

# Editorial

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*Fontanus* - the Latin name for a god of fountains, springs and sources - was created on the initiative of Dr. Hans Möller, Research and Development Librarian, not long after directing the University Libraries from 1984 to 1986. The first volume appeared in 1988 and was followed by annual volumes during the nine years of Möller's editorship (through Vol. IX, 1996). In the tradition of university library based journals, *Fontanus* offered a forum for scholarly articles based in whole or part on the archival, library, rare book, and museum collections of McGill University. Reflecting the depth and diversity of McGill collections, articles were published on such subjects as Ernest Rutherford and A.S. Eve, Peter Redpath, various aspects of McGill's library history, John Humphrey's drafts of the United Nations Declaration of Human rights, Arabic and Qur'anic manuscripts, the McCord Family, Stephen Leacock, E.B. Greenshields, James McGill, Sir Arthur Currie, W.D. Lighthall, the Wellington-Winchelsea duel, and fiction set at McGill, to name a few. Some authors used the McGill collections as starting points for general discussions while others made close studies of individual documents. The Notes and Comments section offers short, informal discussions of collections development and particular items. Unlike most academic journals, *Fontanus* publishes illustrations to enhance its articles. Articles in English or French are solicited from scholars, librarians, archivists, curators and other researchers from McGill and elsewhere.

The original annual schedule faltered after 1998 (Vol. X) due to such factors as costs and availability of staff time that sometimes beset academic journals. Articles continued to be submitted and the volume of 2003 (Vol. XI) was expansive and included an index to the first 10 volumes of authors, titles, subjects, illustrations, places or scenes, and objects. In addition to the large format printed volumes, the entire run of *Fontanus* was made available in digitized format on its own McGill website (<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/fontanus>). The present volume (XII) was finalized in December 2010 with the recent help of the McGill Library Technology Services; its in-house technology allows a far faster editing, layout and production process than was available for the previous volumes. We are grateful to Interim Director of Libraries Diane Koen, Amy Buckland, eScholarship, ePublishing & Digitization Coordinator, and the Library staff, particularly Joel Natanblut, Digitization Administrator, for their contribution to reviving *Fontanus*.

Ending his editorial to Volume I of *Fontanus* in 1988, Dr. Möller wrote: "I wish to close by expressing the hope that *Fontanus* will have a very long life. There are certainly hundreds of topics for articles waiting to be written. Such is the richness of the McGill collections." We share that hope and expect that a revived *Fontanus* now will return to annual publication and resume its role in diffusing research based on McGill's Historical Collections. A Note in this volume describes recent initiatives by the Principal's Heritage Advisory Committee in making the McGill Historical Collections more globally available through a web site.

**The Editors**