

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Bulletin No. 6, May, 1951

The annual meeting will take place on Thursday, June 14th, and not June 12th, as erroneously listed in the Canadian Library Association convention program. It will be held at 8 o'clock, in the Library of the Institute of Mediaeval Studies, and the speaker will be Mr. Guy Sylvestre, Administration Officer of the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Dept. of Resources and Development, and editor of *Nouvelle Revue Canadienne*. Mr. Sylvestre, recently chosen a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, has already had a varied and productive career - as author of several works of criticism, editor of poetry anthologies, private secretary to Mr. St. Laurent, and editor of the much respected, and now greatly missed quarterly, *Gants du Ciel*. The title of his address is not yet confirmed; possibly he will deal with aspects of recent French-Canadian literature. He will speak in English, and excellent authority has it that he speaks with wit and skill. The meeting will be open to the public.

Members will remember the request sent by Unesco to the member nations, something over a year ago, asking for reports on the state, and the needs, of national bibliography. Both the Canadian and the United States reports have since appeared, the former in mimeographed form, available, at twenty-five cents, from the Canadian Library Association in Ottawa, and the latter printed in the periodical American Documentation, the number of August, 1950. The American report, prepared, at the request of the American Library Association, by Dr. Jesse H. Shera and Miss Margaret E. Egan, of the University of Chicago Graduate Library School, made recommendations at both the national and the international levels, and perhaps most interesting among the national recommendations is the formation of a central bibliographical agency, with representation from all organizations currently interested in bibliography, as a clearing-house, co-ordinator, and promoter of research and experimentation. This report was partly an outgrowth of discussion at the University of Chicago Conference on Bibliography held in Chicago last summer, which was attended by five Canadians, four of them members of our Society.

The Canadian report, prepared by Dr. Jean Lunn, as chairman of the Reference Section of the Canadian Library Association, which appeared some months earlier than the other, and was received by the Canadian members during the Conference, drew enthusiastic comment from the Americans. Since our bibliographical development is at a more primitive stage than that of the United States, the Canadian recommendations are of a different order. Central among them were a union catalogue of the holdings in our principal libraries, now in process, and a National Library to serve as a control agency, which seems at last in sight.

Recently, Professor Thomas Greenwood, Chairman of the Dept. of English studies of the University of Montreal, has organized an impressive bibliographical project in Canadian literature. Under his direction, selected graduates will prepare exhaustive analytical bibliographies of Canadian writers, as well as critical monographs. This material, as well as existing works by and about the writers, will be collected and indexed in the University Library, as a unit, to form a clearing-house of information on Canadian letters. The work has already begun, and the plan is to work backwards from living authors to the beginnings.

No doubt the members are now familiar with the Bibliographic Centre's Canadiana, successor to the Canadian Catalogue, and an expansion of it as well, for the new publication adds a complete listing of Dominion government documents. It is published twice monthly, indexed monthly by author, and cumulated annually. For the present, at least, it is free to Canadian libraries; otherwise obtainable from the King's Printer at \$2.00 a year (not including the Annual Cumulation).

At the Council meeting held in February, several items were selected for reproduction in our reprint series, and it was decided that these and other future items should be printed, or in some cases, photographed. Among those selected was James Evans' Cree syllabic hymnary, which could have value only, of course, in facsimile. Dr. Pierce most generously offered to have it thus reproduced as a gift to the Society, and he reports that the work is now well on its way.

For most of the members, fees are now due (\$2.00 personal membership, \$5.00 institutional membership). Please remit to the Secretary, 214 College Street, Toronto.

Donalda Putnam,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Bibliographical Society of Canada - Council Meeting, Feb. 10, 1951.

A meeting of the Council was held in the University of Ottawa, on February 10, 1951, at 3 o'clock, with the President, Father Morisset, in the chair. Besides the chairman, only the 2nd Vice-President, Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, and the Associate Secretary, M. Malchelosse, were present. Dr. Pierce, however, had previously stated to Father Morisset his views on the chief subjects to be discussed at the meeting, and asked him to place his votes accordingly. The President opened the meeting by reading the letters and telegrams from those members who were unable to attend. He then read a letter from the Secretary-Treasurer, in which several matters for discussion at the meeting were brought forward, and a brief financial statement showed the bank balance as now approximately \$500. He excused himself for being unable to read the Minutes of the preceding Council meeting, since they had not been received from the Secretary-Treasurer.

After a long discussion, it was resolved to change the date of the Annual Meeting from June 12th to June 11th, 1951. It was decided that a private dinner should be held on this date, at 6 or 6.30 P.M., to be attended by only the Council members, one or two invited guests, and the guest speaker for the general meeting, to be held at 8.30 the same evening. The chairman proposed as speaker Professor Etienne Gilson, an authority on medieval studies. The general public will be invited to attend. It was decided that President Morisset should communicate with the C.L.A. regarding the proposed change of date, and if it should prove impossible to arrange it as agreed, he should be empowered to make such other arrangements as appear satisfactory. The Council voted to offer M. Gilson a gift of \$25. If he does not agree to speak, the President will explore other possibilities.

There followed a discussion on the publication of Reprints, and it was decided that in future these should be printed. The President presented estimates from L'Imprimerie Leclerc, of Hull, as follows: \$80 for 200, \$85 for 300, \$95 for 500; and he has requested estimates also from Le Droit, Ottawa, and Tremblay et Dion, Quebec. There was some discussion of printing the mimeographed Reprints which have already been distributed, to be offered to members at \$2 for the series. For the future, it was thought that two printed reprints should be included annually in the membership fee. Efforts will be made to print and distribute Reprints 5 and 6 before the Annual meeting. M. Malchelosse was asked to choose an item for no. 5, preferably something of Neilson's - in any case, a French title. The meeting selected, for no. 6, Rowe, Lizzie. An old woman's story. Regina, Leader Printing Co., 1886. 15 p. This is apparently the first literary work printed in the North West Territories. Dr. Pierce has generously offered to have reproduced, at his own expense, for the members, James Evans' Cree syllabic hymnary.

The meeting then adjourned, on Dr. Lamb's motion.

G. Malchelosse, Associate Secretary.