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| Bruce, Charles Tory (1906 – 1971) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Charles Bruce was a Canadian poet, journalist and novelist. He was born in Port Shoreham, Nova Scotia on May 11, 1906; he died in Toronto, Ontario on December 19, 1971. Although Bruce’s regional poetics are not generally regarded as avant-garde, A. J. M. Smith included him in the seminal *Book of Canadian Poetry* (1943) on the basis that his work ‘represents[s] a certain ‘aspect’ of the modern movement’ in its ‘simplification of technique’ (28-9). |
| Charles Tory Bruce was born in Port Shoreham, Nova Scotia on May 11, 1906; he died in Toronto, Ontario on December 19, 1971.  Upon graduating from Mount Allison University in 1927, the year his first book of poetry *Wild Apples* appeared, Bruce began his life-long profession as a journalist, first with the Halifax *Morning-Chronicle*, and then with the Canadian Press’s New York Bureau (1928-1933). In Halifax, Bruce began his affiliation with the Song Fisherman Circle, a relationship that shaped his second book of poems, *Tomorrow’s Tide* (1932). In 1933, Bruce transferred to Toronto, where he published four more books of poetry: *Personal Note* (1941), *Grey Ship Moving* (1945), *The Flowering Summer* (1947), and *The Mulgrave Road* (1951), which won the Governor General’s Literary Award (1951).  Though Bruce’s regional poetics are not generally regarded as avant-garde, A. J. M. Smith included him in the seminal *Book of Canadian Poetry* (1943) on the basis that his work ‘represents[s] a certain ‘aspect’ of the modern movement’ in its ‘simplification of technique’ (28-9).  In 1954 Bruce wrote his first and only novel, *The Channel Shore*, a story of three families in a small Nova Scotia community that exemplifies the regional realism of Bruce’s *oeuvre*—it includes the story of a demobilized soldier returning home from the front. His collection of short stories, *The Township of Time: A Chronicle* (1959) builds upon this epic motif and spans 150-years and six generations of maritime characters. Bruce ended his writing career with *News and the Southams* (1968), a biography of the influential newspaper family. Andrew Wainwright notes, ‘virtually all of Charles Bruce’s creative prose and a good proportion of his poetry…draw upon his experience and knowledge of life along the north shore of Chedabucto Bay [Nova Scotia, Canada]’ (ii). Bruce continues to be anthologized and studied as a regional writer. |
| Further reading:  (Smith)  (Wainwright) |