"Both of us can move mountains": Mary Quayle Innis and Her Relationship to Harold Innis' Legacy

J. David Black

Abstract

Abstract: This paper offers an account of the life and work of Mary Quayle Innis (1899-1972), the wife of Harold Innis, and a figure largely unknown in the Innis scholarship. Using material taken from her writing, archival sources, and interviews with two of the Innises' children, this paper provides background on her contributions to Canadian culture as a writer and editor. The paper also speculates on her possible influence upon Innis' political economy and media research, and suggests that in understanding Mary Quayle Innis better, puzzling features of Harold Innis' own work are illuminated. A full bibliography of works by and about Mary Innis is attached.

Résumé: Cet essai présente un compte-rendu de la vie et de l'oeuvre de Mary Quayle Innis (1899-1972), en comparaison de l'oeuvre de son mari Harold Innis, Mary, qui était écrivain et éditeur lui-même, est rarement reconnue, mais cet article vise sa contribution à la culture canadienne, en explorant des archives, des extraits de sa propre écriture et des entretiens avec ses enfants. Cet article spéculle sur son influence possible sur l'écriture de Harold et propose qu'on peut mieux comprendre certains traits intriguants de l'oeuvre de Harold, en comprenant celle de Mary Quayle.

Keywords

Harold Innis; Mary Quayle Innis; Toronto School; History; Feminist/gender

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Record: Author: Black, David J. Title: “Both of us can move mountains”: Mary Quayle Innis and her relationship to Harold Innis’ legacy Year: 2003 Publication: Canadian Journal of Communication Volume: 28 Issue: 4 Abstract: Black examines the life and work of Mary Quayle Innis. He believes she's been relegated to the background of her husband Harold Innis's history. Instead, she played a far greater role. Black describes her early life, her marriage to Harold, her assistance in his research, and her own work. – by Duncan Koerber. Mary Quayle Innis (1899-1972) was the author of several books, including An Economic History of Canada, Changing Canada, and Travellers West. She was the dean of women at University College, University of Toronto, for a number of years, and she was married to noted economics historian, Harold A. Innis. 2 books. 0 readers. 0.

Harold Adams Innis (November 5, 1894 – November 8, 1952) was a Canadian professor of political economy at the University of Toronto and the author of seminal works on media, communication theory, and Canadian economic history. Despite his dense and difficult prose, Innis was one of Canada’s most original thinkers. He helped develop the staples thesis, which holds that Canada’s culture, political history, and economy have been decisively influenced by the exploitation and export of a series of “staples