

CANADIANA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS:
A PROGRESS REPORT

Joseph Jones

DURING THE YEAR 1967 THE WORLD CONGRATULATES CANADA upon a century of political self-determination. Anticipating the international exhibition at Montreal, efforts have been made by literary scholars to bring Canada before a wider audience; the appearance in 1965 of the comprehensive *Literary History of Canada* under the editorship of Carl F. Klinck is but one of many such. The quarterly journal *Canadian Literature* has issued its thirtieth number, a new "World Authors Series" by a New York firm offers a study of the Canadian novelist Morley Callaghan as its first published volume (1966, with one on Bliss Carman appearing a few weeks later, and others to come), and numerous special studies continue to appear. Anthologies and special paperback series, moreover, now render the study and teaching of Canadian literature comparatively easy, whereas a few years ago it was really difficult to find materials in print. The University of Texas, in joining the general chorus, may take occasion here to survey its gains in Canadiana over the past half-dozen years or so—since 1960, when a report by this writer (*Library Chronicle* VI, 4: 17-25, Winter 1960) was offered to display "an increasingly useful Canadian collection" which was then "in its early stages." Following in the tracks of our 1960 statistics, what stage of development can we now report? How "increasingly useful" has our collection become?

The 1960 article stated that our acquisition of Canadiana was part of a general plan to make the library as current as possible "in all the divisions of Commonwealth literature that at present may be considered major areas." Perhaps it is more accurate to say now that the emphasis is somewhat less upon "Commonwealth" *per se* than simply upon "English" in its world-context, although the Commonwealth continues to bulk large in the whole picture. It may well be that "English," finally, must prove the only adjective really adequate to designate what is already a world-literature in a world-language, just as "Latin" covers Roman, Graeco-Roman, Byzantine, and the like. We are continuing along these lines. For Canadiana, we have not been quite so fortunate as

to have acquired *en bloc* such a fine assemblage as the Grattan Collection of South Pacificana (especially rich in Australian and New Zealand items), but the task of reading catalogues and gradually assembling a mosaic has paid substantial dividends. We did, in 1962, come into a lesser windfall than the Grattan Collection through a special purchase of duplicates (177 titles in poetry, 49 in fiction, and miscellaneous others) from the University of British Columbia; and the year following was also one of notable increases through more than ordinarily extensive purchases from dealers in eastern Canada.

Other developments on the campus include the establishment of the Ruth Stephan Poetry Center, which will contain poetry in English (and in English translation) on a very wide scope. Although technically not part of the Library, the center will of course be open to anyone wishing to study poetry in it, and it should be one of the most convenient places available for the quick look to see what the poetic product of virtually any English-speaking country has been and continues to be. It is planned that Canadian poetry shall become an important section of this new collection.

As of approximately October 1, 1959, a survey based on Watters's *Check List of Canadian Literature and Background Materials, 1628-1950* revealed that we held slightly over 1500 titles, out of some 12,000 in the whole checklist. Seven years later we hold about 3,200. More specifically, a list was drawn up in the original article showing that "our needs at present may be better described in terms of writers' names than of single volumes or series of volumes; in many instances the catalogue is entirely blank." This 1959 list is here repeated, with original figures and figures from a second survey as of October 1, 1966, to show what has been added during the past seven years.

Poetry:

Patrick Anderson 0/2	Alexander Louis Fraser 0/3
Earle Birney 1/10	Oliver Goldsmith (1794-1861) 0/0
Arthur Stanley Bourinot 2/23	Charles Heavysege 0/0
Charles Frederick Boyle 0/0	Emily Pauline Johnson 0/4
Charles Tory Bruce 0/7	William Kirby 0/2
Wilfred Campbell 1/14	Abraham Moses Klein 1/3
Edward John Chapman 0/2	Archibald Lampman 1/7
George Cockings 0/1	Irving Layton 0/7
Louis Dudek 1/9	Wilson MacDonald 3/13
Hyman Edelstein 0/4	Tom MacInnes 2/13

Isabel Ecclestone MacKay 1/5
 Alexander McLachlan 0/5
 Thomas O'Hagan 2/7
 Marjorie Pickthall 2/7
 E.J. Pratt 4/17
 Lloyd Roberts 1/2
 Duncan Campbell Scott 3/12
 Frederick George Scott 3/12
 Francis Joseph Sherman 2/3
 Raymond Souster 0/7
 Arthur Stringer 3/10
 Amelia Beers Warnock 0/6
Totals: 1959, 33
 1966, 217

Fiction:

Grant Allen 6/13
 Irene Baird 1/3
 Leslie Gordon Barnard 0/4
 William R. Bird 0/10
 John Preston Buschlen 0/5
 Grace MacLennan Campbell 1/4
 Philip Child 0/3
 Arthur Murray Chisholm 0/6
 Hiram Alfred Cody 1/14
 Louis Arthur Cunningham 0/4
 Sara Jeannette Duncan 0/7
 William Alexander Fraser 3/13
 Philip Freund 2/4
 Hugh Garner 0/2
 Gwethalyn Graham 0/2
 Frederick Philip Grove 2/5
 Roderick Haig-Brown 0/5
 William Henry Pope Jarvis 0/2
 Agnes Christina Laut 1/5
 William Douw Lighthall 0/0
 Madge Hamilton Macbeth 1/8
 Jean Newton McIlwraith 1/4
 Isabel Ecclestone MacKay 1/6
 Archibald P. McKishnie 0/9
 Susanna Strickland Moodie 1/1
 Frederick John Niven 3/15
 Isabel M. Paterson 0/6

Roger Pocock 0/3
 John Richardson 0/1
 Theodore Goodridge Roberts 0/8
 Laura Salverson 0/7
 Robert James Campbell Stead
 1/7
 Arthur Stringer 2/34
 Adeline Margaret Teskey 0/3
 Robert Watson 0/7
Totals: 1959, 27
 1966, 230

Biography and Autobiography:

Charles Marius Barbeau 1/2
 Emily Carr 0/6
 John Wesley Dafoe 0/1
 Joshua Fraser 0/2
 Oliver Goldsmith 0/0
 Daniel Cobb Harvey 0/0
 William Kirby 0/0
 Thomas D'Arcy Magee 0/0
 William Lyon Mackenzie 0/1
 Jack Miner 0/1
 Lorne Albert Pierce 2/6
 John Richardson 0/2
 John Clarence Webster 0/5
Totals: 1959, 3
 1966, 26

Essays:

George Stansfeld Belaney 0/4
 (Grey Owl)
 John Wilson Bengough 1/2
 Bliss Carman 0/2
 Roderick Haig-Brown 0/6
 Joseph Howe 1/1
 Archibald McKellar McMechan
 0/3
 Thomas O'Hagan 0/5
 Lorne Albert Pierce 0/6
Totals: 1959, 2
 1966, 29

Before interpreting these totals we may introduce a qualitative dimension, still within a statistical cross-sectional frame of

reference. Since the appearance of his *Check List* in 1959, the indefatigable Professor Watters, in collaboration with I. F. Bell, has added another volume which is usable as a somewhat different sort of measuring-stick: *On Canadian Literature, 1806-1960: A Check List of Articles, Books, and Theses on English-Canadian Literature, Its Authors, and Language* (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1966). The largest of several sections in this most welcome compilation is "Works on Individual Authors," which includes a total of 377 authors thought worthy of mention in a selective work (Watters's original list of course included many times this number). Our library holds one title or more by 280 authors out of this total—nearly 75 per cent. For a fair number, our holdings are sufficient to sustain graduate study. This new volume, it might be observed, is in itself another testimony to the growing importance of the subject it treats. "The overwhelming bulk of the material listed," says the preface, "was published in recent decades"—words with familiar ring to the student of virtually any of the "new" literatures in English.

Returning now to our comparisons between 1959 and 1966, we observe that grand totals for all categories—65 for 1959, 502 for 1966—show our holdings to have increased just over sevenfold in seven years. Despite the coincidence of sevens there is no particular magic in these numbers, but one is tempted to remark that these may well have been our biblical seven fat years: the collection grew so rapidly during this period that it can hardly hope to show any such rate again. Nor do the "Watters" figures tell the complete story; acquisitions of titles appearing since 1950, together with orders currently in process, would swell our total holdings to well over the 4,000 mark. The next seven years can be forecast in some confidence as a period of consolidation gradually shading over into an equilibrium of "housekeeping" maintenance—i.e., ordering current items and adding no more than the occasional older item, unless fortune should put something extraordinary in our way. It is well along towards being a respectable collection; although the hardest part of the work is over, a good deal is left to be done.

There are, at the same time, some built-in limitations that should be pointed out. Many rare items we shall simply never acquire; they will not come on the market, unless through reprints. It may be some time before our Canadian periodicals are as strong as we should like to see them. We shall probably not attempt to collect French Canadiana. Lacking interest in Canadian history

and other social studies, historical and other background works may not be added in optimum quantities. It would be unrealistic to assume that our library can ever become so strong in Canadiana that a graduate student will have no need to move outside to supplement his knowledge. It is not unthinkable already, however, that he would be in position to begin any one of a number of projects and carry it for a respectable distance before having to resort to microfilm, interlibrary loans, or—most pleasant of all to contemplate—a journey to one or more of the Canadian libraries themselves.

One function of a library as large as ours is the encouragement of comparative studies in numerous fields, literature both in English and other languages being one of the more notable examples. In what might be termed "comparative English" we are laying the groundwork for study in virtually all the major areas. That is one aspect of a movement towards unification, within a single discipline. But in larger terms of far longer range, aiming to become a world-university for world-citizens, we aim also at the prizes of improved international understanding and cooperation for the general good. By means of established agencies such as the Latin American Institute we have already enjoyed some success at helping unite, intellectually, the United States with Mexico and other regions to the south. If we are finally to achieve a truly North American continental perspective we must continue to strengthen our Canadian ties. It is hoped that this report offers satisfactory evidence of attempts in that direction.