

Giving can be as much a part of life as love is, as difficult, as demanding and as satisfying. Wealth is a burden that is not easily laid down, and wealth includes far more than money; time, effort, study and struggle are a part of the treasury also.

Donors we must be, all of us, if we are to be surprised by joy at all, although for many the gift must come from response rather than first action. Without that response, the understanding, courtesy and care that come with it, the original gift can sour, grow dusty, die of neglect, and quench the generous spirit that enkindled it.

Now governments and corporations are assuming many of the responsibilities for learning and the common good that once were our personal responsibility, and we pay for it. All must be accounted for; there must be reasons for expenditure of public funds, and rightly so. The more cogent and persuasive the reasons, the more topical, pressing and popular, the more they express the concern of the government, the more likely are they to receive financial and other support. The present economy means that gifts of substance are desired and sought by pressure of a benign and salutary kind, which is all very good, but sometimes lacks the vision of man's fate.

Buildings of a monumental kind therefore arise out of beneficence, and to overcome the edifice complex that is such a current spiritual and administrative ailment. Men find solace in devoting the treasure of their lives or funds towards the solution of immediate and pressing ills, sometimes confusing the symptoms with the root causes of the disease, leaping across the broken ice when they should be cleaning the water, or building a bridge.

Yet there do remain many donors who have the vision of man's fate before them, who devote their wealth of time and money, lives and care, to the preservation and the collection of man's spiritual and intellectual achievements. Without these donors, these protectors and collectors of the evidence of man's survival, even triumph, his art forms, his writings and music - these primary sources, these testaments - would be destroyed, lost, broken up and sold as gewgaws as so often has happened in the past, rather than become part of a continuing archival process of order, display and research. This process is essential if we are to preserve the original proof and signs of things past, our history, that was formed more by our ideas than by any natural or economic process. Man can only chart and permit his future through knowledge of himself, not finally by copies of himself, by the exegesis of others, but by the real, the final spring of other men's minds, in other places, in other times.

There are papers, such as the Russell Archives, that show for our comfort and our desire on this embattled planet Earth, that there is nothing new under the sun, including all varieties of experience, all a search for love. All that has been will be; all that has been done will be done.

Were it not for the donors the Russell Archives would be scattered, not organised here and preserved. It was the Atkinson Foundation of Toronto above all that brought the Archives into being here at McMaster with its great donation. It was the Canada Council who first primed the fund pump. It was due to the generosity of men like Cyrus Eaton, a McMaster alumnus, of whom the noble Earl himself said once: "He has worked with great dedication for the cause of peace and at some sacrifice to himself. . . His is a very noble example of the responsibilities of people in an age when the very survival of mankind is in doubt." It was the library scholars and administrators of Canada who supported the

project, and hundreds of people, rich and poor alike, who have given and continue to give from their store to support and further the cause of the Russell Archives. There are the great scholars themselves, normally beneficiaries of such Archives, not benefactors, like F. C. Copleston, who on receiving Russell 1 wrote us to say, "There is a point which occurs to me. I have in my possession four letters from Russell, which I should be very glad to hand over to the Archives if you thought that they would be of any use." And there is evidence elsewhere in this newsletter of the kind of generosity and activity that cause the Atkinson Archival Area to flourish, to continue to grow.

Everyone who uses the Archives, works in them, visits them, gives to them, is a donor either of time, love, or money, and there is no real giving outside this triune. As the Irish scribe Columkille said exuberantly, long ago, in the margin of a book that he was writing or reading, praising the Great Giver: "God bless the Trinity!"

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