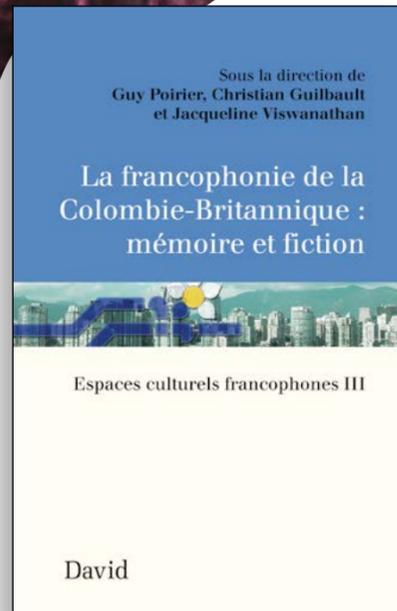


Imagining and Writing a Better Life



Éditions David, essay, 222 pages, 2012.
978-2-89597-272-3
Also available in digital format.

La francophonie de la Colombie-Britannique : mémoire et fiction Espaces culturels III Edited by **Guy Poirier, Christian Guilbault and Jacqueline Viswanathan**

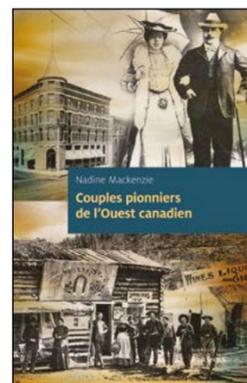
This publication highlights the record of the francophone collective memory in fiction and in language, from different periods in British Columbia's history. Whether contemporary or reconstructed from the archives of a small cultural community in search of an identity, the literary works presented here allow us to explore, through fiction, the times that shaped the imagination of this community.

"Thus, Western Canada first appears as a map and topography, giving the impression of a territory that was surveyed and traversed, as well as named, the narrator always naming the places they passed through. No area is unknown or left to be discovered; the places are already known, and often even recognized by the people, who are less explorers than travelers." (p. 20)

Highlights:

- Combines original fiction and scholarly articles;
- Explores the lives of the first Francophones on Canada's West coast, through an analysis of works of fiction;
- Offers a rare look at the beginnings of francophone literary production in British Columbia.

Further Reading



Couples pionniers de l'Ouest canadien by **Nadine Mackenzie**

History books often overlook the part played by women in the settlement of Western Canada. Nevertheless, a few of them were with their husbands during the expansion Westwards and the various gold rushes. Love, perseverance or obedience, and the desire for wealth, power or a better future led four of these couples to an uncommon destiny.

Éditions des Plaines, essay, 112 pages, 2014. 978-2-89611-325-5

At the beginning of the 19th century, a good number of young people who were passionate about freedom left the seigneuries of Lower Canada for the virgin forests of Upper Canada. An apprentice blacksmith rejected by his friends and relatives, Éloï dreams of wide open spaces where he can start a new life. He decides to imitate the valiant lumberjacks, log drivers, woodsmen and pioneers, and sets out on adventure.

What will he find at the end of the trail?

Éditions du Chardon bleu, novel, 318 pages, 2010. 978-1-89618-599-6



Un pas, un sentier, une vie by **Liliane L. Gratton**

RECF



What a vast country Canada is! The size of its land mass makes it the second largest country in the world. Populating this immense land was no easy feat. Settlement was concentrated first along the St. Lawrence Valley, and then extended westwards, northwards and towards more remote areas.

Beginning in the 19th century, settlers began migrating towards Western Canada. The abundant supply of land made the region ideally suited for settling and establishing a family, despite the harsh climate and the arduous work of clearing the land. The Gold Rush also motivated many adventurers to push the boundaries of the territory. But it was the building of the railways, particularly the Canadian Pacific, that provided a permanent link between East and West, and led to the development of towns along the length of this first transcontinental railroad line.

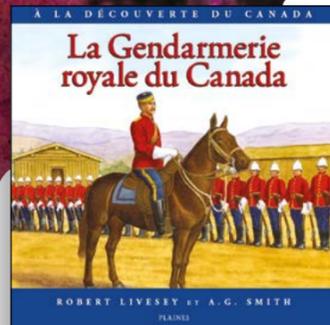
Until the First World War, the Canadian government actively supported immigration by Europeans in order to supply the agricultural industry with the hard-working labour that it required. However, agriculture was not the pioneers' only occupation; the discovery of mineral deposits and their subsequent mining spurred the settlement of a number of previously uninhabited regions.

In Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, the forest held significant attraction for settlers. As far back as the 19th century, the agro-forestry industry was booming from Temiscaming to Madawaska. In the far west of the country, there has been a francophone presence since Alexander Mackenzie's expedition in 1793. Around 1850, Francophones accounted for more than half of settlers, but this proportion fell with the arrival of gold prospectors from the East and the United States.

Because they dreamed of a better life, the pioneers made Canada the great country that it is today. The following selection of books will provide readers with insight into many aspects of the lives of these nation-builders.

The Settlement of Canada

Big and Little Secrets of the Prairies



The Mounties Robert Livesey and A. G. Smith

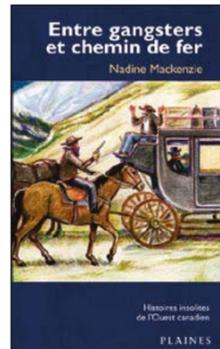
Subsequent to the establishment of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, the expansion of the territory was so rapid that protecting it became necessary and thus the North-West Mounted Police was created. Its history is inseparably linked with the emergence of the boom towns that were spurred by the gold rush and the construction of the railroad. Learn all its secrets through a wealth of entertaining anecdotes and activities!

"The main reason that the Blackfoot accepted the Mounties was Jerry Potts. He assured the Blackfoot that the scarlet-coated police officers would bring equal justice for Native people and white settlers or traders." (p. 10)

Highlights:

- Fully illustrated, the book includes activities and an index;
- The structure of this history book facilitates understanding and learning, making it an excellent support tool;
- Combines major historical facts with anecdotes to engage the interest of young readers.

Éditions des Plaines, illustrated book, 96 pages, 2012.
978-2-89611-247-0.
Ages 9 to 12
Also available in digital format.



Entre gangsters et chemin de fer by Nadine Mackenzie

The history of Western Canada is full of the most surprising secrets... In the pages of this book, you will learn how a pig caused an international incident, you will embark on the crazy adventures of a train robber, be lured into the dark tunnels of Moose Jaw alongside Al Capone... and much more!

Éditions des Plaines, narrative, 97 pages, 2009. 978-2-89611-045-2. Ages 9 and up
Also available in digital format.

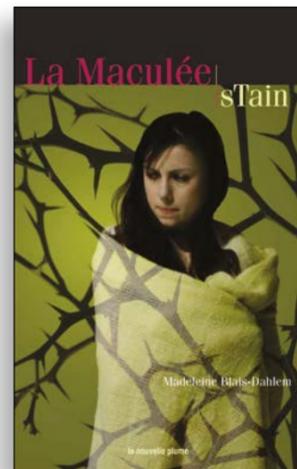
La Maculée | sTain Madeleine Blais-Dahlem

In 1918, young Françoise leaves Quebec and moves to Saskatchewan with Bernard. Unsuccessful at farming, Bernard tries to improve his lot by assimilating the English language and culture. Françoise thus finds herself isolated from her past, her religion, her culture and her community, which drives her to the edge of madness.

Françoise: *What do you know about the loneliness of women, doctor?
In the depths of my soul, I am alone.
Alone inside my family.
Alone in my marriage.
Alone in this great empty country.
Only the Blessed Virgin hears me...*
(p. 63)

Highlights:

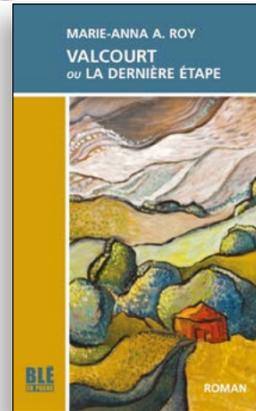
- A play that explores the condition of immigrants in Saskatchewan at the beginning of the 20th century;
- Examines the themes of patriarchy, religion, language and madness;
- The play is presented in a bilingual edition.



Éditions de la nouvelle plume, drama, 176 pages, 2012.
978-2-92138-578-7

Further Reading

Fiction of Heart-Rending Realism



Valcourt ou La dernière étape Marie-Anna A. Roy

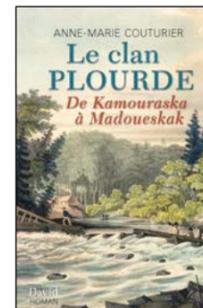
In a simple, straightforward style, Marie-Anna A. Roy recounts the hardships of a schoolteacher – an early feminist – and the deplorable material conditions in Prairie schools at the beginning of the 20th century. Between autobiography and social saga, this novel by Gabrielle Roy's older sister tells a lively story, propelled by a host of realistic and likeable characters

"Antoinette closed her book. For an hour she tried to concentrate on her reading, but could not manage it. She kept seeing Mr. Teleska in the school hallway, one nervous hand twisting his moustache into a corkscrew and the other striking small blows on the floor with his cane, his forehead creased and his eyes blazing in fury." (p. 51)

Highlights:

- Paints a realistic picture of the harsh conditions experienced by pioneers in remote areas;
- The writing recreates the rhythm of life in the North, shaped by nature and the seasons;
- One of the classic novels of Western Canada.

Éditions du Blé, novel, 360 pages, 2006.
978-2-92134-788-4



Le clan PLOURDE: De Kamouraska à Madoueskak by Anne-Marie Couturier

Set in the context of the settlement of Madawaska, New Brunswick, this second instalment in the saga of the PLOURDE clan follows Pierre and Augustin, the sons of the legendary trailblazer René. For almost two centuries, the descendants of this family would make their marks, despite many difficulties, while actual events from the region's history unfolded in the background.

Éditions David, historical novel, 284 pages, 2012. 978-2-89597-267-9
Also available in digital format.

Mattawa. À contre-courant Memoirs of a country doctor Benoît Cazabon

Newly arrived in Mattawa, in Northern Ontario, the young Dr Caseneuve is shocked to see the living and working conditions that his fellow francophone citizens have to endure. He has to act. His commitment to the community would not be without its challenges, among them a lack of resources, resistance from employers and Anglophones, and the mysterious Jasmine's lack of understanding. What place can Dr Caseneuve hope to make for himself in this emerging Mattawa?

"I arrived at the same time as the rail track layers. Not the first team of 1880, but the next one, the one for the Northern Line. The toughest of the tough. Most of them were fugitives from thankless countries, penniless Poles, Italians, a few Jews, and French Canadians. Work? An endurance contest between two drinking binges." (p. 14)

Highlights:

- Set against a well-documented historical background, the novel provides a profile of one of the first municipalities in Northern Ontario;
- The narrative, which is presented in the form of a memoir, gives the reader access to the emotions of the main character;
- A nuanced exploration of questions of identity and belonging in a minority situation.



Éditions Prise de parole, historical novel, 205 pages, 2012. 978-2-89423-263-7
Also available in digital format.

Further Reading

Where to find the books

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Regroupement des éditeurs canadiens-français
450 Rideau Street, Suite 402
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1N 5Z4
Telephone: (613) 562-4507
or 1 888 320-8070
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