

La Société des Ecrivains Canadiens has about 235 members. This organization is affiliated with its English counterpart, the Canadian Authors Association. There is also a French Canadian Academy of 16 members founded a year ago to encourage literary activity in Canada.

Production and Export of Books

From pioneer beginnings printing and publishing have developed into substantial enterprises of Canadian life. Printing has become one of our leading industries, ranking second in the country in 1941 in the number of persons employed and in salaries and wages paid.

Under the Canadian arrangement which groups trade returns for publishing and printing together it is difficult to estimate the importance of the publishing industry alone. Some idea of its phenomenal growth in recent years may be gained, however, from the following table of the value of bound and printed books, supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The figures cover both English and French books.

Production of Bound and Printed Books in Canada

	\$
1939	1,770,059
1940	1,932,268
1941	2,159,448
1942	3,235,610
1943	4,094,671

There are no figures available later than 1943, but publishers agree that the production of books has increased very considerably since then.

The following export figures, also supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, include both French and English books. The rapid rise since 1941 and particularly the jump in 1945 are probably accounted for more by French than by English books:

Total Exports of Bound and Unbound Books

Year	United Kingdom	United States	Total Exports
	\$	\$	\$
1939	12,060	98,073	156,880
1940	4,157	109,849	163,713
1941	12,297	119,063	183,979
1942	13,634	163,884	276,111
1943	28,585	187,136	352,248
1944	42,758	286,810	665,536
1945	96,836	322,168	1,027,771

The production of Canadian books would be still greater to-day but for a shortage of skilled labour in printing and binding establishments. Printing plants and book binderies are equipped with all standard machinery of both British and American origin and present facilities are capable of handling much more work than can be done with the limited labour supply. It is estimated that not more than one-third of possible production capacity is being realized at present. Employers are now cooperating with government and educational institutions in planning the training of persons who would like to enter the industry.

Canadian publishers, both French and English, hope to hold much of the advance they have made in the war years. Now that French firms in Canada are for the first time publishing European books by direct arrangements with the original publishers, and English firms, going a step further,