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Canadian literature, the body of written works produced by Canadians. Reflecting the country's dual origin and its official bilingualism, the literature of Canada can be split into two major divisions: English and French. This article provides a brief historical account of each of these. Emeritus Professor of French, University of Toronto. Coauthor of Bibliographie critique du roman canadien-français, 1837–1900. See Article History. Canadian literature, the body of written works produced by Canadians. Reflecting the country's dual origin and its official bilingualism, the literature of Canada can be split into two major divisions: English and French. This article provides a brief historical account of each of these literatures. Canadian English (CaE) is a variety of English used in Canada. More than 25 million Canadians (85 percent of the population) have some knowledge of English (2001 census [1]). Canadian English spelling can be described as a mixture of American English, British English, Quebec French, and unique Canadianisms. Canadian vocabulary is similar to American English, yet with key differences and local variations. History. The term "Canadian English" is first attested in a speech by the Rev. The second wave from Britain and Ireland was encouraged to settle in Canada after the War of 1812 by the governors of Canada, who were worried about anti-English sentiment among its citizens.