

Diversity and Change in Early Canadian Women's Writing is a collection of nine essays, thematically arranged, dedicated to the works of women writing between 1828 and 1914. It is for readers who were certain that there had to be diverse, interesting, socially relevant voices in early Canadian women's writing. It is, equally, for sceptics, who will find that early Canada is not bereft of women writers, or of writing of substance.

When Lorraine McMullen published the collection of essays *Re(dis)covering Our Foremothers* in 1990, she considered the field in its infancy. As keen as literary historians and critics have been to assess the contributions of women to Canada's early cultural scene, this collection moves beyond listing which women were writing in early Canada, and brings together a study of their journalistic and literary works. For a country caught up in projects to enhance nation-building, and concerned with the development of its national literature, the essays reconnect with early literary works by women.

Eighteen years after McMullen's, this collection shows the progression along the path that hers initiated. Working with theories of gender, genre, socio-politics, literature, history, and drama, the essayists make cases not only for the women writing, but also for the literary voices they created to work for diversity and social change in Canada.

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Cover image: *Unsung Heroes*
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9781847187321
www.c-s-p.org



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