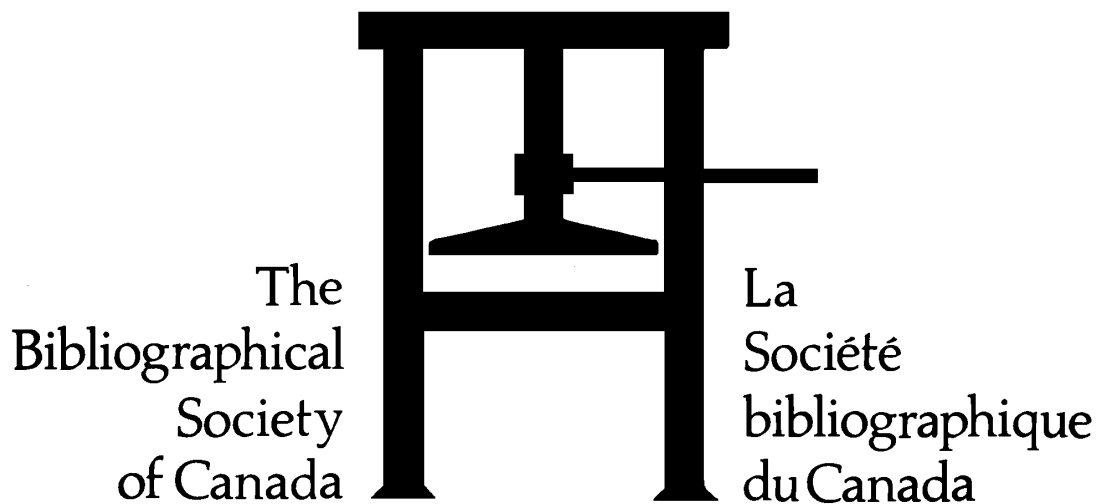


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[President's Report](#)

This upcoming year will be my tenth year as a member of the BSC-SbC. I have seen structural and environmental changes that have affected the activities of our members. I have also witnessed stability to ensure our membership and the practice of bibliography and book studies continues to thrive. The mediums through which we communicate have changed and our members continue to

adapt and advocate, publish, and converse with the public about the importance of bibliography and book studies, humanities research, and open access to knowledge. This activism is more important than ever.

The public health crisis has demonstrated the economic fragility of our post-secondary and cultural institutions with layoffs, furloughs, and budget cuts. The most notable case was Laurentian University that declared financial insolvency and laid off 110 of our colleagues, primarily from humanities departments. This crisis has also brought the inequities and privileges of our society further into public discourse, which shaped our decision to leave the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences and run an independent conference this past spring.

The conference theme Relations of the Book called on presenters to focus on the decolonization of texts and diverse bibliographical approaches to examine marginalized book cultures. There were several excellent panels that directly addressed this theme, and I am looking forward to these presentations making their way into the *Papers/Cahiers*.

Mere days before the conference began, we all received reports of the 215 children buried at the named Kamloops Indian Residential School. In subsequent months, several more mass burial sites have been exposed across Canada and will likely represent a fraction of the atrocities committed against First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples. As a librarian and bibliographer, I cannot help but think about how books and the practices of record keeping were used to omit and erase these acts of violence against children. As we look to address truth and reconciliation, our membership and colleagues will play an important role in retrieving documents that expose and hold accountable those who committed these atrocities. It is critical we support and advocate for this bibliographical and book studies work.

As we look to support our members in their work, we have been busy the past few months to situate the BSC-SbC in a stronger financial position for long term sustainability. Our membership has continued to gradually increase the past two years after strong recruitment efforts from Svetlana Kochkina, Andrew Stewart, and Karen Smith. In August, we held a Special Members meeting and passed motions to revise the Constitution and reflect our current membership.

We also passed a motion to increase some of our membership fees commensurate to inflation since the fees were last increased in 1991. However, we did not increase fees for our students, unwaged, part-time, and independent

researchers to ensure the BSC-SbC membership remains accessible.

We have also made great strides towards supporting our student members through developing a fund to support the Greta Golick Award, which has yet to be awarded. Through the enormous efforts of her widow, Steven Golick, and the coordinated efforts of council members Tom Vincent and Andrew Stewart, and the financial support of Greta's family and friends, we have raised enough funds to support two Greta Golick Awards annually. This is a significant achievement to honour Greta's impact at the BSC-SbC and her legacy in supporting students across bibliography and book studies. There is still so much more we can do to support additional students and I encourage our members to also contribute to this fund through the donations page on our website.

I am tremendously grateful for the support I have received from our Council members and wider membership these past few months. I am thankful to Karen Smith for her counsel as Past-President, Svetlana Kochkina for planning our next annual conference which will be held virtually this Spring 2022, Sarah Lake and Billy Johnson for coordinating our communications to the membership and wider public, Geoffrey Little, Elizabeth Willson Gordon, Rachel Harris, Philippe Rioux, and Sarah Severson for steering our publications and ensuring they are open and discoverable, and Tom Vincent and Andrew Stewart for making sure we continue to be a sustainable society to support bibliography and book studies in Canada.

We also have new members on Council, including Jocelyne Thompson as our second Vice-President, Ellen Forget who takes over from Philippe Mongeau as Editor of the *Bulletin*, and our new Councilor cohort of Mathieu Bouchard, Myron Groover, and Christina Ionescu.

I would like to thank Ruth-Ellen St. Onge for her many years of service to the BSC-SbC, most recently as our outgoing past President, Philippe Mongeau as he steps down from Editor of the *Bulletin*, and our outgoing Councilors Ruth Panofsky, Alison Rukavina, and Billy Johnson.

Our Conference, Awards, and Fellowship Committees will be sending out calls-for-proposals in the coming weeks so please look for updates via the BIBSOCAN listserv, our website, and social media. I thank our Councilors on those committees for ensuring junior and senior scholars continue to get financial support to produce bibliographical and book studies research at our conferences and publications.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing many of you at our virtual conference in 2022!

Chris J. Young
President

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Member News

Bruce Peel Special Collections

Linda Quirk and Robert Desmarais, University of Alberta

Bruce Peel Special Collections launched three new **digital exhibitions**—each prepared over several years—during the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, hosted online by University of Alberta in May-June 2021. [*Ancestors: Indigenous Peoples of Western Canada in Historic Photographs*](#) is a special introductory digital exhibition that provides a brief overview of a COVID-delayed in-house exhibition of historic photographs of Indigenous peoples of Western Canada. [*Photographies*](#) is an award-winning Open Access Educational Resource, a digital exhibition that explores the many technologies, materials, and practices—in other words, the many “photographies”—that make up the history of photography from its origins in the late-eighteenth century to the present. [*Canadian Women Artists’ Books*](#) is a gorgeous digital exhibition that celebrates a selection of hand-made unique or limited-edition art objects that explore a wide range of topics ranging from illness and healing to nursery rhymes and haircuts, from religion and spirituality to race and gender, challenging our preconceptions at every turn. If you are new to Peel's digital exhibitions, you will want to be sure to check out [*Tinctors Foul Treatise*](#), an award-winning digital exhibition (Leab 2018) that explores the early history of witch trials and continues to attract a great deal of attention and discussion, possibly because it has more relevance to the present times than it might at first seem.

In October 2021, the Peel library will publish an exhibition catalogue titled [*Ancestors: Indigenous Peoples of Western Canada*](#) which is available for preorder through [UAlberta Press](#) and online booksellers. The catalogue features over 100 historic photographs from the [Indigenous Photograph Collection](#) that can now be accessed as a [digitized collection](#) through the Internet Archive. An

[introductory website](#) offers a preview of the in-house exhibition which has been [postponed to late September 2022](#) to allow for larger numbers of viewers.

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Papyri Collections at the Fisher *Chana Algarvio, University of Toronto*

One of the rare gems at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, is the outstanding collection of over 400 Greco–Roman papyrus fragments. The fragments come from Egypt and date from the 3rd century BCE to the 3rd century CE. The greater part of the Library’s papyri holdings consists of two collections on long-term deposit: the Victoria College Library papyri and the Classics Department papyri. The former collection is small, with 35 fragments written in Greek and covering a variety of subjects: Classical works (e.g. Homer’s *Iliad*, Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Demosthenes’ *Third Philippic*), legal documents (e.g. marriage contracts, land transfers, tax receipts, wills), miscellaneous accounts and receipts, and personal letters. The latter collection is much larger, with papyri fragments written in Greek, Demotic, and Coptic (with one instance of Arabic); nearly all of them deal with administrative matters and they include legal documents, miscellaneous accounts and receipts, and personal letters.

One remarkable and captivating aspect of the Classics Department papyri held at the Fisher is the notable amount of paint and gesso found on many fragments. This indicates that they were reused for cartonnage—a composite material made of linen or papyrus covered with plaster and originally used for mummy masks. The cartonnage fragments date to the Ptolemaic Period of Ancient Egypt (305–30 BCE) and exhibit a stunning array of colourful and gilded iconographic elements that reflect important religious concepts. The papyri collections at the Fisher are an excellent source for funerary and art practices during the Ptolemaic Period, for socio-economic matters, and for the languages and scripts of Greco-Roman Egypt.

For access to the digitized papyri collections, visit [here](#) and [here](#). For more background information and iconographic analysis visit [here](#) and [here](#).

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New Publications on George Gissing *Tom Ue, Dalhousie University*

Tom Ue (Department of English, Dalhousie University) wrote new essays on George Gissing's *The Unclassed* (1884, rev. 1895) for two forthcoming collections: *Arthur Morrison and the East End* (Routledge), edited by Diana Maltz, and *London's East End: A Short Encyclopedia* (McFarland), by Kevin A. Morrison. Gissing's revisions to *The Unclassed* have been extensively examined, for instance, by Joseph J. Wolff (1953), C. J. Francis (1974), Jacob Korg (1977), and Robert S. Powell (1980), and in Korg's (1976) and Paul Delany's and Colette Colligan's (2010) introductions and notes to their editions. Ue analyzes some of the passages cancelled in the 1895 edition to illuminate the character Abraham Woodstock, an accountant, money lender, and landlord. Ue explores how Gissing and Morrison employ the landlord–tenant relationship to converse about pressing social issues, ranging from the free market economy to social reform.

His other contributions to *London's East End* include entries on the life and works of Gissing and Conan Doyle, including some of the latter's Sherlock Holmes stories, and on Juan Carlos Medina's *The Limehouse Golem* (2016), the first film wherein Gissing appears as a character. With Dalhousie University Libraries, Ue is currently producing an edition of the *Fortnightly Review* version of *The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft* (1903). This material will significantly advance our understanding of the book's textual history. Ue is also conducting research in the Dalhousie Oscar Wilde Collection, an extensive collection presented to the university by its former president Henry Hicks. The aim is to write a new essay that treats the cultures of reading and collecting Wilde and that celebrates Dalhousie's major holdings. Ue's research on Gissing has been supported by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Dalhousie University, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and his research assistants Jane Boyes, Lauryn Collins, and Allison Munday.

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New Publications from Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia

*G. Thomas Tanselle; submitted by David L. Vander Meulen,
University of Virginia*

G. Thomas Tanselle has recently published two books with the Bibliographical

Society of the University of Virginia. [Descriptive Bibliography](#) is a comprehensive guide to the activity of describing books as physical objects. While the popular imagination might see such activity simply as the creation of guides to first editions, Tom emphasizes the fundamentally humanistic nature of this study: “Because books constitute one of the largest and most important classes of artifacts, an understanding of how they were made and circulated and what they looked like is a major component in our sense of the human past.” The book is both a replacement for and companion to Fredson Bowers’s 1949 classic *Principles of Bibliographical Description*. Writing in the *Washington Post*, Michael Dirda calls the book “a masterwork of Tacitus-like force, clarity and precision,” with “no guff or fluff” in Tom’s prose; “Tanselle has gathered his own fact-rich essays from a lifetime’s worth of reflection on the physical nature of books.” To each essay Tom has added a postscript that discusses scholarship since the essays first appeared. Dirda concludes, “The result is a true summa of bibliographical insight, information and guidance.” Published at the same time is a pamphlet that reprints an appendix and other material from the book: [A Sample Bibliographical Description with Commentary](#). It is filled with cross-references to fuller discussions in the book and serves as a convenient guide for students of descriptive bibliography as well as for those who write and read descriptive bibliographies.

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New Publication, George Fetherling: A Bibliography *Timothy Perry, University of Toronto, and Bruce Whiteman*

George Fetherling is one of the most prolific and versatile authors in contemporary Canadian literature. Bringing together some sixty works by Fetherling, this bibliography attests to his creative life as a memoirist, poet, historian, novelist, visual artist, and more. Also included are the ten books edited by Fetherling and some seventy more to which he has contributed everything from poems to encyclopedia entries. Given the range and quality of Fetherling’s literary achievement, the need for this comprehensive bibliographic guide is clear.

Timothy Perry is the Medieval Manuscript and Early Book Librarian at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto.

Bruce Whiteman is a former rare book curator. His descriptive bibliography of Raymond Souster was published in 1984. Currently he is a full-time poet and

writer. He lives in Peterborough, Ontario.

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