

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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