Appendix – Supplementary Reading Material
Kate Flint, “The Canadian Transatlantic: Susanna Moodie and Pauline Johnson”

Teaching Transatlanticism

For many students in the United States and in Britain, Canadian history is relatively unfamiliar, and so some basic context needs to be established for the material that’s to be discussed.

I’d recommend that everyone read the following:


For the week on Susanna Moodie, I would assign the Norton edition of Roughing It in the Bush, ed. Michael A. Peterman (2007), which contains not just the text of the memoir itself and a handful of contemporary reviews, but a number of invaluable articles. I’d especially recommend Peterman’s own “Roughing It in Michigan and Upper Canada” – siting Moodie’s book against Caroline Kirkland’s 1839 A New Home – Who’ll Follow? Glimpses of Western Life provides a good example of the kind of comparative work that might be done using Moodie as a starting point – and Carole Gerson’s “Nobler Savages: Representations of Native Women in the Writings of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill.” Useful discussion about emigration to Upper Canada can be found in Elizabeth Jane Errington, “British Migration and British America, 1783-1867,” (Buckner, 140-159) and in the section “Migrants,” in Andrew Thompson, The Empire Strikes Back? The Impact of Imperialism on Britain from the Mid-Nineteenth Century (Harlow: Pearson Education, 2005), 156-162. Plenty of useful basic reference material can be found on the Government of Canada’s website on http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/moodie-traill/027013-1000-e.html, and for more detailed biographical information, the library should keep on reserve a copy of Charlotte Gray, Sisters in the Wilderness. The Lives of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill (London: Duckworth, 2001).

For Pauline Johnson, the class should use the excellent compilation edited by Carole Gerson and Veronica Strong-Boag, E. Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwake: Collected Poems and Selected Prose (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002), which has a brief but very useful Introduction, and extensive bibliographic information that will allow students to track down more of her prose via Google Books. I would supplement this with two further pieces of reading: my own section on Johnson as a transatlantic figure from The Transatlantic Indian 1776-1930 (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008), 276-289,
and the “Introduction: Holidays, Happiness, and Transatlantic Tourism,” to Cecilia Morgan, “A Happy Holiday.” English Canadians and Transatlantic Tourism, 1870-1930 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008), 3-30. Whilst Johnston cannot be considered a tourist in the conventional sense of the word, she certainly made many visits – to St Paul’s Cathedral, say – that linked her to common tourist practices, and this chapter, like Morgan’s book as a whole, gives a vivid sense of the cultural expectations and experiences of Canadians visiting Britain. Two books to be kept on reserve are Strong-Boag and Gerson’s Paddling Her Own Canoe: The Times and Texts of E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake) (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001), the go-to biography, and a compelling, scrapbook-like anthology of material by and about Johnson, full of personal accounts, reviews, reminiscences, and visual materials, Sheila M. F. Johnston’s Buckskin & Broadcloth. A Celebration of E. Pauline Johnson – Tekahionwake 1861-1913 (Toronto: Natural Heritage, 1997). For anyone wanting to pursue further the visits of other First Nations people to Britain, see not only The Transatlantic Indian, but Donald B. Smith, Mississauga Voices: Ojibwe Voices from Nineteenth-Century Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013). Both make the point that First Nations people visited Britain throughout the nineteenth century, whether as performers, missionaries, lecturers, or political emissaries.