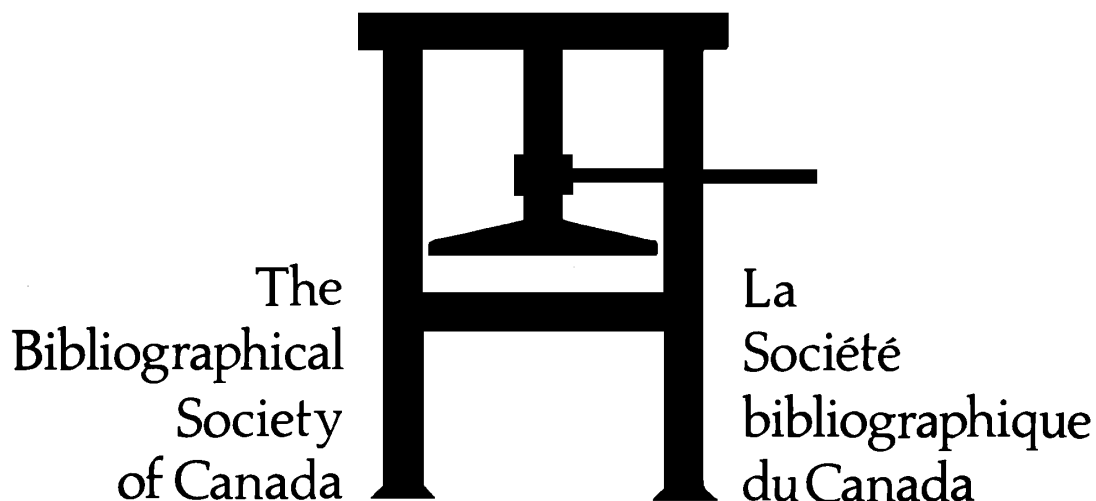


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## Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of Canada

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### **Editor's Note:**

I am happy to pass the reins over to Sara Fackrell as incoming Bulletin Editor. As co-editor of this issue, she has already proven her worth. The Bulletin is in excellent hands. Sara is a Master of Information student at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information, with a concentration in Library and Information Science, and a specialization in Book History and Print Culture. Currently, she works as a Graduate Reference Assistant at the E.J. Pratt Library, as well as being the Lead Graphic Designer of the iJournal. Sara's research interests align well with those of this Society.

Susan Cameron, outgoing Editor

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## *President's Report*

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### **President's Report**

#### **2025 Spring Council Meeting**

9 May 2025

In spring 2025, my second year as the BSC President is drawing to a close. I have been humbled and honoured to be elected to serve in this capacity. During my years of presidency, I strived 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.

During this time, the Society adopted the Equity Statement and Action Plan, drafted by our Past President, Christopher Young, documenting some of the

activities we as a Society are already performing in our various roles and functions but also providing guidance as we look to address inequities within our Society and the broader field of bibliography and book studies in Canada. In the past two years, I have also worked with the Society Secretary, Risa de Rege, and our Second Vice-President, Danielle Van Wagner, to upkeep our membership base and ensure the financial stability of the BSC. This task is never finished, but, I hope, our efforts have helped to keep the Society in good standing, 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. As the BSC-SbC President, and working with the First Vice President, Eli Maclaren, I also took an active role in ensuring that our 2024 Conference, held at the tumultuous FHSS Congress at McGill University, was a success.

I am enormously grateful to Christopher Young for his continued counsel as the Past-President, Eli MacLaren for planning our 2024 and 2025 conferences, Sarah Lake and Billy Johnson for coordinating our communications to the membership and broader public, Ruth Panofsky, Rachel Harris, Marie Chartrand-Caulet, Susan Cameron, Sarah Severson, and Sarah Shaughnessy for steering our publication efforts, and Resa de Rege and Tom Vincent for taking care of functioning of the Society and its finances. I would also like to thank the outgoing councillors, Heather Dean, Billy Johnson, Karina Vernon, and Keith Grant, for their service on our Council and committees in the past few years.

As the humanities research across the world is moving through the uncharted and troubled waters of the present times, I am convinced that now more than ever, the mission of the BSC-SbC to make space for scholarly exchange on the subject dear to our hearts, the book, create opportunities for graduate students, promote research for publication in our journal, and in general, encourage the scholarly study of the history, description, and transmission of texts, in Canada, is vital.

It has been an honour to be the President of the Bibliographical Society of Canada, and I hope, in this capacity, I have succeeded in furthering this mission.

Respectfully submitted,

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## *Awards*

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### **2025 Marie Tremaine Medal**

The Awards Committee of the Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC) is pleased to announce that the 2025 Marie Tremaine Medal for excellence in bibliography has been awarded to Dr. I. S. MacLaren.

Dr. MacLaren spent his career at the University of Alberta investigating how the writings that explorers and travellers kept while prosecuting their routes evolved into print-published books. Furthermore, his contributions possess a vitally Canadian dimension. Nearly thirty of his scholarly articles and two books – *The Ladies, the Gwich'in, and the Rat* (1998) and *Paul Kane's Travels in Indigenous North America: Writings and Art, Life and Times* (2024) – concentrate on the evolution of explorers or travellers into authors, and the evolution of their writings from logbooks, field notes, or letters into books. His most recent work, *Paul Kane's Travels in North America*, itself constitutes a signal achievement in Canadian scholarly publishing.

Over his prolific career, Dr. MacLaren has shown how and why the tools of book history must be put to use in investigations of the published history of exploration and travel, and how our understanding of the textual complexity of that history, whether book, art, geographical, or ethnographical, can be advanced by doing so. Combined with a steadfast commitment to teaching, Dr. MacLaren's work demonstrates a significant and ongoing contribution to bibliographical studies in Canada.

As the recipient of the Marie Tremaine Medal, Dr. MacLaren will also be presented with the Watters-Morley Prize, a cash award named in honour of distinguished Canadian bibliographers Reginal Watters and William Morley.

The Marie Tremaine Medal is awarded by the Bibliographical Society of Canada for outstanding service to Canadian bibliography, and for distinguished publication in either English or French in that field. Over the years, the Marie Tremaine Medal has recognized the achievements of Canada's foremost bibliographers.

On behalf of bibliographers and book historians in Canada and beyond, we thank Dr. MacLaren for his stellar work and for being an inspiration to so many over his career.

***Congratulations Ian!***

Sincerely,

Billy Johnson (Chair), Lauren Williams, and Michelle Levy  
BSC-SbC Awards Committee

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## **2025 Greta Golick Award**

The Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC) is pleased to announce that Antoine Fauché has been awarded the 2025 Greta Golick award.

Antoine is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Rouen Normandy (France). His thesis focuses on the publishing industry and examines the links between technology, publishing, and literature within the framework of publishing studies and book history.

The Awards Committee was particularly impressed with Antoine's abstract "C&F Éditions : l'autonomisation des moyens de production d'une structure indépendante," which focuses on the "independent" dimension of French publisher C&F Éditions, examining the tools and technologies through which C&F develops original book forms and novel distribution strategies.

Antoine will be invited to publish a revised, article-length version of his abstract in the Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada, subject to peer review. The prize also includes a grant of \$250 to be used to help the recipient attend the annual Conference or to meet costs associated with research.

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 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.

***Congratulations, Antoine!***

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## **2025 Emerging Scholar Prize**

The Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC) is pleased to announce that Jay Ritchie has been awarded the Emerging Scholar Prize for 2025.

Jay is a PhD Candidate in English at McGill University and a Wolfe Fellow in Scientific and Technological Literacy. His research, funded by a SSHRC CGS Doctoral Scholarship and the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, has been published in the *Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies*. His creative work has appeared in *Maisonneuve*, *SAND*, and *The Malahat Review*, as well as on CBC and at the PHI Centre. He is the author of the poetry collection "Listening in Many Publics" (Invisible Publishing, 2024), a finalist for the QWF's A. M. Klein Prize for Poetry.

The Awards Committee was particularly impressed with his research project, "Sustaining Sociality: Towards a Digital Ethnography of Metatron Press (2014–)," which carries out a digital ethnography of Metatron Press, a Montreal-based publisher committed to experimental literature. Through the analysis of digital traces of events and interactions, Jay shows how Metatron's decade of activity proves that the press's "sensibilities" are grounded in maintaining social relations. Jay will be invited to publish a revised, article-length version of his research in the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada*, subject to peer review. The prize also includes a grant of \$500.

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 study of the creation, production, publication, distribution, transmission, history, and uses of printed books, manuscripts, or electronic texts.

***Congratulations, Jay!***

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## **2025 Marie Tremain Fellowship**

Noa Vigny Billick (Toronto Metropolitan University & York University) was awarded the Marie Tremain Fellowship for her project **READING CULTURE: Narratives of Survival of the People of the Book**.

**READING CULTURE: Narratives of Survival of the People of the Book** investigates the bibliographic dimensions of Jewish survival through storytelling and material culture, reframing traditional Jewish objects as communicative “books.” It explores how Jewish narratives—encoded in both written and material forms—function as vessels of cultural memory, enabling intergenerational transmission of Jewish identity and experience.

Drawing on narrative theory and semiotics, this project examines objects such as mezuzahs, dreidels, and Passover Haggadot as symbolic texts that carry stories through time and space. By considering these items as part of an expanded definition of the “book,” the project contributes to bibliographic studies by blurring the boundaries between books as physical artifacts and books as carriers of meaning.

**READING CULTURE** combines autoethnography, interviews, and art-based research to create new bibliographic interpretations of Jewish material culture. Outcomes include a series of “books” and an interactive exhibition, showcasing these reimagined Jewish objects alongside hand-bound books of collected family stories. This work highlights the adaptability of Jewish storytelling traditions, offering a fresh perspective on how books—both literal and metaphorical—anchor cultural survival and memory.

***Congratulations Noa!***

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## Member News

Name in full Eli Riddie  
Birthplace Halifax Date 1856  
Reside in Halifax  
If deceased, will friends please give date of death  
Where can your writings be procured?  
  
If you know of an Author who possibly is not known to us, would you kindly give us his or her address?

Author of the following:  
Please give titles of writings, whether published in Book, Pamphlet, or Periodical, with place, date, etc., like sample page

The Problem of Personality  
Published by Andrews and Church  
Halifax 1889  
Articles in International Journal of Ethics  
Immortality and The Belief in the Supernatural  
Jan 1894  
Truth Seeking in Matters of Religion Oct 1900  
Women and the Intellectual Victim Oct 1901  
The Toleration of Error Jan 1904  
Articles in The Philosophical Review  
The Ethical Implications of Determinism  
Sept 1902/1893  
The Essence of Religion Jan 1901  
Notes on Spinoza's Conception of God Jan 1902  
The Reality of the Finite in Spinoza's System Jan 1904  
Also a number of book reviews in the same periodicals  
An article on Walter Pater in the Book Review March 1904  
And other articles and short poems in various periodicals

### How did he do it? Nova Scotia Authors and their work:

#### *A bibliography of the Province*

Karen Smith, Special Collections Librarian

Dalhousie University

In 1918, Robert J. Long (1849-1933) self-published an extremely comprehensive bio-bibliography entitled *Nova Scotia Authors and their work: A bibliography of the Province*. (East Orange, N.J.: The Author, 1918). Over the years I have consulted it often. I was always curious about how Long managed to compile it. He was after all a busy Boston newspaper editor of the *British American Citizen* and *The American Citizen* who had left Nova Scotia decades



before while in his late teens. The short two page *Foreword* of his bibliography gave a few tantalizing clues. The “royal we” is used throughout thus hinting that Long had help. A few months ago while hunting through Dr. Archibald MacMechan’s diary for something totally unrelated, I had a eureka moment. For there in the entry for 9 Aug, 1917 MacMechan noted, “worked all morning at proof of Long’s Nova Scotia bibliography.” The busy Boston newspaper editor had clearly enlisted the help of the very well connected Dalhousie English professor, Dr. MacMechan.

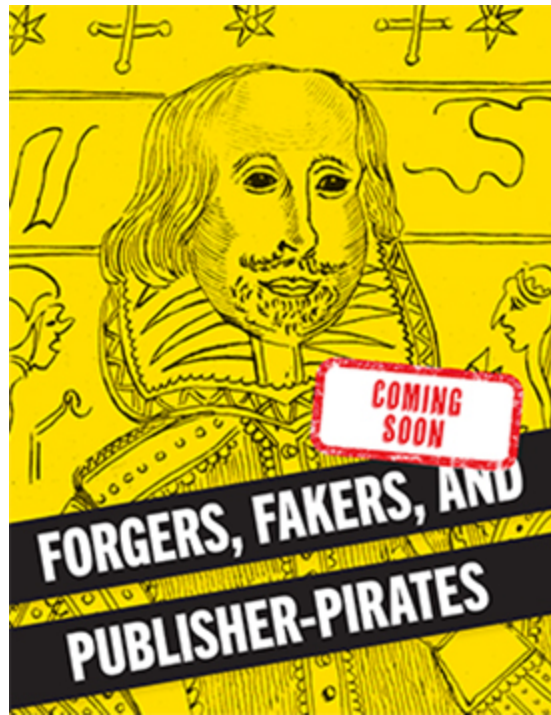
In his *Foreword*, Long complained about “the refusal of many persons to answer letters.” A few years ago, a New England auction house offered a collection of what looked like completed resumes. Upon closer examination, the resumes were actually the filled out forms Long had sent out to authors to complete. While the handwriting may have been challenging, such as with Eliza Ritchie’s form, Long did get lots of help from his fellow Nova Scotia writers. Compiling *Nova Scotia Authors and their work* was definitely a joint effort.

The actual bibliography is a main alphabetical sequence of 890 writers with brief biographical details followed by detailed lists of the works they published. Some lists are more inclusive than others, as journal articles and publishing details are included. We now know this unevenness is partially due to the authors themselves. Some clearly kept better track of their writings. The main author sequence is followed by 248 additional details discovered prior to the book going to press. How typical for a bibliographer to work on revisions up to the last minute. The Additions section is followed by 136 bibliographical entries of anonymous works about Nova Scotia; 48 entries on works about Acadia and New France, 57 entries of works about Cape Breton and concludes with two extensive appendices of all the known writings of Silas Rand and Dr. David Webster. The entire bibliography is 316 pages long; printed on multi-sized sheets of paper and bound in a green book cloth binder with a red leather author/title label on the spine.

While modest in presentation, it represents a lifetime of dedication and commitment to the documentation of the writings of Nova Scotians prior to 1918.

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**Forgers, Fakers, and Publisher-Pirates**  
Bruce Peel Special Collections, University of Alberta  
September 2025 through March 2026  
Curator: Linda Quirk

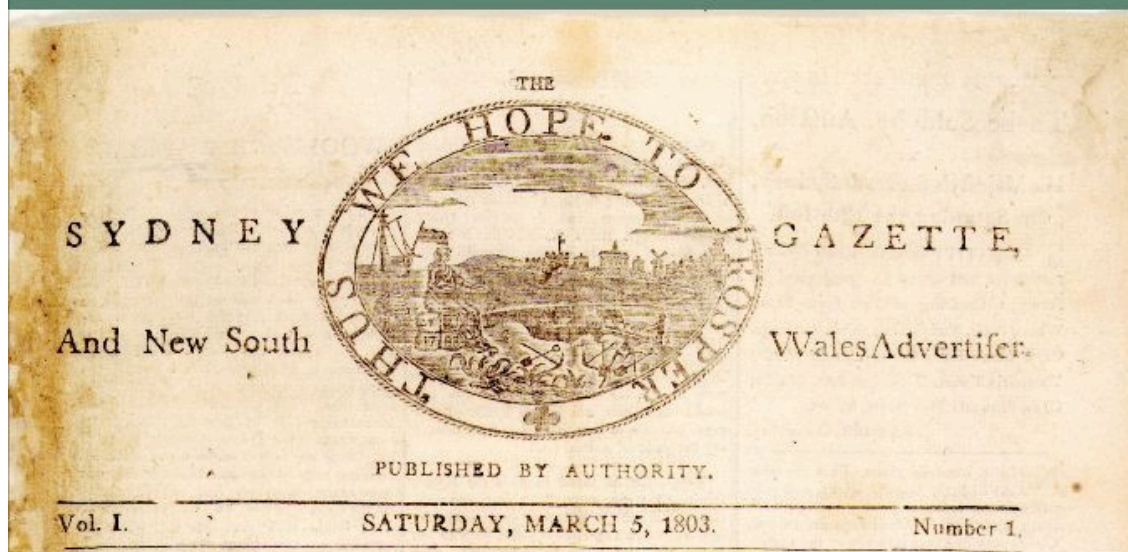
Whether print or digital, text or image, artistic or scientific, rare or common, historic or contemporary, most of the content we encounter contains accidental mistakes—ranging from typos to factual errors to errors arising from prejudicial assumptions—and a significant proportion of it also contains deliberate misinformation resulting from various forms of forgery, fakery, and piracy. We can all become better readers and better at protecting ourselves from scammers by improving our understanding of the nature of the content before us.

This exhibition introduces the work of notorious and lesser-known forgers, it reveals the various ways in which experts and authors have faked their own identities over the centuries—ranging from carefully-selected pseudonyms to falsified ethnicities to fraudulent credentials—and it explores a number of shady publishing practices. We may find ourselves laughing out loud at the wide variety of weird and wacky enterprises, many of which have been reinvented for each successive generation and every new technology over centuries. The book/catalogue that accompanies this exhibition can be purchased in-person in the Peel library (cash only, no dealers) or through University of Alberta Press.

*from* CONVICT PRINTERS  
to BOOK ARCADES

*a HISTORY of  
the BOOK in  
AUSTRALIA*  
VOLUME I: 1788–1890

Edited by Wallace Kirsop, Elizabeth Webby  
& Judy Donnelly



***From Convict Printers to Book Arcades:***  
***A History of the Book in Australia, Volume I: 1788-1890***  
Edited by Wallace Kirsop, Elizabeth Webby and Judy Donnelly

Followers of international book history projects will be pleased to hear of recent launch of [\*From Convict Printers to Book Arcades: A History of the Book in Australia \(Volume I: 1788–1890\)\*](#). The book, published by Ancora Press and distributed by Monash University Press, is edited by Wallace Kirsop, the late Elizabeth Webby, and Judy Donnelly. The long-awaited volume was preceded by *Volume II (1891–1945)* published in 2001, and *Volume III (1946–2005)* released in 2006.

Wallace Kirsop is well-known in bibliographical and book history circles around the world. As Michel Brisebois wrote (*Papiers/Cahiers*, vol. 40, no. 1): "If you have never met Wallace Kirsop, you don't go out much. If you have never read any of his papers, you don't read much. If you have never even heard of Wallace Kirsop, then you are probably not interested in bibliography or the history of the book." Elizabeth Webby, an extraordinary force in Australian literature and print culture studies, sadly died in 2023 shortly after work on the volume had resumed after a long hiatus. Prior to moving to Australia, Judy Donnelly was project manager of *A History of the Book in Canada/Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada* and project director and co-editor (with Carl Spadoni) of the website *Historical Perspectives on Canadian Publishing*.

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# **Forthcoming Catalogue of Phenomena Generated by Readings of "Donna Tartt"**

Joseph Jones, General Librarian Emeritus  
University of British Columbia

In 2025 I expect to publish a genre-stretching volume about the writings and person of Donna Tartt. To a practiced eye, the work may look like an author-focused bio-bibliography with annotations.

The title is Catalogue of Donna Tartt Phenomena : 999+ Sources Discovered & Described. The Catalogue excludes no category of relevant print or electronic sources. A particular technical interest attaches to this literary writer's spanning of the digital divide.

Perceiving an opportunity to write the first book "about" Donna Tartt has energized the undertaking. Nothing comparable exists. Some of that circumstance inheres in Tartt's self-positioning as standoffish celebrity.

Two other factors help to make scope manageable: Tartt's smallish output of about four dozen "publications"; an odd paucity of Anglo-American academic treatments.

Upon the 1992 publication of *The Secret History*, Donna Tartt became a cult author. A later generation has come to esteem Tartt as the goddess of Dark Academia. Her first novel is translated into at least 32 languages. Sales exceed 5 million copies.

From a literary critical standpoint, I view the Catalogue as a pioneer effort to apply "distant reading" sensibilities to a single author. The quantitative/digital aspects of that mode of reading stay in the background. Catalogue as stated form implies a synoptic coherence.

Here the actual contents of Tartt's three novels have secondary interest. Emergent themes include recent publishing history, book marketing strategies, modes of reviewing, advent of social media, folkloric construction of author persona, status as perceived Catholic writer, the gamut of reader reception, and transnational and interlingual comparisons.

Perhaps the single most striking result from this investigation is exhibition of the disproportionate dimensions of Tartt's academic reception in Russia from

2014 onwards.

See the [Tarttologizing](#) Medium for more information.

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## **Upcoming exhibitions this Spring/Summer at W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections**

Queen's University Library (Kingston, Ontario)

### **April–June**

#### Mapping Colonialism: Europe in North America, 1493-1800

An exhibition of maps projecting European ideas, aspirations, and distortions pertaining to North America, with an emphasis on the lands now commonly referred to as Canada.

### **July–August**

#### Books in Shakespeare's Heart

An exhibition held in conjunction with the “Training the Early Modern Heart” conference (English Department, Queen's University, 29-31 July), featuring editions of works that Shakespeare consulted as historical sources.

View the [W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections website](#) here.

*On behalf of Brendan Edwards, Queens University*

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## ***InfoGRÉLQ Newsletter 91***

The [Groupe de recherches et d'études sur le livre au Québec](#) (GRÉLQ) recently published their Spring 2025 newsletter, InfoGRÉLQ. The newsletter provides information on GRÉLQ meetings, recent publications, activities, and ongoing work.

To read the newsletter, click the links below.

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**Please donate to the BSC!**

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