

Shepard Krech III: *Native Canadian Anthropology and History: A Selected Bibliography*. Winnipeg: Rupert's Land Research Centre, 1986.

It might be said that there is no such thing as a "bad" bibliography. However, the extent to which a bibliography is valuable depends on a number of factors: its accuracy, its comprehensiveness, and its organization. The only real way to evaluate a bibliography is not to read it but to actually use it. After using Krech's bibliography on and off for the better part of a year, I am in a position to state that, as bibliographies go, it is a good, if flawed, research instrument.

The bibliography is divided into nineteen chapters, with topics ranging from major bibliographic sources, through selections on specific culture areas, and culminating in sections on various special topics. The bibliography also provides a guide to some of the major published primary historical sources. It is particularly noteworthy that the "Metis" and "Native Women" are allocated separate chapters, as these two groups have recently become very topical in Native studies circles.

The process through which Krech ultimately developed this bibliography was very innovative. Designed originally as a tool for his students at Fairfax University in Virginia, the bibliography was strengthened considerably after Krech sent drafts to various scholars in Canadian universities. I was among those scholars, and I was able to provide some additional references, all of which Krech incorporated into his bibliography. In so doing, Krech maximized the knowledge pool of Canadian academics, and allowed us the opportunity to contribute to the building of a bibliography that we ourselves, and our students, would find useful.

As Krech notes in his introduction, the bibliography is "of necessity selective." It can be no other way in the development of such a research aid. However, the extent to which the aid is valuable then depends on the criteria for the inclusion of items. Krech has emphasized post-1980s material, although pre-1980 material is nevertheless included. Given the fact that the

bibliography was published in 1986, we are in effect dealing with items published between 1980 and 1985. Krech has done a very good job of identifying the literature that was published in this period, and hence the bibliography is able to present the leading academic thought on many issues. A variety of Native studies, anthropology, and history journals were consulted, in addition to many other sources.

In evaluating the bibliography according to the three criteria mentioned at the outset, the bibliography fares quite well. Generally, it is accurate, although some typographical errors, incomplete titles and incomplete publication data is in evidence. Krech himself notes the existence of incomplete references in his introduction, arguing that even these can be valuable. While this is true, a published bibliography should be as accurate as possible, and effort should be made to complete all references. The sources left incomplete were not items that would be difficult to locate (although this may have been considerably more problematic from Virginia). In this sense, while Krech is right when he says that even incomplete references are useful, perhaps the publication of the bibliography was premature. Further, if obtaining accurate reference data for Canadian materials in Virginia was a problem, then the publisher, based in Winnipeg, most certainly could have lent a hand.

The second factor to examine is the comprehensiveness of the bibliography. Given the fact that there is virtually no limit to the number of items available (especially if one accesses international data banks), Krech has flagged most of the important literature that is likely to be easily accessible to most North American scholars and students. In this sense, the bibliography is indeed a useful source.

The final factor to consider is the organization of the bibliography. Good organization is essential if relatively quick access to references is to be achieved. While the organization in this case is partially a product of the personal biases of the compiler, Krech chooses to follow a version of the "culture area" concept in his presentation of ethnographic sources. In general,

this works well. However, as a specialist in the Algonquians of the western subarctic region, I would have preferred a separate section for these cultures rather than having them grouped with the "Eastern and Central Subarctic and Great Lakes Region" Algonquians.

Two other organizational problems also exist, and these are more serious. First, sources appear only once, and hence there is no cross-referencing. This results in more effort to uncover sources when, for instance, references to subarctic Indians might appear in sections on the fur trade, missionaries, health and disease, and the ethnographic section on the subarctic. Second, there is neither an author nor a subject index. The result of these omissions, then, is that the researcher is forced to browse through much of the bibliography, with over 2000 sources, looking for references of interest.

Overall, Krech's bibliography stands as a useful, though flawed, effort. Clearly, the publisher must bear much of the responsibility in this regard. Nonetheless, Krech's work is by far the single best source of information on a wide variety of topics on Canadian Native people. It would be especially useful for students, as Krech suggests, and should be seriously considered for adoption in Native studies courses.

James B. Waldram

J. Anthony Long and Menno Boldt, editors: **Governments in Conflict?: Provinces and Indian Nations in Canada**. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988. 296 pages.

Governments in Conflict? is the third of an impressive series of books edited by Long and Boldt dealing with Native peoples and public policy in Canada. It follows Pathways to Self-Determination (with Leroy Little Bear) and The Quest for Justice. Each of these texts brings together policy statements and analyses by Native leaders and non-Native politicians with scholarly