



ExLibrisNews

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Our President's Message

1998 Officers and Board Members

The officers and members of the Board for 1998 are: President: Brian Land; Vice-President and President Elect: Margaret Beckman; Past President: Erich Schultz; Recording and Correspondence Secretary: Jean Weihs; Treasurer: Ann Schabas; and Membership Secretary: John Ball. Other members of the Board are: Margaret Cockshutt, Keith Crouch, Paula de Ronde, Patricia Fysh, Elizabeth Ketchum, Nancy Hall, Callie Israel, Fred Israel and Nancy Williamson. In addition, Nancy Williamson serves as Archivist of ELA and Wendy Scott is Editor of *Ex Libris News*.

Committees

At its first meeting each year, the Board of Directors sets up committees to facilitate the work of the Association. This year's committees are:

Annual Get-Together Committee: Margaret Beckman, Chair. Other members may be added.

Newsletter Committee: Elizabeth Ketchum, Chair; Pat Fysh, Nancy Hall, Callie Israel, Fred Israel.

Nominations Committee: Erich Schultz, Chair; Margaret Beckman, Margaret Cockshutt.

Personal and Institutional Archives Committee: Margaret Cockshutt, Chair; John Ball, Ann Schabas.

The Committees' respective terms of reference are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities drafted by Past president John Wilkinson and approved by the Board, June 16, 1997.

Archives management will be one of the priorities of the Board for 1998. Archivist Nancy Williamson has completed a preliminary assessment of the current holdings of the Association and recommended a plan of action to the Board.

She has also begun work on a policy statement for the retention and management of ELA records.

The Board is also anxious to raise awareness about the research value of personal and institutional archives relating to the history of librarianship in Canada. At its meeting of January 12, 1998, the Board approved the establishment of a Committee on Personal and Institutional Archives whose terms of reference are:

(a) To strive to raise consciousness of the value of librarian and institutional archives relating to the history of libraries and information science in Canada;

(b) To begin creation of a list of holdings of personal and institutional archives relating to Canadian librarians and libraries for publication, in print or electronic format, with initial reports in *Ex Libris News*;

(c) To communicate with libraries, archives and other institutions to develop ways and means of identifying, storing and making accessible archival materials relating to Canadian librarians and archives.

This is an ambitious project for the Board, and special thanks are owed to two of our members for furthering the work of this Committee. Dr. Beryl Anderson of Ottawa has undertaken a preliminary survey of librarians' papers held by the National Library of Canada and the National Archives which has been turned over to the Committee. Basil Stuart-Stubbs of Vancouver has provided the Board with information about holdings relating to library history found in the British Columbia Archives and in the University of British Columbia Archives. Basil has also sent us a copy of a report carried out by Simon Fraser University's Canadian

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ELA's Annual Get Together

Kitchener Public Library - November 3, 1997

A report by Arn Bailey

Arrangements for the Annual Get-Together, held for the first time in Kitchener, were made by Brian Land with the assistance of Margaret Beckman. Erich Schultz, President of Ex Libris, and Peggy Walshe, CEO of the Kitchener Public Library, welcomed about 40 attendees who had come from Kingston on the east, London on the west, and other points in between.

The principal event of the morning was a panel discussion on the Impact on Public Libraries of Ontario's Bill 109, chaired by Brian Land. At the time of the meeting, the Bill had passed second reading and 400 pages of briefs, including one from the Kitchener Library, had resulted in only minor changes.

Panelist Bruce MacNeil, Past Chair of the Kitchener Public Library Board, expressed concern about the loss of approximately 10 percent of the budget because of provincial government withdrawal of all its funding, the introduction of the possibility of user fees, and the dissolution of local library boards. On the last point, his belief is that the old system guaranteed that matters of censorship were outside the political arena, and that the selection policy would be wide. The old system has been well sustained by unpaid, dedicated people, he said. Because the Bill contains no guidelines for the composition of boards, he has worked on a proposal for one for the Kitchener area. As an aside, he outlined the success of the Foundation for Kitchener Public Library as a fundraising device.

Peggy Walshe, the second panelist, expressed concern over the problem of interpreting many of the clauses in the Bill. For example, some materials must be free for the disabled. Who are the disabled? Whoever they are, they would not like to be so labelled. Why is there no mention of the Internet? Why is the format of information the basis for

charges when the choice of format is often determined by its effectiveness? With the loss of \$475,000 in provincial grants, Peggy finds that she must consider charging practices for the book-keeping related to adding up pennies from borrowers. She is working to distinguish core from enhanced services for different types of financing, looking for short-term financial sources, and relying on the Library's Foundation. She said that she knew that people expect free services, but that they might expect more in terms of materials and technology if they made a small payment.

Lorne Bruce, Collections Services Librarian at the University of Guelph, reviewed earlier Library Acts in Ontario, stressing that in each there was a structure and a vision for a needed role for libraries. For example, in 1889 standards and funding for children's libraries were established, and in 1966 regional libraries came into being. Bill 109 is devoid of any such outlook. It ignores new technology and the role of librarians in technology. The Bill will result in tiers of service, pocket initiatives, the need to seek private funding, and libraries in fierce competition with other departments of the public sector. Most hurt will be regional libraries and small rural libraries.

In a surprise move later in the week of the get-together, the Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation announced that the Province would not be proceeding with Bill 109 and would restore \$18 million in provincial funding for libraries in 1998. A permanent withdrawal of the Bill's ideas? We must remain vigilant because of the issues raised by the panel.

The afternoon speaker was Elizabeth Hulse, librarian, freelance writer, researcher editor, and author of *The Morton Years*, the ELA-commissioned study of CLA's early history. Her current independent project centres on the life of Sir Daniel Wilson. She outlined his several careers. Before coming to

Canada from Scotland, where he attended school with William Nelson (publisher) and George Brown (journalist and politician), he worked first as an engraver and then, as an antiquarian, published a book on the historic buildings of Edinburgh. In Toronto he taught at University College, introducing to the English-speaking world a course in Anthropology, acted as President of the YMCA, worked in various charities including a house for newspaper boys and became the first President of the University of Toronto with the task of rebuilding after the fire in University College. Elizabeth spoke of the element of serendipity in her research, the people she has met, her stay in Edinburgh, and her search for his library, now in the Toronto Public and the Fischer Collection. His pictures are in the ROM and Elizabeth is undertaking to put together an exhibit of his watercolours from various sources including the National Gallery and the AGO. All in all Elizabeth added fascinating detail to what was for most of us only a name and to hear how she had uncovered these details was engaging. ♦

Editor's note: Thinking With Both Hands, the collection of biographical essays on Daniel Wilson, is slated for publication by University of Toronto Press in the spring of 1999. Elizabeth Hulse took over this project upon the death of Marielle Ash, the original editor and compiler. Four of the essays in the book were written by Ash and two by Hulse.)

The Mikas: A Publishing Story

by William F.E. Morley

Most readers will know of the Mika Publishing Company of Belleville, Ontario, for its enormous output of Canadiana - including reprints (usually improved) of long out-of-print and often rare Canadiana. During the company's history of over thirty years, however, it also published many original volumes, especially local histories, several of them written by the dynamic married partnership of Helma and Nicholas Mika, the proprietors. These two New Canadians performed an invaluable service to librarians and scholars, teachers and students, and the reading public in general. They put back into circulation well bound facsimile texts, many of them unavailable for years or, if extant, too fragile for ordinary use. By reducing the wear and tear on such volumes, the Mikas have gone a long way towards saving the printed heritage of Eastern Canada.

The Mikas' personal stories are as interesting as some of the narratives they published. Known as Helma and Nick Mika, these long-time Belleville residents were born in Europe. Nick, christened Nicholas Mika-Wladimiruk, claimed to be Ukrainian but was born in Poland (he sometimes spoke wistfully of Brest-Litovsk as his home town) on October 25th, 1912; the son of a Ukrainian businessman. He began his career teaching history in a high school in Poland, then gave it up to enter the University of Cracow. He then became a journalist and was working for a Warsaw newspaper when World War II was declared. The city was bombarded and before the year was out it was occupied by the invading Germans.

Soon after the occupation, Mika was picked up by a unit of the German Army while on his way to a local store to buy milk. He was taken to Berlin, his head was shaved, and he was put to work in a cheese factory. Clearly this work provided little scope for his considerable range of talents. He was an interpreter and an able writer in Russian, Polish and German as well as an

accomplished artist in watercolour, oil and pen-and-ink, so it was fortunate that a German lab technician befriended him and helped him obtain an office position. His life improved considerably; he was soon treated with respect by his German masters, and considers that, apart from the dangers of Allied bombing raids, he was actually better off than his captors.

When the war was over, Nick Mika stayed on in Germany, resuming his career as journalist and becoming entertainment critic for a newspaper in Frankfurt-am-Main. It was also in Frankfurt that he met Helma Rosa Kate Abenschein, the woman who would become his wife, and where he wrote his first three books and collaborated with Helma on two short novels with his own illustrations.

Although life was going well, he had long held a private dream: to move to Canada. He was sick of the class divisions in Europe and wearied of the devastation the war had left. In 1949 he emigrated, landing in Quebec City on July 11th with five dollars in his pocket. He found a position in Belleville, Ontario, in a retirement home called Hastings Manor. Soon after, he spent a short time on a farm, then secured a post at a chemical company, Union Carbide in Belleville. In three years he had saved enough money for Helma to join him. They were married June 23, 1951, with 30 friends present at the ceremony and a fancy wedding-cake. They have remained in Belleville ever since, returning only once, in 1960, to Germany.

In 1955, with printer's ink still in their blood, Nick and Helma started a small printing business as a hobby in their basement. They never looked back. It was not long before they established their respective roles in the business. Helma provided the bookkeeping and office skills, and edited her husband's shaky English. Nick provided the technical ability and artwork, and acted as salesman. In 1960 they took the plunge: After 12 years at the chemical company, Nick gave up his position and together

they went into the printing business full-time.

At first they found a market niche in industrial printing: silk-screening letters and numbers on telephone, radio and clock dials, electronic equipment, radio and auto parts, and other industrial pieces. This highly precise work required meticulous workmanship and very fine tolerances. (Also called serigraphy, the process was then well advanced in Germany; in principle it goes back to the oldest of all forms of printing.)

By mid-decade, the Mikas were able to concentrate on writing and printing. They published under the name Mika Publishing Company, as a division of Mika Silk Screening Ltd., their imprint name for several years. Their earliest volumes were richly illustrated with silk-screen prints. One I recall vividly was *Mosaic of Canada*. It was profusely illustrated with full-page reproductions of postage stamps, in glorious clear colours. In the late 1960s, *Mosaic of Belleville* and *Mosaic of Kingston* appeared, each enriched by numerous coloured pictures done by Nick with painstaking colour separation and hand-screening, and including many of his original illustrations. I have a copy of the Kingston book before me now, and the delicate tones and the tactile oil-painting appearance of the coloured plates render them charmingly distinct from the usual book illustrations.

The "mosaic" books were followed, over time, by at least a dozen more works relating to Kingston and Belleville; later there were historical and descriptive volumes on Niagara, Toronto (including reprints of three of the massive six volumes of Robertson's *Landmarks*), Ottawa, Long Point, London, Black Creek, Trenton and other places. Some were facsimiles of earlier works still in demand (usually with new introductions and indexes added), but several others were written entirely by the Mikas. By this time, they had almost abandoned illustration by silk-screening. While its results were strikingly attractive, this manual process

was too slow to keep up with the increasing pace of the Mikas' publishing schedule. Those early volumes graced by serigraphs are now valued collectors' items.

Although Mika Publishing issued a series of highly popular Canadian railway histories in the 1970s, local history remained their specialty. Over the years they published an impressive number of facsimile volumes of basic Canadian titles at the rate of at least half-a-dozen a year. They put back into print, in sturdy bindings (often of buckram), such respected regional histories as: Pringle, *Lunenburg* (1890); Carter, *Dundas* (1905); Haight, *Country Life in Canada* (1885); Canniff, *Settlement of Upper Canada* (1869); McLeod, *Brief Review of the Settlement of Upper Canada* (Cleveland, Ohio, 1841); Croil, *Dundas* (1861) (probably the first county history published in Canada); Leavitt, *Leeds and Grenville* (1879); Thomas, *Argenteuil and Prescott* (1896); Hubbard, *Stanstead* (1874); Bay of Quinte (ca. 1905); Eaton, *King's County, N.S.* (1910); DesBrisay, *Lunenburg, N.S.* (1870); Patterson, *Pictou, N.S.* (1877); and Prowse, *Newfoundland* (1895), among many others. (I have used place names for some instead of their actual titles.) Most have new explanatory introductions and indexes that open up the wealth of information concealed in each volume.

Particularly useful, especially for Ontario local history buffs, were such compendia as *Community Spotlight* (1974), which included brief histories in alphabetical order (and by various hands) of most of the settlements in four Eastern Ontario counties, and *Places in Ontario*, volume 2 of the ambitious three-volume *Encyclopedia of Ontario* compiled by the Mikas over a ten-year period that presented, in one alphabetical sequence, concise histories of most places in the province.

Coffee-table books, sumptuous oversized volumes that required a considerable investment of time and money, began to appear quite early in the Mikas' publishing venture. These include *Ontario of Yesterday*, *United Empire Loyalists* (one of a number of Mika books on the subject), *The Shaping of Ontario*, the lavishly illustrated *Indian Masks of Canada*, by D.F. Crawley, and the unusually fine photo-lithographic

facsimile of Lord Charles Beauclerk's *Military Operations in Canada, 1837-8-9*, dealing with the Quebec (Papineau) Rebellion. (Originally published by the author in London in 1840, in a limited edition intended for private distribution to family and friends, fewer than a dozen copies are known to exist in Canada. The facsimile was so expensive to reproduce that it was listed at \$375 a copy.)

Another ambitious early series was a full-sized facsimile reprinting of the country atlases of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. The first of these elephant folios, the atlas of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington counties, first published by J.H. Meecham of Toronto in 1878, sold for \$12. Nowadays these county atlas reprints fetch at least \$100 in the antiquarian book market, when copies can be found. They are almost as much in demand as the originals published 100 years before (now worth over \$300 and more, depending on the population density of the places described, and often in fragile condition), and brought the Mikas great success. They are popular with lawyers and realtors, genealogists and owners of old properties in both urban and farming areas, so many were reprinted several times. Eventually Mika reprinted all the Ontario county atlases – over 30 different titles.

The Mikas continued publishing into the 1990s, when Nick was in his eighties. "There's simply nothing else we would rather do!" they would say when asked if they were ever going to retire. From their original quarters on Dussek Street in their early years in Belleville, they moved into a small, stark warehouse on Stanley Street. In these premises their immense outpouring of publications took form. The walls were lined with bookshelves loaded with their stock, ever changing as the volumes shipped out were replaced by new publications. The office shelves were weighed down with reference books used to compile their original publications (they also consulted public library collections in Belleville and Toronto, Queen's University Library and the National Archives). In the central area of the plant were stacks laden with more of their publications, and space for wrapping and addressing orders for shipping.

Frequent visitors to the plant soon got used to stepping over pets and their bowls of food and water: at one time they had three dogs and eight cats on the premises! Helma and Nick had no children (their publications were their progeny), but both were devoted to animals. Nick once appeared in my office in tears: his pet squirrel had fallen to its death. They were enthusiastic supporters of the local Quinte Humane Society, organizing bingo meetings, annual concerts and other activities to raise funds. Nick was also a member of the Belleville Library Board, the local Historical Society, and the Rotary Club, where his fun and antics at the Club lunches brought him popularity – and also admonishment and fines.

Helma and Nick were in each other's company every day at the plant, and often travelled together as well. After their return visit to Germany in the 1960s, they stayed within Canada, except for the occasional fall visit to New England, an area they loved. They almost always travelled by car, mostly to gather information and take photographs for their books (Nick was an accomplished photographer), enjoying the time together away from the distractions of the plant. They were devoted to each other, and when Helma died on October 9th 1995 it was a terrible blow to Nick. His former secretary* took charge of his affairs, arranging for the sale of the Mika home, the plant and its stock of unsold books. Nick Mika now lives in Hastings Manor: the same nursing home where he held his first job in Canada half a century ago.

The achievement of the Mikas in publishing an estimated 250 titles of important Canadiana is enhanced by the fact that it was accomplished out of their own slender resources with minuscule outside support. Their tireless efforts and long hours of research over so many years surely deserve wider recognition and a public tribute from their adopted country. Come what may, their publications will stand as an enduring monument to their labours and their love of Canada.

*Ms. Carol Thompson, to whom I am indebted for many of the details in this article. W.M.

How I Became a Librarian

by Albert Bowron

I've forgotten which bar I was in. It could have been the Silver Rail at Yonge and Shuter. After all, Ontario had emerged from the beverage room, beer-only era in 1947 and establishments that were allowed to serve hard liquor were proliferating. In any case, I was depressed over my rye and ginger ale in a bar in Toronto.

After two socially stimulating but academically disastrous years in engineering at U of T, failed twice, I quickly enlisted in the RCAF to avoid being drafted and spent the last two years of the war as LAC 282872, Bowron, Aeronautical Engineering Draughtsman, posted endlessly to various Repair Depots. It was boring but, I assumed, necessary. Following a welcome discharge in 1945 and a \$100 clothing allowance I was back at U. of T. where a veterans allowance enabled me to take a Pass Arts degree in two years. Then I tried to please my father one more time by working in his food products business, Vancouver branch, where I spent more time partying and abandoning myself to sea-level ennui than in managing the bottom line. My father finally gave up trying to turn me into a capitalist. Burdened with guilt, what was I to do with my life?

Doug Fisher joined me at the bar. I told him about my problem. At this time Doug was a recent graduate of Toronto's School of Librarianship, not yet the famous journalist he was to become. He told me that library service would be good for me, and besides all the big jobs went to the few men in the profession. I thought about this and recalled that the psychologist and guidance people I had consulted during the demobilization process had indicated that my interests and abilities were society and community-oriented with a creative component. Up until then I had assumed this meant a teaching career. Now I saw myself in one of those "big jobs" with female librarians at my beck and call.

So that's how I found myself on the

top floor of the University of Toronto Schools building at the corner of Bloor and Huron Streets: the School of Librarianship.

Looking back on the year I spent obtaining a B.L.S. degree, it seems like an experience out of the last century. We mature post-graduate students, many of us veterans of the war, were required to sit in alphabetical order, our attendance recorded. A "library hand" was preferred if one couldn't type the catalogue cards. There were, of course, no computers or cataloguing-in-publication, no gadgets except manual typewriters. We had lectures on the history of printing, reference service and other basic subjects, and visits from experts in the field: Hilton-Smith, Deputy-Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Libraries on "library lighting"; Angus Mowat, Director of the Provincial Library Service on "the Act"; William Stewart Wallace on "Canadian literature"; Lillian H. Smith on "Work with Boys and Girls."

At the time it seemed like an extension of high school, but I did learn the essentials of library service and I began to look forward to my new career. With the help of the collective sense of humour of my colleagues and the comfort of the King Cole Room of the Park Plaza Hotel I managed to enjoy the year.

Ours must have been one of the most distinguished classes to graduate from the school, not as measured by academic achievement but by subsequent success in the Canadian library world for the next 40 years. There were Bob Davison, Margaret Cockshutt, Edith Firth, Diana Mason, Grace Buller, Helen O'Neill, and others. In the class photograph I see 50 eager faces. All the eight men are in suits and the women in skirts and similar hair-dos. In the front row were the star students: Eric Spicer, Dean Halliwell and Margaret Beckman sitting with the faculty: Eileen Weber, Bertha Bassam, Mary Silverthorn and Dean Winifred G. Barnstead.

By June 1949 I had graduated, married, and was on my way to my first job at \$2,500 a year in the Fine Arts

and Music Department of the old Vancouver Public Library at Main and Hastings. To get there cheaply I was hired by two chiropractor grads to drive them to Calgary in an old Ford. There were several free "adjustments" along the way. From Calgary, Margaret and I hitch-hiked through the mountains. I was back at sea level and at the start of a very satisfying 43-year career. ♦

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The Dalhousie Years

by John Wilkinson

When *Ex Libris News* asked me to write about my experience as Director of Libraries at Dalhousie University, I thought that it would be more meaningful if it were set against the events that led me into librarianship in the first place.

Possibly I was something of an anomaly when I took my BLS at Toronto in 1950 because, in a sense, I entered librarianship for the money! I had always been impressed with my father's professorial lifestyle and, having just earned my BA in history, when I overheard Sandy Sanderson, then Chief Librarian at the Toronto Public Library, telling Dad that he earned \$1,000 more than a full professor at the University of Toronto! I decided to look into this, to me, unknown occupation, which appeared to possess many of the attributes of academe yet paid considerably more!

The first thing I learned was that librarianship could indeed confer the measure of fame and fortune enjoyed by Sandy Sanderson, but only if you were, as he was, at the top. In fact, I learned, many libraries were known by the names of their chief librarians. Thus there was William Wallace's library at the University of Toronto and Dick Crouch's library in London and Freda Waldon's library in Hamilton; but who, outside those libraries, could name, with a few notable exceptions, subordinate staff? I don't think I particularly aspired to fame in the 1950s; but nor did I seek oblivion. I decided that I wanted, if possible, to become a chief librarian -- and to do that I needed to learn library administration.

Such learning, I discovered, did not come easily in Canada in the early 1960s. I was fortunate enough to gain the rudiments of library practice, first from Laura Loeber, the formidable Head of the Reference Department of the Toronto Public Library, and later from cultured, gentle Dorothy Thompson at the Ontario College of Education. But

nowhere in Canada, so Elizabeth Morton (then Executive Director of the Canadian Library Association) told me, was there any formal in-house training in library administration.

In desperation, I wrote to the American Library Association and was informed that a Frank Lundy, Director of Libraries at the University of Nebraska, was making a name for himself by practicing and publicizing something called subject divisional planning. Lundy, I was told, was looking for young people who would spread his gospel. At that time I didn't even know that Nebraska had a university, let alone an innovative and exciting library, but, full of youthful enthusiasm, my wife and I packed up our somewhat meagre belongings and two children (a third was born later in Halifax) and moved to Lincoln.

I thought (and still think) that Frank Lundy was a great librarian and that subject divisional planning provides librarianship with the intellectual basis without which it could not (and cannot) become a profession. Unless librarians gain the self-esteem that comes from being information experts (and to me being an expert requires focussing on a relatively narrow subject), they are merely cogs in some chief librarian's machine. The traditional forms-and-process organization understandably appeals to the individual, perhaps even to the group, at the top; but it does very little for the rank and file in a library. I became and remain Frank Lundy's devoted disciple and, when I decided that I was ready to strike out on my own and very fortunately found Dalhousie waiting, I had no difficulty in persuading the University's President and faculty to accept subject divisionalism as an extension of their own academic ethos.

I was not quite as successful with the library's professional staff because one of Lundy's basic tenets was that a librarian, to be effective, had to be willing to be both a reference librarian and a cataloguer. "You can't catalogue the collection if you don't know how it's used," said Frank, "and you can't be a

good reference librarian if you don't understand how the books are catalogued." These beliefs I accepted, but some very good staff at Dalhousie could not. There were those who maintained that they liked cataloguing but disliked meeting the public, and those who protested that they were reference librarians and could not master the intricacies of cataloguing. Consequently, I lost a few staff during my second year at Dalhousie, but was thus enabled to add new recruits who believed in subject divisionalism.

We loved Halifax more than any place we have ever lived. Spring and fall were gorgeous; neighbours and colleagues were congenial; and during this period, university - and consequently library - budgets were expanding dramatically. The Dalhousie faculty embraced the subject divisional plan with enthusiasm, since its emphasis on subject specialization was indeed their own emphasis. I was able to hire excellent and motivated senior and junior subject-oriented staff, each solely responsible for acquisitions, cataloguing, reference service and faculty contacts in her area of specialization. The unmanageable backlog of unprocessed material that had plagued Dalhousie, as it had almost every Canadian academic library in the 1960s, melted away within two years, since, if the reference librarian for modern European history was frustrated because an acquired title was not yet processed, she had nobody to blame but herself.

We managed by objectives rather than time-clocks, and, although staff would freely take time off, they would also, when necessary, work long beyond their scheduled hours. It was my proud boast that, although high staff turnover plagued most libraries during the affluent sixties, the Dalhousie Libraries experienced no work-related resignations during the years I was there (apart from the brief exodus mentioned above).

To most good things there is, however, an end. My friend Brian Land had become Director of the Toronto Library

School in 1962, and in 1963 I was invited there to teach a summer course in library administration. Although I had been very slowly pursuing my Ph.D. at the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, I had never envisaged teaching. Now, however, I had the opportunity to work with outstanding students such as Margaret Beckman and Muriel Jack, and with renowned teachers such as Tats Ball, Margaret Cockshutt, Florence Murray and Mary Silverthorne. I found the classroom environment much to my liking. The next summer I taught again at the library school, and in the fall of 1964 accepted an invitation to become a full-time member of the faculty.

The decision to move was by no means easy, however. Halifax and Nova Scotia, indeed the whole Atlantic seaboard, had a strong hold on my family and myself. Being a Director of Libraries at Dalhousie gave me a greater influence upon university policy than being a professor at Toronto, and the Deans' circle in Halifax was a very pleasant one. Moreover, by sheer chance I had chosen in Dalhousie what I now believe was the only Canadian university at that time to give the actual, not just the equivalent rank of full professor to its chief librarian, and I did not want to lose that rank.

On the other hand, the opportunity to work with first-rate students and the freedom and time I had to do interesting research, sometimes with those same students, gave to academic life a lustre which, at least in the decades between 1960 and 1990, had virtually no equal in the working world.

In addition, Brian not only matched the Dalhousie rank, but also gave me a sabbatical the year after I arrived in Toronto so that I could complete my doctorate. (This second concession, though certainly generous, was not quite as altruistic as it might seem, for it furthered a plan to raise the School's academic profile that had started with the appointment of Dr. Olga Bishop to the faculty. In the 1960s very few librarians had a Ph.D.)

Leaving Dalhousie represented a major career shift, but, in retrospect, my decision was the right one. I still treasure memories of our years there, but the time had come to move on. ♦

Canada House Library Revisited

by Elizabeth Ketchum

Readers of Ex Libris News may remember the 2-part article we ran on the closing of the Canada House Library. Liz Ketchum provides a sequel:

Madelaine Drohan, of the *Globe & Mail's* European Bureau, has written a perceptive piece on the forthcoming reopening of Canada House in London ("Canada House Makes Grand Return", p. D3, April 16, 1998). The press was given a "sneak preview" on the completion of repairs costing more than \$15 million.

Her article outlines the history of the building; the conditions of the lease that made restoration compulsory and persuaded the new Liberal government to retain, rather than return, "a window on Canada in the heart of London"; the problems of reconstruction (which sound like a mini version of those encountered at Windsor Castle); the cultural achievements to be showcased; and the services to be offered to visitors.

For Ex Libris members who may not have seen the *Globe* article, and who may remember the two-part reminiscences by Ruth Church Spencer, Elizabeth Ketchum and others ("Canada House Library 1945-1993", *Ex Libris News* No. 16 (Autumn 1994) and No. 18 (Autumn 1995)), the following extracts should be of particular interest:

"Like some dowdy matron given the chance to be a debutante again, Canada House on Trafalgar Square will be reopened in all its refurbished splendour May 13 by Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister Chrétien If it weren't for the missing library of 12,000 books, and the fact that the Canadian government was forced into doing the renovations in the first place, this would be an entirely good news story ... The library was the first casualty of the decision made by the Progressive Conservative government in 1993 to close Canada House as a cost-saving measure. Former High Commissioner Frederik Eaton closed the library and paid the

University of London to take the books. They are now incorporated into the university's collection of Canadiana and the school has refused to return them. (The High Commissioner is soliciting donations of hard-cover non-fiction books on Canada to fill its new, much smaller library.) ... the tiny room now set aside for the library will store about 45 CD ROMs on Canada plus whatever books are donated."

A previous news item announced that 94 soldiers from the 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry will begin guarding the gates of Buckingham Palace and performing other ceremonial duties on April 29th. Members of the regiment will attend the opening ceremonies of Canada House on May 13. ♦

A Library in the Wilderness

by Marion Cameron

"It's snowing. The snow is falling, falling. It covers the hills, the woods..." Against the background of a theme from Glazounov's Seasons, these words, in French, often introduced the radio serial, *Un homme et son péché*, by Claude-Henri Grignon. While I depended on my precious radio, the last in the shop for the duration, for war news and music, as a fledgling French teacher I also listened to accustom myself to the voices and accents of CBF, Montreal. As the story of the miser Séraphin and his hapless wife Donalda unfolded night after night, it seemed always to be snowing.

And outside, in Vankleek Hill, it was snowing. Snow covered the woods, the fields; the roads were packed with snow to a height of three or four feet. Snowplows were not used in the village or on any but the main highways. Sleighs were the preferred means of travel. During my first winter we had severe ice-storms; a thick coating of ice formed on trees and wires, and stayed for weeks. So heavy did the branches and young trees become that they were bowed down and held in the snow. We had some spectacular sunsets with all this crystal gleaming amber and gold. Although beautiful, the ice was destructive. Telephone lines came down, were restored with great difficulty, came down again.

I was teaching French and music in the Vankleek Hill Collegiate Institute in the years 1942-3 and 1943-4. This bilingual school served the Eastern Ontario village of about 1,600 and the surrounding area.

I had a room in the home of Mrs. Fred McIntosh, and just across the main street I had my meals at Mrs. Northcott's., whose house was also the village library. There were bookshelves in the hall from the front door back to the kitchen, and up the stairs to the landing. The only classification scheme was that the newer books were shelved nearest the front door, the older titles

being gradually moved back towards the kitchen. On the floor just inside the front door was a large wooden box against which one usually knocked one's ankle. It held the quarterly deposit of books from the Provincial Library Service, and every fresh shipment was greeted with great joy. Those of us who ate at Mrs. Northcott's had the luxury of being able to borrow or return books whenever we went for a meal. The membership fee was one dollar per year, or 25 cents for three months. A scribbler hung on a nail served as the circulation system. It was a beautiful example of what I would later hear Angus Mowat, in his lectures at the Library School, describe as an Association Library.

From being a patron of what was probably the largest library system in Canada, I had moved to one of the smallest. One of my warm memories of Vankleek Hill is of hurrying through the snow to Mrs. Northcott's for a hot supper, and a book to take home. Actually I don't think I read many books during those busy years; it was their presence that comforted me.

When spring came, I saw for the first time in my life roadside banks blue with violets, and woods white with trilliums. But my strongest memory of Vankleek Hill will always be the winter. It held us in the grip of its beauty and power. By March, I would have the feeling, as I looked at those hard, glittering trees, that spring would never come again. Years later, when I heard Gilles Vigneault's song "Mon Pays", I understood it completely:

Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays,
c'est l'hiver,
Mon jardin ce n'est pas un jardin,
c'est la plaine,
Mon chemin ce n'est pas un
chemin, c'est la neige,
Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays,
c'est l'hiver.

Marion Cameron writes: "After my stay in Vankleek Hill I returned to Toronto and the amenities of my familiar TPL. I taught for two more years and then became a librarian. I worked in the Windsor Public Library for eight years, then returned to the [Toronto] Library School for my Master's degree, and came to Guelph. I was at the University of Guelph Library (and its predecessor colleges) until my retirement."

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Montreal, the Ice Storm and Libraries

a few notes by Wendy Scott

Readers who have worked in libraries affected by major storms or other natural or man-made disasters may wish to add their memories to those in this issue. Some of you may remember "the other" ice storm at the end of February 1961 that shut down power in Montreal for a very cold week and kept thousands of commuters stranded downtown and bunked down in CNR Station. (I still remember arriving by train from New York and seeing an almost totally deserted Dorchester (now René Lévesque) Boulevard, with one lone pedestrian almost bent double against the wind). This year's storm began with freezing rain January 5th and ice began forming on trees and hydro lines. By Tuesday both were falling, and residents of much of eastern Ontario and western and central Quebec were plunged into cold and darkness.

The local press carried very few stories about the effects of this year's ice storm upon libraries. A few telephone calls furnished the following items:

The **Montreal Children's Library**, a privately supported system that provides library services for children not served by public libraries, has three branches. The Atwater Branch in downtown Montreal lost power for only two days but closed for ten days (January 9th-19th), when it was unable to use its computers: the City of Westmount considered that this would strain the still-fragile power supply.

Even libraries that retained power often became inaccessible when streets were closed to cars and pedestrians and metro lines were non-operational. MCL's Head Librarian Molly Walsh found that she was unable to take books to her library's book drop. Neighbouring streets were blocked by huge plows and ice, snow and fallen branches. Another problem was ice on roofs. Park Extension Branch had to call the city to remove huge blocks that were threatening to fall on the children

going in and out.

The Park Extension Branch did not lose power, so stayed open additional hours for residents in the neighbourhood who needed a place to go. The two staff members spelled each other out in order to provide service. Centennial Branch, on Old Orchard Avenue, N.D.G., is attached to a school and both were closed the full two weeks. The librarian from Richmond Square Branch did go to her post (despite anxieties expressed by Molly Walsh, as getting about the city was so difficult), but no children came: the streets were too dangerous and impassable.

Thanks to a generator that (unlike many others) managed to keep functioning, the **Pointe Claire Public Library** on Montreal's West Island was able to remain open during the blackout. The Library provided a warm shelter and hot coffee for employees and users, and even hot showers (the most-wanted item for many people), as the library is located in the town's community centre. With all schools closed, according to Chief Librarian Claire Côté, the children's program provided day care, storytelling, games and films; it also loaned toys to child patients in the local hospital. Naturally, lending statistics dropped, with readers too busy or tired to try to read by candlelight. After power was restored, the library had to close for a day and a half so that ice on the roof could be removed.

The Fraser-Hickson Library, another independent library that serves the district of Notre Dame de Grace, a heavily treed, residential section of the city that was particularly hard-hit, was closed for ten days. The Library's power supply returned January 15th but staff had to restart computers and let the building warm up before opening it to users. Librarian Frances Ackerman attributes the fact that the 39-year-old building was not damaged to its vigilant superintendent, who spent several nights in the building and responded

immediately when a basement pump gave out, thus averting flooding. Heavy ice buildup on the roof required freeing up of vents and drains. Trees surrounding the building suffered serious damage, and sheared-off branches from one landed on a parked car - with no injuries, fortunately. (Neighbours are cleaning up the branches and using them for firewood.)

One library gained some grateful new users during the ice storm. Elinor London, Librarian at **Côte-St-Luc Public Library** for 33 years, told me that the library prides itself on staying open 365 days of the year. Three days after the storm began, staff asked whether they could stay open all night. After some hesitation, she agreed. Ms London and a few staff members spent nearly the entire week in the library. It has three sitting-rooms with comfortable sofas and chairs, but the most-desired spot was the lounge with a wood-burning fireplace, where people could read and doze. One man, suffering from cerebral palsy, spent a few nights in the library with his wife. On the first night that he arrived, he was shivering and shaking from the cold. Staff wrapped him in blankets and gave him hot coffee. He was so grateful that he has contributed \$50.00 to the Library's Book Fund, although he has a very modest income, saying that whereas the hospitals treat him as a number, the library had treated him as a person.

Westmount Public Library tried to remain open as long as possible, but had to close on January 6th when its power failed. They reopened two more days, but had to close again on Friday. The Library is next door to Victoria Hall, which was turned into a shelter and heated and lit by a generator. During the second week of the storm, the Library was opened during part of each day, even though power went on and off. Readers could use the collection but not borrow books, as the city was power-shedding and circulation depends on its computers. Even with-

out heat or light, the library was a quiet, welcome refuge for many local residents, particularly for those living in emergency shelters.

After managing to remain open during the first four days of the storm, **McGill University Libraries** were forced to remain closed for nine days when Hydro-Québec asked the university to conserve power. The Library attempted to reopen January 16, and 20 staff were there, ready and waiting, until it became clear that power would not be restored, after all. Associate University Librarian John Hobbens noted that the greatest source of frustration was the loss of revenue for casual personnel and other expenses. Borrowers with overdue books were allowed an amnesty of one week, and the loss of revenue from fines, normally used to pay casual staff and to finance other expenses, amounted to thousands of dollars. ♦

Letters to the Editor

October 20, 1997

Dear Editor,

Re CELPLO's recommendation that the "free" requirement of the Public Libraries Act be removed: the Ontario Government has weakened its support for TVO, public libraries and other services. Why encourage a further weakening 115 years after Ontario proudly proclaimed the Free Libraries Act? Our history may prevent the semi-privatization faced by radio station CJRT. Our history, together with the international stature of public libraries, is ignored by CELPLO members. They should be ashamed.

Sincerely,
William Roedde
Toronto, Ontario

Errata

In our Spring issue, we published a letter from June Munro that described her work as a member of the Canadian Library Association executive office staff from 1956 to 1961. Unfortunately, one of the sentences in Ms Munro's letter was inadvertently omitted. Ms. Munro wrote: "Although I am quoted in the book (*The Morton Years*), my time with the C.L.A. office is not mentioned." This sentence was the reason behind Ms. Munro's letter; we apologize to her for our mistake.

The review of *The National Library of Canada and Canadian Libraries: Essays in Honour of Guy Sylvestre* (Ottawa, CLA/ASTED, 1996) omitted the price: \$27.95 (paper)

The Editor

President's Message Continued from page one

Centre for Studies in Publishing. This has led to the compilation of a Canadian Publishers' Records Database which might serve as a model for a finding aid for library history. We hope it will be possible to publish the first edited entries of library history holdings in the Fall issue of *Ex Libris News*.

Annual Get-Together

We had an enthusiastic and successful Annual Get-Together in Kitchener on November 3. There were 33 members and four non-members in attendance.

Membership and Finances

John Ball, Membership Secretary, reports that, as of December 31, 1997, our Association had 176 members of whom 23 are life members. Treasurer Ann Schabas reports that the Association's net assets stood at \$9,196.38.

Ottawa Meeting

A special luncheon meeting of the Ex Libris Association was held in Ottawa on September 15, 1997, with Mike Duffy, CTV political commentator, as our infor-

mative and entertaining guest speaker. There were 38 registrants for the meeting, whose purpose was to describe and publicize the Association. Subsequently 11 new members joined ELA. Congratulations to Erich Schultz for initiating this event -- the first at which the Association had met other than at our annual Get-Togethers. Thanks also to Erik Spicer for making arrangements for the speaker, space at the Ottawa Public Library, and the caterers.

Presence at Meetings of Other Associations

As part of our continuing effort to publicize ELA, we were represented at the February 1997 conference of the Ontario Library Association in Toronto by our liaison representative, Paula de Ronde and by Arn Bailey, and at the June 1997 Conference of the Canadian Library Association by Marie Zielinska. Our thanks to these two associations for providing space in the exhibit area to enable us to make our presence and activities known to a wider audience.

Stan Beacock's gift to librarianship

The following item on ELA's founding editor is excerpted from an article by Dahlia Reich published in *The London Free Press*, Feb, 1998.

"More than 50 years ago, Stan Beacock made a promise.

"Just after the war, he paid a visit to a minister who had helped him financially to finish high school and attend university. The minister's generosity meant everything, but when Beacock tried to repay him, the minister would only accept a promise he do the same for someone else.

"That promise is paying out \$1,500 each year in bursaries to help support three University of Western Ontario students studying library and information sciences. And it's a gift that will keep on giving long after Beacock and his wife, Nadine, are gone. The former director of London Public Libraries has made sure through his will that his promise becomes a generous legacy. ♦

Milestones

Awards, Honours and Accomplishments

Daniel Boivin has been named director of OCLC Canada. He no longer represents Chadwyck-Healey in Canada. From 1987-90 he was automated services librarian at CISTI.

Norman Horrocks was named an honorary fellow of the Library Association (LA) in Britain for his service in furthering relations between British and North American library associations, at the LA Members' Day, London, Oct. 27. The first person to receive the top recognition awards of CLA, ALA and the LA, he is the recipient of the CLA Award for Distinguished Service to Librarianship and the Lippincott Award from ALA.

Gabrielle Leblanc, Shediac Public Library, received a Certificate of Excellence on New Brunswick Day, 1997, in recognition of the contribution her library programs have made to the community and to the province.

Retirements

William Birdsall resigned Sept. 30 after 15 years as university librarian of Dalhousie University, but is staying on as a librarian without a term. Dr. Traves, President and Vice-Chancellor of Dalhousie, commended him for his "strong leadership in the development of the library at Dalhousie".

Bohus Derer, chief executive officer of the City of York Public Library retired in August 1997. He was replaced by George Shirinian, head of the main library and assistant chief executive officer.

Anne Hart retired at the end of 1997 from her position as Head, Centre for Newfoundland Studies, Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland. Author of Agatha Christie's *Hercule Poirot: the Life and Times...*, she will use her retirement to devote more time to her writing.

Helgi Kernaghan took early retirement at the end of July, 1997 after 21 years as reference librarian, Brock University.

Mary Dykstra Lynch retired from her full-time faculty position at the School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, Sept. 1997. She was associated with the School from its founding in 1969 and was its director from 1986-94. She will continue as adjunct faculty member.

David MacCallum, executive director of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) since 1986, left the Association Sept. 1997 after completing a two-year leave of absence.

Soeur Jeannine Michaud retired in 1997 from her position as directrice de la Bibliothèque, Université de Moncton, Campus d'Edmunston.

Frank Pigot, Reference Librarian responsible for the Prince Edward Island Collection, retired July 1, 1997 from the Robertson Library, University of PEI.

Barbara Preschel has retired as executive director of PAIS (Public Affairs Information Service, Inc.)

Dan Savage retired from his position of University Librarian, University of P.E.I., July 1, 1997.

K. Wayne Smith will retire in June from his position as president and chief executive officer of Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC). He will continue to serve OCLC in an advisory capacity.

Jennifer Taylor, Reference Librarian responsible for Health Sciences, retired July 1, 1997, from the University of P.E.I.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth (Slimming) Alkman, BLS, Toronto, 1937, died on November 27, 1997, in Edinburgh, Scotland, where she had lived since her marriage in 1939.

Lillian Benson, who retired from the University of Western Ontario Library System after 36 years of service, died on Sept. 22, 1997, at the age of 86.

Eva Borda, retired librarian who served in the Science Library of the University of Western Ontario for 19 years, died in the autumn of 1997 at the age of 76.

Adele E.G. Curry, BLS, Toronto, 1941, died in Toronto, January 5, 1998. Until her retirement she was Chief Librarian of the Canadian Cancer Society Medical Library, Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto. Before holding that position, she served on the staff of the Science and Medicine Library, University of Toronto.

Ferne (Henderson) Skerrett Dickson, Dipl. Lib., Toronto, 1934, who had worked at Hamilton Public Library, died in Toronto on February 27, 1998, in her 84th year.

William Arthur (Art) Forgay, 72, died Sept. 11, 1997, in Regina. President of the Canadian School Library Association (CSLA) 1978/79, and winner of the Margaret B. Scott Award of Merit and the Frances Morrison Award for SLA's Outstanding Service to Libraries in Saskatchewan, Forgay taught at various elementary and high schools in Saskatchewan, served as principal of Estevan Collegiate for 13 years, and worked with the Saskatchewan Dept. Of Education. He served as a sessional lecturer at universities in seven provinces across Canada, and served as a member and chair of the Estevan Public Library Board, the Saskatchewan Provincial Library Advisory Council, and Regina Public Library board of trustees.

Lorraine E. (Kirby) Green (BLS, Toronto, 1962) died at age 57 in Marriott's Cove, N.S., December 30, 1997. She worked as a librarian at Queen's and Dalhousie universities, as a library consultant, and operated a bookstore for several years. More recently she was Director of Development for the Nova Scotia Heart Foundation. She was also President of the Dalhousie Alumni Association, served for many years on the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University, on several community boards including the

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Halifax Regional Library Board and Discovery Centre, and was Chair of the IWK Children's Hospital Kermesse.

Eileen Patricia (Pat) Hay, 77, of Oakville, Ont., died in North Fort Meyers, Florida, on March 8, 1998. A graduate of the University of Toronto (BLS, 1964, MLS, 1975), she was on the staff of the Ontario Legislative Library, Toronto, for a number of years, and was Acting Legislative Librarian from 1976 to 1978.

Lesley Muriel Heathcote died during the summer of 1997. A graduate of the University of Alberta (BA hons 1924, MA, Philology, 1928), she took her BS in Library Science from University of Washington, where she worked for 15 years. She was professor and director of libraries from 1965 until 1970. In 1996 she donated \$225,000 to the University of Alberta to establish new scholarship endowments for undergraduate and graduate students of library and information studies.

Betty Henderson, on Oct. 7, 1997, professor emerita, School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), University of Alberta. Winner of CLA's Outstanding Service to Librarianship in 1985, Prof. Henderson taught librarianship at University of Alberta from 1969-1982, was SLIS's second director and first Dean, and in 1994 donated \$30,000 to the School to establish a scholarship fund for MLIS students.

Maisie (Kay) Kenny, 75, on Oct. 23, 1997, in Ottawa. Known to many librarians as membership secretary of CLA, she retired from that position in Oct. 1987 after almost 27 years with the Association.

Louise Lefebvre, pioneer in special libraries in Quebec, in Montreal, 30 June 1997. A graduate of Université de Montréal (BA, Diplôme supérieur en littérature française), and McGill (BLS), she worked in special libraries from 1933 until 1971: at Montreal's École des Beaux Arts, the federal Dept. of Agriculture in Ottawa, and the Canadian Pulp & Paper Institute, where she was Chief Librarian. One of the founders of both QLA/ABQ (Association des bibliothécaires du Québec) and of the Corporation des bibliothécaires du Québec, she held senior positions in both organizations, was active in CLA and SLA, edited the QLA Bulletin for 10 years, was the author and editor of numerous publications, and edited briefs to the Parent Commission, the Public Library Act, and the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism.

Andrew D. Osborn, founding dean of SLIS, University of Western Ontario, died at age 94 in a nursing home in Massachusetts in June, 1997. Dean from 1966 until 1970, Prof. Osborn was born in Australia, held his bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Melbourne, and joined the Australian National Library in 1927. He earned his Ph.D. from Columbia while working at the New York Public Library, was a librarian and teacher at Harvard for 20 years, librarian of University of Sydney, and professor of library science at the University of Pittsburgh.

Peggy (Summerhayes) Reuber died February 15, 1998, in Toronto. She was 67. After working in libraries in London,

Ontario, she became one of the first graduates of SLIS at Western. She studied archives management in Ottawa, and worked for the Canadian Bankers Association there. She was also involved in a research project at the Natiooan Library (with historian Ramsay Cook), and organized the archives for at least one private educational institution.

Enid Delgatty Rutland, 62, in Ottawa, after a long illness. Born in Flin Flon, Man., she studied chemistry at the University of Saskatchewan (BSC, 1956), worked in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University for three years, received her MLS (McGill) in 1972 then worked as a librarian for the federal government. She began writing at an early age, and published four books of poetry: *Where the Highway Ends*, *Stories and Rhythms of Flin Flon*, *Close to the Bone*, and *The Cranberry Tree*. A fifth collection, *Winter Mosaic*, was uncompleted at the time of her death.

Père Joseph Sablé, 89, L. En Th., L'ès L., D.E.S., D. Litt. S. Honoris causa, Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, in Paris. He was a member of the Department of French, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, from 1971 to 1986. Teacher, scholar and book collector, his gift of over 12,000 books to the John M. Kelly Library provided the basis for the Centre d'études romantiques. He was honoured by the government of France and the University of St. Michael's College for his outstanding contribution to the dissemination of French culture and to the intellectual life of the University.

Trudie (Tredwell) Town, 67, died suddenly at Toronto Western Hospital on January 29, 1998, from complications following hip surgery. The youngest person (at 16) to enter the University of Toronto's Victoria College (BA, B.L.S. '51), she was with the Toronto Public Library system for 35 years; becoming a branch head; at her retirement September 1986, she was Assistant Chief Librarian, User Services. An appreciation of her life and marriage to the celebrated painter Harold Town was published in the "Lives Lived" column of the *Globe and Mail*, March 12, 1998.

Barbara Vitols, 68, retired librarian with 19 years of service in the University of Western Ontario Library System, died July 26, 1997, in Victoria, B.C.

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