

# Gerhard Richard Lomer

b. Mar. 6, 1882, Montreal, QC; d. Jan. 14, 1970, Ottawa, ON



Gerhard R. Lomer. Credit Canadian Bookman May 1920

## Education:

1903 BA (McGill)

1904 MA (McGill)

1910 PhD (Columbia)

1910 Doctors Diploma in Education, Columbia Teacher's College

1936 Fellow of Library Association

## Positions:

1904-1906 Instructor in English, McGill University

1907-1908 Lecturer in Education, Montreal Normal School

1909-1912 Instructor in Education, University of Wisconsin

1912-1917 Instructor in English, Columbia University School of Journalism

1918-1920 Assistant editor of two series, "Chronicles of America" and "Warner's Library of the World's Best Literature"

1920-1947 University Librarian, McGill

1927-1949 Director and Professor of Library Administration, McGill Library School

1959-1970 Assistant Director of Library School and Professor, University of Ottawa

## Publications (major works):

### Articles:

- Lomer, G.R. (1906). "Education as university study." *McGill University Magazine* 5 (May): 322-345.
- Lomer, G.R. (1930). "The university library: 1920-1930." *McGill News* 11 (4, September): 7-11.
- Lomer, G.R. (1937). "The Quebec Library Association." *Ontario Library Review* 21 (1): 10-11.
- Lomer, G.R. (1942). "The Redpath Library: half a century, 1892-1942." *McGill News* 24 (1, Autumn): 9-13.
- Lomer, G.R. (1946). "Background of the Canadian L[ibrary] A.[ssociation]." *Library Journal* 71 (September): 1107-1110.
- Lomer, G.R. (1949). "Some occupational diseases of the librarian." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 6 (1): 2-11.
- Lomer, G.R. (1957). "The Quebec Library Association: the first ten years." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 14 (3): 103-106.
- Lomer, G.R. (1966). "Alice One Hundred." *Canadian Library* 23 (2): 80-85.
- Lomer, G.R. (1968). "1946—the prospect [for CLA]." In *Librarianship in Canada, 1946-1967: essays in honour of Elizabeth Homer Morton*, ed. by Bruce B. Peel, pp. 20-21. Victoria: Canadian Library Association.

### **Books:**

- Lomer, G.R. (1910). *The concept of method*. New York: Teacher's College, Columbia University [Lomer's original Ph.D dissertation].
- Lomer, G.R. and Margaret E. Ashmun (1914). *The study and practice of writing English*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. [2nd ed. in 1917].
- Lomer, G.R. (c.1920). *The Library of McGill*. Montreal: McGill Centennial Endowment Campaign.
- Lomer, Gerhard R. and Margaret S. MacKay (1924), eds. *A catalogue of scientific periodicals in Canadian libraries*. Montreal: McGill University and the Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.
- Lomer, G.R. (1927). *Library administration: lecture and study outlines*. Montreal: McGill University Library School.
- Lomer, G.R. (1932). *Report on a proposed three-year demonstration of library service for Prince Edward Island*. Montreal: McGill University Library.
- Lomer, G.R. (1954). *Stephen Leacock: a check-list and index of his writings*. Ottawa: National Library of Canada.

### **Associations/Committees:**

- President, Quebec Library Association, 1932-1933  
Member, Canadian Library Council, Inc., 1943-1946  
Membership in national and provincial library associations: charter member of Canadian Library

## Association and Quebec Library Association

Member of American Library Association: various committees in 1930s such as Suggested Code of Ethics Statement (1930), Carnegie Grants-in-Aid; and host city for ALA Montreal Conference, 1934. Elected as Council member and later Executive Board member, 1946-1947.

## Accomplishments:

Gerhard Lomer was already an accomplished educator, teacher, and scholar before he became McGill's University Librarian and Director of the Library School in 1920. He was a worthy successor to Charles Gould, having established a successful academic career and taught courses at the McGill summer library school. Although his career as an administrator was clouded by unrelenting financial austerity during the Great Depression and the Second World War, Lomer oversaw the steady growth of McGill's collections. However, his main contribution to Canadian librarianship was progressive leadership in graduate library education at McGill. With the financial support of the Carnegie Corporation, which contributed \$139,000 over the period 1927-40, Lomer established Canada's first ALA accredited one-year Bachelor of Library Science program (1931) and organized summer courses in Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, and Alberta to address demand for positions. By the time of his retirement as library school director in 1949, McGill's reputation was firmly established. In retirement, Lomer continued to contribute to library education as assistant director and teacher at the University of Ottawa.

## Sources:

Burgoyne, St. George. (1920). "McGill's new librarian." *Canadian Bookman* 2 (1, January): 11.

Brown, Jack E. (1947). "Dr. Lomer's retirement from the Redpath Library." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 4 (1, October): 23-24.

Lomer, G.R. (1960). List of publications. Ottawa: n.p. [bibliography of his writings to May 1960].

Jenkins, Kathleen (1970). "Gerhard Richard Lomer." *Canadian Library Journal* 27 (1): 130.

McNally, Peter F. (1988). "Scholar librarians: Gould, Lomer and Pennington." *Fontanus* 1: 95-104.

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