

The Canadian Obituary Record, A Biographical Dictionary of Canadians Who Died in 1988. ROBERT M. STAMP. Toronto and Oxford: Dundurn Press, 1989. 213 p. ISBN 1-55002-045-5.

This is the first of a projected annual series which will provide brief interpretative biographies of some five hundred Canadians who have died in the previous year. The series should become an indispensable aid to a variety of research interests. The volumes will include individuals who have made a notable contribution to the local, national, or international scene. The entries in the first volume are readily accessed by alphabetical name order, profession, and province or territory. Robert Stamp has used daily and weekly newspapers, the *Canadian Who's Who*, the *Canadian Parliamentary Guide*, as well as specialized biographical dictionaries and correspondence with national associations and even family members.

The scope is admirably broad. It includes not only the likes of Jean Marchand (entered both as politician and labour leader), George Grant (philosopher), and Roland Ritchie (Supreme Court justice), but also Elen Henderson (fashion designer), Margaret Thomson (native women's rights activist), and Father David Bauer (director of Hockey Canada). Stamp has been concerned to document the passing, not only of the nationally visible, but also of local figures of note. Looking at his native province of Saskatchewan, this reviewer was impressed to see entries for Harry Landa (community activist) and Florence James (theatre director). Stamp acknowledges that he has been more successful in providing regional, occupational, and ethnic balances, and less successful in providing a gender balance: "A large percentage of the generation of Canadian women dying today accomplished more in the private family domain than in the public sphere; unfortunately these private, family contributions are rarely chronicled" Nonetheless, he presents an impressive honour roll of women whose achievements bettered their communities: Lotta Dempsey (journalist), Dolores Wing (school trustee), Ginette Dupont and Sister Yvonne Prevost (health administrators), Charlotte Lemieux (educator), Margaret Meikleham (librarian), and Clare Mendel (arts patron). In its first issue, *The Canadian Obituary Record* is meeting the ambitious goals that its writer has set.

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