



ELAN Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Lively, Informative, Interesting: The Annual Get-Together

BY JOHN ARNDT, MARJORIE BENDER AND SHERRILL CHEDA

The 2003 Annual Get-Together, called "Librarians in the 21st Century," was held last November at the North York Public Library in Toronto. The subjects were timely: The new Library and Archives public library service: the traditional and the virtual, and The Ontario Digital Library.

In "dusting off old stereotypes" and opening up to technology, Ian Wilson, National Archivist of Canada, told a fascinating tale about the way the National Library and the National Archives cooperated to transform two important establishments into one vibrant institution, Library and Archives Canada. They did this to meet the evolving needs of the Canadian government and Canadians for a critical mass of expertise, brain-power, and creativity and to position the institution to be highly relevant for the future. Wilson described massive change, with an emphasis on service and access, and a more visible presence, with new legislation and a new organizational structure. He went on to describe the complex process management and staff underwent over the last two years to make it all happen.

The new mandate of the Library and Archives Canada stresses preservation and access. Everyone agrees that the documentary heritage of Canada needs to be preserved for the benefit of present and future generations. One of the big changes will be making materials available to the Canadian public electronically. The new institution is looking to reflect the diversity and complexity of all of Canada. At the same time, the Library and Archives Canada wants to show leadership in information management within the Canadian government. Another important role is preserving property in museums, archives and libraries. As Kate Taylor said in her January 17, 2004, *Globe and Mail* column, Canada's History Under a New Roof, "So the whole situation is a funny mix of grand nationalist dreams and mundane practical problems."

With the country's many riches, the Library and Archives Canada will have more exhibits and outreach programs – traveling exhibits, a portrait gallery of Canada and maybe one day a genealogy centre that will, as Wilson said, be able to "link Canadians to their story." His presentation was followed by a lively question period.

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The next speaker, Maureen Sawa, Adult Services Coordinator at the Hamilton Public Library, was full of enthusiasm for new public library services that wed the traditional with the virtual. Her theme was the importance of the public library in today's society. She began with a quote from Michael Moore, author of *Stupid White Men*, published in 2002: "They [librarians] are subversive. You think they're just sitting there at the desk, all quiet and everything. They're like plotting the revolution, man. I wouldn't mess with them." After getting our attention, she quoted some 1999 statistics from Canada's National Core Library Statistics Program:

21,000 libraries in Canada
60,000 staff in Canadian libraries
57% of library budgets go to staff salaries
77% of library inquiries are in public libraries
80% of library borrowing is in public libraries
Public libraries account for only 54% of all library staff in Canada

She followed with other statistics from a not-so-surprising source, the Excedrin@Work Headache-by-Profession Index of 2001. The top headache-producing professions are:

Accountants(49%)
Librarians (43%)
Bus & Truck Drivers (42%)
Construction Workers (38%)

So we see that public libraries are important places and public librarians have difficult jobs. At the same time, while information is our power and knowledge is our strength, the world of information has changed and speeded up; our profession must change to keep up. "Traditional library expertise applied the way it has been is not a winning proposition," said Evan St. Lifer in the May 1, 2000 issue of the *Library Journal*. "We need to adapt and assert ourselves and to build new areas of expertise and engage our communities in different ways." Michael Gorman and Walt Crawford said, in *Future Libraries: Dreams, Madness & Reality*, that "There will only be successful libraries in the future, because if libraries are not successful, they will cease to exist."

Librarians have a number of professional competencies, said Sawa, such as an excellent knowledge of the content of information resources and searching skills. As well,

they have personal competencies, such as understanding user needs and serving them. What librarians need to do is communicate, communicate, and communicate more so that the public and governments understand how important these resources are. Librarians' core competencies are in the areas of information resources, information access, technology, and the ability to use these areas of knowledge as a basis for providing library and information services.

Many people do not own personal computers and hence lack access to Internet resources. Public libraries give them access. Public librarians can also help users find employment centres and children's programs, and use in-house databases. English-as-a-Second-Language materials can assist newcomers to Canada. The public library is the perfect place to fill these needs as it provides a nonjudgmental environment.

Some of the key issues affecting libraries and library staff today are revenue, technology, diverse communities, globalization, redistribution of library workload, service standards, recruitment, succession planning, generational issues, partnerships, research and development. In fact, there is a recruitment crisis. Sawa stressed the need to recruit younger librarians to the library system as older librarians retire.

During the afternoon session, Michael Ridley, University Librarian at the University of Guelph and Ken Roberts, Chief Librarian of the Hamilton Public Library, spoke on the topic "The Ontario Digital Library (ODL): A Virtual Reality." The presentation of these speakers, both of whom have been involved in the ODL project, covered its current challenges and future development.

Ridley presented a comprehensive summary of the project, based on the recently completed ODL Business Plan. The plan envisions for all residents of Ontario, through the collaboration of many different libraries, province-wide access to a digital network of high-quality electronic information resources and services. This is the crux of the project. The project's main participants are Ontario's public libraries; university, college and school libraries; and the Ontario government.

The ODL will benefit all libraries, but especially libraries that otherwise could not afford access to the "ever expanding and increasingly expensive high-quality electronic content" now available.

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A number of principles define and guide the development of the ODL:

Equitable access for all citizens of Ontario

Shared decision making and accountability to balance the interests of communities and institutions, whether small or large, rich or poor

Shared governance structure: an incorporated non-profit organization, governed by a board of directors that includes representatives of all participants and is elected by them

Shared funding, allowing for common services larger than what could be provided by individual institutions

Local points of entry, permitting all citizens access from any computer that connects to the Internet from home, library, or classroom. People using computers outside the library will simply type in their library card number

The first phase, the Business Plan, cost \$150,000, contributed by government and library participants. The second phase, Implementing and Transitioning, will run from April 2004 to December 2006 with an estimated cost of \$50 million, derived solely from government funding. Libraries will continue providing their own existing services while transferring to the ODL model. Phase 2 will be a period of pilot projects, information resource identification, resource evaluation, and contract negotiation.

The third phase, Operating and Growing, will begin in January 2007 and cost about \$50 million annually. By this time, the ODL will be fully operational and sustained by partnership funding from government (70%), libraries (20%), donors and the private sector (10%). Government funding will decrease to 45% of the total; library funding, endowment income, and gifts in kind will increase to 55%.

In his presentation, Ken Roberts stated that ODL is a good initiative for Ontario residents and for libraries in general, but he still wonders if libraries themselves will be able to overcome some of their organizational baggage. He used Arnold Toynbee's concept Challenge and Response as his theme. Libraries already face many challenges:

Electronic formats mean that available information is doubling at an amazing speed

There is a widening gap between the ability of various libraries to provide new services

Seamless services between types of libraries are lacking

For public libraries, the concept of the ODL represents huge changes

As public libraries in Ontario vary so dramatically (some are run by volunteers and financed by donations, while others are financed by municipalities and staffed with professionals), we need to answer the following questions: How can we restructure the Ontario public library community so that libraries can participate in the ODL with a single voice? How can we ensure that the public library contribution to ODL does not simply come from the largest library systems? (As public libraries are municipally funded, the resources of the larger public library systems cannot be used to fund services in other communities.)

Roberts is confident that answers can be found and that library leaders are aware of the problems they still face. Nevertheless, it would be wrong to assume that the answers are simple. No province-wide public library system exists in Ontario; there are only municipal public library systems. The ODL requires an unprecedented level of cooperation and understanding.

As all of you who were not at the Annual Get-Together can see, we were informed of some meaty issues that day. These issues still have us thinking and looking to the future.

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Information Technology and Global Governance Workshop

BY PETER I. HAJNAL

On October 30 and November 1, 2003, I attended an interesting workshop in Waterloo, Ontario, on information technology and global governance. This is a topic of great importance to librarians and other information professionals, so I thought it worthwhile to prepare this brief report for the Ex Libris Association. The event was organized jointly by the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), the University of Waterloo, and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

The Sponsoring Organizations

ACUNS is a nongovernmental organization established in 1987 to promote research, teaching, and writing about the United Nations, international organization and multilateralism; and to strengthen understanding and mutual relations between academics and practitioners in these fields. ACUNS has about a thousand individual and institutional members in more than 50 countries. Its secretariat changes location every five years, according to the institutional affiliation of its executive director. For the first time in its history it moved to Canada, to Wilfrid Laurier University, last year, when Alistair Edgar assumed the executive directorship. During the previous half decade, the headquarters and executive director were at Yale University – a hard act to follow.

Each annual meeting of ACUNS is devoted to a specific topic; the forthcoming one, to be held in Geneva in summer 2004, will focus on human security. Some of ACUNS's other activities include publishing (the jour-

nal *Global Governance* and various reports and studies), workshops, a Web site (www.acuns.wlu.ca), and a dissertation award program.

CIGI is an ambitious and well funded new think tank headquartered in Waterloo. It is dedicated to researching and improving global economic and financial governance through multilateral institutions and to bringing together public and private groups in the service of that objective. It has links with the OECD, the World Economic Forum, Transparency International, University of Victoria, and University of Waterloo, among others. CIGI hosts policy seminars locally, recruits top experts nationally (former Canadian ambassador to the UN Paul Heinbecker, has just joined), and builds problem-solving networks internationally. Its Web site (www.cigionline.ca) is a good source of information.

The Workshop

First of an annual series, this workshop highlighted questions from the main themes of the subsequent World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and supported by the United Nations, WSIS held its first series of meetings in Geneva from December 10 to 12, 2003. It is scheduled to meet again in Tunis from November 16 to 18, 2005 (see www.itu.int.wsis). The main themes, chosen jointly by the UN and the ITU, are the worldwide provision of information and communication technologies (ICTs); the economic, social, and cultural implications of ICTs; the relationship of ICTs to the goals of the UN Millennium Declaration

(see www.un.org/millenniumgoals); and questions of reliability, security and misuse of ICTs.

The workshop was opened by David Johnston, President of the University of Waterloo, followed by a keynote address given by Deborah Hurley, the former director of the Harvard Information Infrastructure Project and lecturer in public policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Hurley is an internationally known authority on information technology and global governance. Her talk focused on recent developments, future prospects, and social and human-rights implications of ICTs. Her recent short book, *Pole Star: Human Rights in the Information Society*, published by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in 2003, discusses these issues and concerns in greater detail.

The rest of the workshop consisted of four panel discussions. Panel I, on ICTs and global governance, was chaired by John English, Executive Director of CIGI, and featured two speakers: Randy Zadra, Managing Director of the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas, and William Drake, Director of the Project on the Information Revolution and Global Governance in Geneva, and Senior Associate, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. Zadra talked about problems of the "digital gap," particularly the lack of access to ICTs in large parts of the developing world (notably Africa) and the role of the International Development Research Centre in helping bridge the gap. Drake delivered one of the most stimulating presentations of the workshop, concentrating on principles, norms, resources and institutions affecting ICT. He discussed the influence of industry and markets; the

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Information Technology and Global Governance Workshop

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shift of technological power from the public to the private sector; the effects of policies of the American and other governments on ICTs; and the need to rise to the challenges of policy, institutional development, access, and participation.

Panel II, on emerging issues, was chaired by Elizabeth Riddell-Dixon of the University of Western Ontario and had three speakers. Ian Wilson, Canada's National Archivist, outlined the role of Archives Canada in promoting the study of Canadian history in new ways made possible by ICTs and discussed problems of government accountability and transparency. Mark Zacher, formerly of the Liu Institute at University of British Columbia and now Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, focused on international health concerns and the role of ICTs in disclosure (for example, of last year's SARS outbreak in China and the subsequent spread of the disease) and the surveillance and monitoring of global health emergencies. Andrew Caddell, Senior Policy Advisor at the UN and Commonwealth Affairs Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), chose as his topic the emerging role of the mass media, especially TV, as the foremost source of information, especially in developed countries.

The speakers on Panel III, The Market, Development, and Democracy, were Yoginder Alagh, former Indian Minister of Power and Technology and currently Chancellor of Central University at Nagaland and Vice-Chairman of the Sardar Patel Institute of Economics and Social Research; Lilia Vazquez, Chief of the

Special Projects Unit in the Web site Section, UN Department of Public Information; and Savita Bailur of the Institute of Development Policy, University of Manchester. Alagh, speaking about ICT, the market, and developing countries, showed through two Indian case studies how technological innovations, combined with traditional local skills, can stimulate economic development. Vazquez described and demonstrated the excellent UN Web site (www.un.org) and related services. In 2002 the site, available in the UN's six official languages, had 1.6 billion hits from 150 countries. Bailur discussed her research project, Modernizing Participative Democracy Through ICTs in the Commonwealth. Her report included several case studies; for example, a computerized voter register in Antigua and Barbuda, ICT use by the Electoral Commission of India, and geographic information systems in South Africa.

Panel IV brought to the workshop a Canadian perspective. It was chaired by Andrew Cooper, Associate Director of CIGI, and featured Marie-Isabelle Massip, Director, United Nations and Commonwealth Affairs Division, DFAIT; Evan Potter, formerly of Carleton University and now also at DFAIT; and Cynthia Alexander of Acadia University. Massip gave a candid insider's view of the preparations for, and prospects of, the World Summit on the Information Society,

including the challenges and opportunities of involving not just governments but business and civil society as well. Potter discussed the impact of ICTs on the ability of social movements to mobilize public opinion and influence policy. Then Alexander enlarged on the concepts of e-government, e-governance, e-democracy, and e-federalism in Canada.

Mixed Reviews for WSIS

The World Summit on the Information Society, whose first phase took place last December, has received mixed reviews. After a lengthy preparatory process, participants adopted two ambitious documents: "Declaration of Principles" and "Plan of Action" (www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=1161|1160). WSIS featured lively discussions and serious thought but also revealed how contentious certain issues could be; for example, the varying positions among countries on access to information, freedom of the press, and control of the Internet. Much thought had gone into WSIS, but a good deal more work will be needed before and at the second phase of WSIS in 2005. The Waterloo workshop was an interesting and important contribution to this process. Its deliberations provided good insight and analysis relevant to everyone involved in the information profession.

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EX LIBRIS AT CLA/BCLA CONFERENCE

ELA WILL HAVE A BOOTH AT THE JOINT CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION/BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, BEING HELD IN VICTORIA FROM JUNE 16 TO 19. OUR BOOTH WILL BE OPEN FOR TWO OF THESE DAYS. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR JUNE 17 AND 18! IF YOU ARE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP IN STAFFING THE ELA BOOTH, PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT ELA AND SELLING OUR T-SHIRTS.

IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT HARRY CAMPBELL

- BY EMAIL AT CINFO@ICAN.NET
- BY PHONE AT 905-456-3801 OR
- BY MAIL AT 10 MALTA AVE., #301, BRAMPTON, ON L6Y 4G6

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

Ottawans Fight to Keep Library System Intact

BY MARIE F. ZIELINSKA

March 26 was a victory day for both users and supporters of Ottawa's libraries. The city council confirmed the unanimous decision of its Health, Recreation and Social Services Committee to keep three libraries open.

The thunder started to rumble last spring when it was revealed that the City would face a deficit of over \$105 million in 2004. A municipal review recommended cuts to all city services, from reducing drinking water monitoring to closing several libraries. The city council, elected on a promise not to raise taxes, asked city departments to look at what would happen with budget reductions from 5 to 20%.

It became clear that a 15% reduction would inevitably lead to closing some smaller libraries. However, in December 2003, a full budget for the library system was provisionally approved. But in January the Library Board, under pressure to find another \$1.6 million in cuts, designated three branches for closing: Vanier, Blackburn Hamlet, and Sunnyside.

This created an uproar, especially in the neighbourhoods that would be affected by the closings. Signs with the slogan "My Ottawa Includes Culture" appeared on hundreds of lawns. Letters were sent to the council asking it to abandon library closures, and rallies were held at the branches to be closed. One, in front of the Sunnyside branch, attracted more than 1200 protesters! The Friends of OPL (Ottawa Public Library) went into action, encouraging its members to express their views at all budget meetings, write to their councillors and attend rallies.

The vice-president of the Friends, William H. Porter, visited each of the branches to be closed, observing and talking to staff and users. He prepared an excellent report for the Library Board arguing that all three branches are viable and their closing would create a vacuum in library services for a large group of Ottawans.

Getting City Council's approval to keep all branches open was therefore a great achievement, even if the library budget was cut by \$200,000. Fortunately, plans for the \$7.7 million south-central district library will go ahead, as 95% of its funding had previously been approved, its architectural design is almost complete, and construction is scheduled to start this year.

The following data will give ELAN readers a better understanding of the situation of OPL after amalgamation of library systems in the greater Ottawa area in January 2001. Twelve small, rural libraries entered OPL, and \$1 million had to be spent to upgrade their services. OPL is presently the fourth largest public library system in Canada and the

largest bilingual (French-English) public library system in North America.

As Library Board chairman Rick Chiarelli stated, Ottawa's system is the most efficient in the country, with a per-user cost about \$3 below the national average. Sixty per cent of Ottawans are regular users of libraries. Reference and information transactions increased 30% in 2002, and book circulation rose by 27% in 2003. Yet last year 32 jobs were eliminated.

A new, integrated library catalogue, Lirico, connects all branches. The number of public Internet access sites has grown to 275. OPL has established a number of new cultural and literacy programs for toddlers, teens, and adults in both official languages – mostly in cooperation with other organizations and through a very successful fundraising event held each fall.

Ottawa's new, amalgamated system won three awards of excellence – from the Ontario Library Association, the Province of Ontario, and the federal government. The achievements described in this article are the result not only of a hard-working, dedicated staff but, above all, of the excellent leadership of CEO Barbara Clubb.

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Do You Remember...

BY JEAN WEIHS

Brian Land recently reminded me that, when we graduated with a B.L.S. in 1953 from the University of Toronto, we also received a Class B Certificate of Librarianship. These were given because the size of Ontario government grants to libraries was based on the number of staff who had certificates and the class of those certificates.

The Class A Certificate of Librarianship required a B.A. plus B.L.S., plus M.L.S. or M.A. The Class B required a B.A. plus B.L.S. The Class C was for the eight-month diploma course given at the university. There was also a Class D Certificate of Library Services for a 12-week course, and a Class E Certificate of Library Services for a four-week course.

Out in BC-Land

BY HOWARD OVEREND



Over to you. Over. That's what Chris Pepler, director of BC-Land's Public Library Services Branch in Victoria, said in effect to his successor at the end of August last year after two years at the helm. This came as a surprise to me, because I've known Chris for ages and had assumed he'd be head guy for a long time. When his term of appointment ended, though, he chose early retirement in response to the provincial government's policy of allowing staffers to leave at or near pensionable age.

So, bingo! We lose a leader with 33 years of public library experience – including a decade of running the Frontenac County Library in Ontario, as well as managing B.C. government library services at Cranbrook and Prince George and, of course, being director at headquarters in Victoria. He has served the province well. The instant freedom of cutting loose from niggling and more serious cares of office prompted him to depart within a few weeks, with his wife Lynne, on a six-week trip to the Mount Everest region in Nepal. Bravo, Chris, and congratulations! Colour us green.

In his place at the Public Library Services Branch is Maureen Woods, a well qualified Saskatchewanian

who rose from very practical library work in inner-city Regina to be director of her province's vast Northern Library Region and ultimately to its top position, Provincial Librarian. In the latter post, she helped rewrite library legislation and promoted the concept of a "multi-type" library system allowing public libraries to adopt cooperative policies and programs in delivering their services.

New worlds to conquer were to the west. Until 2003, Woods worked with The Alberta Library as the manager of the Alberta Public Library Electronic Network (APLEN), which since 2001 has been funded by Alberta Community Development (a provincial ministry). APLEN connects some 300 public libraries in Alberta, allowing them to provide online services. The system is anchored by 16 resource libraries and includes a partnership with postsecondary libraries in the province.

Welcome to BC-Land, Maureen, and good luck!

Public Library InterLINK

Perhaps the closest thing to APLEN in BC-Land is a lively federation of 17 Lower Mainland public libraries with the nifty, imaginative, descriptive and distinctive name of InterLINK. This is the descendant of the Greater Vancouver Library Federation (GVLF) that flourished between 1975 and 1994.

Like its parent, InterLINK is governed by a board of trustees – one trustee for each member board – which in turn elects its executive. Unlike the GVLF, the InterLINK board has permanent committees for finance and planning. The board's current chair is Stephen Lisik of Coquitlam. Its full-time manager of operations, who reports to Lisik, is Rita Avigdor of Burnaby. Chair of InterLINK's 17-member Administrators Advisory

Group is Beth Barlow, Chief Librarian of the Surrey Public Library.

InterLINK is funded on a per-capita basis by its member libraries, whose net providers (member libraries that loan more than they receive) receive compensation from the Province. It serves 2.3 million people in the region via interlibrary loans, open access to each other's collections and other cooperative programs. It is the Friendly Giant of library service providers in BC-Land, notably in the production and maintenance of audio books for visually impaired patrons.

Wheels Off?

BC-Land's Strategic Plan for Public Libraries – under way since requests for proposals went out in January 2003 – seems to be stalled. No wonder, for not only is there a new director of the Public Services Branch (Maureen Woods) but, since January 2004, a new minister in charge of libraries, Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. (What islands? Denman, Texada, Saltspring, Gabriola, Galiano, Hornby, Saturna and other lotus nirvanas.)

The Strategic Directions paper, due to be published this past January, was postponed until May, and the final report to the minister, slated for last November, is now scheduled for the same month this year. All's quiet on the western front.

Rain and Galoshes

Anyone who has been to Prince Rupert will recognize and perhaps sympathize with whoever is appointed chief librarian to fill the vacancy left when Allan Wilson resigned last year. This uncritical comment is prompted by the piquant, candid working of the job

Ephemerality

BY JEAN WEIHS



The Library Hotel

I was astounded to read in the November 2003 issue of *American Libraries* that OCLC was suing the Library Hotel in New York City for trademark infringement. It is a wonderful public relations coup for libraries to have our profession associated with a luxurious hotel. While it is not quite as effective as having a much-admired, world-famous, media-savvy librarian polish our image, I am grateful for anything that makes libraries seem enticing or interesting.

A November 2001 article in *American Libraries* said that each of the 10-floor hotel's 60 rooms are "classified by a Dewey Decimal system of knowledge. Each guest room is decorated with framed art and a library of books that relate to the room's specific Dewey Decimal theme. Depending on the number of rooms in which a guest stays, one of the hotel's honorary degrees in library science can be earned, including a bachelor's (30 rooms), master's (40 rooms), and a doctorate (50 rooms)." Book-filled mahogany shelves wrap the lobby and a floor-to-ceiling faux card catalogue has been placed behind the reception desk. I would love to stay in this hotel, but the high cost of the rooms (\$265-\$395 US a night, which includes a deluxe continental breakfast in the book-lined reading room) is daunting.

Perhaps, by now the trademark infringement dispute has been settled and OCLC has recognized this hotel as an advertisement for their products and a plus for the image of libraries.

Librarian Action Figures

There are two library-related action-figure dolls that have been marketed not because they are librarians, but because they are associated with exciting lifestyles portrayed in a movie and a television series. Batgirl (of the Batman movies) is the head librarian of the Gotham City Library. Her profession is only important because of its contrast to her exciting nonlibrary life preventing criminals from succeeding in their nefarious schemes to control Gotham City or the world. Rupert Giles, a school librarian on the television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, uses his librarians skills to help Buffy fight threatening evil forces. This action figure was created not because he is a librarian but because he is just one of the characters associated with this television series.

A real librarian action figure has been produced by Accoutrements. The Web advertisement for this action figure (www.mcphree.com/amusements/current/11247.html) states, "although most librarians can't travel faster than a speeding bullet, or leap over tall buildings in a single bound, they can direct you to an article on the physics of speed, an instructional pamphlet on high jumping, and a book of photographs of the world's tallest buildings." Mark Pahlow, Accoutrements' owner, says that he looks for action figures in people with unusual or underappreciated jobs. This librarian action figure is modelled on Nancy Pearl, a 58-year-old librarian who works for the Seattle Public Library. She received the 2003 Humanities Award for promoting the If All Seattle Read the Same Book program, which built community connections through an appreciation of books and has been copied by other cities. Pearl believes that "the role of a librarian is to make sense of the world of information. If that's not a qualification for superhero-dom, what is?"

Some librarians have complained about the dowdy look and dress of the Accoutrements action figure. I am adding one more negative. An action figure has to have action. Accoutrements chose to make their librarian figure shush. Pearl thinks that this will determine which librarians have a sense of humour. While I agree that librarians may find this action humorous, it is a bad image to convey to non-librarians who might purchase or see the action figure. The thing that many of my friends most mention about their days of study in the university library is the librarian who spent most of her time with a finger to her lips – still, in their minds after 50 years, a figure of derision. The look of this figure and its action suggests that librarians have not changed at all.

You can buy one of the librarian action figures at the OLA Store. Call 1-866-873-9867 - Ed.

A "Contest" That Was Anything But

In 2002 Mattel Inc. asked people to cast their vote on its Web site for a proposed new Barbie doll's profession. The choices for the profession were librarian, architect, or police officer. A Toronto librarian alerted many of us to the contest and urged us to cast our votes for librarian in the hope that a librarian Barbie doll would raise the image of librarians in the minds of children and their parents. Most of us responded to the challenge. One person remarked that the fact that librarian was even on the ballot was worth celebrating.



How I Became A Librarian

BY LELAND WINDREICH

Graduating with a B.A. in English at age 19, I had every hope of becoming a famous and revered writer of fiction. In the next five years I wrote three novels and a dozen short stories, all of which had a round trip to various publishers. I did manage to crash print several times with book and performance reviews. Ultimately I realized that I was a much better critic than novelist.

To make a living I worked as a clerk/typist in a number of offices, the last of which happened to be the technical library of a public utilities firm. The head librarian encouraged me to consider the library science program, a one-year course at that time that would give me a B.L.S. degree and a chance to work anywhere in the world. Librarians in the postwar era were needed everywhere, and men were particularly sought because it was assumed that they, not women, had innate management skills. On the basis of this myth I was admitted to the Library School at UC (Berkeley), even though I had less than the required grade-point average and had passed only five of the eight subject areas on a scholastic aptitude test required for admission to the Graduate Division.

Library school had a reputation of being a place for prolonged suffering. And so it was. Students were frequently treated with contempt and scorn, and the experience was comparable to spending a year in a British boarding school. I lasted two years in my first job as a junior librarian in the fine arts department

of a state college. It was in many ways an extension of the library school experience, as young professionals did not participate in any management activities and were excluded from meetings involving policies. An active Gestapo kept track of all transgressions, and I beat a path to the head librarian's office for my two frequent infringements: using a typewriter and reading on the job at the reference desk. I shortly became what was known as a trouble-maker, a role that I portrayed in several other institutions during my career.

Over the years I held jobs in both special and academic libraries. The former gave me a sense of satisfaction that came with an acknowledgment of personal growth. I became aware of my talent for organizing materials and a fascination with semantics. In public service one dealt with clients who had significant practical objectives and the result of one's research was tangible. Academic libraries did indeed offer upward mobility, with higher salaries and increasing power in decision making. On the career ladder, however, one lost the meaningful contact with materials and clientele that made the occupation intriguing.

After 37 years in the field, I left no mark and no legacy, and automation wiped out the little that I had done. But I enjoyed the opportunity to travel and live in two countries, to make lifelong friendships and to be exposed daily to the constantly changing world of information.

Leland Windreich is a dance historian and critic living in Vancouver, B.C.

Ephemeralia

continued from page 8

There was little to celebrate when Mattel reported the results of the vote 98% for architect and 0% for the other two. The 0% statistic was unbelievable, because I know I voted and I know that other Toronto librarians (possibly more than 20) voted for librarian. It appeared that Mattel used this "contest" as an advertising gimmick and may have decided on architect before the voting began. Were the other two professional choices window dressing to make the vote seem real? Did Mattel propose librarian and police officer, because they considered these professions such unlikely choices that architect would be a believable winner?

Library Cats



Iron Frog Productions, an independent film and comedy production company, has a Library Cats Map on its Web site (www.ironfrog.com/catsmap.html). So far the site lists 554 cats that have, or have had, their home in a library. Not all of these are living animals; this total includes statues, virtual library cats, stuffed lions, a stuffed Siberian tiger, a stuffed cheetah, and one ghost cat. Not surprisingly, some cats have been named Barcode, Melvil Dewey, Dewey, Bookums, Booker, etc. A Library Cat Society promotes "the establishment of a cat or cats in a library setting" and produces the *Library Cats Newsletter*. There is the Baker and Taylor Song about two library cats and a movie Puss in Books: The Adventures of a Library Cat. A veritable feast for cat lovers.

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Our President's Report

BY NANCY WILLIAMSON

As promised at the Annual Meeting in November 2003, the ELA board of directors held a long-range planning meeting, on March 31. Several past members of the board were present as invited guests. We reviewed the past and considered some possible projects for the next five years.

Among the major concerns were new-member recruitment and communication among members. If we are able to remain a viable association, it is important to sustain and, if possible, build on our membership. We are particularly interested in encouraging the newly retired and about-to-retire to join us.

Of course, successful recruitment must be based on what the ELA has to offer potential members – publications, programs, social activities, or whatever. Moreover, the association must be able to deliver its wares to members efficiently and effectively. In Canada this is not easy. As is true of other professions, librarians are scattered unevenly across the country, so even well planned programs, panels and speeches cannot bring the entire membership (or anything like it) together.

Communication among members is of serious concern in ELA. At the long-range planning meeting there was much talk of "how we might do it better." *ELAN*, the Ex Libris newsletter, is presently the association's chief vehicle of communication, but technology is increasingly important in our lives. So, at this meeting there were concerns about

how to make *ELAN* better and more responsive to the interests and tastes of readers across the country. We also talked about how to make better use of our Web site. With conference-call technology, we could have representation on the board from B.C. to Newfoundland.

People at the meeting also suggested projects – some focused on history; some on the current needs and issues of the profession; others on the future. All in all, it was a successful meeting. Next we moulded our recommendations into a five-year plan. The plan was presented for approval to the board at its meet-

ing on May 3 and, we hope, will be revealed to ELA members soon.

In the meantime, the Personal and Institutional Archives (PIA) Committee has completed its work. They will report the results in *ELAN*, but you can see them right now on our Web site (www.exlibris.fis.utoronto.ca). Also, work on the history of library education in Canada is well under way. The PIA Committee has chosen the authors, and the work is taking shape.

Have a great summer and don't forget to visit our booth at the June CLA conference in Victoria. Harry Campbell will be there.

ELAN

New Editor, New Features

Hello, I'm the new editor of *ELAN*, Margaret Oldfield. I've enjoyed reading contributions to the newsletter from across the country. I'd like to thank the new columnists and book reviewers who've joined us this issue. As always, we are indebted to Trevor Balla of OLA who designs *ELAN* and is a pleasure to work with! Trevor and I made a few changes to the newsletter's style. We welcome your comments.

BACK ISSUES OF EX LIBRIS NEWS

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

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

Atlantic News

NOVA SCOTIA NEWS

BY NORMAN HORROCKS

Lucien BIANCHINI (Librarian Emeritus at Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, and a librarian there from 1973 to 1993) was featured in an article by Joel Jacobson, Soft-Spoken Librarian on a Mission, in the *Halifax Mail-Star*. Having recovered from triple-bypass heart surgery, Bianchini is now back at work as director of Veritas Catholic Books and Gifts in downtown Halifax. He opened the store, a nonprofit society with a volunteer staff, in 1994.

Shirley ELLIOTT (the former Legislative Librarian of Nova Scotia) became one of five Nova Scotians to be awarded the Order of Nova Scotia for 2003. The Order "was established in 2001 to honour individual Nova Scotians who have distinguished themselves by an outstanding contribution to the cultural life...of the Province." A full account of Elliott's career, by Patricia Gallant, can be found in the November/December 2003 *APLA Bulletin*. The presentation ceremony is on the Web site of the Nova Scotia Protocol Office (www.gov.ns.ca/prot/order.htm).

Pauline HILDESHEIM died in Halifax on December 18, 2003. For many years she

was known as Pauline Home, her father having changed the family name at the outbreak of World War I. Her degrees included an M.A. and M.L.S. from University of Toronto and an M.P.A. from Dalhousie University. She was Deputy Chief Librarian at the Halifax Regional Library when she retired. A memorial service was held on Easter Monday at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, with a reception following at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, of which Elliott was a generous supporter.

Norman HORROCKS was honoured by the Nova Scotia Library Association at its fall meeting, through the establishment of the Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership. The first such award will be given later this year, the NSLA's 30th anniversary. For details of the award, see the NSLA Web site (www.nsla.ns.ca).

At its midwinter meeting in January, the American Library Association Council voted to give Horrocks an honorary membership, with the presentation to be made at the ALA annual conference in Orlando, Florida in June. He will be the second Canadian recipient of this award, the first being Elizabeth Morton.

In February 2004, the International Awards Committee of the Professor Kaula Endowment for Library and Information Science voted to award the International

Kaula Gold Medal and Citation to Norman Horrocks. This award was established in India to "honour a person who has distinguished himself or herself as a Librarian, Documentalist or Teacher of Library and Information Science" in 1975. Horrocks will be the second Canadian recipient of this award, the first being Harry Campbell. The presentation is provisionally scheduled for the Association for Library and Information Science Education annual conference next January in Boston.

Boris RAYMOND (formerly of the School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University) has written a novel, *The Twelfth Vulture of Romulus: Attila and the Fall of Rome*. It was published by the Kylo Press in Halifax and is available on www.amazon.com for \$19.75. That Web site also contains a review of the book.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR NEWS

BY SUZANNE SIXTY

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has announced the opening this June of *The Rooms*, a centre that will bring together the collections of historical artifacts, natural history, archival records and contemporary visual art from three provincial institutions: the Provincial Museum, the Provincial Archives, and the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador.

In addition to allowing bigger presentations of the province's story, there will also be space for national and international travelling exhibits. *ELAN learned from the April 6, 2004 Globe and Mail that the premier of Newfoundland placed the opening of The Rooms on hold. – Ed.*

ELAN

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR EX LIBRIS ASSOCIATION

Ex Libris now has voice mail. The number to call is
(416) 760-4722

for any questions, comments, etc. This is an experiment for nine months. Unfortunately our budget does not stretch to a 1-800 number yet.

And remember, you can visit our website at
exlibris.fis.utoronto.ca

Great Moments in the History of Technical Services

COMPILED BY W. LEWIS AND
EDITED BY M. URRIZOLA

8560 B.C.

Cultivation of emmer, barley, and other wild grasses begins on the steppes of Central Asia, leading to the development of specialized occupations, such as cereal catalogers.

4362 B.C.

First evidence (from Scythia, modern day Crimea) of a four-wheeled book cart. Within two generations this design was adopted throughout Europe and Asia, replacing the more manoeuvrable, but much less stable two-wheeled book cart.

Spring, 3193 B.C.

First serial title attested: "Publications of the Royal Sumerian Academy."

Late summer, 3193 B.C.

First serial title change attested: to "Royal Sumerian Academy Publications."

537 B.C.

The National Library of Babylon, finally switching to papyrus, ceases maintaining its clay tablet shelflist, but is unable to discard it for nostalgic reasons. 2 years later, under siege by the Persians, the city finds a new use for the old tablets and manages to inflict severe losses on the besieging army by pelting them from the ramparts with large quantities of shelflist tablets.

43 B.C.

First attested use of an ISBN (for the special collector's edition of Caesar's Gallic Wars with an introduction by Marc Anthony): IXIVVIXVIIIIVIVII.

81 A.D.

Second gospel of the Christian New Testament becomes the first document written in MARK format.

427 A.D.

The Library at Alexandria decides to contract out its annual weeding project; Vandal hordes are the lowest bidder.

June 21, 762 A.D.

Death of St. Minutia, patron saint of catalogers. The birth date of St. Minutia is unknown. The only reliable chronicle has an unlucky lacuna: "Sa. Minutia in [.....an]no domini nata est", where only the last two missing letters can be supplied with any certainty. Vitae of the saint written later naively abbreviate the "...no domini" as 'n.d.', and this is the form traditionally cited for her birth. Minutia is said to have been born in the former Roman province of Nova Panonia (part of the present day Czech



Republic), in the village of Sineloco (modern day Odnikud). Her time and place of birth, therefore, are usually given as "s.l., n.p., n.d."

Happily, a generous amount of hagiographical material on St. Minutia has survived, perhaps the most popular of which is a collection of her homilies and sayings, including the motto most closely associated with her: "Non pilus tam tenuis ut secari non possit." (There is no hair too fine to be split.) She appears to have had some interest in ecclesiastical architecture; one early vita has references to a church, which was built using plans drawn up by Minutia herself. The actual building has not survived, but there is a fragment from a contemporary description: "On either side of the

main entry, St. Minutia caused innumerable added entries to be placed, such that people marvelled at the great multitude of doors, and rebuked the Saint for the labour wasted in putting them there. 'No labour has been wasted', she answered them patiently, 'for by these means no one will be barred from my church through a lack of access.' " Another account explains that her plans were an improvement on earlier designs which had called for a single entry at the east end, near the tabernacle; the inconvenience of relying on this so-called corporate entry was immediately recognized and rectified by the saint.

She was, not surprisingly, an influential member of her convent. There are a number of references to her reorganization of its agricultural property: she is said to have divided the land into holdings devoted to permanent crops (fixed fields) and holdings given over to crop rotation (variable fields). The variable fields were further divided into smaller parcels (sub-fields) assigned individually to peasants attached to the convent. Minutia is also renowned for her role as a mediator between the warring factions so prevalent in those chaotic times. She was continually optimistic in even the most threatening circumstances and was careful never to anticipate a conflict, although she quickly resolved them when they arose. [Contributors to the St. Minutia entry include D. Boice (Divine Word College) and J. Mirejovsky (UCI).]

1066 A.D.

William the Conqueror defeats his cousin Harold at the Battle of Hastings and imposes the Anglo-Norman Cataloging Rules, 2nd ed. (ANCR2) on his new subjects. 10 years later he commissions the first

As I Saw It: Women and the Top Jobs

BY ALBERT BOWRON

As a child growing up in Hamilton, Ontario I often visited the children's department of the main library. It was an impressive building on Main Street West, a Carnegie gift. At that time Freda Waldon was a young librarian on staff. This austere and severe woman was very helpful, but intimidating. I feared her disapproval. She fit the commonly held stereotype of a public librarian perfectly. Later Waldon became chief of HPL, a doyenne of the Canadian library establishment and the first president of the Canadian Library Association. This one-dimensional stereotype remained with me until I actually joined the profession and found that my impression of librarians was unjust and just plain wrong.

Unfortunately this negative view of librarians, although less prevalent, remains accepted folklore to this day. The image of the plain, humourless, unmarried female remains with us.

Over the years, as a response to this public image, capable women library workers have been unjustly neglected for promotion to senior positions by library boards and university authorities. The fewer men available have been favoured for senior positions.

In 1987 I wrote a piece for the *Canadian Library Journal* to test this proposition (Statistics Tell the Tale: Men Still Getting Top Jobs, *CLJ*, August, 1987). I gathered statistics from the American Library Directory for 1948 and 1986. For Canadian university libraries in 1948, of the chiefs, 52% were men. In 1986, 84% were men. This was a surprising increase in the male majority. The situation for Canadian public libraries was similar.

I counted the heads of 91 of the larger libraries. In 1948 only 27.5% were men; 72.5% were women. By 1986 men were in the majority, with 57.7% of the top jobs.



Al Bowron and Ruby Wallace at Canadian Library Association Conference, in Calgary, the Happy Valley picnic, June 1966.

So to carry the story up to today, 55 years since my graduation and 14 years since retirement, has this apparent injustice in the promotion practices of library boards and university authorities been corrected?

Again I gathered statistics from the same sources for the year 2003. Of the 39 large university libraries selected from coast to coast, 46% of the chiefs are male and 54% are female. I selected 54 large public libraries, including some of the many regional units. Of these libraries, 38.5% of the chiefs are male and 61.5% are female.

This rather unscientific tabulation seems to indicate that the biased promotion practices of the 80s have changed for the better. This change is even more remarkable when one

looks at the changed composition of library school enrollment. I was only able to obtain statistics from the University of Toronto faculty.

However, I expect the result would be much the same for other locations. In 1929 no men graduated from the School of Librarianship. In 1939 there were two men in a class of 68. In my class (1948-49) there were eight men, or 15.4% of the total.

This year (2003-04), of the 362 enrolled in the Faculty of Information Studies, 40.6% are men and 59.4% are women. This includes 14 male PhD. students and 26 female. It seems that the number of men attending is increasing. What this means for future hiring and promotion practices remains to be seen.

The split of the top jobs between the sexes seems to be fairly equitable at this time. However, we should be aware that library boards, university deans, presidents and faculty committees who hire for the big jobs are still dominated by men.

ELAN

THE MORTON YEARS: THE CLA, 1946-1971

By Elizabeth Hulse

Published in 1995 with a forward by W. Kaye Lamb.
141 pages.

EACH COPY IS \$5.

Please send order and payment to:

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c/o Dean's Office
Faculty of Information Studies
University of Toronto
140 St. George Street
Toronto, ON M5S 3G6

Book Reviews

THE LIBRARY BOOK. AN OVERDUE HISTORY OF THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY 1906-2001

BY PHIL JENKINS.

Ottawa Public Library, 2002, \$15.00 (paper).

REVIEWED BY WIEBKE SMYTHE

If someone compiled a family scrapbook it would have pictures, drawings, photographs, records of past and present events, setbacks and triumphs, and some good wishes for the future. If it was done well, even someone outside the family would be entertained. Phil Jenkins' book achieves all this.

With front matter, branch histories, names of library board chairs, writers-in-residence and an index, this slender volume has exactly 150 pages. It contains old-fashioned oval photographs of buildings and people, a catalogue card listing a book of Browning's poetry as missing since 1915, a 1910 postcard of the library, the library system's evolving logo, and the Web site launch in 1996. Historical and personal footnotes complement sidebars of newspaper articles.

From Andrew Carnegie, the library's main benefactor, to 1960s mayor Charlotte Whitton, from a 1948 *Ottawa Citizen* article mentioning Adrienne Clarkson to library architecture through the years and the various methods of bringing books and readers together, all that is packed into those few pages.

The style is elegant, the tone gentle. It is a success story moved along by people with vision and fierce determination, much needed when Charlotte Whitton became a member of the city's board of control and later its mayor. She was not the greatest friend of the Library Board. Side by side with Whitton, the reader will meet Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje, and oth-



ers now famous. The book lauds the library staff. Fiercely loyal to the institution, they came at the start of their careers and stayed for life.

In all of its 75 years, the Ottawa Public Library had only six City Librarians – five of them men, because, alas, in the early days women were not allowed to apply for the position. This was despite the local Council of Women being the library's initial driving force. But progress came and the current office holder is a woman.

The book ends by describing an ordinary day at the library – from cleaning sidewalks to switching on lights and computers, loading book boxes destined for other branches, shelving books, and the many other tasks that make a library run smoothly. The author also gazes into the future and speculates what libraries may look like years from now. With all its success, this venture that started 75 years ago "remains an unfinished business."

If I had any criticism, it might be the lack of a bibliography. Newspaper articles are sourced, photographs have captions and historical footnotes are dated, but readers might want to know about meeting notes, council sessions, and whether any of the long-serving library staff wrote memoirs. On second thought, a bibliography would weigh down this slender volume and detract from its carefully and lovingly crafted text. It claims not to be a research paper but a monument to an institution closely linked to Ottawa and its people. The book's warmth and gentle prose make enchanting reading just as it is.

Two Valuable Festschrifts from Quebec

AU FIL DES PAGES ET DU TEMPS: LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE L'ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE, DEUX SIÈCLES D'HISTOIRE. BIBLIOGRAPHIE ET DOCUMENTATION, 44.

EDITED BY GILLES GALLICHAN.

TÉMOIGNAGES SUR LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE. BIBLIOGRAPHIE ET DOCUMENTATION, 45.

EDITED BY JEAN-GUY PELLETIER.

Published by Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale, Quebec City, 2002.

REVIEWED BY HARRY CAMPBELL

Few Canadian library festschrifts exist, and those that do are often among the most important sources of the history of Canadian libraries. The appearance in 2002 of *Au fil des pages et du temps* and *Témoignages sur la bibliothèque* published by the Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale in Quebec City are remarkable for their research and for the sentiments that they evoke about one of Canada's oldest libraries.

The Bibliothèque celebrated its 200th anniversary on March 14, 2002 and, for me, *Témoignages* is the more rewarding book. Library users and staff, 50 in number, were asked to provide their memories of the library. What a rich harvest! Jean Charest, Bernard Landry, Gaston Bernier, Jean-Charles Bonenfant, Marie-Claire Blais, and many more gave an appreciation of the part the library played in their lives. Jean-Guy Pelletier, the collection's compiler, deserves much credit.

In preparation for *Au fil des pages et du temps*, the other volume published for the anniversary, Gilles Gallichan (with the help of degree students) undertook an investigation through the Department of History of Université Laval into the

Book Reviews

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foundations of the Bibliothèque's collections and the people who guided the library over 200 years. Six different authors present essays on the founders, the collections, and the role of the state and the Catholic Church in the library's development from 1810 to 1940.

We are given biographies of early contributors and administrators: Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau, a former premier, from 1867 to 1873; Narcisse-Eutrope Dionne, library director from 1892 to 1912; and Georges-Emile Marquis, director from 1934 to 1940. Three other essays give the story of the collection: post-Confederation reorganization carried out by Léon-Pamphile LeMay, director from 1867 to 1892; evidence in the collection of the role of Roman law in the 19th century; and the impact of the Catholic church on education and government from 1810 to 1835.

Through these essays we can see the social and popular role that the library played and its contribution to the national character of Quebec. Gilles Gallichan's volume is greatly complemented by both a general index and an index of works described. Both volumes are a delight to read and enjoy.

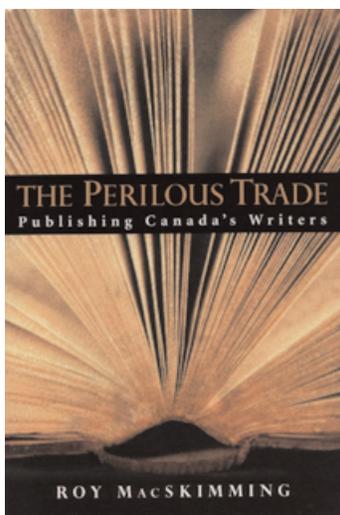
THE PERILOUS TRADE:
PUBLISHING CANADA'S WRITERS
BY ROY MACSKIMMING.
McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, 2003.
464 pages. \$39.99.

REVIEWED BY FRANCES HALPENNY

This book is a splendid read. It is long awaited, ever since MacSkimming began his series of taped interviews and journal entries with members of the Canadian publishing industry in 1998. His credentials for writing this

story – and it is a story of Canadian English language book publishing from the Second World War to the present" – are many. Having been in and out of the industry himself as a literary journalist, a publishing officer at the Canada Council and an industry analyst – he has developed a fruitful dialogue with publishers, writers and industry professionals.

Our book industry people have all too often written briefs, statements, and reports as one crisis after another steered them into survival mode. When I taught a course on Canadian publishing between 1967 and 1984, my bibliography was largely made up of such material. But we have had few accounts from those who have had a publishing life. This book is a welcome redress.



MacSkimming begins with a chapter on his own introduction to publishing – a summer job in 1964 with Clark Irwin, a firm that typically mixed agency business, textbooks and some original trade publishing. MacSkimming started in the warehouse and then moved up to the editorial department. It was the kind of induction that many book industry people experienced; you learned on the job.

The early chapters of *The Perilous Trade* centre on the careers of the four men who MacSkimming considers to have begun "the modern era

in English-Canadian publishing" in the 1950s: John Gray (Macmillan of Canada), William Toye (Oxford University Press), Marsh Jeanneret (University of Toronto Press), and Jack McClelland (McClelland & Stewart). He tells us of the challenges they faced and their accomplishments that moved our publishing forward, with generous treatment along the way of their associates and some of the important works on their growing book lists.

These chapters have a skillful but unobtrusive chronological progression. The tale continues as MacSkimming moves on to the 1960s and the explosion of publishers and publishing that transformed Canadian literature at home and then, from the 1990s, abroad when our writers began to win important international awards.

The chapter "Printed in Canada by Mindless Acid Freaks" (a Coach House Press motto) relates the creation of Coach House Press, House of Anansi and New Press. These were a new type of publisher, very independent, started by people who often were writers determined to find outlets for an energetic, creative band of Canadian poets, novelists, and thinkers. The building at 671 Spadina Avenue in Toronto, where much of the ferment occurred, deserves a historical plaque.

Next comes James Lorimer, the driving force behind efforts to make Canada's books visible among the American and British books predominant in bookstores, libraries, book clubs and curricula. The Independent Publishers Association, an association of firms owned in Canada, was founded in 1971. Meanwhile in the west, publishers appeared determined to bring the stories of their region into print. Here we meet Mel Hurtig and follow the creation of the Canadian Encyclopedia under James Marsh's heroic editorial direction. Like so many major projects now recognized

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as essential for broad knowledge of this country, the tale is an often harrowing one of survival amid financial crises and editorial challenges.

And so *The Perilous Trade* continues. It brings within its focus small presses, some of which "have survived into the present with the tenacity of pine trees growing out of rock." We watch the phenomenon of our children's literature, nonexistent in the 1960s and birthed by advocates such as Sheila Egoff and Irma McDonough (both from the library field) and by determined publishers.

Do you remember the significance in 1971 of *Mary of Mile 18*? We all remember, alas, the troubles for the entire industry that began in the 1970s and continue in the present. *The Perilous Trade* follows these incidents – and government interventions and policies that sought to counter them – largely through the stories of publishers troubled in the past (Ryerson, Clarke Irwin, McClelland & Stewart, Lester & Orpen Dennys, Anansi, Hurtig, Tundra, Macmillan, Western Producer, and others) and the industry and government representatives involved in the struggles.

The most recent troubles are the bankruptcy of Stoddard Publishing (and its important distribution services) in 2002 and the demise of respected nonfiction publisher MacFarlane, Walter & Ross, which was to have published MacSkimming's book.

The concluding chapters have a sense of foreboding. The adventurous, idealistic, sometimes unrealistic, committed struggles to create Canadian literature succeeded. But today the scene, as MacSkimming sees it, is dominated by multinationals and by intense efforts to find titles, especially fiction, that will sell elsewhere. Other concerns are the

demise of independent booksellers, the entry of Amazon.com into the Canadian market, the shrinking coverage of books in print media and whether or not government polices that ensure "a diverse, creatively vibrant, genuinely national industry" will survive.

Nevertheless, MacSkimming still sees the resilience that has carried our publishing industry through so many crises: the revival of House of Anansi, Raincoast Books (Harry Potter!), stripped-down McClelland & Stewart maintaining its "formidable fiction list," the university presses, new children's publishers, and "fresh troops" of literary and original presses. Courage and wit are out there still, finding ways to stand up to the daunting environment that has always challenged the intellectual and creative talents of Canadians.

Even a 464-page book cannot tell the full story of making and distributing Canadian books. Bookstores appear, but not in any major role; neither do libraries. Some of the campaigners, such as the Book and Periodical Development Council, are missing. The essential promotional role of the National Library is not noted. The Canadian Library Association appears only for its key role in removing the sales tax on books. We may regret these silences and the absence of the contribution of many dedicated librarians to the cause of Canadian books. But MacSkimming has a long, complicated story to tell, and he has chosen to give the oft-ignored builders of Canadian publishing due pride of place. **ELAN**

Out in BC-Land

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vacancy ad, which requires someone to "fill some big galoshes" as chief librarian in "one of Canada's greatest rainforests," which boasts "8 varieties of rain, stunning sun showers and the awesome beauty of the north coast of British Columbia."

Clearly the library board wants someone with stamina, drive, and a sense of humour. As for those eight kinds of rain, at least you don't have to shovel them!

Conference Time

CLA President Madeleine Lefebvre, University Librarian at the Patrick Power Library of St. Mary's University in Halifax, and BCLA President Alison Nussbaumer, University Librarian at the University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George, welcome all comers to the joint CLA-BCLA conference in Victoria, BC-Land from June 16 to 19.

Theme of the conference is Celebrating our Community: Sharing our Values and Sharing our Value.

ELAN

Book Review Writers Wanted

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Carnegie Library in Dawson City, Yukon

BY HOWARD OVEREND

The Carnegie Library of Dawson City, Yukon Territory was built a hundred years ago at a cost of \$25,000, with funds donated by the Carnegie Foundation of New York.

The largest library in the North opened its doors on August 16, 1904. It served the people of the Dawson area for 15 to 20 years, offering more than 5,000 volumes – including reference works and French-language books. Fire damaged parts of the main floor and contents on August 16, 1920. The city council, unable to pay for repair and maintenance because of a decreasing tax base, sold the building in 1934 to the local Masons for use as a lodge. The book collection moved to the public school.

Of unusual construction, the two-storey frame building, measuring 35 feet by 58 feet, is completely clad in pressed steel sheets inside and out; the exterior sheets specially pressed and tinted to simulate stonework and plastered brick. The architect and contractor was Robert Montcrieff, who had built the Bank of Commerce in Dawson City in similar fashion three years before. Robert Service, the Bard of the Klondike, worked at the bank in 1908 and 1909.



Carnegie Library, Dawson City, 1909

Credit: Yukon Archives

Neglected and unoccupied except for the Masonic quarters on the second floor, the old building forlornly awaits restoration and use once more as a public library. Happily, the Yukon Government has just announced that it will give the Dawson City Masonic Hall

Association \$132,812 to restore the Carnegie Library.

Howard Overend was Territorial Librarian in Whitehorse from 1981 to 1984. He had funds in his 1981 budget for the library's restoration but lost them to another

ELAN

Our Apologies! Calendar Erratum

A publisher's error crept into ELA's calendar after the final proofreading. We were unaware of it until late fall when Victoria Public Library, featured on the October page, brought it to our notice. That page is incorrect: October will begin on a Friday, not a Thursday.

If you received your calendar before the middle of November, you can correct it by shifting Monday to the first day of the week or writing us for a gummed correction strip. Calendars mailed out after mid-November are correct.

Great Moments in the History of Technical Services

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systematic catalog of selected realia (the Domesday Boke).

1757

Lakota Indians begin recording information on the insides of their portable dwellings; this is the first known use of the teepee verso.

1778

A small group of Irish-American colonists from County Corc form the Dublin Corps to assist in the struggle for independence. By limiting themselves to only the most essential supplies, members of the Corps could be prepared and mounted more quickly than other militias.

August 5, 1782



Birthdate of the Werke brothers, Gesammelte ("Gus"), Samtliche ("Sam"), and Ausgewahlte ("Wally"). In addition to being prolific authors, the brothers were devoted to their military music, and appeared in countless Bands, always in uniform.

1870s

Widespread use of highly acidic paper for book production begins, thus introducing the first disintegrating resource.

1883-84

Cattlemen at the Bar and Drum Ranch, outside Lone Stack, South Dakota, develop the 'barcode' brand as a way to keep track of individual animals in the herd.

1916

Jean Arp, Marcel DuChamp and others mount an assault on the traditional definition of art. Catalogers attempting to describe their work respond with the invention of metadata.

Reprinted (unedited) by permission of Manuel Urrizola, University of California (Irvine) Libraries from the Web site

http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~murrizol/ts_history/tshist.htm

ELAN

Ephemerality

continued from page 9

There is also a discussion about the ethics of keeping cats in libraries when considering the needs of allergic patrons and those with cat phobias.

The Not So Trivial: Librarian's Diseases

I was listening to CBC Radio one day and was startled to learn that there is a disease called "librarian's lung." The brief description on the CBC Web site says, "When you think of dangerous jobs, working in a library or archives isn't the first thing that comes to mind. Think again. It's extremely rare but some people actually develop something called 'librarian's lung.' The culprit is mold. Molds are all around us. They're on surfaces, in the ground

and in the air you're breathing right now. And molds love books. They absorb nutrients in the paper, glue and covers. Given the right conditions – high humidity and warm temperatures – furry, white mold spreads quickly. When you're exposed to a toxic mold – perhaps from old papers or manuscripts – over a period of time you could develop health problems." (See www.radio.cbc.ca/programs/quirks/98-99/oct1098.htm for more details.) It is possible to die of this disease, although fortunately that's rare.

In 2001 a Bristol-Myers Squibb press release about their Excedrin@Work Headache-By-Profession Index stated that 43% of librarians reported weekday headaches, second only to accountants at 49%. "Librarians stated that people who have 'no clue' how to use research resources cause the most headaches (56 percent) for them."

While a pain-relief manufacturer sees librarianship as a stress-producing job (good sales there), Les Krantz, the author of *Job Rated Almanac* (published by St. Martin's Griffin in 1999), thinks librarians' work has little stress. He ranked stress levels in 250 jobs and rated librarians at the "stressless" bottom – together with florists, piano tuners, and appliance repair people. **ELAN**



Are There More?

Have I missed some delightful, amusing, enraging, weird or wonderful items or happenings?

I would be pleased to receive information about other library-related trivia.

My e-mail address is jean.weihs@rogers.com

Milestones Compiled by Merlyn Beeckmans

Obituaries

Stanley Beacock of London, Ont. died on March 2, 2004. He was Director and Secretary-Treasurer of London Public Libraries from 1974 to 1984 and Adjunct Professor of Library Science at the University of Western Ontario until 1991.

Mary Campbell died in March, 2003 in Toronto. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. in 1966 and an M.L.S. in 1971.

Katharine (Madge) Cartwright died on February 3, 2003. She was a librarian at Trinity College and the Toronto Reference Library.

Marian Ellen Cooke of Kenora, Ont. died on November 9, 2003 at the age of 91. She was a children's librarian.

Margaret Winton Creelman of Vancouver died on July 19, 2003 at the age of 88. She spent her working life as a librarian at the Vancouver Public Library.

Marjorie Fleming died on July 11, 2002. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. in 1939.

Pauline Mary Adela Hildesheim of Halifax died on December 18, 2003 at the age of 75. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. and an M.L.S.

Rev. John Baptist Janisse, CSB of Scarborough, Ont. died on May 12, 2003. He graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. in 1950. He was a librarian at several universities.

Joan Lillian Johnston of Guelph, Ont. died on December 11, 2003. She was a long-time librarian at the University of Guelph.

Sheila Margaret King (née Bell) of Pembroke, Ont. died on January 22, 2004 at the age of 91. She graduated from St. Hilda's College with a B.L.S. in 1935.

Marie Labatte of Toronto died on January 25, 2004 at the age of 79. She served on the boards of the North York Public Library (1985-88), OLA (1986-88), and CLA (1986-88).

Christine E. Mandel of Oakville, Ont. died on February 11, 2004 at the age of 84. She was a library publicist at the Oakville Public Library for 20 years.

Phyllis Louise Moorhouse (née Foreman) of London, Ont. died on December 12, 2003. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. in 1940.

Carol B. Nisbett of Toronto died on April 5, 2003. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. in 1937. She worked at University of Toronto Libraries.

John Andrew North of Victoria died on January 12, 2004. He held library positions at Centennial College (Toronto), Mount Royal College (Calgary) and Ryerson University (Toronto).

Florence G. Partridge of Guelph, Ont. died on February 21, 2004 at the age of 98. She retired as Chief Librarian from the University of Guelph.

Barbara Smucker of Waterloo, Ont. died in July 2003 at the age of 88. She was a children's librarian and author of children's books, most notably *Underground to Canada*.

Dr. John Snow died in an automobile accident in North Carolina on December 15, 2003 at age 60. He was treasurer of the Canadian Library Trustees Association.

Illmars R. Strauss of Toronto died on July 19, 1999. He graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. in 1961 and an M.L.S. in 1968.

Pearl (Pat) Tomey of Toronto died on November 4, 2003 at the age of 85. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. and an M.L.S., and worked as a school library consultant for the Toronto Board of Education.

Eszter Turchanyi of Toronto died recently. She trained as a librarian in her native Hungary and worked in the Inforum at the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto for the past 14 years.

Awards

Mavis Cariou, of the Faculty of Information Studies (FIS), received a University of Toronto (U of T) Arbor Award, given "to recognize alumnae and friends of the university for their outstanding volunteer efforts."

Mary Dickerson, of the Ontario Legislative Library, received a FIS/U of T Alumni Association Jubilee Award for 2003.

Milestones, continued

Gwynneth Evans, the retired director general of National and International Programs at the National Library of Canada, received an honorary Doctor of Sacred Letters degree from Trinity College, U of T, in September 2003.

Debbie Feisst, Edmonton Public Library, and Robert Janke, Okanagan University College Library, were each awarded CLA/OCLA Canada bursaries. The \$1000 awards allow them to attend the 7th Northern Exposure to Leadership Institute in Emerald Lake, Alta.

Norman Horrocks, Professor Emeritus at the Dalhousie University School of Library and Information Studies, received an honorary ALA membership. The Nova Scotia Library Association established a new award in his honour, the Norman Horrocks Award for Library Leadership.

Madeleine Lefebvre, CLA president, was elected to the Register of Fellows of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

Karen Levine and **Eric Walters** were the 2003 winners of the OLA Silver Birch Awards.

Peter Rogers, Past President of OSLA and OLA, and President of the Ontario Library Trustees' Association, received a FIS/U of T Alumni Association Jubilee Award for 2003. He graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. in 1969 and an M.L.S. in 1974. He is also a member of the Ex Libris Association board.

Philip Ronchetti, developer of the Internet directory ClassiFile, received a U of T Arbor Award in September 2003.

Barbara Shopland, a founder of the FIS/U of T Dean's Advisory Board, received an Arbor Award in September 2003.

Paul Takala, director of the FIS Alumni Association, received an Arbor Award in September 2003.

Irene Tencinger, of York University, received the Samuel Swett Green Award 2003 for the best transcript of a synchronous virtual reference transaction, at the ALA/CLA conference in June 2003.

Sya Van Geest, Past President of OSLA, received the OLA Distinguished Service Award at the OLA Super-Conference in January 2004.

Debra Wallace, designer and deliverer of the first Knowledge Management Institute at FIS, received an Arbor Award in September 2003.

Retirements

Donald Nethery, past manager of the Sesquicentennial Museum and Archives of the Toronto District School Board, retired in June 2002. He graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. in 1970.

Sheila Pepper, Associate University Librarian (Services) at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., retired in December 2003.

Miriam Wallace (néé Linklater), librarian-teacher at Don Mills Collegiate Institute in Toronto, retired in 2003. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.L.S. in 1961 and an M.L.S. in 1976.

News

Brian Land, Dean Emeritus of FIS/U of T, and Edith Land celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 23, 2003 in Guelph, Ont.

Bruce Whitman co-curated a major exhibition at the UCLA Armand Hammer Museum, *The World from Here: Treasures of the Great Libraries of Los Angeles*. The exhibit catalogue won first prize for design, given by the American Museums Association. Whitman graduated from the University of Toronto with an M.L.S. in 1979.

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