



# ELAN

Ex Libris Association Newsletter

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Left to right: Sheila Koffman, Alison Fryer, Leonard McHardy, Brenda Bickram.  
Photo credit: Frances Davidson-Arnott.

### The Independent Bookseller versus the Big Box Store The 2007 Annual Conference

BY JAN JACOBSON

The topic of the morning's program at the Annual Conference was "Independent Booksellers, Challenges in the Big Box Store Era." Panelists Brenda Bickram from Books for Business, Leonard McHardy from Theatre Books, Sheila Koffman from Another Story, and Alison Fryer from The Cookbook Store were the participants. Each of our speakers spoke of finding a niche for their services and materials.

Brenda Bickram opened the discussion by defining Books for Business's niche. Specialized services include a curbside service, in which orders are run out to the street. Her store also offers help with specific projects. They provide a location service for hard-to-find materials, and will produce customized lists of books on a particular topic. Support for writers include store-based book launches for known authors, and consignment sales of lesser-known authors' works.

Sheila Koffman's interest in social justice materials is reflected in the materials she stocks in her alternative bookstore, Another Story. She deals with small publishers. Her knowledgeable staff members have expertise in the materials they sell and thus know their authors and where to obtain items for special orders. For example, they are able to offer books that reflect the demographic and ethnic makeup of a school to a particular school library.

The independent bookseller's problems differ from those experienced by the big box stores such as Indigo. For instance, the independent dealers pay for shipping up front, and books that are not sold are usually not returnable. Their political influence, as well, is not a great as that of a large corporation.

According to Alison Fryer from The Cookbook Store, Indigo and Chapters only sell about 20% of available

cookbooks. She specializes in less commonly available books such as those produced by an individual restaurant such as the *Pied de Cochon*. Alison explained that the difference between Canadian and U.S. book prices is partially caused by publishers who pre-price the books, thus setting the retail price.

Leonard McHardy has spent his life in the theatre. He got into book selling because of his interest in drama. His marketing techniques extend from educating publishers about their own products to distributing print catalogues to school drama teachers and librarians. He feels that the big box stores have an unfair advantage over independent dealers, but has found his niche through his knowledge of playwrights and drama.

## The Web as a Social Place

The afternoon's session was given by Gwen Harris, an information consultant specializing in web searching and online education. Her talk was "Life on the Web: the Web as a Social Place."

Gwen interviewed "digital natives," young people born after 1980, to see how they were using the web. She found them to be active in creating webpages, criticizing blogs, and collecting RSS feeds on various topics of interest to them. They also listen to podcasts and watch videos on the web. Over half have joined Myspace or Facebook, using it for social networking activities such as twittering (microblogging), virtual world games, sharing opinions, or posting videos and photographs.

The OCLC 2007 Report on social spaces (networking and user habits) found that over 50% of people use the web for information searches and for social interaction. Online life is moving to interacting, creating, collaborating, and being part of an online community. The fastest growing social users are the over 35 age group. This increase in the social use of the web by the older group may be attributed to its availability on the Blackberry.

Other social media we investigated included virtual worlds, virtual hangouts, video sites such as YouTube, photo posting sites such as Flickr, and maps where video and photos interact such as with Google Earth. A fast moving virtual world! ■

## Ex Libris Members Visit the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

BY TOM EADIE

Twenty-one Ex Libris members gathered in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library on the morning of November 20, 2007, to hear Anne Dondertman, the Assistant Director of the Fisher, speak on the evolution of the Library and to view some of its treasures. We heard that a half-century ago the University of Toronto Library rare book collection was contained in a cupboard. Over the

next 50 years collections grew to the point where the Fisher Library now holds approximately 600,000 volumes and 2,500 linear metres of manuscript collections. Clearly the Fisher has come out of the ... cupboard. While some of this spectacular growth was funded by the University, much of it is due to the generosity of donors, and the initiative of long-time director Richard Landon.

Ms. Dondertman led us through an impressive selection of items drawn from the Fisher collection ranging from cuneiform tablets to modern first editions. Some of the items which drew questions included a papyrus fragment dealing with the exposure of female infants, Crescenzi's *Ruralia commoda* (1490s) with censored images, the typescript of Lawrence's *Women in Love* and Agnes Chamberlin's *Canadian Wildflowers* together with some of her watercolours. Of special interest was the first draft manuscript of Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*, accompanied by an international selection of editions and translations.

Current developments at the Fisher included its participation in the University of Toronto's "digital

hoovering" (i.e., large scale digitization project) (Dondertman). While the concept of digitization is hardly new to Ex Libris members, hearing of digitization projects in the presence of cuneiform and papyrus items from ancient libraries brought home the scope of the remarkable evolution of libraries and librarianship.

Following the visit to the Fisher, a number of members took lunch at Massey College, through the good offices of Mary Williamson and her membership at Massey.

*For those who might be interested in joining the Friends of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, the annual membership fee is \$50. Benefits of membership include invitations to lectures and special events and a subscription to the Friends' newsletter Halcyon. The Friends are devoted to strengthening the Library's outstanding collections and encouraging a greater awareness of the Library's resources. ■*



Reproduced with permission from the Fisher Library website.



## The Winding Path of Librarianship

BY ELIZABETH WARRENER

Ex Libris hosted its third annual event at the Dean's Tea, Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto on Wednesday, February 27. ELA joined with the FIS Alumni Association to present a program, "The Winding Path of Librarianship." The topic Career Progression was chosen because of its interest to students and alumni alike. Fifty people attended, including 12 ELA members.

Jean Weihs, long time Ex Libris board member, talked about her interesting career. Jean's main idea was that you can have an exciting career as a librarian if you put your mind to it. She described being hired as a cataloguer for the East York Board of Education as a young librarian. She catalogued their books, then proceeded to the non-book materials. She assumed that she could do this by using the Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (then in its first edition) and found the rules for non-book materials confusing. She looked for other guidelines but found little on cataloguing non-book materials. Most people, she found, hadn't catalogued their non-book items because they didn't know how. Materials got left in offices, ignored, and forgotten. Jean and her co-authors, Shirley Lewis and Janet Macdonald, eventually devised a system and wrote a book about cataloguing these neglected items. This book became the basis for the non-book part of AACR2. Jean received mail from many librarians in other parts of the world because the need for rules was so desperate. By focusing on an area that had been ignored by others, she fashioned an illustrious career that included stints on 45 national and international committees.

One amusing anecdote Jean recounted was about her first visit to the Library of Congress where she was to negotiate non-book terminology at the request of the National Library of Canada. She purchased a new professional looking purse to replace her old bag, but forgot

to transfer her money and identification to the new one. She arrived at LC, got out her purse to pay the taxi driver and found nothing inside. LC paid her taxi to and from the meeting and bought her lunch. Then, Jean had difficulty returning to Canada with no ID. She was questioned for quite a while and finally found an old copy of *Maclean's* magazine among her papers. Customs allowed her in with that, because, they said, "Only a Canadian would read *Maclean's*."

After the talk at FIS, Jean told me that in 1968, librarians were specifically excluded from receiving Canada Council Grants. Jean asked her local MP, Robert Stanbury, why this was so and also mentioned it to Keith Davey to whom she had been introduced. These two men lobbied successfully to change that law and Jean was the first person to receive a Canada Council award for research relating to librarianship. As Jean says, "You have to ask the right questions."

Virginia Roy, Project Manager for Ask Ontario (part of Knowledge Ontario), was interviewed by Heather Wilson, a fellow FIS 1989 graduate. Virginia's model for this format was the TV program *The Hour*, with apologies to George Strombouloupoulos. Virginia talked about her career as a librarian. She came to the Faculty of Information Studies because she had a history degree and wasn't sure what to do and because

her mother wanted her to be a librarian. She decided at FIS that the role of corporate librarian interested her most. She worked as a reference librarian at the Royal Bank of Canada. Then, her husband was transferred to Calgary where there were no jobs for librarians. She took a job in sales at Faxon Canada and eventually turned it into a consulting position. After returning to school, she got a marketing degree from Ryerson, became a marketing manager, and eventually opened her own firm.

In her varied career, Virginia has done indexing, project management, and marketing. What all her jobs have had in common is that they involved "sharing information in different ways with different people and making it meaningful to them." As she pointed out, "Librarians think about information in a very different way from non-librarians." The librarian skills have served her well in positions in business and libraries. Since 2006, she has been working for Knowledge Ontario. She loves her current job, loves the sense of "doing good" and enjoys working with librarians across the province of Ontario.

Following questions from the audience, there was an opportunity to talk to the speakers informally. It was fun to have at least three generations of librarians in the same room at the same time. ■



Virginia Roy and Jean Weihs. Photo credit: F. Davidson-Arnott.



## Our President's Report

BY JAN JACOBSON

I assumed the presidency of ELA in November, 2007, after the Annual General Meeting. At the Board meeting following the AGM, two new Board members were asked to join us. I welcome Tom Eadie and Norman Horrocks to these positions and look forward to working with them. We can now truly say that our Board has members from sea to sea, from British Columbia to Halifax.

Since our November AGM, Ex Libris Association members have been active on several fronts.

The Annual General Meeting was a great success with 45 members attending. The food was good and abundant. The Annual Conference program was excellent. The morning session consisted of a panel of successful independent booksellers who spoke passionately of the impact of the big box stores on their businesses. Gwen Harris's afternoon presentation about social life on the web brought us up to date momentarily on that topic. Thanks to our members – Frances Davidson-Arnott, Doreen London, Liz and John Warrener, Jean Wheeler and Peter Mutchler – for organizing such a successful event.

Continuing education is an important part of our organization's mission. To this end, on November 20 Jean Weihs and Jean Orpwood organized a visit to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. A lunch, arranged by Mary Williamson, followed at Massey College. At the time of writing this in March, we look forward to a tour of the Osborne Collection's exhibition on the theme of music in children's books and book art at the Toronto Public Library's Lillian H. Smith Branch on April 29, 2008.

At the 2008 OLA Super Conference in February, two of our members gave presentations at a session we hosted. Lorne Bruce talked about the

Centennial libraries, showing pictures of many new and extended libraries that were established during our Centennial year. Elizabeth Hanson talked about Mabel Dunham, an important figure in Ontario library history. Both were very interesting presentations, and advanced the cause of the history of Canadian libraries and librarians. Lorne will also be making a presentation at the CLA Conference in Vancouver in May on "Connecting Authors to Readers over Time."

The Education Institute, which offers teleconference or videoconference sessions on various library topics to members of The Partnership, is working with Ex Libris to offer some courses on library history. Sue Adams is working with Peter McNally, Elizabeth Hanson, Lorne Bruce, and others to make these courses available.

The third annual networking and social event for students at FIS took place on February 27, when Ex Libris jointly with the FIS Alumni Association hosted the Dean's Tea. The topic of discussion was career progression and development. Jean Weihs was one of the speakers, and Liz Warrener and Frances Davidson-Arnott arranged for cheese platters, fruit, and cookies.

Peter Mutchler will be choosing a winner, in conjunction with CLA's representative, Corrado di Tillio, from Rome, for the W. Kaye Lamb Award. This Award is given on a biennial basis and includes a plaque as well as \$500. Details of the winning entry will appear in the next issue of *ELAN*.

In addition to our involvement in library history and lifelong learning, Ex Libris is continuing in its role as advocate for libraries and library issues. We have written letters to the federal and provincial governments about cuts in service hours and staff at the reading room at the Library and Archives Canada, about the cancellation of the Canadian Health Network database, and about the need to involve wholesalers and independent booksellers in providing materials for school libraries.

Ex Libris has an ongoing presence at library conferences across Canada. Thanks to Liz Warrener and ELA members for manning the desk and selling our t-shirts and bags at OLA in January, to Norman Horrocks for arranging for our exhibit at APLA, and to Liz and Pat Appavoo for organizing our exhibit at BCLA and CLA. I am also arranging an informal get together for ELA members at CLA in May and will let members know more about the details later. In conjunction with CLA, which has arranged for us to share their space, we will have a poster and some brochures available at the IFLA conference in Quebec City in August.

Our committees continue to work hard. The Biographical Project Committee posted several biographies of librarians on their database on our website in the fall of 2007. The Membership and Recruitment Committee and the Promotion and Public Relations Committee have been combined and renamed the Recruitment and Public Relations Committee, under the capable leadership of Frances Davidson-Arnott. The Website Committee has recently posted an occasional paper by Nancy Williamson, "Be-Bop to Hip-Hop! More than 50 Years in Library and Information Science." An ad hoc committee to draft a new Constitution is being chaired by Norman Horrocks, who will be assisted by Mavis Cariou, Diane Henderson and Arn Bailey.

There is interest in establishing regional groups for Ex Libris, and members in several areas of the country are looking into how they might organize events with local interest. I look forward to working with the Board and regional groups to establish a framework should this occur.

I would like to thank all Committee Members for their hard work, and especially thank the Executive – Arn Bailey, Doreen London, Jean Weihs, Nancy Williamson – and Frances Davidson-Arnott, as a Past President, for their advice and help in getting to know the organization. ■

## Ex Libris at OLA:

### Session Report

FRANCES DAVIDSON-ARNOTT

Ex Libris Association sponsored a workshop at OLA's Super Conference. "Centennial Libraries and More!" was presented by two of our members, Elizabeth Hanson and Lorne Bruce. Elizabeth is currently the Gifts & Exchange Librarian at the Indiana University Libraries and studies Canadian library history, having written her doctoral dissertation on the beginnings of the Westmount (Quebec) Public Library. Lorne, one of Canada's foremost library historians, is currently Head, Archival and Special Collections, University of Guelph Library. He also maintains a library history website at [www.uoguelph.ca/~lbruce](http://www.uoguelph.ca/~lbruce).

Elizabeth Hanson presented a fascinating view of Mabel Dunham, long time chief librarian, 1909-1944, of Berlin (Kitchener) Public Library. She was also an OLA president (1920-1921). Especially interesting was the description of the "new" Carnegie building. Miss Dunham was also an innovator in children's library services and contributed greatly to the overall development of librarianship in Ontario. Several of Dr. Hanson's anecdotes were very amusing and had the audience laughing, sometimes rueful – things change but still remain

the same! The slides of the people and library added greatly to the stories. Miss Dunham was central to the development of librarianship in Ontario, through OLA and the Ontario Library School, where she taught the first class. She was pivotal in the establishment of the *Ontario Library Review*, a very significant library journal. She had high standards for librarians and Boards and was open in her criticism of those below her standard. Her observations on women in the profession are still relevant today.

Lorne Bruce presented the results of his investigation of the 75 Ontario Centennial library buildings. He outlined the political and bureaucratic steps taken to establish this project. The financing was very interesting as was Lorne's discussion of the architectural planning and design. We were shown slides of the libraries with a fascinating description of many of them. The lecture concluded with an explanation of the historical significance of the Centennial library building project. The importance to smaller communities was huge, giving libraries a real "boost," allowing for new services and programs and a change in perception of libraries, allowing them to become community services and community centres. Libraries were part of the exciting Centennial celebrations in Ontario.

Our allocated time-slot of 9:05 a.m. on Friday morning was a good one. A major snowstorm in the early hours of the night before did not deter our speakers but probably reduced the number of attendees. However, the 12 people who did attend were all very interested and well-engaged in the presentations, with great questions and discussion. ■



Speakers Elizabeth Hanson and Lorne Bruce  
Photo credit: Frances Davidson-Arnott

**2008 Annual Conference & AGM**

Focus on Genealogy

Mark Monday November 10 on your calendar!!



## How I Became a Librarian

BY PHYLLIS PLATNICK

David Platnick and I were married in 1952, the year he graduated from U of T Engineering College; I graduated from University College, U of T, in 1954. Dave was offered the opportunity to work as a graduate engineer at the British Thompson-Houston Company in Rugby, England. We sold everything we could for the passage to England by freighter.

In Rugby, Dave went to work and I subbed in a secondary school for a week, where I learned that I was not made to be a school teacher. However, I was "saved" from working by becoming ill and ending up in a nearby sanitarium, supported by the National Health.

When Dave's year in Rugby was about to end he accepted an offer to work at the French Thomson-Houston factory outside of Paris. While Dave worked seven hours a day I went to the Alliance française in Paris to improve my French.

At the end of the year Dave was offered an extension of his position in France but he decided it was time to return home. We returned to Canada in the fall of 1956: the Avro Arrow was cancelled by the Diefenbaker government; thousands of Canadian engineers lost their jobs. At the same time the successful launching of the U.S.S.R.'s Sputnik opened up thousands of engineering jobs in the U.S.

While we were waiting the five months to get our visas, I applied for a research position but ended up in the lowest of low positions in the U of T Library's Circulation Department of the main library. The work was easy enough, but some of the librarians seemed to be a little strange. Friday evenings were the worst shift, but I stayed on Friday night, because I was working with Judy Hardy whom I regarded as the sanest person in the department. Little did we know that a decade later we would find each other working at York University.

When our visas came through in May 1957, Dave and I moved to Rochester,

N.Y. Dave worked at the University of Rochester's Cyclotron, and I went to work at the university's Reference Department. I enjoyed the work there very much, though the department head was often difficult. I was transferred to the Archives where I really loved the work. Where else could one get paid to read other people's mail? Best of all, I worked with wonderfully sane people including a marvellous department head.

But we felt it was time to have a family. When our first child came I opted to be a stay-at-home mother.

At that time the Cyclotron wanted to introduce computing to scientific workers and offered a 10 week introductory class. Dave insisted I take it, but I was the only non-scientific-ly-oriented student. For five weeks I came home discouraged and frustrated but Dave insisted I persevere. At the sixth class I finally caught on. I was then thrilled with the course. We were programming and typing our own punch cards. I was excited about the vast possibilities of computing.

Dave proposed a project for a PhD, but the University of Rochester did not have the facilities for his research. An agreement was reached between the University and the Carrier Corporation in Syracuse that allowed him to do his research in Syracuse and graduate through the University of Rochester.

We now had a second child and settled down in Syracuse. One morning I suddenly announced that I wanted a profession and that Syracuse University had a part-time evening program. I knew that was a rare opportunity so I immediately started my courses in the winter session. There were only four professors in the department; I admired them all, particularly Antje Lemke and Marta Dosa. Most of my courses I took with them. It was a great, intellectual experience. I received a Master of Science (Library Science) degree in 1966.

While at Syracuse I was asked to design an online computer program to organize collections. I came up with the proposal that the computer could provide the

information as needed and in the desired order without actually sorting the papers. They would simply be entered and numbered. I presented my argument at a conference; most of my colleagues were horrified at the idea.

We now had three children and the Vietnam war was in full force. Dave was uncomfortable with the attitude of the people he worked with and decided to return to Canada. I was only halfway through the course so he agreed to stay another year. I became a day student and, with the help of my husband and professors, I finished the course and graduated cum laude.

In the year of the Centennial we moved to Burlington, Ontario. I worked part-time in the Serials Department, preparing a printed catalogue for the department and I shared babysitting with another mother in my building.

When Dave accepted a position at Ryerson Technological Institute, I worked part-time at the College Biblio-Centre, recataloguing a technical college library and integrating it into a centralized system. I also worked part-time at the Frost Library, where I stayed for 20 years as Reference Librarian and Head Librarian. I published two volumes of *Canadian Poetry: Index to Criticisms* (1970-1979) and (1980-1989). The latter is available online.

I never gave up the idea of being an archivist. I received my Master of Arts in History in 1986. I took a course at the National Archives and in 1989 I became a Certified Archivist. I became an archivist in the Archives and Special Collections Department at York and I did get the opportunity to read other people's mail again. When offered I took the opportunity to retire early and work one-third time for six more years. Five of those years I worked for the Archives but the sixth I was back as a reference librarian at Frost Library.

I always felt very lucky to work in positions I enjoyed, with associates who became good friends. I am still involved: Ex Libris, ARFL (retired York Faculty and Librarians), and YUFA (all York University retirees). ■

## Tribute to Larry Moore, Upon His Retirement From OLA

BY ARN BAILEY

Lawrence (Larry) Adrian Moore has been an influence in the library world for more than 40 years. That influence has been felt in the province, throughout the country, and even internationally and, since libraries relate to the reality around them, he can be said to have changed society.

He earned his BA from the University of Western Ontario (1959), and a post-graduate degree from the University of Stockholm, Sweden (1960). His library degree was bestowed by the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1968), and he took certificate programs from the American Society of Association Executives (1986-1990).

He began his career as an English teacher in 1962 and became Head Librarian at Clarke Road Secondary School in London, Ontario. After four years he moved to the position of Head Librarian in Victoria Park Collegiate Institute, North York for two years while serving as Principal, Continuing Education/Librarianship at the University of Western Ontario. The latter role led to his being a professor in the Faculty of Education, Queen's University until 1980. In the later years there, his position was termed Director of Media Services. He left Queen's to undertake a short-lived enterprise called Moore and Moore Design (for Libraries) with Jane Moore. Another move in self-employment was with his Libraries and Learning Inc. for about three years, but he also returned to education as Principal of Continuing Education/Librarianship at the University of Toronto for 12 years. While continuing in this latter role he was selected in 1984 as the Executive Director of the Ontario Library Association. In 1992 he joined the Evaluation Team of the American Society of Association Executives. He retired as Executive Director of OLA in February 2008 at the annual Super Conference, which came into being during his leadership.



Larry Moore at the OLA Super Conference party in his honour. Photo Credit: Brian Pudden

In his years as a popular teacher of librarianship for schools his influence on thousands of teacher-librarians was immense not just in terms of numbers but in concepts. A major accomplishment from his efforts for school libraries was *Partners-in-Action: The School Library Resource Centre in the Curriculum*. This was the result of years of effort to combine an evaluation instrument with classroom learning requiring co-operation of the teacher-librarian and classroom teacher. Larry had done preliminary work towards this end and was consulted by the Ministry as the guideline evolved. From him came the idea of "resource-based learning."

Another major document, this one bearing his signature and two others was *One Place to Look: The Ontario Public Library Strategic Plan*. For the amassed amount of information from briefs and hearings, Larry's suggestion of the concept of an "information grid" brought about the necessary unity and an application to the Internet.

Yet another of his accomplishments, this on a national scale, was his work in bringing about The Partnership, Canada's national network of provincial and territorial library associations.

We in Ex Libris are indebted to Larry since our beginnings when the first meetings were held as part of the OLA conference where we were given recognition and publicity. When we first asked for the chance to set up a table at the annual meeting to distribute information, he granted it. Later when the media and equipment displays were formally organized, he allotted us a free space and this has continued annually. Larry was the one who could promptly provide answers for our problems. He readily took phone calls and helped with any of our arrangements with OLA, such as mailings and the production of *ELAN*.

Our modest acknowledgement of his retirement was a tote bag, a t-shirt and a year's membership in Ex Libris. It will be an honour to have him join us. ■

### Write for *ELAN*

We welcome contributions from our members. Please submit your articles on items of interest to our members, including your memoirs of early days or important figures in librarianship, library history, your own career and your current activities in the field. We especially need contributions to our regular feature, "Why I Became a Librarian."

For submission information see the back page.

## Margaret Beckman Remembered

Margaret (Armstrong) Beckman, a long-time member of ELA and its president in 1999, died on February 28, 2008 in Waterloo, Ontario at the age of 83. She received a BA from Wilfred Laurier University in 1946, a BLS from the University of Toronto in 1949 and an MLS from the latter in 1969.

As a teenager, Margaret showed an independent nature by finessing her way into a “boys only” physics class. In the 1950s, she quietly kept on cataloguing books as her first pregnancy progressed. At that time pregnant workers were not allowed to stay in their jobs. She stayed.

She worked in several libraries in southwestern Ontario before arriving at the McLaughlin Library at the University of Guelph in 1966 as a systems librarian.

Her ability to foresee the importance of automation technology for all libraries and, particularly, academic libraries was wonderful for the University of Guelph and eventually for libraries far and near. As Deputy Head and then Chief Librarian (1971-84), she helped create a new library that met the needs of the computer world. In 1984, she became Executive Director of Information Technology, a post she held until her retirement in 1987.

Throughout her career, Margaret gave generously of her time and expertise to lecture and lead workshops on information technology, library management, and library building design. She became known on the international scene, travelling to the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and Sweden. Along the way, she was given an honorary professorship by the University of Essen, Germany, and two honorary

doctorates (Laurentian University and the University of Western Ontario). She was the first Canadian to receive the American Academic Librarian of the Year Award. She represented Canada at a number of UNESCO Library Buildings Conferences and was President of the Advisory Board on Scientific and Technological Information for the National Research Council of Canada.

She published articles and co-wrote two books: *New Library Design: Guidelines To Planning Academic Library Buildings* (with Stephen Langmead) and *The Best Gift: a Record of the Carnegie Libraries in Ontario* (with Stephen Langmead and John Black).

Retirement did not slow Margaret down. In addition to ELA, she still participated in CARL and OLA.

An extraordinary person? Yes, indeed. ■

## My Life With Margaret Beckman

BY MARION CAMERON

I first saw and heard Margaret Beckman at a cataloguers' meeting in Hamilton. Margaret read a paper on the implementation of a new cataloguing code, a precursor of the cataloguing rules in force during the 1960s and 1970s. Margaret looked young, her hair almost shoulder-length. She communicated vitality, confidence, persuasiveness. She showed how baseless were the fears of those who felt they couldn't possibly apply these new rules in their catalogues. Just do it, she said. It works fine; no problems. I kept a copy of that paper for years. Its author had won me over.

A few years later the University of Guelph Library was in the maelstrom that engulfed a number of Ontario's universities, new and old: rapid expansion, automation, new building plans. While still in our old cramped quarters with small staffs, we had to visualize how we would move into the new era. A year ago at Guelph we had been adding 1,000 titles a year to the

collection; this year we would be adding 1,000 a week! From having one typist part-time to produce catalogue cards from a master I typed myself, I was now being asked how many typists' desks and book trucks I would need for the Catalogue Division. Do you remember the challenge of reclassifying from Dewey to LC? Do you remember the mixed joys and frustrations of ONULP?

One day in the mid-1960s our chief librarian, Lachie MacRae, took a few of us to the new University of Waterloo Library to see their buildings and especially their catalogue department. Margaret Beckman showed us around. This was a lifesaver! Margaret was able to tell Mr. MacRae what we needed to know, to have, to do. Margaret became a mentor for me from that day on.

Then, in 1966, Mr. MacRae offered Margaret a position in the University of Guelph Library, and she accepted. The news broke just as we were attending an OLA conference. Friends said to me in dismay, “What will you do?” (At that time Margaret was regarded as a

holy terror, an enfant terrible.) I said to myself, “I'll do whatever she tells me to do.” Aloud I said, “I can work very well with Margaret. I'm looking forward to it. No problem.”

Margaret's position at Guelph soon settled into that of systems librarian. She tackled government documents, cataloguing, personnel, and became involved in the design of the new building as it developed. Several other librarians migrated from Waterloo to Guelph, and proved great assets because of the experience they already had of new methods and a new building.

I recall Margaret coming into my office one day and saying, “What are all those boxes on top of the shelves?” “Cards waiting to be filed,” said I. At once, clerical staff were seconded from other divisions, crash courses in filing were given, and in short order all the card catalogues were up-to-date.

When Mr. MacRae left, Florence Partridge became chief librarian, a title she had held in the past for many years



prior to the creation of the university, when she headed the OAC's Massey Library, later the library of the Federated Colleges. Margaret succeeded Miss Partridge as chief librarian in 1971. By then, we had settled in our new building named McLaughlin Library. It was time for a major reorganization. The day Margaret's appointment was announced, there was a lunch table reserved at the Faculty Club. Present were Margaret, John Black (associate librarian-to-be), Larry Porter (assistant librarian for systems and development), myself (assistant librarian for personnel), and a new head of the Science Division, Nancy Brown. The new era had dawned.

The new head of the Cataloguing Division was Ellen Tom, my staunch support, a cataloguer and disciplinarian after my own heart. She had brought the division into the computer age while I coped with a population of 60. Now I was to do this full-time for the total library staff, working with the University Human Resources Division, with which our procedures, development of necessity, were gradually integrated.

In our telephone conversations over the past few years, Margaret and I have looked back on what we saw as the golden age of the library. One new technology succeeded another at a dazzling pace. (When typists grumbled about this, their supervisor explained, "That is the nature of the job.") There was the photographic booth where we made prints of LC cards from the volumes of the LC catalogue. There were huge bulky printouts of circulation records every night to be used the next day. In the midst of constant change a professional team was built, which was able to work on larger issues. Before the advent of the Internet, libraries helped faculty members learn how to access the increasing number of databases becoming available. The library began to develop special collections, such as Scottish studies, drama archives, L.M. Montgomery material. Space was found for them, thanks to the complete flexibility of our buildings.

Librarians were seeking faculty status, always a grey area. The development of

terms and conditions of employment led to better recruiting and hiring practices. Librarians began to see the value of doing research and writing, and were encouraged by Margaret in their efforts. Margaret thought we were producing future chief librarians – but most people had no desire to leave. I found life with Margaret stimulating and challenging. The staff, as a whole, accomplished things they didn't think they could do, but experienced a good deal of stress in the process.

A day came when I was called into Margaret's office. Larry Porter was there, too. Margaret said, "Someone was overheard in the staff room to say, "Miss Cameron favours the union." I was stunned. Did we now manage by eavesdropping on coffee-room gossip? Because Margaret was not interested in the fact that our clerical staff now belonged to a union, I had had to work extra hard to ensure that the division heads and supervisors were familiar with the collective agreement and understood that they must abide by it. I had retrieved many hours of Sunday overtime pay for staff who had been told that coming in on a Sunday to fix a photocopier was "just part of your job." I knew that I had the reputation among the staff, not of "favouring the union," but of being fair. So I replied to Margaret, "I'd be more than worried if they had said 'Miss Cameron is against the union.'" The meeting collapsed and I left. Was I now going to have to differ with Margaret publicly on this important issue? This is when I began thinking of early retirement. I had no appetite for battling with anyone, least of all my mentor for many years.

I retired at the end of 1978. Probably from force of habit, I agreed to do something I didn't think I could do – I taught a course in library administration to one section of the MLS class at the University of Toronto. I felt I had a collection of horror stories (case studies) just as good as those which Robert Blackburn had regaled us with in 1955-56. I survived the experience but declined Katharine Packer's invitation to repeat it the following term.

"Career-long Sabbatical" was the title of an article by Stanley D. Gutzman, which appeared in *Library Journal* for October 1, 1969. Discussing the desire of some librarians to pursue doctoral studies, he wrote "A librarian works in a library. He is surrounded in his daily work by books. He gathers together and offers to the world for its intellectual stimulation the accumulated facts, opinions, claptrap, rubbish and gems of wisdom of mankind. What is it that he needs to go elsewhere for his own stimulation? ... The librarian's job should, in fact, be one long intellectual exercise in an intellectual atmosphere befitting his environment and his calling."

"Career-long what?" I hear you say after reading this account of my career as it was interwoven with Margaret's for 12 years. Yet both of us had careers that were in essence "one long intellectual exercise;" everything we did was for the enhancement and enjoyment of library use by students, staff, and faculty. Margaret continued this exercise in the consulting work and writing that she did after her retirement.

Thanks for everything, Margaret! ■

### Thanks

Ex Libris Association acknowledges with thanks the support of the Ontario Library Association, the Canadian Library Association and the Library Services Centre.

### Correction

In *ELAN's* Fall 2007 issue, on page 6 under Awards, Marie DeYoung's name was misspelled. Also in that issue, on pages 10 and 11, in the article "Harry Campbell's Association with IFLA" the Kaula award was misspelled. We regret the errors.

Photo of Judith St. John  
courtesy of Toronto Public Library

## Judith St. John, 1914-2007

BY LESLIE McGRATH

Judith St. John, head of the Osborne Collection from 1952-1979, died on October 17, 2007. She was born in Bolton, Ontario. Her father was a Methodist minister, and the family moved every three years following his regular reassignments to new parishes. Judith's novel, *Where the Saints Have Trod*, is loosely based on her family's experiences, and she told me many other stories of her early years. Once was how, as a visitor, she was allowed to go "Trick or Treating" with her host's children on Hallowe'en, an activity her mother normally prohibited as improper for a minister's children. Another was that she always regretted missing the splendid bonfire celebration on Armistice Day as it was past her bedtime. Over 80 years later, to make up for this, we made her a little figure to burn on Guy Fawkes Day – but she could never bring herself to set him on fire.

Judith's love of books and reading led to her attainment of a diploma in library science from the University of Toronto, and her employment under Lillian H. Smith, head of the Boys and Girls Division at Toronto Public Library. From 1934 to 1952 she was a children's librarian at Earls Court and St. Clement's branches. The journalist and social activist Michele Landsberg, one of Judith's early patrons, writes:

*Dear Miss St. John enlightened my childhood, first by her exquisite literary taste, and second by the delicate tact and respect with which she guided me to wonderful books without a hint of*

*condescension or pressure. She and my beloved Miss O'Brien, the librarians of St. Clement's Children's Library, were like a window to a better world. I had never before met adults who greeted children – all children – with gentle humanity, attentiveness and sober delight. I loved them both, ardently and at a polite distance. They made the library a site of intellectual freedom and joy.*

In 1952 Judith accepted the then part-time curatorial care of the Osborne Collection. This post expanded into a full-time job as head in 1955, and it fell to her to prepare the catalogue, *The Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books*. This became a prototype of antiquarian children's book cataloguing that would establish the reputation of the Collection as a scholarly resource. It was a monumental task, to which Judith devoted much of her own time. The result, published by Toronto Public Library and the University of Toronto Press in 1958, was an authoritative work consulted by students, researchers, booksellers and collectors worldwide. Judith was awarded a Canada Council grant in 1960 for a three-months study of book publishing in Britain. The catalogue also led to teaching appointments for courses in children's literature at the Faculty of Library Science of the University of Toronto, and guest lectureships in Britain, Japan and the United States. The catalogue was reissued and a second volume was published in 1975. Changing technology made the second volume the last to appear in print, but the standard set by Judith and her colleagues remains the exemplary model for cataloguers today.

As an expert in children's literature, Judith taught courses at the Faculty of Library Science of the University of Toronto for five years. Students remember her with admiration for her wide learning, and with gratitude for her enjoyable and informative lectures. An international colloquium of children's book collectors and curators was held at the Osborne Collection in 1965. Among the guests of honour were Edgar Osborne, who was given an honorary doctorate of laws by the

University of Toronto, together with his second wife, Kerstin Osborne; Willman Spawn (whose connection to Osborne continues today); Ruth Adomeit, Elisabeth Ball, d'Alte Welch, C.E.R. Clarabut and other notable experts. The colloquium was a resounding success, and inspired the founding of the Friends of the Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections in 1966 – the oldest library Friends group in Canada. The Friends sponsored facsimile publications of important holdings, and lectures by outstanding children's writers, publishers and illustrators (Margaret McElderry, Tomie de Paola and Maurice Sendak, to name a few). Visitors at Osborne became lifelong friends; Judith knew and appreciated the work of every guest. One of her triumphs, she told me, was cleverly suggesting to the young Elizabeth Cleaver that she should sit next to William Toye at a Friends meeting, and bring her portfolio of collage art. The two struck up a conversation, and the result was a series of distinguished collaborative works, *The Loon's Necklace*, *How Summer Came to Canada* and *The Fire Stealer*, among others.

Shortly after the Friends organization was formed in 1966, Judith gave a talk to Brian Alderson's class at the North London Polytechnic, during which she described the impressive accomplishments of Toronto Public Library in caring for and publicizing the Osborne Collection. This led to the formation of the British Branch of the Friends, later known as the Children's Books History Society. Judith frequently spoke of how much this connection meant to her, not only for what it meant to her work, but for the lifelong friendships it fostered.

It would seem difficult to fit in more activities, yet Judith undertook the organization of the John Masfield Storytelling Festivals that took place in 1961, 1966 and 1972. The background of the Festivals was Judith's correspondence with Masfield that extended over 10 years. Judith donated the Poet Laureate's letters and sketches to Osborne in 2002, a gift the St. John family augmented in 2008 with additional letters, and art, and

with a fine set of limited editions of his works presented to Judith by Masefield. Susan Cooper, the author of *The Dark is Rising* series, and winner of the Newbery Medal, describes an event that took place two years before Judith retired:

*It was April 1977, and Judith St. John had just taken me to have tea with Lillian H. Smith, after giving a talk to the Friends of the Osborne Collection. I found Miss Smith was enchanting but Judith even more so: unassuming, totally dedicated and quietly funny. She was driving me along the Toronto streets and describing the Lillian H. Smith Collection of 20th-century children's books. I listened to her absorbed enthusiasm and mentally contrasted it with the aggressive solicitations that I'd been getting from the curator of a similar collection in the U.S. Judith wouldn't dream of asking for anything, I thought; she's just sharing delight.*

*"Judith," I said, "would you like to have my manuscripts for the collection?"*

*"Oh!" said Judith, and she drove into the kerb. I think it's the nicest compliment I've ever had.*

*So we were friends, of course. She was wonderful: she illuminated the world of children's books, and although she had a very long life she never seemed to become an old lady. She was just Judith, more fragile but still glowing. How lucky we were to have her, in our small but very special world.*

Another friend who visited Judith was Maurice Sendak, who presented her with a fine sketch of the Gryphon holding the catalogue, bearing the inscription "To Judith St. John, with pleasure," dated 1979. Judith retired in 1979, and cherished this memento until her death, when her family generously donated it to the Osborne Collection. Though missed by friends and colleagues, Judith had the satisfaction of seeing her chosen successor take over the care of the Collection; together with Camilla Gryski, Dana Tenny, and Jill Shefrin, Margaret Maloney carried on the scholarly work for which Judith had laid the foundations until her own

retirement.

I first met Judith in 1995, when I became the fourth head of the Collection. She was not only a mentor and an exemplary predecessor, but a kind and supportive friend with a broad mind and a rich sense of humour. In the turbulent years of library reorganization, Judith offered the calm perspective of a person who had seen many changes, and found the overall direction was always "onwards and upwards."

After our first meeting at Osborne, I went to Judith's apartment to see her. With the exception of Judith's introduction of Susanna Avery-Quash for a Friends lecture, there would be only one more trip to Osborne. Judith had become increasingly housebound, the result of an accident that left her with a broken hip. Her last outing to Osborne was made in a chauffeured car (arranged by the Friends) to attend the 1999 Helen E. Stubbs Lecture by James Houston. The event coincided with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Osborne Collection, and Judith's presence helped to make it a gala evening, not least because James had been an admiring juvenile patron of Judith in her early days as a children's librarian at St. Clement's branch. Our visits changed over the years from quiet, formal affairs to lively family trips with a baby and a chatty preschooler in tow. The children spent happy hours rummaging through the famous "bottom drawer" of the living room cabinet, which was full of toys, while Judith and I talked of current library goings-on.

My choice of a doctoral thesis topic was guided by two factors: the discovery of several daybooks from the early years of children's library service at Toronto Public Library, and Judith's generous agreement to provide first-hand information about what the daybooks and contemporary publications revealed. From collection development to library history, wherever Osborne projects led, Judith was there to help and to offer encouragement. In the course of the research, I was able to have a library film she had carefully preserved for years,

but had never seen (equipment failing at every attempt) converted to a usable format. Though dark and uneven, the film shows Judith, with her luminous smile, conducting a puppet workshop in 1938. We watched it together, and her pleasure at first seeing it is a very happy memory.

Judith's later years were saddened by the death of her sister Elizabeth in 2002, but she was born an optimist and even her mild complaints about ill health took the form of jokes. In 2004, for her 90th birthday, Judith laughed that no-one would remember her birthday; in fact, everyone remembered it. The parade of well-wishers included representatives from the University of Toronto to present a faculty medal, Toronto Public Library, with a message of congratulations from the City Librarian, Josephine Bryant, and the Friends, on whose behalf Pat Brückmann, the Chair, brought a magnificent floral tribute, while messages poured in from friends abroad.

Though her health worsened following her accident, with her family's help and particularly that of her latest devoted caregiver, Agnes, Judith was able to remain in her home, and still enjoyed receiving guests and calls. Only her few last days were spent in a hospital; when I visited, and regretted having to leave, Judith assured me "Don't worry, Elizabeth is right here." Judith would have been touched to know that HRH Princess Alexandra, the Royal Patron of the Friends of the Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections, of whom she was a great admirer, sent a message of condolence. This tribute speaks for the many people who remember Judith St. John as a distinguished colleague, and will miss her as a very dear friend. ■

*Reproduced from Gryphon Spring 2008, courtesy of Friends of the Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections.*



## Margaret Canning Remembered

BY JEAN ORPWOOD

Margaret Canning died suddenly in Toronto on August 29, 2007. An Edward Wilson gold medalist graduate in 1944 from Victoria University, University of Toronto, Marg worked at Bell Canada in various supervisory and staff training positions until 1964. Returning to U of T, she completed the BLS program with honours in 1965. Her first librarian experience was in children's services in Brentcliffe, the then main branch of the Etobicoke Public Library. In 1968, she was promoted to Head of the Albion Mall Branch. While there she developed a strong community/library relationship. In 1972, she returned to U of T to gain her MLS degree in 1973, again with

honours. Next, she was Head of the Chinguacousy Public Library Main Branch with responsibility for some smaller satellite branches as well.

In 1976 she joined the North York Public Library as Head of the York Woods Branch, and later was York Woods Area Librarian. There her sensitivity to the Jane-Finch area was instrumental in developing and maintaining close relationships with local community service groups and organizations. A literacy program for children was also established. In 1980 Marg became Manager of Special Community Services, located near the Central Library and later in the new library. There she managed a wide range of services from online reference, inter-library loan, audio-visual, bookmobile, shut-ins, and adult literacy. She was an active and imaginative member of the

planning committee for the new Central Library. Marg retired from North York in 1988.

Her keen intelligence, kind, generous and friendly spirit, great sense of humour, intuition about people, strong service orientation and organizational ability, an active interest in helping new librarians in their career directions – all done with quiet grace – identified her as an outstanding librarian.

In her retirement, Marg continued actively to pursue her catholic taste in literature, music and ideas. She travelled extensively, enjoyed concerts, theatre and film, visited and helped able and disabled friends, enjoyed her family, gardened, did some bird watching, walked in peace in forests and beside lakes and streams, and engaged in her all-time favourite – downhill ambling. ■

## Sh\*\* Happens, But Luckily So Do Small, Joyous Miracles

BY SHIRLEY LEWIS, Roving Reporter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

And in Ethiopia, a small miracle has in fact occurred. Let me tell you about the miracle of the Shola Children's Library, a miracle wrought by an Ethiopian-American librarian with a name so complicated that I'll just call him by his popular nickname, Yohannes\*. He's dynamic, and he's tenacious, a

political refugee who worked in the U.S. during the dangerous years of the Communist regime, and who returned to Ethiopia when democracy came to Ethiopia following the ouster of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam. His never-say-die attitude is just what is needed in this country of 70 million plus souls, 90% of whom are subsistence farmers and with a literacy rate of 43%. This means that 57% of the population cannot read or write. But Yohannes is convinced that it doesn't have to be that way, and the steps that he has taken single-

handedly to change the reading habits of the younger generation are enough to make my jaw drop and hasten to tell Canadians about this remarkable person and the far-reaching changes he has made and continues to make.

Starting from nothing but his own vision, this San Francisco-based librarian moved back to his native land and created the Ethiopian Children's Book Centre (ECBO) with the aim of dramatically increasing the reading habits of Ethiopian children by building on the firmly entrenched oral storytelling tradition with which Ethiopians are very familiar.

Consider the odds against him: a financially strapped government, overcrowded and understaffed schools, and an apathetic populace overburdened with hunger, unemployment and a myriad of infrastructure weaknesses. It is a wonder that Yohannes even made the attempt.

The miracle is the amazing things he accomplished as more and more people responded to his enthusiasm, and volunteers heeded his call. Not only did



\* His full name is Yohannes Gebregeorgis.



developments have sprung. The Shola Children's Library has expanded to 25,000 books, the facility has expanded so much that Yohannes was "pushed" out of his home so that reading

he initiate the ECBC but also he started the first free Children's Library, which any child can enter, join and read a book. Yohannes is a man who has known rejection, backbreaking work, and more tedium among the bureaucracy than most could possibly endure, but his obdurate enthusiasm is unquenchable and when commitment is THAT strong, success is just bound to happen. And so it has been with Yohannes in Ethiopia.

From a very small beginning, Yohannes has built of a team of enthusiastic readers, and volunteers who share their love of books and reading. Starting with a small collection in his own home, his Centre created the Shola Children's Library in a densely populated area of Addis Ababa, the capital city. Yohannes got a leg up when popular British author Jane Kurtz learned of his project and leaped to his support. Jane had a special connection with Ethiopian culture since her parents were church workers in Ethiopia and Jane grew up and loved the country, returning many times after she moved to England. Jane serves on the Board of ECBC and ardently seeks out books for donation as well as assisting in the publication program for books in the many Ethiopian languages spoken in the rural areas. Although Amharic is the official language and most school children start to learn English in elementary school, it is still highly valuable to have picture books in regional languages. Along with instituting Ethiopian Book Week and Ethiopia Reads programs, this publication program has resulted in a series of books and stories becoming available in various Ethiopian languages.

From these humble beginnings great

rooms and attractive reading tents could be added, as well as a delightful reading area in the flowered garden. The project has expanded beyond the capital city of Addis Ababa to Awassa in the south. As well there is an utterly charming "donkey-mobile" doing what bookmobiles do in Canada – but in this case the mobile library is hauled by Queen Helina, The Most Beautiful of all Donkeys In Ethiopia, much to the delight of the children in rural schools around Awassa. Queen Helena and her mobile library follow a circuit of school visits that allows many previously bookless children to borrow and enjoy stories and non-fiction books.

More than 60,000 children have access to books where once there were none. And every year the program gets bigger and more creative. In 2008 a book-a-thon is planned with children marching throughout the streets of Addis Ababa

in support of the Books Centre and its programs. The French Embassy is providing free t-shirts to all who enter the marathon. I am off to the Canadian Embassy tomorrow to see if Canada can perhaps provide much-needed bottled water for each child who enters the marathon. It would take many more pages than this article can spare to tell you more of the Ethiopia Reads story, but you can find out all about this remarkable movement by visiting their website at [www.ethiopiareads.com](http://www.ethiopiareads.com). Or just Google "Ethiopia Reads" for an inspirational visit to a fascinating phenomenon.

Here is a wonderful opportunity, too, for Canadian librarians to support a cause that is dear to our own hearts. I wonder if anyone will respond to this magnificent effort and throw some help in this direction? Remember, you first heard it from me, Shirley Lewis, roving library reporter in Ethiopia. ■







## Architects I Have Known

BY ALBERT  
BOWRON

During my years as a working librarian and a library consultant, I met and worked with many architects – some difficult, some easy. The profession of architecture remains dominated by men.

A good architect needs an artistic sensibility, an engineer's knowledge of construction, a diplomat's ability to compromise and a knowledge of politics and trends. The best architects are born, not made.

I met Robert Fairfield through his wife Joan, at the time chief librarian of Markham. Bob designed the Stratford Festival Theatre tent in 1952 and the permanent first open stage theatre in Canada in 1956. Later, when I was the chief in Scarborough, he designed the successful Albert Campbell Branch library on an awkward site. My fondest memory of Bob, however, is of him chasing my 6-year-old son, Julian, around the Fairfields' idyllic home near Thornbury, Ontario, to everyone's raucous amusement.

In 1951, I met a young Canadian architect in London, England in the Institute of Contemporary Arts. This was Irving Grossman. He became a close friend. Irving was a humanist, an innovator of housing, the designer of the administrative building at Expo 67 and the beautiful Cedarbrae Branch of the Toronto Public Library. Irving and I had many good times together, especially aboard his yacht sailing on Lake Ontario. Irving died too soon in September 1995.

The Metro Toronto Reference Library, a rose among the thorny commercial milieu of the Bloor-Yorkville area in midtown Toronto, was the result of the creative genius of architect Raymond Moriyama plus the preliminary input of the site selection and building program consultants. It was in my role as one of the members of this team that I came to admire Moriyama. He is a diplomat,

as well as a creative force. He settled the difficult relations between library boards, municipal councils, consultants and library directors. The result, although since altered in response to changing needs, is a library that is an innovative and very successful feature of Toronto.

My experience with architects wasn't always bright and positive. The architect hired by the Westmount Library Board to rearrange and enlarge their main building was handed my report on public use and physical limitations of the facility. He refused to read it. Naturally, I was offended by this rejection of my effort of assistance. I never did learn the results of my work in Westmount.

Jack Diamond, the architect of the new opera house on University Avenue in Toronto, was a contestant for a new city library in Barrie, Ontario during the 1970s. He took me on as a consultant to determine community needs and building functions for library service in Barrie. We made our pitch to the library board in person, but Diamond failed to win the commission. He then refused to pay my modest fee. Finally, we went to

Small Claims Court. I was accused of cribbing part of my report from other reports I had written. This was true concerning a preliminary chapter on the purpose and needs of modern public library service. The judge saw little merit in that argument, reminding Jack that "architects do that all the time." I was awarded half the fee owed to me. It was a Pyrrhic victory that I reluctantly accepted.

I have reviewed many libraries in Canada, Europe and elsewhere. A few were appallingly badly designed. Others were super. My experience in Saint John, N.B. restored my positive opinion. After my 1976 new-building program for Saint John was submitted and accepted, I was invited to the opening ceremony. Amazingly, every chair, desk, book stack and partition was in the exact place recommended, and all my area requirements were met. Hanging from the ceiling was a model of the Red Baron in a World War I biplane built by my son, Julian. That architect won my approval. ■

## Seeking Recollections of Nora Bateson

Nora Bateson (1896-1956) had a dynamic 25-year library career in Canada, but is "one of the great under-appreciated figures in Canadian library history," according to historian Peter McNally. Among other achievements, Miss Bateson directed the PEI Library Demonstration (1933-1936) that established the public library system in that province, served as Nova Scotia's first Director of Libraries (1938-1945) and was one of five librarians appointed to the Canadian Library Council, precursor of the Canadian Library Association. Her career encompassed work in Canada, Jamaica, the United States and New Zealand, and an informal note found at Library and Archives

Canada described her as "dogged, mercurial, engaging and memorably articulate."

Sue Adams, librarian at St Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, is currently working on a study of Nora Bateson's life and work. The archival record seems rather scattered and incomplete, with personal correspondence particularly lacking. Sue would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone with personal recollections of Nora Bateson, or suggestions for sources of historical material. She can be reached at 902-863-1848 or by e-mail at [sadams@stfx.ca](mailto:sadams@stfx.ca). ■



## The Committee of Concerned Librarians – A Brief History

BY ANITA GALANOPOULOS

Librarians are the fierce defenders of the principles of intellectual freedom and access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity. We are the champions of equitable service policies and users' rights to privacy and confidentiality. Yet we have failed to defend the value of our own profession both internally and externally. The fervor librarians exhibit for libraries and their collections, whether in print or electronic formats, is noticeably weak if not absent when it comes to advocating for ourselves. A reason for this? One might argue that libraries comprise all classes of employees, from librarians to paraprofessionals to clerical assistants and it cannot be understated that each plays an integral but differing role in the success of any library but relinquishing our role, our influence, our value to the library, as librarians is irresponsible.

Deprofessionalization, in its simplest form, describes the process by which highly educated and skilled professionals are first displaced then replaced with individuals of differing (almost invariably less) training and lower remuneration. The deprofessionalization or deskilling of librarians, a phenomenon that has characterized the fate of other professions such as journalism, and social work, to name a couple – is not new. In fact, examples of this in library landscapes date back decades and currently are recognized as occurring within the context of a much broader economic pattern of cheap labour deskilling. Many of us were blissfully ignorant of this until we saw it happening locally in what evermore appears to be a trend.

Contributing to our dilemma is the absence of any significant librarian-only associations; a vacuum which seems to support the stereotype of the “mild-mannered librarian”: selfless, inclusive, democratic and – less flatteringly – timid or apathetic. This all-too-prevalent “professional character profile”

has contributed to if not accelerated the trend to deprofessionalize librarians.

What follows is a brief history of a group of advocate librarians, awakened by this trend and what they did and are still doing to address this issue.

### The Committee's Beginnings

Five librarians met at an informal setting in December of 2004 to discuss amongst many concerns, the gradual deskilling or deprofessionalization of librarians. It was agreed that this issue, and others of a professional nature, went largely unrepresented. It was recognized that this was, in part, due to the absence of a solely professional organization to advocate on behalf of librarians. As the group grew from five to 52 to include librarians from various municipalities and as these concerns and situations echoed throughout these various library systems, the Committee of Concerned Librarians (CCL) was formed. Although loss of subject expertise, the weakening of collections and the displacement of librarians at the reference desk was clearly the catalyst by which these professionals came together, it was their shared concern for the profession and the future of libraries, their collections and services, that united them.

CCL comprises librarians of all types. We are reference librarians, children's librarians, academic librarians, cataloguers, special librarians, retired librarians, library school professors.... Additionally, we have the support of librarians from other regions of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Europe.

Members of CCL meet informally, continuing in the manner of their beginning, every few months at local restaurants to discuss issues and projects. What we have accomplished might not be considered significant but here's what we've done so far:

### Networking

The group maintains a listserv and a blog: ([www.concernedlibrarians.blogspot.com](http://www.concernedlibrarians.blogspot.com)).

The group has networked with library organizations and individuals throughout North America and Europe. For example, a member of CCL approached CLA to encourage them to issue a policy statement on pay equity. Although the statement does not reflect all that CCL was hoping for, it is a beginning. It is available off CLA's website at: [www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Position\\_Statements&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=3420](http://www.cla.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Position_Statements&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=3420).

### Events

CCL invited Dr. Bill Crowley, a professor at Dominican University, to deliver a lecture at the B.C. Library Association Annual Conference 2007: Don't let Google and the Pennypinchers Get You Down: Defending (or Redefining) Libraries and Librarianship in the Age of Technology.

### Interest Group

Members of CCL were instrumental in forming The Public Librarians Interest Group (PLIG). The group was recognized by the B.C. Library Association executive in 2007.

PLIG has invited John Buschman, Associate University Librarian, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., to deliver a lecture at the upcoming British Columbia Library Association Annual Conference 2008 entitled “Slip Sliding Away: Libraries, ‘Cool’ Rebranding, and Public Purposes.”

### Publication

ALA-APA published CCL's article, “A Profession Worth Defending: A Call for Advocacy.” in its online newsletter, *Library Worklife*, Vol 4, No. 6, June 2007.

As already stated above CCL recognizes the value and place of all other library-related classifications within the library cosmos. This does not preclude, however, CCL's mandate – to advocate for the profession and its resulting benefits – strong collections and quality services.

If you would like to join our “band of merry librarians,” please e-mail us at: [cclbc@shaw.ca](mailto:cclbc@shaw.ca). ■

## **A Brief History of Canadian Library Technician Associations: Part 1**

BY DOUGLAS WILLFORD

The beginnings of the individual Provincial Library Technician Associations can be traced back to a conference entitled "The Library Technician At Work: Theory and Practice" sponsored by the Canadian Library Association held at Lakehead University, May 8-9, 1970. As a result of this workshop an ambitious group of library technicians headed by Charlotte Elwert from Thunder Bay, Ontario, took on the task of forming a national association called The Canadian Library Technicians Association (CLTA). However, CLTA was short lived and morphed itself into a number of provincial associations.

At the writing of this article there are now six known provincial library technician associations. Two of these will be described below: the British Columbia Library Association Library Technicians and Assistants Interest Group (BC LTAIG) and the Alberta Library Technician Association (ALTA). The fall issue of *ELAN* will complete these histories: Saskatchewan Association of Library Technicians (SALT), Manitoba Association of Library Technicians (MALT), Ontario Association of Library Technicians/ Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario (OALT/ABO), and Nova Scotia Association of Library Technicians (NSALT). More complete information can be found on their websites. In some instances material for both these articles has been copied from the various associations' websites.

### **British Columbia Library Association Library Technicians and Assistants Interest Group**

The idea of an organization to represent Library Technicians in B.C. had been considered by the students of the Langara College program in the early 1970s. However, it was not until the fall of 1974 that the idea started to become something concrete.

Ruth McLaren (née Clark) was one of the founding members who made the first officially recorded plea to organize based on the following objectives: 1) Education of the B.C. library world; 2) Professional development of the library technician by means of workshops and guest speakers; and 3) employment information whereby library technicians would have access to job opportunities.

With the assistance of Virginia Chisholm, co-ordinator of the library program at Langara College, invitations were sent to former graduates encouraging them to join the newly formed association. At about the same time the first newsletters and a list of possible workshop ideas were produced, contact made with other newly formed provincial LT associations, and a job contact service was established.

In 1979 the name of the organization was changed to British Columbia Association of Library Technicians (BCALT). By the mid 1980s another name change took place to Library Technicians of British Columbia (LTBC). Because of continued low membership and participation, the organization established closer connections to the B.C. Library Association (BCLA). Annual surveys continued and the requisite AGM, but attempts to facilitate increased membership or participation in events were not successful.

At 1991 LTBC AGM the organization was dissolved by unanimous vote of the members attending, and a letter of application to become an interest group for library technicians and assistants to be affiliated with the BCLA, with LTAIG as its acronym. By the mid 1990s the interest group continued to exist primarily as a virtual entity with a small "executive committee" guiding the group. The primary activities included job postings and other messages distributed electronically.

Since 2003 the LTAIG Executive Committee has produced a brochure, a website ([www.bcla.bc.ca](http://www.bcla.bc.ca)), an electronic newsletter, and established electronic connections with other Canadian LT

organizations. The first electronic survey of Canadian LTs was conducted and the results made available to all on the LTAIG webpages.

Conference sessions sponsored by LTAIG are included in the annual BCLA conferences, and socials are hosted in conjunction with the conferences.

### **Alberta Association of Library Technicians**

The Alberta Association of Library Technicians (AALT) was established as a result of a challenge that Bill Manson, a Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) library instructor, issued to each SAIT library technician second year class. Every year he dared them to form their own organization and finally the 1973-1974 graduating class accepted his challenge. Led by Bernice Neufeld, the group researched the requirements of forming an association and the planning began. When some of the groundwork was in place, meetings were held with other library technicians located primarily in Edmonton and Calgary.

Then came the day that this informal group realized that they were ready for the next step, to gather as many technicians together as possible and to elect an executive and so, under the leadership of Bernice Neufeld, plans for the first annual conference were started. As Bernice stated in her article in a 1980 issue of the *AALT Technician*, "to start with I had no money, no experience, only grand ideas and believe me they were grand." The conference was held in Red Deer, Alberta, on February 21 to 22, 1975, with 37 people attending the Annual General Meeting. The Alberta Association of Library Technicians was created and the first executive was elected with Judy Thomas as President, Jennifer Connors as 1st Vice President, Doreen Bills as 2nd Vice President, Carol Dubuc as Secretary, Carol Lukasewich as Treasurer, and Kathy McNeely and Shirley Bateman as Councillors. The AALT Constitution was finalized and submitted to the Alberta Government Companies Branch

and on September 8, 1975, the Alberta Association of Library Technicians was officially incorporated.

### Continuing Education

The first AALT workshop titled "What is a Computer and What is It Doing in My Library?" was held in 1976 in Edmonton on September 24 and in Calgary on September 27. The original executive structure had one councillor responsible for all professional development workshops. Because of geographical and logistic problems, in 1990 the position was divided into Programs North Councillor and Programs South Councillor with Red Deer being the dividing line.

### Executive Changes

In 1988, the position of 2nd Vice-President took on the additional responsibility of Publications Co-ordinator. This position was later dissolved during the Executive restructuring May 1996. In 1990, the two year term positions were changed to one year, which encouraged members to volunteer for the positions and the two councillor positions became five specific positions: Membership, Newsletter, Public Relations, Southern Region Programs and Northern Region Programs. At the 1996 Annual General Meeting, the AALT Executive structure changed, removing the Past President position and adding President/President-Elect, Journal Editor, and Member-at-Large, and merging the Treasurer and Membership positions. In May 1998, Public Relations was renamed Marketing, the Journal Councillor position was replaced by the Website Co-ordinator (the Journal Editor position remained), the positions of Grant MacEwan and SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) Student Representatives were officially added to the Executive composition, and three Executive work groups were introduced: Administration, Communication, and Professional Development. In May 2000, the AALT Executive was renamed the AALT Board of Directors with the Councillors becoming Directors and the President, President Elect and the Member-at-Large forming the Executive

Committee. In May 2002, the position of Treasurer/Membership was separated into two positions, Membership Chair and Treasurer.

### Finances and Grants

Membership rates in 1979 were \$7 for Personal Members and \$5 for Associate Members. In 2000, AALT's fiscal year-end was changed to December 31 to coincide with the Membership yearend. In 1976-1977, AALT received their first grant from the Alberta Government. In 1988, AALT received a grant from the Alberta Foundation of the Literary Arts and in 2004-2005 they received a grant from the Community Initiatives Program (CIP).

AALT provided its first bursary in 1979 and established its first award in 1993. AALT adopted the motto Technicians and Technology: Partners in Information in 1997.

### Governance

In May 1994, the Standing Orders were rescinded pending their incorporation into the operating policies of the *Executive Handbook*. In June 2000, the *AALT Board Handbook* was created.

### Mentoring Program

The idea for the AALT Mentoring Program was created during the 1992-1993 year and was officially launched in 1994. In 1996-1997, the Mentorship Program became the responsibility of the Member-at-Large. As an ongoing project, it was continually being revised. In 2005, it was temporarily shelved for major revision.

### Publications

The first *AALT Technician* was published in 1975 and, in February 1981, it was assigned the ISSN 0228-9490. Over the years its frequency has changed many times from four issues a year to five. In 1996, the *AALT Technician* was reclassified as a journal. In January 1997, the mission statement of the *AALT Technician* was changed to read "The Official Voice of Library Technicians in Alberta." In 2005, the *AALT Technician* left its printed format to become available online at the Members Only Section of the AALT website. The first

*AALT Membership Directory* was created in 1979 and, starting in 2005, it was available only online in the Members Only Section of the AALT website. However, printed copies are provided to those members who have requested them and to Institutional Members that do not have access to the Members Only Section.

Although the official date of the first AALT brochure is still being researched, AALT changed from the red and cream version of the brochure in 1989 to the blue *Library Technicians in Alberta: Purveyors of Information*. A new brochure, *Library Technicians of Tomorrow*, was created in 1992. In 1994, a revised brochure was created with the heading *Technicians and Technology: Partners in Information*. In the spring of 2000, the single AALT brochure was divided into two: *Alberta Association of Library Technicians: Communication, Co-operation, Continuing Education* for member recruitment, and the *Alberta Association of Library Technicians: Partners in Information for Library Technician* promotion.

### Website

Throughout its history, the AALT website has always been the work of dedicated volunteer members. The first AALT website was launched in the spring of 1995 on the Calgary FreeNet server. In 1998, the site was moved to a new server, the address changed to aalt.org and the page took on a new look reflecting AALT's adoption of yellow into the official colours. In 1999/2000, the website was redesigned. In 2003, the AALT Web Team performed a series of user studies on the website to help with the planning and design of a new version of the site. In 2005, the website (www.aalt.org) was totally redone and introduced to the membership at the 2005 annual conference.

### Final Thoughts

During AALT's formative years, there were numerous personality and ideology clashes, particularly between Calgary and Edmonton members. It was commonplace to have leaders serve their terms on the executive and then



## A New Retiree Group, “Down Under”

BY DIANE HENDERSON

In July 2007, ALIA (Australian Library and Information Association) established the new group. ALIA Retirees is the outcome of a Working Party on Retirees, and is a subgroup of ALIA, the principal Australian library association. Its objectives are “to maintain the connection between retirees, to recognize retirees’ achievements, to ensure their professional interests and aspirations are fostered, and to encourage members retiring from the profession to remain involved with the Association.”

At present, the group’s Committee is a “virtual” committee that regularly “meets” electronically. While neither the Committee, nor its members, has held a regular meeting yet, it has had significant accomplishments; in 2007 its activities included: establishing electronic communication with the mounting of a website, blog and e-list; seeking representation from all states for its Committee; producing articles in the library press promoting the group to members of the wider Association and profession, both retired and soon to retire; surveying members regarding their interests and needs; providing advice and information to ALIA on issues affecting retirees.

Their ambitious plans for 2008 include acting on results of the survey of interests, hosting a retirees function at the ALIA biennial conference, increasing membership, expanding content of electronic communications, and working with ALIA’s Board to ensure that retirees remain connected with the Association and “that their knowledge, skills and experience are not lost.” Of special interest to ELA is their plan to explore the possibility of reciprocal arrangements or activities with other groups of retirees in the library/information world.

*This account is based on the November 2007 Annual Report of ALIA Retirees. To read more about the group, see their website, [www.alia.org.au/groups/retirees](http://www.alia.org.au/groups/retirees). ■*

## Ex Libris Biography Project – Let’s Get some Momentum Into This

BY NANCY WILLIAMSON

The Database of Library and Information Science Professionals has now been set up for several months with a token of nine biographies in the base. It is time to gain some momentum by adding more names and proving we can do this. A number of people have been very generous in sending obituaries and we thank them most sincerely. Keep them coming. As a result we have amassed a fair number of possible additions. However, often obituaries tell only part of the story and the data needs to be worked on and further searching done. Probably we will never have everything but we need a respectable amount of information to make it worth including an entry. The ELA Board has provided us with a small amount of money and shortly, we will be hiring a student to help put the data we have in order for further development.

However, the Committee is small and we need your help. There are several ways in which you can do this. You can offer to research and provide data on a person whom you knew and feel should be included. If you are interested in helping but have no particular person in mind on whom you would like to work, we can supply you with a list of potential candidates from which you could choose a person

or persons to research. Perhaps, you have some person on whom you have already done some work, or you know of someone who has worked on a particular person with whom you could put us in touch. For example, the Committee has been able to locate two people who have done some in-depth work on two historical figures in librarianship and are willing to do bios for us. If you decide to help us we can provide you with the information already gathered and there is a biographical index to *ELAN*, which is electronically searchable. We also have a list of potential sources of further information and a partial list of persons whose papers are located in various archives across the country. Another way you could help is to search and index the biographical information in one or more of the numerous library and information science newsletters and other periodicals that are not indexed elsewhere. ■

The Committee will be grateful any help you can give us. Let’s hear from you. Either write to or e-mail me:

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140 St. George Street,  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 3G6  
e-mail: [nancy.williamson@utoronto.ca](mailto:nancy.williamson@utoronto.ca)

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### *Library Technicians continued*

fade away afterwards, often cutting their ties with the organization that they had poured so much of their heart and soul into. Some had such bad experiences that they will not even talk about them, but by reading through past Annual General Meeting minutes, conflicts definitely come through. All this illustrates is that AALT was created with passion, and with passion comes strong emotion and firm beliefs.

It was these beliefs that formed AALT’s rock solid organizational structure. Current and future members owe much to individuals like Bernice Neufeld who took on challenges and showed their dedication to Library Technicians through their work with AALT. ■

*Part 2 of this article will be published in the Fall 2008 issue of ELAN. – Ed.*

## New on the ELA Website

An Occasional Papers series has been initiated on our website with a paper by Nancy Williamson. This is a slightly revised version of a talk presented in May 2006 at the Annual Meeting of CASLIS, Toronto Chapter, titled "Be-Bop to Hip-Hop"; it is both a personal memoir and a history of 50 years of change in librarianship.

### Be-Bop to Hip-Hop: Introduction

In 1950 this author emerged from the then University of Toronto Library School to begin the first of two careers in the field. Much has happened to change libraries and librarianship over the years since then. Those changes were experienced through 15 years of public librarianship (six years in reference and

nine years in technical services) followed by 40 years as a library and information science educator with involvement in teaching, research, professional associations, and consultancies in North America and abroad. In this article, it is from this perspective that the changes are observed and some personal experiences drawn.

We no longer store, access, and retrieve information in the same way that we did in 1950. That stalwart, the catalogue, still exists but it too has changed. Some of the changes have been rather mundane and some quite exciting. Some have improved things and some have had a somewhat detrimental effect. The changes have been gradual rather than dynamic, and evolutionary rather than revolutionary. Through it all, one thing has remained constant – the two

basic needs of information seekers: the need to locate particular items about which they have some information and the need to be able to browse or to survey the contents of a domain or field in which they have some interest. What is stored and how it is stored has a profound effect on what and how it can be retrieved. As this paper proceeds, it looks, more or less chronologically, at changes in methods of storing information, changes in methods of retrieval, and the factors that have precipitated those changes – especially, but not only, computer technology.

*Read the rest of this interesting and informative paper at*  
[exlibris.fis.ca/Activities/Occasional/Be-Bop/be-bop.html](http://exlibris.fis.ca/Activities/Occasional/Be-Bop/be-bop.html) ■



## News From British Columbia

BY SYLVIA CROOKS

Strikes and lockouts have dominated the news about libraries in B.C.

this past six months. Civic strikes in the B.C. Lower Mainland saw public libraries closed in most municipalities. Many settled fairly quickly, but the CUPE union from Vancouver Public Library stayed out for 88 days in the summer and fall. At the time of writing, staff of the **Greater Victoria Public Library** have been locked out since mid-February after a series of rotating strikes. The issue is the same as that of the Vancouver strike: pay equity with other civic employees.

The **B.C. Library Association** is hosting the newly-founded *Partnership Job Board* which lists positions available to library and information personnel from coast to coast. The Partnership is a national network of provincial and territorial library associations. BCLA has undertaken another partnership, this one with the **Health Libraries Association of B.C.**, which will allow members of both associations to benefit from a closer working relationship. For instance, beginning this year, the

annual BCLA conferences will include several sessions on health-related topics. One of the main goals of the current BCLA strategic plan is to develop closer relationships with other library-related organizations.

The BCLA Membership Committee will be sponsoring a special luncheon for retired library staff at their annual conference in April. Bill Richardson, a former librarian, will be guest speaker. The possibility of forming an interest group for retirees within BCLA will be discussed.

The **B.C. Courthouse Library Society**, supported by the Law Foundation of B.C., has mounted a new public library legal resources project that will provide access to basic legal information to all libraries in B.C. The project, entitled LawMatters provides funding for legal resources, current bibliographies and research guides, training for public library staff, reference and referral support and consultation and advice for local libraries.

The **UBC Library** has launched a special project to make local history in B.C. more available online. The **B.C. History Digitization Program**, administered by the Irving K. Barber

Learning Centre, is providing funds to digitise such projects as the B.C. Indian Chiefs Resource Centre, Prince George newspapers, Vancouver City Directories, Indo-Canadian oral history (through Simon Fraser University Library), Victoria residential building plans, and visual records (photos and maps) from several B.C. libraries and archives. It is expected that the first 17 projects will be ready for free online viewing within a year.

### People in the News

**Rosemary Bonanno** was appointed Executive Director of the Vancouver Island Regional Library in September, 2007. She was previously CEO of the Vaughan, Ontario Public Libraries.

In October author **Sarah Ellis**, recently retired librarian at North Vancouver District Public Library, was the recipient of the \$20,000 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award for her book *Odd Man Out*. Earlier the book was awarded the 2007 Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize at the B.C. Book Prizes. Sarah has won several awards for her children's books, including the Governor General's Literary Award. ■



## News From Ottawa Public Library and Other Ottawa News

BY MARIE  
ZIELINSKA

Looking at my reports from the previous years, one cannot but wonder, whether all large library systems are going through so many pains and problems each year to secure a workable budget, or whether it a particular situation in Ottawa. It seems that the Capital has had authorities for several years that do not fully appreciate the role the city libraries play in the field of education, information and entertainment of their citizens. The best proof of the situation is that at the beginning of the 2008 budget planning cycle the municipal government proposed to close 10 out the existing 33 library branches in order to fulfill the electoral promise that there will be no increase in taxes.

Fortunately OPL has three strong and determined arms who do not hesitate to use all accessible tools to protect the library system against such destructive suggestions. They should be praised for their efforts to keep the system functioning. The first is **Jan Harder**, City Councillor, Chair of the Library Board, and devoted defender of libraries. The second is OPL CEO, City Librarian **Barbara Clubb**, and the third is **Lori Nash**, the Chair of the Council of the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association, together with the ever growing and more and more vocal group of Friends. Thanks to their joint efforts and support from the public organized by the Friends, the project was abandoned and the budget approved as submitted.

The Board approved draft strategic directions and priorities for the period 2008-2011. The two points of general interest are improvement of existing Places and Spaces and Planning and Building of a new Central Library. First, the Carlingwood Branch was closed in August for renovations; the next will probably be the Rideau Branch.

The implementation of the project for a new Central library proceeds slowly despite Mayor Larry O'Brien's statement that Ottawa does not need a new Taj Mahal. The Board approved in principle the Draft Project Parameters, Draft Master Program, and Draft Ideal Site Selection Criteria.

**Jim Bennet** of the OPL Board has been elected to the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries and OPL librarian **Marcia Aronson** received the OLA Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory Award.

To end this report in a positive tone, sincere congratulations to the Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association for its rapid and dynamic growth under the able direction of its chair Lori Nash. In the last two years, four new stores of used books have been opened. Of the total of nine presently operating bookstores, four are full-fledged operations and five self-serve stores. One of them is a café bookstore. For the development of the first Friends' bookstore of this type the Greenboro management team By the Book received an award from the City of Ottawa. As a result of the growth in the number of used book-sale operations, the amount of money raised has tripled since 2003, to the impressive amount \$265 in 2007.

### Additional Ottawa Information BY JAN JACOBSON

As has been mentioned on the CLA and OLA websites, the Canadian Book Exchange Centre will be closed permanently on June 30, 2008. Library and Archives Canada has concluded that they cannot financially support its operations. CBEC is no longer accepting publications from any private, government or international organizations for distribution to other libraries. For a more detailed report, read the article published in the *Ottawa Sun* ([ottsun.canoe.ca/News/National/2008/03/04/4898421-sun.html](http://ottsun.canoe.ca/News/National/2008/03/04/4898421-sun.html)).

The Ottawa chapter of CASLIS held monthly seminars over the fall season. On October 2, CASLIS Ottawa and the OPL presented a showing of the

movie *Hollywood Librarian*. A seminar, *Storytelling as a Major Communication Tool*, and a panel discussion, *Mentoring*, completed October's activities. November featured a talk, *The Ottawa Public Library at Year 101*, and in December, a joint holiday party with LANCRC was held at Patty Boland's Pub. CASLIS has also held a two-day seminar on the topic of *The Value of Libraries* in January.

The Ottawa-Gatineau chapter of the Eastern Division of SLA is planning an Ottawa activity. On April 11, a networking event will take place at the Blue Cactus restaurant in the Byward Market area.

The University of Ottawa Information Studies Program, which will begin in September, reports that approximately 80 students who have expressed an interest in the program. ■

### Welcome New ELA Members

Rhoda Gryfe, Toronto  
Susan Hoffman, Kitchener  
Barbara Kaye, Nepean  
Penny Logan, West Porters Lake, NS  
Carrol Lunau, Ottawa  
Paul McCormick,  
Lois McNally, Burlington  
Daniel Phelan, Kingston  
Esther Rosenfeld, Thornhill  
Alvin Schrader, Edmonton  
Marilyn Schulz, Toronto  
Toronto Reference Library,  
Periodical Newspaper Centre

### Did You Know?

That the Ex Libris Association is the only free-standing association of retired librarians and library staff in the world? Other retiree associations or groups are part of a larger organization, such as the Australian Library and Information Association and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (United Kingdom) and subject to the parent organization's control.





## Atlantic News

BY NORMAN  
HORROCKS

### Events

The 40th Birthday of the  
**W.K. Kellogg Health**

**Sciences Library, Dalhousie University,** was celebrated on November 30, 2007 by librarians and medical practitioners, both past and present. Located in the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building the Kellogg Library serves not only the needs of Dalhousie faculty, students and staff but also health practitioners in the Maritime Provinces as well as working with local hospital libraries. The Kellogg Library received a birthday gift in the form of a bequest from Dr. Norman Barrie Coward, one of Halifax's first specialists in pediatric medicine, who had left a \$6 million bequest to be divided between the IWK Health Centre and the Kellogg Library.

**Halifax Public Libraries** is planning two new buildings – a new downtown central library and a replacement for the Woodlawn Branch in Dartmouth. The HOK Planning Group has been hired for the central library and a site has been earmarked at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Queen Street (the site of the former Halifax Infirmary).

**Susan Kent**, who has managed libraries in Los Angeles, New York and Minneapolis, was in Halifax in February when a public meeting was held to give Haligonians an opportunity to express their views on the services they wanted from the new library. Another public

meeting was held in March at which Woodlawn area residents expressed their opinions on what might be provided when a new branch library, estimated to be three times the size of the existing very busy but sadly overcrowded branch, is replaced.

**Inter-Association Activities.** The Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) and the Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA) have announced a new discounted joint membership fee structure. As the larger association APLA is assuming a greater financial risk to facilitate this project, said APLA President, **Donna Bourne-Tyson** (Mount St. Vincent University Librarian). The plan is modelled on the current trial agreement NSLA has put in place with the Nova Scotia Association of Library Technicians (NSALT). Discussions for inter-association co-operation have been ongoing for the past few years. "The Partnership meetings gave us another opportunity to consider various ways to increase co-operation," said Bourne-Tyson. NSLA President **Lynn Somers** (Halifax Public Libraries) said she is pleased with what she sees as an attraction for new members in addition to its providing a break for current NSLA members.

**Memorial University of Newfoundland's** Queen Elizabeth II Library was the site of a student fundraiser in January 2008, as illustrated in the MUN *Gazette*. QEII campers **Samantha White**, left, and **Danielle**

**Barron** are all smiles as they peek outside a tent pitched in the lobby of the Queen Elizabeth II Library which they called home for 10 days earlier this month. Memorial was one of only four universities taking part in a national fundraiser for the organization Room to Read. The money will help build libraries in Nepal. The two also helped promote the group Students for Literacy@MUN. They lived in the library around the clock as part of the unique event and received donations from students, faculty and staff. As of January 28, they had collected about \$4,000 with donations still being collected. To contribute to their cause, call 709-737-3111.

**Nova Scotia Community College** (NSCC) has opened its Waterfront Campus in Woodside, Dartmouth. It is the first purpose built campus for NSCC and is a five storey building of 267,000 square feet. Built to a "green" design it is on a 25-acre site overlooking the Halifax harbour. The harbour views have been devoted to student activities and these include the Library. The Library and Information Management program is located alongside the library itself.

**Prince Edward Island** has re-established its **Legislative Library and Research Service** acting on the recommendation of the PEI Parliamentary Standing Committee on Legislative Management chaired by Speaker **Kathleen Casey**. The Library is located in the Whelan Room on the first floor of the Coles Building in Charlottetown. **Laura Morrell** is the Research Librarian and **Ryan Conway** is Research Officer.

The **University of New Brunswick Gerard V. La Forest Law Library** has named the library's main reading room The Colin B. Mackay Reading Room. The room has been renovated and now includes a stained glass portrait of Dr Mackay, who was UNB President from 1953 to 1969. Upon his death in 2003 he left his estate of \$6 million to UNB, including a bequest of approximately \$3 million for an endowment for the Law Library.



Photo credit: Chris Hammond, Memorial University of Newfoundland Gazette.



## People

**Trudy Amirault**, Director, Western Counties Regional Director, was the 2007 recipient of the Nova Scotia Library Association – Norman Horrocks Leadership Award.

**Dr. Fiona Black**, Director, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in recognition of “her distinguished contribution to librarianship research and education.” She is the fourth Canadian librarian to be elected an Honorary Fellow. Previous recipients, as Honorary Fellows of The Library Association, have been James Bain, in 1896, (when this Award was introduced), George H. Locke in 1931, and Norman Horrocks in 1998.

**Anne Crocker**, Head Law Librarian at the Gerard V. La Forest Law Library, from 1976 until 2006, was named Law Librarian Emerita at the University of New Brunswick’s Fall Convocation. This is only the second time in the university’s history that a retired librarian has been so honoured by being named to emerita status. (Dr. Gertrude Gunn, Head of UNB Libraries for 23 years, was similarly honoured in 1983 after she retired in 1982.) In 1997 Anne was named a Member of the Order of Canada for her work in educating and sensitizing Canadians to the human cost of family violence. She founded the first shelter in New Brunswick for battered women and their children.

**Marie DeYoung** has been appointed University Librarian at St. Mary’s University in Halifax, from July 1, 2008. Currently she is Director of Library Services and Online Learning for the Nova Scotia Community College.

**Cheryl Ennals**, Mount Allison University Archivist, retired in September 2007 after 25 years service. During her tenure she brought many important collections to the Archives including those of Amnesty International (Canadian Section).

**Norma Jean Gilchrist-Dobson**, died in 2007. Born in 1928 on the Alberta prairies she began her education in a one-room school taught by her father. After a nursing career in Calgary and Vancouver she moved to Riverview, NB in 1951 as a newlywed. Post her four daughters she completed her BA (Honours) at Mt. Allison, followed by her LIS Masters at Dalhousie and her Theology Masters at the Atlantic School of Theology (AST). She served on the Moncton Library Board and was later the Reference Librarian and for a year Acting Director at the AST Library.

**Norman Horrocks** was honoured by the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) at its Annual Conference in Philadelphia in January 2008 when it established the ALISE-Norman Horrocks Leadership Award. This Award is to recognize a person of less than seven years membership in ALISE who has demonstrated leadership qualities in professional activities in the Association.

**Sheila Laidlaw**, former University Librarian, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, and ELA member is President of the UNB Retired Employees Association. Sheila will be hosting the May 2008 meeting in Fredericton of the Atlantic Region of CURAC, the College and University Retiree Associations of Canada.

**Trina O’Brien Leggott** is now Chief Librarian, Confederation Centre Public Library, Charlottetown. She is former Head of the St. James Branch of the Winnipeg Public Library.

**Lynne LeGrow**, Cataloguer, Halifax Public Libraries, was the first recipient of the Emile Theriault Library and Information Technology Award. The Award, given by the Nova Scotia Library Association (NSLA), recognizes the efforts of a library support staff member who has made a major contribution to their library community. See Lynne’s webpage at [www3.ns.sympatico.ca/allegrow/cat](http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/allegrow/cat). The Award is named for **Emile Theriault**, an honorary member of NSLA, Now

retired, Emile was a longtime staff member at Dartmouth Regional Library; he attended the NSLA Conference at which this Award was presented.

**John Herbert Mercer**, died in 2008. Born in Fredericton, NB in 1932, he graduated from Campbellton High School and started work as a radio announcer. Later he graduated from Dalhousie with a BA and BEd and obtained his BLS and MLS from University of Toronto. He taught high school in Nova Scotia and worked in libraries in Halifax before working for 29 years at the Vaughan Library, Acadia University.

**Jean Sawyer**, former Assistant Legislative Librarian, Nova Scotia Legislative Library, has died, aged 60. She began at the Legislative Library in 1969 and worked there until 1977 which included taking her masters degree in Library Science at Western Ontario in 1971-72. From 1977 to 1982 she worked at Parks Canada in Cornwall, Ontario, Agriculture Canada in Kentville, N.S. and Sydney, N.S., followed by the Coast Guard College in Sydney, N.S., before returning to the Legislative Library in 1982. She retired in 2000.

**David Witherly**, Annapolis Valley Regional Librarian, N.S. has retired. He has been succeeded by Frances Newman, former Chief Librarian, Cumberland Regional Library, Amherst, N.S. Beth Clinton, former Assistant Librarian at Cumberland Regional Library is now the Chief Librarian there.

*My thanks for information supplied by Debbie Costelo, Nadia Goguen, Dan Moses and Pat Parsons on which some of the above was based. ■*

### When You Move

Please remember to send your new address to:  
Ex Libris Association  
Faculty of Information Studies  
University of Toronto  
140 St. George Street,  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G6



## News From Canadian Library/ Information Studies Schools

COMPILED BY  
DIANE HENDERSON

This is the second in our series focussing on our Schools. Each has been invited to provide a short account of recent and forthcoming highlights. Thanks to all our contributors.

### UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies

BY SYLVIA CROOKS

After more than four years in temporary accommodation on campus, SLAIS moved into its new quarters in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre in February of this year. The School is located on the top floor of the newly constructed south wing of the completely renovated Main Library building. Official opening of the Centre took place in April.

The School is in the process of hiring two new faculty members. **Dr. Ann Curry** left SLAIS in January to take up her new position as Director of SLIS at the University of Alberta. Dr. Curry, who had been on the SLAIS faculty since 1990, has won awards for teaching and for research, especially in the area of censorship and intellectual freedom. **Dr. Heather MacNeil**, who has taught in the Archival Studies program at SLAIS since 1999, will be leaving in July to take up a position at FIS in Toronto. She is currently Chair of the Archival Studies program.

### University of Alberta, School of Library and Information Studies

BY ANN CURRY

SLIS welcomed two new faculty in January – **Dr. Dinesh Rathi** and **Dr. Ann Curry**. Dr. Rathi is teaching in the areas of knowledge management, corporate information systems, and new technologies; Dr. Curry has assumed the director position and will continue

her research in the areas of intellectual freedom, library architecture, and collection management.

The School held its most successful Professional Development Day on February 8, 2008. Faculty, students, and practicing LIS professionals welcomed ALA president **Loriene Roy** as the keynote speaker. President Roy graciously spent three days at the School, giving lectures and meeting with faculty and students. For full details see our website: [www.slis.ualberta.ca](http://www.slis.ualberta.ca)

Planning for a new stand-alone doctoral program continues, with a hoped for implementation date in 2009. In addition, faculty members are tackling major revisions in the MLIS curriculum to include an increased emphasis on technology and medical informatics. These changes reflect the interests of newly hired faculty and the large research grants recently received.

### University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Information and Media Studies

BY KRISTEN ROMME

In January, Professor **Catherine Ross** was awarded the 2008 ALISE Award for Professional Contribution to Library and Information Science Education, and **Sharron Smith**, a part-time instructor in the MLIS program, received the W.J. Robertson Medallion (a.k.a. Librarian of the Year Award) from OLA.

**Frank Lambert** is our most recent PhD graduate. He defended his dissertation, *Rewriting the "Rules" of Online Networked Community Information Services: A Case Study of the mycommunityinfo.ca Model*, in February. Professor **Liwen Vaughan** was his supervisor. Professor **Samuel Trosow** is co-author of the recent faculty publication, *Canadian Copyright: A Citizen's Guide*.

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of library and information science education at Western. We celebrated this milestone with a reception in April of this year. It was wonderful to have so many supporters join us to celebrate

the past, present, and future of LIS at Western!

### University of Toronto, Faculty of Information Studies

BY KATHLEEN O'BRIEN

FIS has continued expanding itself as an information school, and since last summer has added eight new faculty members. Associate Professor **Kelly Lyons** arrived in January, and last fall, Assistant Professor **Aviv Shachak** joined to help develop the new Master of Health Informatics program. Rounding out the new arrivals in the fall were Lecturers **Michael McCaffrey** and **Cheryl Meszaros**, and Assistant Professor **Twyla Gibson**. This summer, we will welcome Professors **Heather MacNeil**, **Matt Ratto** and **Alan Galey**. In the meantime, the search for three new faculty members in addition to the new Dean is underway; it is expected that we will welcome the new Dean in July. At that time, Dean **Brian Cantwell Smith** will continue on the faculty as Professor of Information, Philosophy, and Computer Science. Museum Studies students busily prepared for their first-ever Virtual Exhibition, which launched on April 2, and FIS will host its Spring Reunion on May 29th. Alumni may RSVP to [alumni@fis.utoronto.ca](mailto:alumni@fis.utoronto.ca).

### University of Ottawa School of Information Studies

BY KENNETH-ROY BONIN

Currently preoccupied with the hiring of its initial professors and responding to enquiries from a significant number of potential students, the University of Ottawa's bilingual, graduate School of Information Studies expects to register its first applicants for September 2008. Initial projections anticipate no more than 50 students in each of the two years of the full-time program, and that 25% of that number will study part-time, either in the master's program, the post-master's Graduate Diploma program, or as special students interested in individual courses for continuing professional development. Specializations in management and policy will focus on new and emerging information technologies.

With the formal launch of the new program's website and publicity for the upcoming fall courses awaiting final curriculum approval, requests for additional information should be addressed to Director Kenneth-Roy Bonin, at [Kenneth-Roy.Bonin@UOttawa.ca](mailto:Kenneth-Roy.Bonin@UOttawa.ca) or (613) 562-5130.

### Université de Montréal, École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information

BY KARYN SAMOISSETTE

In January, the Accreditation Committee of the ALA renewed the School's accreditation for another seven years. Faculty replacement continues as an important issue this year. EBSI recruited an assistant professor, **Dominique Maurel**, in the field of records management; other positions are still open.

As a French school in our country, we consider it very important to have a good standing on the international map. We are beginning a new "co-Masters Degree" with Haute école de gestion de Genève. With this new program we will have 110 students for the MSI (master's in information science), including 15 students in the co-program who will take their first year in Montreal and the second in Geneva.

Continuous evaluation, and making bridges with the market are our priorities for the coming year. For more information see: [www.ebsi.umontreal.ca](http://www.ebsi.umontreal.ca)

### McGill University, School of Information Studies

BY PETER McNALLY

Two themes dominated the School of Information Studies during the past year: major research grants and personal/professional transitions. SSHRC grants were received by Professors **Andrew Large** and **Jamshid Beheshti** (\$151,348) for Children's Web Portals, and Professor **Eun Park** (\$100,800) for AIDS and Meta-analyses. Professor **Kim Dalkir** received \$123,000 from Centre francophone d'information des organizations to assess collective learning at Oxfam-Quebec. Professor **Catherine Guastavino** received \$604,363 from CFI to fund a Laboratory investigating the Biological Foundations of Music.

On September 17, Professor Jamshid Beheshti became Acting Dean of the Faculty of Education while a search is undertaken for a new Dean. On January 1, 2008 Professor **Diane Mittermeyer** retired after serving on the School's faculty since 1980. She served as the School's Acting Director during 1996-97, and was actively involved in ALA accreditation and a number of professional associations.

### Dalhousie University, School of Information Management

BY FIONA BLACK

The School of Information Management received academic approval on March 10 for Canada's first Master of Information Management (MIM) program. Designed for professionals with information management responsibilities and at least five years' work experience in the private or public sectors, this mid-career degree will be available principally by distance, beginning September 2008. The program may be completed in three years of part-time study.

SIM students have many passions and a passion for community is highly evident in a conference held March 15 on the theme of Libraries for Sustainable Communities lead by **Stephen Abram** and **Eric Stackhouse**. One panel focussed on libraries as public spaces, another on the high value of partnerships in fostering strong communities.

Beginning in fall 2008, the Faculty of Management is offering a combined MLIS/MREM, co-delivered by the Schools of Information Management and the School for Resource and Environmental Studies. The new combined degree offers a highly pertinent educational opportunity to complement Dal's existing combined degrees. ■

### Ex Libris Association Board 2008



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The Board at Work. Left to right: Arn Bailey, Tom Eadie, Nancy Williamson, Doreen London, Jan Jacobson, Jim Montgomery, Phyllis Platnick. Photo credit: F. Davidson-Arnott.



Artist: John Warrenner



## Book Reviews

### LIBRARIANSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY GUIDE

by Tomi Somek

Chandos Publishing, Oxford, 2007, 200 p. \$69.36 (paper), \$99.11 (hardcover)

REVIEWED BY SHIRLEY LEWIS

To say that most librarians and library activities are traditionally minded and on the mild side would not raise many eyebrows, so it is very refreshing to review this book. It looks at the activities of librarians and library organizations that are not only non-traditional but positively activist, with tinges of genuine radicalism and anarchism.

Author Tomi Somek has set out to show librarians what they could be, indeed should be, doing to make this a better world, in particular, a world where all are included – rich, poor, and all shades of political opinion. And a fine job she has done of it, too.

I normally consider myself a mover and a shaker, but find myself to be a positive piker compared to the activist programs that this book highlights.

The author lays the groundwork in the

initial chapters, outlining her view of the social responsibilities of librarians. Citing the 1989 IFLA Resolution on Freedom of Expression, Censorship and Libraries, she explains the broad implications of taking seriously the librarian's commitment to intellectual freedom and sharing information, with background information on librarians who exemplify this interpretation.

Since this is a guidebook to how librarians can work toward free and unfettered access to information, and the author assumes that the reader approves of her definition of a library activist, she defines and surveys basic activities that apply to librarianship and then gives examples of projects already in place. Most readers will be surprised, if not dumbfounded, by the breadth of the activities that Ms. Somek describes. Many of these come from mainstream library organizations and institutions but have had little media coverage, even in library media. For example, how many people know that Canadian librarian John Marshall was fired in 1954 for his political convictions and, 44 years later in 1998, his former employer, the Greater Victoria Public Library Board, publicly apologized and, as a sort of atonement, the British Columbia Library Association named its intellectual freedom award in his honour?

This is but one of the many fascinating activities that the author unearths – there are many more, arranged alphabetically by topic.

The book reports on projects initiated by non-traditional groups and social activist groups within established library networks that most librarians will not be familiar with but will be intrigued to learn about. Librarian blogs, AIDS information support, lobbying, on line online petitions, and a boat-mobile in Argentina are just random selections from the wealth of projects outlined. Whether these projects are of equal value is hard to assess because the projects are not outlined in detail. However, they certainly serve to show that there is much more going on than is generally known and that librarians out there are pushing the envelope and actively pursuing the ideals that we all profess to believe in – intellectual freedom and universal access to information.

### LIBRARY DAYLIGHT: TRACINGS OF MODERN LIBRARIANSHIP, 1874-1922

Edited by Rory Litwin, Introduction by Suzanne Stauffer, Library Juice Press, Duluth, Minnesota, 2006, 248 p.

REVIEWED BY  
ELIZABETH WARRENER

*Library Daylight* presents 36 articles by various authors on the history of free public libraries mainly in the United States. The articles provide an interesting look at the early evolution of public libraries. It is noteworthy, but perhaps not surprising, that the issues discussed in these essays and speeches are topics which concern us today. Copyright law, library outreach, the position of women in libraries, the status of the profession, the library as social centre in the community: all these subjects are touched upon. And, yes, a number of authors attempt to answer the following age-old question: Just what is it that librarians do with all their time? I remember a librarian friend years ago describing his job to someone who replied, "So, basically, it's a soft job!" It is edifying to read that in

## Back Issues of ELAN/Ex Libris News

Back issues from Number 1 to the present, are available at \$2.00 per single issue, \$15.00 for 10 issues, \$25.00 for 20 issues or \$50.00 for the complete set. Each price includes mailing costs. Special issues are excluded.

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ExLibris@fis.utoronto.ca

1876, John Fiske wrote in the *Atlantic Monthly*, "I am frequently asked what in the world a librarian can find to do with his time...." The fact that the public has little understanding of librarianship is a theme running through several essays.

There is an eclectic mix of subjects in the papers. Professionalism is dealt with in a couple of the articles. The importance of publicity and public relations is noted in an article by Joseph Wheeler in 1916. Librarianship as a profession for women is looked at in articles by Melvil Dewey in 1886, Miss Richardson in 1894 and M.F. in *Library World* in 1915. An item from the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1919 suggests that smoking rooms should be provided in libraries. Another *Examiner* article in 1920 mentions that library girls shelving books reported their ankles being grabbed by mysterious strangers who fled. The effect of the First World War on libraries is discussed in a 1915 article entitled "How Far Should the Library Aid the Peace Movement and Similar Propaganda?" and again in an article dated 1915 entitled "Women Assistants and the War."

Technology was an important concern of librarians of the early twentieth century. Use of the telegraph is mentioned as having the potential to revolutionize book retrieval at the British Museum. In 1912, a press release informs the reader that the Oakland Free Library installed a telephone service in its branches.

There is some discussion on the question of whether libraries should provide what the general public wants, novels, or scholarly items that exert "a beneficial influence on the mind." The idea of the library as a social centre appears in articles as early as 1906.

This book provides insight into the early years of free public libraries in America. Some items are funny. Some, particularly those on copyright, are involved and rather heavy going. Nineteenth-century speakers and writers were much more literate and well spoken than their twenty-first-century counterparts, it would seem. Some articles are thought provoking and rather brilliant. I would recommend *Library Daylight* to anyone

who is interested in catching a glimpse into the world of the public librarian of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### THE CITY OF WORDS

by Alberto Manguel  
Anansi, 2007, 166 p., index. \$18.95

### REVIEWED BY JEAN WEIHS

The 2007 CBC Massey Lectures by Alberto Manguel were presented on stage in five Canadian cities (Halifax, Victoria, Edmonton, Montreal, and Toronto) followed by their repeat on radio. This book provides an opportunity for those who missed these events to read the lectures; and some may prefer the written word.

Manguel considers the reasons why violent intolerance that gives rise to race riots and political murders has risen in our societies and notes that there might be something unsatisfactory about his talks "because my questions must remain, in the end, questions. Why do we seek definitions of identity in words, and what is, in such a quest, the storyteller's role? How does language itself determine, limit, and enlarge our imagination of the world? How do the stories we tell help us perceive ourselves and others? Can such stories lend a whole society an identity, whether true or false? And to conclude, is it possible for stories to change us and the world we live in?"

The book is divided into five chapters corresponding to the five nights that the lecture was broadcast on radio. Chapter 1, "The Voice of Cassandra," contemplates the role of storytellers as the Cassandras of their eras. Manguel discusses the work of Alfred Döblin, whom he considers "one of the greatest novelists of the 20th century" and that of some ancient Greek philosophers and storytellers. Chapter 2, "The Tablets of Gilgamesh," starting with the tale of Gilgamesh and Enkidu, Manguel explores stories about the nature of the double, insiders and outsiders, assimilation and exclusion, to modern day multiculturalism. Chapter 3, "The Bricks of Babel," concerns the power

of language and the impact of finding a common means of communication. Much of the chapter is devoted to two motion pictures of particular interest to Canadians: *Nanook of the North*, a silent film produced in 1921 and the 21st century film *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*. In Chapter 4, "The Books of Don Quixote," the power of the story is highlighted. "Stories, as Don Quixote knew, grant a society its identity, but they cannot be just any story: they must respond to a shared reality which society itself fashions out of its myriad events, rooted in time and place, yet fluid and everchanging. They can't be fictional inventions, in the sense of forgeries or misrepresentations; they need to be invented fictions, in the sense of discovering historical social truths that can be granted reality in narrative words. They must, in a deeply rooted literary sense, ring true." In the final chapter, "The Screen of Hal," (as in Hal 9000, the name of the computer in the motion picture 2001) Manguel is pessimistic about machineries that "invade every area of human activity and of human life" and concludes with the thought that "stories can tell us who we are ... and suggest ways of imaging a future that ... may offer us ways of remaining alive, together, on this much-abused earth." It is difficult in a review with limited space to accurately convey the scope of these lectures. The works of more than 65 authors are mentioned in the text – some at length and others in a passing reference. This is a book for those that enjoy erudite and thought-provoking works.



Artist: John Wattner

## Milestones

Compiled by Merlyn Beekmans



### Obituaries

**Paul Evered Baldwin** died on October 7, 2007. He held degrees from the University of Nebraska Lincoln and the University of California Berkeley. In 1971 he came to Vancouver where he held several library administrative roles. He took an MBA at Simon Fraser University. He retired as Associate Librarian at Simon Fraser University in 2001.

**Peter James Bassnett** died on February 23, 2008 in London, Ontario in his 75th year. He was CEO of Scarborough Public Libraries for 20 years. As a member of the Ontario Public Libraries Program Review, his recommendations formed a major part of the new Public Libraries Act in 1984.

**M. Glen Bell** died on February 15, 2008 in Waterford, Ontario at the age of 83. She was Head of the Waterford Public Library for over 20 years.

**Eileen M. Bradley** died on January 3, 2008 in Toronto at the age of 90. She held a BLS from the University of Toronto and enjoyed working there for 40 years, first in the Faculty of Dentistry and then in the Medical Sciences Library.

**Marion Elizabeth Brown Roberts** died on December 23, 2007 in Toronto at the age of 97. She was the former Head of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto.

**Daphne Marilyn (Roloff) Cross** died on February 6, 2008 in Ottawa. She was Executive Director of the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries at the Art Institute of Chicago, 1975-1985. She helped develop the art libraries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Clark Art Institute and the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

**Nancy Barbara (Chisholm) Fleming** died on February 24, 2008 at the age of 76. She was Chief Executive of the

Book and Periodical Council for over 20 years and laureate of the Canadian Library Association Award for the Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada.

**Lois Marjorie Harper** died on November 8, 2007 in Toronto at the age of 77. She received library degree from the University of British Columbia. She taught in Hamilton and Scarborough and then became Assistant to the Co-ordinator of Learning Resources for the Scarborough Board of Education.

**David Housby** died on February 17, 2008 in Toronto. He was a librarian with the Toronto Public Library.

**Margaret Isobel (Wilson) Jensen** died on December 25, 2007 in Winnipeg at the age of 82. She held a BLS from the University of Toronto. She was employed by the Winnipeg Public Library as a reference librarian and then as Librarian-in-Charge of the then Downtown Branch.

**Myrna Margaret McPherson** died on August 22, 2007 in Oakville, Ontario at the age of 78. She held an MLS and became a music librarian at McMaster University.

**Linda Anne Smith** died on August 26, 2007 in Grande Prairie, Alberta. at the age of 58. She had a library degree and a master's degree in children's literature from Simmons College in Boston. She was a children's librarian in Truro, NS and Saskatoon before going to Grande Prairie. Her storytelling abilities contributed to her success as well as her *Freyan Trilogy*.

**Ray Smith** died on July 11, 2007 in Owen Sound, Ontario at the age of 77. He worked for the Toronto Public Library, the Parry Sound Public Library and as the Parry Sound regional director. His interests included interlibrary loans between small library boards, bookmobiles, bilingual services and libraries for aboriginal people.

**H. Arthur Vespry**, a member of Ex Libris, died on January 24, 2008 in Hamilton, Ontario at the age of 76. He held a BLS from McGill University (1958) and an MLS from the University of Western Ontario (1978). He was a librarian in many different places including the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa, the University of British Columbia, McMaster University and the University of Toronto. Most of his career was spent at UN/IAEA library in Vienna. He also had stints as an information development officer in Singapore, Manila and Bangkok.

**Margaret Elizabeth (Betty) Wasserfall** died on December 21, 2007 in Markdale, Ont. at the age of 84. She held a BLS from the University of Toronto. She was employed as a Head librarian at Bayview Secondary School, York Board of Education.

**Vivian (Hawkins) Whalen** died on February 24, 2008 in Toronto at the age of 81. She held a BLS from the University of Toronto. Her working life was spent with the *Express* newspaper in London England.

### Retirements

**Josephine Bryant**, post-amalgamation chief librarian of the Toronto Public Library, has retired. She has been largely successful in implementing her plans, which were programs for children and youth, recent immigrants and disadvantaged residents; acquiring new technology; promoting reading; making library branches into neighbourhood cornerstones. TPL's budget has risen from \$2 million in 1999 to \$17 million this year. Website hits have increased 17 times since 1999, and 1.2 million people hold library cards.

**Larry Moore** retired in February after 32 years of involvement in the Ontario Library Association, including approximately 10 years as a volunteer



## Milestones, continued

and 23 years as Executive Director. He was involved in the hearings on the Public Libraries Act in 1985 and saw the launch of the Education Institute and Knowledge Ontario. He has also been a good partner to Ex Libris, particularly in *ELAN's* production.

*See Arn Bailey's tribute to Larry Moore elsewhere in this issue. – Ed.*

### Appointments

**Caroline Selinger** has been appointed Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Library Association. Caroline was the SLA's Program Director and was also the Canadian Library Month initiator for Saskatchewan for the past three years.

**Shelagh Paterson** has been appointed Executive Director of the Ontario Library Association. She was with the CNIB Library for the Blind for the last 10 years, first as the Digital Collections Librarian, then as Manager, Advocacy and Community Relations, and most recently in the position of Director, Advocacy, Sales and Marketing. Over the years, her role at the CNIB has fostered the production of audiobooks to support young people reading books in OLA's Silver Birch and Red Maple Award programs. Federally, she last year obtained a federal grant to support the creation of audiobooks by the publishing industry of the Governor General's Award winners.

In January **David Thornley** was appointed Knowledge Ontario's first full-time Executive Director. Having worked in both government and the voluntary sector, David brings a broad range of experience. David joins Knowledge Ontario after several years of directing strategic initiatives with the Community Health Centre (CHC) Program, Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, Ontario. He sponsored and led a number of complex information systems projects in support of the ministry's eHealth agenda. Most

recently, David was instrumental in developing the strategic alignment, planning and costing assumptions behind the largest ever expansion in Ontario's network of CHCs.

**Gerda Molson** had served as Interim Executive Director since the Spring of 2005.

**Lori Sims** has been appointed CEO of the Oakville (Ontario) Public Library. She holds an MLS from the University of Toronto and is working on a Diploma in Public Administration at the University of Western Ontario. She was previously CEO of Lincoln (Ontario) Public Library.

### Awards

**Toni Samek**, CLA convener of the Advisory Committee on Intellectual Freedom, is the winner of the first annual Library Journal Teaching Award (sponsored by ProQuest), in recognition of excellence in educating the next generation of librarians.

**Diane Villeneuve** of Calgary, Alberta

has been presented with the 2007 Canada Post Community Literacy Award for initiating the waiving of library card fees for low-income learners and establishing a literacy community on the library website.

### News

The **Ontario Provincial Government** has allocated \$120 million to improve school libraries over the next four years. The grant is to be spent on resources and personnel.

**OSLA's** library document has been delayed to allow for reshaping and rewriting.

School library research by **Queen's University** for OLA has been delayed, because the Durham Board of Education's Ethics Committee refused Queen's access to its students and teachers. It is hoped that another board of education will allow access to 20 schools in order for the research to continue. ■

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