

Johnson

54 Scarborough Road,  
Toronto 13, Ontario.  
February 28, 1961

Prof. Desmond Pacey,  
249 Winslow Street,  
Fredericton, N.B.

Dear Sir:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you in your capacity as an authority on Canadian literature. What place, if any, would you give to Pauline Johnson? I would appreciate your comments on her work, particularly as I notice that you have not included her in your book, Creative Writing in Canada.

May I thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. O. Dickason

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Mrs. O. Dickason,  
54 Scarborough Road,  
Toronto 13, Ontario.

Dear Mrs. Dickason:

In reply to your letter of February 28, I am afraid I must tell you that I give almost no place at all to Pauline Johnson in the development of Canadian literature. Miss Johnson wrote one or two pretty lyrics such as "The Song My Paddle Sings", but the great bulk of her work is cheap, vulgar, and almost incredibly bad. She was an entertainer, and from all accounts quite a good one, but she was certainly not a poet in the proper sense of that word.

Of course this is only my opinion, but I do think that you would find that my opinion is shared by most other contemporary critics of our literature.

Yours truly,

Desmond Pacey,  
Professor of English.

DP/hm

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TITLE/TITRE Desmond Pacey Fonds  
RG \_\_\_\_\_ MG 30 R- \_\_\_\_\_ SERIES/SÉRIE D 339  
ACCESSION \_\_\_\_\_ VOL 2 PAGE(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
BOX/BOÎTE \_\_\_\_\_ REEL/BOBINE \_\_\_\_\_  
FILE/DOSSIER 51  
DATE 31 October 2001