

and political relations with Canada) has material dating back to the 18th century, while the official publications transferred to the Public Record Office include printed series dating back to 1725 for Nova Scotia and 1764 for Canada.] In more recent years, however, with the expansion of publishing in and about Canada, a greater selectivity becomes apparent. Publications relating to Canada as a whole, and Federal official publications, continue to be widely collected, but the provision of Provincial and local interest material is much more limited.

Collections of Canadiana in this country have been enriched by the active support of the Canadian Government operating through its Book Presentation Programme, its Academic Relations Programme, and through its system of establishing selective depository libraries for Federal publications. This depository privilege covers some official serials and mapping as well as monographic reports. [Libraries which have benefited under the Book Presentation Programme include the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Commonwealth Institute and the universities of Edinburgh and Leeds. Twelve libraries currently enjoy depository status: the British Library is a full depository, the others select material according to their needs.] The selective policy adopted by libraries towards the Provinces is partly due to the very specialized nature of much of the material and to the lack of reader demand, but a strong element of rationalization is also involved. There is only a limited amount of money, space and time available for acquisitions, and coverage of Provincial publications could increase commitments tenfold. Nevertheless, Federal material presents only part of the picture; the Provinces often have quite different approaches to constitutional, economic and cultural matters, and their publications reflect these varying viewpoints. This is already recognized to a certain extent in the case of Quebec. Libraries tend to acquire more material from and about that Province because of its significance for the study of Federal-Provincial relations, and because of its interest for the students of French language and culture.

Provincial material presents fewer problems to special libraries, as they have a limited subject range and readily identifiable links with comparable institutions in Canada. The Institute of Geological Sciences, for example, has exchange agreements with the Provincial Geological Surveys; the National Meteorological Library acquired meteorological data and reports from Provincial agencies; the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys receives Provincial census reports; the Museum of Mankind obtains material from Provincial Museums. There are two general libraries, however, particularly interested in strengthening their Provincial holdings — the British Library and the University of Cambridge — and both wish to acquire original documents rather than microform material. [At present the British Library has exchange agreements with Newfoundland (from 1905 onwards, an extension of the 1883 agreement with Canada) and Manitoba (1966 onwards), and varying arrangements with the others — purchase, donation, and direct exchange with departments. Cambridge receives the official publications of Prince Edward Island on a regular basis, others more selectively.]

The book presentation policies of the Provincial governments are much less formalized than the Federal programmes, and less extensive. The Government of Ontario has made donations to three Scottish universities — Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee — although these are of Canadiana rather than exclusively Ontario material. The Quebec Government has presented publications to libraries both direct and through its delegations in London and Paris. Alberta has recently made donations of material in its Heritage Learning Resources series. Possibly presentations of this kind could be encouraged if there were readily identifiable recipients.

Six of the Provinces are represented in London by Agents General — Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Their Offices are primarily concerned with promoting commercial, cultural and tourist matters, and to support this role they hold a range of current reference sources. British Columbia and Ontario also have earlier collections of books and reports which are no longer maintained on a systematic basis, while Alberta has begun to build up a general collection of Albertan publications and the works of Albertan authors. Quebec House had a library at the time of my visit, but was reorganizing the collection with a view to depositing selected material with other libraries, in order to make it more accessible.

Five of the Agents General (the exception being Nova Scotia) are depositories for the publications of their own governments, but they seldom keep them for very long, so that there is already Provincial material coming into this country which is not being preserved. As the Provincial Governments have not responded to letters inquiring about the possibility of establishing further depository libraries in Britain, a more fruitful approach might be through the Agents General themselves. Another possibility might be to negotiate the transfer of unwanted older materials from the London Offices to interested libraries. This is the sort of operation which could be organized through a co-ordinating body.

There are two further comments I should like to make on the provision of monographic materials. The first concerns Canadian reference works and bibliographies. These are seldom reviewed in British journals and are consequently less well-represented on the shelves than they should be. A library group could take steps to improve the dissemination of bibliographical information. My second observation relates to the so-called 'grey materials', the semi-published sources. There are many documents, conference papers