

Proulx, Gérard-J., Standard Dictionary of Meteorological Sciences, english-french/french-english, Montréal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1971, 307 pages.

Cynthia Wilson

Volume 16, Number 37, 1972

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/021045ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/021045ar>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

Département de géographie de l'Université Laval

ISSN

0007-9766 (print)

1708-8968 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this review

Wilson, C. (1972). Review of [Proulx, Gérard-J., Standard Dictionary of Meteorological Sciences, english-french/french-english, Montréal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1971, 307 pages.] *Cahiers de géographie du Québec*, 16(37), 179–180. <https://doi.org/10.7202/021045ar>

prairies et steppes sont traitées aussi abondamment. Au total, 4 articles leur sont consacrés, alors que la végétation de la forêt boréale coniférienne est examinée une seule fois et seulement en Amérique du Nord et que la forêt décidue est passée sous silence. Enfin, deux textes sont consacrés aux « déserts » et un (Polunin) à la végétation de la zone arctique. On remarque l'absence complète des données sur la végétation sud-américaine, à l'exception de quelques références bibliographiques citées dans la liste des ouvrages choisis qui clôture ce recueil un peu trop rassurant qui fera peut-être penser aux étudiants que tout est connu en phytogéographie, et depuis longtemps, car des problèmes y sont soulevés et des références modernes y sont excessivement rares.

Ces quelques réserves mises à part, ce petit livre réunit des lectures instructives pour quiconque commence à s'intéresser à l'étude de la végétation.

Miroslav M. GRANDTNER

Département d'écologie et de pédologie
Université Laval

MÉTÉOROLOGIE

PROULX, Gerard-J., Standard dictionary of meteorological sciences, english-french/french-english, Montréal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1971, 307 pages.

Two publications have appeared in Québec in 1971 which will make life very much easier in the field of meteorology and climatology: the *Glossaire Climatologique*, published by the Service de la météorologie du Québec (cf. Cahiers de géographie de Québec, no 36, p. 625), and the *Standard dictionary of meteorological sciences*, prepared by Gerard-J. Proulx, Director of Scientific and Technical Divisions of the Federal Department of the Secretary of State, with substantial support from the Canadian Atmospheric Environment Service. Together with the *International Meteorological Vocabulary* (World Meteorological Organization, 1966) and the little *Lexique anglais-français* (Service de la Météorologie du Québec, 1967), there should now be ample reference material to ensure correct usage of technical terms in both official languages in Québec.

In his preface, M. Proulx explains that the work was conceived not as a glossary but as a classical dictionary, in order to present a broader coverage of the subject. For supplementary information, the reader is referred to the glossaries that were available at the time of writing. Most of the terms listed cover the major branches of the discipline: dynamic, physical, synoptic, statistical, medical and glacial meteorology; aviation and marine meteorology; agrometeorology and biometeorology; climatology, astrometeorology; nuclear meteorology; radio, radar and space meteorology and meteorological instrumentation. Other terms have been culled from hydrometeorology, oceanography, geomorphology, basic physics and electronics. There are two parts to the work: english/french and french/english. The book has been beautifully produced, and the format and use of different type make for very easy reference.

The value of reference books of this kind to a bilingual country and in international scientific exchange need hardly be underlined, but the question does arise as to how many such publications the market can absorb. In both approach and scope, the present work complements and adds to the others mentioned above. One advantage that is immediately apparent is to be given the gender and plural form of a new noun or complex noun; this in itself can save hours of searching through whole texts in the hope of gleaning this information. Another useful feature of the listings is the inclusion of the official abbreviations and corresponding titles of the major world bodies and commissions in meteorology and allied sciences. While no such reference work can be expected to cover every term that one might need, more items concerned with statistics, chemistry, and air pollution

could have usefully been incorporated, and among the local winds and regional terms one or two from Québec, such as the *Nordet*.

In adding the word *standard* to the title of the dictionary, and with his categorical statement in the english preface: « This reference book, with its contents drawn from authoritative sources, *standardizes* * the use of a multitude of specialized terms . . . », M. Proulx has shown that he is intrepid. However, the fact that the author does not express exactly the same philosophy in his french version of the preface shows that he is not foolhardy, and recognises that this is little less than throwing down the gauntlet. By chance, the first french term that the reviewer needed to check was degree-days. According to several french writers (among them Grissolet, Guilmét and Arléry, of the Météorologie Nationale de la France), and generally in Québec, the plural form is *degrés-jours*. In the *Standard dictionary*, *degrés-jour* is given; as the same version is found under the english/french and french/english sections, this appears to be no misprint. The WMO publication does not offer a solution. The question of usage is also an interesting one. In Québec, *degré-jour de chauffage* has become accepted parlance, and the *degré-jour de chauffe*, first seen in the WMO vocabulary, came as a surprise to many francophones. Since the degree-day concept in heating is North American, one wonders whether the term in current use here may not have been kept, just as differences between American and British english are acceptable. Was there in fact a term for this in France and Belgium, or was it coined especially? Again, *Indian summer* is generally known here as *été des sauvages* or *été des indiens*; the translation given in the WMO report and now in the *Standard dictionary* is *été indien*. A further query can be made concerning *île de chaleur* and *îlot thermique*. These few examples, taken at random, are included merely to suggest that the word *standard* is misleading as yet, although perhaps in time this work may become so. In the meantime, there will probably be much healthy, heated discussion.

This is a most welcome and indispensable reference book, for which many people will be very grateful.

Cynthia WILSON
Centre d'Études nordiques
Université Laval

MUNN, R.E. (Editor), **Boundary-Layer Meteorology** (an international journal of physical and biological processes in the atmospheric boundary layer), Dordrecht - Holland, D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1970 —.

One immediately despairs at the thought of any further proliferation of scientific literature by the creation of a new journal. In the case of *Boundary-Layer Meteorology*, the addition will be welcomed by all those interested in environmental problems. The journal is edited by Dr. R.E. Munn of the Canadian Atmospheric Environment Service, who has already done so much to further the exchange of ideas between those disciplines involved with the physical and biological processes in the boundary layer (the lowest 1 000 m, of the atmosphere). This is the layer of greatest importance to life, where complex interactions between the earth's surface and the atmosphere take place in the form of energy transformations and fluxes, where the roughness of the surface profoundly influences the atmospheric flow and where many aspects of such fields as Geography, Engineering, Architecture, Ecology, Hydrology and Oceanography are closely intertwined with Meteorology, Climatology and Aerodynamics.

According to the announcement, the articles to be published will cover both experimental investigation (including new instrumentation) and the development of realistic

* Italics added by the reviewer.