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Your Name Here: The Scandalous Evolution of Bryce's Commercial Arithmetic

In 1866, Canada's first business mathematics textbook was published. Within a year, it had been replaced by an Americanized version. While it went through at least a dozen editions—several published in Canada—within the next decade, the original version was never republished. Some editions were “published” by business school principals who were hardly involved with the production of the book; in one case, even the supposed author was an impostor. In this talk, we will examine the background to these irregularities. We will also consider the difficulties of studying the publication history of a book for which misleading title pages were the rule rather than the exception.