

Rosario Bilodeau's *Champlain* and Roger Viau's *La Salle* are quite respectable and are based upon familiar sources and secondary accounts. They are acceptable reliable introductions to their subjects. Although the lives of John George Lambton (Lord Durham) and Guy Carleton (Lord Dorchester) are still fruitful fields of study for historians, Viau and Benoit, each two timers in the series, have written useful summaries.

While the makings of a biography on Wilfrid Laurier are perhaps easier to come by than for any other man in these eight volumes, it is disappointing that Raymond Tanghe does not take advantage of this by introducing new information to his readers and by offering his own interpretations of the age of Laurier. Despite this, *Laurier: Artisan de l'Unité Canadienne* is one of the best of the *Figures Canadiennes*.

In most respects, the best is the Frontenac biography. Although something is inevitably lost in the process, Françoise de Tilly deserves much credit for this translation of *Frontenac: The Courtier Governor*, first published in English in 1959. Even though the format of the series does not permit it, it is still regrettable that the documentation and other historical apparatus which William Eccles presented in the English edition could not be included in this one.

Most of these books serve their purpose fairly well. Except for bringing conformity to the format of *Figures Canadiennes*, editorial supervision is apparently exercised at a minimum. An extension of editorial scrutiny and standards—with the Tanghe and Eccles contributions as examples—would improve the qualitative tone of the volumes to come. Additions to *Figures Canadiennes* are awaited with interest. And if perhaps the publishers entertain the idea of an English equivalent, this too would be of merit.

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*A Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Bancroft Library*. Edited by Dale L. Morgan and George P. Hammond. (Berkeley: University of California Press, for the Bancroft Library, 1963. Pp. viii, 379. Index. \$15.00.)

To researchers in the fields of Latin American and Western American history the Bancroft Library at the University of California has long been an academic citadel. In this magnificent library are housed more than four million manuscripts pertaining to the above mentioned fields. An important portion of these manuscripts, together with the largest single collection of printed books (40,000) in these areas, were initially collected by the historian Hubert Howe Bancroft and were sold to the University of California in 1905. Since then, especially under the directorships of Herbert Eugene Bolton and, more recently, George P. Hammond, these original collections have been appreciably augmented.

For the library staff and users alike, these materials have been habitually referred to as the "old" (the original collection) and the "new" collections. Until the publication of the present volume the best and perhaps only complete guide to the "old" manuscripts was in the voluminous footnotes and bibliographical references appearing in Ban-

croft's colossal thirty-nine volume history based upon his own collection. Gradually card catalogues developed, and now—thanks to many devoted members of the staff and especially to the editors of the present volume—there is currently being produced a three-volume guide to the manuscript collections presently housed in the Bancroft Library. The particular volume discussed here, and the first to appear, covers the American West, minus the California manuscripts. To come are a one-volume guide to the California materials and a one-volume guide to the manuscript materials relating to Mexico, Central America, and Spanish Colonial America. In preparation for these guides the director relates that the entire classification of the collections was altered in such a way as to bring the "old" and the "new" into proper physical relationship "without loss of identity" of each. For all this the fraternity of Western American scholars owes much thanks to Director Hammond, who possessed the imagination to see what was needed as well as the administrative ability and fortitude necessary to execute this grand design.

The volume now published is the epitome of simplicity. The various manuscript items or collections are arranged alphabetically by states. The contents of each unit are noted and briefly described. Thus under Oregon one finds listed: "Lane, Joseph, 1801-1881. Autobiography. Portland, Oregon. 1878." A call number follows. And this in turn is followed by a four- or five-line statement as to the contents of this particular manuscript. When the last of the three volumes appears, George P. Hammond, with the able assistance of Dale L. Morgan, will have achieved a highly laudable goal he set for himself when in 1946 he assumed the directorship: the finding of a way to make the resources of Bancroft Library better known and more readily available to scholars.

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