



## Sir Edwin Leather

Sir Edwin Leather, formerly of Hamilton, Canada, was a British Member of Parliament from 1950-64. In 1970 he became the Chairman of the Conservative Party, and from 1973 to 1977 served as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda. He has served on many prestigious committees and boards and is also the author of three novels. His many honours and awards include several knighthoods and honorary degrees. In 1983, Sir Edwin donated the photographic files of his mother, Grace Leather, to the Library, and he has been a continuing financial supporter. In 1996 he began a series of donations of his own books and papers. He recently discussed his reasons for becoming a donor to the Library.

*Sir Edwin, you have been a very generous supporter of the Library. What was your original connection to the University? My father was a Governor of this University for years. I don't know how active he was, but he was always interested in it. What are your reasons for supporting the Library in particular? I suppose because my mother was a voracious reader so I learned to be a voracious reader, and I've tried to collect books. I have a library, the better part of a thousand books or more and libraries and reading are, or have been, a part of my life like music has.*

*What personal satisfaction do you get from being a Library donor? Just for the hope that I'm pushing a little bit of what I have of money, knowledge and information to young people; they are growing up in a tough world aren't they?*

*What would you say to someone contemplating becoming a donor? I'd certainly encourage them in any way I could and say I feel that it is immensely*



Sir Edwin Leather

worthwhile. How else can somebody, say older people, do things that are going to be useful to young people?

*In the past you donated your mother's photographs to the Library, and now you are donating your own papers. Why do you believe in donating papers to a library? [Sir Edwin was approached to leave his papers to Boston University.] When I recovered from the shock and amazement I said, 'Alvin [Lee], this is what's happened and I don't know quite what to do,' and he said, 'Of course you know what to do. You must tell Professor Gotlieb and Boston that Boston has no right to your papers. Leave them to McMaster.' I said, 'Do you mean that?' He said, 'Yes,' so that's what I did. Well, I suppose I have a lot of papers there that would be of interest to somebody. One day, I've got my eye on the year 2015, some student is going to go to the university on this campus and say, 'Professor, I know I've got to write this treatise, and it's got to be something to*

do with Hamilton and its history, [but] I just can't get a clue.' And the professor is going to say 'There's a whole room out there with piles of stuff by some old guy called Leather. It's all about his family and extraordinary things he did, and it all started in Hamilton.' So for three months I will be a hero to that student and he will write his treatise and the Professor will be pleased.

*What is your hope for the future of the Library? Just hope it grows and does everything I think you are doing. Provide a little polish and a little broader knowledge and perspective and wisdom to students in my old home town. If it would help to do that I should be quite happy. (C.A. Stewart, A. Plessl)*

## In this issue:

- ◆ Sir Edwin Leather . . . . . 1
- ◆ The Library of the future . . . . . 2
- ◆ Entering the Gateway . . . . . 2
- ◆ Thode Library celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary . . . . . 2
- ◆ Libraries complete move to integrated catalogue . . . . . 2
- ◆ Library Development webpage . . . 3
- ◆ University Librarian receives award . . . . . 3
- ◆ Mary Lou Fallis . . . . . 3
- ◆ Bring Your Old Books . . . . . 3
- ◆ Preservation tip: artifact storage 3
- ◆ Grants . . . . . 4
- ◆ American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies . . . . . 4
- ◆ Recent notable gifts . . . . . 4
- ◆ Publications . . . . . 4
- ◆ Calendar . . . . . 4

## The Library of the future

McMaster is a major, research-intensive university, ranked among Canada's top institutions. Its stature and achievements in both teaching and research depend in large part on the strength of its library collections. Unless we have the financial foundation to secure the appropriate mix and range of resources that must be made available to students enrolled at McMaster in the coming years, the Library will be in danger of atrophy, and students will incline toward those universities that can offer coherent and ready access to global information.

To create the Library of the Future, the university is seeking donations to build an endowed fund for library acquisitions. This endowment is expected to total \$7 million at the end of the University Campaign (1999-2001) and will strengthen the foundation for the achievement of McMaster's educational goals. The Library of the Future Fund will:

- allow all students, regardless of their programme or financial status, to have centralized access through the Library to the most comprehensive and up-to-date information resources as the core of their McMaster learning experience;
- provide at least \$350,000 annually, which would enable the Library to purchase relevant texts and journals, and to provide access to digital materials central to the inquiry-based learning experience at McMaster;
- ensure that McMaster has the depth of resources necessary to instill in its graduates the intellectual curiosity and flexibility that they will need in a globalized society;
- allow the provision of increasingly expensive, specialized materials to support the teaching and research conducted at McMaster.

We will need your support during the Campaign not only to keep pace, but to show leadership in enriching the educational experience of our students. ❁

## Entering the Gateway

On Alumni Weekend the Library hosted a demonstration of the **morris** Gateway for members of the Class of '50,

who are generously funding the Gateway project to celebrate their 50th anniversary in the year 2000. Graham R. Hill, University Librarian, welcomed the group and spoke about the positive impact the Gateway will have on Library service to students. Charlotte Stewart, Assistant University Librarian, Collections, explained how the Gateway will give added value to the acquisitions budget.

Marju Drynan, Associate University Librarian, gave a technical overview of the Gateway, and Sheila Pepper, Assistant University Librarian, Reader Services, demonstrated some searches and some of the vast resources that will be available to students.

Following the demonstration, guests joined their Library hosts for coffee and cookies, had an opportunity to find out more about the Gateway Project and shared memories of their student days at McMaster almost fifty years ago.

For more information on the **morris** Gateway, please see **morris Gateway Questions & Answers** at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/library/research/gateway.htm>, or if you prefer, contact us and we'll be happy to send you a copy of our pamphlet. ❁ (A. Plessl)

## Thode Library celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

November 10, 1998 marked the 20th anniversary of the official opening of the H. G. Thode Library of Science and Engineering. The Board of Governors approved the expenditure of university funds for the new building in April 1976, and provided the directive that the new facility be in service for the 1978/79 academic year. Plans for the new library called for a three storey building at a cost of \$3.8 million dollars. Comprising a total area of 88,370 square feet, it would allow for almost double the stack ranges of the existing science library.

The science and engineering collection dates back to the earliest years of the University. In the early 1930s, when McMaster moved to Hamilton from Toronto, books and research journals in science and mathematics were housed with the general library collection in University Hall. When Mills Library

opened in 1951 it contained most of the science books except for a small working collection which had been housed in Hamilton Hall since the late forties. In 1954 the science collection was moved to a large room on the second floor of the new Burke Science Building. When the Faculty of Engineering was established in 1959 the Library began to develop an engineering collection to serve this added discipline. During the sixties and seventies, the science and engineering collection expanded beyond its allocated space, and the need for another building to house the collection and better serve the two faculties became evident.

Over the last twenty years the collection has increased 38%. Access to the collections has changed from the card catalogue to the microfiche catalogue introduced in 1978, and the online catalogue **morris** (McMaster Online Resource Retrieval Information System) installed in 1990. **morris** can be accessed from stations in the libraries and remotely through the Library's homepage. In recent years the increased importance of electronic resources has had a tremendous impact on the delivery of library services, particularly in the sciences and engineering. The next twenty years promise to be exciting: the challenge will be to provide and organize the digital collections and to continue to develop the best print resources for learning, teaching and research. ❁ (P. Findlay)

## Libraries complete move to integrated catalogue

Over the summer months the libraries implemented the circulation and reserve modules of the new library system, as another step in the transition to a fully integrated system. **morris**, McMaster's online catalogue, displays the status of items which are checked out. Reserve course and instructor indexes in **morris** lead students to the lists of materials on reserve for their courses.

Gone is the separate search on **libdata** to check the circulation status of a book. Gone are the bulky printouts which listed everything on reserve.

(continued on p. 3 )

(Catalogue continued from p. 2)

At the Circulation Desk service patterns have not changed, though you may hear some new beeps from the system! Notices which are mailed out to patrons about recalls, fines and overdue books are now being printed in-house and look completely different from those produced by the old system.

Some books are still checked out in the old circulation system, so it will be a couple of months before everything is checked back in and the old system retired completely. Unfortunately these books will not show up as checked out in **morris** as it was not technically possible to transfer circulation data from the old system to the new.

Users will be happy to see several features of the new system. In the near future, patrons will be able to check their own records to see what books they have checked out, as well as renew their own books. These features will be available through Webpac (the web version of the online catalogue) which means that they will be accessible from home or office computers. ❁ (E. Hayton)

## Library Development webpage

The Library Development Committee has created a webpage for donors and friends of the Library. There is information on how to make a gift to the Library, reviews and photos of events and an electronic version of the *Library Research News*. We are adding information about Library benefactors such as the Class of '50 (with photographs to take you back to that year at Mac).

Please visit us at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/library/services/development/gift.htm>. Bookmark the site so you can see what's new in development in the Library. ❁ (A. Plessl)

## University Librarian receives award

University Librarian Graham Hill recently became the first recipient of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (**carl**) Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship. The

award is to be given annually to a librarian in a member institution who has made a significant contribution to research librarianship. In particular, Hill's work in the areas of copyright reform and education was recognized by Marnie Swanson, **carl**'s president. Through **carl** and other associations, Hill has advocated on behalf of the University research library community, defending the principle of unimpeded access to scholarly research materials in all published mediums. Hill joined McMaster in 1971 and has served as University Librarian since 1979. ❁ (A. Plessl)

## Mary Lou Fallis Concert

The Library's collection of early Canadian sheet music was highlighted on May 2nd when soprano Mary Lou Fallis performed a selection of Canadian popular songs from 1840 to 1920.

Peter George and Graham Hill hosted



Mary Lou Fallis,  
photo courtesy of *McMaster Courier*

major donors, who were treated to **Primadonna** on a **Moose** by Mary Lou Fallis and pianist Peter Tiefenbach. The evening was generously sponsored by Sir Edwin Leather, one of the Library's major supporters, with additional support from Miss Fallis and others. ❁ (C.A. Stewart)

## Bring Your Old Books

The Library's 3rd annual **byob** (Bring Your Old Books) event was held on June 6th. This year, for the first time, the event was held in the morning only. Attendees paid a \$5.00 appraisal fee per title and money raised at the event has been put towards the Acquisitions budget of the Library.

Our three evaluators John Rush, Hugh Anson-Cartwright, and Richard Shuh kindly donated their time to evaluate the many items that were brought in. Each evaluator was quite impressed with the quality of materials presented throughout the morning. Several participants went home knowing that their book was worth over \$2,000. After the evaluations, participants were encouraged to visit the Preservation display and speak with the specialist on hand to find out how to preserve their treasured books for years to come. ❁ (R. Moore)

## Preservation tip: artifact storage

Books and paper artifacts can be stored in acid-free enclosures to protect them from dust and damage during handling. Because most papers and boards are acidic and therefore destructive, enclosures for artifacts must be made from acid-free materials. Acid-free envelopes and boxes in varying sizes are available commercially. However, it is often more appropriate to construct custom designed enclosures for specific artifacts. These custom made enclosures can be made by a professional conservator.

Three types of enclosures are practical for paper artifacts: slip cases for books; boxes for archival material, books, and matted works of art on paper; portfolios for small pamphlets, booklets, documents, manuscripts and unmatted works of art on paper.

Examine each artifact before deciding which type of enclosure is best. Books in good physical condition can be stored in a slip case; fragile or badly damaged books are more suitably stored in a box; and individual archival documents, manuscripts, and unmatted

(continued on p. 4 )

**(Preservation Tip** Continued from p. 3)

works of art on paper are best stored in a portfolio.

These containers provide protection by isolating artifacts from contact with agents of deterioration and will ensure preservation of your items. ❁ (A. Schell)

## Grants

The Library received a grant of \$2,925.52 from the Young Canada Works Program in Heritage Institutions administered through the Canadian Council of Archives. The grant was used to arrange and describe the fonds of locals 5, 36, 167, 794, 839 (Hamilton, ON), 145 (Georgetown, ON) and 815 (Milton, ON) of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

We have been fortunate in the many types of support the Library receives from the Deans and departments of the University. The most recent example is a one-time grant in 1998-99 of \$100,000 from the Office of the Dean of Humanities, Evan Simpson. These funds will enable the Library to purchase more monographs and electronic resources in the Humanities. At a time when the exchange rate is severely limiting acquisitions this additional support is most welcome. ❁

## American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies

The two 1997 McMaster-asecs fellows took up their awards in 1998. Both scholars teach at British universities. Dr. Nigel Aston teaches History at the University of Luton in Luton, England. His research focussed on the religious history of eighteenth century Europe, particularly England and France. Dr. Stephen Bygrave teaches English at the University of Southampton and was able to use his time to research a book of essays on sentiment and education in the mid-eighteenth century. Both scholars found McMaster's collections very rich in resources.

News about the 1998 fellows will appear in the spring 1999 issue. ❁

## Recent notable gifts

❖ From faculty members M.H.I. Baird and N. Balakrishnan, books and journals on a variety of scholarly topics.

❖ From Pierre Berton, an accrual (7.1 m.) of papers, consisting of correspondence, news clippings, manuscripts, and research material for 1967, *The Last Good Year*, *The Great Lakes*, and *Farewell to the Twentieth Century*.

❖ From Copp Clark Professional, the archives of the Canadian publisher Copp Clark, textual records with a few framed photographs (6.7 m.).

❖ From Diane Crompton, courtesy of Dr. Brian John (Department of English) for the Russell Archives, a colour 8 mm. film of a demonstration in Trafalgar Square by ccnd in 1959.

❖ From W.J. Eccles, an accrual (6 m.) of textual records dealing with his research interests in the 1980s and 1990s.

❖ From Joseph M. Glynn, Jr., a letter from Bertrand Russell in 1959, articles about Russell and transcripts of legal documents pertaining to Russell's family.

❖ From Bruce Hosking (the Dave Brown estate): the Steel Company of Canada collection (1910B68), including 19 payroll ledgers, 170 black-and-white photographs, and a manual; fifty books, including nineteenth-century Canadian textbooks and some Canadian editions of Mark Twain; a United Steelworkers of America, local 6203 (Hamilton, ON) minute book; a letter, photographs, news clippings, etc. concerning Major Douglas U. McGregor and his son during wwi; and three framed photographs of Canadian battalions.

❖ From Lawrence F. Koons, the Robert Briffault collection (1934-93, 60 cm. of textual records, photographs, and microfilms) including research files, correspondence, and books by and about Briffault, collected by Koons and William Hixson for an unfinished Briffault biography.

❖ From Dr. J.H. Taylor, Chancellor Emeritus, 130 books he received as juror for the 1998 Lionel Gerber Prize for the year's best work on international relations, including the prize winner *Loosening the Bond: The United States and South Africa in the Apartheid Years* by R.K. Massey.

❖ From Claire Ward, the archives of

the Canadian Committee for World Refugee Year, approximately 2.6 m. of textual records, 1959B60.

❖ From Professor Morton White, two letters written to him by Bertrand Russell in 1956.

We are grateful to all donors for their generosity to the Library. ❁

## Publications

The following recent publications made use of our collections:

Bishop, Alan and Mark Bostridge, editors. *Letters from a Lost Generation: the First World War Letters of Vera Brittain and Four Friends*. London: Little, Brown and Company, 1998.

Jones, Howard. *Master Tully Cicero in Tudor England*. Nieuwkoop: De Graaf Publishers, 1998.

Mendelson, Sara and Patricia Crawford. *Women in Early Modern England, 1550-1720*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998.

Sampson, Denis. *Brian Moore: the Chameleon Novelist*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 1998.

Spadoni, Carl. *A Bibliography of Stephen Leacock*. Toronto: ECW Press, 1998.

Sullivan, Rosemary. *The Red Shoes: Margaret Atwood Starting Out*. Toronto: Harper Flamingo Canada, 1998. ❁

## Calendar

*November 1998 to January 1999:* Austin Clarke: Selected Manuscripts and Correspondence, an exhibit in the Ready Division.

*February to April 1999:* Fakes, Forgers and Impostors in Literature, an exhibit in the Ready Division. ❁