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Library acquires Resistance Collection - offers multinational perspectives of war

A remarkable collection relating to the Resistance movement, underground literature, concentration camps, anti-Semitism, and propaganda during the Second World War has been acquired by McMaster University Library.

The Resistance Collection covers the period between 1933 and 1945, when millions of people were interned and often died in Nazi concentration camps throughout Europe. Nearly 2,000 letters from or to prisoners in Dachau, Buchenwald and Auschwitz, as well as Gestapo prisons and POW camps, comprise much of the material. In several cases there are 20 letters or more written by the same prisoner, an uncommon feature in such a collection when often only a single letter survives. There is also a diary of the Nazi evacuation from Ravensbrück (the women's concentration camp), and even a hand-fashioned recipe book, which prisoners exchanged to pass the time.

The private collection was acquired from Michel Brisebois, a former Montreal antiquarian book collector and rare book librarian at Library and Archives Canada.

"The Resistance propaganda was very potent, and anyone caught with this in their possession was immediately jailed or killed," says Carl Spadoni, director of Archives and Research Collections at McMaster University Library. "But the material is extremely important not just for the terrible period it documents but also because its multinational nature is vital to capturing different perspectives on the War."

Spadoni says the sheer number of concentration camp letters is the largest of its kind in Canada. The collection's dimensions and breadth will appeal to scholars researching the period.

The Brisebois collection also includes many

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Library acquires rare trench maps

McMaster University Library is soon to be home to one of the largest collections of World War I trench maps in the country after acquiring more than 900 maps from Dr. Peter Chasseaud, the world's leading expert in First World War military maps. The acquisition will triple the Library's trench map collection.

Many of these maps, originally produced by the British Ordnance Survey, were the only maps available to the Canadian Forces during World War I, covering areas and actions of historical Canadian significance such as "Preparation for Battle of Arras, Vimy, March 1917" and "Cambrai Battlefield - North: Final Advance 1918".

A large number of maps are from the earlier part of the war in the years 1915 and 1916 when map sheet production was limited to hundreds of copies instead of thousands, as was the case later in the war. Because they were produced in fewer numbers and trench conditions were bad for both men and materials, few of these maps have survived.

McMaster University Library Map Specialist Gord Beck is excited to see the maps find a home in Canada. "Our existing collection contains only a small number of examples of these early war maps so they are a great asset for researchers interested in Canada's involvement in such battles as Second Ypres and the Somme. Our modern method of topographic mapping has its roots in World War I. These early war maps are a valuable asset in the study of this evolutionary process in the field of cartography."

In order to make the maps available to researchers and the general public worldwide, they will be digitized as part of the Library's Mass Digitization Project and eventually made available online through the Library's *Peace and War in the 20th Century* website (pw20c.mcmaster.ca) which already contains over 3500 digitized items, including photographs, diaries, maps, letters and songs. The acquisition of the maps was made possible through funding from the Movable Cultural Property Grants Program.



Message from the University Librarian

The May to August months are a busy time in your campus libraries. Last summer, we saw the main floor renovation of the H.G. Thode Library of Science & Engineering and this summer promises to be filled with just as much excitement. I am very pleased to welcome the Lyons Instructional Media Centre to Mills Library. The centre moved into temporary quarters on the 3rd floor of Mills Library at the end of April (rooms L307/L309).

Over the next few months work will be completed to create the Lyons New Media Centre, a leading-edge facility that supports and promotes the innovative and effective use of new and traditional media in teaching, learning and research at McMaster. The centre will be located on the 4th floor of Mills Library and should be in place by late fall 2009. For the time being, Lyons staff can continue to be reached at extension 26106.

Also this summer, the third floor of Thode will be renovated to become the home of iSci, McMaster's Honours Integrated Science program. A classroom space is being created, and additional offices are being built for iSci faculty and the recently appointed Science Fluencies Librarian, Andrew Colgoni. Please watch the library homepage or contact me personally at ulatmac@mcmaster.ca for updates on either of these projects and for information on other summer initiatives.

Jeffrey G. Trzeciak

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books, posters, magazines, newspapers, and air drop leaflets. This has been augmented by a Nazi soldier's magazine, Nazi year books, children's books designed to instill anti-Semitic sentiments at an early age, and the infamous Notgeld currency. Much material has been collected by Hamilton philanthropists Madeleine and Monty Levy, who are funding the creation of a Virtual Museum dedicated to the Holocaust and the Resistance, and are establishing a post-doctoral fellowship through the University Library, Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences.

by Jane Christmas



Using a hot stamping machine to adhere gold foil to leather spine

Preservation lab maintains McMaster's rare collections

There are lots of labs on campus. Did you know there is one in Mills Library where books, archival documents, posters, maps and photographs receive conservation treatment? The Preservation Lab, part of The William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections is staffed by Audrie Schell, a book conservator with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology and a diploma in Museum Studies. Audrie is one of only a handful of book conservators in Canada, and to develop her specialty she apprenticed for 3 years with Belgian master binder Hubert Leurs. Audrie did internships at the National Museum of Science and Nature and the Ottawa Municipal Archives, and also worked at the National Archives of Canada before joining McMaster.

Audrie's knowledge and special skills ensure the maintenance of our rare collections through everyday activities such as environmental monitoring, collection surveys, condition reporting, stabilization and the conservation treatment of individual items.

Audrie uses her unique expertise to examine the condition of rare books to determine whether they can withstand the rigors of digitization. Most recently she repaired Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (1846). Other recent projects include the humidification, flattening and housing of three

very tightly curled panoramic photographs, the repair of several very deteriorated letters dated from the 1690s, dismantling the *Penang Daily News* from an inappropriate binding and then housing it in an archival box, and repairs to a number of books, most notably *Primitive History, From the Creation to Cadmus* (1789) and *Sense and Sensibility* (1894).

Audrie says, "Book conservation requires visual skills – you need to be observant, have an eye for detail, be patient and have the ability to think three dimensionally, to see how the book will react to the treatment methodology and materials used to repair the book. One must know the chemical makeup of materials and also have a knowledge of the different book structures." Some of the special tools she uses are bone folders, a suction table, a finishing stove, a backing press, board shears, a backing hammer, scalpels and band nippers. Many of the methods and materials used in rare book repair remain unchanged over the centuries and still require the use of hide glues, leather and sewing by hand. View some pictures from the Preservation Lab on our Flickr site:

www.flickr.com/photos/macetg

For more information about the Preservation Lab, please contact Audrie Schell at schellaj@mcmaster.ca.



Micro-blogging to enhance campus life and learning

Micro-blogging refers to a form of blogging that allows online subscribers to broadcast brief messages to other subscribers of a micro-blogging service. McMaster University Library recently created an account on Twitter, a free social networking and micro-blogging service, to update students, staff and faculty on new services, library events, and other news from the campus libraries.

Twitter is an online service that allows users to send and receive posts (otherwise known as Tweets) up to 140 characters long. Signing up for an account is free and posts can be accessible to all other users or made private to a certain group of followers. Users can receive and contribute updates via a cell phone or by logging into an account. These Tweets are similar to status updates on Facebook with the efficiency of instant messaging and the mobility of a cell phone.

Twitter has been triumphed as “the next big thing” – what started out as a means to providing somewhat trivial updates between friends is quickly becoming visible across the academic and popular media spectrum. For example, Twitter accounts have been created for Campus Security at Queen’s University, the Theatre program at the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto’s Department of Engineering. Educational institutions such as Red River College in Manitoba and Acadia University have created accounts to connect with students, faculty and the general public, and to bring awareness to campus events, initiatives, even imminent weather conditions.

In a blog post for Academhack.org, David Parry, an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Dallas, outlines multiple uses of Twitter. For example, Parry required students to sign up for an account as part of a writing assignment. Students followed the professor’s Twitter feed which provided short clarifications for class assignments, readings and links to relevant websites. He claims, “It was the single thing that changed the classroom dynamics more than anything else I’ve ever done in teaching. It helped students feel like more of a community.”

For more information on using Twitter, see Educause’s 7 things you should know about Twitter. <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7027.pdf>

MILLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
INNIS LIBRARY (BUSINESS)
H.G. THODE LIBRARY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING



Ontario Libraries combine forces to stretch budgets further:

Q & A with Anne Pottier, AUL Collections & Facilities

Q. We’re facing tough economic times. What’s the library doing to make sure we are maximizing our spending on resources?

A. We maximize our purchasing ability through participation in cost-sharing consortial agreements, which permit us to acquire many more resources than we could acquire independently. In 2008/2009 we spent \$4.5 million on e-resources, 95% of which were part of consortial deals. Consortial deals offer a 25-75% discount off the list price and usually include access to the entire suite of journal titles made available from a publisher. In the past, without a consortial deal, we may not have purchased all titles offered by a publisher, but rather one by one as needed. Statistics show that now even these additional titles are being used, partly because researchers are directed to them through links in our databases.

Q. What major consortia does the library participate in and what are the main advantages we gain from membership?

A. McMaster University Library is part of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) consortia, which includes 21 academic libraries in Ontario. OCUL is considered one of the longest standing successful academic consortia in North America, licensing e-resources (e-journals, e-books, data sets, indexes/abstracts) jointly since approximately 1996. The greatest single benefit to OCUL libraries is that we can join together as one large unit to negotiate the best possible deal with a vendor, usually a publisher. We negotiate the same terms and conditions of use for all participating libraries, including deep volume discounts, unlimited access 24/7 from both on and off campus for all students, faculty and staff, downloading/printing of articles, use of articles in e-reserves and course packs, providing articles to other libraries through interlibrary loan, and the possibility of locally loading the publishers’ content on our own network. www.ocul.on.ca

We are also a member of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), a consortia of 64 academic libraries across Canada. This is one of the largest consortia in the world and is often looked upon as an example of how large consortia should work. CRKN has successfully negotiated access to most of the major academic journal publishers’ entire suites of journal titles, and are currently negotiating for access to academic publishers’ complete e-book collections. www.researchknowledge.ca

Finally, McMaster University Library has recently joined the Centre for Research Libraries (CRL) based in Chicago, IL. As members, we are able to provide our users direct access to any materials digitized by CRL or via interlibrary loan for those research materials owned by CRL, but which are only available in paper or microform. www.crl.edu

Q. What other projects is the library working on in collaboration with other libraries?

A. As a member of OCUL we participate in ScholarsPortal (SP). This is a website managed by OCUL, which provides access to many of the products OCUL and CRKN have negotiated licenses for. Publishers provide us with copies of their raw files to host on the SP server so that OCUL users have direct access to the resources, without having to go through US servers or other servers in Canada. We are able to customize the interface so that users at all OCUL libraries have access to the same content using the same search engine, and can take advantage of add-on products like Refworks, a citation software product. ScholarsPortal is now looking at integrating e-book collections and research data sets into this site so that faculty, students and staff have a one-stop-shop to all the resources OCUL makes available.



New spaces and services to make busy lives easier

- During fall and winter terms, the new tower entrance to Mills library, located on the east side of the building, is available all hours that the library is open.
- Vending machines filled with cold drinks and snacks have been installed on the second floor of Mills Library.
- Learning zones have been defined in Mills, Innis and Thode to make it easier to find the type of study and work space you need. library.mcmaster.ca/study-space
- Our new *Freedom to Read* webpage allows you to browse our collection of challenged books online. library.mcmaster.ca/freedom-to-read

Upcoming events and exhibits

William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections presents:

Aboriginal Borderlands: Voices, Rights, and Visionaries

June 1, 2009 - August 31, 2009

This exhibit draws primarily on the archives and books of E. Pauline Johnson, A.G. Chisholm, Gisela Commanda, and Grey Owl (Macmillan Canada fonds).

Open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A Celebration of the Music of Jackie Washington, an event for library donors

June 3, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Convocation Hall

Contact plessla@mcmaster.ca

Announcement

2009 ASECS Fellowship

The McMaster-American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) Fellowship has been awarded to Dr. Thomas Power (Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges, University of Toronto) for a project entitled "Religion, Politics and Society in 18th Century Ireland." Dr. Power will be studying books and journals from McMaster's eighteenth-century collection starting in June 2009.

Recent notable acquisitions

The Library has acquired the following important research materials:

Anti-Semitic WWII posters. A series of 5 posters used for an exhibition in Belgrade between 22 Oct. 1941 and 19 Jan. 1942 on the alleged Jewish-Masonic-Communist conspiracy for world domination.

L.A.G. Strong. A typescript, enclosed in a letter to Lady Ottoline Morrell, 22 Nov. 1932, recording Strong's reminiscences of Garsington (Lady Ottoline's circle and home). Among other memories, he describes a meeting between Bertrand Russell and W.B. Yeats.

Recent notable gifts

The Library has received the following gifts from:

Andrew W. Brink, a signed copy of Bertrand Russell's *Marriage and Morals* (reprint, formerly belonging to Salem Bland), a John Doyle cartoon re. Lord John Russell (Demosthenes on the Sea Short) and an engraving of Lord John, 4 colour photos of Russell Chambers and Lady Ottoline Morrell's apartment in London.

Brian T. Bunting, a collection of rare maps.

Rita Cossa, books on business.

Roger Hutchinson, a box of archives pertaining to Bill 30 for the Richard Allen archives.

Estate of Professor Alexander G. McKay, his speeches, medals, and honorary degrees when he was Professor and Chair of Classics and served as the founding Dean of Humanities. Included in this donation are several books, most notably Thomas Major's *The Ruins of Paestum, Otherwise Posidonia in Magna Graecia* (1768).

Harold L. Medjuck, books on Native North Americans.

Morris Norman, a collection of more than 5,300 historical postcards, most of them Canadian in origin from the 1890s to the 1950s.

Estate of Professor Klaus H. Pringsheim, his archives, consisting of correspondence, manuscripts, publications, and scrapbooks. Included in the donation is a collection of research material and interviews on audio cassette regarding Pringsheim's unpublished biography of the Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato.

Charles Roland, a collection of 19th-century documents, including government reports about penitentiaries and lunatic asylums, broadsides about smallpox, and other ephemera.

Carl Spadoni, 1st editions of John Hersey's *The Wall* (1950), a prize-winning novel about the Warsaw ghetto, with 2 letters written by Hersey.

John Terpstra, the poet's archives, consisting of correspondence, books and other writings, photographs, audio-visual and related materials, community involvement, conferences, readings, personal material, and printed materials.

We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the following donors:

- Estate of Donna Elizabeth Fox
- F. K. Morrow Foundation
- Eleanor Gow
- John D. Parish
- John C. Weaver

A sincere thank you to all our donors for their generosity to the Library.