

John Bartlet Brebner (1895-1957), Author and Historian

brebner.com

Brebner, John Bartlett, Ph.D., Litt.D., L.L.D., F.R.Hist.S.; university professor; born Toronto, Ont. 12 MAY 1895; son of **James** and **Frances Elizabeth (Bartlet) Brebner**; educated Wellesley Public School and Provincial Model School, Toronto; Jarvis St. Collegiate Institute; University of Toronto Schools; University College, University of Toronto, Edward Blake Scholar; St. John's College, Oxford, Exhibitioner B.A. 1920; M.A. Cambridge (by incorp.) 1925; B.Litt 1925; Columbia University, N.Y., Ph.D. 1927; Brown University, Litt. D., 1944; McGill University, L.L.D. 1954; married **Adele Mary**, daughter of F.A. **Rumpf**, Stamford, Conn., 29 MAR 1928; one son Elliott James; GOUVERNEUR MORRIS PROF. OF HISTORY, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, since 1954; Asst. to **Dr. J.T. Shotwell** (1932-43) in carrying out the survey of Canadian-American Relations undertaken by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; member Advisory Council, Graduate Faculty, New School for Social Research, 1935-38; Hon. Member, New Brunswick Museum; Visiting Lecturer Nova Scotia Summer School 1932 and 1947; Visiting lecturer B.C. Summer School 1946; Fulbright Conference on American Studies, Cambridge University (summer) 1952; Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge 1954-55; Assoc., *"Current History Magazine"*, New York, 1931-36; William A. Dunning Fellow, Columbia University, 1933; Lecturer Modern History, University of Toronto, 1921-25; Visiting Lecturer, Faculty of Political Science, Columbia University Summer School, 1923; Instructor in History, Columbia University 1925-27; Assistant Professor of History, 1927-35; Associate Professor 1935-42; Professor since 1942; served in World War, 1915-18 as Pte. to Staff Sgt., C.A.M.C.; Cadet, Second Lieut., R.G.A., 1918; mem., Canadian History Association (President 1939-40); Canadian Political Sciences Association; American History Association; Academy of Political Science; Economic History Association; Hon. Mem., Nova Scotia Hist. Soc.; was Ed.-Consultant, "Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences", mem. Ed. Bd. "Canadian History Review"; awarded the J.B. Tyrell Medal for History by Royal Society of Canada 1950; author of *"New England's Outpost"*, 1927; *"The Explorers of North America, 1292-1806"*, 1933, 1955; (*"Die Erforscher von Nord-Amerika 1492-1806"*, Leipzig, 1936); *"The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia"*, 1937; *"North Atlantic Triangle"*, 1945; *"Scholarship for Canada"*, 1945; co-author, *"The Mingling of the Canadian and American Peoples"*, I. Historical, 1940; *"The Making of Modern Britain"*, 1943 (German translation, Dusseldorf, 1946); Ed. *"Classics of the Western World"*, 1927, 2nd ed. 1934; *"A Bibliography of English Literature and History"*, 1930, 2nd ed. 1932; has contributed chapters in co-operative volumes and articles in American, Canadian and other technical periodicals and encyclopedias; Book Review Ed. *"Historical Outlook"*, 129-34; has contributed book reviews to various periodicals; Delta Upsilon; responsible for the Columbia University Bicentennial International broadcasts published (New York, 1954-55) as *"Man's Right to Knowledge"*, I,II; Clubs: Century Association (N.Y.); Athenaeum (London); Address: Columbia University, New York 27, N.Y.

extracted from *The Canadian Who's Who, Volume VII, 1955-57*

Perhaps one of his best known quotes is the following:

"Americans are so benevolently ignorant about Canada, while Canadians are malevolently well informed about the United States."

[Biography of John's father James Brebner...](#)

Additional Notes:

The family originated in the Fordyce/Portsoy area of Banffshire and has been traced at least as far back as **Alexander Brebner** and **Katherine Scott**, married in 1773.

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