art," Raymond Vézina, "Archivistes, Historiens d'Art et Documents Oraux," Don Rubin, "Theatre History and Oral History," Esmé Crampton, "Preparation for an Oral Biography of Gweneth Lloyd, Teacher of Dance," and Robert C. Cosbey, "Proposal for a Saskatchewan Oral History Project."

Both issues reveal an interest in sound recordings not limited to oral history interviews. The current bibliographic work underway on French-language and English-language CBC radio and television drama is described in separate articles by professors Pierre Pagé and Howard Fink. The activities of the French-language sound archives of CBC Montreal are traced by C.Y. Bourgon, and Jacques Gagné outlines the nature of the 1911 recordings of Indian and Eskimo chants brought to Canada from Norway by the Public Archives of Canada in 1976. In sum, there is a healthy variety in the *Journal*, and it is hoped that subsequent issues continue to demonstrate the vitality of oral history in Canada.

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### **Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Volume IX: 1861 to 1870.**

General Editor: FRANCES G. HALPENNY. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, c1976. xiii, 967 p. ISBN 0 8020 3319 9 \$25.00.

The editors of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography (DCB)* have established high standards of scholarship and research from contributors, and these standards have been maintained in the most recently published volume which contains more than five hundred biographies of men and women who died between the years 1861 and 1870.

The *DCB* was originally conceived as an authoritative and informative biographical dictionary of famous and not so famous Canadians, and this volume certainly reflects the success the editors have achieved in this direction.

Many of the biographies in Volume IX bear witness to the important themes of pre-Confederation Canadian history: the political evolution of the Canadas and the Maritime colonies to responsible government and eventually to Confederation; the emergence of an entrepreneurial class and the expansion of the British North American economy; exploration, the fur trade and the opening of the Northwest to settlement; religious life and the development of educational systems; and the awakening of art and literary traditions.

The biographies are arranged in alphabetical order, and each entry concludes with a note on sources consulted — archival, primary and secondary materials. Biographies vary according to the subject and maintain stylistic differences from author to author, yet each entry is accurate and readable. At the end of the volume a general bibliography of archival sources used in the preparation of the biographies has been very wisely included. Archivists who ply their trade among records and manuscripts relating to the pre-Confederation period of Canadian history will find this feature particularly useful because it provides a good general list of sources available throughout the country. The value of the *DCB* to historical research is immense, and archivists as well as historians will find this volume an indispensable reference collection.

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**A Bibliography of Canadian Theatre History, 1583-1975.** JOHN BALL, RICHARD PLANT. General editor: ANTON WAGNER. Toronto: The Playwrights Co-op, 1976. 160 p. ill. ISBN 0 919834 03 5 pa. \$3.95 ISBN 0 919834 02 7 bd. \$6.95.

This book is a list of published items, periodicals and theses which, as the title indicates, cover nearly four hundred years of theatre in Canada. The title is somewhat misleading since, although the bibliography contains sections on French-Canadian theatre, editors Ball and Plant state that their "aim in collecting French-Canadian items has largely been to provide a record of those materials which supplement the study of English-Canadian theatre history." Likewise, the history of Canadian theatre performed in neither official language is mainly ignored. Nor does the bibliography include newspaper articles except for those in *The Financial Post*. Despite these limits on its scope, the bibliography is a useful companion to the *Brock Bibliography of Published Canadian Stage Plays in English, 1900-1972* and Heather McCallum's *Theatre Resources in Canadian Collections*. Archivists will find it especially helpful in dating or otherwise identifying clippings found in theatre-related collections.

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