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## Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Canada

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6 October 2023

This year, after a long hiatus, the BSC-SbC met for an in-person Conference at York University, where I was elected the president of this Society. I am humbled and honoured to be serving in this capacity. During my years of presidency, I will make it my duty to solidify the BSC-SbC's standing as the primary venue for Canadian scholars to produce and share bibliographical and book history research at our conferences and through our publications.

I envision two main priorities for my first year as the BSC-SbC President. The first is to finalise, adopt, and implement the *Equity Statement and Action Plan* drafted by our Past President, Christopher Young. It documents some of the activities we as a Society are already performing in our various roles and functions but also provides guidance as we look to address inequities within our Society and the broader field of bibliography and book studies in Canada. The BSC-SbC Council will work on adopting the Equity Statement and Action Plan at its Fall 2023 meeting.

My second priority is to ensure the stable financial standing of the Society, which is necessary to continue to finance our efforts in furthering book studies in Canada: offering fellowships and awards to graduate students and emerging scholars, publishing our Papers/Cahiers, and organising the BSC-SbC annual conference. To make this happen, recruiting new and retaining our current members is essential, as the membership fees are

the lifeblood of any academic society. I will work in close collaboration with our Second Vice-President, Danielle Van Wagner, and our Secretary, Mary O’Kanduik, throughout the yearly membership cycle to establish more efficient and stable processes for membership renewals and recruitments.

This summer and the beginning of fall 2023, I have concentrated on tasks and projects related to our annual conference. With the approval of the Council, I worked to make several aspects of the yearly conference organisation more straightforward and less labour-intensive, based on my two-year experience organising the BSC-SbC Conference and the input of the past Chair of the Awards Committee, Danielle Van Wagner. Several changes were implemented that will make the proposal submission, award and fellowship application, and their adjudication for the BSC-SbC 2024 Conference more streamlined and uniform. I also met several times with the First Vice-President, Eli MacLaren, who kept me posted on next year’s conference planning, which I am happy to report is well underway.

I am enormously grateful to Christopher Young for his continued counsel as the Past-President and for taking on the role of the editor of the Papers/Cahiers, Eli MacLaren for planning our next in-person conference at McGill University, Sarah Lake and Billy Johnson for coordinating our communications to the membership and broader public, Ruth Panofsky, Rachel Harris, Philippe Rioux, Susan Cameron, Sarah Severson, and Sarah Shaughnessy for steering our publication efforts, and Tom Vincent and Mary O’Kandiuk for taking care of financial and administrative functioning of the society. I would also like to thank the outgoing councillor, Chelsea Shriver, for

her service on our Council and committees in the past few years. We also welcome new members to our Council, including Eli MacLaren as the First Vice-President, Danielle Van Wagner as our Second Vice-President, and our new councillor cohort of Inaam Charaf, Keith Grant, and Isabelle Robitaille.

Our Conference, Awards, and Fellowship Committees will send out calls-for-proposals in the coming weeks, so please look for updates via the BIBSOCAN listserv, our website, and social media and distribute them widely via your networks.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr Svetlana Kochkina,  
President, Bibliographical Society of Canada

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## Member News

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Sometimes Bookplates Lie

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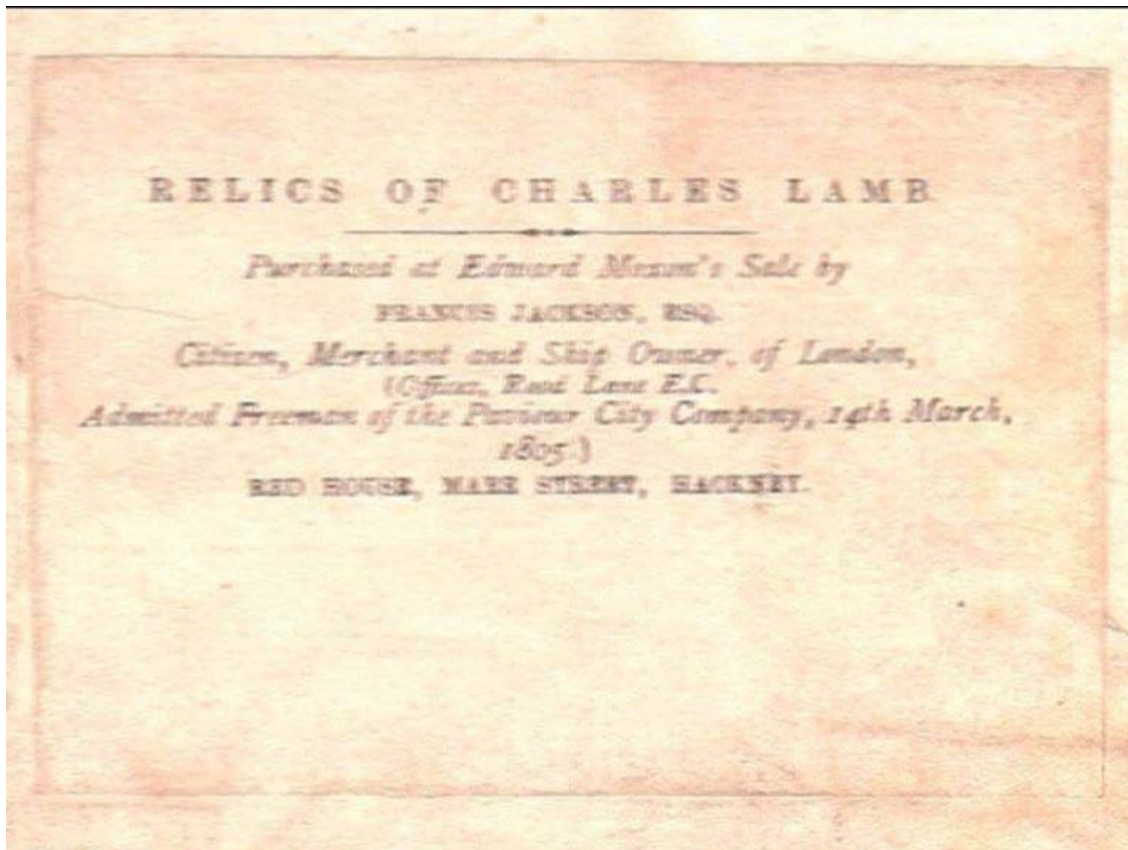


Photo provided by author

In his meticulously maintained ledger of rare book purchases, Dr. James Gray (1923-2012) of the Dalhousie English Department, entered a detailed description of *The life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.* (1787 first edition) by Sir John Hawkins, which he had bought from R. Dunaway Books in St. Louis on Nov. 24, 1967. He noted that the volume had formerly been owned by Charles Lamb according to a bookplate pasted to the front inside cover. The bookplate clearly stated the book was a relic of Charles Lamb purchased at Edward Moxon's sale by Francis Jackson. To add to the evidence that the volume had once belonged to Lamb, the book was encased in a quarter leather slipcase with "Charles Lamb's Copy" on the spine in gold. Gray's ledger recorded that he had paid \$100.00 (US) for the volume, which was a much higher price than he normally allowed himself to pay. Dr. Gray often wrote brief write-ups about his rare books and inserted them in his volumes. His note about the Hawkins volume did not comment on Hawkins or Johnson, but only that the volume had once been owned by Lamb.

Lamb's iconic status as one of English literature's most accomplished essayists has led to ongoing interest in every aspect of his life and writings and into the dispersal of his private library. It was a pleasant surprise to find the Hawkins

volume in the Killam Library acquisition of Dr. Gray's 579 volume eighteenth century collection. I had no reason to question the ownership of the Hawkins volume until I happened to pick up Denise Gigante's *Book Madness: a story of book collectors in America* (Yale University Press, 2022). With a mixture of disappointment and admiration of the guile of previous book collectors and sellers, I learned that the "Relics of Charles Lamb" bookplate had been placed in plausible volumes by an eccentric London bibliomaniac Richard Jackson. To add to the credibility of his association story, the indomitable Richard Jackson also claimed to be the grandson of Lamb's Captain Jackson. That Captain Jackson was one of Lamb's fictional characters did not seem to deter Richard Jackson.

May this be a cautionary tale. Sometimes bookplates set out to deceive. Buyer beware.

Karen Smith  
Special Collections Librarian  
Killam Library  
Dalhousie University Libraries

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## Ādisōke: the new joint facility of the Ottawa Public Library and Library and Archives Canada

"Ādisōke" means "storytelling" in Anishinābemowin Algonquin language.

The result of unprecedented partnerships and community engagement, this groundbreaking project reflects the united vision of two major public institutions. When it opens its doors in 2026, the joint facility will welcome Ottawa residents, Indigenous Peoples, Canadians and visitors from around the world as they come together to learn, discover and create.

With the pouring of the floors now complete, work on the building's curved roof is about to begin. And while the building takes shape, the teams at both institutions are organizing the move of their collections and exploring new programming to reach more diverse audiences, both on site and online.

At Ādisōke, visitors will be able to browse selected books from LAC's published collections, conduct research in the reading rooms or Genealogy Centre, and

explore their creative side in the Loft, a unique makerspace. The facility will also include a restaurant, a café, an auditorium and the Heritage Lounge, a less formal space for visitors to pause, recharge and immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of LAC's vast collection of books, art, and audio recordings.

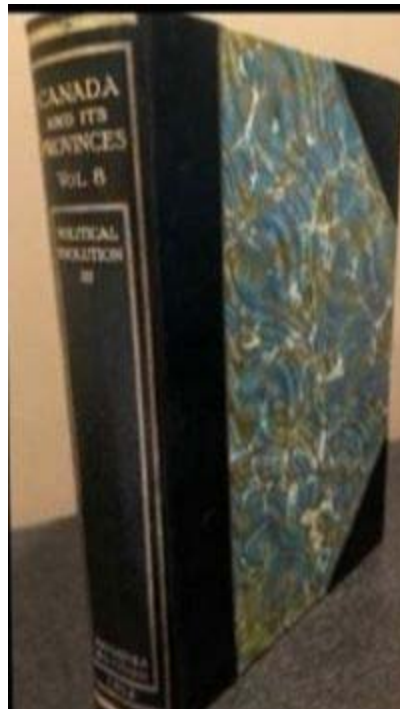
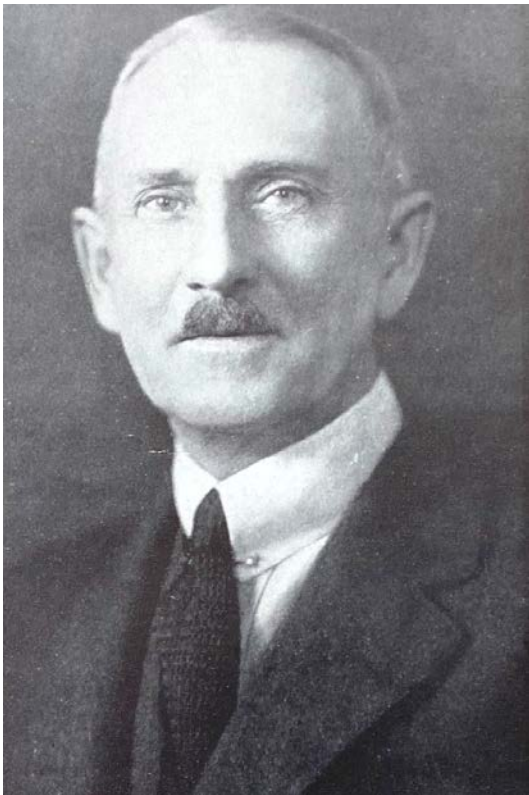
For more information on Ādisōke, or to follow the project's progress, please visit <https://www.adisoke.ca>

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## Arthur Doughty Bibliography Online

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The portrait of AG Doughty is from LAC and has no restriction on use. Photo of book provided by author.

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We have launched a new web site exploring the potential of the Web to present and celebrate the varied and often elaborate publications of Arthur G. Doughty (1860-1936), Dominion Archivist of Canada from 1904 to 1935. Doughty was an artist at heart and sought to produce books which both in content and format were worthy of the history of Canada.

The illustrated bibliography includes 100 of his publications together with an outline of his life and several brief essays on the context of key works. Foremost amongst these is the impressive 23 volume CANADA AND ITS PROVINCES (1913-14 and 1917 and 1967) which Doughty helped plan, edit and bring to fruition. Some two decades after its publication, Dr. W.A. Mackintosh assessed its impact as “one of those important works which are not likely to be models for the future but which really create much of the future.”

Through Doughty’s commitment to publishing documents being gathered at the archives combined with a series of initiatives to encourage the study of Canadian history based on authentic documentary evidence, he sought to reconcile French, English and regional perspectives. By making the fledgling archival program central to the cultural objectives of successive governments, he brought the Archives from relative obscurity to become, as he promised Laurier “an important factor in our national life”. On this much has been and continues to be built.

As part of the Ian E. Wilson website, the bibliography was launched in March 2023. It remains a work in progress with updates added as new information is uncovered. We welcome any suggestions and information about other Arthur G. Doughty publications or variants.

Ian E. Wilson, O.C.

National Archivist of Canada (1999-2004)

Margaret Dixon

Government Records Archivist, LAC (2000-2019)

<https://www.ianewilson.ca/doughty/bibliography>

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## **Chana Algarvio: Book Review**

Chana Algarvio (Robertson Davies Library, Massey College, University of



Toronto) wrote new essays on ancient Egyptian book culture for three forthcoming volumes: *Too Much Writing, Too Few Scribes: Extra-scribal Writing in the Late Bronze Age Mediterranean (1650–1100 BCE)* (Transnational Press London), edited by Cassandra Donnelly; *Crop and Bleed: An Information Studies Reader on New Boundaries in Critical Print and Visual Culture* (Litwin Books/Library Juice Press), edited by Robert D. Montoya and Sean E. Pessin; and *Looking Beyond the Text: Scribal Practices in Ancient Egypt: Proceedings of the Conference Held 17-19 May 2023, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz* (Brill), edited by Margaret Geoga and Aurore Motte.

Algarvio seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue between Egyptology and Book History, making the former explicitly acknowledge and engage in the scholarship of the latter, and making the latter wholistically understand the literature of the former. Algarvio analyzes ancient Egyptian books on stone to expand modern/Western perceptions of the book, its diverse material and immaterial history best understood and accounted for when employing the conceptual framework of book as idea—a framework which is as well evident in bibliographic cataloguing practices.

Algarvio is currently working on an exhibition for the Robertson Davies Library that will showcase the non-Western materials (including facsimiles) in its rare book collections. From a 21st century BCE Sumerian cuneiform clay tablet to a 20th century CE Balinese lontar manuscript, the exhibition celebrates the multimaterial, multiform, and multimodal history of the book from non-Western cultures of different time periods and geographic regions. A digital version of the exhibition will also be created for those unable to visit the library in-person, and in hopes to be used as teaching material for any course on book history, rare books, or librarianship.

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## Announcements

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**The Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC) invites applications for the Marie Tremaine Fellowship.**

**Deadline for application: December 22, 2023.**

The Marie Tremaine Fellowship is offered in memory and through the generosity of Marie Tremaine (1902-1984), the doyenne of Canadian bibliographers. The Fellowship was instituted in 1987 and is offered annually to support the work of a scholar engaged in some area of bibliographical research, including textual studies and publishing history and with a particular emphasis on Canada. The amount of the Fellowship is \$2,000.00. The recipient of the Marie Tremaine Fellowship also receives a free one-year membership in the society.

For further details and to download an application form please see the Fellowship & Awards page of the BSC website:

<https://www.bsc-sbc.ca/en/fellowship-awards/>

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