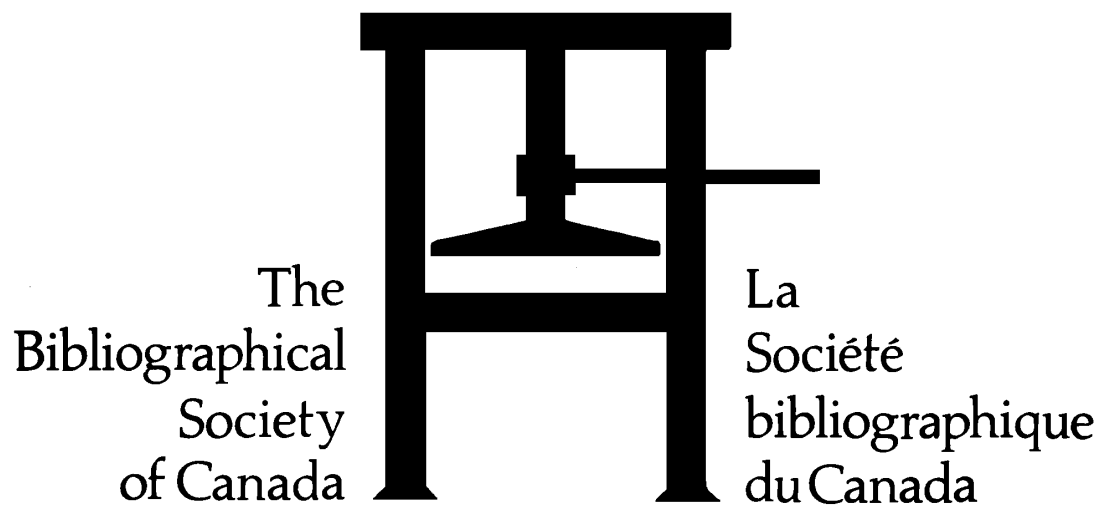


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## Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Canada

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## *President's Report*

### **President's Report**

#### **2024 Fall Council Meeting**

8 November 2024

First, I am happy to report that the *Equity Statement and Action Plan* was adopted at our Spring Council meeting and is now available on the BSC-SbC website. The *Plan* outlines goals and actions to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in the activities of the Society. It will be a cornerstone in our work as we look to address inequities within the BSC-SbC and the broader field of bibliography and book studies in Canada.

This summer, our annual conference, *Topographical: The Place of Books*, engaged with current issues in book studies and reflected a diversity of voices and approaches to the study of book history and bibliography, especially the conjunction of the topographical with the typographical. Throughout the winter of 2024, Eli MacLaren and I were genuinely excited to welcome the BSC-SbC members at our home institution, McGill University. The reality we had to face

was strikingly different from that happy anticipation. I will not shy away from saying that this was probably the most challenging conference to organise and hold in recent years. An ongoing Gaza protest movement on campus and especially labour conflict between the McGill administration and the Association of McGill Professors of Law (AMPL) represented such significant challenges from the moral and organisational standpoints that at a certain moment, they created a real possibility of the conference cancellation.

After some thorough soul-searching, we decided to proceed with BSC-SbC Conference 2024 but implemented some changes to acknowledge the McGill campus situation. I outlined our reasoning in the email to our members, underscoring that the mission of the BSC remains valuable – to promote the scholarly study of the history, description, and transmission of texts, with a primary emphasis on Canada. In carrying it out, the Society did not mean to take sides on any of the issues above. In proceeding, we remained focused on creating opportunities for graduate students, making space for scholarly exchange, and promoting research for publication in our journal.

However, in recognition of the labour dispute between the McGill administration and the AMPL, which was on strike since 24 April, as the BSC president, I indicated to the AMPL representatives, Evan Fox-Decent and Víctor M. Muñoz-Fraticelli, the steps that the BSC took to respect their labour action: e.g., to make all of its sessions available online on the Congress virtual platform for participants who prefer not to come to campus; to hold its executive Council meeting online entirely outside of the Congress. I also underscored that no events were planned at the Faculty of Law; our conference, organised by Arts faculty and librarians, took place in the Faculty of Arts and the Library. Professors Fox-Decent and Muñoz-Fraticelli thanked me for these adjustments and, in recognition, provided BSC members with “picket passes” to use for the conference duration.

Despite these challenges, the 2024 BSC-SbC conference at McGill was a success. My special thanks for planning the conference go to Eli MacLaren (First Vice-President and Conference Committee Chair) and also Myron Groover (Awards Committee Chair), the Special Collections Interest Group, especially Christopher Lyons and Rachel Harris, and members of these Committees and the SCIG.

I am extremely grateful to Christopher Young for his continued counsel as the Past-President and for his work as the editor of the Papers/Cahiers, Sarah Lake

and Billy Johnson for coordinating our communications to the membership and broader public, Mathieu Bouchard and Myron Groover for their work as the Fellowship and Awards Committees Chairs, Ruth Panofsky, Rachel Harris, Philippe Rioux, Susan Cameron, Sarah Severson, and Sarah Shaughnessy for steering our publication efforts, and our Treasurer Tom Vincent and our Secretary, Risa de Rege, for taking care of the functioning of the society.

I want to extend a word of welcome to the new members of our Council, Hana Kim (UofT), Michelle Levy (SFU), and Lauren Williams (McGill U), new chairs of the Awards and Fellowship Committees, Billy Johnson (Dalhousie U) and Heather Dean (UVic), new co-chair of the Special Collections Interest Group, Myron Groover (McMaster U), and new Review Editor (French) Papers/Cahiers, Marie Chartrand-Caulet (McGill U).

We already work on planning the BSC-SbC 2025 Conference, and 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.

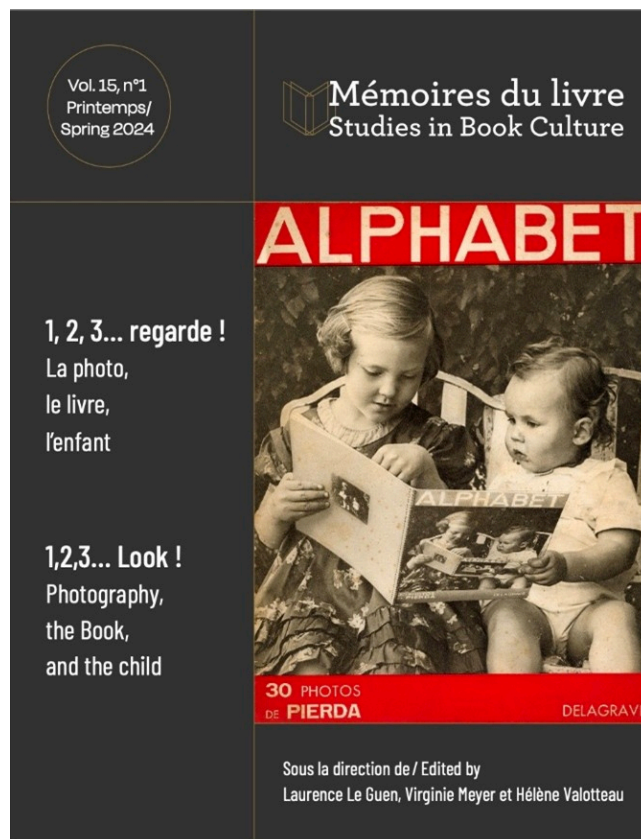
My main priority for the upcoming year will be to ensure the stable financial standing of the Society, which is necessary to continue to finance our efforts in furthering book studies in Canada: offering fellowships and awards to graduate students and emerging scholars, publishing our Papers/Cahiers, and organising the BSC-SbC annual conference. Recruiting new and retaining our current members is essential to make this happen, as the membership fees are the lifeblood of any academic society. I will continue working in close collaboration with our Second Vice-President, Danielle Van Wagner, and the Society Secretary, Risa de Rege, throughout the yearly membership cycle to establish more efficient and stable processes for membership renewals and recruitments.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr Svetlana Kochkina  
President, Bibliographical Society of Canada

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## Mémoires du livre/Studies in Book Culture



I'm pleased to announce that the latest issue of *Mémoires du livre/Studies in Book Culture* has just been published.

Edited by Laurence Le Guen (Université Rennes 2), Virginie Meyer (Bibliothèque nationale de France) and Hélène Valotteau (Médiathèque Françoise Sagan), the issue is titled "1,2,3... Look! Photography, the Book, and the child".

It is available for consultation through this link : <https://www.erudit.org/fr/revues/memoires/2024-v15-n1-memoires09558/>

Feel free to spread the news through your social networks,

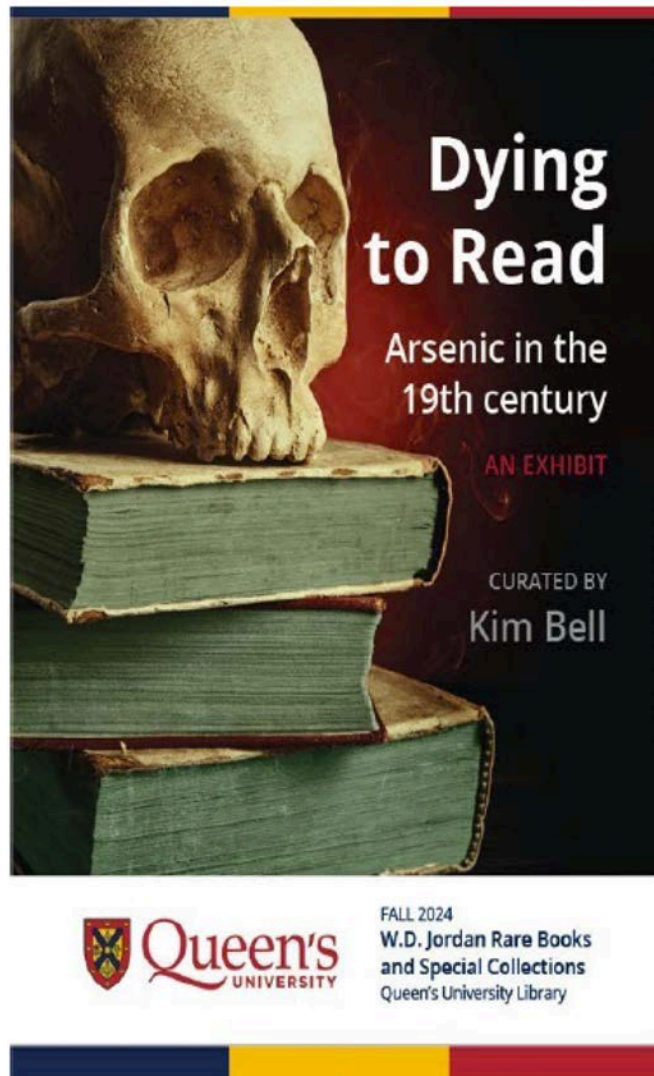
Ana Néron

Assistante à la direction / Executive Assistant

*Mémoires du livre / Studies in Book Culture*

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## [Dying to Read: Arsenic in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century](#)



Dying to Read: Arsenic in the 19th Century

Curated by Kim Bell

W.D. Jourdan Rare Books and Special Collections, Douglas Library, Queen's University

The exhibition showcases a range of 19th-century books bound in arsenic-laden endpapers, and stereoscopic cards mounted on arsenic-laced cardboard. Over 150 books and dozens of stereoscopic cards featured in this exhibition challenge us to think critically about the material and production choices of the time, which were beautiful yet dangerous.

Exhibition runs from October 30, 2024 to mid-January 2025

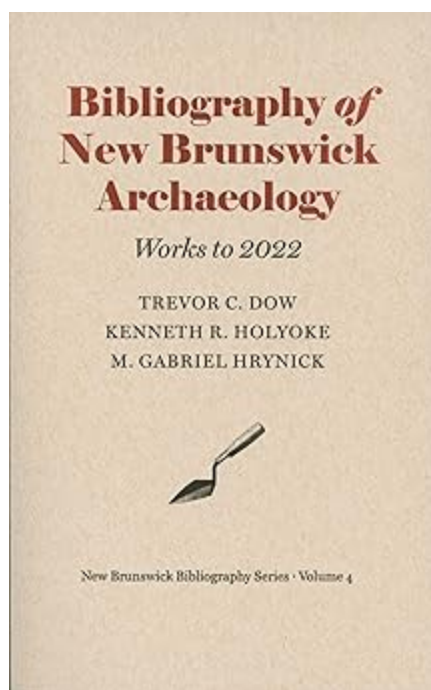
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## **Bibliography of New Brunswick Archaeology: Works to 2022**



I am happy to announce the publication of volume 4 of the New Brunswick Bibliography Series, *Bibliography of New Brunswick Archaeology: Works to 2022*, by Trevor C. Dow, Kenneth R. Holyoke, and M. Gabriel Hrynick.

Enhanced by contextualizing essays by the authors, and one on Indigenous knowledge systems by Isaac St. John, the bibliography reviews over three centuries of archaeological work that has taken place in what is now the province of New Brunswick. Each of the authors is engaged in research about this region, and their enthusiasm for compiling the bibliography reflects the belief that archaeology is crucial to learning about the past. As the authors state in their introduction, “We hope that this compendium will make it easier for others to begin research here in this region, and to find material that expands on New Brunswick’s role in broader conversations about anthropology and

archaeology.... This bibliography is meant to be a beginning, not the endpoint, to truly understanding the original inhabitants of New Brunswick, who did not recognize borders and whose peoples ranged far beyond them.”

Congratulations to the authors and, as always, my deep appreciation to Gaspereau Press for the care and attention they brought to this project, the result of which is another beautiful book, one that brings honour to the history of New Brunswick as captured in this series.

The book is now available for purchase directly from Gaspereau Press at:

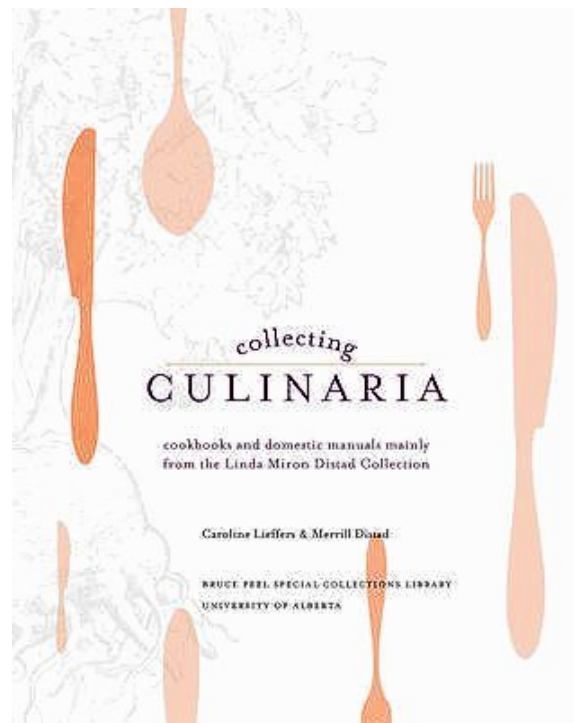
<http://www.gaspereau.com/bookInfo.php?AID=0&AISBN=97811554472673>

Jocelyne Thompson  
Librarian Emerita  
Editor, New Brunswick Bibliography Series  
University of New Brunswick

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**[Collecting Culinaria: Cookbooks and Domestic Manuals Mainly from the Linda Miron Distad Collection](#)**





Bruce Peel Special Collections, University of Alberta

Collecting Culinaria: Cookbooks and Domestic Manuals mailing from the Linda Miron Distad Collection.

Curators: Caroline Lieffers and Merrill Distad

3 September 2024 -31 March 2025

Back by popular demand, this visually compelling exhibition of books and ephemera relating to the preparation and enjoyment of food over several centuries is a tribute to a generous donor and a remarkable woman. From nation and regional cookbooks to manuscript and corporate cookbooks, this exhibition features highlights from the collection of a librarian-researcher-editor-chef Linda Miron Distad (1944-2012) who had a special ability to "combine, separate, enhance, reduce, clarify, liaise," and thereby to make magic. The catalogue for this exhibition may be purchased through [University of Alberta Press](#) or [Indigo](#).

Class/group exhibition visits may be arranged on Monday afternoons and require advance booking; drop-in visitors are welcome on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons (1-4 p.m.)

The Peel Library is also hosting a related digital exhibition: [Culinaria: A Taste of Food History on the Prairies](#).

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## Announcements

**[Dr. Svetlana Kochkina](#)**



I join with the members of our Society to offer our warmest congratulations to Dr. Svetlana Kochkina on her recent appointment as the the Acting Head of the Osler Library of History of Medicine, McGill University, effective September 1,2024. She has been with McGill Libraries in various capacities since 2010. Previous to this appointment Dr. Kochina was the Co-Head, Humanities and Social Sciences Library (Lending and Access Services).

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### **Dr. Ruth Panofsky**



More congratulations are in order for another esteemed member of our society. Dr. Panofsky is the recipient of the Royal Society of Canada's Lorne Pierce Medal for 2024. The Lorne Pierce Medal is awarded biennially for merit in imaginative or critical literature written in either English or French, with priority given to literature dealing with Canadian subjects. The award's website, contains the following information.

*The medal was established in 1926 by Lorne Pierce (1890-1961), FRSC, who was Editor of Ryerson Press for forty years and contributed greatly to the development and appreciation of Canadian literature.*

*The medal is awarded for an achievement of special significance and conspicuous merit in imaginative or critical literature written in either English or French (critical literature dealing with Canadian subjects has priority over critical literature of equal merit that does not deal with Canadian subjects).*

*The gold plated silver medal is offered every two years if there is a suitable candidate.*

Ruth is an English Professor at Toronto Metropolitan University. More information about her work is available on her [website](#).

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## **New Bulletin Editor Sought**

The Bibliographical Society of Canada/La Société bibliographique du Canada is seeking an Editor for its bi-annual newsletter, the *Bulletin*. Please see below for a description of the position. Questions and expressions of interest should be directed to Ruth Panofsky, Chair of the BSC's Publications Committee, at [panofsky@torontomu.ca](mailto:panofsky@torontomu.ca) Feel free to circulate this call widely.

### **Overview**

The *Bulletin* of the Bibliographical Society of Canada is a bi-annual newsletter containing news items and other communications from the BSC Council and general membership, as well as libraries and scholars unaffiliated with the BSC, to be shared with BSC members. One issue appears in the Winter/Spring, and another appears in the Summer/Fall.

The *Bulletin* Editor, a member of the BSC Council, is responsible for overseeing the production of the newsletter from call for submissions until the final moment of publication. Each issue takes 20-30 hours to complete, in a process spread across approximately 2 months. The term for the position is 2 years, and can be renewed indefinitely at the discretion of the Editor.

### **Job Duties**

The *Bulletin* Editor is expected to:

- solicit content from BSC Council, BSC members, and scholars unaffiliated with the Bibliographical Society of Canada for each issue
- proofread submissions
- ensure that all submitted content complies with Canadian Copyright law

- translate/arrange for translation of official communications from Council
- create the mise-en-page for each issue, following new or pre-existing templates
- publish the issue on the BSC's listserv and website and promote the issue on the BSC's social media pages
- produce reports for the Fall and Spring BSC Council meetings, which they are also invited to attend
- Other duties as assigned/undertaken at the discretion of the editor (can include: translations unrelated to the *Bulletin*, service on other BSC sub-committees and task forces, etc.)

### ***Qualifications***

The *Bulletin* Editor must be a BSC member in good standing.

In addition, the *Bulletin* Editor should have:

- a strong interest in bibliographical and book studies
- proven writing and copy editing abilities
- strong communication and project management skills

The following skills are also desirable, but not required:

- background in publishing and or graphic design
- fluency in English and French

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## **Call for Papers-2025 Conference of the Bibliographical Society of Canada**

### **Call for Papers**

2025 Conference of the Bibliographical Society of Canada

5–6 June, George Brown College, Toronto

New Histories of the Small Press

Small-press and independent publishing are major phenomena in the history of printing and the production of literature. As the largest publishing companies rationalize production, merge into conglomerates, shore up their market dominance, and compound their profits, hundreds of little publishing operations spring up in imitation or in opposition to them, to enable everything that capital

neglects, from self-expression and local representation, to resistance and experiment. Small presses enable creativity, but not without risk: they promise individual and regional self-awareness at a cost. Small presses are alternately celebrated for their independence and disdained for their lack of financial resources. They seem to play a key part in many authors' careers.

John B. Thompson has described the book industry in terms of a polarization: as big publishers increase their profit, small publishers increase in numbers (*Merchants of Culture: The Publishing Business in the Twenty-First Century*). This polarization and its effect on fiction has been further analyzed by Dan Sinykin (*Big Fiction: How Conglomeration Changed the Publishing Industry and American Literature*). The cultural output of the small press is vast in its diversity, from poetry and novels, to exhibition catalogues and posters, to hybrid digital-print periodicals. Kirsten MacLeod's study of little magazines in the United States in the nineteenth-century not only revealed the twentieth-century modernist attraction to this form to be part of a longer history, but also showed how ephemeral most of the little magazines were (*American Little Magazines of the Fin de Siècle: Art, Protest, and Cultural Transformation*). Julien Lefort-Favreau has explored the range of what "independent" publishing means (creative, niche, alternative, indie, underground, counter-cultural, avant-garde, radical, etc.), observing that "independence" stems not only from a position but from a claim (*Le luxe de l'indépendance: Réflexions sur le monde du livre*). If libraries have succeeded in collecting only a fraction of what has been produced by small presses, literary and historical scholarship has tended to focus on only a fraction of what has been collected. Most histories of the small press focus on the same prominent players: in English Canada, for example, these are Contact Press (Montreal and then Toronto, 1952–66) and Coach House Press (Toronto, 1965–), associated with modernism and postmodernism, respectively. Each small press is different, however: each merits its own history.

For its 2025 annual conference, the Bibliographical Society of Canada invites new accounts of the small press, little magazine, or independent publishing initiative in Canada or elsewhere, however these key terms may be defined. *What has the small press achieved, and in what framework of meaning should this achievement be understood?* Bibliographical, historical, literary, and/or theoretical contributions are welcome, as are methods based in library and information science or the digital humanities. Proposals on the achievements of women, LGBTQIA+ and/or BIPOC subjects are especially encouraged. Small presses are diverse and numerous, they are scattered across the periods and locations of the history of the book, and they leave a rich record in their publications and their archives – but most have not yet had their story told.

Papers on other topics will also be considered. Proposals from early career professionals and graduate students are especially welcome.

Proposals may be in English or French. Proposals, which must be submitted via [this online form](#), must include the following elements:

- Title of presentation
- Abstract indicating argument, context, and methods (max. 250 words)
- Bio (50–100 words) including full name, professional designation (e.g., graduate student, assistant professor, independent researcher, etc.), and institutional affiliation or place

Applicants to the Emerging Scholar Prize (see below) must also include:

- Cover letter (1 p.), explaining the applicant's suitability for the prize
- CV (max. 3 pp.);
- Proof of student status or of graduation within the past two years (copy of diploma, copy of student identification, or official or unofficial transcript).

### [Submit proposal](#)

Presentations must be made in person: the conference will not be online or hybrid.

**Deadline: 31 January 2024**

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## Prizes and Awards Available

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. This prize was created and endowed in 2003 by William and Beth (Watters) Morley and funds a cash prize to be given to the recipient of the Tremaine Medal. The prize honours William Morley (Tremaine Medal winner 1977) and the late Reginald Eyre Watters (Tremaine Medal winner 1979). The prize amount is \$500.

### **Eligibility**

Members of the Awards Committee and the Society Council are not eligible. Apart from this restriction, the award is open to all. Applications cannot be submitted by the President or members of the Awards Committee, but there are no other restrictions in this regard.

**Deadline: January 31, 2025**

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 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 Billy Johnson, Chair of the Awards Committee at: [awards\\_prix@bsc-sbc.ca](mailto:awards_prix@bsc-sbc.ca)

Additional information about the award and the BSC can be found at: <https://www.bsc-sbc.ca/en/fellowship-awards/>

### **Emerging Scholar Prize**

The [Emerging Scholar Prize](#) promotes the work of a researcher who is beginning a career in the fields of book history and bibliography broadly defined, including a study of the creation, production, publication, distribution, transmission, history, and uses of printed books, manuscripts, or electronic texts. Preference is given to topics with a Canadian dimension.

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 BSC conference or to meet costs associated with research. The recipient will also receive a one-year complimentary membership in the BSC.

Students of any nationality enrolled in a master's or doctoral program (e.g., MA, PhD, MLIS) are eligible, as is anyone who has completed such a program within the last two years from date of convocation.

Individuals holding tenure track/continuing appointments are ineligible, as are members of the Awards Committee and the BSC Executive.

### **Greta Golick Award**

The Greta Golick Award has been given annually since 2022 to recognize and support the education of graduate students and early career researchers by facilitating their participation in the Society's annual conference. The award is named in honour of Dr. Greta Golick (1956–2018), whose scholarship and teaching are remembered with admiration and gratitude. Inaugurated with a residual sum given to the BSC by the Canadian Association for the Study of Book Culture (CASBC) at its dissolution, the award fund is augmented by generous donations in Dr Golick's memory. A grant of \$250.00 accompanies the prize and will be used to help the recipient attend the annual Conference or to meet costs associated with

research.

Students of any nationality enrolled in a master's or doctoral program are eligible, as is anyone who has graduated from such a program within the last five years (from date of convocation). Individuals holding tenure track/continuing appointments are ineligible, as are members of the Awards Committee and the BSC Council. There are no restrictions regarding the topic of research so long as it relates to some aspect of bibliography or book history.

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