

Fred Mason

University of Western Ontario

**Sir Charles G. D. Roberts, Nineteenth Century
Eastern Canada, and Upper-Class Tourism within the
"Field" of Sport**

Considered one of Canada's "Confederation Poets," Charles G. D. Roberts moved among the literati of Toronto and New York. However, at the height of his early career in the 1890s, economic necessity demanded that Roberts write a number of pieces of tourism literature. These works all included detailed passages on upper class outdoor sporting activities. From his education and experience as a teacher, Roberts understood what Bourdieu calls the upper class "habitus" – the system of dispositions that functions as a generative basis of lifestyle. Roberts turned his knowledge (cultural capital) of upper-class sport into marketable literature. Ironically, as a high profile author Roberts held many other forms of social and cultural capital, but he could only turn his cultural capital from sport into economic capital. This suggests the relative position of sport and the arts in the overall lifestyle of the nineteenth century upper class, at least in terms of consumption.



Robert Pruter, Hostess & Scorekeeper