Richard Landon. *A Long Way from the Armstrong Beer Parlour: A Life in Rare Books.* New Castle, Delaware and Toronto, Ontario: Oak Knoll Books and Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, 2014. 440p. One illustration. ISBN: 978-1-58456-330-3 (Oak Knoll Press) / 978-0-7727-6113-2 (Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library). \$49.95.

Throughout the course of his lengthy and remarkable career, Richard Landon successfully developed and promoted the extensive and renowned collections at the University of Toronto Libraries. After receiving his undergraduate and library school degrees from the University of British Columbia, Landon was hired in 1967 as a cataloguer in the libraries' Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. In the academic year 1971–1972 he pursued an advanced degree in bibliography and textual criticism at the University of Leeds, returning to Toronto to serve as Assistant Head and Acting Head prior to his appointment as Head of the department in 1977. In this final capacity, he served as Director of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library until his death in 2011.

In the forty-five years of his tenure at Toronto, the collections increased through purchase and donation by approximately 660,000 volumes and 3,600 linear meters of manuscript holdings, the latter including the papers of well-known authors Margaret Atwood, Robertson Davies, Leonard Cohen, and Derek Walcott. In addition to this extremely active acquisitions program and his administrative responsibilities, Landon taught courses in special collections librarianship and bibliography; served on committees and councils of the Bibliographical Society of America (BSA), Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC), Eighteenth-Century (later English) Short Title Catalogue (ESTC), and International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA); and lectured widely in Canada and abroad. He publicized and promoted the Fisher's holdings through exhibitions and accompanying catalogues, library newsletter articles, conference presentations, and essays.

A highly respected bookman, acquirer, and author, selections from Landon's prodigious record of research and publication are included in this volume compiled by Marie Elena Korey, his wife and partner in numerous rare book adventures and investigations. Korey also wrote the book's introduction, providing biographical information and context for the essays and shorter entries. Organized into three sections comprising "Autobiography" (six brief essays), "Bibliography and Book History" (nine full essays), and "Collecting and the Antiquarian Book Trade" (ten full essays), the work concludes with a checklist of publications and index. Special collections librarians, members of the trade, private collectors, and researchers interested in the history of the book, the development of institutional collections, and the history of collecting will find numerous informative and engaging essays in *A Long Way from the Armstrong Beer Parlour*. (The title refers to the distances Landon had traveled from his early years in rural British Columbia.)

Highly recommended are several papers delivered at various library and bibliographic conferences, not only as historical documents but as essays with continuing relevance to special collections librarianship today. "Embracing the Flood: Questions about Collecting Twentieth-Century Non-Literary Works," delivered at the 1984 RBMS Preconference "Collecting the Twentieth Century," should be required reading for administrators, librarians, and archivists responsible for the acquisition, processing, and servicing of such collections. Citing examples from the Fisher Library, Landon delineates the numerous challenges for professionals attempting to organize and make accessible the immense amount and great variety of documentary material often found in contemporary documentary collections. Institutional collecting is also explored in "The Case of the Cabinet Connoisseur: or, The Concept of Special Collections," presented at the 1981 RBMS Preconference on "The Collection Builders: Booksellers, Collectors, Librarians." The essay provides historical context for the varied relationships between private collectors and institutional collecting, noting the impact the former has had on the latter. Landon writes that these "great private libraries, in turn, became the basis of what are today recognized as 'special collections,' that is, collections of books and manuscripts in which each individual part is integral to the whole and the whole attempts to provide a complete scholarly resource for academic research in a particular subject field.... It might be said that the collecting policies of the major institutions in North America have been largely determined by the bibliophilic zeal of the private collector; and further that this influence continues, as strongly as ever" (237–38).

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In the section on the history of the book, the essays on forgeries and bibliography are well worth noting. For the 2003 RBMS preconference theme, “True/False: Facsimiles, Fakes, Forgeries, and Issues of Authenticity in Special Collections,” Landon curated an exhibition at the Fisher Library with accompanying catalogue and also delivered a plenary address on “Literary Forgeries and Mystifications: Causes and Effects.” For this topic of continuing interest, he provides a survey of printed and manuscript forgeries in England and America, reflecting on the motivations of both the deceivers and the deceived and exploring the causes and effects of literary forgery. “From Capell to Tanselle: Bibliography and Humanities Scholarship,” first presented at the 2007 BSC Annual Conference, is recommended as an instructive guide to the history of English-language descriptive bibliography. The contributions of A.W. Pollard, Ronald B. McKerrow, Sir Walter Greg, Fredson Bowers, D.F. McKenzie, G. Thomas Tanselle, and Philip Gaskell are elucidated, providing an accessible introduction to the historical context for bibliographic description as practiced today.

Depending on professional and personal interests, readers will surely find additional essays of interest on other aspects of book history and collecting. Topics include Galileo’s correspondence, Charles Darwin texts, Australian exile narratives, and bookselling and the development of various collections in Great Britain before 1900. The autobiographical section of the book includes shorter pieces on favorite acquisitions, professional travel, and other reminiscences of his life’s work developing one of the major rare book and manuscript libraries in North America. As referenced in the book’s title, Landon had indeed traveled a long way from the Armstrong Beer Parlour and great distances geographically and bibliographically from his beginnings in western Canada. His life and work in rare books, often indistinguishable from one another, are well represented here. This collection of his writings in a single volume is most welcome.—*Daniel J. Slive, Head of Special Collections, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas*