The Canadian Movie Quiz Book
by Michael Walsh; Macmillan-NAL
Publishing Ltd., $2.25

Next to the Book of Lists and The
Guinness Book of World Records —
books which one critic termed "non-
books" — I adore quiz, and particularly
quiz books about the movies. Bathroom
reading at its very, very best. But I thought
my supply had been exhausted until I
happened upon a curious book in Cine
Books in Toronto. There it sat, inviting me
to pick it up. I was rather astonished that
Michael Walsh had been able to compile
enough film titles to make a quiz book
based on Canadian films.

But the Vancouver-based critic has
done it... sort of. That is, he cheats a tiny
bit in places. Some of his entries deal
with such topics as international per­
formers who have appeared in Canadian
films as well as American productions
which have been filmed here. There's
even a topic on Canada's national sport
of hockey, with questions that have abso­
lutely nothing to do with Canada. So, to
call this book The Canadian Movie Quiz
Book is a bit of a misnomer.

But... it's still fun. It's surprising to
learn that so many American films are
made on our turf and that such illuminar­
ies as James Cagney, Marilyn Monroe
and Shelley Winters have all appeared in
films made here, while Jodie Foster, Oliver
Reed, Samantha Eggar and even Rita
Hayworth have made no less than two
Canadian features each. And Donald
Pleasance has made eight.

With movie-making in this country at
an all time high — there's some $150
million in production now — Walsh's
book may yet find its market. While there
were virtually dozens available in Cine
Books, I have not seen a single copy here
in Winnipeg, since its May release.

And as a Winnipegger I feel slighted.
Not only is the book not available, but my
home town has been pretty much left out
of most of the current action. We can cling
tenaciously to the fact that Deanna Durbin,
an ex-Winnipegger, merits several ques­
tions as does Jack Kruschen, another
Winnipegger who capped a 1960 support­
ing actor Oscar nomination for The Apart­
ment. Winnipeg saw some action this fall
when parts of Silence of the North were
filmed here, but even that has Winnipeg
masquerading as depression-era Calgary.

Our position might have been quite differ­
ent today had the Manitoba government
had the foresight to invest in production
when American actor Darren McGavin
wanted to establish a company in Gimli, a
small Icelandic community about 50 miles
from Winnipeg.

But, so what if Winnipeg doesn't pop
up much — that's just a personal gripe.
Walsh manages to dig up a multitude of
fascinating tidbits, taking particular delight
in pointing out that Tyrone Power, Nelson
Eddie, Randolph Scott, Robert Ryan,
Errol Flynn, Peter O'Toole, and Donald
Sutherland have all played mounties.

Walsh has an amusing tongue-in-cheek
style which gently satirizes our own posi­
tion in the movie-making business, as
well, showing how we've been caricatured
in the eyes of the world. But he doesn't
force the issue the way Pierre Burton did
in Hollywood's Canada.

So, if you're interested in Canadians in
the movies, movies made in Canada,
movies made by Canadians elsewhere,
movies about Canadians and even Cana­
dian-made features, Walsh's book is worth
the $2.25. He says that the land of
northern lights is also the birthplace of
glittering stars. What does it matter that
the late Mary Pickford was dubbed "Amer­
ica's Sweetheart." We know she was born
in Toronto, and will forever be Canadian.
We have to hang on to every little bit of
Canadiana.

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writer covering the film and theatre scene.

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