

# The Lady Tweedsmuir Prairie Library Scheme, 1936-1940 or, What Does Virginia Woolf Have to Do with Canadian Library History?



Lady Tweedsmuir at Rideau Hall, ca 1936-1940. Library and Archives Canada, PAC C-28759.

## Timeline

- November 2, 1935: Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir arrive in Canada
- August 6, 1936: Tweedsmuirs embark on a tour of Western Canada
- September 14, 1936: Lady Tweedsmuir requests grant from the Carnegie Corporation (unsuccessful)
- November 29, 1937: Lady Tweedsmuir receives grant from the Carnegie Corporation
- September 10, 1939: Canada declares war on Germany
- February 1, 1940: Scheme receives second grant from the Carnegie Corporation
- February 11, 1940: Lord Tweedsmuir dies in Montreal
- March 17, 1940: Lady Tweedsmuir leaves Canada; *The Times* (London) records that the Prairie Library Scheme distributed 40,000 books

## Theoretical Framework

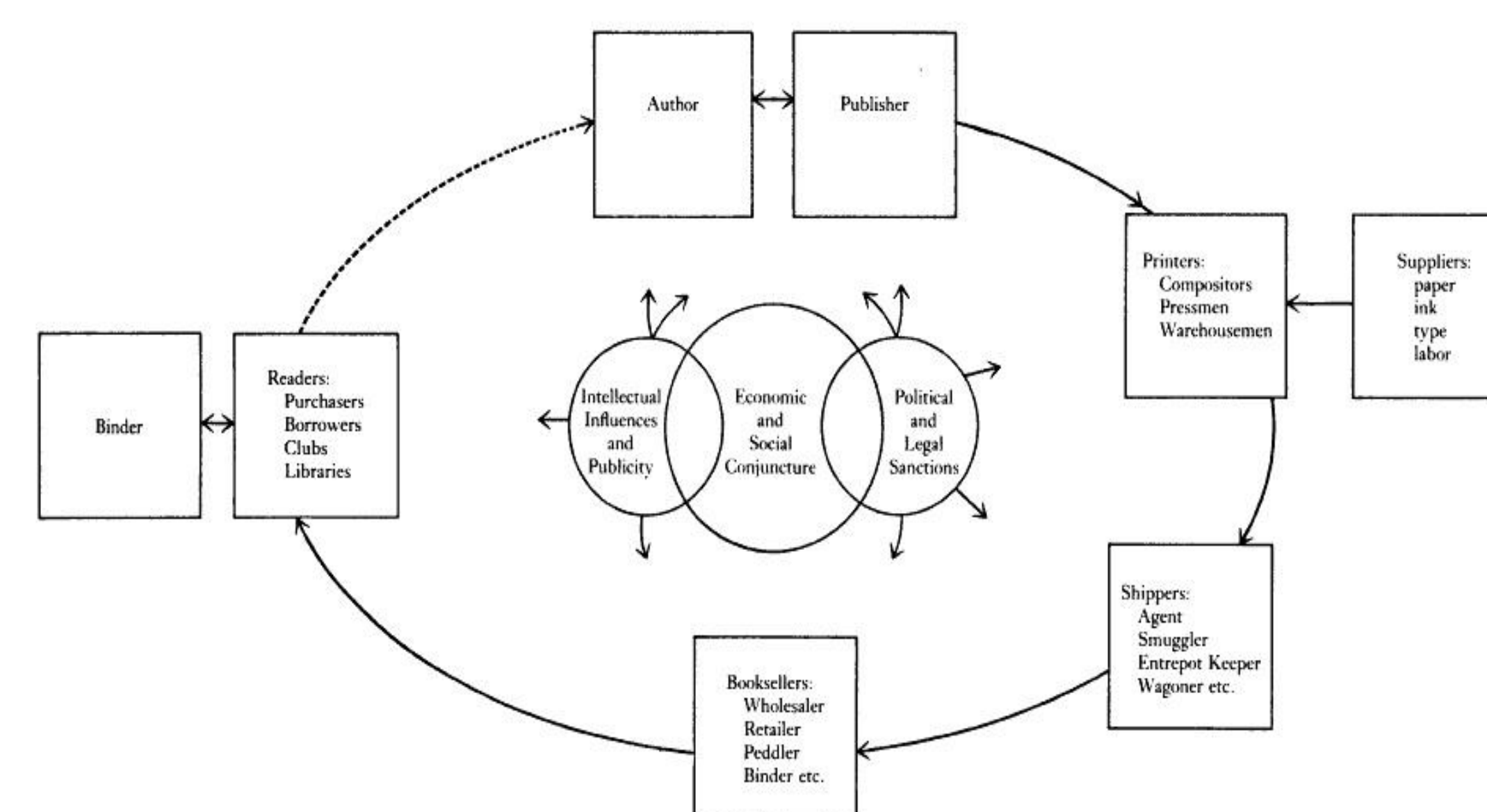
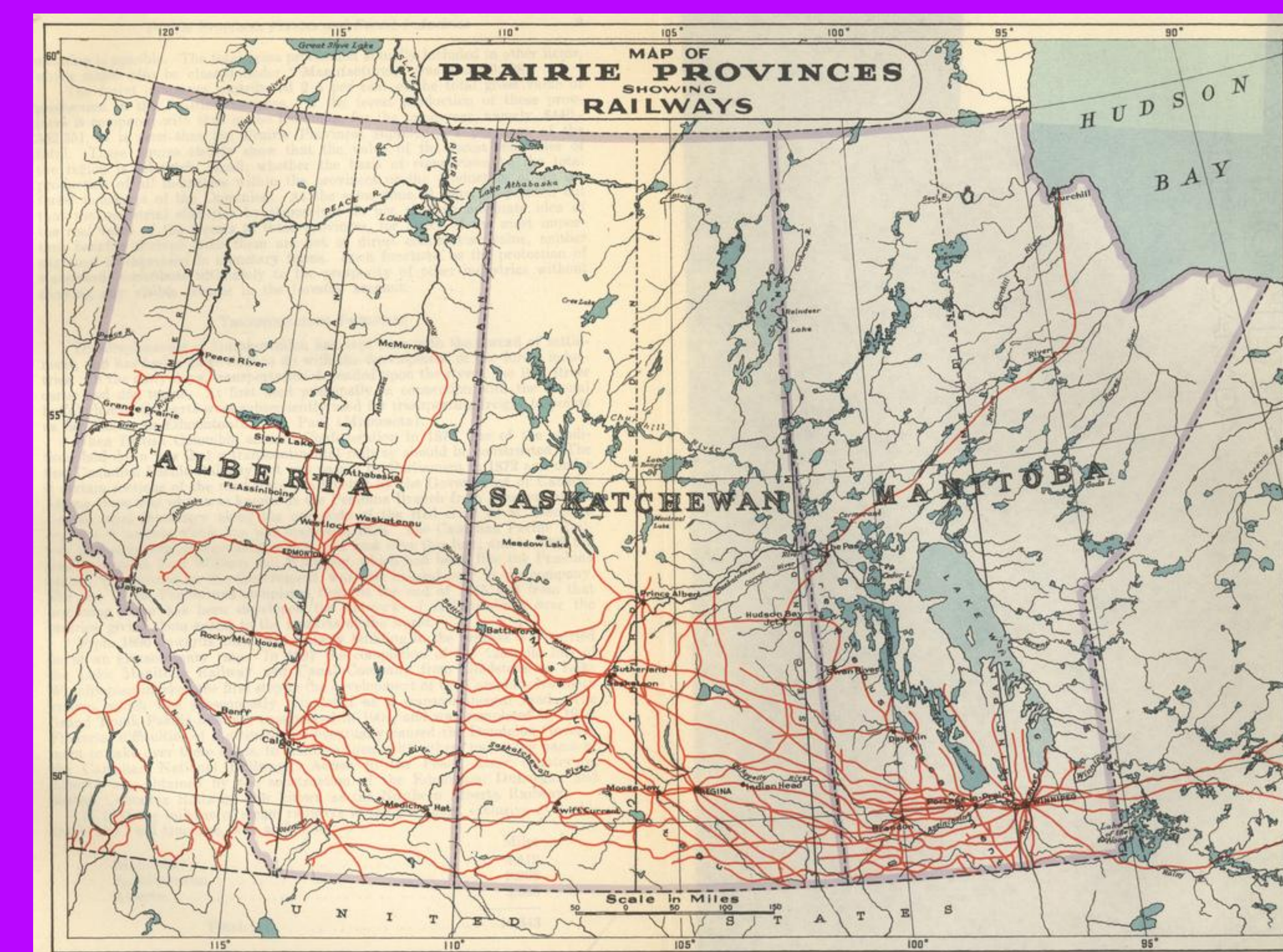


Figure 1. The Communications Circuit



"Map of Prairie Provinces Showing Railways," 1936

Robert Darnton's Communications Circuit  
in "What is the History of Books?"  
*Daedalus* 111 (3) 1982, 68

*"The scheme is called The Lady Tweedsmuir Prairie Libraries. It has now been running for a year, and I have sent, personally, over 9,000 books to the Prairie Provinces, and have been instrumental in getting another 5,000 sent there. I run the scheme personally, selecting the books myself."*

Lady Tweedsmuir to F.P. Keppel, December 1, 1937