

**THE EARLY BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, DOMINION
OF CANADA, WITH OTHER
INFORMATION: A SUPPLEMENTAL
CHAPTER OF CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649498215

The Early Bibliography of the Province of Ontario, Dominion of Canada, with Other Information: A Supplemental Chapter of Canadian Archaeology by William Kingsford

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM KINGSFORD

**THE EARLY BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, DOMINION
OF CANADA, WITH OTHER
INFORMATION: A SUPPLEMENTAL
CHAPTER OF CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGY**

THE
EARLY BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF THE
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO,
DOMINION OF CANADA,
WITH OTHER INFORMATION.

A SUPPLEMENTAL CHAPTER OF CANADIAN ARCHÆOLOGY.

BY
WILLIAM KINGSFORD, LL.D., F.R.S. [C.]

TORONTO:
ROWSSELL & HUTCHISON.

MONTREAL:
EBEN PICKEN.
1892.

Entered according to Act of Parliament, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, by WILLIAM KINGSFORD, in the office of the Minister of Agriculture.

*Western Miss.
Land, Ont.
24.
6-30-1922
24-felt.*

"WITNESS" PRINTING HOUSE,
MONTREAL.

① 10-3-22 V.W.
Received 1-4-30 E.H.

"Every work must be judged by its design, and is to be valued by its result."

DISRAELI, "Curiosities of Literature."
Preface, 1839.

"Ich weiss wohl," sagte Goethe, "dass es schwer ist, aber die Auffassung und Darstellung des Besondern ist auch das eigentliche Leben der Kunst." Mittwoch den 29 October, 1823.

Gespräche mit Goethe in den letzten Jahren seines Lebens.

JOHANN PETER ECKERMAN.

["I know well it is hard," said Goethe, "but the apprehension and representation of what is special is also the real life of art."] Wednesday, the 29th of October, 1823.

Conversations with Goethe in the last years of his life.

JOHN PETER ECKERMAN.

403456



EARLY BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Six years ago, in 1886, I published a work on Canadian Archaeology, in which I endeavoured to give a history of the first printed books in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. There was no great difficulty with regard to the former. The subject had been closely studied for some years by men of acknowledged attainments; and, although not reduced to form and system, and somewhat scattered, much valuable information had been gathered. I was particularly indebted to my accomplished friend, Abbé Verreault, who threw open to me the wealth of his library and the hospitality of his home, the first of the many occasions which I have passed in his society and of the men gathered about him. I may mention especially the late Sheriff Chauveau, whom I constantly met there, and Mr. Desmazures, a Saint Sulpician of rare learning. In Ottawa, Mr. de Celles, of the Library, aided me with his knowledge, and I was thus enabled to bring together, in an accessible form, what information had been obtained about the early literary history of the province of Quebec. It is conceded by all whose opinions are in any way worthy of respect that the printing-press was unknown in the French regime, and that the history of printing books dates from the conquest. I have entered into this subject at

length in the volume in question; therefore, there is no need for reference to it in this place. What is there related, gathered from the knowledge of those who preceded me, is admitted to be correct; at least, I have not heard that any part of the narrative has been impugned.

I did not experience the same good fortune in Ontario. The subject, I will venture the remark, had never received even slight attention until I approached it, and consequently my endeavour to obtain reliable information was not attended with success. Those to whom I addressed myself, who I regarded as having knowledge concerning the bibliography of Ontario, had not considered it from the aspect submitted by me; and although there was every desire to assist me, I found few who were capable of doing so. Dr. Brymner gave me whatever aid he was able, and Mr. Beverley Robinson, then Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, made great exertions to learn the titles of the first printed books. Mr. Robinson had during his government rendered excellent service in a cognate branch of inquiry. With great labour on his part he was enabled to obtain access to the original portraits of the governors and the administrators of the former province of Upper Canada, from its first establishment; and the liberality of the Legislature enabled him to obtain copies of what may be unhesitatingly pronounced to be authentic portraits of the governors to the union of the province; except in the case of Governor Peter Hunter, of whom no portrait can be found. It is to me astounding that so little recognition has been made of the labours of Mr. Beverley Robinson, and also of his brother, Colonel Robinson, of the imperial service, in thus bringing together this valuable collection which the province possesses. Few even know of the existence of these portraits; certainly few have borne testimony to the labour and perseverance with which Mr.

Robinson followed out his plan until he had perfected the collection to the fullest extent possible. It exacted a long and often embarrassing correspondence with the family in whose possession the portrait was to be found. Access to it had to be obtained, and copies made to be sent to Canada. Ontario is singularly fortunate in possessing, in a connected series, portraits of her governors from the earliest date: not fanciful works of art, christened by auctioneers and dealers, but of undoubted authenticity.

An acknowledgment must also be made to Sir Oliver Mowat and the members of his Government, for their ready acceptance of Mr. Beverley Robinson's proposition, and for obtaining from the Legislature the material aid to carry it out. It is a passage in Ontario political life of pleasant memory, and reflects honour on the Legislature of that period, and on all concerned.

The inquiries, which at the time were continued with some pertinacity, ended in the conclusion that the first Ontario book, "out of the domain of Statute Law and the Parliamentary Journals," was printed in the year 1832; when the History of the War of 1812, by David Thompson, "Printed by T. Sewell, Printer, Book-binder and Stationer, Market Square, Niagara, 1832," was published. The statement remained uncontradicted until 1888, when public attention was drawn to the subject, and Mr. Gagnon, of Saint Roch, Quebec, in a published letter gave the names of several earlier volumes, some of which are in his possession, and he established by catalogues that other works were known. A correspondence on this point took place in the *Toronto Mail*, and some discussion was awakened. Since that date Mr. Gagnon has continued his research, and Mr. Bain, of the Toronto Library, has likewise made great exertions to increase our knowledge on the subject.