
EX LIBRIS NEWS

Newsletter of the Ex Libris Association

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EDITOR'S NOTES

In this issue we present the paper given by Dr. James J. Talman at last year's (1991) Annual Meeting. The full flavour of his talk can best be savored by a "live reading" with throwaway pauses as only JJT can deliver them. We continue the London theme with three contributions relating to Dr. Fred Landon, a man of considerable status in each of his chosen professions.

It must be acknowledged that this issue's contents present a rather narrow view of our goals and geographic coverage but an editor can only process what is received. Again you are implored to help us all out by letting us know of happenings past and present in your neighbourhood and for this reason I especially thank Sheila Laidlaw and Gerry Prodrick.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Although the majority of our present members have retired from service in librarianship, membership is open to others interested in the program of the Association as it refers to library history.

Enquiries about membership should be directed to the Association's office.

Please note that the mailing address of the Association is:

Ex Libris Association
PO Box 536, Station Q
Toronto, ON
M4T 2M5

FOR YOUR DIARY

19 November 92 AGM Ex Libris Association, Toronto

20 November 92:

- Write a biographical sketch of a librarian from the past and send to the Editor of *Ex Libris News*.
- Research and write an article on some historical aspect of a Canadian library or library association and send to the Editor of *Ex Libris News*.
- Write an article that would be of interest to your colleagues in the Ex Libris Association.

by February 28, 1993.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The seventh annual meeting of the Association is approaching and once again we thank the Executive and members of the Ontario Library Association for accommodating us during their annual conference.

The program for the meeting is included with this issue and it promises a lively exchange of views by our library consultant experts, Dr. Margaret Beckman and Albert Bowron on the changes, good and bad, in the field over the last thirty years. In addition, we look forward to Maurice McLuhan's perspective on his famous brother.

Copies of the newsletter are being mailed to prospective members along with the invitation to attend the meeting and to join the Association. Please pass on the invitation to anyone who has not heard from us.

Looking forward to seeing you in Toronto on November 19th.

Janette White, President

Announcement of a Grant of \$15,000. from the
Elizabeth Homer Morton Fund

The Ex Libris Association in conjunction with the Canadian Library Association announces a grant of \$15,000. from a fund set up to honour Elizabeth Homer Morton, a founding member of member of the Canadian Library Association and its first Executive Director, for the compilation and publication of a history of the Canadian Library Association from its historical beginnings to 1990. Proposals are invited from interested persons. For further information contact:

Janette White, President
at the Association Office

Members of the Board in 1986 to 1989 when it met at SLIS in London will be pleased to learn that Clara Chu who was a great assistance in the early development of Ex Libris particularly our membership lists, successfully defended her thesis in August and will receive her PhD at the fall convocation at UWO. She is now a member of the faculty of UCLA in Los Angeles.

FROM THE ONTARIO ARCHIVES TO THE UWO, by James J. Talman
(Transcript of his talk at the 6th AGM on November 14, 1991)

I welcome this chance to talk to my friends because it gives me an opportunity to record the names of people who have been protecting me and carrying me my whole career. Of all the librarians I know there are only five whom I could do without. And to save time I will name them. One, I don't miss George Locke; two, I didn't get on all that well with Winifred Barnstead; three, four and five don't really matter. One was Andrew Osborne who was the Dean of the School of Library Science (at UWO). They were the lesser people. Where's Bob Blackburn? He will agree with me. Another was Robert Downs who inspected the university libraries and the last, a name I have forgotten but he was the Chief Librarian of Springfield College in Massachusetts. I never met him but he was an enemy of mine. Anything I say about anybody else today is meant to be kind. And if, by a slip of the tongue, I say something derogatory, stand up and say "change that". This is a small group and it will be more conversational than a formal lecture and so if there is something you don't understand, ask.

I plan to start with the Ontario Archives. Colonel Fraser, Alexander Fraser for whom I have kind words in case they don't come out, was appointed Archivist in 1903 and he was a good archivist. He acquired a lot of good material, land records and the like and brought out twenty-three good annual reports. In 1930, he was then seventy, he wanted an assistant but he didn't want anybody from Toronto. I don't know why. I think it had to do, and this is conjecture, that maybe Toronto was slow in giving him an honorary degree. So he wrote to Western to ask for the name of a recent graduate with a PhD and they gave him the name of a man, Gilbert Tucker. Gilbert was smart. He was not on the tenure stream at Yale

but at Western they thought he was unemployed. But he wasn't and instead had gone to The University of Minnesota. Fraser wrote back and asked, "Who else have you got?" They said, "Well we have a recent graduate named Talman. Unfortunately his degree is from Toronto but he would be all right."

So there was I, on the staff, never intending to go into archives work, assistant to Colonel Fraser. And what a staff. I have to take time to describe it. Miss. McClung was really smart. She did the calendaring of documents. She was tops. There were also a secretary, a filing clerk, a man named Irving who was seventy-five and a good scholar in military history, and another man whose name I don't remember. In those days you would have called him half-witted: today you would say he was less able but he was more than less able. All he could do was unfold and refold paper. What made me mad was that archives are for important but retired documents. Here the Archives was used as a place to bury alive, relatives of politicians. And I never knew whom this half-witted guy was related to. There was also a young man named Reid who had a grade three education but he had a mind like a trap and he taught me about Loyalists. He spent all his time looking up Loyalists, gathering information. He also ran the photostat machine. I persuaded him to go and improve his English. His father was the best boot and shoemaker in Toronto. He made orthopedic shoes and I must say my shoes were always kept in good repair. But I got Reid to go and take remedial English for three years. In his third year he was chosen to thank the teacher for the course. Before he was done he wrote a fine article for *Ontario History* or what preceded *Ontario History* on Herkimer, Johan Jost Herkimer so good that the scholar who was the

authority on Herkimer of the Royal Canadian Northwest Mounted Police asked me who was this man Reid? He also did a couple of reviews for *Canadian Historical Review*. Coming from a grade three education to that level of scholarship I think was good. Who else? We had a man named Carstairs who had organized the Conservative campaign in 1908 and we had a piper named McLeod - I don't know what he did. Well, that's it. There was Talman, twenty-six years old, a farm boy only twelve years from the farm, stuck with that group. I had to edit the annual reports. I see Margaret Banks in the audience. If you want to know anything more about the Archives in later years, ask Margaret.

So that's how I got into the Archives. They were located in the southwest corner of the old building. The light came through prisms in the roof which were waterproofed with tar and in the hot summer days the tar used to drop down your neck and onto the documents. So today if you go to the Ontario Archives and you find a document covered with tar, that means it was in the old building.

Well soon after 1930 they moved the Archives to the Whitney building. I don't know how many stories, was it 14? with windows all around. I felt for the documents. The sun would come in and burn the lot. It was a terrible place for them. The view was superb and when scholars came to town and needed a temporary office to work they came to us. We had Bert McKay who later was an ambassador in Norway; a Frenchman named Giraud who wrote the definitive work on the Métis. These visiting scholars were friendly people and I got to know them well. It was a fine space but not for archives.

The Deputy Minister of Education was A.H.U. Colquhoun who also figures in this story. Colquhoun and Fraser didn't speak. Fraser came from Inverness and Colquhoun

came from the south, a Lowlander. I figured, in my simple way, that this was a Scottish difference. But when I looked into it further I found it was tied to the history of Canadian journalism. In Toronto there were two newspapers, the *Mail* and the *Empire* and these two men had been connected to different papers. Then the *Mail* and the *Empire* combined and I think Fraser got a job senior to A.H.U. Colquhoun. At any rate part of my time was taking messages between them as they would not communicate directly. I have to bring Colquhoun in because that contact led me to education.

But all things changed on June 10th, 1934. Hepburn became the Premier of Ontario and the first place he gunned for was the Archives. Very quickly we lost Colonel Fraser; we lost Carstairs; then we lost the piper and the halfwit and when they found what a researcher Reid was they stole him from the Archives for Treasury where they paid him about \$1300 a year. The first year he was in that job he brought in a million dollars in company taxes that hadn't been found before. He and I would go for a walk at noon, I had kept up my friendship with him, we would go into a store and he would look at something and say, "Canadian eh? - you know what that is - its a company that doesn't pay taxes." After the war I got a letter from him. He wanted to go to Income Tax so I went to the Income Tax in London, and wrote a letter to Clark, the man whose name used to be on some Canadian dollar bills. I told him about Reid and he said, "Well as you know I am not the Minister of Revenue but I have given them the name of Reid". And so Reid got a job in Income Tax. Kaye Lamb wrote to me once and had a question he wanted me to answer and I said, "Well it's tricky. I think Reid knows it a little better than I do." Kaye replied, "I can't bother him: he's too high in Income Tax for me". So the Archives lost

Reid. The Secretary got married and left town. The filing clerk stayed on. So they gave us a new secretary. I don't remember her name. She was the woman who went with Mitch on his Bermuda trip along with Bickle and the Federal MP whose name I forget.

You know it is quite tricky to have the Premier's mistress as your secretary. You have two choices, you can get a bad press or you can maybe get built up, a problem for a farm boy from Acton. Well maybe you learn something in the country too. After all there are hay mows. Jack Saywell is writing a history of Mitch Hepburn. (Interruption from the audience) Who said that? You remember her name then? Don't tell me. This is terrible. I'm wasting time. In Ontario you don't dare mention a name. Once I was talking in Peterborough about the royal family that took over in Brazil in 1824. I talked about the Emperor Pedro and his Empress. I said that the British South Atlantic Fleet didn't have anything to do in Brazilian waters so the Admiral and the Empress talked politics. The crowd roared with laughter. I didn't know what I had said wrong. Any rate after the meeting I said to the President of the Society, "What did I say wrong about the Empress and Admiral Sidney Smith?" She laughed again and said, "Admiral Smith's granddaughter is a member of our club and if she hadn't had flu she would have heard you." At any rate you shouldn't mention names in Ontario, so from now on I'll dodge them.

While Alexander Fraser was still the Archivist we got a bright young person because I was told that I needed a secretary. She was a beautiful woman and could she type! She had worked for a bank. She was a good typist. I don't care very much about the people - let me put it this way - I would employ the devil herself or himself as a typist if she or he could type. Well she was not only an excellent typist but she was also the girl friend of a Federal

MP. She had an identical twin sister who worked at Treasury. One day I was walking through the Treasury halls and saw my secretary. I said, "What are you doing here?" It was the sister. She gave me a dirty look.

One day when I came in, I'd gone to the Ontario Historical Society meeting, and Bill Reid met me and said "There was trouble while you were away. Susie Doakes, (I'll call her) came in drunk as an owl. She rolled in and Colonel Fraser sent her home." Later Colonel Fraser had her on the mat. She came in to me weeping because he had treated her so well. He had said that he had three daughters and how would he feel if one of them went that way. She was really touched. I don't know what became of her.

Now, in 1934, we have the new deal. Colquhoun retired and his place was taken by Duncan McArthur who, I thought, would be alright to get along with because I knew him. I had met him at historical meetings. But he gave me trouble. He called me on the first of September 1935 and said, "When are you taking your holidays?" And I said, "Well I've got three weeks coming to me." And he said, "Can you take them before the fifteenth of September?" I remember the day because it was my birthday and I said, "It is hard to squeeze three weeks into two". He answered, "On the fifteenth we want you to take over the Legislative Library. We have appointed a man who has been transferred within the Department of Education and we think he could manage the Library". What makes me mad is that when you get a problem person the layman thinks he or she would make a good librarian. I've run into that so many times. I was on the train one time and it came up that I was a librarian. I was sitting next to a stranger and he said, "Oh you know, I think my son would be a good librarian. He's a graduate of Toronto and he has diabetes. He's terribly introspective and doesn't get on well

with people, but he loves books." To be a librarian you have to hate books. To see the punishment books get from students and borrowers, chewing gum used as a marker, that kind of thing, you cannot love books. If you loved them you would be heart broken all the time.

I was appointed on the fifteenth of September 1935 as Acting Legislative Librarian while the new appointee was on leave. However on the second of January he went for a walk, slipped on a piece of ice, fell, cracked his skull and died. And so I asked the accountant, "How do I sign now?" since I had been signing 'Acting Librarian'. He said, "Sign 'Legislative Librarian'." I never really was appointed Legislative Librarian even though you may find me signed that way. So that's how I became a librarian. I never went to library school and all my life I have appreciated the way professional librarians have accepted me. Never have I heard, I can't say it was never said, but never have I heard an unkind word about my not being "professional".

I should say that Colonel Fraser treated me very well. When he was sick I would go out to his house on Woodlawn in North Toronto and take him his mail. He would tell me what answers he would write. And while he was reading his mail his three daughters, three or four daughters, treated me royally. I've met them since and they still treat me royally. Fraser said to me, "We have a new Deputy Minister of Public Works, Chester Walters. Do something for him." I said, "Such as?" "Oh, I don't know but do something for him."

It gets to me now sixty years later, how I could just walk into a deputy minister's office. A couple of days later I had to take a memo to Chester Walters who was a very bright man and I said to him, "That's an awfully bleak wall you have there in your office. Do you want to do a kindness for the Archives?" "What can I do?" I

replied, "We have in the basement, and I'm afraid someone is going to push a metal filing cabinet through it, Benjamin West's original sketch of *The Death of Wolfe*. It is not as big as the original but all of the detail is there. If you could put it on your wall it would save it and it would improve the look of your office." So he arranged it and I told Fraser what I had done. He was delighted. And from then on I would see Walters maybe three or four times a week on the elevator and he would always say, "Hi Talman, how are you and what have you found today?" He got to be very friendly.

Colonel Fraser retired in 1935 and while I continued in his job I also was keeping an eye on the Legislative Library. The tower was across the road from the big red building and, to save putting on an overcoat, I use to walk through the underground passage under the road. While I was walking underground I kept an eye on the garbage trucks to see what provincial documents they might be burning.

One day McArthur said to me, "Mitch Hepburn is going to close the Archives." I said, "You can't do it. The Archives has been given material worth keeping and you will have to find all of the donors and give the material back." "Well", he said, "we need the space. We can't have the Archives in that valuable office space." I thought I had been getting no where. I said to him, "If I can find a place for the Archives, can we save them?" "Well there's no place in these buildings" he replied. I said, "You have right under your office here a bunch of empty vaults with wide corridors all around them. If you built a factory fence from floor to ceiling with a locked gate, I am sure you could house the Archives here." (By now you see I had an office in the Legislative Library as well as in the Archives.) "And", I continued, "we could make a little office in the reading room for the secretaries; I could use the Librarian's office as the Archivist's office and we have an

elevator down to the stacks. There is one thing that should be done though, and that is that the ceiling should be plastered. Too dusty." "Why couldn't it be white washed?" he countered. And I said, "Yes you could and then you would have white dust instead of gray."

Next thing I knew, the elevator man, a friend of mine, said, "What have you got around here." And I said, "Me? I've got nothing. I just work here the way you do." He said, "Well you must have something. When I hear the Deputy Minister of Public Works say to McArthur, 'If Talman says we have to have plaster, then we'll have plaster,' you must have something." That was the first I had heard that they were even studying the problem carefully. They had a young architect named Major, his given name, Lang or Long or something like that. He got interested in the case and he plotted and drew. He cut pieces of paper to scale for every piece of equipment and laid them out. So we moved the Archives to the north wing where it stayed for quite some time before they moved it out after my time. Afterwards I asked if anybody had taken a picture of that north wing archives set up, but nobody had.

So now we get out of the Legislative Library. F.C. Jennings was the Inspector of Public Libraries. McArthur said to me, "Jennings is gone. Sam Herbert will need a little help. So if he does I told him to ask you." Jennings went because the Chairman of the Ottawa Public Library Board came to Toronto looking for a librarian. He ran into W.J. Dunlop of the U of T publicity department, and Dunlop said that he knew two librarians, Talman in the Legislative Library and Jennings, Inspector of Public Libraries and either would do. So we were checked out and we said, "Leave it to us." So Jennings and I had a meeting, and I said, "The problem is, which one of us hates his job more than the other." We both had to agree we were most unhappy but F.C. Jennings said that

he was more unhappy than I was. So although he left he was still a good friend of mine. That's partly why I didn't care for George Locke. Locke didn't like the way Jennings reviewed his book in the *Ontario Library Review* and I was a Jennings man.

Then, in 1939, Western invited me to join the University Library. I said, "No I can't go unless you offer the job first to Kate Gillespie." I knew her brothers and she was one of the finest people and an excellent professional librarian. She certainly could have run the library. The UWO Chief Librarian had to run the medical library as well as the general library. Before I tell you about Western I just remembered that Sam Herbert came to me one day and said, "I'm having trouble. Middlesex County wants to establish a county library and I've sent the request over to the Deputy-minister (that was McArthur). I sent it three weeks ago and he hasn't bothered to sign it and we have only about two more weeks to go because the year's running out." So I went to see Mrs. Brown, the secretary. She and I had got to know each other very well in the years I had been walking back and forth to see Colquhoun. So I said to her, "Sam Herbert has a letter on Middlesex County. Would you please put it on the top of the file every morning." So each morning she always pulled that letter out and put it on top of his basket and he signed it just in time. I always thought I may have saved the Middlesex County Library System. At that point I got kind of hooked on county libraries. The librarians of county libraries were the best librarians I ever knew. However, so much for county libraries.

When I got invited to Western, I had said no I would not go unless Kate Gillespie didn't want the job. They did ask her. Kate Gillespie wrote me the grandest letter asking me to accept the job. Imagine, imagine being the librarian of a university library where the second-in-command

was so loyal and so competent! I was the luckiest fellow ever. Kate Gillespie could have done the work but she was too decent to be a chief librarian. You have to be able to take the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune to be a librarian. One day some years after, Kate came to me in tears. There was a shortage of staff and she had gone up to the main desk, since she ran circulation as well cataloguing. A woman had come up to ask for a book. Kate said, "Its out." This woman stood back, you know the way a sergeant-major used to stand back so that everybody could hear him, and said, "You bitch, you know the book is in the library and you just wont give it to me." Well I was mad. They say don't let the sun go down on your wrath, so I went over to the chairman of psychology and told him the story. I said "I know she is schizo but that doesn't relieve her of responsibility". And he drew himself up and said, "She is not schizophrenic she's paranoid with schizophrenic tendencies." Trust those birds to change the ground on which you stand

if they can. And I said, "I don't care if she's schizophrenic or paranoid but she is not going to speak to my staff that way. She should be kicked out." They finally did kick her out. Kate Gillespie couldn't have taken such punishment. She was too sensitive. But boy, she stayed with me her whole career, almost until the end. So how lucky can you be!

We had a very good cataloguer, Miss. Welling. She came to me one day and said, "Here's a book. You recommended it. Library of Congress puts it under religion and I can't imagine your recommending a religious book." I remember the book *Saints in Politics*. She said, "I would put it under English history," and I said "that's where I would". Last Friday, after all these years just to check that I had once helped a cataloguer, (I, personally, couldn't catalogue *Mary Had a Little Lamb*.) I shouldn't have! Miss. Welling had catalogued it under BR which is "religion" in LC Classification. That's one of the highlights of my career as a non qualified librarian. But have I been lucky with the people who worked for me, who saved me. They carried me through my entire career!!

MIND AND MANUSCRIPT: THE WORK OF HISTORIAN-TEACHER FRED LANDON, 1881-1969, by Dr. Patricia Skidmore

"An absolutely inspired teacher, and one who knew his subject and loved it. He made you want to know, too." That is the memory of one of the pupils of historian Fred Landon. Those who did not study under him but, rather, related to him as a colleague; or used his manuscript collections in the Regional Collection at Western's Library (he was its librarian); or read his published researches, have equally high praise for Landon's abilities. His many suggestions for research are still fostering important projects.¹ Landon did not begin as a teacher of history. In 1906 he became a writer for the *London Free Press* after graduating from Western. Ten years later he was London Public Library's Chief Librarian, giving some history lectures at Western at the same time.² Then, in 1923, he came to Western as its first full-time librarian, and he continued and expanded his teaching role. Always he wrote history, even to 1960 when the seventy-nine year old Landon published his last book *An Exile from Canada to Van Diemen's Land*. In fact, his last effort was published after his death in 1969, an entry in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.³ Altogether, Landon wrote over seventy major articles, authored three books and co-authored two others on history. He also published much on librarianship, Great Lakes shipping, and contemporary comment.⁴

The present study will omit both Landon-as-journalist and Landon-as-librarian in order to focus on Landon's historical research and publication. His ideas about the study of history should be set forth first. Then his place in the evolving discipline can be outlined; in some ways, he fit into the trends of his day, while in other ways, Landon was a pioneer, a breaker of new ground. The very magnitude of his collected writings testifies to an unusual ability

to work efficiently and effectively, so it is natural to inquire into his working habits. Finally, Landon's career is remarkable because of his constancy and his complete commitment to Clio's craft, and these are important factors in explaining his achievements.

Although he collected many notes on the art or craft called History, Fred Landon seldom addressed the subject as such.⁵ Occasionally, however, he would wax lyrical and reveal his approach to the discipline. "The business of history is to get at the thoughts, passions, endeavours, and failures of mankind and of individual men and women in the past," he wrote, paraphrasing G.M. Trevelyan.⁶ In fact, most of Landon's own investigations focused on a particular kind of individual in the past — the common man. Highly influenced by the work of C.R. Fish, Landon was convinced that portraying the average man was a worthwhile task.⁷ He had high praise for a historian who "thought history had been written too much upon the basis of what great men said on the public platform or wrote in an official capacity."⁸ Landon thought the same. "History has a way of disinterring the record of very humble folk, who never dreamed that some day their names might appear in print," he wrote. "History does not relate to the great alone but to all men, and the humble folk are always the more numerous."⁹ What is perhaps Landon's best paper on social history, "The Common Man in the Era of the Rebellion in Upper Canada," was derived from this interest.

The reason for recollecting the past, of humble men or great, lay in the matter of understanding the present, for Landon. "To travel in time enables us to place our present in some relation to the past and to give the existing institutions and practices a meaning that they

may otherwise lack."¹⁰ Landon chose to make his Presidential Address to the Canadian Historical Association in 1942 on the subject of the social history of the 1880's in Canada because he could point to both the justifications mentioned here. The cultural and institutional history, the life of the common man of the 1880's, still needed investigation, he suggested; and to explore that area of history was important because "it is vitally related to much of our contemporary scene." Its efforts and its problems persisted still.¹¹ Landon was equally convince of the value of studying particular kinds of history, especially local or regional history and the history of the interrelationships of Canada and the United States.¹² His defence of these two foci will be presented later.¹³ For now, Landon's absorption with history in all its forms stemmed from his belief that it illuminated the present, especially if one used history to cultivate an understanding of daily life and the practical patterns which influenced people at large.

In a number of ways, Landon's approach to the study of history was formed by his era. He was trained during the opening decade of this century, just when history was beginning to be a subject separate from English in the universities,¹⁴ and when the history of Canada was emerging as a separate course of study.¹⁵ The publication of historical documents had begun in earnest during Landon's undergraduate years.¹⁶ He undoubtedly read the new *Review of Historical Publications Relating to Canada* which was founded in 1897 and reconstituted as the *Canadian Historical Review* in 1920. During Landon's ten year career as a journalist, from 1906 to 1916, Canadian history underwent what one critic calls "a kind of creative and scholarly explosion" which included the publication of *The Chronicles of Canada* in thirty-two volumes (1914-16) and *Canada and its Provinces* in twenty-three volumes (1914-17).¹⁷ When

Landon was ready to begin writing historical papers, there existed an interested, informed audience of scholars who belonged to societies with regular publications such as the Ontario Historical Society's *Papers and Records* and the London and Middlesex Historical Society's *Transactions*. In other words, Canadian history was "successfully organized."¹⁸

Similarly, archives were fairly systematized, thanks to a dedicated group of scholar-librarians who collected, purchased, and preserved manuscripts and documents pertaining to history.¹⁹ The original group of scholar-librarians included Adam Shortt and George Wrong; Fred Landon would follow their lead after joining the London Public Library in 1916. There, he brought together as much material as he could collect relevant to local or regional history and made it available in the "London Room".²⁰ He would do the same at Western from 1923 onward, creating the Regional Collection²¹

Not only in becoming an archival librarian was Landon representative of his era. The 1920's and 1930's have been called the "golden age of local history in Canada."²² Landon was at the heart of this movement, alongside W. Sherwood Fox and James Talman.²³ Perhaps because he was confined to London by his job as librarian, first at London Public Library and then at Western, Landon delved into Western Ontario and London History.²⁴ Under his direction, *Western Ontario Notes* and *Western Ontario Nuggets* were begun as vehicles for the dissemination of local history. His earliest historical articles included descriptions of two Western Ontario Negro settlements,²⁵ a portrayal of fugitive slaves in London, Ontario,²⁶ an examination of the London area during the 1837-38 uprisings,²⁷ and similar subjects. Landon's interest in local history continued throughout his life; articles with a regional focus form the bulk of his writings.

Landon's three main books had their genesis in local history. In addition to *Western Ontario and the American Frontier* to be discussed later, he produced the definitive historical description of *Lake Huron*²⁸ and chronicled the life of a Southwestern Ontario rebel in *An Exile from Canada*.²⁹ He wrote some hundred pages of the *Province of Ontario*³⁰ for J.E. Middleton, and described the London area with Orlo Miller in *Up the Proof Line*.³¹ Finally, Landon edited several groupings of papers, diaries, or letters of local figures, including abolitionists Benjamin Lundy³² and Charles Stuart³³ and ministers James Evans³⁴ and William Proudfoot.³⁵

Although practical constraints on his time and a need to reside always in London may account for Landon's initial interest in local history, he undoubtedly came to believe in its significance. In the final pages of his classic *Western Ontario and the American Frontier*, Landon addressed this matter:

This study, having been restricted in its scope to a particular section of one province, may seem to be local history. But only as we are able to see the working out of our social institutions in separate localities and can compare the results one with another will we be able to obtain a clear perspective of the whole.³⁶

Local history, then, was to be fused with more local history until a realistic collage of the whole emerged. For example, Landon argued that the full impact of the political crisis of 1849 was visible only when one noticed the many individual communities in which "old-time Toryism was making its last stand."³⁷ To focus on the burning of the Parliament Buildings at Montreal would be to overlook "the diseased political condition widespread throughout the Upper Province," argued Landon.³⁸ In a similar vein, Landon felt that a right understanding of the rebellion of 1837 awaited studies of the conditions and events in many communities. "It was not one rebellion but many

rebellions, and to generalize may be an acknowledgement of insufficient evidence," he warned.³⁹

In one additional way, Landon was a part of the scholarly trends of his age. There was underway a rebellion against the preceding era's focus on constitutional history: Frank Underhill, nine years Landon's junior, was one leader in this movement whose iconoclasm pleased Landon.⁴⁰ Instead of focusing on the political clichés about constitutional growth under Mother Britain, a new group of historians were appearing who paid attention to historical influences coming from the United States, and who were interested in grass roots discontent and the emergence of democracy.⁴¹ They focused also on the influences of the frontier on Canadian life, following the inspiration of Frederick Jackson Turner.⁴² Many members of this group were trained at the graduate level in an American university, including Arthur Lower, A.S. Morton, and Landon.⁴³ These younger men were marshalled by slightly older historians, especially Bartlet Brebner and James T. Shotwell, and they formulated what was called a "continental interpretation."⁴⁴ This interpretation, captured in a twenty-five volume study of Canadian-American relations, is the starting point and main theme of Landon's contribution, *Western Ontario and the American Frontier*.

Landon came to his continental interpretation of Canada's history naturally enough. His M.A. thesis, done for the University of Western Ontario in 1919, explored Canada's role in the anti-slavery movement.⁴⁵ His subsequent specialized training at the University of Michigan in 1923 was guided by Ulrich Phillips, the great historian of the American South.⁴⁶ Landon's research papers in the 1920's included such titles as "Canadian Opinion of Southern Secession, 1860-61,"⁴⁷ "The American Civil War and Canadian Confederation,"⁴⁸ and

"Canadian Opinion of Abraham Lincoln."⁴⁹ In all of this, Landon was reinforcing his conviction that Canadian and American histories were intertwined. It was an easy step to see the origins of the 1837-38 unrest in Jacksonian democratic pulsations, American religious institutions, and frontier freedoms experienced by pioneers on both sides of the border. When he came to write the regional history requested of him by Shotwell, Landon argued his case for North Americanism well.

Landon's study convincingly demonstrated that Canadian-American relations had repeatedly been relations between people in all walks of life, not merely formal interactions between states, concludes the historian of Canadian history writing.⁵⁰ Landon's interest in the common man as the subject of historical inquiry combined with his North American consciousness to produce his best volume, *Western Ontario and the American Frontier*. Yet his vignette on the same subject, "Our Neighbors and Ourselves," captured his concept equally well:

It is not only natural but perfectly logical that a North American pattern should be found in Canadian activities and nothing could be more foolish than to attempt a graft of an unsuited pattern drawn from elsewhere.⁵¹

While Landon's approach to history and his choice of subject matter were in some ways typical of his era, in certain matters he was a pioneer. His research and publication on Negroes in Canada was perhaps fifty years ahead of its time. He described the workings of the underground railroad,⁵² the treatment received by fugitive slaves upon arrival in Canada,⁵³ and the social conditions and agriculture of the Negroes settled in Upper Canada.⁵⁴ His attention moved away from Negro history as his career wore on, and at the time of his retirement, he was pioneering in

quite a different field, Great Lakes history. As an assistant editor of *Inland Seas* and a lifelong aficionado of shipping activities on the Lakes, Landon enjoyed writing the "biography" of particular ships, or tales of Lake disasters, or accounts of life on the Lakes in the nineteenth century.⁵⁵ The pinnacle of his effort in this area was *Lake Huron*, published in 1944 as part of the American Lake Series. Landon was the perfect choice to write this volume, as the editor pointed out, for he had been a Lake sailor in his youth (1902), was an accomplished scholar, and yet could write well — "he is incapable of producing a dry-as-dust recital," his editor asserted.⁵⁶

In two additional areas, Landon mined productive veins nearly by himself. His first career as a *Free Press* reporter interested him in the history of newspapers. Thus, he investigated London's early newspapers and journalists in 1927,⁵⁷ and later did a pathfinder study of the agricultural journals of Upper Canada.⁵⁸ In fact, Landon set James Talman to work on the latter subject, which became a lifetime interest for Talman.⁵⁹ Related to newspaper history was Landon's unique inquiry into agriculture history. He made a careful study of this field in the 1930's, producing four articles and calling on historians to pay more attention to farm journals as source material.⁶⁰

Obviously, Landon's research and writing methods were superb. No one could produce such a volume of writing without regular and intelligent working habits. Testimony to his research methods rests in the Regional Collection at D.B. Weldon Library in the form of twenty-four boxes of Landon's scrapbooks containing labelled, indexed articles, clippings, and notes on every area of interest to Landon. Lincoln, Riel, Laurier, the Civil War, the Great Lakes, the Fathers of Confederation, railways, agriculture, and Methodism are but a few of the subjects on which he collected notes.⁶¹ In

addition, Landon corresponded widely with archivists, librarians, and other historians, exchanging information and research findings. Among his correspondents were R.P. Baker, M.N. Quaife, J.T. Shotwell, and Goldwin Smith.⁶²

An illustration of Landon's search techniques appears in his "The Knights of Labor," published in 1937.⁶³ Seeking the last reported data and place of a meeting of this organization, Landon wrote to the Department of Labor. He followed up their lead by writing to the Boston Public Library, where he obtained an office address for the Knights. After establishing contact with an employee there, Landon visited the office and interviewed him. Subsequently, Landon obtained several annual reports of past conventions from this man, and these enabled him to write his article.

This same article on the Knights of Labor will serve to illustrate another of Landon's hallmarks, his writing style. As a young journalist, he had learned to "get it down on paper," and ever afterward he wrote quickly and in an eminently readable style. Sketching the Knights of Labor office, Landon wrote, "The office was small, dingy and dusty. Here and there were bundles, probably of records or correspondence, showing no indication of having been disturbed in a long time."⁶⁴ Landon also had a flair for discerning the quotable, probably a product of his newspaper days, which is evident in the following letter written by Mrs. Amelia Harris and reproduced in his article on London in 1837:

We have been several times notified that Mr. Harris was to be shot and our house burned. Mrs. Cronyn [wife of London's Anglican rector] was notified that her house would be burned as it was church property, but she need not be alarmed as her and the children would be allowed to walk out — very civil.⁶⁵

Not the least attractive of Landon's writing

mannerisms was his willingness to inject a lighter note. Describing this same Rebellion of 1837 and its effect in galvanizing the men of the Huron Tract into forming detachments, Landon wrote:

The Huron men were organized by companies and bore such names as the Huron True Blues, the Huron Braves, the Invincibles, and one company which modestly designated itself the Bloody Useless.⁶⁶

One final characteristic of Landon as craftsman deserves attention. His interest in a subject persisted. Perhaps the outstanding example of this quality is found in Landon's work on Benjamin Lundy, an early abolitionist who travelled in Canada. In 1922, Landon edited and published Lundy's diary.⁶⁷ Then in 1927, Landon did a short biographical piece on Lundy for the *Dalhousie Review*,⁶⁸ the first such study to appear. Thirteen years later, he wrote an account of Lundy's final years in Illinois.⁶⁹ Twenty years elapsed and Landon presented yet another sketch of Lundy, this time in *Ontario History* in 1960.⁷⁰ By now, others were beginning to take an interest in the subject, and an article appeared on Lundy's Texas years in 1959.⁷¹ At last, in 1966, A full biography of Lundy appeared and Landon reviewed it for the *Canadian Historical Review*.⁷² As with all his reviews, this one was descriptive, uncritical and impersonal. Yet Landon surely felt some pleasure in the fact that his "discovery" of forty-four years before had finally been thoroughly studied.

There are many examples of Landon retaining an interest in a subject over long periods. In 1919 and 1956, he wrote on the Anti-slavery Society of Canada;⁷³ in 1918 and 1937, he published studies on the Wilberforce Negro colony in Middlesex County.⁷⁴ On April 2, 1925, Landon addressed the Waterloo Historical Society, as he had addressed and would address hundreds of other societies. His

subject this night was "The Exiles of 1838."⁷⁵ Two years later, he wrote a paper for the London and Middlesex Historical Society on the same subject.⁷⁶ And in 1960, his book on one of those exiles, Elijah Woodman, was published.⁷⁷ Always, Landon's later studies of a subject were different from and fuller than his first ones. He never attempted to monopolize a subject; but, with his students and colleagues alike, he would open up an area and be pleased to see it well developed, whether by his own subsequent work or by the work of others. Similar to the Lundy review, Landon often ended up writing a review on a book which treated of a subject he had uncovered years before but had not been able to develop himself. In 1925, he wrote "Social Conditions among the Negroes in Upper Canada before 1865."⁷⁸ and in 1940 he reviewed two books in this subject.⁷⁹ Similarly, he wrote briefly on the tragedies on the Great Lakes as early as 1945,⁸⁰ and then reviewed William Ratigan's comprehensive *Great Lakes Shipwrecks and Survivals* in 1960.⁸¹

This mild mannered, gentlemanly scholar received numerous honors for his work, ranging from the Presidency of the Ontario Historical Society, 1926-28, and of the Canadian Historical Society, 1941-42, to Fellowship in and the Tyrell Medal of the Royal Society of Canada. His own university made him a Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies, and his colleagues held him in universal esteem.⁸²

Landon's students remember him for his approachability, his sincere interest in their work, and his obvious love of history. He would come bouncing into the lecture room, carrying a slim black volume of notes. These he often ignored as he talked from memory, building a vivid picture of the day's subject. Students forgot to take notes in their fascination, and left his lectures eager to turn to their books for more.⁸³

Landon seldom concerned himself with the grand theories of history or the various interpretations of Canada's evolution, although he appreciated the work of Frank Underhill, Donald Creighton, J.B. Brebner, A.L. Burt, and others who dealt more in generalizations than he did.⁸⁴ Also Landon virtually ignored historical fields such as politics, the constitution, the Imperial connection, and Maritime, Quebec, or Western Canada. Yet the work he chose to do, he did well. His research on the Great Lakes, agriculture, newspapers, Negroes in Canada, the common man of Western Ontario, and the relationships between Canadian and America history with their frontierism and democracy was accurate and well written. His enthusiasm for history in general and local history in particular was infectious. Landon's contribution to Canada history was an important one for, as he wrote on a scrap of paper in his files, "Without social history, economic history is barren, and political history is unintelligible."⁸⁵

Endnotes

1. A collection of Landon's writings, albeit incomplete, is available in three bound volumes entitled "Historical Articles" by Fred Landon in the D.B. Weldon Library's Regional Room. Typical modern studies which elaborate themes introduced by Landon include: J.R. Miller's "As A Politician He is A Great Enigma: the Social and Political Ideas of D'Alton McCarthy," *Canadian Historical Review* (Dec., 1977), 399-422 (see note 2 thereof) and D.G. Simpson's "Negroes in Ontario from Early Times to 1870," unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Western Ontario, 1971. Cf. Landon's "Dalton McCarthy -- Crusader," *Willison's Monthly*, IV (1929), 360-61, and his "Dalton McCarthy and the Politics of the Later Eighties," *Canadian Historical Association Annual Report* (1932), 43-50. See also Landon's work on Ontario Negroes cited in notes 24, 25, 51-53 below.
2. Western University became The University of Western Ontario in 1923.
3. "Linus Wilson Miller", (Toronto: U. of Toronto Press, 1972), p. 514.
4. Hilary Bates, "A Bibliography of Fred Landon," *Ontario History*, Vol LXII (March, 1970), 5-16.
5. D.B. Weldon Library, The University of Western Ontario, Landon Papers, Box 4205, file 78, "The Writing of History." Hereafter this collection is referred to as Landon Papers.
6. "The Common Man in the Era of the Rebellion in Upper Canada," *Canadian Historical Association Annual Report* (1937), p.90. This article was reprinted in F.H. Armstrong, H.A. Stevenson and J.D. Wilson (eds.), *Aspects of Nineteenth Century Ontario: Essays Presented to James J. Talman* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1974), pp. 154-170.
7. This information comes from an interview with J.J. Talman, The University of Western Ontario, Jan. 31, 1979. Fish's book was *The Rise of the Common Man, 1830-1850* (New York, 1927.)
8. Fred Landon, "Ulrich Bonnell Phillips: Historian of the South," *Journal of Southern History*, Vol. V, No. 3 (August, 1939), p. 370.
9. *Lake Huron* (New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1944), foreword.
10. Fred Landon, *Western Ontario and the American Frontier*, Carleton Library No. 34 (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1967), p.270. This volume was originally published in 1941 by Ryerson Press, Toronto.
11. "The Canadian Scene, 1880-90," *Canadian Historical Association Annual Report* (1942), p. 18.
12. In 1927, Landon wrote, "The influence upon Upper Canada of the great changes taking place in the United States in the thirties deserves more attention that it has yet received." "London and its Vicinity, 1837-38," *Ontario Historical Society, Papers and Records*, XXIV (1927), p. 4.
13. see pp. 7-8.
14. Carl F. Klinck, "Bookmen and Scholars," in Armstrong *et al.*, eds., pp. 329-30.
15. Kenneth N. Windsor, "Historical Writing in Canada (to 1920)," *Literary History of Canada*, Vol. I (2nd ed.), (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976), p. 256.
16. *Ibid.*, pp. 250-52.
17. *Ibid.*, p. 258.
18. Klinck, p. 330.
19. *Ibid.*, p. 331.

20. Although Landon began the local history collection at the London Public Library, the "London Room" was not established until 1966 under the direction of Charles Deane Kent. (The Editor)
21. Cf. Fred Landon, "The Library and Local Material," *Ontario Library Review*, Vol. I (1917), 61-62.
22. Windsor, p. 252.
23. William Kilbourn, "The Writing of Canadian History," *Literary History of Canada*, Vol. II (2nd ed.) (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1976), p. 33.
24. Talman interview cited in note 7.
25. "The Buxton Settlement in Canada," *Journal of Negro History*, III (1918), 360-67; and "The History of the Wilberforce Refugee Colony in Middlesex County," *London and Middlesex Historical Society, Transactions*, IX (1918), 30-44.
26. "Fugitive Slaves in London Ontario before 1860," *London and Middlesex Historical Society, Transactions*, X, (1919), 25-38.
27. "London and its Vicinity," cited in note 12 above.
28. Cited in note 9 above.
29. *An Exile from Canada to Van Diemen's Land: Being the Story of Elijah Woodman transported overseas for participation in the Upper Canada troubles of 1837-38* (Toronto: Longmans, Green and Company, 1960.)
30. Landon and J.E. Middleton, *The Province of Ontario: A History, 1615-1927* (Toronto: Dominion Publishing Co., 1927-28) Landon wrote Part II, Ch. 6-8 on the Thames Valley and London.
31. (London: D.B. Weldon, 1955.)
32. "The Diary of Benjamin Lundy, Written during his Journey through Upper Canada, January, 1832," *Ontario Historical Society, Papers and Records*, XIX (1922), 110-33.
33. "Captain Charles Stuart, Abolitionist,": *Western Ontario Historical Nuggets*, No 24 (1956), 19 pp. Reprinted in *Profiles of a Province* (Toronto: Ontario Historical Society, 1967), 205-10.
34. "Selections from the Papers of James Evans, Missionary to the Indians," *Ontario Historical Society, Papers and Records*, XXVI (1930), 474-91; and "Letters of Rev. James Evans, Methodist Missionary," *Ontario Historical Society, Papers and Records*, XXVIII (1932), 47-70.
35. Introduction to "The Proudfoot Papers," *London and Middlesex Historical Society, Transactions*, XI (1922), 3-4.
36. p. 269.
37. "An Upper Canada Community in the Political Crisis of 1849," *Ontario Historical Society, Papers and Records*, XXVI (1930), p. 3.
38. *Ibid.*
39. "The Common Man...", p. 90.
40. Carl Berger, *The Writing of Canadian History* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1976), p. 64.
41. *Ibid.*, Ch. 6, "A North American Nation."
42. Kilbourn, p. 27.

43. Berger, pp. 144-45.
44. *Ibid.*, p. 144, citing Bartlet Brebner, "Canadian and North American History." *Canadian Historical Association Annual Report* (1931), 37, 48.
45. The exact title was "The Relation of Canada to the Anti-slavery and Abolition Movements in the United States."
46. Landon took four credit courses in American History during the summer of 1923 in order to be better prepared for his lecturing at the University. Interview with Mrs. Margaret Landon at London, Ont., Feb. 2, 1979. For Landon's examination papers from these courses, see Landon Papers, Box 4211, File 52.
47. *Canadian Historical Review*, I (1920), 255-66.
48. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, 3rd ser., XXI (1927), Section II, 55-62.
49. *Dalhousie Review*, II (1922), 329-34.
50. Berger, p. 154.
51. *Quarterly Review of Commerce* (UWO), XI (1944), 53-57. By "elsewhere," Landon meant England, and he was undoubtedly quietly rejecting the ideas of historians like Chester Martin and W.P.M. Kennedy. For a discussion of their view of Canada's evolution within an Imperial pattern, see Berger, pp. 34-43.
52. "Canada and the Underground Railroad," *Kingston Historical Society, Reports and Proceedings* (1923), 17-31; "Amherstburg, Terminus of the Underground Railway," *Journal of Negro History*, X (1925), 1-9; "The Underground Railway Along the Detroit River," *Michigan History*, XXXIV (1955), 63-68 (originally a radio broadcast at Windsor.)
53. "The Fugitive Slave in Canada," *University Magazine*, XVIII (1919), 270-79; "The Anderson Fugitive Case," *Journal of Negro History*, VII (1922), 233-42; "Fugitive Slaves in Ontario," *Northwest Ohio Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin*, VIII (1936), #2, 1-12.
54. "Social Conditions Among the Negroes in Upper Canada before 1865," *Ontario Historical Society, Papers and Records*, XXII (1925), 144-61; "Agriculture Among the Negro Refugees in Upper Canada," *Journal of Negro History*, XXI (1936), 304-12.
55. For example: "Return of the Turret Cape," *Inland Seas*, V (1949), #2, 122; and "The Manitoba," *Inland Seas*, VI (1950), #4, 273; "Great Lakes Storm of 1913," *Michigan History*, XXXVIII (1954), 265-72; "Port Stanley to Cleveland Excursion of 1849," *Inland Seas*, X (1954), #2, 137-38.
56. *Lake Huron*, p. 9.
57. "Some Early Newspapers and Newspaper Men of London," *London and Middlesex Historical Society, Transactions*, XII (1927), 26-34.
58. "The Agriculture Journals of Upper Canada," *Agricultural History*, IX (1935), 167-75.
59. Interview with Talman.
60. "Some Effects of the American Civil War on Canadian Agriculture," *Agriculture History*, VII (1933), 163-69; "The 1860's — a Period of Transition in Upper Canadian Agriculture," *OAC Review*, XLIX (1937), 416-18, 451-58; and see notes 53 and 56 above.
61. Landon Papers, Boxes 4195-4207 and X1470-1482.
62. *Ibid.*, Boxes 4208 and 4209, *passim*.

63. "The Knights of Labor: Predecessors of the C.I.O." *Quarterly Review of Commerce* (UWO), IV and V (1937), 133-39.
64. *Ibid.*, p. 4.
65. Cited in note 12 above, pp. 9-10.
66. *Lake Huron*, p. 124.
67. See note 31 above.
68. "Benjamin Lundy, Abolitionist," *Dalhousie Review*. (1927), 189-97.
69. "Benjamin Lundy in Illinois," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, XXXIII (1940), 56-67.
70. "A Pioneer Abolitionist in Upper Canada," *Ontario History*, LII (1960), 77-83.
71. Merton L. Dillon, "Benjamin Lundy in Texas," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. LXIII, No. 1 (July, 1959), 56-62.
72. Review of Merton L. Dillon's *Benjamin Lundy and the Struggle for Negro Freedom* in *Canadian Historical Review*, XLVIII (1967), 170-71.
73. "The Anti-slavery Society of Canada," *Journal of Negro History*, IV (1919), 33-40; "The Anti-Slavery Society of Canada," *Ontario History*, XLVIII (1956), 125-31.
74. See note 24 above; "Wilberforce, an Experiment in the Colonization of Freed Negroes in Upper Canada," *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, 3rd ser., XXXI (1937) Section II, 69-78.
75. Landon Papers, Box 4212, file 72, pocket diary for 1906-32 listing writings and public addresses. This address was published as "The Exiles of 1838," *Annual Report of the Waterloo Historical Society*, XIII (1925), 154-58.
76. "The Exiles of 1838 from Canada to Van Diemen's Land," *London and Middlesex Historical Society, Transactions*, XII (1927), 5-20.
77. See note 28 above.
78. See note 53 above.
79. Review of H.A. Turner, *The Settlement of Negroes in Kent County, Ont...* and of Ira De A. Reid, *The Negro Immigrant...*, in *Canadian Historical Review*, XXI, (1940), 82-83.
80. "A Military Tragedy on Lake Erie," *Inland Seas*, I (1945), #4, 37-40.
81. In *Inland Seas*, XVI (1960), #4, 333.
82. Fred Armstrong, "Fred Landon, 1880-1969," *Ontario History*, LXII (March, 1970), 1-4.
83. Interview with former Landon student, Mr. William Hitchins of London, Ont., Feb. 20, 1979.
84. *Western Ontario and the American Frontier*, pp. 21, 25, 232 and interview with Mrs. Margaret Landon.
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OUR FOURTH LIBRARIAN - FRED LANDON, by Elizabeth Spicer

*Who was Fred? What was he
That all our staff commended him?
Learned, fair and wise was he;
The heaven such grace did lend him,
That he might admired be.*
(Apologies to "Who is Silvia?")

Our fourth librarian, Fred Landon, 1880-1969, is worthy of all accolades from librarians and historians. During his long and gifted careers of newspaperman, librarian, historian and teacher he brought many honours to himself and to his home town of London, Ontario.

From 1907-1908 and again from 1912 to 1914 he was involved in newspaper work - first on the editorial staff of the *London Free Press* and later as the representative of the paper in the Press Gallery in Ottawa. In 1916 he left the *London Free Press* though he continued writing for the historical column 'Looking Over Western Ontario' right up to the time of his death.

From 1916-1923 he was Chief Librarian of the London Public Library. While there he was responsible for the beginning of the local history collections that have developed in the London Room of to-day. His successors, Richard E. Crouch and C. Deane Kent, continued this interest and support.

From 1950-1966 Fred Landon served on the Library Board and as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Art Museum. In 1955 the Library Board named the new branch on Wortley Road in his honour.

Mr. Landon served as Chief Librarian from 1916-1923. He brought an invaluable gift of booklore and scholarship which he contributed to developing the basic book collection. Particular interests - Negro history, slavery abolition, the Great Lakes and American history - helped to develop these subjects in the collection of the 1920's. (Later Dr. Landon

advised us to obtain *Inland Seas* - the journal of the Great Lakes Historical Society. So we began to acquire and to bind this valuable publication.)

At the time of his appointment as successor to Mr. W.O. Carson the *London Free Press* recognized him "as a man well fitted for the position... Mr. Landon is widely read, and an ardent book lover, may be depended on to continue the work so successfully carried on by Mr. Carson during the past nine years." (L.F.P. - April 12, 1916)

During his term of office, 1916-1923, Fred Landon saw the development of reference service in 1916 under Marion Baxter, The opening of the London South Branch in 1917, and the Southeast Branch in 1921. The children's department also was developing in collection and in activities as "story hour" under a trained assistant was started. By 1916 the library possessed about 40,000, 6000 volumes in 1895. A picture collection was developed.

As an active, interested member of the community Mr. Landon gave talks to groups such as the Women's Music Club in March 1917. His subject was "The Public Library as a Musical Ally". His successor, R.E. Crouch, was to expand and to deepen the Library's role in the community and to bring it to its peak as a community centre in the 1950's.

Both Mr. Landon and his successor were active in library organizations such as the Ontario Library Association, the Canadian Library Association and the American Library Association. In May 1923, Mr. Landon was appointed to the A.L.A. committee on library

cooperation with other countries.

He foresaw the pressing necessity of a new building to replace the 1895 library (at Wellington Street and Queen's Ave. where the red brick part of the YMCA-YWCA now stands), and to meet the Library's future growth.

The annual meeting of the Library Board in January 1923 noted that 1922 had been "Busiest year yet at Library. New building urged." (L.F.P. January 1923). Mr Landon, however, did not plan the new building which was to be the creation of his successor, R.E. Crouch.

On June 8, 1923 Mr. Crouch took over the reins when Mr. Landon went to Western University as its director of library services and associate professor of history.

After his retirement he served on our Library Board and as a substitute for Dr. Crouch while he was on sick leave. Dr. Landon met with the Staff and offered advice of a practical nature. I particularly remember his firm belief in the importance of recording any hard-to-find facts as soon as they were found. "Get them on slips and don't worry about the form". This has been a guiding rule for our local history collection. Dr. Landon also put great stress on preserving all kinds of local history materials. About 1914 he began his on-going campaign in the *Ontario Library Review* and in public talks and articles. He urged the immediate preservation of our local history and influenced Ontario librarians to follow his advice.

Another memory of him is the episode of borrowing from the Library of Congress. A New Canadian persuaded us to borrow some frail works in a foreign language from Washington. Then he loaned them to a friend who kept them overdue! Eventually we were told by the Library of Congress that we would have our borrowing privileges revoked. The borrower, however, still failed to return the material and declined to pay the inter-library

loan postage. After fruitless arguments and bad feelings the matter was referred to Dr. Landon as the Chief Librarian's substitute. He instructed us to put our talkative and difficult borrower on his phone when he called again. In a thundering voice Dr. Landon (who never raised his voice as a rule) is reputed to have said "NOW - you listen to me..." Our borrower returned the material, paid the charges and no longer caused an "international" problem for us! Dr. Landon proved his reputed wisdom and skill and restored us in the esteem of the Library of Congress.

During his busy retirement years I acted as his "telephone" assistant as he verified facts for numerous historical articles published in *Ontario History* and the *London Free Press*.

"Concurrently, with his work at the London Public Library he held a lectureship in History and English at Western University, where, by 1917, he had introduced the first American History course taught in Canada..." (He had obtained his B.A. from Western University in 1903. In 1919 he completed his M.A. on "The Relation of Canada to the Anti-Slavery and Abolition Movements in the United States".)

"He also affected the real beginning of the university library when, in 1918, he persuaded John Davis Barnett to present his collection of over 40,000 volumes to the University. Up to this time there had been fewer than 5,000 books in the library. Exceptionally rich in all fields of history and 19th century English Literature the Barnett Collection still delights and surprises the historical researcher". Mr. Barnett was a Stratford railroad man who was a unique book collector and student of history and literature.

In 1923 Mr. Landon went to Western as its first full-time librarian where he developed the book collection which his earlier advice had helped to enrich. During his time as University Librarian he saw the collection grow to over 150,000 volumes and the building of the

Lawson Library of 1934. His special interest led to the setting up of "the Regional Collection of books and documents relating to Western Ontario history... To support research in this area in 1942 he began a series of publications. 'Western Ontario Historical Notes'... and 'Western Ontario Nuggets'... He persuaded "his former pupil, then Archivist of Ontario, James J. Talman, to join the library staff as his assistant and later, in 1947, his successor..."

"His contribution to the development of libraries and library science in Canada were equally considerable ... He was president of the Ontario Library Association in 1926-27 and in the field of bibliographical research was a founder of the Bibliographical Society of Canada and the president in 1948-50." During the post-war years he served as first appointee to the new post of Vice-President of Western and acted as first Dean of Graduate Studies. In 1948 he became "the first representative of the University on the Board of Directors for the Royal Ontario Museum."

As a teacher in the History Department he was renowned for his excellent and lively lectures especially in the fields of American history and Canadian history. He devoted

research and teaching time to the problems of Canadian-American inter-relationships. Special interests were Abraham Lincoln, abolition of slavery, the underground railroad, negro refugees in Canada, the Civil War, the Great Lakes, shipping and agriculture.

Many of these details and quotations have been borrowed from "Fred Landon, 1880-1969" by Frederick H. Armstrong which was published in *Ontario History* March 1970. An excellent bibliography was compiled by Hilary Bates.

His published works on a variety of subjects add lustre to his reputation as historian, writer, teacher and librarian. Numerous honours came to him in the historical field and he served on several historical boards as well as on community boards such as the Western Fair Board, the Victorian Order of Nurses, etc. His interest in social history influenced his choice of leisure time activities in London.

No doubt Dr. Fred Landon was our most renowned and scholarly librarian who was honoured for his many achievements and beloved for his warm interest in people and students.

"The heaven such grace did lend him,
That he might admired be."

FRED LANDON, 1889-1969, by Frederick H. Armstrong

With the passing of Fred Landon on 1 August, 1969, at the age of 88, the Ontario Historical Society has lost one of its oldest and best known members, a man who did much both to build up its organization and sustain it through many difficult periods. At the same time *Ontario History*, for which he wrote some sixteen articles, and the field of Ontario history in general, has lost one of its most imaginative and productive writers.

Fred Landon was born in London, Ontario,

on 5 November, 1880, the son of Abraham and Hannah Helena Landon (née Smith). He received his early education in the schools of the city and then was employed by the dry goods firm of R.C. Struthers & Co. from about 1898 until he went to work for the Northern Navigation Company of Sarnia in the spring of 1901. It was while engaged by that corporation, sailing largely on *The United Empire*, that he developed the love for the Great Lakes and their history that was to inspire some of his finest

writing. In December 1903, he decided to enrol at Western University, as it was then called, and in 1906 he received his B.A. The seven members of the class of that year also included Norman S.B. Gras, later Professor of Business History at the Harvard Business School, and Ray Palmer Baker, who went on to become the Assistant-Director of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, New York.

On graduation Fred Landon joined the editorial staff of the *London Free Press*, where he remained for a decade, from 1907 to 1908 and again from 1912 to 1914 acting as the representative of the paper in the Press Gallery in Ottawa. There he formed a life-long friendship with another famous newspaperman, Arthur R. Ford, who was later to join the *London Free Press* as editor-in-chief and also to become Chancellor of the University of Western Ontario. Although Landon left the *Free Press* in 1916 he continued to keep up his contacts with the newspaper, a characteristic of all the friendly relationships he formed during his long career. He continued writing for the historical column "Looking Over Western Ontario" right up to the time of his death. It was while working for the *Free Press*, in 1914, that he married Margaret Smith, who is a native of the London area. They had three children.

His next post, which he held for seven years, 1916-23, was the office of Chief Librarian of the London Public Library. While there he was responsible for beginning the local history collections that have developed into the London Room of today. Once again he kept up his contacts with the Library long after his departure: he was a member of the Library Board from 1950 to 1966 and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the associated Art Gallery. In 1955 a new branch library on Wortley Road was named in his honour.

Concurrently with his work at the London Public Library he held a lectureship in History

and English at Western University, where, by 1917, he had introduced the first American History course taught in Canada: "The Constitutional and Diplomatic History of the United States." Somehow, in spite of the crowded schedule, he found time to complete his M.A. in 1919, the topic of his thesis being "The Relation of Canada to the Anti-Slavery and Abolition Movements in the United States." He also effected the real beginning of the university library when, in 1918, he persuaded John Davis Barnett to present his collection of over 40,000 volumes to the University. Up until that time there had been fewer than 5000 books in the library. Exceptionally rich in all fields of history and 19th century English literature the Barnett Collection still delights and surprises the historical researcher.

In 1923 came his appointment as the University's first full-time librarian and at the same time he became an associate professor in the History Department where he taught both Canadian and American history. Being a university librarian in those days was not an encouraging prospect. As Arthur R. Ford described it, "he found the library a tiny affair housed in an old house near Huron College." In spite of this none too auspicious a beginning he saw the library moved first to quarters in the present University College and then to its own building, the Lawson Library, in 1934, and by the time of his retirement there were over 150,000 volumes. In the field of his special interest he set up the Regional Collection of books and documents relating to Western Ontario history and acquired such important collections as the Hon. David Mills and Rev. James Evans papers. To support research in this area in 1942 he began two series of publications: *Western Ontario Historical Notes* for short articles and *Western Ontario History Nuggets* for longer papers. He also began the publication of a *Library Bulletin* (1941). Not the

least of his accomplishments was his success in persuading his former pupil, then the Archivist of Ontario, James J. Talman, to join the library staff as his assistant and later, in 1947, his successor; another scholar-librarian who has so ably carried on Landon's policy of making Western a centre for the study of Ontario history.

His contributions to the development of libraries and library science in Canada were equally considerable. In 1934 he and Dr. George H. Locke, Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Libraries, surveyed the Canadian university and college libraries from coast to coast to arrange the distribution of Carnegie grants up to the then magnificent sum of \$15,000 per library. He was president of the Ontario Library Association in 1926-27 and in the field of bibliographical research was a founder of the Bibliographical Society of Canada and its president in 1948-50.

With the post-World War II boom came new duties in spite of the fact that he was then approaching retirement. In 1946 he became the first person to be appointed to the new post of Vice-President of the University and a year later, as graduate work also expanded, he became the first Dean of Graduate Studies. It was at this juncture that he gave up the librarianship after 24 years, although he still found time to take on other duties, becoming the first representative of the University on the Board of Directors of the Royal Ontario Museum in 1948.

In his memoirs President W. Sherwood Fox of Western stated "without Dr. Landon's help I could not have pulled through 1946 and 1947, the last two years before my retirement." After helping to bridge the transition to the new regime Fred Landon himself retired in 1950, at the age of 69. At that time he was honoured by the degree of Doctor of Letters from Western and Doctor of Laws from McMaster.

As a teacher he was noted for both the clarity

of his lectures and the time he was willing to devote to his students and their problems. Many of these students went on to careers in the field of history: besides J.J. Talman they included Wallace K. Ferguson and Fred H. Hitchins, both of whom taught at New York University before coming back to Western; the late Gilbert N. Tucker, who taught at Yale and the University of British Columbia; Alan G. Bogue of the University of Wisconsin at Madison; John I. Cooper of McGill; W. Harold Dalglish of the University of Utah; Arthur B. Ferguson of Duke University and Goldwin Smith of Wayne State.

His favourite topics for both teaching and research centred on the then neglected field of social history, particularly as it related to Western Ontario and the problem of Canadian-American inter-relationships. The career of Abraham Lincoln was one of his great interests and the related questions of abolition, the underground railroad, Negro refugees in Canada, and the Civil War, often occupied his attention. He spent many of his summer holidays walking over the Civil War battlefields. Also, as noted, he wrote widely on the Great Lakes, shipping and agricultural history.

Landon's most extensive work was the five volume *The Province of Ontario a History, 1645-1927* (Toronto, 1928), which he prepared jointly with the late Jesse E. Middleton; still the most complete history of Ontario it is an invaluable source of information for the student. His greatest monograph, however is *Western Ontario and the American Frontier*; (Toronto, 1941; paperback edition, Toronto, 1967), written for "The Relations of Canada and the United States" series at the request of Professor James T. Shotwell. In it we have a social study of the development of this area of the province, which stand as a classical example of the type of basic research that can be done in the all-too-often superficial field of Canadian-American relations. Two other works must be noted: his history of

Lake Huron (Indianapolis, 1944) in "The American Lakes Series" and his last book, *An Exile from Canada to Van Diemen's Land* (Toronto, 1960), the story of one of the insurgents of 1837.

Also from his pen are a large number of articles that remain standard references today. Probably his favourite periodicals were the *Journal of Negro History*, in which he first published in 1918, the Ontario Historical Society journals, where his first article appeared in 1919, and *Inland Seas*, where he not only published regularly, but was in addition a member of the editorial board from the first issue in 1945 until his death. He was also on the editorial boards of *Agricultural History* (Washington) and of the Historical Society of Northwest Ohio's *Historical Bulletin*. It is impossible to select articles for special attention, however, a fine example of his research in social history is his "The Common Man in the Era of Rebellion in Upper Canada," which appeared in the *Annual Report* of the Canadian Historical Association in 1937. His favourite among his articles was "Captain Charles Stuart, Abolitionist," which originally appeared in *Western Ontario History Nuggets* in 1956 and was reprinted in the Ontario Historical Society's *Profiles of a Province* in 1967.

The number of honours that came to him in the historical field are again too numerous to mention, but some should be noted. He was president of the London & Middlesex Historical Society in 1918-20, of the Ontario Historical Society in 1926-28, and of the Canadian Historical Association in 1941-42. In 1929 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he was on the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as the Ontario representative from 1932 to 1958 and was its chairman from 1950 to 1958. He was awarded the Tyrrell Medal of the Royal Society of Canada in 1945 and the Cruikshank Medal of this Society in 1967.

In spite of his heavy duties Fred Landon found time to participate fully in a wide variety of activities in London: the Metropolitan United Church, the Community Concert Association, the Western Fair Board and the Council of Social Agencies. He was also Chairman of the Board of Management of the Victorian Order of Nurses, 1924-38, and President of the Canadian Club in 1925.

For those of us who only had the pleasure of knowing him during his last years he will probably be most clearly remembered in the setting of his comfortable, book-lined study on St. James Street. There he was always prepared to talk about historical problems with his colleagues, give his advice on an article, or help a student in the preparation of a thesis. The scope of his memory was phenomenal; when I last visited him, shortly before his death, he was not only ready to discuss the remarks on the Hon. Charles Hyman in the latest *Canadian Historical Review*, but also to recollect his impressions of the Hyman family from the 1890's and comment on Hyman's activities as a minister in the Laurier Cabinet.

Fred Landon was fortunate in retaining his faculties to the last, taking his daily walk and continuing his writing; shortly before his death he completed an article for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, two new articles appeared in the *London Free Press* after his death. His great contribution lies not only in the students that he trained and the scope and variety of his writing, but also in the precision of his research and his care for accuracy in detail as in interpretation. In all these fields he set a precedent which is an example to the historian of today.

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THE DAY THE SUN SHONE AGAIN ON THE KREMLIN, By Sheila Laidlaw

(Sheila Laidlaw, former director of libraries at the University of New Brunswick, recently attended a meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations in Moscow. While in the Soviet capital, Miss. Laidlaw experienced at first hand the unsuccessful coup. Here is her story)

The sun had been shining all weekend from the time we arrived in Moscow on Friday afternoon. Then, on Monday morning the rains came — just as the first tanks trundled along, heading, as we later learned, to block off Red Square. But, to the busload of librarians setting out from Hotel Cosmos for the annual meetings of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, there was initially nothing sinister about the presence of the tanks and trucks. After all we had seen hundreds of young soldiers and cadets out mingling with us on sightseeing trips on Sunday.

After our first meeting Sunday morning we had been on a brief city tour to get an introduction to Moscow before the first IFLA Council meeting in the afternoon. We walked through Red Square and the grounds on the Danielev Monastery. We participated in part of the regular worship service at the Russian Orthodox Church within the monastery grounds. We strolled around Moscow University and paused to admire the vantage point on the Lenin Hills. We negotiated the crowds of vendors trying to pry precious dollars from us — illegally — in exchange for postcards, paintings or "Gorbie" dolls (in the style of the traditional matroushka dolls fitted one inside the other but with political figures instead of ladies in their colorful folk costumes). At each stop we saw busloads of the young soldiers obviously enjoying their day off for sightseeing. They looked and acted like a happy-go-lucky bunch of kids "off the leash" for the day — Red Army Day.

Many Difficulties

Our tour guide was surprisingly frank in her references to the existing regime. She was most supportive of the efforts of Gorbachev had made

to implement change, but, like many other Russians we met, she felt that he had missed out on many chances to enhance the improvements he had begun to make. She also spoke of the difficulties faced by people like herself trying to make ends meet and to obtain decent food for herself and her family. She had spent three-and-a-half hours the previous week queuing to buy a small piece of cheese for herself and her daughters. She also lamented the total disappearance from store shelves and market stalls of good fresh fruit and vegetables at this time of year which is usually the height of the season for so many items. We could readily relate to these complaints as we had seen the pathetic looking peaches, plums, tomatoes, etc., on the stands outside the Metro station near the Cosmos Hotel. The only fresh items available in abundance were the beautiful, colorful bunches of gladioli and asters — but they don't do much for hunger pangs. The fruit and vegetable situation was only one of the many symptoms we met of two of Russia's major problems — transportation and communications. Much of the potential for change seems to be hampered by these obstacles. We did, however, enjoy the benefits of one truly efficient transportation system — the Moscow Metro.

When we arrived at the Congress Centre on Monday morning, we quickly discovered that the tanks we had seen on our way there were not bound for the innocent missions we had supposed. That morning the bus was able to drive straight into the parking lot of the Congress Centre, but that changed on Tuesday ;and Wednesday as barricades were erected across many intersections and around Red Square and the Parliament of the Russian

Republic which was close to the Congress Centre.

Many Questions

As Monday proceeded, there were many questions — mostly unanswered until much later. What had happened to Gorbachev? Rumors abounded about his (supposed) sickness and his disappearance which was frequently linked to similar "disappearances" in the past when Krushchev and Brezhnev had each in turn "gone to the Crimea" and vanished from office. Who was in charge of the country? Great fears were being expressed that the coup heralded a return to the restrictions, bureaucracy and philosophy of the Stalin era. And now that people have begun to taste the freedoms that come with a more open society many see that possibility as a major step backwards — even though they mostly feel Gorbachev has not moved forward as much as they would like.

Of more immediate concern for IFLA members were questions such as, "would the official opening of our conference take place that afternoon as planned?" And the reception and evening ballet performance? Most of the conference buses had to approach the Hotel Rossiya by very circuitous routes as so many of the streets close to Red Square had been blocked off — by barricades and tanks and streetcars. Our bus finally drew in to the Rossiya after going the wrong way on two one-way streets. Many of the conference delegates assembled in the Rossiya Concert Hall for the opening ceremonies and to hear the keynote address to be delivered by Nikolaj Gubenko, Minister of Culture of the U.S.S.R. Would the minister even be there, let alone speak?

The fanfare and opening music by the Vivaldi String Ensemble were followed by the president of IFLA, Hans Peter Geh (of Stuttgart, Germany) who announced that the minister of culture wanted to make a statement on the political situation before the official ceremonies

proceeded.

Conference Continues

It was immediately clear that the minister just did not know what was likely to happen next and that he had been unable to make contact with any of the ministers more senior to himself. We were assured that the conference should, and would, continue as planned including the reception later in the week at the Kremlin Palace. We were not wholly reassured, but the proceedings that day continued — Mr. Gubenko delivered his prepared speech on how, "the fate of peace depends to a large extent on processes taking place in culture." Given the occurrences of the earlier part of the day, we almost seemed to be in a different world as we heard him declare that "the psychology of exclusiveness, intolerance of one culture towards another is of a destructive character. The ideology of the confrontation of two systems is (related) to the background to a certain degree. It is precisely culture with its values that should become one of the priorities capable of leading to the unification of nations. Even economic interests will not be able to perform this function."

The Vivaldi group provided more entertainment, as did a colorful group of singers and dancers, in the folk costumes of the Georgian area, who sang on the stairs and danced in the theatre foyer as we awaited the buffet before the ballet. Food and drink disappeared from the tables as if this going to be the last meal we would ever eat — and when I made a comment to that effect a colleague from Eastern Europe asked, "how do you know it won't be?" So I went after another piece of cheese — just in case.

Rumors Were Rife

Rumors were rife at the buffet and during the two intermissions in the ballet performance. Representatives from most of the 73 nationalities at the conference were compiling lists of names

of delegates with hotel and flight information, passport numbers, etc. to be conveyed later that evening or next morning to the appropriate embassy or consulate. The main question of the hour was whether we should be staying or trying to return home right away. Most of the Russian delegates left the theatre at 8 p.m. so that they could be home for the 9 p.m. press conference announced for the Russian TV channels. Most of the rest of us remained though we were somewhat concerned about various suggestions that a curfew might be imposed and that the Metro might close early. We hoped, however, that if either of these rumors were true, an announcement would be made from the stage as dancers and orchestra members would also have to get home. A fair sized audience hung on till the end of the wonderful performance of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* — complete with many curtain calls and presentations of bouquets, etc., then headed out to try our luck at the Metro. A group of us staying at the same hotel had arranged to meet and travel together, and we were all glad of the company as we skirted around the barricades and avoided the fiercely armed guards at several corners. (We later learned that neither they nor the soldiers in the tanks had any ammunition for their weapons — but that news came too late to be of any comfort that evening).

Tuesday was another full day of uncertainty and speculation but the business of the conference also continued in the same old atmosphere as if nothing strange was afoot. Yet all the signs were around us. The bus from the Cosmos had to make several detours to avoid roadblocks but did finally reach the Congress Centre. Conference delegates staying at the Belgrade Hotel were not so lucky — their bus didn't show up at all so they had to walk along the banks of the Moscow River to the Congress. Trouble was that that route took them directly past the Russian Parliament building where they

had to climb over barriers and face crowds of demonstrators — the same crowds that were shown on TV around the world.

Packed Lunches

Many of us took our packed lunches — supplies carried from home just in case — to the rooms of friends staying in the International Hotel at the Congress Centre so that we could watch CNN and hear what the rest of the world was saying, to say nothing of catching up on the Russian comment on the situation — in English. It was an eerie sensation to realize that when the cameras switched to "Moscow live" they showed the exact scenes that we were looking at out of the windows from the hotel and saw again later from the afternoon's meeting rooms on the 8th floor of the Congress Centre. It can be quite disconcerting trying to chair a meeting with the marching crowds and defending guns so visible joust out the windows.

One of the special events that had been long-anticipated was the special service "Blessing the Conference" to be conducted by Russian Orthodox priests — and greetings from the Patriarch of All-Russia — in the Cathedral of St. Basil which has only recently begun to return to its original use as a place of worship after many years as a museum. But we heard early in the day that all access to Red Square and to its many museums and public buildings was closed. In fact that was the story being told by the Intourist staff until lunchtime when tickets suddenly began to circulate amongst conference delegates — tickets to allow at least 70 people to enter St. Basil's by the back door (to avoid the front doors right on Red Square) for what turned out to be a tremendously inspiring experience for all who attended — despite the guns and tanks which were so much in evidence all around.

Tuesday evening brought more uncertainty. Would the visit to the Pushkin Museum still be on? How would we get there? Would it be

possible to go out for our planned dinner after the museum? How would we all get back to the hotels or university residences afterwards? Because it was so difficult to get any real news or information on the political situation our main questions tended to concentrate more on our own immediate needs though the very real implications of the crisis around us were never far away. We still didn't know where Gorbachev really was — or even if he was still alive. Though we did know that Yeltsin was supposedly still in the Russian Parliament Building — which we usually referred to as "The White House."

Many Oddities

We encountered many oddities during the "new regime." The bus that took us to the Pushkin Museum was not booked to return us to our hotel later according to our Intourist guide. She assured us that we would have to return on our own by Metro as some of us had done the day before. For the subway could be quite an adventure. Then the driver spoke up and the guide said. "oh the joys of a free enterprise state — we have an entrepreneur driver. Intourist cannot arrange transport back but if enough of you will pay \$1 U.S. per head the bus driver will wait till 9:30 or 10 p.m. (it was then 7 p.m.) and take you all back to Cosmos." And we did, and he did.

A group of us, however, who are members of the Universities and other General Research Libraries Standing Committee always have dinner one evening during the conference — and Tuesday was our chosen day. All day it had been on again, off again depending on whom one talked to. At 8 p.m. we were in agreement — "let's go." Two Metro trains later we came out at Gorky Street and skirted round the solid line of tanks blocking access to Red Square to reach the beautiful old building housing the Slavonskaya Bazar which had agreed to take a reservation for all of us. We arrived just at the

start of the "floor show" by Georgian singers, dancers and acrobats — noisy but fun. Immediately food and drink appeared on the table and we soon forgot about the mess outside. Just after 10 p.m. when we were almost finished the main course, a waiter came by and tried to tell us something — clearly it was important and seemed to be about our "jacket" but we could make no sense of it, especially as we had umbrellas and raincoats beside the table. Then the other waiter arrived with ice-cream that was our desert. He was accompanied by the owner and she clarified the message — "You eat quickly then you run. Curfew is 11 p.m. You must be in hotel by then." You never saw a large restaurant clear out so quickly. We ate ice-cream as the bills were settled then left those who were living within walking distance to drink all the coffee as we ran for the Metro as Cosmos was about half-hour away. At the door, however, we were met by taxi drivers "Where you go?" "Cosmos" "\$5 a car we take you." We promptly hired two of the cars for that price and they roared off with stops at a couple of police roadblocks on the way.

TV Was Jammed

At Cosmos it seemed like business as usual, though all the restaurants closed early. For the first time the lobby TV set was tuned to CNN so we waited for the 11 p.m. news report, but the minute it turned to Moscow the whole program was jammed off the screen. We watched the static for a while then retreated to our rooms to watch the scenes in the city on Russian TV. On Monday all Russian stations were either closed or only showing ballet — no news whatever. Tuesday it was clearly news again — but frustrating for those of us who could only understand odd bits of the reports.

Next morning buses went to Congress Centre with no problem and no barriers, though it was soon clear that the demonstrations were still continuing at the Parliament building and in Red

Square. In fact the people staying in Mezhdunarodnaya Hotel at the Congress Centre had had a very disturbing night because of the shooting at and near the barricades. That was the night three young men were killed as they tried to defend their Parliament.

At the conference several individuals and groups were making alternative flight plans and began to depart. The executive board had a special meeting and decided that conference plans should continue with very little change. It was even anticipated that we would be able to go to the Kremlin palace that evening for the official conference reception sponsored by the minister of culture and the conference's local planning committee. What a day of speculation — on? off? stay? leave? But what a climax.

Suddenly the atmosphere changed — Russians at the conference quickly spread the news that Gorbachev was back and the coup was over. The time of the reception was advanced to 6 p.m. and extra buses came to pick us up at the Congress Centre to get us there in time. In fact we were early as the Kremlin gates which had been closed tightly for three days were still closed. The short waiting period gave us time to admire the glorious sight as the rains stopped for the first time in those three days and the sun

shone brilliantly on the golden domes ahead of us at the Trotsky Gate. It was a magnificent sight and the Russians in the group were just ecstatic — symbolism is very important to them and what better sign could there be than this? All agreed that there would be many problems to sort out before the country and its economy would be stabilized — but there was now real hope.

A Great Feast

Inside the Kremlin Palace we climbed to the top floor to find such a feast spread out that one Russian exclaimed, "it's a dream, don't wake me up." But we all did and she enjoyed the food and drink as much as the rest of us. From caviare to champagne and vodka all the ingredients for a Russian celebration feast were there.

There were constant requests from the Russian delegates that we would join them in toasting their newfound "freedom." The greatest fear of the first few days of the week had been that they were on the road back to Stalinism with all the restrictions that that implied. The mood was now euphoric — the coup was over, the food and drink were superb, the entertainment was wonderful — and — the sun was shining again.

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EVOLUTION OF THE H E A R T

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY:

THE FIRST CENTURY 1827-1923

A MAJOR EXHIBITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, by Gerald Prodrick

Over the year 1992, the University of Toronto Library is celebrating, with a number of centenary events, one hundred years of occupancy of its own library building on campus. One of these special events is an archival exhibition conceived, planned, selected and mounted by the University Archives (UTA). The Exhibition is on view in the regular display area of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library and extends to the Maclean Hunter Reading Room.

The Archives, instead of focusing on the last century of the Library's existence, 1892-1992, wisely decided to cover its origins and first century, 1827-1923. 1827 was the year in which King's College in York, Upper Canada, received a Royal Charter from George IV, so that year, in a certain sense, was the beginning of the University of Toronto and its library. This Exhibition takes us through to 1923, just short of one hundred years, to the point at which Dr. Stewart Wallace became Librarian of the University of Toronto, to usher in the modern era.

The formative period in the history of the Library was highly dramatic and rather chaotic, including institutional disruption and a devastating fire. Despite the resultant gaps in documentation, the materials included in the Exhibition are many and varied and are

imaginatively displayed to reveal the changing institutional foundations of what was first King's College, later the University of Toronto. They highlight the various stages of growth of the collections and their housing. To achieve this focus the Exhibition has been arranged by topics.

Centrepiece for the Exhibition is a wonderful old document, the original Royal Charter granted to King's College, now housed in UTA on permanent display. Most of the material is placed in cases (12), each bearing a number and a title designating content, e.g. CASE 1. THE FOUNDING OF KING'S COLLEGE, CASE 6. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FIRE OF 1890, CASE 8. REBUILDING THE LIBRARY COLLECTION. While the arrangement is based on historical significance, it is also affected by the availability of archival material and by considerations of visual and dramatic impact. The walls of the Maclean Hunter Reading Room are used to advantage to hang architectural drawings and a collection of watercolours painted by Sir Daniel Wilson.

Most of the substantive material is drawn from UTA but, interestingly enough, a number of visual high points have been borrowed from other archival collections in the Toronto area. From Trinity College came a portrait of the Reverend Dr. John Strachan, first President of

King's College; also from Trinity College Library, a selection of rare books originally in King's College Library which had been given by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge and had survived the 'Great Fire' by reason of the fact that they had been claimed by the previously established University of Trinity College; from the Archives of Ontario, a photoprint of a portrait of Sir Peregrine Maitland, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (1818-1828), and first Chancellor of King's College; from Metropolitan Toronto Library, John Ross Robertson Collection, a photoprint of a lithograph of the Parliament Buildings of Canada, Front Street, Toronto (1835), which were occupied by King's College and its Library (1843-1849); and from University College, Art Collection, a watercolour portrait of Sir Daniel Wilson, Principal of University College and President of the University of Toronto (1880-1892), a replica by the artist, Sir George Reid, of an original painted for the National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh (1891).

One of the outstanding treasures of the UTA collection which survived the 'Great Fire' is the set of architectural drawings by Cumberland & Storm for the construction of University College

(1859) as the home of the University of Toronto, including the East Wing, the first permanent home of the University Library. These are very fine renderings in ink and watercolour and form a wonderful collection. UTA also possesses the complete set of drawings for the first separate building for the University Library (completed in 1892) and for the substantial addition to it (completed in 1910). A selection from these three sets of drawings, beautifully mounted, is displayed.

For the general viewer, the thematic/episodic arrangement of materials is less than straightforward. Fortunately, the catalogue available for consultation is a first-rate guide. It is an excellent illustrated printed booklet providing a cohesive and elegant overview. (Copies may be purchased for \$15.00; no charge to Friends of Fisher.) It has a splendid nine-page Introduction by Robert Blackburn, Chief Librarian of the University of Toronto, 1954-1981, whose book, *Evolution of the Heart, A History of the University of Toronto Library up to 1981* (Toronto: University of Toronto Library, 1989) served as guideline text for the Exhibition.

This Exhibition is a major event and is immensely interesting. Don't miss it. It continues at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, weekdays 9.00-4.30, closing October 17, 1992.
UTA (416) 978-5343.

MISCELLANY

Jean Weihs, Principal in her Toronto consulting firm, Technical Services Group, is presenting seminars for CLA in Fall and Winter 1992/93: "How to Catalogue Video Cassettes and Computer Software". She has recently brought out the second edition of her book, *The*

Integrated Library: Encouraging Access to Multimedia Materials, published by Oryx Press.

In honour of its 50th Anniversary in 1992, the Saskatchewan Library Association has published a special issue of its newsletter, *SLA Forum*,

which contains articles on the past, present and future of various types of libraries in the province. Included are articles on the Saskatchewan Provincial Library, Saskatchewan Regional Libraries, school libraries, and brief histories of the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina Libraries. The Executive Director of SLA, Kate Fisher, reports the opening of a new Association office at 2431 8th Avenue, Regina.

Stevie Cameron, in her book *Ottawa Inside Out*, (HarperCollins, 1989) "The Privy Council Office, resplendent in its Gothic revival grandeur, was used for Privy Council meetings from the days of Sir John A. to Trudeau... Lit by a big gasolier with counterweights that move it up and down, the room is dominated by a massive table, a reproduction made at Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg, Ontario. (The original is in the Regina Public Library.)" p.14. A note from Ron Yeo says Regina Public Library never had such a table!! More in our next issue.

RETIREMENTS

Doreen Bertrand recently retired as educational media coordinator of the Sudbury, Ontario, Board of Education. She received the Margaret B. Scott Award of Merit for service to school libraries from the Canadian School Library Association at the CLA Conference in June 1992.

Peter Hallsworth, Chief Librarian of the Sudbury Public Library retired in summer 1992 after 30 years of service to the city. He first came to Sudbury from Great Britain to work in the Library in 1957 and returned as Chief Librarian in 1966.

Dr. Helen Howard retired in September 1992

from the faculty of The McGill University Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. She earned her BLS and MLS from McGill and completed the PhD at Rutgers University. After a career in academic and special libraries, she joined the School as Associate Professor in 1982 and served as Director from 1984 to 1989.

Fred Carl Israel, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary-Treasurer of the Windsor (Ontario) Public Library Board, retired at the end of September 1992 after 24 years of service at Windsor and a professional career spanning 34 years. He was active in CLA and OLA and Chair of both the provincial and national organizations of Directors of Large Public Libraries.

Katherine Le Butt of York Regional Library, New Brunswick has retired after 30 years as regional librarian. She is a former president of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association and in 1987 received the APLA Merit Award.

Hugh McIntrye, Head of the Fred Landon Branch of the London Public Library, retired in July 1992 after 30 years with the library. He had been employed at first as a Librarian Candidate, a position created in the early 60s to encourage university graduates to enter the profession as a career. On graduation with his BLS from the University of Toronto, he returned to London where he worked both as a subject specialist and later as the head of a branch library.

Basil Stuart-Stubbs has retired as Director of the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, University of British Columbia. A graduate of UBC (BA) and McGill University (BLS) he was university librarian at UBC from 1964 to 1981 when he was appointed Director

of the School. He has been active in numerous professional committees and organizations and was recognized for his scholarship when elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1984. He received the Canada Medal in 1967 and was presented with the Helen Gordon Stewart Award "in recognition of outstanding lifetime achievements in librarianship in British Columbia" at the B.C. Library Association Conference in 1992.

AWARDS

Hope Clement, who retired this year as Associate National Librarian, was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Civil Law, from the University of King's College, Halifax, on May 14, 1992. At the CLA Conference in June 1992, she was the recipient of an additional honour when she and Pearce Penny, Director of Newfoundland Public Library Services, were awarded the CLA Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award.

Phyllis Goldman, recently retired from the North York Public Library, was honored by the Friends of the Library on September 20, 1992, at a ceremony recognizing her contributions to the Library and particularly her service as a children's librarian. The ceremony was held in the Children's Department of the Barbara Frum Library, a new building which has replaced the Bathurst Heights Branch of the Library System.

Brian Land, Executive Director of the Ontario Legislative Library, was the recipient of the Ontario College and University Library Association Award of Merit at the Association's Winterbreak Conference 1992.

Ex Libris Association members, Frances Morrison, Alice Turner McFarland and Ronald Yeo, were awarded Honorary Life Memberships

of the Saskatchewan Library Association at the SLA's 50th Anniversary Conference in May 1992.

The Outstanding Academic Librarian Award of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries was given posthumously to Beth Miller at the CLA Conference in June 1992. Beth, a long-time librarian at The University of Western Ontario, died suddenly in 1991. At the time of her death she was the Coordinator of the Cooperative Work/Study Program and Placement Officer at SLIS.

IN MEMORIAM

Edward Gerard Brown, former Chief Librarian of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, died in Sydney, B.C. on July 5, 1992, at the age of 72.

Evelyn Matilda Campbell died in Halifax on May 31, 1992 at the age of 84. She was librarian in charge of the Provincial Science Library from 1936 to 1947 and of the Nova Scotia Research Foundation from 1947 to 1971. She had also been librarian of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science for 50 years. Active in numerous library associations — ALA, CLA, SLA and the Atlantic Provinces Library Association — she received the APLA Merit Award in 1977.

Samuel Stevens Campbell died on June 20, 1992, at the age of 84. He was a teacher for many years with the Toronto Board of Education and had been Coordinator of Libraries for the Board before his retirement.

Charles Deane Kent, former Director of the London Public Library and of the Lake Erie Regional Library System, died in Ottawa on September 1, 1992. He was a native of Ottawa,

a graduate of McMaster University before WW II, and after the war a graduate of McGill University where he obtained his BLS. He served overseas with the Canadian Army and was, for a time, the aide-de-camp to Gen. Roberts. Following graduation from McGill he worked for a short time at the London Public Library & Art Museum before becoming the Chief Librarian of the Regina Public Library. He returned to London when he became its Assistant Director in 1948. On the retirement of the Director, Dr. R.E. Crouch, in 1961 he was appointed to that position. He had a life-long interest in continuing education and in the arts. Following retirement he wrote several books on his ancestors.

Ilene Male, who had been librarian for 28 years at the Oakville Public Library, died on June 29, 1992, at Oakville.

Margaret Moore, former librarian with the Oakville Public Library died on June 25, 1992.

Samuel D. Neill, Professor at the School of Library and Information Science, UWO since its founding in 1967, died on September 28, 1992 at the age of 64. When he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor about six months previously, he elected minimum surgery so that he could maintain a quality of life for his remaining time. Sam was a philosopher and great teacher. His book, *Dilemmas in the Study of Information: Exploring the Boundaries of Information Science*, was published earlier this year by Greenwood Press and he received the proofs and his first royalty check from the same publisher for his new book, *Clarifying McLuhan: an Assessment of Process and Product*, which will be published in the spring of 1993. The Samuel D. Neill Scholarship Fund, c/o SLIS, The University of Western Ontario, N6G 1H1 has been established in his honor and donations may be made to it. Make cheques payable to The University of Western Ontario with a note for the Neill Fund.

Sam Neill was a story teller and poet. The following poems were made available at his funeral by his family and we would like to share them with his friends across Canada and beyond.

Soft the silver candles ring,
Remembering, remembering,
And glowing golden bells have shone
Across the minute-mantled lawn.

And down the roads around the years
The call of Christmas past appears.
The sound of silver candles burns.
The light from golden bells returns.

The glowing golden bells have shone
Across the minute-mantled lawn,
And soft the silver candles ring,
Remembering, remembering.

Sam Neill, Christmas, 1991

Facing
the possibility
of death,
the thought
of dying
swells the desire
to be remembered.
Will they remember?
What will they remember?
The thought
of dying
stirs
the need
to be remembered.

Sam Neill, 1978