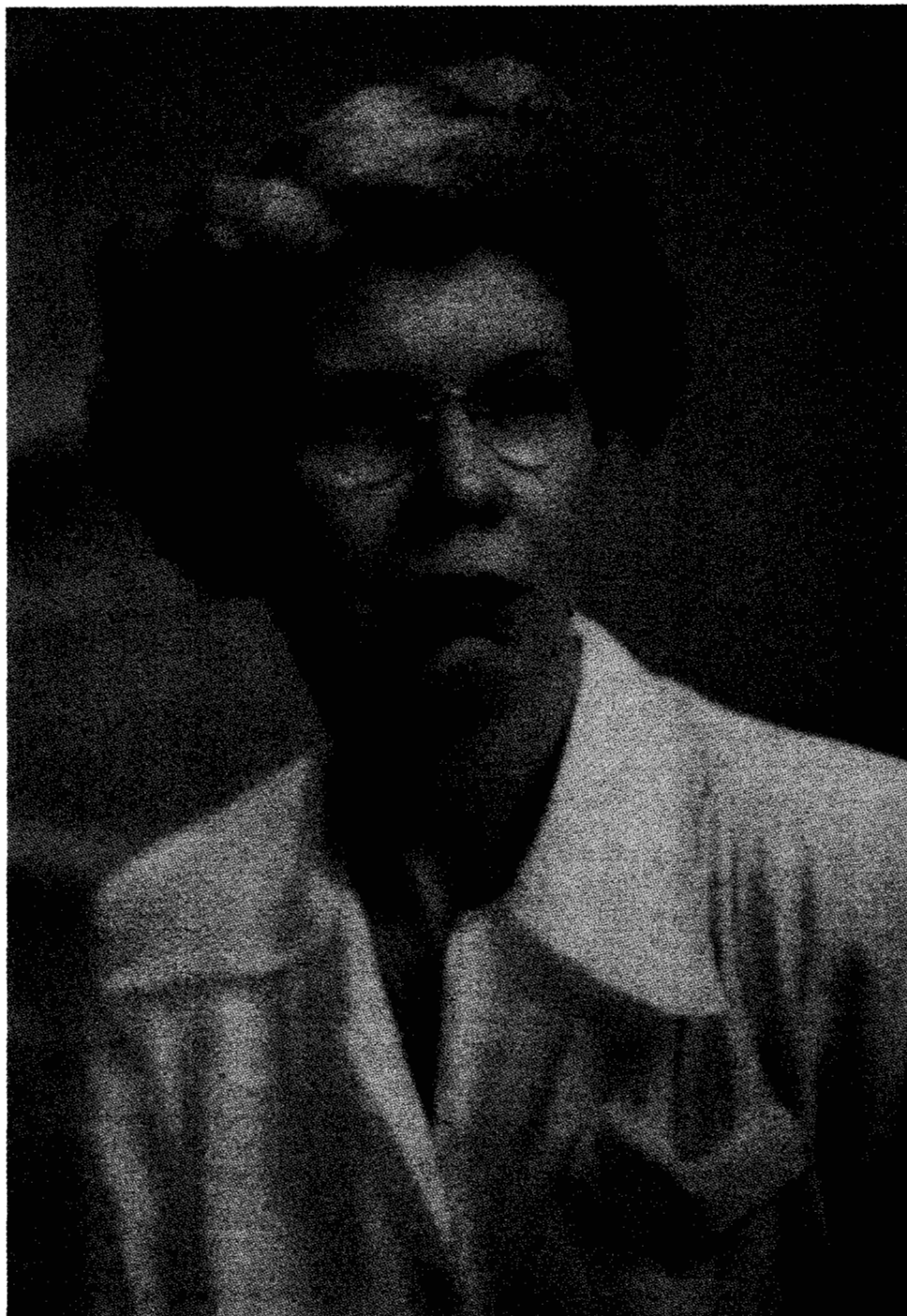


MARIE TREMAINE
1902-1984



Marie Tremaine circa 1949. (Photo from *Bulletin of Bibliography*, Vol. 19, No. 10, 1949.)

One of the first important projects embarked upon by the nascent Arctic Institute of North America in 1949 was a bibliography of literature concerning the arctic regions of the world. As project director and editor of the Arctic Bibliography Project the Institute chose Marie Tremaine, at that time and until her death last summer Canada's foremost bibliographer.

Born in Buffalo, New York, in 1902 to Canadian-born parents, Marie Tremaine came to Canada in 1911. She was educated at the Humber College Institute in Toronto and Victoria College of the University of Toronto, where she honoured in English and history, attaining her Bachelor of Arts in 1926. The following year Marie Tremaine joined the Reference Division of the Toronto Public Library. In 1929,

having won the first Canadian fellowship for study abroad awarded by the Carnegie Corporation, Marie Tremaine attended the University of London School of Librarianship, where she became interested in English bibliographic methods and gained a knowledge of printing history, paper, watermarks and palaeography.

On her return to the Toronto Public Library, Marie Tremaine became involved in the library's contribution to the centennial of the city of Toronto: the listing of the library's significant collection of Canadiana. The result was *A Bibliography of Canadiana*... (1934), which Marie Tremaine edited with Frances Staton, then head of the Reference Division. This important bibliographical authority, containing 4646 titles (8286 if the supplement is included), is used extensively by librarians, booksellers and others interested in early works on Canada.

In 1935 Marie Tremaine was awarded a second Carnegie fellowship. For two years she attended Yale University, carrying on research into early Canadian bibliography and beginning her comprehensive bibliography of works published in Canada before 1800: *A Bibliography of Canadian Imprints*, 1952. This extensive bibliography, which took some 20 years to complete and was subsequently published by the University of Toronto Press, included such elusive material as alleged publications and proposed publications. Marie Tremaine personally searched the shelves of some 200 libraries across Canada and the United States to find 1204 monographs and pamphlets, as well as 22 newspapers and 2 magazines. This too has become a standard reference.

In 1941 Marie Tremaine was appointed associate head of the Reference Department of the Toronto Public Library. Then, in 1947, the *Arctic Bibliography* Directing Committee, composed of librarians, scientists, representatives of military agencies and the Arctic Institute of North America, and chaired by Henry B. Collins, Jr., of the Smithsonian Institution, approached Marie Tremaine to take on the new position of project director of the Bibliography Project, the object of which was to prepare an annotated bibliography of material published dealing with the arctic regions, covering all subject fields and languages. The project headquarters was in the Library of Congress in Washington, and so Marie Tremaine made Georgetown her home from then on. The first three volumes of the *Arctic Bibliography* were published in 1953 (1: A-Libi; 2: Libm-Z; 3: index) and covered 20 003 titles. The work on this mammoth undertaking was done by a dedicated group of experts and linguists, working under Marie Tremaine's direction, in the Library of Congress as well as in other collections in Washington, New York, Boston, Ottawa and in Montreal, where the Arctic Institute's headquarters housed the Institute's polar library.

In all, Marie Tremaine supervised and edited the publication of the first 14 volumes of *Arctic Bibliography*, which included 92 300 titles. (The complete work is in 16 volumes, with 108 723 titles.) After retiring in 1969 as director and editor, she continued to be associated with the project as editor

emeritus and to lend her considerable expertise and boundless enthusiasm. The result of preparing *Arctic Bibliography* under conditions that would have made lesser beings throw up their hands in desperation was a work considered to be the best regional bibliography ever compiled.

These three monumental bibliographies established Marie Tremaine as Canada's foremost bibliographer. *Arctic Bibliography* is an outstanding example of the place of bibliography in modern scientific investigation. Her Canadiana bibliographies are of as much interest to the historian and social scientist as they are to book collectors and sellers. Her dedication to, and study of, bibliography led to a speech in Toronto in 1947 that was closely linked to the development of the National Library of Canada (*Bibliographical Centres*... , 1948).

Marie Tremaine also found time to contribute to numerous scholarly publications and was a member of such associations as the American Geographical Society, the Bibliographical Society of America, the Bibliographical Society of Canada, the Canadian Library Association, the Ontario Library Association and the Special Libraries Association. And her accomplishments did not go unnoticed by her peers. In 1947 she was named honorary life member of the Canadian Library Association. A founding member of the Bibliographic Society of Canada/Société bibliographique du Canada, she was elected honorary president for life and in 1970 was presented with the society's first biennial Marie Tremaine Medal, named in her honour, and presented for "outstanding service to Canadian bibliography." In 1973 the Arctic Institute of North America made her an honorary member, and in 1976 Trent University awarded her the degree of Doctor of Letters.

Though absorbed with the many aspects of bibliography and librarianship, Marie Tremaine was a multifaceted person: a sympathetic listener, the encourager of the fainthearted, a gracious hostess, a good cook, a cat lover (George, Lenya and others could attest to that). She had a keen sense of humour, an appreciation of good music and a dedication to several service clubs. She enjoyed long country walks and visits to Muskoka. With Marie Tremaine's death on 4 August 1984, the world of librarianship and bibliography has lost a good friend and respected colleague, but her three monumental works will ensure that she is never forgotten.

Nora T. Corley
Ottawa, Ontario

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