



Recovering Canadas 1st Novelist Proceedings from the John Richardson Conference

By Ross, Catherine Sheldrick

Erin, Ontario, Canada: Porcupines Quill, 1989. Soft cover. Condition: New. 1st Edition. Original printed wraps. 104 pp. Octavo. `An introduction, six papers from the conference at the University of Western Ontario and a brief biographical note constitute the first `full scale scholarly examination" of Canada's earliest novelist. But neither the editor nor her team of biographer, textual critic, literary historian and literary critics are under any delusions; to reconstruct the life, work and reputation of the mercurial Major John Richardson after one hundred years of comparative neglect is not the work of a single moment, nor of a single conference. One ought perhaps to leave unasked the question if there is any other nation's literary primogenitor who, with a few notable exceptions, has been so poorly served by the literary and academic community; particularly when, as Michael Hurley argues, so many of Richardson's obsessions are equally those of contemporary Canadian writing. `This short collection makes an impressive start on that grand task of refurbishment; especially since it, wisely, clears some of the rank vegetation which has encroached on Richardson during the years of neglect. Carl Klinck, David Beasley and Douglas Cronk open the discussion by usefully telling us what is...



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