

### *Notes and Comments*

4. Sabin, *op. cit.*, vol. XVII, no. 72042, stating this is the corrected title of No. 32024; vol. VIII. No. 32024, has the footnote "of extreme rarity. Not mentioned by Rich or Ternaux." Jean Robin, 1550-1629, was Henry IV of France's gardener.

5. Morley, Brian D., et al. *Wild flowers of the world. A thousand beautiful plants painted by Barbara Everard.* (London: Ebury Press and Michael Joseph, 1970), plate 168.

6. *Op. cit.*

7. These voyages are described in René Goulaine de Laudonnière's extremely rare *L'histoire notable de la Floride sitvee es Indes Occidentales, contenant les trois voyages faits en icelles par certains Capitaines & Pilotes François* ..., Paris, 1586.

8. Morley, *op. cit.*

## **In Touch with History The Archival Collection of Professor Thomas Henry Clark**

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### **MCGILL CENTENARIES**

The year 1993 marked two historic centennial observances; the festivities marking the 100th year of Redpath Hall, and the celebration of Emeritus Professor Thomas Henry Clark's 100th birthday, acknowledging his seventy years of distinguished service at McGill.

Redpath Hall is reserved in its usual serene and tranquil composure to the witnessing of McGill history through the ages. Professor Clark is also a living link to the past century of history. This paleontological centurion is a gentleman scholar from another time and age; yet he is still vigorous and active in academic and intellectual pursuits.

After graduating from Harvard, Thomas Henry Clark came to McGill in 1924 as an assistant professor in the Department of Geology. He was Logan Professor in Paleontology from 1931-1962, and was the head of the department from 1952-1959. Clark also undertook other important appointments; working as geologist for the Geological Survey of Canada 1926-1931, Curator of the Redpath Museum 1932-1952, and geologist for the Quebec Department of Mines 1938-1963.<sup>1</sup> He has been an Emeritus Professor at McGill since 1962, and also an Advisor in Geology at the Redpath Museum from 1964 to the present day.

In professional circles, Clark is highly regarded and esteemed for his outstanding contributions in the geosciences. He is recognized by his colleagues and peers to belong to a very exclusive and select company, as one of the top Canadian scientists in the 20th century. He has been elected to some of the highest professional offices: he was President of the Geological Society of Canada, and Head of the Geology Division of the Royal Society of Canada. In 1971, the Geological Association of Canada (the professional body of the geoscience community) granted him its highest award, the Logan Gold Medal. This award, named after Sir William Logan, the founder of the Geological Survey of Canada, acknowledged Clark's distinguished contribution and his major accomplishments in the advancement of geoscience in Canada.

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Known as a superb teacher, an able administrator, a proficient scientist, and expert field geologist, Clark is above all a true gentleman in the full sense and truest meaning of the word. Ingrid Birker, Paleontology Curator at the Redpath Museum remarked that, "he's an old-world type mentor, very steadfast and honourable. He's simply wonderful."<sup>2</sup>

Clark's work has had an immense impact on the North American geological community. He has been a friend and an inspiration to generations of McGill graduates. These McGill graduates have gone on to become successful geologists, engineers, managers, and company executives in all aspects of the Canadian petroleum, mining, and resource industries. They have also played major roles in government geological surveys, and in university research and teaching.

His students remember him as an enthusiastic and captivating teacher. Famous for his spirited lectures and an exuberant sense of humour, Clark loved to tell a good joke to illustrate a point and to bring a dramatic end to some earnest discussion. He was always courteous and gracious in his conduct, always entertaining. His course was always rated among the best by students. Science and engineering students had to take this introductory geology class, and each year, Clark lectured to hundreds of students in large lecture theatres. Many recorded that they had gone into the geosciences because Clark's introductory course had so captivated them.

Together with Professor Colin Stearn in the department and, later with Professor Robert Carroll from biology, he wrote the important textbook, *The Geological Evolution of North America*.<sup>3</sup> Going through several printings and editions, it was one of the best introductory geology textbooks of the time, and for several decades it has been widely used in many universities and colleges. The popularity of this textbook among generations of students and its prominence among professional peers are well-deserved. The assessment can be summed up by Stephen Jay Gould, (Harvard Professor of Paleontology; of *Wonderful Life* fame): "I knew of Clark by reputation of course, for all geologists respect his classic textbook... on *The Geological Evolution of North America*...."<sup>4</sup>

Professor Clark was also an expert on the Burgess Shale fossils. In 1924, he met Charles Walcott at his field camp and worked in the Burgess quarry to collect the precious well-preserved fossils (Walcott is the discoverer of the Burgess Shale; he was Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Head of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, President of National Academy of Science). Clark has maintained a life-long involvement to this day, establishing and categorizing the Burgess Shale Collection at the Redpath Museum. In 1990 at the age of 97, Clark delivered a lecture on the Burgess Shale and the work of Charles Walcott.<sup>5</sup>

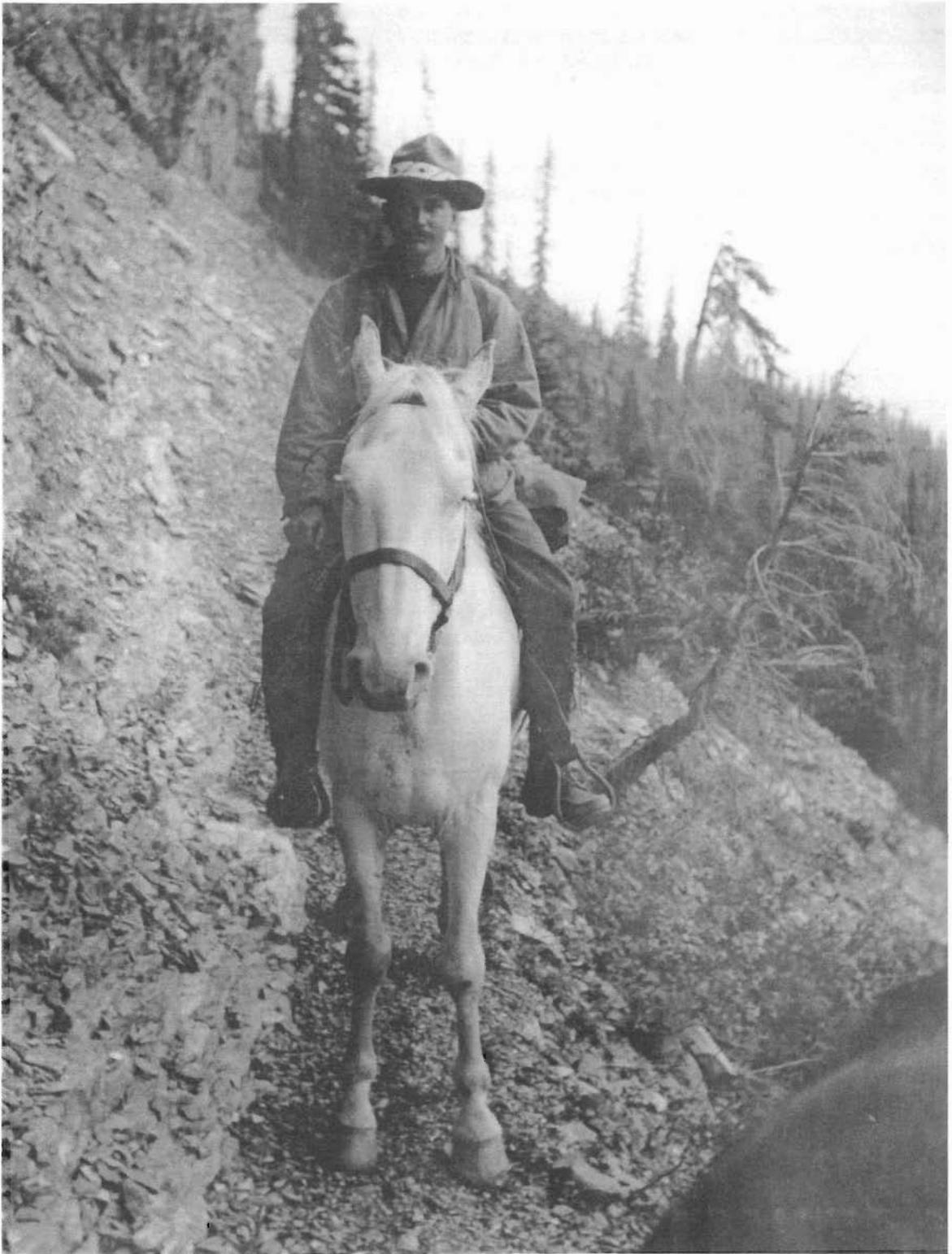
Born 1893, Clark was a veteran of the First World War (in the U. S. Army Medical Corps 2nd Lieutenant, 1917 to 1919). As a young student in the second decade of the century, he began doing geology mapping and field work during his undergraduate geology training. Now with seventy years of active employment at McGill behind him, Clark is still, as always, exemplary in his commitment to scientific research. For the last three decades, despite his advanced age and having been "retired" from academic life in 1962, he has worked nearly every day on his fossil collections. For the last few years, in his late nineties, Clark still came to work at least twice a week to his offices in the Redpath Museum and the Geology Department.

## CONCLUSION OF AN ERA

In the summer of 1993, Clark decided that it was finally time to "really" retire and give up his McGill office.

He started to move out of his office sometime in early June. He cleared up the seventy odd years worth of material, and left it outside of his office for garbage. I was not aware of this change until somebody told me about it one day. Other students also had been there to pick up whatever interested them before the janitor hauled the rest

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T.H. Clark astride Ghost on the trail near the Burgess Shale, 1924.

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away. Later that day, I went over to have a look. Seeing that these old publications, out-of-print reports, and dusty turn-of-century journals were of some historical and scientific value and should be saved, I planned to take some of the boxes and store them around the department. I got another graduate student, Paul Budkewitsch, involved in this archival record preservation endeavour. Together we examined and sorted through the accumulated material as things were disposed of outside the office. Many times we were thankful that we got there before the custodial staff.

While we worked with the material, people in the department who went by would wonder why we bothered. They thought it was foolish to get all worked up over old letters and tattered books. In any case, the department was in serious need for more space, and downsizing was the order of the day. No one was supposed to add more boxes and fill up our already cramped offices and classrooms. Others commented that we were odd to be snooping through the trash. They thought we were going to take all the books and papers home or give them away to friends. At times we had to ignore the inquisitive stares and the less than complimentary remarks as we carted things away for storage.

Clark and his house assistants came on Tuesdays to clean out his office. They would work through the vast accumulations of material, taking the more important personal effects home, and throwing away whatever was not needed, or things deemed useless. We then requested to be allowed to keep whatever was outside his office that was designated to be cast off. Furthermore, we also asked them not to junk any of the books and manuscripts. As well, we indicated that we were willing to help out in their removal of the office contents. At the time we were only thinking of preserving the old geology books, journals, and special reprints that could still be in good use by the department, professors, and students.

In the subsequent weeks, we gained the confidence of Clark and his assistants, undoubtedly with recommendation and reassurance about our endeavours from Shirley Jackson, Geology Department secretary. So during July and thereafter we would go and put in boxes all the material that Professor Clark had decided not to take home. Despite our heavy workload, we still had to do whatever was necessary to save this geological literature and manuscripts from oblivion.

For the next few weeks my friend and I sorted through the material on the weekly visits by Clark and his assistants. Both of us were behind in our academic schedules and had to work most of the day. Therefore we would often labour in the evenings and into early morning hours organizing the enormous amount of material.

In the subsequent days, we had to make some fateful decisions. What do we do with all the stuff? What should be kept, and what should go to the department for use? Large piles of books and journals were sorted and organized, and made available for the Geology reading room. We also kept some of the excellent guidebooks and reprints, those that would be useful for research and geology field trips. Other scientific literature and reports were given to people in the department with relevant specialties in the field.

It was only later that the realization came of the immense value of the historical and scientific treasures on our hands when we worked through the rich deposits containing fieldwork notebooks, working maps, rare monographs, and personal effects such as letters and postcards. We contacted the McGill University Archives and they were more than happy to have these historical documents and personal records of Professor Clark's lifetime work. These materials turned out to be very useful for the Clark Centennial celebration at the Redpath Museum and the special exhibit arranged by Ingrid Birker.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARCHIVES

This addition to the McGill University Archives is described here briefly. More detailed examination and description of this material must await future Archives' research projects. Here follows an overall summary listing of the Clark collection with highlights of some particularly notable items.

1. One box of geology field notebooks compiled by Dr. T.H. Clark and field assistants under his direction, during various field seasons of mapping and geology work for the Quebec Ministry of Mines Reports from the 1930s to the 1960s.
2. One box of personal correspondence (mostly signed and dated letters) from 1910 up to the present day, including official McGill Geology Department and Redpath Museum business. This correspondence includes many fascinating historical rarities, including letters between Professor Clark and other famous scientists and academics of the day: Charles Walcott of the Smithsonian Institute, Professor Percy Raymond of Harvard University, Professor Charles Schuchert of Yale University, and René Levésque in 1961 when the late Premier was the Minister of Natural Resources.
3. Several postcards from different decades, some with military censor marks. One favourite item is a postcard from his army buddy in 1918 during the First World War. It was from the European front lines, and addressed to: Sgt. Thomas H. Clark, Med. Dept. USA, Boston, Mass. The postcard opened with these words: "Dear Tom, How is the old kid ? .....". This was in 1918, some seventy-six years ago. Little did the writer realize how appropriate his words would become.
4. Working drafts of maps and cross sections, core logging descriptions and geological diagrams for government reports and other publications.
5. Receipts, expenditure accounts, and memos of field work and mapping projects for the Quebec Ministry of Mines Reports from the 1940s to the 1960s.
6. Field photographs of rock outcrops and exposures, and of Clark and his assistants at work, taken during field work and regional mapping for the Quebec Ministry of Mines Reports from the 1930s to the 1960s.
7. Silver-coated glass plate slides from the 1940s and the 1950s. Most are for teaching purposes. They consist of maps of selected Quebec localities, photographs of fossil specimens, stratigraphic cross sections, schematic diagrams. The batch also contains prints of Clark's own collection of English delftware.

Some of the above material is on loan to the Redpath Museum, where the Curator for Paleontology, Ingrid Birker, has constructed a *Thomas Henry Clark Centennial Exhibition*, a travelling presentation to be displayed at various sites in Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, and other locales in Canada and the United States.

In addition, much of Clark's collection of published materials is deposited in the Geology Department's Reading Room. These include whole sets of old journals and books, out-of-print papers, early scientific monographs, and reprints from geology colleagues from all over the world. Some are kept in storage for future use by student and staff.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CLARK COLLECTION

The Archival Collection of Thomas Henry Clark is a gift of enormous value and significance: for the rich biographical information contained, for the preservation of an important chapter of McGill and Canadian history,

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T.H. Clark, ca. 1960. (Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences)

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and for the heritage of the scientific community. His work is world-famous, and quite a number of his publications have long been considered as classics. Many of his comprehensive mapping reports and research papers are standard references in the field, acclaimed for their scientific excellence. With over 100 scientific papers published, the first in 1917 and the latest in 1990.<sup>6</sup> His prodigious productivity and the quality of his work are much regarded. In the geoscience community across international boundaries, Dr. T.H. Clark of McGill University, is readily recognized and acclaimed as one of the foremost names in stratigraphy and paleontology.

The material given to the McGill University Archives represents important elements of Clark's scientific works. We can trace the developments and workings of the renowned Clark geology maps and reports through his field notebooks, sketches of outcrop localities, hand-drawn diagrams of structural interpretation, and drafts of maps in preparation. The collection reveals the whole extent of his richly active professional, academic, research, teaching, and administrative career. The whole spectrum of his lifetime work is represented in his voluminous correspondence with fellow professors, former students, geology researchers, amateur fossil collectors, commercial companies, university departments, museums, government agencies, and publishers.

His letters reveal the humane and compassionate side of Professor Clark. He is given to prompt consideration and accommodation in helping many a friend in times of difficulty. There are also scores of letters from friends, grateful students, and colleagues thanking him for his help, and for his thoughtfulness, generosity, and kindness.

From the early days, through the decades and on to the present time, Clark's geological reports and maps of the Montreal Island area and of all regions in southern Quebec are utilized and consulted every day for all kinds of surficial and subsurface ground work. They are the first and last works on geology for infrastructure construction and engineering projects, in building houses and office towers, in petroleum and mineral exploration, water reservoir and pollution analysis, urban planning and land use studies. He undertook the pioneering paleontological studies and geological surveying of the St. Lawrence Lowland region (including the Montreal area), from the 1910s to the present day. His publications have included vast regions of Quebec, the Appalachian mountains, and areas of New England.<sup>7</sup> These works laid the foundation for all subsequent mapping and research studies in this northeast corner of North America.

The Clark Collection preserved in the McGill University Archives, provides us and all later generations with an authentic connection and a vital link to the history of a by-gone era. These records are windows to a most remarkable career — Dr. Thomas Clarke — a great Canadian.

## Notes

1. *The International Who's Who 1991-1992* biographical entry, Europa Publications Ltd., London, U.K.
2. Ingrid Birker as quoted in *The McGill Reporter: Digging Up the Past*, by Daniel McCabe, April 11, 1990.
3. *Geological Evolution of North America*, 3rd. ed. 1979. Colin Stearn, Robert Carroll, and Thomas H. Clark. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. (note: this reference is for the 3rd ed., I really should have the 1st and 2nd ed. reference, Clark and Stearn....., but I do not have a copy.)
4. In Touch with Walcott, in *Eight Little Piggies: Reflections in Natural History*. Stephen Jay Gould, 1993. Published by Norton Ltd., New York, 229 p.
5. A Lecture by Dr. T.H. Clark, "The Strange Animals of the Burgess Shale; What Happened at Field, B.C. and What it Means Today", Redpath Museum, Wednesday March 28, 1990.

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6. As listed in *The International Who's Who* entry. See also Publications of T.H. Clark as provided by Ingrid Birker of Redpath Museum.

7. Publications of T.H. Clark as provided by Ingrid Birker of Redpath Museum.

**Beatrice V. Simon (1899-1994)**

**Peter F. McNally**

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Beatrice V. Simon, a leading figure in Canadian librarianship, died in Kitchener Ontario, on February 8, 1994. Although her career was spent entirely at McGill University, she enjoyed both a national and an international reputation.<sup>1</sup>

Born on November 29, 1899 she was educated at the Montreal High School for Girls and at Stanstead College (Quebec). As a result of travelling with her parents to Argentina and the United States — where her father worked as an engineer — her education at McGill was interrupted, and she completed her B.A. only in 1943. Her 1950 M.A. thesis in Comparative Literature was on "Autobiographical Writing of Some North American Indians: a Critical Study of Their Origin and Development."

Although she studied art at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Penn. in 1920-1921 and worked for a short period as a freelance commercial artist, her life-long career was to be in librarianship. In 1927-1928 she took the one year Diploma in Library Science which had just been introduced by the McGill Library School. For the next forty-one years, between 1928 and 1969, she divided her career between the School and the McGill Libraries. Her first professional position was in the Medical Library where she served as Assistant Cataloguer (1928-1930) and Head of Serials (1930-1938). During this period she began teaching in the Library School which by now had become a graduate program offering a Bachelor of Library Science. Between 1935 and 1938 she taught as a part-time instructor and between 1938 and 1943 as a full-time faculty member, lecturing on Cataloguing, Indexing, Serials, and Special Libraries.

During this same period, she became active in the Special Libraries Association, becoming President of the Montreal branch in 1936-1937 and Second Vice-President of the international organization in 1949-1950. It was in Britain, however, where she achieved her first international recognition. During 1938-1939 under the sponsorship of the Rockefeller Foundation she undertook surveys of British medical libraries for the Royal College of Surgeons which resulted in the development of co-operative programs. The major publication from this project was *A Survey of Medical Library Facilities in London*. Plans for a similar study in France were interrupted by World War II.

In 1943, at the request of Principal F. Cyril James, she rejoined the Library staff, although she continued giving the Special Libraries course at the School until 1951. Between 1943 and 1947 she established the Commerce Library (forerunner of the Howard Ross Management Library) and ran the Law Library. The Principal was so impressed with her achievements that he appointed her Assistant University Librarian in 1947, concurrently with his appointing Richard Pennington University Librarian.

In theory, the combination of Pennington and Simon should have been excellent. His very unstructured and traditional approach and her very structured and organizational approach should have complimented one another. In fact, their personalities clashed and they were never able to develop an harmonious working relationship. This situation was exacerbated by the Principal having appointed Simon as Pennington's Assistant, without first consulting him.