McMaster Library NEWS
Building the Library of the Future
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Emily Pauline Johnson Rediscovered

The native Canadian poet and performer E. Pauline Johnson, daughter of Chief George Johnson of the Six Nations and Emily Howells Johnson, an English gentlewoman, was born in 1861 at Six Nations, Ontario and died in Vancouver in 1913. She spent her life writing poetry and articles, many about her native ancestry, and was a popular touring performer of her poetry on stages across Canada, Britain and the US.

Only small collections of archival materials remain about this important Canadian. At McMaster we are fortunate to have two groups of materials about Pauline's life and career, one collected by her sister Eva and left to the Brant County Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire and then donated to McMaster in 1960/61, and a second collected by her fellow performer Walter McRaye and donated to McMaster by his sister after his death.

Over the years researchers occasionally used these archival materials but not in great numbers. A resurgence of interest in Pauline Johnson's life and work developed in the 1980s. Sheila Johnston, a local arts communications consultant, began to study Pauline Johnson's life and used her research to design a performance to bring Pauline back to life. She also began gathering materials for a book about the poet (*Buckskin & Broadcloth,* 1997). Doctoral and masters students began to study and write about Pauline.

As the Internet developed in the 1990s, Industry Canada began the Canadian Digital Collections project to contract libraries, archives, and museums to create web sites highlighting Canadian heritage and introducing schoolchildren, through the SchoolNet project, to forgotten aspects of our heritage.

McMaster applied to Industry Canada for one of these contracts to create a web site about Pauline Johnson. After preparing a pilot site in 1996, we received funding for a full project in 1997. Directed by the Library and the Humanities Computing Centre, a team of graduate and undergraduate students in web page creation and design used the archives at McMaster to create a site which describes Pauline Johnson's life and career with text, illustrations and archival documents. The site was launched through SchoolNet in fall 1997 and is actively used. The site master receives an average of fifteen messages a month expressing thanks for the site, commenting on the impact Pauline's poetry has had on their love of literature, asking for more information (local historical societies are especially interested in documenting Pauline's tour visits to their communities), and occasionally suggesting improvements. The level of interest which the site has generated worldwide is extremely pleasing, for the Library's goal of bringing information about Pauline and the archival holdings to a wider audience has been achieved.

Now a new biography by Charlotte Gray is in process, and several other books about Pauline Johnson are in print. The Canadian Opera Company has commissioned an opera on her life, to be staged in a few years.

One hundred years after she wrote and performed, interest in Pauline Johnson's life and career is high and shows no signs of lessening. ■

C.A. Stewart

In This Issue:

We are pleased to introduce our new name and look. With this issue, *McMaster Library News* succeeds the *Library Research News*. We hope you enjoy the new format.

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Buckskin and Broadcloth

On May 13 about 100 invited guests attended *Buckskin & Broadcloth: a Celebration of the Poet/Performer Pauline Johnson*, the Library's 5th annual donor appreciation event.

Sheila Johnston is no stranger to the Library. When she first began researching Pauline's life, she made extensive use of the Pauline Johnson archives housed in Archives and Research Collections. She later toured BC, Alberta and Russia with Six Nations artist Raymond Skye, presenting their celebration of Pauline's life. In 1997 Johnston's pictorial biography of Pauline was published, based in large part on her research at McMaster.

Ms. Johnston's performance was enthusiastically received by our guests; her obvious passion for Pauline and her poetry evoked the performances that Pauline Johnson had herself given a century before. ■

A. Plessl

Acquiring the Library's Collections

An academic library's reputation is determined largely by the strength of its collections. Developing a library's collection is a process that takes years. Fortunately McMaster University Library's collection has a strong foundation, but in order to continue its development wise choices must be made from the large number of materials published each year.

What does the Library need to own or make accessible?
Collection content supports the University's teaching, learning and research needs, and thus is governed largely by the nature of the programs offered. Since faculty input is necessary to determine what to purchase, each academic department designates a faculty member as the Library Representative for the academic year. The Rep serves on one of two Library User Committees (Arts and Social Sciences or Science and Engineering), and is the liaison with the department for his/her term.

How is the collection acquired?
Acquisitions are received in several formats: books (new and antiquarian), cassettes and compact discs, maps, archives, electronic products, journals and microforms. Most books are selected using new book recommendation slips which are sent by vendors based on collection policies provided by the departments. These slips are sent to the Library Reps who, together with their colleagues, recommend titles to be ordered. Faculty members can also forward other recommendations to their Reps who pass these on to the Acquisitions Librarian.

The Acquisitions Librarian selects appropriate suppliers and orders are placed, increasingly through vendor and related retail web sites. Materials come from many countries and in a variety of languages, now primarily English, French and German.

Most journals are received through vendors who coordinate and monitor orders for many institutions, but some come directly from publishers and organizations. The most significant new trend in academic publishing is electronic journals. While some electronic journals replace those previously published in paper, other publishers make the electronic version available at no additional cost as part of a subscription to the paper copy of a journal. With electronic versions we can provide greater access for more users at once, both in the Library and remotely, and can offer advanced search strategies not possible with paper copy. At present the Library has access to over 1,000 electronic titles. To use these materials, see: http://www.mcmaster.ca/library/research/ejournal/ejournal.htm.

How are acquisitions financed?
The acquisitions budget is part of the total Library budget set by the University Budget Committee. In 1999/2000 $5 million were allotted to acquisitions, about 46% of the Library's total budget. When the budget has been determined, each academic department is allocated funds to maintain journal subscriptions and monographs (books). Library Reps are responsible for coordinating the expenditure on books. Each department is also responsible for the periodic review of journal subscriptions to ensure that the Library is receiving titles appropriate to the courses taught and research done in their areas. To add a new journal title, a journal/journals of equal value must be cancelled to release funds for the new order.

What does the future hold ?
Maintaining the acquisitions programmes remains a dominant challenge and concern. In the past eight years economic factors have created tremendous hurdles for acquisitions. Inflation rates have been very high (10% or more) for journals and to a lesser extent for books. The relatively weak Canadian dollar has

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(Library's Collections — cont'd from p.2)

also had an impact, since over 85% of research resources for academic libraries are published outside Canada. Consequently, we are able to buy fewer books and have had four major rounds of serials cancellations.

A significant boost to the acquisition budget is expected from the University's current *Changing Tomorrow Today* campaign, which hopes to raise $7 million for the *Library of the Future* Endowment, to provide an additional annual income of $300,000–400,000 for acquisitions.

The nature of the collection is changing. The licensing of scholarly electronic products is increasing in importance, and the high costs of these essential resources require the Library to find new and creative ways to finance them. As a member of OCUL (Ontario Council of University Libraries) and the Canadian National Site Licensing Project, McMaster is presently participating in the negotiation of consortial licenses for indexes, abstracts and journals available electronically. As a consortium, Ontario and Canadian libraries hope to negotiate lower access fees for these costly products, providing access for students and faculty to resources essential for teaching and research.

Whatever the future, the Library will attempt to respond to the challenges and build a collection that will meet the needs of the University and enhance McMaster's reputation nationally and internationally. ■

C.A. Stewart, A. Plessl

Making Archives Accessible Electronically

McMaster University Library houses a treasure trove of diverse archives that are well known in the national and international research community—archives of Bertrand Russell and Vera Brittain, pre–1800 manuscripts, Canadian publishing, poetry, and labour union archives. These can be examined in the reading room of Archives and Research Collections. Fonds descriptions of the archives also are available in the online catalogue, MORRIS. Akin to a bibliographic record for a book, a fonds description describes a body of records in a general way, including the name, date range, extent, biographical, historical and scope notes, provenance, access points, and restrictions. For broadcaster and journalist, Pierre Berton, for example, one discovers that the Pierre Berton fonds (102 m. of textual records and moving images) consist of 11 accruals donated by him between 1974 and 1999, and that the finding aids describe his manuscripts, correspondence, and involvement in radio, TV, and many other causes and projects.

Future access methods for archives are exciting. While fonds descriptions give a succinct, global view of archives, finding aids provide more detailed access. We plan to have all finding aids accessible electronically on the web and eventually the fonds descriptions on MORRIS will be "hot-linked" to them.

The McMaster fonds descriptions will also appear on ARCHEION, Ontario's archival information network, and CAIN, the Canadian Archival Information Network. While researchers will continue to consult printed reference tools, they will increasingly use electronic sources to gain greater access in researching archival material. ■

C. Spadoni

David E. Cook Fund Update

The David E. Cook Memorial Fund was established as a lasting tribute to the late Reference Service Manager. The fund, reflecting David's interest in Canadian fiction, is to be used to purchase Canadian fiction and will translate his dedication to the Library into materials to be used by future generations of McMaster students. In April 2000 contributions to the fund totalled approximately $2300.

Books are being selected for purchase and include original works and reference materials. Each book receives a Cook Memorial Fund gift-plate. ■

S. Pepper

Preservation Tip: Promoting Longevity

To ensure the longevity of paper-based items, we must be aware of elements which can compromise their physical integrity. Four elements which can affect paper are light, relative humidity, temperature and pollutants. Light fades, yellows and structurally weakens materials. Both sunlight and fluorescent light are sources of ultraviolet light which is particularly active. In addition, when light strikes a surface, it can generate heat which in turn accelerates the rate at which paper ages. The best suggestion for paper items is to avoid exposing them to a direct light source. For example, remove the light hanging directly over a print or move the print so that it does not receive light rays from a window. In the next issue, we will discuss how relative humidity and temperature affect paper-based items. ■

A. Schell

Recent Notable Gifts

- From Theodore Arcand, books on various topics, most relating to Lebanon, *The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul* (1756) and *Riflessioni economiche politiche e morali sopra il lusso l'agricoltura la popolazione le manifattura e il commercio dello Stato Pontificio* (1795).
- From Norman Ball, titles on various topics.
- From Pierre Berton, the 11th accrual of his archives, including numerous photos and audio visual materials pertaining to his television shows.

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(Recent Notable Gifts — cont'd from p.3)

- From Michel Brisebois, approximately 700 issues of French newspapers published during WWII.
- From Alina B. Bromke, books on foreign affairs and political science.
- From Esther S. Cooper, books on military history, including the Boer War.
- From current and retired faculty members Cameron M. Crowe, Simon Haykin, Berners Jackson, Alvin Lee, Gunhard Oravas and Charles Roland, collections of books on various topics.
- From Graham W. Dunlop, through the Alexander Gallery, 3 Bibles from the 17th and 18th centuries, and archival material on the Chromium Mining and Smelting Corp.
- From the estate of W.J. Eccles, the 3rd accrual of his papers.
- From Elizabeth Evans, a Hamilton poet, manuscripts of her poetry.
- From Ray and Donna Findlay, 63 books mainly of 19th-century Canadiana, including Christoph Cellarius' *Geographica Antiqua Recognita* (1773) and John Adams' *Index Villaris* (1690).
- From Ruth A. Grogan, a letter written to her by Marian Engel.
- From Rev. Dr. Edward G. Hampson, books on Biblical studies.
- From poet and writer Marvyne Jenoff, her archives of poems, journals, correspondence, and other material.
- From Kenneth Kershaw, maps and map photographs acquired in the preparation of *Early Printed Maps of Canada* (1993–98).
- From James King, the 3rd accrual of his papers, including photos of Margaret Laurence and manuscripts of his novel, *Faking* (1999), and his biography of Jack McClelland.
- From the Ontario Workers' Arts and Heritage Centre, several labour archives, including the minute books of the International Pressman's Union Assistants Local 176 (Hamilton, ON) and an accrual of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Local 504/550 (Hamilton, ON) papers.
- From Raymond Peringer, a book of poetry containing a letter from the playwright, John Coulter.
- From Robert Stevens, a small archive concerning Beatty Bros. and GSW Ltd., and three different editions of *The Beatty Barn Book*.
- From Dr. Catherine Stidsen, a copy of *A Commentarie of M. Doctor Martin Lvther vpon the Epistle of S. Paul to the Galathians* (1575).
- From Brian Strutt, *The Life of Edward* VII, magazines published on the occasion of Edward's death. ■

Grants

Dr. Carl Spadoni has been awarded two research grants (SSHRC $55,220; Bibliographical Society of America, $2,000 [US]) to compile a descriptive bibliography of Canadian author Robertson Davies.

The Library has received funding from the one-time Academic Priority Fund for its **D**igital **O**nline **T**utorial at McMaster project. *DOT@MAC* will be an interactive web-based tutorial to teach information literacy skills for a wide range of research situations and academic disciplines. The Library has an established library instruction program, but greater emphasis on inquiry based teaching and an increasing tendency for students to access library resources remotely makes it imperative that the Library begin to deliver this instruction via the web. Funding will provide equipment, software and relief staffing to replace orientation staff seconded to the project. Project staff anticipate having a prototype version of *DOT@MAC* ready during the fall term. McMaster students will then have access to an online skills tutorial 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ■

Publications

The following recent publications made use of our collections:

Billinghurst, Jane. *Grey Owl: The Many Faces of Archie Belaney*. Vancouver: Greystone Books, 1999.

Bradley, F.H. *Selected Correspondence*. v.4–v.5 Carol A. Keene, ed. Bristol: Thoemmes Press, 1999.

Flint, Annie Johnson. *The Poems of Annie Johnson Flint*. Margaret Hodgson, comp. Belleville, ON: Guardian Books, 1999.

Kamiński, Tadeusz A. *Myśl pacyfistyczna Bertranda Russella*. Piotrków Trybunalski: Wydawnictwo Filii kieleckiej WSP, 1998.

Keller, Betty. *Pauline Johnson: First Aboriginal Voice of Canada*. Montreal: XYZ Publishing, 1999.

Mitchell, Barbara and Orme, *W.O.: The Life of W.O. Mitchell, Beginnings to Who Has Seen the Wind 1914–1947*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1999.

Rogers, Ben. *A.J. Ayer: A Life*. London: Chatto & Windus, 1999.

Weidlich, Thom. *The Inquisition of Bertrand Russell: Appointment Denied*. Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books, 2000.

White, Morton. *A Philosopher's Story*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999. ■

Calendar

July–September 2000: Bertrand Russell and the Foundations of Mathematics, an exhibit in Archives and Research Collections, Mills Library.

September 22, 2000: Luncheon for Library retirees. ■

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