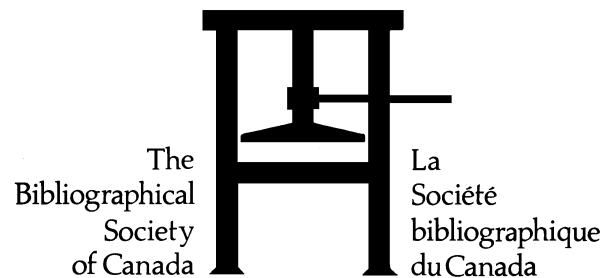


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President's Report

*** Version française disponible*

The job of any president is twofold: to orient an organization to its goals and to plot out practical steps toward it. What are the goals of the Bibliographical Society of Canada, and how should we achieve them? In posing this question, I am struck with what I often find in teaching, which is that the question may be more important than the answer. *What are the goals of the BSC, and how should we achieve them?* These are questions that each of us should take charge of.

What brings us together in the BSC is a shared purpose: as stated on our website, our mission is to know about the making and transmission of books and other text-based media. We ask questions like the following. How do people become authors? What are the achievements of printers, publishers, and the associated trades? How are ideas established or changed, and how do they move through Canada, its regions, and the wider world? What are the media and materials of literature, science, and history, and how should they be preserved? How did the culture of the book establish itself, how is it sustained, and what threatens to diminish or destroy it? Such questions may seem idle, unexciting, or irrelevant before the pressures of daily life or the trouble of the news cycle – but in fact they are deep and vitally worth asking. To inquire into the

materiality and sociology of books is to understand the conditions of creativity and self-knowledge; it is to trace the shaping of identity and opportunity.

As I see it, the purpose of the BSC expresses itself in two main categories of action – the building of community, and the achieving of knowledge. These two categories are so interrelated as perhaps to be one, but dividing them helps affirm the many activities that we pursue. We build community through our annual conference, a well-attended event that attracts participants at every stage of career, infusing the inquiries enumerated above with friendship, debate, social energy, and the excitement of performance. We achieve knowledge through the publication of our journal, the *Papers/Cahiers*, which for sixty-four years (since 1962) has published peer-reviewed articles on books, authors, publishers, readers, libraries, policy, copyright, and censorship. The conference nourishes the journal, in individual submissions and special issues proceeding from our meeting. The journal justifies the conference, calling us to do much more than simply throw an expensive party each spring, calling us rather to refine our research to the point that it may stand on the shelf in the company of the achievements of our predecessors and prompt the next wave of research. To these two main activities – conference and journal – must be added the awarding of our fellowships and prizes, the renewal of our membership, the publishing of our bulletin, the updating of our website and social media, the subsidization of monographs, the stewarding of our financial resources, and many other lines of work pursued by the BSC Council through its semi-annual meetings each year.

I will proceed to two updates on activities and one solemn reflection on purpose.

Concordia University Press

I am pleased to report that the agreement between the BSC and Concordia University Press, concluded last year after a decision by Council, has borne fruit. We have paid a subsidy to the press in support of the first publication in their series, Authors, Publishers, Readers, Texts. The beneficiary of this subsidy was Carole Gerson's new book, *Literary Life after Death*.

Future Conferences

The Federation is in the process of revamping Congress. Several significant changes are in the offing, including an increase in registration fees. The Council discussed these changes at our last meeting. As things stand, we are currently planning to hold our conference independently again next year. The location will be on the West Coast; more information will be shared in the near future.

In Memoriam

Three long-time friends of the BSC have passed away since last we met. These are colleagues whose careers embodied the goals of our society.

Le professeur Jacques Michon est décédé en avril 2026 à l'âge de 80 ans. Jacques Michon a enseigné au Département des lettres et communications à l'Université de Sherbrooke depuis 1975. Dans les années 1980, il a fondé le Groupe de recherches sur l'édition littéraire au Québec (le GRÉLQ). Avec Carole Gerson il a co-dirigé le troisième volume de *l'Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada*.

Dr. Richard Virr died in December 2025. Dr. Virr was at the first conferences of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) shortly after its founding. For many years he was the director of Rare Books and Special Collections at the McGill Library, where he worked tirelessly to expand the world-class collections, especially in the area of the French Enlightenment. Dr. Virr generously remembered the BSC in his will and the Council is working with the liquidator of the estate to execute the bequest.

Le professeur Yvan Lamonde est également décédé en août 2025. Titulaire de la Chaire James McGill au Département des littératures des langues française à l'Université McGill, lauréat du prix du Gouverneur général du Canada, membre de la Société royale du Canada, Yvan Lamonde a mené un vaste chantier de recherches sur la culture livresque au Québec et au Canada. Avec Patricia Fleming il a co-dirigé l'entièreté du projet de *l'Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada* ainsi que le deuxième volume avec Fiona Black.

Jacques, Richard, and Yvan, thank you for your contributions to bibliography and to the history of the book in Canada; you have passed on, but your work remains with us as a guide and an inspiration.

Thank you to all members of the Society and of Council for this opportunity to serve a two-year term as president. I congratulate Danielle Van Wagner and the program committee on the 2026 conference, which took place at Trinity College at the University of Toronto. I look forward to the many activities of the society in the year to come by which we will continue to build community and achieve scholarship.

- Eli MacLaren, BSC President
June 2026

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Awards & Fellowship Announcements

2026 Marie Tremaine Fellowship

*** Version française disponible*

The members of the BSC Awards & Fellowships Committee are pleased to announce that **Oyeyemi Ifeoluwa Bamidele** has been awarded the Marie Tremaine Fellowship for 2026.

Oyeyemi Ifeoluwa Bamidele is a Visiting Researcher at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto. Her research focuses on bilingualism, language education, and immigrant language communities in Canada.

Her project, *A Bibliography of Yoruba-Language Publishing in Canada, 2000–Present*, is described below:

This project will create the first comprehensive list and detailed description of Yoruba-language books, newspapers, and other printed materials published in Canada from 2000 to today. Yoruba is one of Africa's major languages, spoken by over 40 million people worldwide, with a rich literary history stretching back centuries. In Canada, Yoruba-speaking communities, primarily Nigerian immigrants, have established vibrant cultural presences in Toronto, Calgary, and other cities, complete with churches, cultural organizations, and heritage-language schools. Yet despite this active community life, no one has ever systematically tracked what these communities have published in their own language. There is no master list, no organized record of these publications. This gap matters because without documentation, Canada's multicultural publishing history remains incomplete, and the ways immigrant communities maintain their languages and use print to preserve their identities remain poorly understood.

The goal of this project is to find, record, and describe every Yoruba-language publication produced in Canada that can be located. This includes books, pamphlets, community newspapers, language-teaching materials, religious texts like hymnals and prayer books, educational resources, and cultural event programs. The project will create a detailed catalogue with historical context explaining how, why, and by whom these materials were produced, who read them, and how they circulated. This catalogue will serve as a foundation for future researchers studying book history,

immigrant communities, multilingual education, and the preservation of Canada's diverse publishing traditions.

The study starts in 2000 because this marks a turning point when Nigerian immigration to Canada increased significantly and when Yoruba community institutions matured, churches became established, cultural associations organized formally, and heritage-language schools opened. Over the past 25 years, these communities have produced printed materials for worship services, teaching children Yoruba, celebrating cultural festivals, and maintaining connections to their heritage. However, these publications are scattered across community centres, church basements, private collections, and small bookstores. Many exist in small print runs and were never deposited in major libraries. Without systematic documentation, they risk being lost forever.

Research will take place in two settings. First, searches will be conducted at major Canadian libraries and archives including Library and Archives Canada, Toronto Public Library's Special Collections, the Clara Thomas Archives at York University, and the Multicultural History Society of Ontario. Second, and critically, community-based research will involve visiting Yoruba churches that print their own hymnals and devotional materials, talking with cultural association leaders, visiting Nigerian bookstores in Toronto, and connecting with heritage-language schools. Many of these publications never make it into formal library collections, requiring direct engagement with the communities that produced them.

The project will analyse patterns in publishing: who publishes these materials, what topics they cover, how they are printed and distributed, and how communities use them. Documentation will capture how Yoruba Canadians have used print to preserve their cultural identity, teach their language to Canadian-born children, maintain religious traditions, and stay connected to Nigeria.

This project draws on my specialized training in bilingualism, African languages, and immigrant language development. Also, my direct knowledge of Yoruba language and culture enables reading and understanding these texts, not just cataloguing their physical characteristics. This linguistic competence allows for richer, more meaningful descriptions than would otherwise be possible.

This focused study of one language community will establish a research model that can be applied to other African-language communities in Canada, like Somali, Amharic, Igbo, and others. The project will result in both a scholarly article and a publicly accessible catalogue, making an important contribution to preserving and understanding Yoruba-language publishing in Canada.

2026 Bernard Amtmann Fellowship

*** Version française disponible*

The members of the BSC Awards & Fellowships Committee are pleased to announce that **Chris Lyons** has been awarded the Bernard Amtmann Fellowship for 2026. Chris Lyons was a rare books librarian at the Osler Library of the History of Medicine and Rare Books and Special Collections at McGill University before retiring in 2024. His research interests and publications are in the fields of Canadian library history and collectors and collecting. He is currently interested in the history of the Canadian antiquarian book trade and sits on the boards of the Atwater Library and the Bibliothèque de la Compagnie de Jésus in Montreal.

His project, *Collecting Canadiana: Lawrence Lande and the Boom in Historical Collecting in Post-War Canada*, is described below:

The fifty years following the end of the Second World War saw the emergence of a powerful new Canadian nationalism. Canadians saw that their country had the ability to play a serious role on the international stage both in war and in peace. Leaving the shadows of a waning British Empire and wary of the potentially suffocating embrace of the United States, people sought to define, assert and celebrate what was uniquely Canadian. The celebration of the nation's centennial in 1967 provided additional energy and urgency to this sentiment, as did the Quiet Revolution in Quebec. Politics, the arts, and educational curricula reflected this fascination with Canada's past, present, and future.

This rise of Canadian nationalism had a tremendous impact on the book trade, private collecting, and acquisitions in academic and public libraries. The Canadiana collecting career of Montreal notary and businessman Lawrence Lande (1906-1996) provides an exceptionally rich and important case study of this period. Lande has been described as "one of the greatest private collectors of Canadian books and manuscripts." Over the course of forty years, he created several significant collections of Canadiana. Lande worked closely with several Canadian booksellers, perhaps none more so than Austrian-born Montreal antiquarian book dealer Bernard Amtmann (1907-1979). Not long after his arrival in Canada in 1947 Dr. Amtmann became a most

passionate promoter of Canadiana, one whose impact on the Canadian book trade far surpassed acquiring and selling books. These two worked closely in forming Lande's most significant Canadiana collections over the course of approximately twenty years.

Not being satisfied with merely amassing books, Lande believed that book collections must be used, lest they remain mere "ornaments of ostentation." His solution was to make his collections accessible to scholars and students by donating or selling his collections to public institutions. McGill University's principal H Rocke Roberston, university librarian Richard Pennington, and library director John Archer were instrumental in ensuring that McGill benefitted from Lande's passion for Canadiana to build an exceptionally rich research collection. His first major Canadiana collection was donated to the McGill's Redpath Library in 1965. This was followed by a second large collection of Canadiana in 1971, and smaller accumulations of material related to Indigenous and Inuit Peoples (originally designated the Lande Indian and Lande Eskimo collections). Other collections were sold or donated to Library and Archives Canada and elsewhere. In keeping with their donor's wishes, McGill established a separate reading room with a dedicated librarian to serve the collection and its readers. Lande also issued several bibliographies of his collections to increase awareness of the printed history of Canada under the imprint of the Lawrence Lande Foundation for Canadian Historical Research which was housed in the library.

Using the rich archival sources available at McGill, Library and Archives Canada, and elsewhere, evidence of the collaboration of Lande, Amtmann, and McGill to create the Lande Canadiana collections provides a case study of the network of booksellers', collectors, and libraries that can provide a basis for other studies of this era.

Congratulations, Chris!

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2025 Emerging Scholar Award

*** Version française disponible*

The Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC) is pleased to announce that **Liu Jinxingqi** has been awarded the 2025 Emerging Scholar award.

Liu Jinxingqi is a PhD candidate in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta, working in the fields of book history and print culture, whose research examines print cultural production during the Cold War, with particular

attention to literary magazines, publishing networks, and the material and institutional conditions through which texts circulated.

Liu Jinxingqi's project, *A Collaborative Print Network in the Cultural Cold War: 'Literary Review' and Modernism in Taiwan (1956-1960)*, examines a covertly funded Chinese-language periodical produced under USIS Taipei, in collaboration with Taiwanese artists and intellectuals in the early Cold War, as a case study in the 'many hands' that participated in the formation of modernist print culture in Taiwan.

The Awards Committee was particularly impressed by the depth and rigor of Liu Jinxingqi's archival research, particularly declassified USIS/USIA records, as well as by the project's original approach to print networks and cultural mediation. By bringing together bibliographical analysis with Cold War cultural history, the project offers a nuanced account of how modernist literary production in Taiwan emerged through transnational collaboration, institutional constraint, and material print practices.

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, Jinxingqi!

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2025 Conference Mobility Award

*** Version française disponible*

The Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC) is pleased to announce that **Beatrice Perusse** has been awarded the 2025 Conference Mobility award.

Beatrice Perusse is a current student in the Master of Information program at the University of Toronto, and is a candidate in the Book History and Print Culture program. Her research focuses on the production of syllabic text at missionary printing presses in 19th century Rupertsland.

Beatrice Perusse's paper, *Indigenous and European Collaborative Labour at Fur Trade Printing Presses*, centres on ongoing research surrounding the labour of

Indigenous Christians at Fur Trade post printing presses. Specifically, it focuses on the work of Cree, Métis, and Inuit missionaries at Anglican run printing presses at Oxford House (Bunibonibee), Moose Factory, and Baffin Island (Qikiqtaaluk).

The Conference Committee was particularly impressed by the depth of Perusse's research, as well as by her focus on Indigenous collaboration and labour within early Canadian print culture. Her work brings original insight to the study of missionary presses by foregrounding Indigenous participation, expertise, and agency, and by situating these contributions within the material and institutional histories of print production.

The BSC/SBC's conference mobility award replaces the Graduate Student Award previously offered by Congress and provides \$300 to a student to assist with costs and expenses related to attending the conference.

Congratulations, Beatrice!

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2025 Greta Golick Award

*** Version française disponible*

The Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC) is pleased to announce that **Colleen Thumlert** has been awarded the 2025 Greta Golick Award.

Colleen Thumlert holds a Master of Information in Library & Information Science from the University of Toronto's iSchool and completed the collaborative specialization in Book History and Print Culture. Her research interests centre on the materiality of the book, book microbiomes, and interdisciplinary approaches to book history informed by ecology and the life sciences. She currently works at York University and volunteers at the Toronto Botanical Gardens' Weston Family Library, where she assists with the creation of an archive and prepares historical bibliographies for items in the rare book collection.

Colleen Thumlert's project, *Microbiome & Big Annotations: Markings Worth Examining*, explores how book history can benefit from knowledge production in microbiology and from ecological principles, approaching books as microbiomes that contain unique ecosystems of living and non-living inhabitants shaped by their materiality.

The Conference Committee was particularly fascinated by the project's highly original and imaginative approach to book history. By bringing together bibliographical study, microbiology, and ecological thinking, Thumlert offers a distinctive perspective and opens up new methodological possibilities for the field, prompting fresh questions about materiality, preservation, and interpretation.

Colleen will be invited to publish a revised, article-length version of her 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 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.

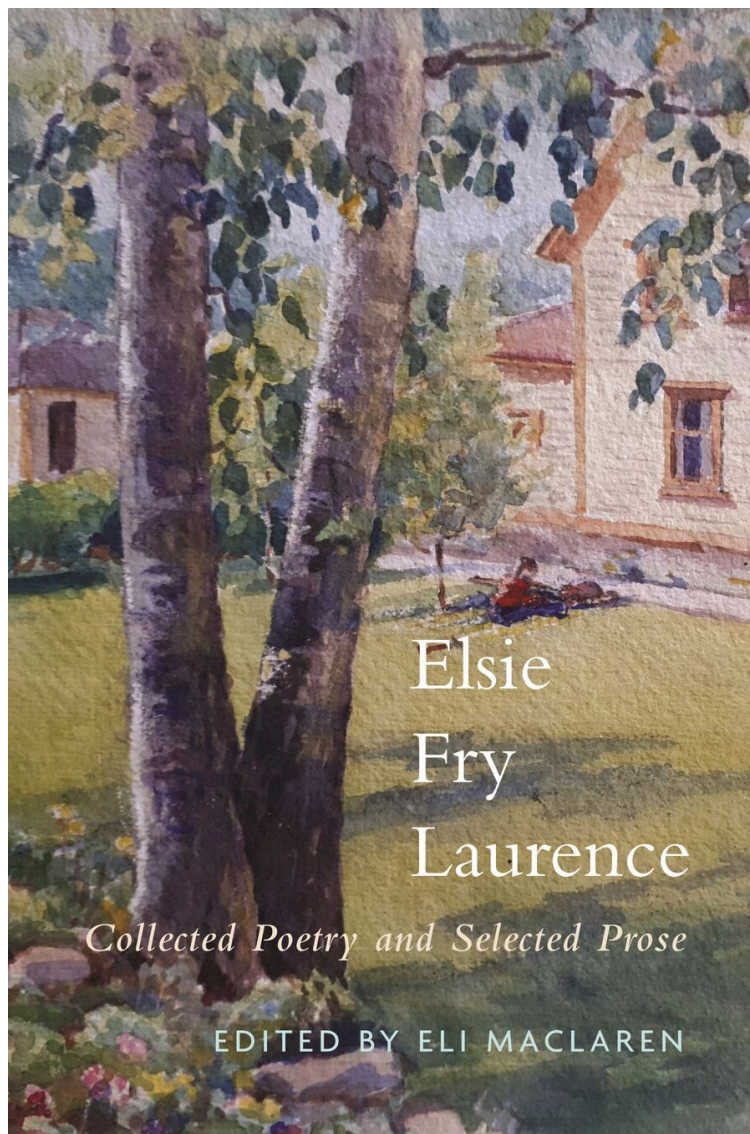
Congratulations, Colleen!

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Member Announcements

New Publication:

***Elsie Fry Laurence: Collected Poetry and
Selected Prose***



*** Version française disponible*

Elsie Fry Laurence: Collected Poetry and Selected Prose

Margaret Laurence

Edited by Eli MacLaren

McGill-Queen's University Press, November 2026

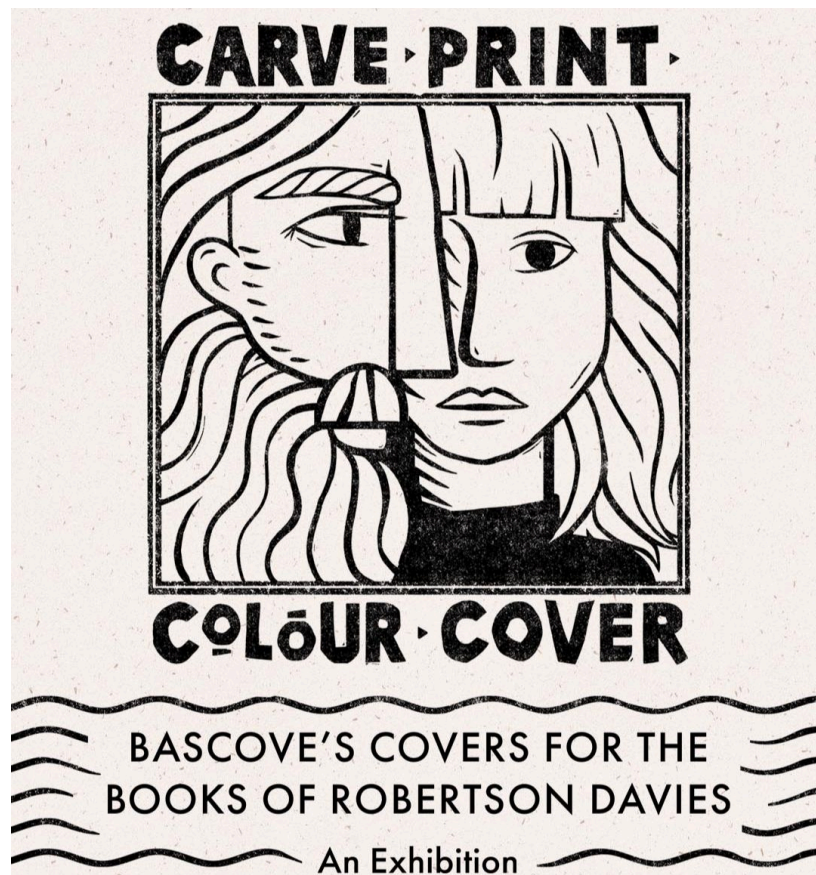
The celebrated author, Margaret Laurence, drew strength from the example of her mother-in-law, the Canadian poet and novelist Elsie Fry Laurence (1893–1982). After an upbringing in England and Russia, Elsie Fry Laurence came to northern interior British Columbia in 1914 and then central Alberta in 1928. Her making a home, raising children, and pursuing a vocation as a writer represents a key phase in the coming of the book to western Canada. In the introduction, this scholarly edition seeks to understand her life and career in a broad account of the region, encompassing the marginalization of Dakelh (Carrier) and Nehiyawak (Cree) during the early-twentieth-century land rush. The second half of the book presents Fry Laurence's poems and short stories, allowing readers to trace her development as an author for themselves. Through inquiry into both poetry and place, this book pursues

a western Canadian literary career through a complex land acknowledgement, with the aim of demonstrating how we may renew the study of Canadian literature today.

Learn more about and pre-order the book [here](#).

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Exhibition:
***Carve ▶ Print ▶ Colour ▶ Cover: Bascove's Covers
for the Books of Robertson Davies***



Organized by Sara J. Fackrell
April - October 2026
Massey College, 4 Devonshire Place

This exhibit highlights the work of artist and book cover designer [Bascove](#), who created more than 15 covers for the novels of Robertson Davies. It explores her artistic inspiration and distinct graphic language, her creative process from concept to final

cover, and her working relationship with Davies. It also places her work in conversation with the broader visual and social environments of North American book cover design in the 1980s and 1990s.

Bringing together art, literature, and the material life of the book, the exhibition offers a glimpse into how visual interpretation shapes the reading experience, an idea at the heart of Massey College's engagement with the book arts and print culture.

Carve ▶ Print ▶ Colour ▶ Cover will be on display in the Lower Library of Massey College until October 2026. For those who are unable to attend in-person, the digital exhibition is available [here](#). A digital copy of the printed catalogue can be accessed [here](#).

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