

To the members of the
Bibliographical Society of Canada

Launching a new Society in a field that is limited in public interest and whose membership is scattered from coast to coast offers certain difficulties which your officers and Council are seeking to surmount and in the working out of which they ask your further co-operation.

This Society was formally organized at a meeting in Toronto on June 7th, 1947. At that time a constitution was adopted and plans discussed for a publication program and a campaign for members. Dr. Victor Morin, of Montreal, was elected President and Miss Marie Tremaine Secretary. Before the year was out Miss Tremaine was called to other duties outside Canada and was succeeded as Secretary by Miss Donaldda Putnam of the Toronto Public Library staff. At the annual meeting held in Ottawa 7th June, 1948, Dr. Morin retired and was succeeded by Mr. Fred Landon of the University of Western Ontario, with Dr. W. Stewart Wallace of the University of Toronto Library as vice-president.

The next annual meeting of the Society will be held in Winnipeg on Wednesday morning, June 22, at nine o'clock, in connection with the sessions of the Canadian Library Association.

THE PROGRAM OF PUBLICATION

Since the Society is as yet entirely dependent upon membership fees for funds, and since this revenue is limited, no ambitious printing program is possible at this stage in the Society's history. However, this activity has not been neglected. In April the members received the first of a Reprint Series, in mimeographed form, of an early Ontario pamphlet, "Thoughts on Education" by Richard Cockrel, printed at Newark in 1795. Subsequently, a second in the series was distributed, being the French section of the "Presentments by the Grand Jury" at Quebec 1764, printed by Brown and Gilmore at Quebec in 1765. Of this rare publication only one copy is known, that in the library of Laval University at Quebec.

Favourable comments have been made on this experiment in publication. One suggestion received is that the Society should aim at reproducing a rare pamphlet from each province of the Dominion. Another suggestion is that the title page of these rarities might be reproduced and inserted as an illustration. Both suggestions are well worthy of consideration.

We would like to emphasize that those two Reprints have been paid for from our membership fees and that we are counting on our members to renew their memberships in order that the program may be continued. It is not intended that this shall be our only printing activity. Just as soon as funds are available more ambitious projects will be undertaken. If our members will continue their support and help during this earlier period the Bibliographical Society of Canada will become a live force and an active agency in its field.

SPECIAL OFFER ON NEW TITLE

From its inception the Society has had the hearty support and backing of Dr. Lorne Pierce, editor of the Ryerson Press, Toronto. He has now authorized us to announce that a special price will be allowed to members of the Society who desire to purchase Edward A. McCourt's "The Canadian West in Fiction" which will appear shortly from the Ryerson Press. This book, one of importance and interest, will retail for three dollars. Members of the Society in good standing will be supplied at half price, plus fifteen cents for wrapping and postage, that is \$1.65. Orders, accompanied by cheque or money order, should be sent to the Secretary of the Society, Miss Donaldda Putnam, 2 Washington Avenue, Toronto.

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Dr. Pierce has not only made this financial saving possible for members of the Society but has also arranged to include on the title page of the McCourt volume the words "Published under the auspices of the Bibliographical Society of Canada". He proposes to do this, with the Society's consent, on future volumes of like character. For all of this we should be grateful.

The Council of the Society met in Toronto on April 19th and dealt with a variety of matters of business.

If your annual membership fee is now due will you remit it to the Secretary at once so that our activities may not suffer delay through lack of funds.

FRED LONDON, London
President

DONALDA PUTNAM, 2 Washington Avenue,
Toronto
Secretary

P S. If you are in Winnipeg for the Canadian Library Association meeting please aim to attend our annual meeting at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning, June 22nd.