

Literary lollapalooza

THIS BOOKPLATE'S PICTURESQUE lakeside scene depicts the beautiful setting that surrounded the Rogers Rock Hotel, which was located at the northern end of Lake George in New York State. This first-class hotel was built in the early 1870s by two brothers, John Quincy Adams Treadway and William Denton Treadway, and it quickly became a popular summer retreat. One notable resident was the American novelist Sloan Wilson, who grew up spending summers there and later wrote a short story entitled "Lollapalooza and the Rogers Rock Hotel."

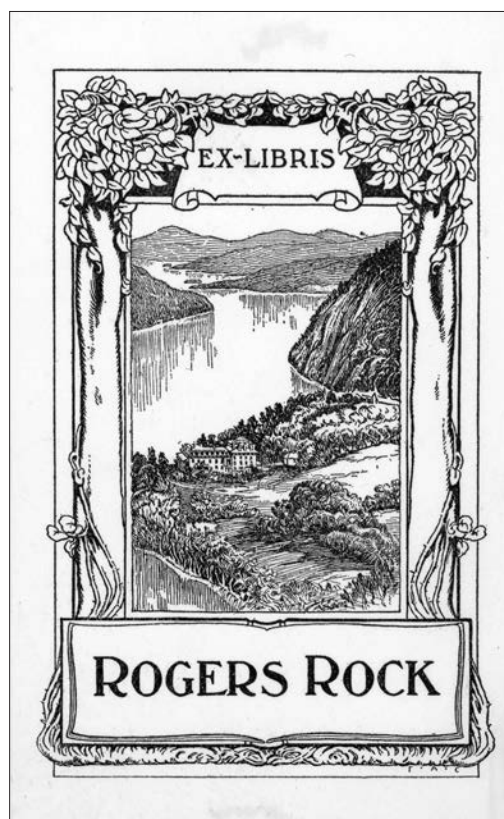
The centrality of the hotel in the image and the depiction of an open book that reads "Rogers Rock" both suggest that this bookplate was institutional rather than personal. The hotel provided its guests with a wide variety of recreational activities, and it presumably contained a small library to which this bookplate belonged.

The bookplate has a slight Canadian connection in that the hotel's name references a historical conflict involving troops from New France and their First Nations allies.

More specifically, the name was derived from a cliff located on the south border of the hotel's property, a cliff that is still referred to as Rogers Rock or Rogers Slide. This local landmark had been much mythologized for its role in the Battle on Snowshoes during the Seven Years' War.

On March 13, 1758, American-born Major Robert Rogers of the British army and his famed Rangers engaged with combined French, Canadian and First Nations forces. Outnumbered and taken by surprise, Rogers' Rangers suffered a crushing defeat. According to legend, Rogers barely escaped with his life by sliding down the near-vertical rock face and crossing frozen Lake George. Some versions of the tale maintain that Rogers even walked backwards across the lake in his snowshoes in order to confuse his pursuers.

At any rate, the French and Canadian forces considered Rogers to be a courageous and formidable opponent. The Queen's York



Rangers of the Canadian Forces Reserves also trace their origins to Rogers' Rangers.

This bookplate's creation can be dated between the early 1870s and 1940, when the hotel was torn down to make way for private homes. The only information available about the artist is his or her initials, "F.A.C." The bookplate measures 7.4 by 12.1 centimetres, and the image has been etched with black ink on white paper. The bookplate is contained within the Thomas Murray Collection at UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections.

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The Rare Books and Special Collections Bookplate Collection can be accessed from the UBC Library Digital Collections and Services site, <http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca>.