



ELAN

Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Is Librarianship as a Profession Headed for Oblivion?

Summaries of the panel discussion at the ELA Annual
Get-together, November 4, 2002

**SUMMARY BY
MARY F. WILLIAMSON**

Librarianship is undergoing many changes. Some insist for the worse.

After a career as a bookseller to North American research libraries, Nicholas Basbanes in his book *Patience & Fortitude* has described a nightmare situation in which a major U.S. public library's research collections were decimated according to management fiat in the latter years of the 20th century, and specialist librarians were turned into generalists.

One of the Get-together's panelists, Dr. Roma Harris, has written about the deprofessionalization of the reference librarian. Those of us who are susceptible to gloomy prognosis perhaps fall into the stereotype of an older generation critical of those who follow them. But it is true that many librarians of all ages are pessimistic about the future. That the problem is greatly exaggerated was argued by one chief librarian who is a member of our panel, Deborah Defoe, while others suggest that the profession is simply in need of radical change.

The jury is out, but we listened to our six panelists and members

of the audience, and perhaps we came closer to a verdict.

Identity Shaping: Is Time Running Out For Librarians?

Dr. Roma Harris is Vice-President and Registrar at the University of Western Ontario, where she has been a faculty member in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science since 1982. Among her several advanced degrees she holds a PhD in Psychology from Western. Her research focuses on aspects of technological change in the information age, and gender issues within the professions, in particular in the career development of librarians. Roma Harris is the author of Librarianship: the Erosion of a Woman's Profession (Norwood NJ: Ablex Pub. Corp., 1992)

Dr. Harris began by stating that current developments suggest that the future of librarianship may be in jeopardy.

Consumer health information provides an example. When seeking health information, people want current, up-to-date, accurate, credible, easy-to-understand information.

Is Librarianship as a Profession Headed for Oblivion?

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Although there is an overwhelming amount of health-related information available, especially through the Internet, much of it is of questionable quality. Information obtained through the mass media often has limited credibility as does that produced by corporate interests, particularly drug companies.

Librarians are very well equipped to act as intermediaries between information seekers and information resources. However, their role and skills are misunderstood and they are often overlooked when information organization and retrieval skills are sought.

In the face of IT experts, database managers, and knowledge managers, many believe that librarians and libraries are becoming irrelevant in the age of digital information. After all, everything we need to know is on the Net and we no longer need professional intermediaries.

Recent studies indicate that for many, the word librarian suggests low status. At the same time, schools for the education of librarians are abandoning the terminology of librarianship. As a result, it is increasingly difficult to recruit talented people into the profession, and the public is unaware that the very information organization and management skills they may be seeking are best found in librarians.

A worrying development is that provincial governments are establishing centralized health information centres with little awareness of, and no consultation with, public libraries, many

of which already provide the public with consumer health information. In Ontario, for example, millions of dollars are being spent on e-Health initiatives, some of which may duplicate services already available in public libraries, sometimes purchasing these same services from private vendors.

According to Harris, "information is a huge commodity, and librarians are not on the map." Neither librarians nor the library associations seem to be lobbying, responding or making themselves heard on these issues, at a time when the skills of the profession are needed more than ever.

The Report of the Death of (Public) Librarianship is Greatly Exaggerated

Deborah Defoe has been Chief Librarian of the Kingston & Frontenac Public Library since 1999. She is a graduate of the UWO library science programme.

Deborah Defoe briefly reviewed how free public libraries emerged in the mid-19th century based on the democratic ideal of free access to information and ideas as a fundamental human right. Public libraries gradually were recognized as beneficial even indispensable to our communities, and beginning in the 1960s there was a public library building boom in Canada accompanied by a huge demand for librarians. Librarians could feel self-fulfilled and relatively secure in their chosen career.

In the nasty nineties, political forces for whom the bottom line was all important made life difficult for librarians: wage freezes, attrition of professional staff, municipal amalgamation, downloading. And finally the information highway or Internet arrived, with many predictions of how it would be the death knell for public libraries and librarians.

However, the reality has been very different. The federal government has established its Community Access Program to promote universal access to the Internet and to provide training in structured searching. They recognized that the resources and personnel were already in place to provide these services, and that librarians possessed the skills "to select, organize, and structure knowledge and to navigate through seas of information."

"We are everywhere," she asserted. The expertise of public librarians is being sought in connection with numerous provincial government programmes, and their skills are being recognized and employed as never before. Today libraries are buzzing.

Public librarians are leaders in the defence of intellectual freedom, and they are still the people who introduce children to reading, who collect materials related to local history and digitize them and spread them beyond library walls, and who reply to in-depth reference questions. They are the link between the citizen and the knowledge he or she seeks. And they are going to be around for a long, long time.

Senior Qualified Applicant - A Threat to the Profession? A Union Member's Perspective

Maureen O'Reilly is Recording Secretary for local 416 of the Library Division of the Toronto Civic Employees Union, and Executive member-at-large for the union. She is Public Services Librarian at the Brentwood District Library of the Toronto Public Libraries.

Maureen reviewed what she sees as the REAL threats to our profession: downsizing, slash and burn budget cuts, contract-ed-out book selection, weeding

collections by the foot, the acceptance of minimum cataloguing standards, low salaries, poor benefits, and a higher ratio of part-time workers (the McDonaldization of library workers). And in Toronto there is the cookie cutter approach to services: "everyone should be able to do everyone else's job." Additional degrees or specialties are seen to just complicate matters. There are still wide discrepancies in salaries six years after amalgamation. Wage harmonization is the subject of continuing negotiations, and redeployment will follow it.

Library workers make up about a quarter of the 10,000 strong Toronto Civic Employees Union, Local 416, and the arrangement has resulted in better contracts. For example, the male-dominated outside workers have always enjoyed shift premiums, but library workers – predominantly female – were denied shift premiums in negotiations because, they were told, it was a tradition not to pay them. That particular act of gender discrimination was publicized at city hall and library workers without delay were made eligible for shift premiums.

One perceived threat to the profession is the "senior qualified applicant" in the promotions process now in place for library workers. The relevant clause states that "the library hires workers into positions who bring with them years of experience and knowledge and a great commitment to the organization by placing them in positions that they are qualified to do with a minimum of bureaucratic fuss, in a minimum of time and at a minimum cost." After years of negotiations, the library workers secured a modified version of the original language but it doesn't include librarians. What they have is the best candidate process which is costly and time-consuming, has spawned an

avalanche of grievances, and is discriminatory. It is too early to know how the new collective agreement just ratified will work.

What is needed is change, discussion, leadership and respect. Maureen concluded: "Is librarianship under threat? Yes, I believe it is."

Where Is My Expert?

Elizabeth (Liz) Driver is the author of an indispensable British culinary bibliography published in 1987, and her bibliography of Canadian cookbooks. Culinary landmarks: a bibliography of Canadian cookbooks from 1825 to 1949 will be published next year by the University of Toronto Press. Liz's research goes far beyond what most people expect of a bibliography. Besides identifying pre-1950 Canadian cookbooks in libraries, archives, museums, and private collections across Canada, she has explored the lives of the mostly unknown but often influential authors who researched and compiled these cookbooks, most of whom were connected with government departments, churches and service organizations, cooking schools and food manufacturers. Currently Liz is editing a series of early Canadian cookbook reprints for Whitecap Books in Vancouver.

Having visited hundreds of libraries in the course of her work, Liz reflected on how "it is precisely the skills, knowledge, and judgment of the professional librarian that determine the quality of the library experience." However, new technologies, management theories and decreased funding may be compromising service. While it seems that librarians are being pushed to the margins, their input is more necessary than ever.

The librarian who has expertise in a particular field, who knows the library's holdings and the collections in cyberspace and how to access them, "is my essential expert and ally." Being able to establish a relationship with a librarian, and re-contact them later has resulted in librarians getting back to her with their finds. But today, with e-mail references services being offered anonymously, it is becoming impossible to follow up initial questions with more complex queries. A worrying trend in public libraries is to charge for e-mail reference services, even when it is a matter of simply checking a card index across the room.

While Liz insisted that she had little idea of the debates that go on within the profession, she said she wondered about what is behind the enormous changes in the physical space of the research libraries she regularly visits. Of the Toronto Reference Library, it seems that "this great library had been reduced to an internet café," as library visitors, use the building primarily for searching the internet or to use e-mail. The new technologies in themselves are not a concern, but the utopian visions of providing access to knowledge and information to anyone and anywhere that seem to accompany them are worrying. Such systems will never be perfect, and will not replace the guidance of a professional librarian – "the kind of librarian upon whom I have relied in every step of my personal research journey."

Librarians of the Future - Following the 'Red Thread' of the Question

Mary Cavanagh is Manager of Virtual Services at the Ottawa Public Library. She is a second-year student in the PhD program at FIS. Her mother, aunt and sister are all FIS graduates.

The title of the presentation is from Marcia Bates' "The invisible Substrate of Information science," an article which neatly articulates the essence of library work which Bates believes has a unique and valuable niche within the social sciences. Librarians are on the perpetual quest for the red thread of information. According to Bates, the theoretical framework for librarians addresses three big questions: the physical question, the social question and the design question.

Historically librarians have adopted a neutral stance towards their collections as a basis for their support of intellectual freedom. But they continue to act as guardians or gatekeepers at their peril. The gatekeeper role has been usurped by information technologies. Librarians must take risks. They must take positions on content, on collections and on the internet.

Public librarians have been inclined to disguise their role in client education. However, they have a central role in educating their clients although today they resist this role. Who better understands the information seeking process from the clients' perspective, recognizing when it is simple or complex.

One threat to the profession comes from library administrators who respond to budget reductions by pushing librarians into management positions. These actions strip the institution and the profession of its value. Most librarians chose to become public librarians because of their commitment to community service. The profession's future in the Internet age depends upon librarians' ability to be recognized as full-fledged members of their client community. Librarians should shrug off limited historically-rooted values and roles and define their new place

in this brave new world by example, that is, by answering one information problem and resolving it, and providing service to one client, one occasion at a time.

Librarianship - Changed, Not Doomed

Peter Hajnal retired in 1997 as International Organizations and Government Information Specialist in the University of Toronto Libraries. He has taught as an adjunct Professor at FIS. He is currently Research Associate at the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto, and a Senior Library Consultant to the Southeast European University at Tetovo, Macedonia.

Since its ancient beginnings, librarianship has undergone many transformations, with the technological revolution the most dramatic in recent years. Librarianship will survive because the need for highly skilled librarians continues and is actually increasing.

The 'culture of the manager' has been accompanied by a lack of systematic long-range planning in libraries, and has brought about the 'deskilling' of librarians. Turning specialist librarians into generalists has eroded reference services and the scattering of specialized collections. To reverse this trend, academic and public librarians need to enlist allies among faculty and city politicians. Librarians must not be afraid to assert themselves and build informal networks in the face of bad managerial decisions.

Technological skills are being increasingly valued by managers, but the true specialist understands both traditional and electronic resources, and will harness technology to empower the profession.

In the library education sphere, information studies is replacing librarianship. One-time schools of librarianship are broadening their scope and are merging with other disciplines. They are doing this as a matter of survival and to increase their administrative and financial clout within their universities.

Librarianship is changing in many ways for the better, and in some ways for the worse, but the profession is flexible and adaptable, and it will survive.

Selected Topics from the Discussion

Question, Joan Winearls: *Would Roma Harris and Deborah Defoe like to explain their apparently opposing views: the one optimistic, and the other negative?*

Roma Harris : I'm not sure our positions are so different. Public libraries today are being put at risk as public resources are diverted away to other interests, and they are unable to deliver levels of service that people expect. The profession of librarian has an identity problem, and it is difficult to attract the people who are needed. At UWO the name change in the library programme was a survival mechanism. No other professional group has decided that when the tough times come and they should reshape themselves and develop new skills, that it would be better to be called something else.

Deborah Defoe : Public libraries need quality people on their boards, and through the Trustees Division of OLA board members are being prepared for advocacy. It is the responsibility of everybody in the room to serve on library boards and to recommend candidates.

Mary Cavanagh : Libraries are not cheerful places at the moment. Politics at all levels are making it essential for librarians as professionals to stake their claim, and not just on a regional basis.

Question, Phyllis Platnick:

Roma Harris was critical of library associations. Would she expand on this?

Roma Harris : Library associations are not recognizing that library turf is being undermined. There is no credible association that represents the profession. We need people who can speak freely, independent of their roles as employees in various organizations. Public librarians, because so many are in management positions, are severely compromised in their ability to speak out. On the other hand, retired librarians have the freedom to say whatever they like! The Ex Libris Association is apparently considering opening its membership to non-professionals, but this would detract from the profession having a credible voice. Librarians have no political voice. The intellectual foundation of what librarians do is unknown to the public. For example, for their article in the July 2002 *The Library Quarterly*, Lynn McKechnie and Kirsti Nilsen report disturbing discoveries: students at UWO and the public generally assumed that faculty, government officials, publishers, board members – anybody but librarians – choose the books for libraries. She exhorted us: "Rise up Ex Libris and shoot off your mouths!"

Question, Paula de Ronde:

What ideas can the panel give us to start the revolution of the librarian as rebel. We're not used to that. When I retired I said "I am leaving the job, but not the profession!"

Mary Cavanagh : I'd like to join the 'rebel librarians', but in my library I can't even criticize our funding agencies who support machines.

Maureen O'Reilly : The City of Toronto has recently proposed 'alternative service delivery' which is a blueprint to privatize public services. Water is the first to be considered, but libraries tend not to grab the headlines and it is only a matter of time before they will be on the chopping block.

Peter Hajnal : We need to enlist allies, in university libraries key faculty, in public libraries their own structures, MPs and MLAs. We can learn from our American colleagues, many of whom are not reluctant to speak out within ALA.

Question, Joyce Sowby:

Elizabeth Morton never refused to get into a fray that needed CLA's support. What is CLA doing? We have been infected today by the enthusiasm of our panelists, and we should try to re-create today's panel at the next CLA conference.

Roma Harris : It is healthy to have a national organization around which we can congregate, but the problem is that the mandate of a library association, whose membership is open, is very different from an association of librarians. There would be a conflict of interest if the

library associations took up the cause of one of the member groups which include library employees and trustees. There is no Canadian movement today to start a professional group. It's difficult to interest young people in the profession. Library programmes are still thriving, although there isn't nearly the demand compared with the way they line up to get into other professional schools.

Summing up by the Moderator, Mary F. Williamson, for ELAN:

Our public and academic libraries are busy places, but the librarians working within them are threatened by current management policies and the fact that their expertise and contribution is close to invisible to library users and to the general public. The lack of professional identity and status eliminates librarianship as a serious career option for ambitious young people. With library associations (by virtue of their mixed membership) unable to publicly advocate the role and importance of the librarian in the information age, E.L.A., which is one of the very few associations of librarians, is in a ideal position to rise to the challenge.

ELAN would like to thank Mary F Williamson for putting together this summary.



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
& GET-TOGETHER
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2003**

The theme of the day will be "3rd Millennium Libraries: How Will They Function?" The proposed site for the meeting is Eatonville Public Library, itself a 3rd millennium structure located in Etobicoke, very close to several major highways.

More to follow!!!

As I Saw It London, A Gala Year Part II

BY AL BOWRON

Angus Mowat, head of the Provincial Library Service, famed for his poached eggs on toast and martini lunches at the El Mocambo, had given me a commission before I left in 1951 for my adventurous year in the U.K. An ad was placed in the *Times Literary Supplement* inviting British librarians to work in Canada. In 1950 there was a serious shortage of qualified personnel, particularly in public libraries in Ontario. Angus's idea was to swipe ALAs and FLAs from Britain, which was also experiencing a shortage in the post-war growth period. I was to set up in the Library Association in Chaucer House, Malet Place, Bloomsbury, interview respondents to the *Times* ad, and report.

The Library Association was most cooperative. On arrival I was given private space, a typewriter, supplies and a warm greeting. My wife Margaret agreed to type for me, and the Membership Secretary, Mr. Haslam, agreed to receive my mail. I soon understood the underlying reason for their cooperative and friendly attitude. All the mail addressed to me had been opened. Welsford, the Secretary of the Association, and Haslam wanted to note those members who were ready to desert the old sod! I couldn't,

after showing annoyance at this serious breach of etiquette, do anything but accept the situation and carry on.

I interviewed some 30 respondents, and made comments and notes. Margaret corrected and typed them. They were sent to Angus for distribution to chief librarians in Ontario.

I must say, those who made the commitment to Canada were a great success and contributed a great deal to our libraries.

Next, to represent Canada at the Centenary of the passing of the First Public Library Act in Great Britain, Elizabeth Morton and the CLA selected a group of important Canadian library types to attend this important event. Because I was already in London, Margaret and I were included. This meant receiving a big, fat envelope of tickets to social events, great blue and gold badges and a programme of meetings and excursions.

For the next five days I hobnobbed with Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of Congress; Dr. Pierre

Bougeois, the Swiss National Librarian; Dr. S.R. Ranganathan from Delhi; Berwick Sayers; Sir Arnold Plant and other mythical librarians from many countries. When the names of the Canadian delegation were read out we were there in full strength: Peter Grossman, Dr. W.K. Lamb, Miss L. Proctor, Miss E. Henderson and me.



Photo: Al Bowron and Margaret admiring a Roman wall, England, 1950.

The Library Association organized the celebration in spades. There was a reception in the ancient City Guildhall thrown by the Lord Mayor. Our names were announced in ringing tones by the Common Crier. All officials were in gold, scarlet and royal blue with chains and medals. Vice Admiral Earl Mountbatten of Burma, substituting for the Duke of Edinburgh, invited us all to a sumptuous reception in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The hors d'oeuvres and highballs emboldened me to break protocol. Defying the objections of the Library Association Secretary, Mr. Welsford, I introduced myself to the

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Out In BC-Land

BY HOWARD OVEREND
Salmon Ar m

Under Review...

From Victoria comes word that BC public libraries are under review by the BC provincial government's Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

Following a request for proposals issued January 7, the Zethof Consulting Group Inc. of Victoria has been engaged by the ministry to conduct research, consult with stakeholders, and develop a draft strategic plan for the support and development of public libraries in British Columbia.

Zethof is currently consulting with "organizations and individuals designated by the Public Library Services Branch" to identify issues, opportunities, trends, needs, and priorities.

A paper outlining issues and opportunities is slated for online publication by April 30 for stakeholder and public feedback, and on May 31 the project will be presented at a BC libraries conference at Harrison Hot Springs.

A draft strategic plan for public libraries is expected to be online by July 18 and on November 30 a report and final draft will be given to ministry head the Hon. George M. Abbott.

What does all this mean? With its ominous reference to diverse stakeholders and opportunities – and to allowing the government "to consider its fundamen-

tal values" within which "goals and objectives and strategies can be designed in consultation with the library community" – the announcement seems to presage privatization in some form or other in the delivery of public library service in British Columbia.

Lifelong Learning...

The British Columbia Library Trustees Association (BCLTA) is marketing nifty bumper stickers and fridge magnets (Lifelong Learning @ your library) that can be used for advocacy anywhere. To order, go to www.bclta.org and click on Marketplace, or phone 1-604-913-1424.

New in Nelson...

In the "beautiful mountain city of Nelson" in southeastern B.C. is the Nelson Municipal Library, (Deborah Thomas, Librarian) founded in 1920 and chaired by Lynn Adams. It boasts a sizable chunk of interesting "Kootenaiana Archives" (a tongue-twister for the rest of us) developed by the former Notre Dame U. and David Thompson Univ. Centre, now both closed. The collection contains valuable local research material (books, theses, papers + newspapers since 1890s on microfilm).

Also of note is the library's series of author readings funded by the Canada Council and co-sponsored by the Kootenay School of Writing, as follows: Ross Laird, March 21; Kathryn Bridge, April 11; Joan Lang, April 22; Sheila Munro, April 25; Luanne Armstrong, May 2; Shaena Lambert, May 9, Timothy Taylor, October 3; and Sandra Gulland, October 24. Nelson has a strong literary community, Deb says.

On the Islands...

Can a hermeneutic interpretation of the modern and postmodern views of stakeholders (that word again) help us to better understand a large regional library at the beginning of the 21st century? This is the weighty topic Penny Grant, Executive Director of the Vancouver Island Regional Library, is exploring in a thesis leading to a distance education PhD from the James Cook University in Queensland, Australia. My *Webster* says that funny word means unfolding or explaining the significance of something. However, the library, (est.1936) is the nation's ninth largest (& westest) and is based at Nanaimo (pop. 78,000). It has 37 branches, more than a million items in its collection and serves some 430,000 people, including those on the remote Queen Charlotte Islands and Central Mainland Coast.

Among the latter are Richard and Sheila Cooper who live in a floating house at Rivers Inlet "in a remote bay, with no one else around," about 400k north of Nanaimo in a fiord in the mainland's Coast Mountains, and who have borrowed VIRL books by postage-free mail for some 30 years. In fact, they used books and information from the library to build their home.

And Nanaimo? Anyone who hankers after the delicious three-layered chocolate Nanaimo bars can look up the local prize-winning recipe at www.city.nanaimo.bc.ca. U-m-m, good!

Editor's Note: Howard Overend has graciously agreed to report on BC news in future issues of ELAN. Thank you, Howard!



Library Burnings Re-enacted

BY MARY F. WILLIAMSON

The invaders "pillaged the Public Subscription Library... [and] carried away a great part of the Books:" commemorating dark moments in Ontario library history 190 years ago.

As I write this, there is a strong likelihood of war with Iraq. To put it into an Ex Libris Association perspective, it is worth remembering that deliberate or collateral wartime actions have often destroyed libraries.

On the eve of the joint American Library Association and Canadian Library Association conferences in Toronto in June, 2003, let us cast our minds back 190 years to the War of 1812-14 when three libraries in Ontario were either looted or burned down.

An eye witness recounted that in the Spring of 1813 during the assault on York -- now Toronto -- the American invaders "pillaged the Public Subscription Library kept at Elmsley House, carried away a great part of the books, and did a great injury to the house itself. And, to crown all, before they re-embarked they set fire to ...our Provincial Legislature and Courts of Justice... These with the Offices containing all the Journals, a large collection of Books... were all consumed by the flames; and the bare walls alone remain."

Some months later the commander of the American squadron, Commodore Isaac Chauncey, expressed his mortification "that so useful an institution [the

Subscription Library] should not have been deemed Sacred by every person under our command," but only two boxes of the looted books could be found and returned.

As to which side was responsible for burning the Parliament Buildings -- the Americans or a disgruntled citizen among the defenders -- there are suspicions which have never been proven one way or the other.

The war moved on to Niagara -- now Niagara-on-the-Lake -- where the historic library was burned to the ground. According to library regulations, librarian (and bookseller) Andrew Heron was "obliged to make good all the books that may be lost by non-subscribers." I think we may assume that on this occasion the subscribers relieved the librarian of this responsibility. After the war the library was reactivated, thanks to prescient subscribers who must have disregarded the regulations which limited loans to two at a time, and took home as many books as they could carry before the wholesale destruction.

COMMEMORATIVE BUFFET RECEPTION

A scene out of the events sketched above will be re-enacted during a buffet reception June 21, 2003, on the restaurant cruise ship the SS Jadran (Captian John's) which is moored in Toronto harbour at the foot of Yonge Street, not far

from the Elmsley House Subscription Library and the site of the original return of the looted books.

The Reception will be sponsored by the Library History Round Table of CLA, by OLA and by ELA during the joint conference. 200 tickets are for sale at \$29 US or \$39 CAN per person to cover the buffet and one complimentary drink as well as the evening's entertainment. Organizer Harry Campbell is choreographing a brief dramatic commemorative presentation of the return of the Toronto Subscription Library's books.

While the sit-down buffet will operate from 7:30 to 8:30 pm, the bar will open at 6:30 pm and guests are welcome to enjoy the ship and the view of Toronto harbour from 6 to 10 pm.

To order your tickets for this historic library event to take place on June 21, write to the Ontario Library Association, 100 Lombard St., Suite #301, Toronto, Ont. M5C 1M3, with "Attn. Toronto Library Reception" on the envelope, and enclose your cheque made out to "Ontario Library Association."



The Ex Libris Project- A Great Beginning

BY DIANE HENDERSON

The idea of Ex Libris, an organization which would focus on the interests of retired librarians and on preserving library history, originated with Stan Beacock. Acting on this germ of an idea, he thought of many retired librarians who might also be interested in his concerns, contacted them, and found a very positive response.

The next steps were to organize a meeting with some of those retired librarians, gather further ideas and consider how to proceed to establish the association.

On the major issue of financing a new organization, the timing was certainly right—the federal government's New Horizons program was providing grants for programs for seniors. The organizing group met in December 1985, formed a Board of Directors, and began to prepare the Grant application proposal.

The Project description begins, "This application arises from a long-standing need to provide an organizational voice for persons retired from library service. ... The primary mission of the organization will be to develop links between the present profession of librarianship and its past. The purpose is to develop an oral history collection and to acquire archival material such as reports, writings, diaries, corre-

spondence, etc. which is in the hands of potential members. At this time our goal is to establish the Ex Libris Association in Ontario (although its membership will not be limited). ..." [ELA Archives]

The application goes on to describe in some detail the potential of the association and the plans being made to achieve the goals expressed.

For the Grant process, application was made by the Ex Libris Organization for a 'project' titled Ex Libris Association. It was signed by officers and directors: E. Stanley Beacock, Eleanore C. Donnelly, Janette H. White, Mary Barber, James J. Talman, John D. Snell, Marjorie Allwood, Betty W. Hardie, Olga B. Bishop, June E. Munro and John M. Marshall, and was submitted for the March 1986 deadline.

When the project was approved in August 1986, with an initial grant of \$10,000. (of a budget of \$14,200. submitted), the Board immediately began to organize a conference to be held in advance of the Ontario Library Association conference, on November 6, 1986.

Forty-one people attended that organizational meeting. It was a busy meeting. They had first to vote on the motion: "That this group, the majority of whom are retired from active participation in library work and who have assembled in Toronto, Ontario,

on November 6, 1986, hereby organizes an association to be known as the Ex Libris Association." [ELA Archives]

The Constitution and by-laws which had been drafted by the Board were proposed and adopted. This original constitution was a sound foundation, but narrow in focus and would soon be amended to broaden its scope both in objectives and membership. The membership fee would be \$5. for Ontario members, and \$2.50 for associate (non-Ontario) members.

Finally, the Officers—president and secretary/treasurer—and eight directors were elected. That first Board was largely the same as the Board of the Ex Libris Organization, with President Stan Beacock and Secretary/Treasurer Janette White elected as officers.

In keeping with the emphasis on library history in the Association's objectives, the program for this first annual meeting featured a talk by Stephen Cummings, "Search for Angus Mowat," followed by a discussion on archives and library history by June Munro, Olga Bishop, and Stephen Cummings.

One of the most important items in the New Horizons grant budget was for publication of a newsletter. Stan Beacock prepared the first issue of the newsletter, *Ex Libris News* which was published in spring 1987. By publication time, ELA could boast a membership of 75, and ELN was sent to a mailing list of close to 200 people.

In this issue some early directions began to take shape. There was a call for a focus on identifying and collecting primary resources relating to Ontario county and regional libraries—letters, minutes, formal and informal reports. Members were asked to check their files—which perhaps hadn't been “looked at in many years”—and provide information on material that could contribute to this work. Already material about the Institute of Professional Librarians of Ontario had been received and a project to organize it was underway. In tandem with these interests, oral history was set as the theme of the 1987 annual meeting. “This session is to inspire groups to get going on interviewing the pioneers of county librarianship in Ontario for a start.” [ELN 2, p.3]

Early issues of ELN set the pattern, which would continue, of serving as a forum for ‘recollection’ by its members: of library history, of their own activities past and present, and for the recording of ‘milestones’ including awards, celebrations, honours, retirements, memorials.

Membership continued to grow and by the end of 1987 there were 100 ‘charter members’. Nearly 60 people attended the 1987 annual meeting, held again in conjunction with the OLA conference.

The program, in two parts, included an address given by the sound archivist of the Ontario Archives, on “Aspects of Oral History,” which provided advice on equipment, its use

and maintenance, and the recording and storing of oral history tapes. In the afternoon, a panel of Madge Allwood, Reg Rawkins and John Wilkinson considered “Future Directions for the Ex Libris Association.” Much of their discussion also focused on oral history: particularly whether ELA should be undertaking it, and what members could do. There was no question of the value of oral history—without it, “a lot of personal unrecorded views and details on developments in libraries will be lost” [ELN 3, p.8], but there were concerns about organizing the work and a source for funding it when the New Horizons grant ran out. As a result of these discussions, a committee on oral history was suggested and several members volunteered to help organize projects, including the collection of photographs. Looking forward, “A suggestion had been made that to accompany membership lists, short biographies should be compiled accompanied by photographs.” [ELN 3, p.9]

For this second AGM a major item of business was, again, the Constitution. As published in the first issue of ELN, the objectives were understandably but narrowly focused on Ontario and its library history. However, for this second meeting, the Board proposed amendments to objectives which would broaden the geographic scope by replacing ‘Ontario’ with ‘Canada’ in each occurrence, and broaden regular membership from exclusively retired librarians to include “Any person whose career has been chiefly in libraries or in a related field,” an important extension.

An additional officer, past-president, was added to the Board. The Board also put forward for approval a proposal suggested by Edith Jarvi that ELA establish a project which would honour Elizabeth Homer Morton, the Executive Director of the Canadian Library Association in its formative years. The project would be jointly undertaken by ELA and CLA. Two motions were presented, the first related to the setting up of the Trust, the second focused on the outcome, “...that this memorial take the form of activities concerned with research and publication on the history of libraries, library associations, books and related activities in Canada.” [ELN 3, p.11] This project would be an important achievement of ELA objectives. The Morton project loomed large in the Association's affairs in coming years—it will be a focus of a later installment in this series.

At the end of 1987, less than two years after the launch of an idea for an organization for retired librarians, ELA had established itself as an organization with a future as well as an eye on the past, and was on its way to making “a contribution to our profession far beyond current expectations.” [ELN 1, p.1]

This article on the early history of the Ex Libris Association is based mainly on issues of Ex Libris News plus some material from the ELA archives. It begins a series which will be continued in future issues.



More By Accident Than Design, How And Why I Became A Librarian

BY SHERRILL CHEDA

My initial plan was to become an English Literature professor. When, in 1958, I approached the English Department dean at Indiana University about starting graduate studies, he said, "Well, you will just get married and have babies so there is no sense in getting a Ph.D." In these pre-feminist days, before self-esteem and self-help, I thought this was his kindly way of telling me I wasn't smart enough.

Dear reader, within four months of this rejection, his prophecy became true and I did marry. In those days, the obvious occupational options for women were teacher, nurse, social worker and librarian. As I had worked as a student assistant in the university library, I chose the latter.

A year after entering the Master's program at the I.U. School of Library Science, the second part of the dean's prophecy came true and three months and three courses short of the degree, I had my first child.

Then in 1962 we moved to Baltimore. One Friday in May,

having borrowed a maternity dress from a neighbor, I took the streetcar called "Paradise" to the Enoch Pratt Free Library to apply for a scholarship to finish my library degree. I did not get the scholarship but on Monday my second child was born and the EPFL chief librarian called to offer me a job in the History and Social Sciences Department in September.



There my real library education began. Starting time for librarians was 8:30 am and by 10 am, when the library opened to the public, we were expected to have read the *Baltimore Sun*, *Washington Post* and *New York Times*.

I learned that library patrons can be fascinating in myriad ways and that library work almost always has a social dimension. I was thrilled when John Dos Passos, nearly blind, approached

the reference desk looking for a title while I was learning. I was appalled when African American school children doing assigned homework looked for their coat of arms. (I called the teacher and complained and then provided them with research that indicated that Thomas Jefferson might have fathered African American children.)

I felt honoured when the last living son of the Crow Indian Chief, Plenty Coup, asked for help to prove his ancestry so his sons could be proud. (Along with the Peabody Institute and Library of Congress librarians, we did just that and he and his family were awarded money by the U.S. Government.)

One morning, the *New York Times* mentioned the Plain of Jars in the Mekong Delta and at 10:00 a.m. the questions began. (In a nine-month-old issue of *I.F. Stone's Weekly* I found the first report from the Congressional Record on the use of Green Berets against Viet Cong.)

I also began to learn about the idiosyncrasies of librarians and that I would not always be judged on my performance alone. The assistant department head, who evaluated my work after the first year, gave me high marks on quality of work, amount of work, patron interaction and colleague cooperation but on a scale of one to 10, she marked me with a three for dress. I was wearing pleated skirts from university days and

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How I Became A Librarian

BY BILL ROEDDE

In 1946, after two years with the Canadian navy, I was delighted to learn that the government would pay me to go to university. I certainly enjoyed UBC, choosing only courses that interested me: philosophy, history, creative writing, etc. What great years they were. Of course, I needed summer jobs. And I easily found them, including sailing to China on a merchant ship.

But what would I do with my life? Teaching? No, I couldn't face a classroom of teenagers day after day. Social work? I didn't want to deal with personal problems. Business? Forget it. Librarian? Hey, that would be okay. Lots of books. I liked books.

Now, which library school: Toronto or McGill? I had spent several months at a navy telegraphers' school in St. Hyacinth. On weekends we partied in Montreal. So I chose McGill.

In 1950 my wife and I took a bus from Vancouver to Montreal. We were so short of money I pawned one of our wedding presents. But soon she had a job and I signed up for another year of university grants.

I liked McGill, except for Reference—I thought all those reference tools were boring. How wrong I was. Now I consult my own reference books

almost every day. When did that jazz musician die? Who wrote *The Monk's Tale*? Where is Bhutan? Learn for life with reference books... plus a few others.

McGill was great. We had sherry parties. And I joined the editorial committee of a literary magazine. We had a fund-raising party and Pierre Trudeau came.

Then it was time to find a job, and in 1951 Lachie MacRae took me on as librarian of the Mary J.L. Black branch in Fort William. Lachie invited us to a party and we met Angus Mowat. Angus found us a grant for a library co-operative and a bookmobile to take books to small towns and schools. I liked that job, too.

Did I want to be a librarian?
You bet.

■ ■ ■

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ELA-web@fis.utoronto.ca

How And Why I Became A Librarian

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inexpensive blouses. I asked her if there was anyone she could suggest after whom I could model myself in dress. Without missing a beat, she replied "Jacqueline Kennedy." Given my limited income of \$4000 a year, I asked her how she thought I might enhance my current wardrobe. She, with a totally straight face, suggested that I wear a string of pearls and white gloves to work!

The only African American librarian and I often spent our short lunch breaks either sitting in at lunch counters or trying on hats in department stores. We were not interested in eating or in buying hats but both activities were forbidden to African Americans at that time.

In the summer of 1963, the EPFL gave me a leave of absence to complete my Master's of Library Science at Indiana University, for by that time being a librarian felt like a real choice. I had found the library world to be an exciting place to continue learning about life, not only from the library materials but also from the vast array of library patrons and librarians. I did so happily for the next 15 years at San Francisco State College, University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, the Indian Eskimo Association and Seneca College in Toronto.

■ ■ ■

Library Education Anniversary Committee Created

At its meeting on October 7, 2002, the Executive of the Ex Libris Association established a Library Education Anniversary Committee and, at its meeting on January 20, 2003, the Board approved the following terms of reference for the committee:

- * To advise the Association of the best methods of aiding in the anniversary observances;
- * To add any further members to the Committee should they think it necessary;
- * To prepare a statement that can be circulated in ELAN in a forthcoming issue and announced on the website;

* To recommend to the Board such other matters as they see fit.

The Board appointed the following as members of the committee: Lois Bewley, Margaret Cockshutt, Paula de Ronde, Brian Land [chair], Peter McNally, and Jean Weihs.

Since its creation, committee members have been in communication via e-mail to make a preliminary determination of how they might best draw attention to anniversary dates for library and information studies education. In 2002, for

example, the University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival and Information Studies published a history of the school covering its first 40 years, 1961-2001. In 2002, the University of Western Ontario marked 35 years of library and information studies education. Alberta opened its school in 1968 and will mark its 35th year of operation in 2003.

In 2003, the University of Toronto Faculty of Information Studies is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Dalhousie was created in 1969 and will mark its 35th anniversary in 2004. Also in 2004, the McGill University Graduate School of Library and Information Studies will celebrate the inauguration in 1904 of library training courses at McGill.

The committee will also take into account the establishment of library technician training programs. The first such program in Canada started in 1962 at the Manitoba Institute of Technology in Winnipeg.

The Committee, which of necessity will operate largely by e-mail or regular mail, welcomes input from members of Ex Libris Association and would be pleased to add members to the committee, especially staff or graduates of library schools not now represented - Alberta, Dalhousie, Montreal and Western Ontario. Contact Brian Land brian-edith.land@sympatico.ca, 9 Wild Rose Court, Guelph, ON N1G 4X7.



EARLSCOURT PUBLIC LIBRARY MURAL RESTORATION

In the 1920s and '30s, Canadian artists George A. Reid, Doris McCarthy and Lorna Claire painted murals around the walls of two rooms of the Earls court Public Library (now the Dufferin/St. Clair Branch of the Toronto Public Libraries.) By the 1960s the murals had deteriorated and were painted over, but the Regal Heights Residents' Association, with the help and encouragement of the Toronto Public Library Foundation, is committed to their restoration and is soliciting funds.

Contributions are joyfully received by the Toronto Public Library Foundation (Mural Restoration), 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont. M4W 2Y8.

If anyone has photographs, slides or any records of the original murals that might assist the restoration, they are urged to contact the Committee: John McAuley or David Self at 416-652-5556, or email: mcauley.self@sympatico.ca

President's Report

BY NANCY WILLIAMSON

In this issue of the ELAN and accompanying materials you will have an opportunity to learn about the Association's activities in 2002.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find Mary Williamson's account of the highly successful fall Get-Together with its panel of speakers on "Is Librarianship as a Profession Headed for Oblivion?" It made for an excellent programme and discussion. Our only regret is that the entire Ex Libris membership could not be present. We hope to compensate for that somewhat. Arrangements are being made to publish some of the papers for the benefit of our members across the country.

As 2003 gains momentum, the work of the association continues and we are moving into a very busy year. Some changes came about as the new association year began. Two new members joined the Board of Directors – Marjorie Linden and Murray Shepherd; and Marjorie Bender was elected Vice-President. A new committee, the Publicity Committee, is working hard to raise our profile. While, of necessity, the hard-working Board of Directors continues to be made up of members from the southern Ontario area, we value the input of all our members through articles, ideas, and letters and we are continuing to try to find new ways of involving more of you in the activities of the Association.

As reported at the Annual General Meeting, the Personal and Institutional Archives Committee has refocused its work to take advantage of recent developments in methods

of access to archival materials in Canada. ExLibris continues to encourage the preservation and storage of personal papers and institutional archives in library and information science.

Through its website, it will facilitate easy identification and location archival materials and personal papers. To this end, the Committee is preparing material for the website that will instruct members and other users on "searching for archival records on Canadian librarians and libraries." Details are to be provided on how to access the Canadian Archival Information Network (CAIN) and other relevant databases in order to locate archival materials and personal papers pertaining to librarianship through electronic means and linkage to relevant web sites.

We hope that this service will be available by mid-2003.

The members of our Publicity Committee, Harry Campbell and Jean Orpwood, are hard at work in their efforts to raise the Ex Libris profile. In late January the Ontario Library Association held its Annual Super Conference and once again ELA had a booth in the exhibits – this year in a fairly prominent location. There were numerous visitors, a goodly number of T-shirts were sold, and there was evidence that Ex Libris is becoming increasingly better known in the Canadian library community.

By the time the OLA was underway the Committee was already working on another project: a calendar for the year 2004 is being designed that will depict Canadian library history through photographs of old libraries from across the country. Flyers

advertising the calendar were available at the Ex Libris and OLA booths and already many orders have come in. Nor is the Committee resting on its laurels.

With the Joint ALA-CLA Conference being held in Toronto in June, plans are afoot for a small dinner on a small cruise ship moored in Toronto harbour. Jointly sponsored by CLA, OLA, and Ex Libris, this event will capitalize on a bit of US-Canadian history, with a brief commemorative ceremony honouring the 190th anniversary of the return of some Toronto Library books stolen by US Soldiers in 1813. Our Publicity Committee is certainly entrepreneurial!

2003 promises to be an interesting year. As events continue to unfold, I will continue to keep you informed.

Best wishes to all,
Nancy J. Williamson
President, ELA, 2003



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In Memoriam Essays

SUSAN (SUE) BONSTEEL
CHIEF LIBRARIAN,
STRATFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY



There died in Stratford, on Thursday February 6th, a truly remarkable woman – mother and grandmother, former City Councillor, world traveller, social activist, volunteer and librarian extraordinaire. Sue Bonsteel's passing, at age 85, leaves a void in the lives of her many world wide friends, but also marks the end of a life dedicated to the finest principles of public librarianship.

Sue came to the library profession in mid life, having raised four children and helped in the ministry of her husband, Rev. Richard Bonsteel. She went to the Library School at the University of Western Ontario in

1969, was hired as a reference librarian in 1970 and found herself Chief Librarian in 1971. If the City and OMERS would have allowed it she would have been Chief still, but as it was, she is the only employee to have her retirement date backed up a year retiring at age 66 in 1983.

Sue was first and foremost a PUBLIC librarian; service to her community was paramount. She standards for public service that are emulated today. She created an atmosphere within the library that encouraged laughter, joy in reading, approachability.

With her whimsical side, Sue obtained an old bath tub from the junk dealer, painted it purple and filled it with old books for patrons to purchase or exchange. Most memorable was her Royal Wedding breakfast at 5 a.m. on July 29th 1981. She brought a large screen TV in so people without TVs could watch Charles and Diana marry – and enjoy breakfast to boot.

Sue began her retirement in 1983 by going to Nepal for six months to teach. She followed this with a stint on City Council, as well as heading up the United Way campaign. In 1984 she was named volunteer of the year.

All of us at the Stratford Public Library will miss her and will try always to emulate her commit-

ment to the community and her passion for excellent public service.

—Jane Kirkpatrick, Chief
 Executive Officer, Stratford
 Public Library

RONALD LEY, (1913-2002): AN APPRECIATION

The longest serving director of the Fraser Valley Regional Library has died in Abbotsford. Ronald Ley, born in Exeter, Devon, England on January 3, 1913, passed away December 9, 2002, a few weeks short of his 90th birthday.

Ronald Ley was appointed librarian and board secretary of the system in 1948 then known as the Fraser Valley Union Library. This unit, the first of its kind in the world, was incorporated in 1934 after Dr. Helen Gordon Stewart, with financial aid from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, had demonstrated its feasibility in the preceding four years.

Ronald Ley's term of office – nearly 24 years – was marked by the urgent need to expand the library service as he and his board of management strove to keep up with burgeoning population and readership in the Valley in the postwar years.

The system's budget increased tenfold during his tenure and the number of branches jumped from a few to 28. In this period, too, the number of books borrowed approached the two million mark.

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In Memoriam Essays

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Ronald Ley saw to it that the tiny headquarters library half way up the Essendene St. hill in Abbotsford was replaced by a new 6,300-square-foot library at the corner of Montrose Ave. and Cyril St. in 1953. A second storey was added in 1960.

Ronald Ley served as president of the BC Library Association in 1953-54 and also headed the Pacific Northwest Library Association during his time as director. He was an active member of the Rotary Club, a warm, kindly person to work for, and fond of singing. Colleagues such as Bob Davison, Peter Lofts, Phyl Bowlby, Dean Halliwell, Fred White and Sam Rothstein, to name a few, were fellow choristers led by Ron in after hours at many a BCLA conference and the echoes of such melodies as Nelly Dean, On Top of Old Smoky and Ilkley Moor Baht'At may still linger in hotel rooms around the province. Those were the good times.

The last time I saw Ron Ley was early in November 2002. He was game to the end. He leaves sons David and Richard and several grandchildren in California.

Thank you, Ron, and goodbye. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

■ ■ ■

--Howard Overend

LOST MEMBERS

The following is a list of members whose mail was returned by Canada Post in 2002. Can any of our members help us locate them? If so, please contact ELA Membership Secretary Katherine Packer. 416-483-2812 or packer@interlog.com. We also kindly request each member check his/her entry on the enclosed membership list and report errors or changes to Katherine Packer.

Richard Burford

114 Cardinal Cres., Chatham, ON N7L 3V3

Barbara Dawson (Life member)

105 Saskatchewan Cres. W., Saskatoon SK S7M 0A2

Tatiana Krynycky

158 Young St., Ottawa, ON K1Y 3P9

Rosemary Lydon

1275 Richmond Rd. #106, Ottawa, ON K2B 8E3

Aleta Sherrif

#9927 - 114th St., Apt. 903, Edmonton, AB T5K 1P8

Book Review Writers Wanted

Good writers wanted to write interesting book reviews. If you like to write and read, we are looking for YOU. Give us your 500 words about books written by Ex Libris members and/or books of interest to members (books about libraries and librarians, and related subjects such as publishing and information technology or retirement investing and travel).

**Inquiries: Sherrill Cheda 416-482-5242 or
scheda@sympatico.ca**

Libraries That Built Canada 2004 Wall Calendar

A report by the OLA

The Ex Libris Association has compiled a stunning collection of historical photos that show some of the past buildings that are part of Canada's libraries today. The collection is from across the country, with four images from Ontario. The work was edited by Harry Campbell, former Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Library. There is also a special section on "Looking Back on Selected Canadian University Libraries: 1933-2003.

The 2004 Library History Calendar is standard calendar size, printed on gloss stock with a single hole for pinning it up. Lots of room to write in your appointments, etc. It provides information on many of the country's library associations as well.

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As I Saw It London, A Gala Year Part II

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Mountbattens. The Earl said, "The Duke is at sea having a much better time." Lady Mountbatten thought librarians on the whole took life too seriously. It was a friendly encounter.

During the conference there were lively and optimistic discussions by the sections of a wide selection of library problems, but I remember more vividly the excursions to the treasures of Hatfield House, Polesden Lacy and the home of Fanny Burney, Swinburne, Rossetti, Turner and others.

After a splendid banquet in the ballroom of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane — at which I was the only male delegate not wearing a tuxedo — I had to come down to earth and seek a job by going back to the Library Association, cap in hand. It was already time, indeed. ■■■

BACK ISSUES OF EX LIBRIS NEWS

The Board of the Ex Libris Association has authorized the sale of back issues of its newsletter, *Ex Libris News* Single issues are available at a cost of \$2.00 per copy; a complete set of back issues from Number 1 to 28 is available for \$24.00.

Write Ex Libris Association, c/o Dean's Office,
Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto,
Toronto, ON M5S 3G6

Milestones, compiled by John Arndt

Obituaries

Eleanore Donnelly died on October 23, 2002. She received her BA (French and Latin) and MA (French) from the University of Western Ontario and degrees in Library Science from the University of Toronto. Eleanore spent her entire library career at the London Public Library, serving for 24 years as head of the Children's Library, and, then, as Co-ordinator of Branch Library Services. Her story telling touched many thousands of children through the CFPL-TV program called Sunshine School. She taught Children's Literature MLIS program at the University of Western Ontario. She was active in the community serving on Story Book Gardens and Victoria Park committees, the Board of Governors of the University of Western Ontario, and the Board of University Hospital. She retired in 1982 after 42 years of service. The Canadian Book Publishers Council awarded her a plaque in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Canadian Librarianship. Eleanore will be best remembered in London as the "Story Lady." The *London Free Press* quotes David Peterson, former premier of Ontario, as saying that "she understood and loved little children. She wasn't scary. You wanted to hug her after she read a story."

Maud Ethel Churchman Godfrey died October 6, 2002 in Amherst, Nova Scotia. After graduating from the University of Toronto Library School in 1940, she was employed at the Hamilton Public Library as a reference librarian, and became head of the Keniworth Branch. In 1967 she headed the reference service section of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library in Halifax and its Nova Scotia Union Catalogue. Retiring in 1977, she was a volunteer at the Nova Scotia Museum and editor of the Griffin Newspaper of Heritage Trust Nova Scotia. She was a member of the Canadian Library Association, Atlantic Provinces Library Association, and Halifax Library Association as well the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and Halifax Field Naturalists.

Harry D. McLeod died August 17, 2002 at the age of 64. He graduated from the University of Toronto Library School receiving his BLS in 1964 and was a librarian with the North York Public Library for many years.

Hilda Gifford died November 11, 2002. Born in 1915, she was a graduate of McGill University and Dalhousie University. During her early career as a librarian, she worked for the I.L.O., Harvard Law School Library and Dartmouth College. In 1948, she began a thirty-three year association with Carleton College (later University) as Chief Librarian and Collections Librarian. In 1982, she received the degree of doctor of Literature, honoris causa. She was active in the Ontario library Association, Canadian Library Association, and the International Federation of Library Associations.

Catherine Betty Crawford died October 2, 2002 in Ingersoll, Ontario, at the age of 92. She graduated from the University of Toronto in 1933 and was the Librarian of the Ingersoll Public Library from 1941 to 1972. She was very active in the community being a founding member of the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, a member of the Canadian Painter Etchers and the Ingersoll Historical Society. Betty received the Ingersoll Citizen of the Year Award in 1963, the Thomas J. Morrison Award in 1976, and the King Newell Award in 1997.

Margaret Elizabeth Hughes died January 20, 2003. She was born in Wallaceburg, Ontario August 17 1910, and graduated from the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto in Library Science. During the Second World War, she served as a WRNS officer and established branch libraries for naval personnel. She held several library positions in Ontario, the last of which was as Assistant-Director of the Etobicoke Public Library.

Katharine Madeline (Madge) Cartwright died February 3, 2003. She was born November 26, 1912 and was a librarian at Trinity College and the Toronto Reference Library

Appointments

Dr. Bertum Macdonald has been appointed Associate Dean (Research) at the School of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University. Dr. Macdonald was Director of the School for the last seven and half years.

Dr. Fiona Black has assumed the position of Acting Director of the School of Library and Information

Milestones, continued

Studies at Dalhousie University from January 1 2003 to June 30, 2004.

Sara Lochhead has been appointed University Librarian of Acadia University.

Sharon Brown has been appointed University Librarian at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario.

Dr. Edie Rasmussen has been appointed Director of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia beginning July 2003. At present, she holds the position of Professor in the School of Information Science at the University of Pittsburg and was Chair of the Department of Library and Information Science from 1995 – 1998. She has a Phd (University of Sheffield) in Information Studies, a MLS (University of Western Ontario), a MSc (McMaster University), and a BA (UBC) in Chemistry. She is the fifth Director of the School succeeding Samuel Rothstein, Roy Stokes, Basil Stuart-Stubbs, and Kenneth Haycock.

Deborah Pelletier has been appointed to the newly created position of Coordinator of Aboriginal Resources and Services at the National Library. She will work to find better ways of providing access to the NL collections for First Nations, Metis and Inuit. She will also encourage further gathering and preservation of Aboriginal-specific resources.

Dr. Bertrum Macdonald has been appointed Associate Dean (Research) at the School of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University. Dr. Macdonald was Director of the School for the last seven and half years.

Dr. Fiona Black has assumed the position of Acting Director of the School of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University from January 1 2003 to June 30, 2004.

Sharon Brown has been appointed University Librarian at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario.

Awards

Paula de Ronde was awarded the Ontario Library Association's Distinguished Service Award at the OLA Super Conference January 31, 2003. Paula, an Ex Libris Board member, was formerly Community Outreach Coordinator at the Toronto Public Library. She was president of OLA in 1992. She created OLA's Libraries Advance Ontario Project. Two successful programs have been introduced under her leadership: one, the reading programs which empower and inspire readers, reward Canadian authors and publishers, and profile librarians and libraries; the Silver Birch Awards for grades 4-6, the Red Maple Awards for grades 7-9, and the Golden Oak Reading Club for adult learners; two, the development of ALA's "@your library" brand in Canada through its promotion of products, electronic services and programs. An indefatigable advocate of libraries, Paula, although technically retired, develops and speaks at workshops and seminars. She has assumed many leadership roles including being the President of the Community Information of Metropolitan Toronto (now called Community Information Toronto), and the Board of Trustees of the Harry Jerome Scholarship Fund. At present, she is the founding President of Arts & Culture Jamaica, Inc., and is principal of PdR Concepts through which she continues to work with libraries in a consulting capacity.

Gwynneth Evans was awarded the 2002 Dr. Dayton Forman Memorial Award which recognizes outstanding leadership by individuals and organizations in the advancement of information services to the visually impaired.

Holly Melanson, Assistant University Librarian, Collection Development, Organization and Management, Dalhousie University, received the Miles Blackwell Award for Outstanding Academic Librarian at the 2002 CLA Annual Conference in Halifax.

Linda Cook, the Director of the Edmonton Public Library and former Director of the Yellowhead Regional Library, received the 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Alberta Library and the Information Studies Alumni Association.

Milestones, continued

The Richmond Public Library, Richmond, British Columbia, was awarded the 2002 Canada Post Literacy Award for community leadership in the promotion of literacy education.

Honours

IFLA has established the "**Harry Campbell Travel Grant**" (anonymously funded), according to a bemused but pleased Harry Campbell himself. Congratulations, Harry!

Retirements

Andre Paul retired in November 2002 after 35 years at the National Library of Canada. After graduating from the Library School at the Universite de Montreal, he became a cataloguer and document analyst for the national bibliography, *Canadiana*. He edited the French translation of the 18th edition of the Dewy Decimal Classification. He held many positions including chief of the Subject Analysis Division, and chief of Serials and Official Publications Cataloguing. He contributed to the French version of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules.

After 32 years of service with the Windsor Public Library, **Marilyn Scase** has retired as Director of Public Services. She is now General Manager with the Friends of Point Pelee.

Cheryl Lumley retired from the University of Victoria Libraries in June 2002. During her career she served as a Reference Librarian, an Interlibrary Loans Librarian and Information Services Librarian.

Betty Gibb retired from the University of Victoria Libraries in June 2002 after 25 years as a Reference/Collections Librarian, Interlibrary Loans Librarian, the Communications Librarians, and, recently, as the Fine Arts Librarian.

Joan Macdonald retired December 31, 2002. She was Assistant University Librarian, Information Resources at the University of Waterloo.

Note: ELAN would like to thank Elizabeth Ketchum for her support over the years compiling Milestones. She is retiring from the job, and we're sorry to see her go. Compiling Milestones is a time-consuming task, and we have appreciated Ms. Ketchum's dedication.

ERROR NOTICE

ELAN would like to apologize for the error that appeared in the Fall '02 issue of *Ex Libris News*. The byline for the In Memoriam Essay on Lachlan F. MacRae (p.14) was given to Brian Land when it should have been credited to Marie Zielinski. Thank you, Ms. Zielinski, for your contribution. Please accept our apologies.

EX LIBRIS IS LOOKING FOR A NEW WEBMASTER

Is there a member at large interested in volunteering? Webmaster skills are a must but location could be anywhere.

Contact Ann Schabas at:
a.schabas@sympatico.ca

NOTICE

Ex Libris has kindly been included in the 50th Anniversary section of the National Library of Canada website. Look us up at www.nlc-bnc.ca/50th/

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