

To define Canada and the Canadian nation is no easy task. From a historical perspective, Canada is a very young country: until 1949 there was no Canadian citizenship, the Canadian flag appeared as late as 1965, and it wasn't until 1967 that the Canadian national anthem could be heard. Although Canada would thereafter finally seem to have been able to establish its distinct identity in opposition to its mother country, Canadian patriotism has continued to be problematic. Despite years of efforts to form a pan-Canadian identity - characterized especially by Pierre Trudeau's attempts to institute federal bilingualism and a pan-Canadian identity rooted in liberal individualism - the existence of a self-conscious Canadian nation remains questionable. Within the Canadian Anglophone population there seems to be no unified notion of a pan-Canadian nation and thus no innate nationalism.

Furthermore, for the rest of the world, Canada remains a mystery, an "Unknown Country." Arthur Lismer, a member of the Group of Seven, assessed the situation as follows: "after 1919 most creative people, whether in painting, writing or music, began to have a guilty feeling that Canada was as yet unwritten, unpainted, unsung [ ... ],<sup>2</sup> Indeed, efforts were made to "capture" Canada in paintings, photography, in poetry and prose, in songs, and, more recently, III films and documentaries. Similarly, students, scholars, and authors tried to penetrate into the great mystery and pass on to others what they believed to be an authentic image of their country. But the truth is that to define Canada is an impossible task: it is a land of great diversity; a mosaic of cultures, races and ethnicities; and a true entity of many faces. As Canada expert John D. Blackwell says in the introduction of a university online guide to the sources for Canadian Studies: