



ELAN Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Special Issue of ELAN – A History of Library and Information Studies Education In Canada

ELA's Library Education Anniversary Committee, chaired by Brian Land, has just published a 40-page special issue of *ELAN* to celebrate the 100th anniversary of library education in Canada.

Articles in the special issue trace the history of each of the current library and information studies programs in Canada, and describe their present-day activities as well. There's also an article on Canadian library technician programs.

We created a new page on the ELA

Web site to hold the chronologies that supplement each of the articles. You'll find the link at

exlibris.fis.utoronto.ca

All current members of ELA will receive a copy of the special issue in the mail. Additional copies are available for \$5, plus \$2 for mailing. Send your order to:

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

Ex Libris Association Annual Get-Together

**Monday, November 8, 2004
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**North York Central Library
5120 Yonge Street, Toronto
North York Centre subway station**

Cost: \$25.00 (includes lunch)

PROGRAM

Future Directions for the Faculty of Information Science

Speaker: Brian Cantwell Smith, Dean, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto

further details on page 3

Stanley E. Beacock:

1921 - 2004

BY JEANETTE WHITE

Stan was a dedicated public librarian, teacher and organizer. He never lost his attachment to the County Library Cooperatives, where he started his career. It was his concern about losing the history of these institutions, and other public libraries, that inspired his determination to ensure the preservation of their records and those of the pioneers who served in them.



The idea of creating an association of retired librarians and calling it the Ex Libris Association was his alone. Stan worked tirelessly at rallying former colleagues and other retirees, persuading them of both the importance and the feasibility of such an association. At the same time, he drew up a proposal for a New Horizons grant, which was approved, and the Ex Libris Association got off the ground in 1986.

Stan served as president of ELA for four years, playing a major role in its activities along with the board of directors. He also edited and published the annual newsletter. Named Honorary President on leaving office in

1990, Stan still maintained his ELA activities and continued to publish the newsletter until 1994.

Stan contributed unstintingly to library education through his teaching at Canadian library schools. He was an adjunct professor at the University of Western Ontario, where he taught courses in public librarianship. He promoted the creation of a co-op (work/study) program as part of the

MLIS program at Western. It still flourishes today and is invaluable to the education of future librarians. Stan was supervisor of the program for a time, taking on travel to participating libraries as well as assessment of students.

We have lost a fine and dedicated pioneer of the library profession. □

EX LIBRIS NEWS Newsletter of the Ex Libris Association

Supported by funds from NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Stan Beacock

About 15 months ago a few retired librarians in Ontario met in London to discuss an idea -- What happens to librarians when they retire or leave the profession? Where do they go? What are their remembrances of the earlier days? What happens to their letters and documents that haven't been thrown out? Are there photographs of bygone times that now have historical significance?

As the weeks passed, ideas came together and a proposal was approved by the group (which later became the Board of Directors) for an application to the New Horizons for Senior Citizens. In August the Honourable Jake Epp, Minister of Health and Welfare Canada approved the grant application.

Funding required action and the Board met on very short notice in October, 1986, and set in motion the plans for the first general meeting. With the great co-operation of the Ontario Library Association office and the hard work of Betty Hardie, the meeting on November 6 became a kind of homecoming or family reunion. Some of us relived moments in the company of Angus Mowat, some the year at library school.

But now, with the Ex Libris Association in place, where do we go? In the longer term, that will depend on the membership; but at this time, the Board must show direction and enlist your co-operation. We need to reach more members and find new addresses for those who have moved. We need to contact and interview those who have letters, scrapbooks or documents for the archive collection; and to tape remembrances of our library pioneers. Who will volunteer?

We already have two members from Vancouver. Sam Rothstein said "Thank you for not restricting it to Ontario." How can we get people from across Canada involved? Immediately, we have started the collection on the IPL0; if you have old files or letters, please contact a Board member or send material to our office. We want to know more about the formation of County libraries in Ontario in the 1930's and 40's. We need to know where the records of our past are. And we need help and ideas for the Second Annual Meeting, which I am proposing be held in Toronto at the Harbour Castle Hilton during the OLA conference, November 19-21, 1987.

As I have examined your membership forms, ideas keep popping up. I hope we keep the kettle boiling, the pot stirred, and, finally make a contribution to our profession far beyond current expectations.

Celebrating our Community: Sharing our Values, Sharing our Value – The CLA/BCLA Conference

BY NORMAN HORROCKS



Held jointly with the British Columbia Library Association, this year's CLA Conference attracted some 1,200 registrants to the sunny calm of Victoria from June 16 to 19. It was all in great contrast to last year's CLA/ALA joint conference in Toronto. CLA President Madeleine Lefebvre (St. Mary's University, Halifax) wanted her program, *Celebrating our Community: Sharing our Values, Sharing our Value*, to show the links between Canada and the international community and to demonstrate not only the values we share but also the importance of libraries in the world.

To assist with this task, the many Canadian speakers and participants were joined by international speakers, including IFLA President Kay Raseroka (University of Botswana) and Australian Library Information Association Executive Director Jennifer Nicholson. From ALA came speakers President-Elect Michael Gorman, Past President Ann Symons and Senior Associate Executive Director Mary Ghikas. ASIST Past President Clifford Lynch was also a speaker, and from Britain's CILIP came its president, Margaret Haines – the first Canadian to hold this office – Past President Margaret Watson and Chief Executive Bob McKee.

The two keynote speakers both spoke to overflow sessions. Michael Gorman opened the proceedings with *Library Values in a Changing World*. His eight values were stewardship, service, intellectual freedom, equity of access, privacy, literacy and learning, rationalism, and democracy. The second keynoter was UBC library school grad Bill Richardson, who regaled his audience with scenes from his weekday CBC radio magazine show, *Richardson's Roundup*, and his new summer show, *Bunny Watson*. (Bunny Watson was the librarian played by Katherine Hepburn in her 1957 movie *Desk Set*).

The exhibit areas were well patronised, with the Ex Libris Association booth a popular place to visit and chat with Harry Campbell, Phebe Chartrand, Michael McCahill and Shaopan Tsai. Nearby and holding stately court in his own Special Libraries Cataloguing booth was ELA member and Victoria resident "Mac" Elrod. Also popular were the book-signing sessions in which both Gorman and Richardson participated. So did many well-known local authors, some of whom also read from their works at the *Murder on the Menu* lunch sponsored by the B.C. branch of the Crime Writers of Canada.

Incoming President Stephen Abram, vice-president of Sirsi Corporation, was chosen in 2002 by *Library Journal* as one of the North American profession's movers and shakers. In his inaugural address, he stated, "Canadian library workers and CLA are non-partisan but not unbiased. Members are biased, among other issues, about the rights of Canadians to equitable access to information and learning, adequately funded and staffed libraries of all types, and balanced approaches to copyright and information policy."

Elected as CLA president-elect was Barbara Clubb, CEO of Ottawa Public Library. Elaine MacLean, head, Technical Services at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, NS, was elected to CLA's Executive Council.

Check the CLA Web site for the keynote speeches by Michael Gorman and Bill Richardson, the texts of resolutions presented at the Annual General Meeting, copies of the conference daily newspaper, summaries and supporting documents from many of the program sessions, and advance details of next year's conference at the Telus Convention Centre in Calgary from June 15 to 18, 2005. □

Ex Libris Association Annual Get-Together

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Annual General Meeting

To discuss the possibility of changing the time and venue for the Annual Get-Together

To discuss and approve the long-range plan for Ex Libris

Panel Discussion on the Growing Crisis in School Libraries

Liz Kerr, Past President, OLA and Information Literacy and Media Curator, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

Janet Kaufman, Head, Information Services and Co-Director, Learning Commons, University of Guelph.

Teri Shaw, Canadian Federation of University Women

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A Library in Ethiopia

BY SHIRLEY LEWIS

If a fortune-teller had looked in a crystal ball and told me that I was going to work in a library in Ethiopia, I would have fallen off my chair in fits of laughter. Yet, here I am in the historic town of Gondar, installing the first automated library program and capturing the attention of those in tertiary education all across Ethiopia. So you never know what's in store for you.

I ended up in Ethiopia as a result of reading an article about VSO (Volunteer Service Overseas), a small Canadian charity, while waiting in a postal line-up at my local variety store. Since I was approaching retirement, I thought I was a bit long in the tooth for volunteer work, but VSO has found that seniors are well received in developing countries – so I put in an application. But I confess that it was quite off-handed, and I really didn't expect much to happen. However, VSO turned out to be a worldwide network with recruiting offices in Great Britain, Holland, and the Philippines as well as Canada. And indeed, they were very interested in having a professional librarian. In fact, I was offered a job in The Gambia as well as in Ethiopia.

Although you are paid, the salary is only enough to cover accommodation and basic necessities. So, effectively you are a volunteer. They pay your way over and, if the salary is not enough to live on, they top up your wages to ensure that you don't live below the poverty line. VSO specialises in educational and professional skill sharing, so the idea is to send you out to an institution and pair you with a counterpart.

Since I have been in Ethiopia, I have had four experiences, but only once have I had a successful counterpart. You have to be flexible and make do with what you get. There is certainly plenty to do. Ethiopia is a

desperately poor country, lacking in every facility. Schools are horrendously ill-equipped and mind-bogglingly overcrowded (100 students per class is average). Tertiary education receives the very brightest of the bright – but most of these very bright students have no concept of what a library can offer. Indeed, most students have never used a library before.

Although the situation is expected to improve soon, the Gondar College Library (where I am presently working) has a severe shortage of up-to-date books, and the high-demand books have to be loaned out by the hour on a reserve list filled in every morning. The students line up in the hundreds outside the library, and, until I introduced numbered cards for service, there was a near riot every day as students mobbed the circulation desk for the highly prized books.

Although there was a card catalogue when I arrived, it had not been kept up to date, and no one knew how to classify – let alone catalogue. So the more recent books were jumbled together by arrival date, rather than shelved by classification number. The Library of Congress classification schedules were so out of date that they did not list space science, and geography schedules were back at Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo. This was a catalogue ripe for revolutionary change. The dean of the college very much supported the concept of a viable library, which meant that I had administrative support, although, *malheureusement*, no funding.

If ever I used my advocacy skills to good effect, it was in Ethiopia. The poor dean got more memos, cheerful clippings, news bulletins, and information flyers from me than he got from all the other staff combined. But it paid off. I concurrently ran flat out with funding proposals and sent them to everyone I could think of. In the meanwhile, I somehow convinced the sales manager of ELM to send me their library management program on spec, promising that somewhere, somehow I would find funding. This marvellous creature sent me the whole nine yards on trust. ELM has turned out to be a superb library automation and

library management program. And the sales manager did get paid!

Once the program was working, the dean started showing it off to visitors, and many were visibly impressed. One of the visitors told the dean that this was a world-class system, and he glowed at the praise. Gradually the dean and the faculty management committee started to see how useful the library could be. They set up extra annual funding for the library, so we don't have to run around with a begging bowl every time we want something. The periodicals room was such a disaster that I decided to take the revolutionary route there, too: I introduced a totally on-line journal service from the Internet instead of maintaining the hard-copy journals.

My co-workers are breathless with excitement at the possibilities that they didn't know even existed. I have been extremely lucky in the staff that I work with. Three new librarians were assigned to the library – and each of them turned out to be energetic and quick thinking. So I begged the dean to take advantage of these bright lights and let them go to Addis Ababa, when the University of Addis Ababa gave workshops. This he graciously did and, fuelled by my enthusiasm, they learned the research possibilities of the Internet and the potential for setting up an on-line collection of over 7,000 medical journals. Every day their eyes shine as we work together on more possibilities.

When it became apparent that we did not have enough staff to keep the three branches open from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week, we asked the students if they would form a library club to help. We got a thundering response, and now I am training 40 student volunteers. To my amazement, some of the college's paid workers volunteered to help in the library on their days off – gardeners, cleaning ladies, and the like have signed up to work in the library. Much as I admire their volunteering spirit, I know that some have figured out that this is the only way they are ever going to get to use a computer, and so turnabout is fair

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Florence G. Partridge, 1906 - 2004

BY MARION D. CAMERON

Florence G. Partridge, B.H.Sc., BLS, died in Guelph on February 21, 2003. Florence had been a librarian at the University of Guelph and its predecessors from 1932 to 1971. Joining the staff of Massey Library at the Ontario Agricultural College in 1932, she was head librarian from 1944. In 1962, she became head librarian of the Federated Colleges, united as a preliminary step in the formation of the University of Guelph.

Upon the establishment of the university in 1965, Florence was named Associate Librarian and was involved in preparations for the move into McLaughlin Library in 1968. In 1970, Florence became chief librarian of the University of Guelph. She retired in 1971.

Florence brought to the library her great gifts of planning and organization, and her ability to adjust to changing circumstances. Accustomed for years to doing much with little, she and her colleagues learned to be comfortable with the large white spaces of McLaughlin Library, and the increasing hordes of students who filled it.

In her Massey Library years, Florence had brought art to the students by purchasing paintings from the bits of money left in the budget each year, and by organising art exhibits in the library. In later years, she established the Florence Partridge Foundation. Interest from its invested funds still buys art for the University of Guelph's Art Centre.

Florence was always active in library organisations and in the community.

In her retirement, she found a new career: volunteering. She worked tirelessly to help get the Guelph Civic Museum established. She acted as a docent at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre and toiled in the University Archives until her eyesight no longer permitted it. The historic walking tours of the city and the local trail club's guide were both researched and written by Florence.

A memorial service for Florence Partridge was held at the University of Guelph on March 9, and the following is part of the tribute written by Dr. Alastair Summerlee, president of the university, and printed in the program:

"The University of Guelph joins the local community in mourning the loss of a wonderful alumnus, leader and friend....Florence Partridge had a long and impressive career with the University of Guelph....[She] was a visionary, using her considerable leadership, organizational skills and financial support to help build and sustain many local art, culture and heritage organizations...." □

Atlantic News

MARITIME NEWS

BY NORMAN HORROCKS

FIONA BLACK was appointed director of the School of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2004. Dr. Black has been acting director at the School.

JANICE BOUDREAU is now director of the library at Université Saint-Anne, Church Point, N.S.

RITA CAMPBELL stepped down as university librarian at St. Francis Xavier University last year because of illnesses caused by chemical sensitivities. In addition to working part-time at the library, she is digitising a Gaelic manuscript, a notebook containing a handwritten collection of song and poetry, and developing a Web site for the project.

PAULINE HILDESHEIM, whose death last December was noted in the Spring 2004 issue of *ELAN*, will be remembered at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia by its purchase of two oil paintings, using her bequest and funds provided by the Friends of the AGNS. The paintings are the 1885 work by John Arthur Fraser, *The Hermit Range at the Summit of the Selkirks on Line of the C.P.R.*, and the 1914 Horatio Walker work *Early Morning*.

LYNNE MURPHY is now university librarian at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N.S. She was formerly librarian at the University of P.E.I., where **SUZANNE JONES** is now acting librarian.

CLAUDE POTVIN, regional librarian at Albert-Westmoreland-Kent Regional Library, Moncton, N.B., was made an honorary member of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association at its May annual conference.

VIRGINIA STODDARD, deputy director of the Western Counties Regional Library, Yarmouth, N.S., retired after 34 years service at that library.

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Libraries Continue to Make Headlines in Ottawa Media

BY MARIE F. ZIELINSKA

After the big protests by Ottawa citizens in March that won the Save our Libraries battle, one would have expected a quiet summer. However, library matters remained at the top of local news broadcasts. One new fire that erupted from almost-burnt-out ashes was the location for the new central library building. Discussion restarted with the unveiling of plans for the redevelopment of LeBreton Flats (yet again, as longtime Ottawans may note – Ed.), 65 hectares of vacant land just west of downtown, where the new War Museum is being erected. All the previously discussed locations for the library came back into the picture, and more argument can be expected in the near future.

On June 29, the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) hosted a public meeting to present the final design for the new South Central District Library and the expansion of the neighbouring Greenboro Community Centre. Of great concern to the Friends of OPL was the fact that, without consulting them, the designers had reduced space allotted for the used-books store and stacks. This space was restored in the

plans, but at a cost of \$30,000 to the Friends.

Meanwhile, Ottawa Public Library Board members, under the chairmanship of Rick Chiarelli, were working hard to better acquaint themselves with all branches, their problems and their clientele. As Rick wrote in *Nepean This Week* on July 30, "The OPL, my staff and I have teamed up with the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library to host barbeques at all library branches, to tell people what they can do to spread the word and to offer residents a convenient way to join pro-library, pro-literacy groups like the Friends. Thirty barbeques from now, as we enter budget deliberations at Council, many more people will know what to do to ensure libraries are recognized as the core service they are."

The budget meeting schedule was heavy (25 between July 23 and Sept 2), but attending the meetings was fruitful.

Library branch staff expressed their concerns; library users signed a petition of support; the Friends got donations and new members. Progress may have been modest, but the exercise reinforced cooperation between the OPL and the Friends.

In other Ottawa news, CLA gave Monique Desormeaux, OPL Division Manager for policy and strategic planning, its Advancement of Intellectual Freedom award. She found a way to filter Internet programs for children while ensuring intellectual freedom for adults.

The Library and Archives Canada Act received

royal assent on April 22. This was the final step in the formal process, announced in 2002 by the Canadian Heritage Minister, of bringing together the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada to create a new knowledge institution for Canadians. *Nil novi sub sole* (nothing new under the sun)! The Act preserves the essential elements of the two institutions, adding some new scope and new powers. In June, LAC released a discussion paper, "Directions for Library and Archives Canada", which describes broad directions for the newly created institution and invites feedback from client groups, partners, and other stakeholders. An excellent topic for the Ex Libris Association annual meeting! □

Did You Know?

Stanford Googleizes

CONTRIBUTED BY MURRAY SHEPHERD

Reed Business Information reports that Stanford University is to make all its pre-1923 (out of copyright) material available on Google. The project could involve millions of books – available exclusively via Google.

W. KAYE LAMB AWARD GOES TO TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ex Libris Association congratulates the Toronto Public Library on its receipt of the W. Kaye Lamb Award for service to seniors, jointly sponsored by ELA and the Canadian Library Association. The award was presented to TPL at the 2004 CLA conference in Victoria last June.

How I Became a Librarian

BY CAROLE JOLING

Prelude

Arriving in 1960 as a teenage immigrant to Canada, no thought of a career had entered my mind – the future was wide open but unsure. Even school in Canada was a question; I had finished my Dutch high school that spring and work was a necessity, as any immigrant will remember. And so, once we got to Menitt, B.C., schooling was checked out and I found part-time work as a candy-counter girl at the local movie theatre. The job was great, because I would eventually meet every Menittonian, make some money, and practice my English. But I was slightly cross-eyed, making for quite a few redirections of Mars bars as well as a realization that jobs such as teaching might not be for me!

Over the next two years, life in that small Wild-West town was magic. School went well, working was a social smorgasboard, the world was simple and wonderful. I could have easily stayed, as many of my friends intended to do. But curiosity and an independent streak inspired me to apply to the provincial university, UBC. A get-out-of-town-girl move for sure! In 1968 I graduated with a BA/Combined Honors in comparative literature, thanks to my four languages and a love of reading. I planned to teach somewhere (my eye was straightened in 1967).

However, on the way to this degree, I got a job at UBC's library, in its Government Documents division. What a decisive time that turned out to be! I found the work amazingly interesting and satisfying. The people I worked with were smart, my boss inspiring, the students a great clientele, and the tools (both books and technologies) useful and progressive. The door to a different career opened, and I saw what we now call pillars of the profession: lifelong, in situ learning; responsibility for tangible results; stewardship of good information and institu-

tions that provide access to it; and a global network of practitioners. After making a post-graduation tour of family in Europe, I applied to UBC's School of Librarianship. My future career as a librarian became fact.

Recap

My 33 years in libraries have given me fascinating work – remembered with satisfaction and still feeding my active network. My first job was inputting cataloguing records at the Vancouver Public Library in 1969. Remember databases in the 60s? Then I worked as a government documents librarian at UBC between 1970 and 1972. Remember Microcard readers? Then a big move to Ottawa as reference librarian at the Secretary of State department – I sure became a fan of everything Canadian there!

Next came my best job, Field Services Librarian at Agriculture Canada for five years. I roamed all across Canada, keeping "my" 30-odd research libraries connected. In 1984 the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome called, and I spent the next three-and-a-half years as its Chief Librarian – a very pleasant, if challenging, experience in a super bureaucracy. Upon return from Rome, I entered my last formal job: at Ottawa's IDRC (International Development Research Centre) as Director, Research Information Management Service. This job allowed me to cap my career with informative travel to many places in the world, including the top of the world, Tibet, in 1998.

Epilogue

I believe that learning lifelong and then using all your brainpower to help keen people – within the modern, global library profession – is a silver bullet. Librarianship, or



Carole Joling in Tibet, 1998

whatever we call it today, is a worldwide, portable profession in the thick of the Information Age. It has served me well. □

Carole Joling is retired – tending her house or reading in her RV, wherever it parks!

A Library in Ethiopia

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play. The library needs the help, and they want to know how to operate a computer. Anyway, once you get the snowball rolling, it keeps on growing. I couldn't be happier with our progress. Mind you, I have never worked harder, and neither have the library staff. We are a bunch of busy bees in a land where we may be the only thriving library.

Am I happy? You betcha. My time is up at the end of July – and a good thing, too, because I don't think I could keep up this furious pace much longer. And the staff is pretty well trained. It's time to let them fulfill their destiny. But it's a fine way to end my career. I have made many friends and am full of admiration for this country and its people. A finer bunch you wouldn't find anywhere. So that's my tale of a library in Ethiopia. As the Three Billy Goats Gruff might say, "Snip, snap, snout. My tale is told out." □

Ex Libris, '84

BY HOWARD OVEREND

My older brother, a retired science teacher in Niagara Falls, had it right. “Don’t worry,” he said. “It’s the best job I ever had.”

He meant retirement. Mine came about, by federal mandate, on my 65th birthday in February 1984. It seemed too soon. The Yukon Government lost interest in me on that day, and I wondered how I’d manage not being Territorial Librarian any more. Or any librarian, for that matter.



The author at Crater Lake, Chilkoot Trail, August 1984

I spent the lovely northern summer with a chainsaw, turning a load of tree trunks dumped in our yard into furnace-length pieces for winter fuel. Great work, and I liked it. But in the last week of August, 20 years ago this summer, I needed more. I was out to Prove Myself, that is, hike the Chilkoot Pass alone. It would be a stiff challenge, but I needed it.

For location, think extreme northwest corner of Canada’s most westerly province, where B.C. meets Alaska and the Yukon all within the space of a few miles. The famous pass in the northern end of the Coast Range (used by the Chilkat people for trade before the settlers came) allowed the long lines of Klondike gold seekers – you’ve seen the old black-and-white prints of men plodding up the snowy mountainside to almost infinity at the top – to climb from Alaska into Canada (B.C.) in 1898. This was the long, tough, perilous journey through the Yukon to Dawson

City and the fabled Klondike gold fields. Robert Service wrote about these gutsy, determined men. So did Pierre Berton. Charlie Chaplin made them hilarious in his classic film *The Gold Rush*.

But this was 1984. The 33-mile trail from tide-water at what used to be the bustling port of Dyea, Alaska, to Bennett, B.C. was still there, considerably enhanced by the U.S. Parks Service and Parks Canada in their respective sections. I had done the four-day hiking trail a year earlier with family members, so I knew what to expect. Well, not quite.

It was a shock to read a warning notice in Skagway that hikers had seen bears on the trail in the week before I started. And I hadn’t counted on the loneliness (I missed the family banter and horseplay along the forest trail). The intense quiet got to me, particularly during the first night in my tiny tent by the rushing waters of the Taiya River. I was on my own, and knew it. Not much sleep that night, for sure. Any bears out there?

Next day was better. Still in the forest gloom, I encountered Colleen, a U.S.

National Parks guide on her way from Sheep Camp for two days’ leave in Skagway. At thirty paces, she cried out, “You must be Bill’s father!” Later that morning some trail maintenance men said the same thing. Seems Bill, our son whose Parks Canada summer job was to patrol the Chilkoot Trail on the Canadian side, had been announcing my presence on the trail via his walkie-talkie to all within earshot. Over to you, over.

That night I slept at Sheep Camp, about a thousand feet higher than Dyea. Met a couple from New York heading south (a switch), because they said it’s easier that way. Mark, the U.S. National Parks ranger from Tennessee, also showed up, a career man about 28 whose wife lived in Skagway. He had heard about me from Bill, too. He said I was the only one going over the mountain pass tomorrow and would let Bill know.

Morning was climb time – or perhaps clamber time. The forest lay behind me in the long sloping valley to the coast, and up above – and I do mean up – were towering mountains right, left and centre. I took three hours to get to The Scales (elevation 2,500 feet), a bowl-like area strewn with car-size boulders, where Klondikers stopped to have their loads weighed before climbing up, up and up to the summit a thousand feet higher but only half a mile away. I rested at The Scales for a short while and then started the slow, careful climb.

After some 40 minutes, I looked down on the rocky valley where I’d been – and ahead to the crags above. I remember thinking, then, of people back in the Yukon Territorial Government building in Whitehorse at their desks and realized suddenly how good it felt to be up here on my own in the mountains, half way to heaven and away from it all. How lucky I was! I was *ex libris*. My brother was right.

It took me another half hour to reach the top of the famous Chilkoot Pass – up above the world so high – where I saw the decaying canoes someone had lugged up the trail and abandoned in the gold rush years, and the remains of the old North West Mounted Police post near the international boundary, where valiant Mounties checked who was coming in and what they had with them. Near Crater Lake, a short walk down from the summit, I did meet Bill on the trail. He shepherded me back to his base camp at Stone Crib and plied me with hot sweet drinks (Southern Comfort, for one) and warm food in his small cabin. That was his job – watching for hikers in distress and helping them orient themselves before carrying on.

Bill hiked with me as far as Happy Camp, some three or four miles away. It was great to have him there. When he turned around to start back to Stone Crib, I looked back to see him, but in seconds the wild sweeping scenery of the twisting trail had swallowed him up. I hiked on alone in the gathering dusk for about three miles to the Deep Lake campsite and found it empty. It was nearly dark before I got to bed. This is where hikers have been awakened, some say, by the ghostly tread of gold seekers. But I didn’t hear a thing.

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ELA's Early Years, 1990 to 1995

BY DIANE HENDERSON

By 1990, the Ex Libris Association was well-established: publishing a newsletter twice a year, holding an annual meeting with a program and business meeting, and looking forward to achieving a major objective in library history.

Administrative and Organizational Changes

Following Stan Beacock's resignation as founding president, Betty Hardie, a member of the 1989 Board, served as president in 1990 and 1991. Janette White, who had earlier been secretary-treasurer, was president in 1992 and 1993. Following her were Al Bowron in 1994 and Les Fowlie in 1995.

Over time, the Board found that aspects of its organizational structure and procedures needed updating. In early 1993, it set up a committee to create job descriptions for Board members and Board processes. At that time, the executive consisted of a past president, president and secretary-treasurer. At the November 1993 Annual General Meeting, the new position of vice-president/president-elect was approved. This executive member assisted the president and provided an orderly transition for the executive. A membership fee increase was approved as well, raising the regular fee to \$15 a year and sustaining membership to \$25. At the 1995 AGM, members voted to split the position of secretary-treasurer in two and to increase the size of the Board to nine members.

The ELA Logo

Early 1994 saw the introduction of the distinctive logo that has become so much a part of Ex Libris. It came from a woodcut that had been created much earlier for Bruce Pierce, former editor of Ryerson

Press. He gave ELA permission to use the Ryerson Press design, which was originally based on a Thoreau MacDonald drawing of a pine tree, a thoroughly Canadian image.

ELA's logo was designed by a friend of 1994 president Al Bowron. It first appeared on the cover of the autumn 1994 issue of Ex Libris News and also inside, in an advertisement featuring Al wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with the new logo. The price of each t-shirt was \$18, out of which \$6.50 went to the Elizabeth Homer Morton Fund.

Membership and Publicity

By fall 1990, membership stood at about 120, including 10 life members (a new category introduced in 1989). Concerned that ELA was not growing as quickly as hoped, a membership committee was established in 1992 to look at ways of expanding ELA outside Ontario. This committee, chaired by Gerry Prodrick, looked into, among other options, potential joint memberships with larger library associations. Its members attended a meeting of the Provincial and Territorial Library Associations Council in fall 1992, at which special fees for retired librarians and special joint fees were discussed.

The Committee also approached CLA and OLA regarding joint memberships. At the time, CLA had 168 retired members (of whom 24 were already ELA members) and OLA had 64 retired members – together, a considerable number of potential new members. At the January 1993 meeting, Board members authorized the ELA president to negotiate joint membership packages with CLA, OLA and other library organizations.

Negotiations, however, proved unfruitful. OLA's membership committee had proposed joint membership dues for retirees

of \$20, with OLA retaining \$10, plus special conference rates and some office support. In the end, the Board concluded that joint membership with OLA went against ELA's national expansion objective, and did not approve it. Discussions with CLA were also inconclusive. CLA suggested that ELA become an interest group of the national organization, but this did not suit the ELA Board's goals. However, retirees benefitted when committee chair Gerry Prodrick's motion, that CLA's proposed new retiree membership fee be reduced from \$70 a year to \$50, passed at the 1993 CLA annual conference.

On another front, ELA increased its visibility through publicity. Ex Libris News reported that, "In an effort to attract members from across Canada, the Board has instructed the President to attend the CLA Conference in Winnipeg, June 10-14, 1992 to establish Ex Libris presence at CLA and to contact potential members from all provinces." The next year, ELA again had a display table at CLA's conference, in Hamilton. The president spoke to the Library History Interest Group. ELA members presented a workshop on income planning for retirement. Intended to attract conference attendees close to retirement, it was unfortunately not well attended.

ELA members also publicized the organization at OLA activities. Members staffed a booth at OLA's Ideashop in 1993. The winter 1995 OLA conference was the largest library conference ever held in Canada. Board members agreed that ELA should have a presence at all future OLA conferences – to display literature about ELA, talk to attendees, and sell t-shirts.

By 1995, membership had risen to almost 150, but was still mainly Ontario based.

Annual General Meetings

For several years, ELA hosted its annual general meeting in association with the annual fall conference of the OLA. In 1994 OLA changed its conference time to

Our President's Report

BY NANCY WILLIAMSON

Summer is a time for relaxing but, as we move into fall, Ex Libris has much work to do. First some things that have happened since early May and then a look at the future.

In the early summer Harry Campbell, our wandering ambassador, made our presence felt at two conferences. On May 21, by invitation, Harry and Wendy Scott participated in a meeting of French-speaking retired librarians held in conjunction with the 35th Congrès annuel de la Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels. This was an important and fruitful contact, and we are looking forward to continued communication and cooperation with this group. See Harry's article, *How Best Can Ex Libris Expand?*, in this issue for more details. Harry also reported on the conference at our September Board meeting.

Peter Rogers and Harry Campbell attended the Canadian Library Association Conference in Victoria in June. Harry and Peter were present at the W. Kaye Lamb Award ceremony and they had the opportunity to talk with many of our members and colleagues during the conference.

One of the Board's major concerns is improved relations with retired librarians across the country. Communication could be much improved through stronger ties with the provincial library associations and planning Ex Libris events in conjunction with CLA conferences. Moreover, modern technology now makes it possible to have Board members from outside southern Ontario. ELA now has its own telephone number, 416-760-4722. I urge you to consult our Website, exlibris.fis.utoronto.ca, as well. The Board will actively pursue further possibilities for improved communication over the next year.

One of our major projects over the past year and a half has been preparing a history of library education in Canada to celebrate its 100th anniversary. This was a mammoth undertaking, involving many hours of work. ELA members will have received a copy of the resulting publication shortly in the mail. For more details, see the article *Special Issue of ELAN*, in this issue.

As Ex Libris moves on to its fall activities, the Board's major activity will be implementing the long-range plan for the period 2005 to 2010. The plan was prepared using recommendations resulting from a Board workshop on March 31 and the results of a questionnaire distributed by Harry Campbell. At its May 3rd meeting, the Board approved the long-range plan. The plan identified six objectives, with specific activities attached. The executive will present the plan's details at the Annual General Meeting on November 8 and ask members to approve it. The plan in its final form will be published on the Ex Libris Web site and in *ELAN*.

As always, the major social event of the year will be the Annual Get-Together. For its location and time, and details of the program, see the announcement on page 1 of this issue. We have begun to involve more retired teacher-librarians in ELA and are giving our support to the Canadian Coalition of School Libraries (CCSL). On the AGM agenda is the future timing and venue of the Annual Get-Together. For a number of years, this event was held in conjunction with the Ontario Library Association Conference. This allowed ELA members to attend both events easily. Several years ago, the OLA Superconference (as it is now called) moved to late January/early February, while Ex Libris continued with its fall date. There are some advantages to

meeting at the same time as the OLA, but there are also some concerns about cost, weather and so on. At its May 3rd meeting, the Board discussed moving the Get-Together to the time of the Superconference. However, it seems only fair to ask those who regularly attend the Get-Together what their preference is.

Another fall event is now in the planning stage. This will be a get-together, to be held in Ottawa in conjunction with the launching of Volume 1 of *The History of the Book in Canada*, to take place on October 14.

I think we can look forward to a busy season of activities. □

Ex Libris, '84

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Next morning I made it a few miles farther to Parks Canada's trail base at Lake Lindeman, in its beautiful setting with mountains, forest and lake under the sun. Just stayed long enough to have lunch, hoist that cumbersome pack onto my shoulders and head out a further eight long miles to Lake Bennett, journey's end. It wasn't the end of my hike, because I still had to reach the highway where the car was. But it was and is the end of the Chilkoot Trail.

An old weather-beaten, steeped church at Bennett stands facing the lake, like an empty pulpit where the congregation has long since gone. The thousands of hopeful miners who once lived on the shore in tents and shacks have disappeared into the North, as though they'd never been. When they were here, they built themselves boats from planks they'd whipsawed from raw logs and set out by water to travel more than 400 miles downstream to their goal, the Klondike. No more trail work for them. Or for me, for that matter.

And no more library work either. I left it behind on the Chilkoot Trail. □

As I Saw It: Ah, Wilderness – The Library Consultant

BY ALBERT BOWRON

Even now, at gatherings of the small-talk experts, sooner or later I am asked, “Now how did YOU make your living?” When I reply, “I was a library consultant for the last 23 years of my career”, conversation stops. “You mean you could tell me how much my family bible was worth?”, someone says to break the silence. “No”, I reply. “I planned libraries, gave advice on the development of library systems, reassessed methods, recommended changes and new techniques. Sometimes I did cost and feasibility studies of library operations. Also, I could prepare a building program as a start to a new library project.” “Wow! And you got paid for that? You must have starved to death.”

Before I decided to earn my living as a full-time freelance planner for libraries, I could slow a conversation by replying “librarian” to a question about occupation. Now I can stop it dead with the reply “library consultant”. It’s rather like saying, “I was a teenage werewolf for the FBI and found God”.

Actually, what my racket needed, and still needs, is a new title. “Consultant” has acquired a shifty, expensive connotation. The impression is abroad that, for a big fee, a two-year delay and a superficial analysis, you can be told the obvious – shrouded in jargon between the covers of a glossy report laced with maps, graphs and tables. Large firms of management consultants have been responsible for that image. In Canada, royal commissions, although generally impartial and super-conscientious, acquired a reputation for high cost and verbal diarrhea.

I can’t say that, in the past, I suffered much from the bad rap consultants get; however, on occasion, a local politician would make a crack about “the expert from Toronto we are paying to tell us what to do”. I usually countered by mumbling that my fee was low (which it was), because I worked alone without a fancy office, and “Anyway, I’m from Hamilton.”



Al Bowron as “Innovation Initiator,” Galt Public Library, 1954.

The label “consultant” has suffered also from overexposure. The Bay has fashion consultants; some libraries use consultants to weed books in rural branches. British Columbia has had field consultants. Every audio-visual supply house and new-car lot has consultants instead of salespeople. The Avon Lady wasn’t the modern version of the Fuller’s Earth huckster but a beauty consultant.

What word, then, should we use to label the role of a library consultant who does no more than a crack

librarian could do, but who can give a problem full effort and concentration in time and distance? The opinions offered can then be used to introduce innovation and initiate change, or they can be waved in front of the fiscal noses of politicians. What phrase describes such work?: “development planner”, “library advisor”, “information specialist”, “professional scapegoat”? I was all these things and more. It seems that “library consultant” will have to do.

But don’t get me wrong; I loved the work. You can regulate your own life. I could spend an hour over the paper in the morning. In place of a library board, I had a deadline and an accountant. A year after punching my way out of the administrative bag of old memos, agendas and library paste, I found myself in another bag – bigger, more colourful and all mine.

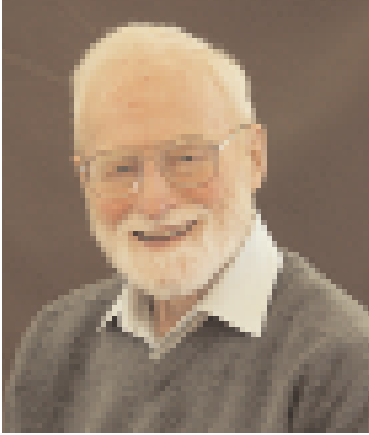
Postscript

I phoned the chairman of the library board and naively asked, “How large is the estate that was left to the library?” The chairman said flatly, “Oh, I don’t think you need to know that, Mr. Bowron”. “But, Mr. Chairman, you asked me to advise the board how the money should be spent. I really should have some idea how much there is.” The chairman was adamant. It was apparently none of my business, the amount of money. Neither the town clerk, the mayor nor the chief librarian told me how much was in the safety deposit box in the local bank, so I advised a new building, a large multi-media collection, a computer terminal, more staff, a museum, an art gallery and a liquor cabinet in the staff room – the works. I submitted my report, my fee was paid, and I never heard a word from that board again. □

Out in BC-Land

BY HOWARD OVEREND,
SALMON ARM

Give a Little Whistle!



Coincidental with the story “Ex Libris ’84” (on page 8 in this issue) is that the only signs of life I noticed on the climb over the rocks leading to the Chilkoot Pass came from very agile, cute, furry rodents called marmots. They kept darting in and out of their hideaway holes and whistling shrilly to each other to warn of the approach of a monster intent on reaching the top. All this is apropos of talking about the public library in the resort municipality of Whistler, whose odd name is said to have come from the abundance of marmots on nearby slopes. Give a little whistle!

And what is a resort municipality? In BC-Land where “vast mountain ranges and glaciers, abundant snowfall and accessibility to key markets have combined to give [the province] a strong ski industry”, the government enacted the Resort Municipality of Whistler Act in 1975. This act created a special kind of municipality with enhanced powers to manage and deliver services to its residents. Amended in 1996, the Act's general provisions apply to other potential ski resort areas throughout the province, facilitating their development.

Whistler, about 70 miles north of Vancouver on the Sea to Sky highway, was the first such resort municipality in Canada and, as if it weren't already a North American favourite with skiers and snowboarders, will host alpine and Nordic events at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic winter games a scant six years from now.

So much for the tremendous sports hype. The public library doesn't really need it, though. It's got its own star. Joan Richoz, born in Winnipeg, grew up in Vancouver. A UBC grad (MA '72), Joan was a key figure in a local ginger group formed to get a library started in Whistler. When it was incorporated as a public library association in 1985, she wound up as a trustee but traded this post for that of chief librarian.

Since then, the public library has gone from peak to peak. “My greatest challenge was starting the collection for the library. It was a daunting and frightening task, but one that I will never forget”, Joan says. From an initial collection of 2,500 books, it has grown to more than 39,000 – with some 135,000 loans in 2003. Circulation in her aptly described library (“a cornerstone of the community and a real meeting place”) grows by an average of 15% each year, she reports. All this in a crowded space of 2,800 square feet.

The Whistler Municipal Public Library, as it became in '99 when it was taken over by the municipality, has a busy staff of 10 people, including its most recent addition, Anwen Boyd, a BA (U. of Calgary) and Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) grad from the U. of Edmonton with Alberta library experience. Anwen serves as Children's and Youth Services Librarian at Whistler.

The library board plans a new 14,000-square-foot library building, to be started next April, with a capital

budget of a cool \$7 million. The project is in the hands of a steering committee of Board members, staff, community volunteers, municipal councillors, and municipal staff under chair Keith Bennett, General Manager of Parks and Recreation in the town.

The current library board, chaired by Registered Nurse Anne Fenwick since 1995, comprises a dozen library-oriented members of the community. Since '97 the library has received excellent interlibrary loan service from InterLINK, a group of 17 Lower Mainland co-operating libraries. It also receives operating funds from the province, corporate sponsors, donors and foundations, as well as proceeds of spirited fundraising events in the community.

Whistler, though, as its Web site proclaims, “is more than two award winning ski mountains and a gorgeous village full of shops. It's a bustling town of over 10,000 residents improving an established community, focusing on recreational pursuits, artistic endeavours, business development and environmental sustainability.” Ya—hoo!

That's Whistler. Up and coming. Well-run, well-funded, well-promoted and well – that's why it's a success.

In This Corner, A New Library Champ!

Speaking of donors, hear this! Ben Dayson – not even a library board member – has given his (and his wife Ester's) 500-volume collection of Judaica books to the Richmond Public Library, along with a generous \$50,000 cheque for the library's endowment fund.

And for so doing, he was recently awarded the Keith Sacre Library Champion Award, given annually by

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How Best Can Ex Libris Expand?

BY HARRY CAMPBELL

In May and June of this year I had the opportunity to attend a meeting during the annual gathering of the Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec (CPBQ) and also the joint Canadian Library Association/British Columbia Library Association conference in Victoria. Mixing with retired librarians at these meetings in Quebec and British Columbia, I was struck with the role the lack of adequate finances plays in Canadian library association activities.

The Ex Libris Association has been in a modestly favourable financial position for most of the nearly 20 years of our history. But we have not gathered many members from Quebec or from Western Canada. What is the remedy for this situation if we wish to have a strong Canadian presence?

As we know, the bulk of our membership comes from Ontario, and this has led to the feeling outside the province that Ex Libris is dominated by Ontario library interests. During the past three years in Quebec, an informal group of retired French-speaking librarians have been meeting once or twice a year at the conferences of ASTED or CPBQ. There is a core of about 60 retired French-speaking librarians in Québec, and 20 or so of them have been gathering under the leadership of Gaston Bernier, the retired director of the Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec. They have discussed the idea of forming an association of retired French-speaking librarians in Quebec.

In May these retired librarians invited me to Montreal to speak about the work of Ex Libris. Another Ex Libris member, Wendy Scott, was also present. It turns out that the Quebec group is thinking about activities that would parallel some of those of Ex Libris. Wendy and I suggested that this would strengthen the activities and interests of both English- and French-speaking retired librarians.

The situation in Western Canada is similar. In all the western provinces, but particularly in British Columbia, there are substantial numbers of retired librarians and information workers. Now that we have a Web site in operation, there is the possibility of including events and activities in Western Canada. We have begun this in *ELAN*, with regular British Columbia and Atlantic Canada columns as well as a contribution from Ottawa.

In 2005 the Canadian Library Association will meet in Calgary. This might provide the focus for a larger Ex Libris gathering of members where our long-range plan can be discussed. But basic to all expansion activities is the need to improve our financial base. I raise this question in the hope that some of our members can come up with remedies. We know that the number of retired librarians will increase substantially all across Canada in the next few years. Is there any way to plan for a larger membership or to be a part of a national federation of retired librarians? □

Out in BC-Land

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the BC Library Association for outstanding support of public library services in BC-Land.

A library champ indeed, and a worthy one. A forerunner, Kwok-Chu Lee, also of Richmond, has given more than 1,700 Chinese-language books, valued at about \$17,000, to the library this year. He also persuaded some of his friends to donate a total of \$10,000, too. Lee, who has been described as "Richmond Public Library's most prolific, generous and prestigious donor", won the Sacre Award in 2001. Good for Dayson and Lee!

Under a Bushel?

What is there about personal publicity that makes library directors shy away? Why aren't they out there front and centre?

In a random survey of 25 public library Web sites in BC-Land, only seven of them (or 28%) list the names of their directors, while 16 (64%) show the names of library board members – some with pictures. And eight (32%), believe it or not, show neither.

Why is this?

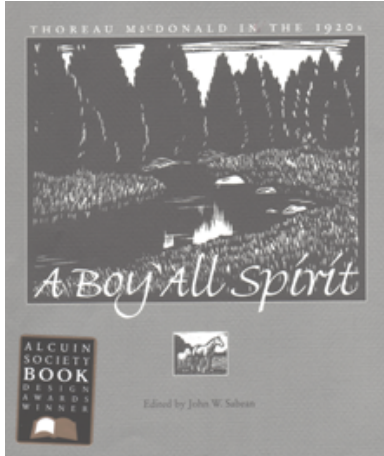
Do chief librarians fear invasion of privacy, or exposure to the public? Are library heads opting for bureaucratic anonymity on their Web sites? Doesn't the public have a right to know who the captain is? Boards are important, of course, but the CEO is the one who works with them and the staff and the public to make the library go. The name of that person should be front and centre in its message to the public.

Always (100%). □

Book Reviews

A BOY ALL SPIRIT. THOREAU
MACDONALD IN THE 1920S
EDITED BY JOHN SABEAN
Penumbra Press, 2002.

REVIEWED BY KATHARINE
MARTYN



Reticent and unassuming throughout his life, Thoreau MacDonald (1901-1989) has been largely overlooked in the shadow cast by his more famous father, J.E.H. MacDonald. When Emily Carr visited J.E.H.'s studio in 1927, however, she was greatly impressed by Thoreau, who showed her around in his father's absence. She later recalled him as "a boy all spirit, almost too fine to stay down on this earth – The boy is clever and will do great things one day." Thoreau did go on to become an important Canadian book designer, illustrator and artist. This beautifully produced book is an excellent introduction to his early work. Editor John Sabeau has meticulously transcribed and annotated Thoreau's diary entries for the years 1923 to 1929, as well as the complete sequence of letters that he wrote to Doris Heustis Mills (later Speirs) at the same time.

Both Thoreau's diary entries, which often contain anguished reflections on his own shortcomings, and his candid and heartfelt letters to Doris reveal the artist at a crucial stage in his life. Here is a young man in his 20s, struggling to find himself – uncertain of the path his



life should take, just at the start of his artistic career and very much under the influence of his illustrious father (with whom he shared a studio). Here also is the practicing artist. Both the journals and the letters abound in detailed descriptions of natural phenomena and carefully observed vignettes of rural and city life, interspersed with quick pen or pencil sketches. One of the most appealing aspects of this book is the large number of reproductions of Thoreau's original drawings, linocuts and woodcuts accompanying the text.

In 1923 when the journals begin, Thoreau was 22 and, despite his diffidence, had already experienced some success as an artist. In the previous year, he had produced a small booklet of woodcuts and, after several of his linocuts had been published in *Canadian Forum*, he had been appointed the *Forum's* art editor, a post he retained until 1932. During these early years, Thoreau was also working on commissions with his father and contributing lettering, cover and jacket designs, and illustrations to a variety of publications.

By 1929, when the diary entries end, Thoreau had won considerable recognition as an artist and as a book illustrator and designer. He had designed or illustrated over 24 books published by a variety of Canadian publishers, and his artwork had been exhibited at the Canadian National Exhibition, the Art Gallery of Toronto, and in Canadian art exhibitions in England and in Paris. In 1927, one of his paintings was purchased by the National Gallery of Canada.

Although Thoreau rarely wrote directly about his work as an artist, the early journal entries make it clear that he had already found the subject matter that was to engage him most fully throughout his long career: the natural world in

all its manifestations and everyday rural life in the villages and farms of southern Ontario. Many entries record the very precise observations he made during his daily morning walk from the family's North Toronto home on Duggan Ave. down to the Studio Building on Severn St. (just north of Bloor St.) and on his return walk home in the evening. He took note of the clouds and the quality of light, paid special attention to favourite trees as he walked through the grounds of Upper Canada College and carefully recorded the variety of birds he saw at the Rosedale Reservoir.

Thoreau could also be an eloquent writer; there are lyrical passages recalling his childhood in Toronto when the family lived close to High Park and his adolescent years after they moved north of the city to Thornhill. To read his descriptions is to discover the long-vanished Toronto of the 1920s and earlier – when "Armour Heights" meant undeveloped fields where one went to see the sunset, and Thornhill was an outlying farm village.

Deeply influenced by his namesake, Henry David Thoreau, Thoreau MacDonald was very much aware of how urban development was already changing both the country and the city and how it would destroy much of the natural world that he so loved. A journal entry from August 1924 reads, "Sunday. Walked by the Reservoir. Grey cirrus rising in the West against the wind. The water grey too. A little sand-piper at the edge. The city says: 'Give up all you like best & I will give you sewers & light & gas.' "

A few days later he wrote, "This evening I see the two great maples below St. Clair lying in a wreck on the ground, cut down for some wretched building." In another entry he anxiously asked himself, "Are those red pines dying? Their roots have been cut for a garage." Many of the journal entries have an elegiac tone and reveal a yearning for a simpler life, close to nature. It seems clear that, even at this early point in his career, Thoreau wanted to devote himself to recording the

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details of a vanishing way of life and a natural world under threat.

The second half of this book, and perhaps the more interesting from a psychological point of view, consists of the letters Thoreau wrote to Doris Mills during the years 1923 to 1931. The MacDonald family had first met Doris and her husband, Gordon, through the Church of the Christian Scientist, where both Thoreau's mother, Joan MacDonald, and the Mills were members. Doris was keenly interested in Canadian art and in 1919 set up an art rental plan with some of her friends. She rented several canvases of J.E.H. MacDonald's and then, in 1922 when she began to try her hand as an artist herself, J.E.H. MacDonald cleared out a storage space in his studio on Severn Street for her to use. There she regularly met the young Thoreau, seven years her junior, who had begun to work in the studio assisting his father.

Thoreau's first letters to Doris were formally addressed to "Mrs. Mills", but their friendship gradually became much closer over the next three years. By 1926, Thoreau was addressing her as "Dear Sister" and pouring out his heart to her in numerous letters signed "your faithful brother". He obviously looked up to Doris and adored her, and she seems to have encouraged him and given him the emotional support he needed through the next six years. She appears to have been his only confidante. "I like to write, as I rarely speak to anyone when you aren't here", he wrote in the summer of 1928 when Doris was vacationing with her husband in Maine. Again in 1929, he wrote plaintively, "I miss greatly having you to speak to. For there's no one else I can talk freely with."

Thoreau appears to have battled with depression through these years, even as his career became more successful and his work attracted increasing recognition. In his journal, he often referred to his sadness and insomnia, his "small private gloom", and his efforts to overcome it. A poignant passage begins, "What to do

when you're sad & chest aches – Try to remember that it will not last always & try to act so that you may not be ashamed after." His letters frequently apologized for his low spirits. "T.M. feels sad, but then he always does, so it doesn't matter. It seems natural to him," he wrote to Doris in July 1928. That summer, his letters increased in frequency and intensity, becoming almost daily missives to Doris, who was vacationing with Gordon in Maine.

During the following year, Thoreau became much involved in designing a variety of items for the Mills' new house, Pinebrook, which was being built on Riverview Drive. Doris was determined to showcase as much Canadian art as possible in the new house and enlisted Thoreau to design many of the details. The letters of the summer of 1929 are among the most interesting of the series. They show Thoreau in a new light as a designer, confidently discussing the furniture he is making and sketching his designs for lighting fixtures, window grilles, candelabras, a nameplate and other items. This section is further enriched by editor John Sabean, who includes a number of contemporary photographs showing the house and some of the items Thoreau designed. Happily, the house still stands on Riverview Drive, its exterior appearing unchanged from Thoreau's drawing of it for the Mills' 1930 Christmas card.

In the letters of the following summer, Thoreau frequently mentioned two new acquaintances who would become of great importance to him. These were the Russian sisters Alexandra and Yulia Biriukova, who had arrived in Toronto in the fall of 1929 and had been befriended by the MacDonald family. Alexandra had trained as an architect, and Yulia was an accomplished portrait painter. In 1930, with J.E.H. MacDonald's encouragement, Yulia took a studio in the Severn St. Studio Building. She retained it until 1949 and became one of Thoreau's closest associates, their friendship lasting over the next 40 years. Yulia eventually moved to Thoreau's home in Thornhill after she retired from teaching in the 1960s.

Perhaps it was the friendship with Yulia that altered Thoreau's relationship with Doris. In his introduction, editor John Sabean suggests that Doris herself had taken the initiative in ending Thoreau's dependency on her by moving out of the Studio Building in 1930 or 1931. Whatever the reason, the last letter Doris received from Thoreau was in October 1931 – a short note apologising for not being able to meet her that day. In it he wrote, "I appreciate what you have done for me & often think of it but I haven't anything to give in return for it. Perhaps things will change & get easier again. Anyway I remain your faithful brother, Thoreau." It would be 30 years before Thoreau wrote to Doris again.

In his introduction, the editor John Sabean describes how he came upon these diaries and letters in 1986 while helping clear out a storage area in the home of his friends Doris and Murray Speirs. Sabean believes that Thoreau had given Doris his diaries, as well as three portfolios of his artwork around 1930. Despite the abrupt end of their friendship, she was careful to preserve all of Thoreau's artwork through the many changes that occurred in her own life over the next decade. By 1939, Doris and Gordon were divorced and she had married ornithologist Murray Speirs. In the years that followed, Thoreau's letters and journals were eventually forgotten in a disused storage room. After Doris's death, the documents were donated by Murray Speirs to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto, where this reviewer had the pleasure of describing and inventorying them.

This book has obviously been a labour of love for the editor. Sabean has done an admirable job of researching and annotating the documents. His excellent introduction establishes their context and importance and contains much valuable biographical material. He has also chosen the illustrations with great care for their appropriateness, matching them to the text whenever possible. Two of the letters have been reproduced in facsimile; I wish that there had been more. Many of the original letters are entrancing, the

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handwritten text interspersed with playful little sketches. Doris must have loved receiving these little works of art. Small wonder that she kept them.

Although the editor has provided extensive footnotes for almost every reference in the letters, identifying all the flora and fauna described as well as the places and individuals mentioned, he has not given much information about the physical state of the original documents. This seems a pity in such a well-researched work. When I had the opportunity to examine the journals now in the Fisher Library, I discovered that there are many stubs of torn-out pages and that some of the existing pages are a puzzling patchwork of cut-up pieces. In one of Thoreau's letters to Doris, he asked her to forgive "the break" in the letter as "there was something that sounded sort of selfish there so I cut it off". Presumably Thoreau edited his diaries the same way before giving them to Doris. It is interesting, also, that some of his most intense letters are in pencil in a separate notebook and appear never to have been sent to Doris; although they must have been given to her later with the journals.

Finally, one wonders what Thoreau would have thought about the publication of these intimate diaries and letters. Reclusive and reserved in his later years, he would probably deplore the publication of these youthful musings and self-revelations. Yet this story of a gifted young artist's struggle for emotional stability and confidence is a moving one, and these documents give a reader valuable insights into both his life and work. Thoreau's artistic achievement was considerable. We should be grateful to both Doris Speirs, who preserved these journals and letters, and to John Sabeian who has given us all a chance to appreciate them.

LIBRARY. AN UNQUIET HISTORY

BY MATTHEW BATTLES

Norton, 2003, 245 pages.

REVIEWED BY MARIA F. ZIELINSKA

Looking at a slim volume with the word "Library" as the title, one cannot help but wonder what is the book about. A particular library or libraries in general? Administration, technical services or services to the public? The subtitle is a little more explicit, but even the full title poses more questions as to the content of the book than it really should.

If your curiosity leads you to read Chapter 1, the author's intent becomes quite clear. As Battles states himself, he wants to "explore the library's intertwined relations of fancy and authenticity, of folly and epiphany, of the Parnassian and the universal". He writes, further, "I am looking for the library where it lives. Of course, a complete history of the library – a documentary account of libraries wherever they have existed, in whatever form they take – would run to many volumes. What I am looking for are the points of transformation, those moments where readers, authors and librarians question the meaning of the library itself."

In other words, the author tries to present the role of libraries in the perpetual fight for political power and the interplay between knowledge and culture. This novelistic approach synthesises how libraries through the ages have not only inspired and preserved, but also destroyed, accumulated treasures of knowledge.

Battles explores the history and role of libraries from Mesopotamian clay-tablet collections, through the libraries of Egypt to those of the Roman Empire, the Middle Ages and on to modern times. He covers a wide geography, encountering libraries in ancient China and Islamic countries. Not only does he examine collections for the elite, but socialist reading rooms and rural home libraries as well.

The author analyses the usually modest beginnings of libraries, their growth and

their demise during wars, conquests, fires, earthquakes, and intentional destruction because of the ideas their books contain. Particularly tragic is his description of the destruction of books in Nazi Germany and present-day Bosnia. While presenting historical changes in approaches to building library collections, Battles accentuates two competing notions of the library's mission: temple of examples of excellent writing and repository of knowledge.

The book is written in rich, elegant language and reads, despite its topic, like a fascinating novel. Once you start reading this book, you will be tempted to put everything aside and continue until the last page, which brings you back to the stacks of the Widener Library where this marvelous and most revealing journey begins.

Matthew Battles is a rare book librarian at Harvard University, coordinating editor of the *Harvard Library Bulletin* and a gifted writer. He can take a bird's-eye view of a very complex picture, summarize it, simplify it and present it in a form easily absorbed by the reader. *Library. An Unquiet History* is highly recommended for every librarian, archivist, lover of books, historian and sociologist – a book for all trades.

It would be wonderful to know more about the author, but unfortunately the book gives no personal information about him, or about his career. All we are told is that he is presently working on two more books, one a history of the Widener Library and the other on the history of writing.

IN THE STACKS. SHORT STORIES
ABOUT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS
EDITED BY MICHAEL CART
Overlook Press, 2002, 270 pages.

REVIEWED BY JEAN WEIHS

As a young librarian, I used to feel some apprehension when I had to go to the below-ground, frequently deserted University of Toronto Library stacks.

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Book Reviews

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Many authors must have had similar feelings in libraries, because many library-related murder mysteries have been published. "QL636.C9", by Anthony Boucher, represents this genre in this collection of short stories. The clue to the murder will be obvious to most librarians, but the characters in the story spend some time figuring out the meaning of the title's strange combination of letters and numbers. M.R. James, who is regarded as the mother of the modern ghost story, set "The Tractate Middoth" in "a certain famous [British] library".

"Ed Has His Mind Improved", by Walter Brooks, is a humorous tale about how Mr. Ed, the Talking Horse, raised money for the local library. There is social commentary in "Gloss on a Decision of the Council of Nicaea", by Joann Greenberg, about a librarian who finds the courage to resist discrimination in the southern United States and in John Cheever's "The Trouble of Marcie Flint", in which the town council refuses to allow a public library on the grounds that it will attract undesirables to their town. My favourite story in this collection, "A General in the Library" charmingly told by Italo Calvino, is a fable about an old librarian who saves his books by enticing soldiers to read.

Michael Cart, who was a librarian for 25 years before he left the profession to become an author, has included in this collection the work of some renowned writers, such as Alice Munro, Ray Bradbury, Saki and Ursula LaGuin, taken from publications spanning the 20th century from 1906 to 2000. Good reading for a rainy or snowy day.

The subtitle of this work is slightly misleading. Most of the 19 stories in this collection are not about librarians in their role as librarians, nor does the main action of many of the stories take place in libraries. Not all the protagonists are professional librarians. A library

staff member is a central character in all the stories except "The Public Library" by Isaac Babel, which takes a snapshot look at the patrons in a public library, and the final work, "The Library of Babel" by Jorge Luis Borges, which is a philosophical essay on the library as more than a repository of books.

Librarians have always been dogged by a negative stereotype, and this stereotype is found in some of these tales. In others, library staff are depicted in a favourable light. In a few of the stories, there appears to be little connection between the protagonist as a librarian and the story's theme or action. The protagonist could have also been, for example, a teacher or social worker.



I wanted to ask each author why he or she had made the person a librarian. Was there some undefined characteristic of librarians in the author's mind that made the story more meaningful, or did the author just decide that this time the protagonist would be a librarian, because a different profession would add variety to his or her fiction? Unfortunately, the pages did not answer my query. If any ELAN readers have an opinion about this, please e-mail me at jean.weihs@rogers.com.

LANGUAGE VISIBLE. UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF THE ALPHABET FROM A TO Z
BY DAVID SACKS
Knopf, 2003, 395 pages, index.

CONTRIBUTED BY JEAN WEIHS

Librarians might be interested in finding out more about the origin of the alphabet that is the basis of books they spent their lives with.

Canadian author David Sacks devotes a chapter to each letter of the alphabet, telling the letter's history, complexities, and meaning in different cultures and language. □

Man with Duster had Steady Job on Ottawa Books

CONTRIBUTED BY JEAN ORPWOOD

Recently I was helping a young author with a little research for background material. I was reading a microfilmed version of the Truro, N.S., News and fell upon the following Canadian Press article, dated June 30, 1936.

Ottawa - Down in the book vaults that honeycomb the foundation of the Parliamentary Library lives a gnome-like little man who spends his whole life dusting books. For several months in the year he appears above ground with ladder, pail and three cloths and slowly circles the great round library where bookshelves line the walls to the height of 40 feet. One by one he lifts and dusts each of the 400,000 volumes, washes off the shelf and moves along. He has been doing this for 20 years or so. Amedé Choquette is 73 years old. From the shiny crown of his almost-bald head to the toes of his hand-sewn French-Canadian boots he is as neat as a new hymn book. He takes pride in this virtue. "See," he will say, smoothing down the blue denim jacket he wears over his white shirt and overalls, "I am clean, me. When I go from here dey don' know if I'm a Senator." His great love is work, his great hate dirt. Fourteen months to dust the library when he is alone, but his son, one of eight children, helps him and they do it twice a year. □

From a Canadian Press article June 30, 1936.

ELA's Early Years, 1990 to 1995

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January, which was not suitable for ELA members. ELA made plans to hold its 1994 and subsequent annual meetings (later renamed Annual Get-Togethers) independently, in early November. The AGMs offered a prime opportunity for members to socialize and programs with interesting speakers, who came from within the membership and beyond.

For example, between 1990 and 1995, program topics included public library development in Ontario; the history of the Osborne Collection of children's books; a talk by Farley Mowat on his father Angus; three decades of changes in libraries and library processes; a talk on writing the history of St. Catharines Public Library; and William Lyon Mackenzie as publisher. With 1994 came a new feature, the sale of t-shirts.

Ex Libris News

From its first issue, *ELN* was the primary means of communication with members across the country. One issue a year always included the text, or a summary of, talks given at the AGM. There were many articles on aspects of library history and on major figures in library history (such as Angus Mowat, Freda Waldon, and Fred Landon). *ELN* articles ranged from the personal – recollections, accounts of members' retirement activities, memorials and milestones, to historical and current events – research, reports on Board meetings and IFLA meetings in Moscow and Cuba, and the closing of the Canada House library.

In common with many other association newsletters, *ELN* was always in need of copy. An imaginative appeal appeared in the fall 1992 issue: "For your diary – 20 November 92: write a biographical sketch of a librarian from the past; research and write an article on some

historical aspect of a Canadian library or library association; write an article that would be of interest to your colleagues in the Ex Libris Association; and send to Editor by February 28, 1993."

For the first 15 issues, Stan Beacock was publisher and, for many issues, editor as well. However, in early 1994, he asked to be relieved of these roles. After the Board searched for several months, Wendy Scott agreed to edit and prepare *ELN* for publication, with the assistance of an editorial committee. She began with the autumn 1994 issue. Production and format were updated; the high-standard content continued.

The Morton Project

A major project to honour Elizabeth Homer Morton, the first executive secretary of the Canadian Library Association, was proposed at ELA's annual meeting in 1987. The Morton Project was our largest undertaking up to that time and, for that matter, up to the present. CLA cooperated by publicising the fundraising drive and collecting donations. Early on, we decided that the project would take the form of a book dealing with the history of CLA during Morton's term of office.

The spring 1992 issue of *ELN* announced a grant of \$15,000 from the Elizabeth Homer Morton Fund, "for the compilation and publication of a history of the Canadian Library Association from its historical beginnings" and invited proposals. The search began for a researcher-author. A committee set up to interview potential authors selected Elizabeth Hulse, who was well qualified both as librarian and historian. To assist her, a questionnaire about the early years of CLA was drawn up and sent to a number of people. *ELN* reported on the book's progress, "Aimed to be a lively and popular treatment emphasizing Morton's contribution, the book is planned to be available for CLA's annual conference in 1996, its 50th anniversary.

Elizabeth Hulse has completed her research, and the information and anecdotes garnered from individuals who remember Morton or the early days of the Association are being edited."

The Board moved quickly to choose a publisher. They selected the University of Toronto Press, which had provided a competitive quotation and would both design and print a volume of about 150 pages, with a soft cover. Substantial additional funds were needed to publish and market the book, so the Ways and Means Committee was established for this task. They succeeded, and *The Morton Years: The Canadian Library Association, 1946-1971* was published at the end of 1995.

This article, based on issues of Ex Libris News and minutes of the ELA Board between 1990 and 1995, is the last of a series of three accounts of ELA's early days. The two earlier articles appeared in ELAN Issues 33 and 34, spring and fall 2003. □

Atlantic News

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NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR NEWS

BY SUZANNE SIXTY

MARGUERITE JONES retired from the Memorial University of Newfoundland libraries after 34 years of service, mainly in the Queen Elizabeth II Library.

The public libraries of Newfoundland received a new name, the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries. The provincial governing body is still known as the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board. □

Milestones

Compiled by Merlyn Beeckmans

Obituaries

Edith Janet Adamson died on August 16, 2004 in Victoria at the age of 91. She was a librarian with the federal government in Ottawa.

Dr. John Hall Archer of Regina died on April 5, 2004. He was director of libraries at McGill University, president of CLA in 1967 and founding president of the University of Regina.

Frances Bonney died on February 13, 2004 in Vancouver. She was head librarian of the Science Council of Canada for many years.

Joan Sylvia Fawcett died on May 11, 2004 in Tantallon, N.S. She received a BLS degree from the University of Toronto and worked as a reference librarian in Oakville, Ont.

Patricia Warburton Hart died on February 20, 2004 in Smoky Lake, AB at the age of 93. She worked as a librarian and geneologist in Saint John, North York, Ont., Richmond Hill, Ont., and Ottawa.

Margaret Elaine Johnston died on July 30, 2004 in Toronto. She was coordinator of Boys and Girls Services at the Toronto Public Library before her retirement.

Richard Loeffler died on April 17, 2004. He was on the Member Communications Committee of the CLA from 2002 to 2004.

Wilma Eleanor Swain died on May 16, 2004 in Toronto, at the age of 90. She was a teacher-librarian.

Mary Ruth Thompson died on May 28, 2004 in Hamilton. She held a BLS and an MLS from the University of Toronto. She was a young adults librarian and the later head of Westdale branch library in Hamilton.

Esther LeClerc Turpin died on June 23, 2004 in Burnaby, BC, at the age of 98. She was a teacher-librarian in Ontario for over 30 years.

Awards

Linda Cook, director, Edmonton Public Library, received the CAPL/Brodart Outstanding Public Library Service Award.

Brian Doyle received the LA Book of the Year for Children Award for *Boy O'Boy*, published by Greenwood Press.

Frances K. Groen, Trenholme Director of Libraries, McGill University, received the 2004 Canadian Association of Research Libraries award for distinguished service to research librarianship.

Groupe de travail sur le traitement de la documentation du Sous-Comite des bibliothèques [Working Group on Cataloguing] received the CLA/OCLC Canada Award for Resource Sharing Achievement.

Polly Horvath received the CLA Young Adult Canadian Book of the Year Award for *The Canning Season*, published by Greenwood Books.

Liz Kerr, president of OSLA (1996), president of OLA (2003) and currently co-chair, Ontario Coalition for School Libraries, was named Teacher of the Year 2004 by the Elementary Teachers of Ontario.

Metadata Service received the CLA/3M Canada Award for Achievement in Technical Services.

Wendy Newman won the 2004 CLA/Bowker Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award.

Doug Poff, associate director, Library Technology Resources and Services, University of Alberta Libraries, received the Miles Blackwell Award for Outstanding Academic Librarianship.

Windsor Public Library received the CLA/Information Today Award for Innovative Technology in recognition of its project Geographic Information Systems in Health.

Samuel Rothstein, founding director and professor emeritus, School of Library, Archives and Information Studies, University of British Columbia, was awarded an honorary degree by that university on May 28, 2004.

Bill Slavin received the CLA/Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award for illustrating author Linda Bailey's *Stanley's Party*, published by Kids Can Press.

Stephane Jorisch received the same award for illustrating author Chieri Uegaki's *Suki's Kimono*, also published by Kids Can Press.

Milestones, continued

One other book honoured by CLA for effective illustration was *The Subway Mouse* by **Barbara Reil**, published by North Winds Press.

Basil Stuart-Stubbs, icon of the publishing world in British Columbia and beyond, received the 2004 Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions to the B.C. literary community.

Retirements

Barb Carr of St. Lawrence College retired at the end of June, 2004 after working there for 30 years.

Yulerette Gordon, applied health sciences librarian, University of Waterloo, retired on April 30, 2004.

Richard Malinski, chief librarian at Ryerson University, Toronto, retired on March 31, 2004.

News

Gwendolyn Ebbett, MLS (Dalhousie University) was reappointed to a six-year term as university librarian at the University of Windsor.

Sonia Lewis was appointed chief executive officer of the Kitchener Public Library, effective August 17, 2004.

Douglas Lochhead, Ex Libris member, was appointed by the town of Sackville, N.B. as its lifetime poet laureate. His book of poems about Sackville and environs is soon to be published.

Irene Martin (née Bennell), BLS (University of Toronto, 1970) and an Episcopal priest, has published a book, *Sea Fire. Tales of Jesus and Fishing*.

Catherine Steeves is joining the University of Guelph Library as associate chief librarian, Information Technology Services.

Laura Soto-Barra, MLS (University of Toronto, 1991) is assistant managing editor and librarian at the *Post Standard* in Middleton, Wisconsin.

Vicki Whitmell, MLS (University of Toronto, 1984) was appointed executive director of the Ontario Legislative Library at Queen's Park.

Ian Wilson was named acting librarian and archivist of Canada.

BACK ISSUES OF EX LIBRIS NEWS

The Board of the Ex Libris Association has authorized the sale of back issues, *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.

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CORRECTION

Two ELAN readers pointed out to us that, in the photo accompanying Al Bowron's column in the Spring 2004 issue, the lady with whom Al is hamming it up at a picnic in 1966 is not Ruby Wallace (who died in 1965) but Marion Gilroy. At the time of the photo, Marion was on the faculty of the UBC School of Librarianship, following a distinguished career in regional librarianship in her native Nova Scotia and in Saskatchewan. Thanks alert *ELAN* readers!

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