

A Tribute
TO THE FIRST CANADIANS

A COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL PAINTINGS
ON INDIAN LIFE

by Paul Kane

Paul Kane was born in Mallow, County Cork, Ireland. The family immigrated to Canada in 1818 or 1819 when young Kane was about 9 years old. In his earlier life he attended Grammar School on Church Street, York (now Toronto) where his artistic instruction was under a Mr. Drury. As a student, Kane was not a studious person, preferring the company of Indians and Voyageurs whose tales of outdoor life aroused his interest in the Canadian wilds.

Upon leaving school, Kane began a nomadic existence travelling to Europe for four years studying the peoples and visiting Art Galleries. On his return to Canada he then undertook two sketching trips to Western Canada - the first in 1846, the second in 1847-48. Returning to York he then spent the balance of his life painting from his sketch books, leaving for posterity a wealth of historical information in pictorial form, one of the most comprehensive records of Indian life in existence today. In this selection of prints we have reproduced six of his finest works depicting early Canada from the Great Lakes to the Pacific "A tribute to the first Canadians".

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