

KINGSFORD, William, 1819-1895

The Kingsford papers were given to the University of Toronto in 1961 by Julia Jarvis. They consist of correspondence with James Bain on Kingsford's research into the history of Canada and early Canadian printing. 1887-1895. There is no statement about copyright.

EXTENT: 1 box

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

An historian, born in London on December 23, 1819. He was educated at Nicolas Wanostracht's school in Camberwell, and in 1836 he enlisted in the 1st Dragoon Guards. He came to Canada with his regiment in 1837 and a year later was offered a commission, but preferred to obtain his discharge. He was qualified as a civil engineer after working in the office of the city surveyor of Montreal. He was employed successively on the Hudson River Railway, on the Panama Isthmus Railway, and on the Grand Trunk Railway. In 1873 he was appointed by the Canadian government engineer in charge of the harbours of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence; but in 1879 he was summarily dismissed by Sir Hector Langevin, minister of public works. He reviewed this dismissal in a pamphlet entitled Mr. Kingsford and Sir Hector Langevin (Toronto, 1882) but he did not succeed in obtaining redress, and the remainder of his life he devoted to historical research. He had already published a number of pamphlets: The history, structure, and statistics of plank roads (Philadelphia, 1852), The Canadian canals (Toronto, 1865), and A political coin (Toronto, n.d.). At sixty he began writing a history of Canada. The first essay was Canadian archaeology (Montreal, 1886), followed by The early bibliography of Ontario (Toronto, 1892). The 1st volume of his History of Canada appeared in 1887, and the tenth and final volume in 1898. He died shortly thereafter in Toronto on Sept. 28, 1898.

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Kingsford
Papers
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Kingsford, William, 1819-1898
To James Bain, Toronto,
Ottawa, 1887-1895.
139 A.L.S.

Letters discuss problems raised by sender's research into Canadian history and by the publication of his ten volume work, History of Canada. Letters also discuss bibliographical questions raised by sender's research into early Canadian printing and by his efforts to publish bibliographical

guides and lists, culminating in his The early bibliography of Ontario. Letters request sender's help in verifying proofs for his books, in increasing their sale, and in securing favourable newspaper notices

Letters deal with sender's loan of books from Toronto Public Library, where addressee is Librarian; discuss the library's purchase of specific items for its Canadiana Collection.

Kingsford
Papers

Brymner, Douglas, 1823-1902
To
Ottawa, Jan. 8, 1889.
A.L.S. Folder 2 p.

Describes William, Kingsford; advises addressee on best way of dealing with him.

Kingsford
Papers

Brymner, Douglas, 1823-1902
To John Lewis, Hubert Neilson
Ottawa, 1887-1888.
4 A.L.S.

Letters deal with addressee's gift of documents and books to the National Archives.

M. Steele
R. Grover