

---

**SYLVIA NICKERSON (TORONTO)**, University of Toronto  
*Mathematics and the book trade in English Canada, 1850-1925*

In their history of mathematics in Canada prior to 1945, Tom Archibald and Louis Charbonneau recognize that printers and publishers played an important role in the diffusion of basic mathematical knowledge in the early days of mathematical practice in Canada. A book trade, they note, is a prerequisite for mathematical culture. This paper will explore what role the book trade may have had on the educational structure and professional practice of mathematics in English Canada, from 1850 to 1925. The production of mathematical books within Canada and the range mathematical books available to Canadian students will be of interest. On the one hand, platemaking (i.e. the stereotype and electrotpe printing process) allowed small printers in Canada to produce standard schoolbooks from Britain and America. On the other hand, Canadian publishers such as John Lovell and Copp Clark Co. published schoolbooks by Canadian authors such as John Herbert Sangster and James Loudon. It was also common for Canadian mathematical authors (J. C. Fields, James G. MacGregor) to seek a publisher outside Canada. What rewards came to local authors of mathematical textbooks? In what way was authorship a component of mathematical practice in Canada at this time? My examination of mathematical authors and publishers will end with J. C. Field's work on the publication of the Proceedings of the International Mathematical Congress (Toronto, 1924) at the University of Toronto Press in 1928.