If one of the hallmarks of a bibliographic compilation is the ease with which it may be consulted and used, Minko Sotiron’s daunting task of sampling 70 years of Canadian newspapering is strengthened by an excellent 51-page index by Gordon Rabchuk. While the range and the nature of some of the annotated entries may raise questions about exactly who the intended audience is, there is little argument with Sotiron’s expressed purpose of wanting to contribute to the serious study of Canadian daily newspapers.

Many enterprises of this genre invite the "cast-of-thousands-but-thin-plot" ridicule reserved for new telephone directories, and Sotiron does not completely escape this with his 3,750 English and French entries. One could question, as is done below, the inclusion of various items. However, it also is true that very systematic spadework has been done in the field. If the first step, indeed, is to survey and make sense of the landscape, the occasional false moves and anomalies detected here may serve as guideposts for other steps yet to come.

At first glance, the book’s organization into 12 sections of "General" and 11 provinces (one each for English and French in the case of Quebec) is awkward, especially since "Prince Edward Island" and "Newfoundland" collectively account for a mere nine citations. J.W. Dafoe whose reputation truly was national and international is reduced provincially under "Manitoba", except when discussed in connection with other writers, in which case the entry is shifted to "General". Cross refereeing could overcome this kind of problem, but Sotiron chooses not to and relies on the finder’s aid index prepared by Rabchuk that is indispensable in locating all Dafoe entries.

Perhaps a more serious concern has to do with the ambiguity about the audience for whom the work is intended. Sotiron excludes certain items because of their perceived obscurity, e.g., conference papers; yet, curiously, there are annotations of papers presented at various Learned Societies conferences and other proceedings. If the compilation is intended for the serious scholar, this confusion and the exclusion of titles from non-Canadian journals threaten its value. Ironically, the defunct Carleton Journalism Review which could be as difficult to retrieve as most conference papers is cited often, while the Columbia Journalism Review—healthy after 25 years and regularly offering items about Canadian dailies—gets no mention. Why are articles in Journalism Quarterly (U.S.) and Gazette (published in the Netherlands) listed, but nothing from Journal of Communication or any number of other non-Canadian scholarly publications? A compendium of sources consulted would be a useful addition.

The annotations, for the most part, are simple, straightforward and short, not always an easy combination to achieve. For one with a high regard for those nameless but clever masters of compression responsible for turning out two-line precis of movies
for TV logs, reading Sotiron's descriptions evoked fairly vivid images of the articles' contents.

The anomaly of including entries dated after 1983, the cutoff year, and excluding couple key books published before or in 1983 reflects some need to rethink the entries or the title. One finds Canadian Politics Through Press Reports, copyrighted in 1984, but will search in vain for Arthur Siegel's Mass Media in Canada (1983) with its extensive daily newspaper discussion or Edwin Black's Politics and the News (1982) that includes an agenda-setting section involving three Ontario dailies. Further, one could quibble about Sotiron's meaning of "works" in the title, depending on whether one is a strict constructionist or latitudinarian. Taken literally, would accounts of the Canadian press be "works on daily newspapers"? Should the news of annual meetings, appointments and advertising lineage qualify as "works," no matter how trivial they may strike most readers? And, if perchance Siegel was excluded because his title referred to "mass media" rather than daily newspaper, why would an article about the old Mary Tyler Moore TV sit-com as depicting verisimilitude in news-making decisions show up in the bibliography?

Sotiron is the first to acknowledge oversights, and the preceding is not intended to discredit the entire work because of random checks. Ultimately, the test is in the using. If users find the compilation helpful, the complaints raised here are minor; if not, no amount of praise will engender widespread use of this reference tool. This is a beginning that could spur others to fill the gaps it inevitably highlights. With some luck, the social Sciences and Humanities Research Council which got Sotiron started with a grant might encourage him to attempt an expanded and revised edition.

Reviewed by: A. Ichikawa
University of Lethbridge

Communication, Gender and Sex Roles in Diverse Interaction Contexts
Lea P. Stewart and Stella Ting-Toomey (eds.)
Ablex Publishing Corporation, 1987
Norwood, New Jersey

To those interested in communication and the sexes, the title of this book is exciting. It studies the complex interplay of language, non-verbal behaviour, gender and sex roles, and in so doing, contains the promise of being at the "leading edge" of scholarly work in the area. Equally as enticing are the editors' goals for the volume which are to assemble a representative array of conceptual and methodological approaches used in the study of communications, gender, and sex roles and to display the wide range of scholarship pertaining to these issues. Fuelling this initial interest and excitement is a brief but good introduction to the pragmatics of gender-related communication by one of the editors. In her description of the status of research in this area, Ting-Toomey raises some important issues such as the need for good