

# Alexander Calhoun

b. Nov. 17, 1879, Fenelon Falls, ON; d. Feb. 15, 1979, Calgary, AB

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Alexander Calhoun, n.d. Credit Calgary Public Library.

## Education:

1901 BA (Queen's University)

1902 MA (Queen's University)

1906 Hamilton Normal School teacher training

## Positions:

1901-1902 Tutor, Queen's University

1902-1904 Lecturer, University of Manitoba (Manitoba College)

1904-1905 Graduate fellowship in Greek at University of Chicago

1905-1906 Lecturer in classics, Queen's University

1906-1910 Teacher at Fort William Collegiate Institute and Trustee, Fort William Public Library

1910 Training as intern at Ottawa Public Library and McGill University Library

1911-1945 Chief librarian, Calgary Public Library

1918-1919 Served in Canadian army Siberian Expeditionary Force in far eastern Russia

## Publications:

Calhoun, Alexander (1905). "Higher education in the Canadian West." *Queen's University Journal* 32 (9): 343-348.

Calhoun, Alexander (1944). "An extension programme for Alberta public libraries." In *Canadian Library Council, Canada Needs Libraries*, 37-41. Ottawa: Canadian Library Council, Inc.

Calhoun, Alexander (1944). "Library training in Canada." *Wilson Library Bulletin* 19 (3): 193-194.

Calhoun, Alexander (1945). "Alberta Library Association reorganizes." *Canadian Library Council Bulletin* 1 (3): 25.

Calhoun, Alexander (1945). "Community centres and the public library." *Canadian Library Council Bulletin* 1 (4): 38-39.

Calhoun, Alexander (1954). "A backward glance." *Alberta Library Association Bulletin* 2 (Nov.): 9-10.

Calhoun, Alexander (1956). "The future of the book." *Alberta Library Association Bulletin* 4 (Dec.): 8

## Associations/Committees:

President, Alberta Library Association 1944-1945  
Alberta director on Canadian Library Council, 1944-1945  
President, Calgary Allied Arts Council, 1946-1949 (founding member in 1946)  
Chair, Alberta Library Board, 1946-1948  
President, Calgary Knights of the Round Table, 1932-1933 (founding member in 1925)  
President, Calgary Golden Age Club, 1950-1954 (founding member in 1950)  
President, Alberta division of Canadian Cancer Society, 1946  
Chair, Calgary Allied Arts Council  
Member of Canadian Library Association and American Library Association

## Honours:

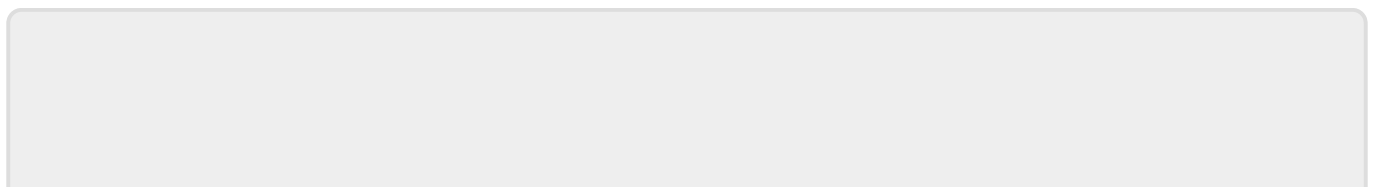
1954 LLD, University of Alberta at Calgary  
1955 Alberta Golden Jubilee citation  
1963 Elected life member, Alpine Club of Canada  
1969 Honorary lifetime member, International Knights of the Round Table  
1954 Alexander Calhoun Branch named in his honour [know as the Giuffre Family Library since 2018]  
Life membership, Canadian Cancer Society

## Comments:

Charles McCombs concluded that "Alexander Calhoun has made an excellent record in the many years that he has been at Calgary" in his report to the Rockefeller Foundation in 1941. Indeed, Calhoun arrived in western Canada at a time when library service was in a formative stage and, through two World Wars and the Great Depression, he played an instrumental role in offering social and cultural leadership to Calgary and in providing regional library leadership in Alberta. Calhoun is still remembered as a man of many tastes, a community activist, and progressive force in library service.

## Sources:

Dingwall, Gloria A. (1996). Alexander Calhoun: Calgary's first librarian, 1911-1945. MA thesis, Calgary, AB: University of Calgary.  
Giles, Suzette (2017). "Libraries named after librarians." ELAN no. 61 (Spring): 10.  
Lohnes, Donna, and Barbara J. Nicholson (1987). Alexander Calhoun. Calgary: Calgary Public Library.



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