

**DICTIONARIES: IMPORTANT EXAMPLES  
FROM THE FIRST-NATIONS PEOPLES  
AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM EUROPE AND CANADA**

*Exhibition prepared for the 2011 Biennial Meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America  
June 9, 2011*

§ ESKIMO LANGUAGE

**Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.**

*Western Esquimaux Primer: Containing Lessons, Prayers, Hymns, Grammar and Vocabulary:  
For Use at the Mouth of the Mackenzie River.* London: Society for Promoting Christian  
Knowledge, [1891?].

PM55 W47 1891, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Isaac Watts, 1674–1748.**

*Watts's First Catechism, in Esquimaux.* [London]: F. Arnold, Printer, [188-?].

¶ Text in Inuktitut language, in syllabics, with headings in English; translated by Edmund  
Peck. Based on the Church of England catechisms.

Lande Ind 218, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Emile Fortuné Stanislas Joseph Petitot, 1838–1917.**

*Vocabulaire français-esquimaux: dialecte des Tchiglit des bouches du Mackenzie et de  
l'Anderson; précédé d'une monographie de cette tribu et de notes grammaticales.* Paris:  
Ernest Leroux; San Francisco: A.L. Bancroft and Co., 1876.

¶ Rare Books also has a copy of his large folio edition of the dictionary of northern native  
languages entitled: *Dictionnaire de la langue dènè-dindjié, dialectes montagnais ou  
chippewayan, peaux de lièvre et loucheux: renfermant en outre un grand nombre de termes  
propres à sept autres dialectes de la même langue, précédé d'une monographie des dènè-  
dindjié, d'une grammaire et de tableaux synoptiques des conjugaison.* Paris: E. Leroux;  
San Francisco: A.-L. Bancroft, 1876. in Lande folio Ind 203.

Lande Ind 204, Rare Books and Special Collections

**John Washington.**

*Eskimaux and English Vocabulary, For the Use of the Arctic Expeditions.* London: J. Murray,  
1850.

Lande S2304, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Edmund James Peck, 1850–1924.**

*Copy of Eskimo Grammar by Rev. E.J. Peck during his stay in Wakeham Bay in Sept. & Oct.  
[1916].*

¶ Edmund Peck was an Anglican missionary active in the field between 1876 and 1905.

Recruited by Bishop John Horden, Peck lived and worked among the native peoples of northern Quebec and Baffin Island. Peck produced many translations and transliterations of the Gospels and Common Prayers. Convinced that a knowledge of local languages was important for success in the evangelization of the native peoples, he also was involved in advancing language instruction among the nomadic Inuit. This is a manuscript version of what would become his *Eskimo Grammar* published in 1919. This workbook also contains the beginnings of a lexicon. An Eskimo-English dictionary was printed posthumously in 1925.

Manuscript Collection, MS 259, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Robert Morden, d. 1703.**

*Partie de l'Amerique septentrionale.* [London: R. Morden, 1700].

¶ A cartographic view of the northern regions of New France around 1700.

G3270 1700 M6, Rare Books and Special Collections, Map Room

§ HURON LANGUAGE

**Gabriel Sagard, ca.1614–1636.**

*Le grand voyage du pays des Hurons situés en l'Amérique vers la mer douce, ès derniers confins de la Nouvelle France dite Canada: Avec un Dictionnaire de la langue huronne.* Paris: Tross, 1865. [Facsimile edition. Original edition published in 1632.]

¶ Sagard was a Recollet Friar who came to Canada in 1623. This work is a detailed account of the Recollet Mission in Huronia, from 1615 to 1629. An interesting part of this work is the “Dictionary of the Huron Language”, the first of its kind in New France.

Lande 769, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Pierre Joseph Marie Chaumonot, 1611–1693.**

*Grammatica Huronica.*

¶ Manuscript grammar in Latin and French by a well known Jesuit Missionary to New France who spent eleven years among the Hurons starting in 1639. The Jesuits came to give aid to the New France missions as of 1625, with more success than the Recollets. The manuscript is on paper watermarked 1822. The purpose for the creation of this copy is unclear and the original is unknown, but it may be among the Chaumonot manuscripts preserved in the Archives of the Séminaire de Québec. Rare Books also holds a copy of Chaumonot’s autobiography, entitled *La vie du R. P. Pierre Joseph Marie Chaumonot, De la Compagnie de Jesus, Missionnaire dans la Nouvelle France. Ecrite par lui-même par ordre de son Supérieur, l'an 1688.* Nouvelle York: Isle de Manate, A la Presse Cramoisy de Jean-Marie Shea, 1858.

Lande S2398, Rare Books and Special Collections

Lande S468, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Pierre Joseph Marie Chaumonot, 1611–1693.**

“Grammar of the Huron language, By a Missionary of the Village of Huron Indians at Lorette, Near Quebec”, translated by Daniel Wilkie, in *Transactions of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec.* Quebec: Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, 1830–1831.

¶ Translation into English of Chaumonot's *Grammatica Huronica*, presumably written at the Lorette Mission which was founded by Chaumonot in 1673. The original manuscript was found circa 1830 among the papers at the Lorette Mission, near Quebec City, by Daniel Wilkie (1771–1851), who was a teacher, author, Presbyterian clergyman, and a newspaperman. He was also chairman of the science section of the Transactions of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec in 1830, librarian for several years, and, in 1836, president.

FC2902 T75 v.2, 1830/31, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Louis Armand de Lom d'Arce, baron de Lahontan, 1666–1715?**

*Nouveaux voyages de Mr le baron Lahontan, dans l'Amerique septentrionale: qui contiennent une relation des différens peuples qui y habitent ;[...].* La Haye: Chez les frères l'Honoré, 1703. Two volumes. First edition.

¶ Lahontan came to Canada in 1683 on military duty. He engaged in expeditions against the Iroquois, travelled throughout New France and upon returning to Europe, published this work in Holland, considered too controversial to pass inspection in France. Countless editions and translations exist of this work, and it was integrated into other compilations of travels to the New World. The "Dictionary" contains terms used by the two principal native languages within the confines of "Canada", east of the Mississippi: the Huron and Algonquin languages.

Lande 498, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Paul Le Jeune, 1592–1664.**

*Relation de ce qui s'est passé en la Nouvelle France en l'année 1636.* Paris: Chez Sebastien Cramoisy, 1637.

¶ Le Jeune was the author of eleven of the earliest *Jesuit Relations* which relate events in the missions in New France. The *Jesuit Relations*, which started publication in 1632, represent one of the primary sources for understanding the first nations peoples such as the Huron, the Algonquin, the Iroquois and the Montagnais. Here we have a description of the Huron Language as part of this relation.

Cutter 160 J49 1637, Rare Books and Special Collections

§ CREE LANGUAGE

**John Horden, 1828–1893.**

*A Grammar of the Cree Language as Spoken by the Cree Indians of North America.* London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1881.

¶ Horden first began his forty-two year career as a teacher and catechist at the Hudson's Bay Company Post of Moose Factory in 1851. He developed a great competence and fluency in the Cree Language, as well as a working knowledge of Objibwa, Inuktitut and Chipewtan. Horden and associates translated numerous religious works into a syllabic system of writing invented by James Evans to which the James Bay Cree had been introduced in the early 1840s. Horden's major linguistic contribution was this grammar book. Horden was consecrated as the first bishop of Moosonee in 1872, a diocese covering

much of the areas surrounding the Hudson and James Bays.  
PM987 H67 1881, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Isaac Watts, 1674–1748.**

*Watts' First catechism for Children.* Moose Factory, Ont.: Printed by J. Horden, 1855.

¶ Horden and some young native apprentices operated a small printing press from 1853 to 1859. This item is one of the works this group printed. Rare Books and Special Collections houses the printing press used by Horden. The text of the catechism is based on the Church of England's catechisms by Isaac Watts. It is entirely in Cree, in syllabic characters and translated by John Horden.

BT1039 C7 W38 1855, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Albert Lacombe, 1827–1916.**

*Dictionnaire de la langue des Cris.* Montréal: C.O. Beauchemin & Valois, 1874. First edition.

¶ Lacombe was a Roman Catholic priest and one of the best known missionaries in the history of western Canada. He began his missionary work at Pembina, North Dakota in 1849 and settled at Fort Edmonton in 1861 to work with the Cree and Blackfoot nations who came to trade there. He soon established an itinerant ministry among the Cree in Alberta. Lacombe had many distinctions during his career and was involved in countless evangelical efforts for the Cree and Blackfoot, not the least of which was publishing. Of particular note, is his *Catholic Ladder* (1895), hailed as a small masterpiece of pedagogy, of which Rare Books and Special Collections owns a copy. The dictionary, on display here, was useful in its time and was widely used by later missionaries who took over the area.

PM988 L3 1874, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Albert Lacombe, 1827–1916.**

*Petit manuel pour apprendre à lire la langue crise.* Toronto: T. Allen, 1943. Later edition.

Lande Ind 104, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Albert Lacombe, 1827–1916.**

*Tableau-catéchisme. Composé par A. Lacombe pour l'instruction prompte et facile des sauvages, des enfants et des personnes ne sachant pas lire = Pictorial Catechism. Composed by A. Lacombe, used with success for the speedy and easy instruction of Indians, children and uneducated people.* Ottawa, Ont.: Réédité par les soins de l'Institut de missiologie de l'Université d'Ottawa, [190-?].

Lande Ind 213, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Albert Lacombe, 1827–1916.**

*Tableau-catéchisme. Composé par A. Lacombe pour l'instruction prompte et facile des sauvages, des enfants et des personnes ne sachant pas lire = Pictorial Catechism. Composed by A. Lacombe, used with success for the speedy and easy instruction of Indians, children and uneducated people.* Montreal: C.O. Beauchemin & fils, 1895. First edition.

¶ Albert Lacombe was a Catholic priest who worked with the Cree and Blackfoot nations in Alberta. As missionary, Lacombe had demonstrated great ingenuity in developing instructional aids in order to explain the morals of the Catholic faith. Of particular note, is

the *Catholic Ladder*, published as the *Pictorial Catechism* in 1895. The *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* provides an explanation of the iconography: “In his drawings he depicted two paths an individual might follow : that of evil, represented by idolatry, paganism, and the seven capital sins, and that of righteousness, exemplified by the Old and New Testaments and the virtues and sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church” (14:577). Rare Books and Special Collections holds two copies of the *Pictorial Catechism* : the first edition and the later printing in Ottawa sponsored by the Institut de missiologie de L’Université d’Ottawa.

folio Lande Ind 213, Rare Books and Special Collections

#### § CHILDREN’S READERS

##### **Albert Lacombe, 1827–1916.**

*First Reader in the English and Blackfoot languages: With Pictures and Words. Prepared by order of the Department of Indian Affairs for the use of industrial schools, among the Blackfoot tribes in the North West Territories.* Montreal: C.O. Beauchemin, 1886.

¶ Another major contribution by Lacombe to apostolic pedagogy was this children’s reader.

Lande Ind 103, Rare Books and Special Collections

##### **Albert Lacombe, 1827–1916.**

*Indian child’s book: a primer in English and Cree languages.* 1893?

Lande Ind 98, Rare Books and Special Collections

##### **Silas Tertius Rand, 1810–1889.**

*A First Reading Book in the Micmac Language: Comprising the Micmac Numerals, and the Names of the Different Kinds of Beasts, Birds, Fishes, Trees, &c. of the Maritime Provinces of Canada [...].* Halifax [N.S.]: Nova Scotia Print Co., 1875.

¶ Baptist clergyman, missionary, philologist and ethnologist of Nova Scotian birth, Rand worked with the natives of Maritime colonies. He mastered several native languages including: Micmac, Malecite and Mohawk. Rand was unconventional in his evangelical approach—he wished to teach religion and shelter the natives from moral degradation caused by the white man. He was the only missionary at the time to make a plea for the rights of the native peoples. Isolated, Rand turned more and more to the study of the Micmac language, customs and folklore, which formed part of the evangelical design of the mission. He subsequently produced useful pedagogical aids such as this Reader, as well as a Micmac dictionary, of which Rare Books holds several copies.

PM1794 R3 1875, Rare Books and Special Collections

#### § OTTAWA LANGUAGE

##### **Pierre Luc Du Jaunay, 1704–1780.**

*Dictionnaire de la langue outaouise*, ca. 1740.

¶ Du Jaunay was a priest and Jesuit missionary. He arrived in Canada in 1734 and the next year he travelled to Mackinaw City Michigan (at the time under French control) where he

first met the Ottawa Indians, to whom he would minister for nearly 30 years. He compiled this 396-page French-Ottawa dictionary in 1740. When the mission was closed in 1765, he went to Quebec and was appointed spiritual director of the Ursulines in 1767. He stayed there until his death in 1780. This is one of the earliest gifts made to the McGill Library in 1859.

Manuscript 281, Rare Books and Special Collections

#### § CHINOOK LANGUAGE

##### **Laura B. Downey-Bartlett, b. 1853.**

*Dictionary of the Intertribal Indian Language, Commonly called Chinook.* Tacoma, Washington: Smith-Digby Co., 1924.

¶ The Chinook native peoples live principally throughout the Northwest Coast of North America including British Columbia, and the states of Washington, Oregon and parts of northern California, with connections stretching as far as the Great Plains. Waterways in these parts and the Pacific Ocean were a rich source of salmon, the basis of the regional economy, and many groups traded with the Chinook for dried fish. Chinook Jargon is sometimes inaccurately referred to simply as “Chinook”, as is the case in this example.

PM848 B3 1924, Lande-Arkin Canadiana, Rare Books and Special Collections

##### **John Kaye Gill.**

*Gill's Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon: With examples of Use in Conversation.* Portland, Oregon: J.K. Gill & Co., 1891.

Lande Ind 440, Rare Books and Special Collections

##### **George Gibbs, 1815–1873.**

*A Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon, or Indian Trade Language, of the North Pacific Coast.* Victoria, B.C.: T.N. Hibben, 1871?

¶ Chinook Jargon was a trade language used along the West Coast from the 1830s until the early twentieth century. It was based upon a previous trade language, employing words of the most of the most enterprising aboriginal trading groups, such as the Nootka, this lingua franca was used for intercommunication between Indians and traders, officials, settlers and other Indians. Chinook Jargon has a restricted grammar and small vocabulary of approximately 700 words, which derive from Chinook (approximately 30%), English (20%), French (20%), other Indian tongues (8%). Numerous dictionaries of Chinook Jargon are available, including those of George Gibbs and John Gill, both featured here.

The Chinook native peoples live principally throughout the Northwest Coast of North America including British Columbia, and the states of Washington, Oregon and parts of northern California, with connections stretching as far as the Great Plains. Waterways in these parts and the Pacific Ocean were a rich source of salmon, the basis of the regional economy, and many groups traded with the Chinook for dried fish.

Lande 1227, Rare Books and Special Collections

**George Gibbs, 1815–1873.**

*Dictionary of Indian Tongues: Containing Most of the Words and Terms used in the Tshimpsean, Hydah, & Chinook: With their Meaning or Equivalent in the English Language.* Victoria, V.I.: Published by Hibben & Carswell, 1862.

PM831 Z5 D63 1862, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Jean Marie Raphaël Le Jeune, 1855–1930.**

*Chinook vocabulary.* 189-.

Mimeographed manuscript. Text in Chinook and English.

PM843 L4 1890z, Rare Books and Special Collections

FRENCH DICTIONARIES

**Antoine Furetière, 1619–1688.**

*Dictionnaire universel contenant généralement tous les mots françois tant vieux que modernes, et les termes des sciences et les arts[...]. Le tout extrait des plus excellens auteurs anciens et modernes.* A La Haye, et à Rotterdam: Chez Arnout & Reinier Leers, 1690. Three volumes.

¶ Rather than representing the language of polite society, Furetière incorporated into his dictionary the vocabulary of the professional, scientific and technological worlds. Partly for this reason, it was not allowed to be printed in France. However, it did have immense influence and gained favour with the French reading public. Pierre Bayle wrote a lengthy preface to this work in which he defends Furetière's capabilities as a lexicographer. This work is also an important precursor of Diderot's *Encyclopédie*, which promoted the Arts and Sciences.

folio PC2620 F87 1690, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Dictionnaire de Trévoux**

*Dictionnaire universel françois et Latin, vulgairement appelé, Dictionnaire de Trévoux, contenant la signification et la définition des mots de l'une et de l'autre Langue, avec leurs différens usages [...].* Paris: Compagnie des Libraires Associés, 1771. Eight volumes.

¶ The "Dictionnaire de Trévoux" was the name given to the language dictionary compiled by the Jesuits and first published in 1703 in three volumes at Trévoux in France. In its first edition it was little more than a reprint of Furetière's *Dictionnaire universel*, but in later editions, it grew into a completely independent work. The Jesuits accused the Encyclopédistes of using the contents without acknowledgement. This particular edition of 1771 is important because it is a revision which has dropped many old and obsolete terms.

Uncat Folio, Dictionnaire, Rare Books and Special Collections

§ BILINGUAL DICTIONARIES

**Abel Boyer, 1667–1729.**

*The Royal Dictionary: In Two Parts, first, French and English, Secondly, English and French.* London: Printed for R. Clavel, H. Mortlock, S. Lowndes [etc.], 1699.

¶ Compiled from the best French dictionaries such as Furetière, and the best English

dictionaries and literary matters such as Dryden.  
Cutter XPD .B69 1699, Rare Books and Special Collections

**John Ozell, d. 1743.**

*A New and Compendious Dictionary, French and English: Drawn from the Best Modern Dictionaries, and Politest Writers, and Contracted into a Manual.* London: Printed for T. Varnam and J. Osborn [...], 1717.

¶ In a note to reader, the author admits that he has omitted the verbs in this pocket-sized dictionary but explains that generally by adding the Letter (r) to the participle they become Verbs: “for instance, Prodigué, [...] add an (r) and it makes Prodiguer”.

PC2640 O94 1717, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Gabriel Surene.**

*The Standard Pronouncing Dictionary of the French and English Languages.* Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, 1852.

Uncat 1484, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Louis Chambaud, d. 1776.**

*Dictionnaire françois-anglois & anglois-françois = A New Dictionary, English and French, and French and English: containing the signification of words, with their different uses[...]* Londres: Cadell & Davies; F.C. & J. Rivington; Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, & Brown , 1815.

PC2640 C53 1815, Rare Books and Special Collection

**Bottarelli, F.**

*The New Italian, English and French Pocket-Dictionary: ... carefully compiled from the dictionaries of La Crusca, Dr. S. Johnson, the French Academy [...]* . London: Printed for C. Nourse ..., 1789. Three volumes.

¶Johnson’s dictionary was the English-language basis for all sorts of dictionaries, including this polyglot dictionary.

PB331 B6 1789, Rare Books/Special Collections

§ ENGLISH DICTIONARIES

**Henry Cockeram, fl. 1650.**

*The English Dictionary: or, An Interpreter of Hard English Words: Enabling as well Ladies and Gentlewomen, young Scholars, Clerks, Merchants; as also strangers of any nation, to the understanding of the more difficult authors already printed in our language, and the more speedy attaining of an elegant perfection of the English tongue, both in reading, speaking and writing.* London: Printed by A.M. and are to be sold by Andrew Crooke ..., 1658.

Redpath Tracts 2 v. 543 003, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Nathan Bailey, d. 1742.**

*An Universal Etymological English Dictionary: Comprehending the Derivations of the Generality of Words in the English Tongue [...] and the Etymology and Interpretation of the*



*Proper Names of Men, Women, and Remarkable Places in Great Britain [...]*. London: Printed for J. Darby, A. Bettesworth, F. Fayram, 1728.  
PE1620 B3 1728, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Samuel Johnson, 1709–1784.**

*A Dictionary of the English Language: In Which the Words are Deduced from their Originals, and Illustrated in their Different Significations by Examples from the Best Writers: To Which are Prefixed, a History of the Language, and an English Grammar.* London: Printed by W. Strahan, for J. and P. Knapton, T. and T. Longman, C. Hitch and L. Hawes, A. Millar, and R. and J. Dodsley, 1799. Two volumes. Eighth edition corrected and revised.

¶ The first edition of this dictionary was published in 1755 in folio, a copy of which is held in Rare Books and Special Collections. Upon publication, it “took its place at once as the standard authority. The general excellence of its definitions and judicious selection of illustrative passages make it entertaining as well as useful for reference.” (DNB vol. 30, p.37) So great was the influence of this work, that eight editions were produced within half a century, this being the last of the eighteenth century editions, published in 1799.

PE1620 J6 1799, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Thomas Browne.**

*The Union Dictionary: Containing all that is Truly Useful in the Dictionaries of Johnson, Sheridan, and Walker [...]: With a Mythological and Historical Appendix of Proper Names.* London: Printed for Wilkie and Robinson [etc.], 1806. Second edition.

¶ The “union” dictionary combines the usefulness of Johnson and Walker with further additions, such as a mythological and historical appendix of proper names.

PE1620 B7 1806, Rare Books and Special Collections

**John Walker, 1732–1807.**

*Walker’s Critical Pronouncing Dictionary and Expositor of the English language.* Cooperstown, N.Y.: H. & E. Phinney, 1839.

¶ John Walker was the single authority on the pronunciation dictionary. The first edition was published in London in 1791. Walker’s Dictionary which went well beyond twenty-five British editions. The first American edition in 1818 was based on the 11<sup>th</sup> London edition. A Canadian edition was newly revised and printed in 1867 based on Walker’s dictionary. This particular American edition is remarkable for the “Chronology of the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain” which is appended.

Uncat 1309, Rare Books and Special Collections

CANADIAN CURIOSITIES

**Robert E. Swanson.**

*Rhymes of a Lumberjack: A Second Book of Verse Concerning the Trials and Tribulations, Lives and Ways of the Loggers Living and Working in the Great Northwest of America.* Toronto: T. Allen, 1943.

PS8537 W26 R59 1943, Rare Books and Special Collections

**J.-P. Boucher-Belleville, 1800–1874.**

*Dictionnaire des barbarismes et des solécismes, les plus ordinaires en ce pays, avec le mot propre ou leur signification.* Montréal: Imprimerie de Pierre Cérat, 1855.

PC3639 B68 1855, Rare Books and Special Collections

*Abbott's Vest Pocket Dictionary.* Montreal: Beauchemin, [1937].

Uncat 0121, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Sandilands, John, Editor.**

*Western Canadian Dictionary and Phrase-Book: Explaining in Plain English for the Special Benefit of Newcomers: The Meaning of the most common Canadianisms, Colloquialisms and Slang.* Winnipeg: Telegram Job Printers, Ltd., 1912.

Lande 1434, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Arthur Buies, 1840–1901.**

*Anglicismes et canadianismes.* Québec: Typ. de C. Darveau, 1888.

PC3628 B8 1888, Rare Books and Special Collections

**P.J. Darey.**

*The Dominion Phrase Book, or, The Student's Companion for Practically Acquiring the French and English languages.* Montréal: Dawson Bros., 1871.

PC2129 E5 D37 1871, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Oscar Dunn, 1845–1885.**

*Glossaire franco-canadien et vocabulaire de locutions vicieuses usitées au Canada.* Avec une introduction de M. Fréchette. Québec: Impr. A. Côté & cie., 1880.

PC3628 D8 1880, Rare Books and Special Collections

**Jean-Pons-Victor Lecoutz de Levizac, d. 1813.**

*A Theoretical and Practical Grammar of the French Tongue.* Kingston: Desbarats and Cary; Quebec: T. Cary and Co., 1843.

Lande 1921, Rare Books and Special Collections