



# McMaster LIBRARY NEWS

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## Message from the University Librarian

The grades are in and not just for McMaster students. For library staff, the big news is how McMaster University Library fared in the Maclean's *University Rankings*, the Globe and Mail's *Canadian University Report* and finally, the Association of Research Libraries' *Investment Index*.

The Maclean's library rankings reflected a notable increase in the measure of the university's level of financial commitment devoted to maintaining library services. We rose to the 11th spot up from 15th in 2006.

The Globe and Mail recently gave McMaster's libraries an A- rating. The annual survey of undergraduate students asked over 100 questions of 38,000 students this year, gauging, among other topics, their satisfaction with library study space, hours of operation, library holdings, online resources and library staff.

Finally, earlier this fall, the Association of Research Libraries' (ARL) *Investment Index* placed McMaster's libraries 88th out of 113 American and Canadian research libraries, a steady increase from the 2005/2006 position at 102. The *Index* measures the level of resources available to a university library, including overall library expenditures, salaries and wages, material expenditures and the number of staff.

McMaster is a world-class institution noted for innovation and excellence and also deserves a world-class library. By all accounts, we are well on our way.

On behalf of the University Library I would like to thank all of our supporters for your ongoing commitment to building strong libraries at McMaster.

Jeffrey G. Trzeciak



Canadian Publishing archival materials on display

## Canada's publishing history digitized

Which novel by Margaret Laurence won the Governor General's Award, became a literary cause célèbre, and was an object of censorship in 1976? What is the history of hockey books in Canada? What has been the impact on publishing and book sales by CBC's annual Canada Reads competition? These questions and others are explored by a new scholarly website created by McMaster University Library, *Historical Perspectives on Canadian Publishing*. [hpcanpub.mcmaster.ca](http://hpcanpub.mcmaster.ca)

The Canadian Publishing website was officially launched in October 2009. Guests were treated to talks by Margaret Lock of Locks' Press and renowned Canadian publisher Doug Gibson (pictured below with Jack McClelland's daughter, Suzanne Drinkwater, and McClelland's famous "coat of many authors.")

McMaster University Library is renowned for its archives and books on Canadian publishing such as the papers of McClelland & Stewart, Macmillan Canada, Clarke Irwin, Copp Clark, and Key Porter Books, as well as the archives of lesser known publishers in educational, avant-garde and fine press publishing.

Unique and fascinating, publishers' archives contain a vast array of primary research materials: correspondence, manuscripts, marketing and publicity plans for books, mock-ups of books, illustrations, copyright registrations, readers' reports, contracts, royalty reports, and photographs.

Augmented with digital images, sound and video, and features for tagging and commenting, the website consists of 90 case studies on authors such as Farley Mowat, Pierre Berton, L.M. Montgomery, Alice Munro, and Al Purdy.

Emblematic of his many promotional stunts and commitment to Canadian writers, McClelland's "coat of many authors" is a captivating motif for the website.

Funded by the Canadian Culture Online Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the website is a collaborative project done in partnership with the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto and Queen's University Archives.





## Digitized collections help solve a century-old mystery

McMaster University Library's *Peace and War in the 20th Century* website ([pw20c.mcmaster.ca](http://pw20c.mcmaster.ca)) recently became an unlikely tool in solving a century-old mystery of a First World War battle, following an inquiry from Pipe Major John Spoores RVM, a 23-year veteran of the London Scottish Regiment.

More than 95 years ago, on October 31st 1914, the London Scottish Regiment was instrumental in a major battle at the Windmill of Messines in Belgium. This important military event has been commemorated with an annual regimental dinner on Halloween eve, the magnificent painting by Richard Caton-Woodville and even a bagpipe tune "The Burning Mill at Messines" written by Spoores himself. But for all these years since 1914 the actual location of the mill was unknown!

After discovering the digitized WWI trench maps on the website, Spoores contacted Map Specialist Gord Beck by email.

"I do visit Messines very often, but the exact site of the mill has never to my knowledge been determined. Hoping you can assist in putting this old grey head at ease!" he wrote.

Beck used a military history of the London Scottish Regiment to determine that the mill had been located between Huns Farm and Middle Farm, near the woods at L'Enfer. Using these clues and a trench map from the collection, he was able to locate the very small symbol indicating a mill on one of the maps. Mystery solved, for a proud regiment and a "grey headed" piper.

Since the addition of more than 900 First World War maps to the McMaster collection earlier this year, cases like this have become more and more common: staff receive about three requests for assistance every week, and there are untold numbers of history enthusiasts performing their own research at home, using the digitized maps found online.



Washington's improptu performance at an event in his honour, June 2009

## Celebrating Jackie Washington

Hamilton lost one of its best this past summer: legendary jazz and blues musician Jackie Washington, who passed away at the age of 89. Three weeks earlier he had been honoured at an event to celebrate his music and the gift of his archives to McMaster University Library.

At the event, held June 3 in Convocation Hall, Jackie's long-time friends, Ken Whitely and Mose Scarlett (see photos below) sang and played many of the songs that Jackie had performed over his long career. In a sublime end to a great evening, Jackie went to the microphone to share some of his famous stories and perform songs accompanied by Ken, Mose and guest Brent Titcomb.

Washington's archival collection includes journals, songbooks, some of his original train drawings, photographs and other memorabilia. Collectively these represent a fascinating glimpse into the long life and career of a man who experienced first-hand almost a century of jazz and blues history and the personalities and social change that accompanied it.

"We're all extremely grateful that Jackie Washington chose to leave his archives to McMaster," said University Librarian Jeffrey Trzeciak. "Because of this, people will be able to study and enjoy his amazing contributions to music for generations to come."

Born and raised in Hamilton, Washington began his singing career at age five and got his first guitar at age 13. During his career he knew or worked with some of the greatest names in the music industry, including jazz greats Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton and Clark Terry, songwriters Joni Mitchell and Gordon Lightfoot, and blues musicians Sonny Terry, Brownie McGhee and Lonnie Johnson. Among his other achievements, in 2003 Washington was given an honorary Doctor of Letters from McMaster University.

For photos of the Jackie Washington tribute event, see [www.flickr.com/photos/macetg](http://www.flickr.com/photos/macetg).



Ken Whitely and Mose Scarlett



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



## New Digitize on Demand Service

The University Library recently launched a “digitize on demand” (DOD) service, making detailed reproductions of more than 90,000 books available for purchase.

All the books digitized by the Library are free of copyright protection, allowing us to make these new versions available to you. A portion of each sale comes back to the Library and is used to further support our programs and services. Books are not damaged or removed as part of the digitization process, so if reading your own copy makes you yearn to see the original, we encourage you to come to the Library!

As part of our mass digitization program, the Library worked with Kirtas Technologies to create a DOD website. Paperback and e-book versions are available from \$10 and up; hardcover copies begin at \$20. When your order is placed, the book is digitized and your print or electronic copy created and delivered right to your door. Check out our DOD collection at [www.kirtasbooks.com](http://www.kirtasbooks.com).

Paperback copies of books included in the digitization program can also be ordered by contacting Mark Lefebvre at Titles Bookstore ([lefebvr@mcmaster.ca](mailto:lefebvr@mcmaster.ca)). As the Library’s digitization program continues, watch for more of these books to appear in the inventory at Titles. Online versions will be coming to the Library’s Digital Collections site.

### Sample titles:

- *The McMaster Muse: Poems Selected from “The McMaster University Monthly.”* Published 1894.
- *A Christmas Garland from the Front. Fifth Canadian Battalion, First Canadian Division, B.E.F., France and Belgium.* Published 1915.
- *A Christmas Sermon*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. Published 1900.
- *Old Christmas, from the Sketch Book of Washington Irving.* Published 1903.

## Upcoming exhibit

William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections presents:

### Canadian Publishing

December 2009 - April 2010

This exhibition will feature documents and books from the thematic website *Historical Perspectives on Canadian Publishing* at [hpcanpub.mcmaster.ca](http://hpcanpub.mcmaster.ca).

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



## Donor Profile: Distinguished University Professor John Weaver

### What’s your current area of interest?

I guess I’ve always been a social historian, interested not so much in high politics or diplomacy, not at least as a scholar or writer, but interested in society, the building processes that go on within society that can be expressed, for example, through city building; so a lot of

my earlier works and some of it even today pertains to the city building process and how people relate to the physical environment. Currently I’m still doing social history, but it’s guided largely by opportunism, by just happening upon really rich documentary sources, so nowadays I think I’d describe myself as an archives grubber. I like to get into the archives and dig and find materials, so I don’t think I’m very theoretically sophisticated or driven by theory or large questions so much as just a pursuit of really rich materials, material rich in human stories. Currently a lot of my research has been dealing with the grim materials found in coroners’ inquests.

### What impact has the Library had on your students and your teaching?

We have restructured the program so students now get more research experience at an earlier level than they used to. I think when students get the opportunity to work with primary source documents they get enthusiastic; it’s just so exciting for them, and they’ve told me this. I’ll refer to the Pigott diaries, for example: “I’m holding this document where the individual is recording in his diary the 1918 influenza epidemic and writing about whether his children are going to make it through the night or not.” [These are] tremendously moving documents and the students get it, they relate to that material very, very well.

### You have generously donated both book collections and financial gifts to the Library.

#### What are your reasons for giving to the Library?

I think a lot of it has to do with my wife’s enthusiasm for libraries in general. It’s just the idea that the library is equated with literacy. Reading is just one of the most rewarding exercises or activities that you can possibly imagine, so donating to the Library just seems to be a natural thing to do. The tougher question, I think, in a way, is why give to McMaster, because I perceive an attitude that some people may have, that is ‘why should I give to my place of employment?’ If I only saw this as my place of employment, I’m not sure I would enjoy my work as much as I do. This is more than a place of employment for me; I think of it also as a community. Giving back to the community, because I’ve certainly taken from it – I’ve taken plenty from it – from the Library, from the gym and the physical setting, just the environment of the campus. We’re taking from it all the time, so I certainly have no difficulty in giving what is actually, to be honest, a very tiny amount back. The idea of giving something back is satisfying.

#### What would you say to other donors?

If they could only sense the joy that students get from being able to work in that environment, the real thrill that students derive from collecting materials through the library and then sorting that material and expressing in their own words what they’ve discovered in those materials, and the Library is central to that. They don’t get that experience in listening to us lecture; this is the one venue that they have for creativity, using materials under the guidance and instruction that we can offer, but this is where they can go wild.

The Library here is packed with students, and yes, socializing is a part of that, but my goodness, that’s what we did in my generation too. You went to the Library to socialize, and some of that was social, but you were also exchanging information and sort of hanging out at the Library with one another. Some of that might have been a discussion about how the Leafs were doing, or where you were going to go to have a beer on Friday night, but some of it was actually reflection of what you learned in the course, and what you disagreed with in the particular lecture, and how you were going to develop your particular research paper, and had you seen this article and were you aware of this source? So there was a lot of sharing going on in the Library.

*Dr. John Weaver is a Professor in the Department of History and is an Associate Member in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences.*



## New @ your Library

- Lyons Instructional Media Centre's videos/ DVDs have been incorporated into our collections and can be picked up at Mills Library's circulation desk (students can now check them out too).
- Over 1,200 National Film Board of Canada films can now be streamed live online. [library.mcmaster.ca/news/5888](http://library.mcmaster.ca/news/5888)
- Research Help and Circulation desks at Innis and Thode have now been combined; all Library services including research help, circulation, IT help, reserves and interlibrary loan are now available from a single service point.
- Check out the Library's YouTube videos which were recently launched to introduce new students to Library services and spaces. [www.youtube.com/maclibraries](http://www.youtube.com/maclibraries)
- McMaster faculty and graduate students will continue to have free visitor access to the collections at the University of Toronto Libraries thanks to an agreement reached between McMaster and U of T. [library.mcmaster.ca/news/5969](http://library.mcmaster.ca/news/5969)
- The Integrated Science program (iSci) classroom and student study space has officially opened on the third floor of Thode Library.

### McMaster Library News

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## Recent notable acquisitions

The Library has acquired the following important research materials:

### ARCHIVAL RESOURCES

**Holocaust and Resistance collections:** various photo albums; ghetto and camp currency and stamps, forged British notes from Operation Bernhard, anti-Semitic documents, concentration camp mail; books about Nazi propaganda and culture; books of cartoons and posters.

**Bertrand Russell:** plaster cast of a bust of Russell by sculptor Frank Kovacs in 1955; carte-de-visite photograph of Russell's parents and their children (Rachel and Frank) circa 1870 at Ravenscroft; letter by Russell about Thomas Paine (4 April 1959) with a photograph of Russell and Countess Edith Russell at a demonstration of the Committee of 100 in Trafalgar Square (29 October 1961); letter from Russell to R. Toole Stott (28 September 1931) about currency and credit.

**Roy MacSkimming:** textual records, graphic material and sound recordings, including recordings and transcripts of interviews with people in Canadian publishing, research materials, and correspondence relating to *The Perilous Trade: Publishing Canada's Writers*.

### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

*Aluka: Struggles for Freedom in Southern Africa* - Primary source documents and images focusing on the 20th century.

*ArchiveGrid* - Access to nearly a million descriptions of archival collections worldwide.

*CAMIO - Catalog of Art Museum Images Online* - High-quality art images contributed by leading museums.

*Heat Exchanger Design Handbook*

*NIST Phase Equilibria Diagrams Online*

*SAGE Journals backfile* - 380 titles published by SAGE, from the first volume up to 1999

*Springer 2009 ebook collection* - More than 3,000 ebooks published in the current year.

## Recent notable gifts

The Library has received the following gifts from:

**David Allatt**, archives of Norman Allatt, who served with the 14th battalion, Royal Montreal Regiment as a sniper during WWI.

**Michel Brisebois**, supplementary collection of material on the Resistance movement and the German concentration and POW camps in World War II.

**Caroline Farr**, manuscript of Russell's "Extensionality," several letters and other ephemera written in 1946-7.

**Marty Gervais**, 4th accrual of his archives.

**Hugh Hartwell**, 200 music CDs, some very local and difficult to obtain.

**Elmar Hodsoll**, maps and books pertaining to the Klondike Gold Rush.

**Jean Hurst**, her family archives.

**Christopher Levenson**, 4th accrual of his archives.

**Liam Mahony**, files associated with Peace Brigades International and Witness for Peace pertaining to *Unarmed Bodyguards: International Accompaniment for the Protection of Human Rights (1997)* written by Mahony and Luis Enrique Eguen.

**Alan Mendelson**, a collection of postcards about Israel and Palestine; books about Israel and Jewish writers; personal letters.

**Morris Norman**, Niagara newspapers for 1828-30 and 3 issues of the *Toronto Patriot* (1839-40); 33 American circus posters circa 1910 to 1950; Canadian company catalogues; the Walter M. Lowney Company of Canada collection; Canadian political and military documents and posters; Canadian photographs, including Notman photos and photos of Sir John A. MacDonald, Wilfrid Laurier; documents about the Canadian aviation industry; Israel Moise (Isy) Esses fonds (Unico Trading Company), various other collections.

**Marian Ross**, 2 Tremaine maps of the County of Middlesex.

**Robert Ryerson**, a collection of over 70 satellite image posters.

**Peter Saunders**, the archives of Garamond Press.

**Ian D. Spenser**, collection of his father's (the poet Hugo Sonnenschein (pseudonym, Sonka)) books; documents and ephemera pertaining to the Kindertransport and his family's experience in the Holocaust.

**Emmy Weisz**, family documents, including photos, passports, identity, ration and registration cards from the Occupation of the Netherlands in WWII.

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

- Class of '50
- Class of '53
- Class of '55

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