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of Canada



La Société bibliographique
du Canada

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA – SOCIÉTÉ BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE DU CANADA

AGM 2013

University of Victoria, British Columbia

MINUTES

The AGM was held on Monday June 3, 2013 in Cornett A-129, University of Victoria.

Welcome from the President

Janet Friskney welcomed attendees to the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Bibliographical Society / la Société bibliographique du Canada. She asked if there were any questions in regards to the minutes of last year's meeting, and then made a motion to accept the minutes. Carole Gerson and Bernie M. L. Katz seconded the motion, all members present voted in favour, and the motion was carried.

1. Report of the President.

Janet thanked everyone on the council for the tremendous collaborative effort they gave during her time heading the BSC-SBC. She stated that most of her recent efforts have been linked to the LAC crisis, and that it has been a tumultuous year. The resignation of Daniel Caron at LAC has led us to a transitional moment. An update: At last year's AGM, the council indicated a plan to write an op-ed piece regarding the situation at LAC as well as a letter to MPs. An op-ed piece was written, but it was not accepted for publication by any major newspapers. In early August 2012, a letter was written outlining the Society's concerns and sent to MPs and Heritage Minister Moore. 30 MPs replied to the letter. In October 2012, the BSC received a letter from Minister Moore. At that point, the BSC-SBC penned a second letter to Minister Moore, which was copied to Dr. Caron and the Deputy Minister. This letter was also written in response to the cancellation of international library loan program at LAC and of the automatic submissions program. The BSC-SBC received a response to this second letter in January 2013 from Dr. Caron. A third letter was sent in February 2013. The BSC-SBC did not receive a response to this final letter before Dr. Caron's resignation. All of these letters were drafted in consultation with the Council. Janet acknowledged Myra Tawfick, in particular, for her legal insight. Once council members had agreed on the content of the letters, they were translated, posted to the BSC-SBC website, BIBSOCAN, the BSC-SBC Facebook page, and tweeted (thanks to DeNel Rehberg Sedo). Janet extended her profuse thanks to Sandra Alston, Nancy Earle, and DeNel Rehberg Sedo for helping with the diffusion of the letters.

The Bulletin, published twice a year in the Spring and Fall, is received with membership in the Bibliographical Society of Canada / La Société bibliographique du Canada. Please address all queries, correspondence and comments to:

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<http://www.bsc-sbc.ca/bulletineng.html> (English) <http://www.bsc-sbc.ca/bulletinfr.html> (French)

The latest action of the BSC-SBC related to LAC has been to endorse the Joint Statement document put together by 20 or so library and archives associations a couple of weeks prior to the AGM. Janet signaled that on the afternoon of the AGM (Monday June 3rd) a cross-disciplinary panel would be held by the BSC-SBC on the subject of the future of LAC, and she stated that she was looking forward to hearing a variety of perspectives on the matter.

In response to Janet's report, Peter McNally expressed great respect and thanks for work, effort and leadership of Janet and the Executive Committee. He expressed the intense satisfaction he and other members of the BSC-SBC took from the leadership role taken by Janet, and stated that under her leadership, the BSC-SBC served as an example for other associations.

Janet finished her report by announcing that she was pleased to report that the nominations for Tremaine Fellowship went to Dr. Benjamin Lefebvre. The Tremaine Medal and Watters-Morley prize were awarded to Dr. Carole Gerson.

2. Report of the Treasurer.

Janet Friskney presented the report on behalf of treasurer Tom Vincent, who was unable to attend. She gave members a moment to look over the Treasurer's Summaries of Financial Reports for 2012. Tom and Janet would like to thank the membership in general for their ongoing support and donations on top of regular dues. These donations have been tremendously helpful in recent years due to wider problems with the economy. Tom acknowledged McGill University's support of the Papers-Cahiers, which assisted with operating funds, and helped to support a student assistantship under the supervision of the Papers' editor Eli MacLaren.

The General Operating Account had an uncommitted roll-over of a sufficient size to perhaps allow for the transfer of some funds into investment accounts. The Amtmann Account is producing sufficient interest in order to continue to support the fellowship. The Tremaine Account holds a healthy balance, but the Tremaine Investment Account would benefit from some padding. Linda Quirk provided feedback on the significant amount needed.

The Emerging Scholar Prize: the society has created a five year start up fund for the prize. The society is also working towards a 25,000 investment fund for the prize. The BSC-SBC has received an additional 1400 to 3000 dollars.

In sum, the Society's financial position is stable. Member donations are still a critical part of our ability to function. Any significant actions in the future would require large funds.

Janet made a motion that the Treasurers Report be accepted. Seconded by Bernard M. L. Katz, the motion is carried.

Second motion, seconded by Peter McNally, that the accountant hired by the BSC be re-appointed to produce annual report. Motion is carried.

3. Report of the Secretary.

Linda Quirk presented the report on behalf of Greta Golick. Report on mailings and membership: 266 members, 76 institutions, 190 individual members. Currently 19 members have not paid their dues for 2013. Mailings of the Papers: Bookmarks for the Devil's Artisan are included in the BSC-SBC mailings as a form of cross-advertising. The new issue is about to come out and the Fall 2012 issue is in the mail. Greta has also changed the postal address. The report mentions a slight change in membership fees, which is reflected on the renewal forms sent out recently to members.

4. Report of the Chair of the Publications Committee

Alison Rukavina presented the report of the Chair for the Publications Committee on behalf of Geoffrey Little, who thanked the outgoing president and the members of the Publications Committee. The editor of

the PBSC-CSBC, Eli MacLaren, has worked hard and the journal is now caught up to schedule. Geoffrey and Alison encouraged members to submit articles and book reviews. If members are a part of digital or online projects, they should take note that the Papers are now including digital reviews, starting with the Spring 2013 issue.

5. Report of the Nominating Committee.

The new slate of Society officers for 2013-2014 was proposed by a motion by Janet Friskney, seconded by Peter McNally, and carried.

6. Other Business

Bernard M. L. Katz has a question about the state of the stock of the Tremaine Medal. Linda replied that 10 medals remain. Bernie noted that the artist who created the medals has passed away, and wondered if any thought had been given to what happens in the future. Janet proposed that this matter be discussed during the Fall 2013 council under Linda Quirk's presidency.

Linda Quirk expressed that most of the council could not attend Congress 2013 due to travel budgets and family responsibilities, and extended the thanks of the council to Janet for her outstanding work over the past two years, which were particularly challenging. Linda highlighted Janet's positivity and generosity, and her leadership role in regards to the LAC crisis. She presented a book of thanks to Janet Friskney from the BSC council members.

Janet Friskney thanked Linda and the council members, and moved on to discuss the date and place of the next AGM, which will take place at the Congress at Brock University, with the tentative dates of May 24th and May 25th. She noted that since SHARP will be returning to Canada in 2015 (Montréal-Sherbrooke, July 7th-10th 2015), the BSC-SBC will be holding their meeting the day before the commencement of SHARP.

Leslie Howsam expressed gratitude to the BSC-SBC for their continued collaboration with SHARP.

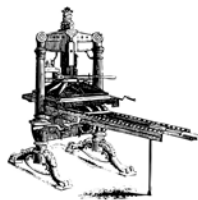
Janet motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Val Lem and passed.

Addendum:

Bernard M. L. Katz agreed to contact the family of the artist – Dora de Pédery-Hunt, a distinguished Canadian artist and recipient of the Order of Canada – who designed the Tremaine Medal in order to see if it is possible to obtain the molds for the medal.

Carole Gerson suggested that it would be useful to add a page to the BSC-SBC website for memories, for example in honour of Marie Tremaine, described by Peter McNally as “the patron saint of this society.”

Minutes recorded by Ruth-Ellen St. Onge



Council Members

President [Linda Quirk](#)

Past President [Janet Friskney](#)

1st Vice President [Nancy Earle](#)

2nd Vice President [Ruth Panofsky](#)

Treasurer [Tom Vincent](#)

Secretary [Greta Golick](#)

Associate Secretary Roger Meloche

Council:

2011-2014

Gail Edwards
Isabelle Robitaille
Jillian Tomm

2012-2015

Fiona Black
Penney Clark
Nicholas Giguère

2013-2016

Carole Gerson
DeNel Rehberg Sedo
Chris Young

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Fellowships Committee

[Isabelle Robitaille](#) (Chair)

Penney Clark

Nicholas Giguère



Society News

Plans are well underway for the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Bibliographical Society of Canada taking place on May 26-27, 2014, at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. The theme this year is “Current Directions in Book History: Borders without Boundaries.” (Please see the Call for Papers below.) We’re pleased to be offering joint sessions with four other societies at Congress: We will have joint panels with The Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE), The Canadian Historical Association (CHA), and the newly formed Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians (CAPAL), which is meeting for the first time in 2014. Once again, the BSC and The Canadian Association for the Study of Book Culture (CASBC) will have worked together to offer a joint keynote session. As a significant area of interest this year will be the intersections of traditional bibliography and digital publishing, we are thrilled that Dr. Alan Galey of the University of Toronto has agreed to give this year’s joint keynote address.

Please note that the deadline for submitting paper proposals is January 13, 2014.

Looking forward to seeing you in St. Catharines!

Nancy Earle
Program Chair

Call for Papers

Current Directions in Book History: Borders without Boundaries

2014 Annual Meeting of the Bibliographical Society of Canada

May 26-27, 2014

Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

Brock University

The organizers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada/La Société bibliographique du Canada invite proposals on the theme of “Current Directions in Book History: Borders without Boundaries” for the 2014 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. In particular, proposals are invited on the following topics:

- National borders and print: Studies of copyright, censorship, cultural policy, etc.;
- Digital publishing: Investigations into its triumphs and challenges for authors, publishers, booksellers, readers, librarians, scholars, etc.;
- Preservation and access: Examinations of the roles of librarians and archivists as stewards and information specialists;
- Studies in multilingual publishing and/or translation;
- Studies in the creation, production, and/or reception of print materials for multiple contexts and readerships;
- Re-imagining the material book: Studies of artists’ books, multimedia books, etc.;
- The margin as the physical border of a text and the literal or imagined space of the reader: Studies in marginalia and reading histories;

- Book history across genres: Examinations of the challenges for book historians, editors, and textual scholars posed by specific literary or non-literary genres;
- Book history and community engagement; and
- Book history as a trans-disciplinary field.

Proposals for papers outside of this theme – but which address any aspect of bibliography, book history, or print culture – are also welcome.

A one-page proposal, a brief biography of the author (one that includes full name, professional designation [professor, graduate student, etc.], and institutional affiliation or place), and A/V requirements should be submitted to proposals@bsc-sbc.ca. Those invited to present papers must register for the BSC/SbC conference.

Deadline for proposals: Monday, January 13, 2014

Please note: The Bibliographical Society of Canada will also participate in several joint sessions at the 2014 Congress. Special calls, with earlier deadlines, are issued separately for these joint sessions.

Appel à communications

L'orientation actuelle de l'histoire du livre: sans limite et sans frontière

Assemblée générale annuelle 2014 de la Société bibliographique du Canada

Les 26 et 27 mai 2014

Congrès des sciences humaines

La Société bibliographique du Canada

Brock University

Les organisateurs de la Société bibliographique du Canada/Bibliographical Society of Canada lancent un appel de présentations dont le thème sera : « L'orientation actuelle de l'histoire du livre : sans limite et sans frontière » dans le cadre du Congrès des sciences humaines de 2014 qui se tiendra à la Brock University à St. Catharines, Ontario. Les participants intéressés sont invités à traiter les sujets suivants, entres autres : Les frontières nationales et l'imprimé : études sur le droit d'auteur, la censure, les politiques culturelles, etc.; L'édition électronique : recherches portant sur les succès et les défis pour les auteurs, éditeurs, libraires, lecteurs, bibliothécaires, érudits, etc.;

- Conservation et accès : examen du rôle des bibliothécaires et des archivistes comme représentants et spécialistes de l'information;
- Études sur l'édition et (ou) traduction multilingue;
- Études sur la création, la production et (ou) réception du matériel imprimé dans des contextes multiples de lectorat;
- Nouvelle conception du livre en tant qu'objet : examen de livres multimédia et d'artistes, etc.;
- La marge en tant que frontière physique d'un texte et l'espace littéral et imaginaire du lecteur : études de notes marginales et des lectures d'histoires;
- L'histoire du livre à travers les genres : examen des défis posés par des genres littéraires spécifiques ou non pour les historiens du livre, les éditeurs et les érudits;

- L'histoire du livre et engagement communautaire; et
- L'histoire du livre et domaines connexes.

Des présentations ne portant pas sur le thème retenu mais qui traitent divers aspects de la bibliographie, de l'histoire du livre ou de l'imprimé sont aussi les bienvenues.

Un projet de communication ne dépassant pas une page et accompagné d'une brève biographie de l'auteur (nom complet, profession [professeur, étudiant diplômé, etc.], affiliation professionnelle), et les besoins audio-visuels devront être envoyés à : proposals@bsc-sbc.ca. Ceux qui seront invités à présenter des communications devront obligatoirement s'inscrire au congrès de la SbC/BSC.

Date limite : le lundi 13 janvier 2014

Veillez noter que la Société bibliographique du Canada participera à plusieurs sessions conjointes au congrès de 2014, Des appels de communications ont été lancées séparément à des dates antérieures.

New members

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the BSC:

Andrew Irvine
Melissa McAfee

Leah Knight is also being given a membership as a token for her help in planning Congress at Brock University in 2014.

Tremaine Medal 2014: Call for nominations

The Awards Committee invites nominations for the Marie Tremaine Medal, offered by the Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC) for outstanding service to Canadian bibliography and for distinguished publication in either English or French in that field. The Tremaine Medal is accompanied by the Watters-Morley Prize, a \$500 scholarly award.

Eligibility: Members of the Awards Committee or the Council of the Society are not eligible for the award while they are in office. Otherwise the award is open to all, without restriction. Nominations may not be put forward by the president or by members of the Awards Committee, but otherwise there are no restrictions in this regard.

Deadline: February 28th, 2014.

Nomination package: The complete nomination package must be sent electronically, and should include:

- A letter of nomination (1-3 pages single spaced), summarizing the nominee's contributions to Canadian bibliography.
- The nominee's CV, including a list of main relevant publications, projects and work supervised.
- Three letters of support from experts in the field, addressing the significance of the candidate's contributions.
- A citation of approximately 750 words about the nominee, to be used as a basis, if the nominee is selected, for the award presentation and for a text to be published, along with the recipient's response, in the Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada / Cahiers de la Société bibliographique du Canada.

Please send nomination packages and any questions to the Awards Committee at: awards_prix@bsc-sbc.ca

Additional information about the BSC can be found at: <http://www.bsc-sbc.ca/>

Médaille Tremaine 2014 : Appel de mises en candidature

Le Comité des prix sollicite des candidatures pour la Médaille Marie-Tremaine, offerte par la Société bibliographique du Canada (SbC) pour services exceptionnels rendus à la cause de la bibliographie canadienne et pour des publications de haute qualité en français ou en anglais dans ce domaine. Le récipiendaire de la Médaille Tremaine se voit automatiquement accorder le prix Watters-Morley accompagné d'un chèque de 500\$.

Admissibilité: Les membres en fonction du Comité des prix et du Conseil de la Société ne sont pas éligibles. Hormis cette restriction, le prix est ouvert à tous. Les candidatures ne peuvent pas être soumises par le président ou par les membres du Comité des prix, mais il n'y a pas d'autres restrictions à cet égard.

Date limite de soumission : le 28 février 2014.

Dossier de candidature : Les dossiers seront acceptés uniquement en format électronique et doivent inclure :

- Une lettre de nomination (1 à 3 pages à simple interligne), résumant les contributions du candidat à la bibliographie canadienne.
- Le CV du candidat, incluant une liste des publications principales, ainsi que des projets et travaux supervisés pertinents aux critères du Prix.
- Trois lettres de soutien écrites par des experts dans le domaine, mettant en lumière l'importance des contributions du candidat.
- Un témoignage d'environ 750 mots sur le candidat afin qu'il puisse être utilisé comme élément d'information, dans l'éventualité de la sélection du candidat, à la remise du prix ainsi qu'au texte qui sera publié, avec la réponse du récipiendaire, dans les Cahiers de la Société bibliographique du Canada / Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada.

Veillez faire parvenir les dossiers, ainsi que toute question, au Comité des prix à: awards_prix@bsc-sbc.ca.

D'autres informations sur la Société sont disponibles sur le site: <http://www.bsc-sbc.ca>.

Amtmann Fellowship

The Fellowships Committee announced in October that it has awarded the Amtmann Fellowship to Dr. Scott J. Gwara, a professor of English and Comparative Literature of the University of South Carolina for his project "Medieval Books in the Dominion of Canada, ca.1840-1907." According to the committee, many aspects made him its first choice amongst the six candidates, including the original aspect of the project and the rarity of this type of outcome in Canada (website on medieval books). As well, being a project on book collecting, it was an area of interest particularly important to Mr. Amtmann.

The summary of Dr. Gwara's project:

The first pre-1600 manuscripts in Canada now reside in Halifax, Montreal, and Toronto, and at a handful of American institutions. King's College in Windsor (now University of King's College, Halifax) had at least nine manuscripts by 1891, the accrued gifts of prominent bibliophiles, academic associates, and institutional leaders. In 1901 Rev. Henry Scadding bequeathed five medieval manuscripts to the University of Toronto,

including a late eleventh-century Greek Gospel book, the Codex Torontonensis. Dispersed in 1890, 21 medieval books belonging to the Montreal businessman Gerald Ephraim Hart included lavish illuminated volumes, five of them currently traceable. One book in Canada by 1840 now resides at McGill. Entirely accidental was the 1893 donation of two illuminated medieval books there. This notional “collection” comprises a group of 22 identifiable manuscripts, including a medieval bible, prayer miscellany, historical compilation, Romanesque bible commentary, rare legal scroll in Anglo-Norman, illuminated Passion Sequence, and Middle English historical romance. In partnership with the University of King’s College, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library (U of T), and McGill University, I propose an international collaboration: a systematic recovery, intensive study, and internet digital archive of these neglected books, which reveal the historical, social, and pedagogical motivations for a new, esoteric connoisseurship in the Dominion of Canada.

The Bernard Amtmann Fellowship is offered in memory of Bernard Amtmann (1907-1979), the noted bookseller and specialist in Canadiana. The Fellowship was offered for the first time in 1992 and will be offered every three years thereafter to support the work of a scholar in one of Mr. Amtmann’s principal areas of interest: Canadiana, book collecting, bookselling, and bibliography. Special consideration will be given to applicants working on some aspect of the book trade. The Fellowship, which is in the amount of \$1,500.00, is open to non-Canadians and to those who are not members of the Bibliographical Society of Canada.

Emerging Scholars Prize

The Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC) invites applications for the Emerging Scholar Prize. The Prize promotes the work of a researcher who is beginning his or her career in the fields of book history and bibliography broadly defined, including the study of the creation, production, publication, distribution, transmission, history, and uses of printed books, manuscripts, or electronic texts.

The recipient of the BSC Emerging Scholar Prize will be invited to deliver a paper at the Society’s annual spring conference. A revised, article-length version of the paper will be published in the Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada / Cahiers de la Société bibliographique du Canada, subject to peer review. A grant of \$500 accompanies the Prize and may be used to help the recipient attend the annual conference or to meet costs associated with research. The recipient will also receive a one year complimentary membership in the BSC.

Eligibility: Students of any nationality enrolled in a master’s or doctoral program are eligible (e.g., MA, PhD, MLIS), as is anyone who has completed such a program within the last four years from date of convocation (e.g., teaching faculty, librarians, postdoctoral fellows, independent scholars, members of the book trade). There are no restrictions regarding the topic of research so long as it relates to some aspect of bibliography or book history.

Application: Applicants must submit the following documents electronically in English or in French:

A one-page cover letter that explains the applicant’s interest in and suitability for the prize; A brief CV (max. three pages); An abstract (max. 750 words, incl. bibliography) of the proposed paper; Proof of student status or of graduation within the past four years (copy of diploma, copy of student identification, or official or unofficial transcript); One confidential letter of reference, e-mailed directly by the referee. The letter may be given as text or sent as an attachment, but it must include the referee’s contact information and any institutional affiliation.

All application materials, including letters of reference, should be sent to Geoffrey Little, Chair, BSC

Publications Committee, publications@bsc-sbc.ca, no later than 15 November 2013. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Paper submissions will not be accepted. The recipient will be announced in January 2014.

For more information, please contact Geoffrey Little, publications@bsc-sbc.ca.

Le Prix nouveau chercheur

La Société bibliographique du Canada (SbC) sollicite des candidatures pour le Prix nouveau chercheur, qui vise à reconnaître le travail d'un chercheur au début de sa carrière. Les domaines privilégiés sont l'histoire du livre et de l'imprimé et la bibliographie, incluant les études sur la création, la production, la publication, la distribution, la transmission, l'histoire et les usages des imprimés, des manuscrits ou des documents électroniques.

Le lauréat du Prix nouveau chercheur sera invité à prononcer une communication au colloque du printemps de la SbC. Une version révisée et remaniée de la communication, soumise à une évaluation par les pairs, pourra ensuite être publiée dans les Cahiers de la Société bibliographique du Canada / Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada. Le prix est également accompagné d'une bourse de 500 \$ afin de couvrir les frais associés à la participation au colloque ou à la recherche elle-même. Enfin, le lauréat bénéficiera d'une adhésion gratuite d'une année à la SbC.

Sont éligibles les étudiants de toutes nationalités inscrits à la maîtrise ou au doctorat de même que toute personne ayant complété un programme de 2e ou de 3e cycle au cours des quatre dernières années (professeurs, bibliothécaires, chercheurs postdoctoraux ou indépendants, agents du milieu du livre, etc.). Tous les sujets de recherche sont admissibles, pourvu qu'ils soient liés, d'une façon ou d'une autre, à un aspect de l'histoire du livre et de l'imprimé et/ou des études bibliographiques.

Afin de postuler, les candidats doivent soumettre par voie électronique seulement les documents suivants, en français ou en anglais :

Une lettre de motivation d'une page qui met en évidence l'intérêt du candidat et son admissibilité au prix; Un bref curriculum vitae (maximum trois pages); Un résumé (maximum 750 mots, incluant la bibliographie) de la communication proposée; Une preuve confirmant le statut d'étudiant ou encore l'obtention d'un diplôme de 2e ou 3e cycle au cours des quatre dernières années (copie du diplôme, copie de la carte étudiante ou relevé de notes officiel ou non); Une lettre de recommandation confidentielle envoyée directement par courriel par la personne qui rédige la lettre. Peu importe qu'elle soit présentée dans le cœur même du courriel ou encore en pièce jointe, la lettre doit inclure les coordonnées de son auteur ainsi que son affiliation universitaire.

Tous les documents, incluant la lettre de recommandation, doivent être envoyés à Geoffrey Little (publications@bsc-sbc.ca), président du Comité des publications de la SbC, au plus tard le 15 novembre 2013. Les dossiers incomplets comme les envois en format papier ne seront pas considérés. L'identité du lauréat sera dévoilée en janvier 2014. Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter Geoffrey Little à l'adresse suivante : publications@bsc-sbc.ca.

Members' News

SSHRC has announced the Insight Grant results from last year, so we can offer **Carole Gerson** some official congratulations on receiving a grant for her project, "Reinventing the past: intertextual recognition and public commemoration of early Canadian writers."

Congratulations to **Ruth-Ellen St. Onge**. The French Review Editor of the Papers/Cahiers successfully defended her PhD thesis at the University of Toronto.



Ann Marie Holland has been very busy with a project that opened at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa on November 8. Titled “Artists, Architects & Artisans: Canadian Art 1890-1918,” this major national exhibition looks at the interaction among artists, architects and artisans, as well as critics and collectors at the turn of the 20th century. The exhibition runs until February 2, 2014. To read about Ann Marie’s work, please visit the blogpost: <http://blogs.library.mcgill.ca/rbsc/2013/11/01/opening-november-8th-at-the-national-gallery-of-canada/>.

Scott Schofield delivered the Toronto Renaissance and Reformation Colloquium Lecture in November. Titled “Copy Specific: The Idiosyncrasies of Early Modern Books,” he delivered to a full audience at the University of Toronto’s Victoria College. The TRRC was founded in 1964 by Natalie Zemon Davis and James K. McConica.

Other News

Toronto Centre for the Book Lecture Series – Report on Adrian Johns talk

On October 3rd Adrian Johns delivered the Toronto Centre for the Book’s J. R. de J. Jackson Lecture, “The Cultural Origins of the Printing Revolution,” to a standing-room only audience at the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Information. Johns, well known for challenging the orthodoxies of the history of the book, delivered a wide-ranging, discursive talk whose general subject would be familiar to his readers. Preferring to consider the “impact *on* print” rather than the “impact *of* print,” Johns led into his lecture by decentralizing the place of technology in the print revolution, preferring to instead focus on the people, or “cultural constituents,” of early modern Europe as the true agents of change. It was the culture that the printing press was born into, its customs, pre-existing relationships and patterns of behavior that wrought “revolution” on print, he argued, not print on early modern culture.

Citing Pamela H. Smith’s notion of “artisanal epistemology,” Johns provided many examples relevant to his thesis, including the ways in which the forging, molding and casting practices of early modern goldsmiths were adopted by printers. The techniques of using sand to cast multiple versions of type, for instance, was something Gutenberg borrowed from goldsmithing. “The first generation of what we think of as printed books are amalgams of print, hand, and art,” said Johns. In this respect, “Gutenberg is exemplary rather than unique.”

Johns tackled the chronology, established by Febvre and Martin, which shows an evenly paced growth of printing houses spreading out of Mainz and into Germany. Pointing out that the earliest market for printed books was unreliable and that printing houses very frequently failed as a consequence, Johns revealed a stuttering map of advance and retreat rather than a smooth forward spread of technology. As an item of commerce, books were subject to pre-existing supply chains and tended to thrive, as would be expected, where business for other items of export and import were already in place, and to fail or struggle where they were not. The main point of these observations was to demonstrate that the spread of print was responsive to the movements and behavior of people, not text.

A vivid picture of life inside early printing houses was painted, including the wide variety of nationalities typically represented by the apprentices and journeymen; the existence of in-house court systems for settling

smaller disagreements; and the common – though “surprising absent in historical studies” – custom of the *Depositio Cornuti Typographici*, or play of advancement that marked the occasion of an apprentice rising into the position of journeyman. The larger context in which these businesses operated was touched on as well. Johns pointed out that early recognition by the state that print had the power to effect social change helped spawn several forms of early regulation, including guilds, registers, licenses and privileges. These mechanisms were either directly governed by the state or by the tradesmen themselves.

As his talk drew to a close, Johns turned to the ways in which traditions of reading interacted with the emergence of print. He raised Copernicus’s 1543 *De revolutionibus* and the practice, revealed through the work of Owen Gingerich, of sharing scholarship through annotation and circulation of these early printed volumes. Consideration for the needs of the reader was even legislated into law in 16th century Venice, where it became illegal, for a time, to produce books without adequate room for annotating.

Not surprisingly, following a talk that was tightly focused on the granularity of the historical moment, the audience’s questions were driven by the details:

1. What, specifically, was the nature of early opposition to print? “It was more akin to disappointment: [print] could have led to a utopia and not a world of grubby commerce.”
2. What event prompted the annotation law in Venice? “A particular scandal that [created the impression that] production of bad books was a slur on the city.”
3. Was the dip in production post Gutenberg comparable to the dot-com bust of the nineties? “Yes. The audience for books already had a copy of Cicero and didn’t necessarily need another one.”

With that, Johns received his final round of applause, left the microphone and retreated into more private conversations at the post-lecture reception.

- Report submitted by Jason Brown

JSTOR unveils subscriptions for individuals

JSTOR, a not-for-profit digital database of academic journals and articles, has launched a subscription option for individuals (JSTOR’s contents were previously limited to those with access to an institutional subscription). JPASS is a monthly or annual subscription that allows users to read an unlimited number of online articles from about 1,500 journals, and the ability to download 10 articles a month or 120 annually. JPASS fees range from \$19.50 for a monthly subscription to \$199 for a year’s subscription, and discounts are available to members of scholarly societies whose journals are included in the JPASS collection.

News from Special Collections

McGill University

Voltaire: A Sampling from the J. Patrick Lee Collection - 27 Oct 2013-31 Jan 2014

McLennan Library Building: Rare Books and Special Collections, 4th Floor



McGill Library's Rare Books and Special Collections launched an exhibit titled "Voltaire: A Sampling from the J. Patrick Lee Collection" at McGill's Open House on Sunday, Oct. 27, to celebrate the acquisition belonging to the late eminent Voltaire scholar, J. Patrick Lee. This collection of books and manuscripts by and about the famed French writer, philosopher and historian includes 1,994 items representing 3,189 volumes. On view will be editions of Voltaire's well-known story *Candide*, modern illustrated editions, a selection of Voltaire's other works in early editions, editions of works by some contemporaries and a number of manuscripts, including two letters by Voltaire.

This library of 2000 titles is centred around the works of Voltaire. It includes more than 800 editions of his publications, over 250 of them illustrated. The largest groups are from Paris, London and New York. Imprints from smaller American centres, as well as books with notable American provenance, are of special interest for book history on this side of the Atlantic.

A strong complement of contextual material, mostly from the 18th century, rounds out the printed collection. There are, in addition, almost three dozen manuscript items, including several letters from Voltaire. The great wealth of this collection is heightened by its new location at McGill Library, where existing holdings connect with central areas of Voltaire's interests – literature, philosophy, religion, politics and science – and also reflect the dominant intellectual themes of the century.

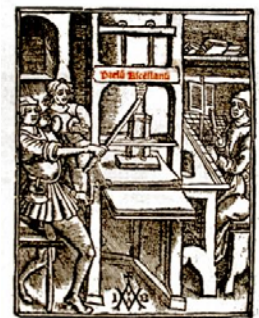
Free admission. Open Monday - Friday, 10am - 6pm.

Exhibit | Exposition: An Intellectual Heritage: Rediscovering McGill's Early Printed Works | Un héritage intellectuel : à la découverte des imprimés anciens de McGill - 19 Aug 2013-31 Jan 2014
McLennan Library Building Lobby | Foyer du pavillon McLennan de la Bibliothèque

Curators: Ann-Marie Hansen & Kristin Neel, Inventaires des imprimés anciens au Québec, McGill University. With the collaboration of Ann Marie Holland & Dr. Richard Virr, Rare Books & Special Collections, McGill Library & Professor Frédéric Charbonneau, Département de langue littérature françaises, McGill University

This exhibition represents a sample of the printed works that have been analyzed, catalogued and made available for public consultation by the Inventaire des imprimés anciens au Québec (IMAQ) group at McGill University, since 2010.

The aim of the IMAQ project at McGill has been to emphasize the value of that portion of the rare book collections whose retro conversion from the card catalogue into digital records has become necessary so as to make those items available to a greater number of researchers. It underscores the significance of these volumes and hopes to encourage their use. Detailed bibliographic records



have been created for each title and are now available through McGill Library's electronic catalogue.

The European imprints thus studied date from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, and exemplify part of the cultural and intellectual heritage preserved for posterity by the McGill University Library. These publications are concrete evidence of the transfer of knowledge through the centuries, acting as a medium by which the communication of ideas was ensured. Selected from among those catalogued, the volumes shown here come from such diverse collections as those of 16th-century French imprints, neo-Latin humanist writings, liturgical texts and still others. The titles chosen for display have been grouped into three disciplinary categories representing some of the particular strengths of the collection: Ancient and Modern History, the Natural Sciences, and Literature.

Cette exposition présente un échantillon des ouvrages analysés, catalogués et mis à la disposition du public par le projet d'Inventaire des imprimés anciens au Québec (IMAQ) depuis 2010.

À McGill, ce projet vise mettre en valeur la partie des collections de livres rares dont la rétroconversion depuis le catalogue sur fiches (numérisation des notices) était devenue nécessaire afin de les rendre accessibles à un plus grand nombre de chercheurs. Afin de souligner la valeur de ces ouvrages et d'encourager leur exploitation, un examen bibliographique détaillé a été effectué pour chacun d'entre eux, dont les résultats figurent dorénavant dans le catalogue numérique des bibliothèques de McGill. Les imprimés européens ainsi décrits datent des XVI^e, XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles et représentent par leur inclusion dans les fonds des bibliothèques de McGill une partie de l'héritage culturel légué à la postérité par cette institution.

Signes concrets de la transmission des savoirs, les ouvrages ici présentés ont été choisis parmi la totalité des volumes étudiés, relevant de collections variées : impressions françaises du XVI^e siècle, écrits humanistes néo-latins, textes liturgiques etc. Les titres retenus pour l'exposition ont été regroupés selon trois axes disciplinaires donnant à voir quelques forces particulières des collections : l'histoire ancienne et moderne, les sciences naturelles et les belles-lettres.

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto U of T Libraries Acquire General James Wolfe's Historic Letters

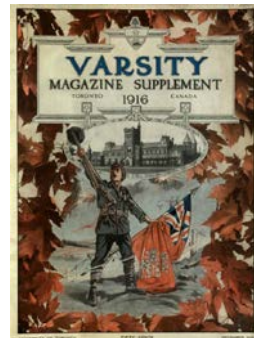
The University of Toronto Libraries system has acquired an archive of national importance to Canada's heritage with the acquisition of General James Wolfe's (1727-1759) personal correspondence. The acquisition, through Christie's, was made possible by the generous philanthropic support of Helmhorst Investments Limited and the assistance of a Movable Cultural Property grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage under the terms of the Cultural Property Export and Import Act.



Wolfe's letters home to his family are the main documentary source for his life. They have been in private hands since the death of his mother in 1764 and will now be available for study, giving a true picture of the private man as well as the soldier. The 229 autographed letters include the first, written to his mother at the age of thirteen as he was preparing to depart for war, and the last, written within sight of Quebec just two weeks before his death. They add very significantly both to the detail and the overall picture of the published records of Wolfe's career.

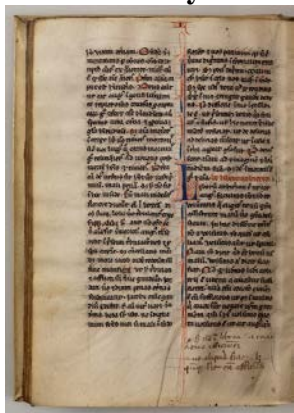
Former BSC president Anne Dondertman was interviewed on Quebec AM, a CBC Radio 1 program, on November 25 regarding the Library's acquisition of the historic letters. The podcast is available for listening at <http://www.cbc.ca/quebecam/2013/11/25/wolfe/>. More info about the collection and its significance can be found on the Fisher's YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FisherLibrary>.

The Fisher Library will be celebrating the centenary of the First World War with two separate exhibitions in 2014. The first, which opens at the end of January, is entitled "We Will Do Our Share: The University of Toronto and the Great War." This exhibition draws on the extensive and diverse holdings relating to the War effort in the University of Toronto Archives, the wider University library system, and elsewhere on campus. It focuses on how the University prepared for and carried out its duties during the war and on the impact of the war on the University's faculty, staff, students, its physical plant, its academic and research programmes, and on student and other organizations. The material on display will include correspondence, diaries, official documents, photographs, posters, maps, and a wide range of publications and artifacts. This exhibition is curated by Harold Averill, Marnee Gamble and Loryl MacDonald of the University of Toronto Archives and Records Management Services.



The second exhibition, in the fall, will focus on WWI literature and will be curated by BSC member Graham Bradshaw.

The University of British Columbia



UBC is now home to a theological textbook, the *Compendium Theologicae Veritatis* ('Compendium of Theological Truth'), handwritten in northern France over 600 years ago. It's the first medieval manuscript held by UBC. As Richard Matthew Pollard explains, it's a purchase well worth waiting for. "After seeing how much students enjoyed and appreciated UBC's collection of 'Renaissance' or early-modern books, I began to wonder whether UBC could expand its collection to include a medieval book," he writes. "Contacting booksellers in the UK, in particular Maggs Bros, I identified a medieval manuscript for sale. Next came writing a proposal to convince our Rare Books and Special Collections library to acquire the book, which was well-received by Katherine Kalsbeek, acting head of RBSC. Finally, on the 7th of June 2013, it arrived at UBC from London.

The book once belonged to James Stevens Cox (d. 1997), but long before that it was produced in France in the 1300s. The main work within is Hugh Ripelin's (d. 1268) *Compendium Theologicae Veritatis*. As Pollard writes: "This was one of the most popular theological handbooks of the later Middle Ages, in frequent use by medieval university students as an introduction to the formal study of Christian theology. The text is divided into seven sections, which treat God, the Creation, the Fall, the Incarnation, Grace, the Sacraments, and the Last Four Things (death, judgement, Heaven and Hell)."

Pollard explains its origins and why it's still useful for teaching in this video:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/news-video/video-ancient-book-a-prized-collectible-and-teaching-aid/article1496045/>

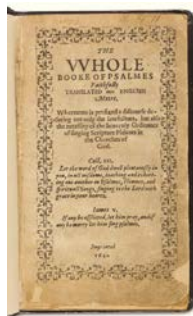
Biblio Bits

Stop the Presses – Books are still the most durable way to store information, according to this article originally printed in Popular Science, December 2013:

http://www.salon.com/2013/11/26/books_are_still_most_durable_way_to_store_information_newscred/

Are you a Salinger fan and curious about his literary output since he went reclusive in the late 1960s? You're in luck as three unpublished Salinger stories have been leaked online. Read about it at:

http://www.thestar.com/entertainment/books/2013/11/28/unpublished_jd_salinger_stories_leaked_online.html.



As expected, the Bay Psalm Book, the first book printed in the United States, was sold at auction in late November and became the most expensive printed work at \$14.2m

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-25115524>

It was one of the most dramatic thefts ever to hit the rare-book world, the disappearance of thousands of volumes – including centuries-old editions of Aristotle, Descartes, Galileo and Machiavelli – from the Baroque-era Girolamini Library in Naples. Now, prosecutors at a trial in Naples are trying to show how such a wholesale violation of Western cultural

patrimony could have taken place. Read more at the NYT:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/30/books/unraveling-huge-thefts-from-girolamini-library-in-naples.html>.

What are the chances something like this will show up in one's trash: a rare Jewish manuscript created for the Oppenheimer banking dynasty. It was discovered forgotten in a soup box in a semi-detached house in north Manchester. The Haggadah dates from 1726 and is exquisitely illustrated by one of Judaism's most famous scribes. Its late owners brought it to Britain as they fled the Nazis before the Second World War. Read more about it: <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/rare-jewish-manuscript-found-in-garage-expected-to-fetch-500000-8947620.html>



How big is the world's smallest book? According to artist Raj Kumar Verma, it's only 0.64 mm in size. Verma is going to apply to the Limca and Guinness book of World Record to list his work: a rare hand-made book carries the hand-made portrait of world famous painters, including Picaso, Leonardo Da Vinci, Rabindra Nath Tagore and MF Hussain, on one side, and text about the work of these painters on the other side. It has 25 pages in all. According to Verma, the smallest book of the world recorded so far is 0.75 mm in size and has been prepared by an artist in Japan. To read more:

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-11-20/india/44283718_1_rice-grain-hanuman-chalisa-limca