

## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1934; "*A Bibliography of English Literature and History*", 1930, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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