

# Chronicle

The value of a research library is often measured by its actual size in terms of volumes. Equally important, however, is the rate of growth of its collection. Additions are made through acquisitions supported by book and periodical budgets, endowed funds, grants and donations. During times of budget restraints and government cut-backs, donations from private donors, alumni, professors, librarians and benefactors are absolutely vital. To this must be added several special grants: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), IMASCO, the New York Chapter of the Friends of McGill University, the McGill Associates, the McGill Women Associates and many others.

The following list represents merely a selection of significant and unusual items acquired by McGill libraries, archives and museums during 1991. This array of interesting acquisitions gives an impression of not just the quantity, but, also the quality of the McGill collections.

## Department of Rare Books and Special Collections

### Acquisitions by purchase:

W.E. Cormack, *Narrative of a Journey Across the Island of Newfoundland*. St. John's: Morning Post, 1856.

Joseph Noad, *Lecture on the Aborigines of Newfoundland*. St. John's: Patriot Press, 1853.

Lucie Lambert, *A Thousand Hooded Eyes*. Vancouver: Editions Lucie Lambert, 1991.

George Psalmanazaar, *An Historical and Geographical Description of the Island of Formosa*. London: For D. Brown, 1704.

Vera Frenkel, "Big × Window." 4 large colour lithographs.

A collection of 75 French books, mainly of the 18th century.

The literary papers of Canadian novelist Selwyn Dewdney, author of *Wind Without Rain*.

The literary papers of Toronto poet Judith Fitzgerald.

### Acquisitions assisted by funds from SSHRC:

Some 160 volumes of Canadian poetry, acquired with a SSHRC Specialized Research Collections Program grant.

David Hume's *History of England* (London: Caddell, 1770), acquired with the assistance of a SSHRC Fleeting Opportunities grant.

A collection of books by and about English poet Thomas Chatterton (1751-1770), acquired with the assistance of a SSHRC Fleeting Opportunities grant.

### Gifts:

Toronto artist Vera Frenkel donated her personal papers, consisting of correspondence, manuscripts, printed ephemera etc.

Montreal poet Michael Harris donated his literary papers (manuscripts, correspondence, editorial projects etc.).

Montreal poet and journalist Mark Abley donated his literary papers (manuscripts, correspondence etc.).

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Mrs. Frances MacLennan donated the remaining papers of novelists Hugh MacLennan and Dorothy Duncan.

Asher Joram donated two 19th century prints.

L.H. Packard donated 15 books by Frank Packard and some Civil War period diaries kept by his grandfather.

Jacques Bieler donated a collection of 440 family letters.

Charles Parent donated a copy of Joseph Donahue's *L'Oratoire*.

Judith Mappin donated a copy of D.G. Jones and Morton Rosengarten, *The Lines of the Poet* (1981), one of 18 copies *hors commerce*.

Françoise Feeny, Suzanne Reardon and the Estate of Madeleine Usher-Jones donated a copy of the Tissot *Bible*.

Dr. Simon Langlois donated a small collection of 18th and 19th century books.

Dr. Lewis Pyenson donated a large collection of 19th century theses and dissertations.

Barbara Whitley donated a collection of letters and manuscripts by Stephen Leacock.

Dr. Hans Möller donated a run of the library collections journal *Fund og Forskning* published by the Royal Library, Denmark.

Dr. Richard Mackler donated two limited editions of books by Hugo von Hofmannsthal.

Dr. Martin Cohen donated a large collection of books in the Insel-Bücherei Series.

William D. Anderson donated three limited edition Canadian art books.

Paul Duval donated a copy of his *Barker Fairley*, with two original prints laid in.

Barbara Johnson donated a collection of 44 books, mainly 20th century.

#### Walter Hitschfeld Environmental Earth Sciences Library

The McGill Geography Department donated a collection of 6700 air photos including some archival runs from the Arctic region dating from the 1930's.

#### McLennan – Redpath Libraries

A selective list of major purchases and gifts includes:

- Newspaper backfiles:
  - Vancouver Sun* 1930-1960 (Imasco)
  - Independent* (London) 1986-90 (Soldiers' Memorial)
  - Times of India* (Shastri)
- Serials backfiles: *Novy Mir* 1928-1958 microfilm (Webster Arts Library Dev.)
- Microlog Native Peoples microfiche collection: standing order (Northern Studies)
- Variorum Reprints: mediaeval texts (Soldiers' Memorial)
- Stenographische Berichte über die Verhandlungen des deutschen Reichstages 1882-1918 (microfiche from Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)
- From the Swiss Consulate in Montreal we received a donation of 24 valuable books published in 1990 and 1991.

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– Mr. A. Vance generously donated 1473 books from the estate of his late father, George Vasilieff. Almost all the books are in the Russian language and concern Russian literature, culture and the arts. There are a number of beautiful books on Russian icons. It is worth noting that the collection is in excellent condition. Many of the books were bound or rebound by Mr. Vasilieff himself.

– Dr. Hans Möller donated about 90 books, mostly Scandinavian Literature and Natural Science.

– A considerable number of new serials were acquired in CD-ROM format, some as gifts but mostly bought from serials funds and endowments.

### Management Library (Howard Ross Library of Management)

This library now houses the complete collection of current Quebec collective agreements. This collection consists of some 9000 labour agreements in force, deposited by Ministère du travail du Québec.

### Religious Studies Library

This library was fortunate to acquire the facsimile edition of the *Dead Sea Scrolls* published in Washington, D.C. by the Biblical Archaeology Society (1991), volumes 1-2.

As a gift, the library also acquired:

Religion Index One: Periodicals Retrospective.

### University Archives

The University Archives acquired the records of several distinguished McGill staff members. Professor of Law John T.P. Humphrey has contributed the diaries he kept while serving the United National as Director of the Division of Human Rights. Covering Humphrey's activities and his views on many issues, the diaries span the years 1948 to 1959 and join his previously deposited drafts for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Professor of Marine Sciences Maxwell Dunbar gave diaries which document the development of Canadian northern research. They were kept on expeditions to Greenland, Alaska, Ungava Bay, Hudson's Bay, Frobisher Bay, and other areas between 1935 and 1958. Included is a diary kept by Mrs. Joan Kohl in Greenland, 1945-1946. (Portions of both John Humphrey's and Maxwell Dunbar's diaries were published in *Fontanus IV*, 1991).

The Law Librarian transferred custody of private papers of McGill Law Faculty members and other Montreal judges and lawyers, ca 1820-1890. These include bench books of Judges Robert MacKay, 1871-1881; Andrew Stuart, 1859-1885; Frederick Torrance, ca 1830-1875; and papers of the firms Rose and Monk; and Buchanan; Rose and Holmes; and Torrance and Morris.

Raymond Klein gave the Archives correspondence of former Psychology Professor Donald O. Hebb with various colleagues and friends, 1943-1985. To the extensive John Grierson Collection already in the University Archives, the National Archives of Canada has added Grierson papers, including pocket diaries, correspondence, memoranda and notes relating to teaching in the Communications Program, 1969-1971. Photographs of former Principal F. Cyril James and his family were received from Doreen Darby.

The University Archives continued to acquire records of McGill graduates, documenting their student life and later careers. From Irene Commins, the Archives received notes of lecture given by George Adami among others, taken by Edward Commins (M.D. 1895) as a medical student at McGill. Jean Macqueen gave student papers, letters and photographs of Katherine

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Armstrong (B.A. 1899). Additions to previously deposited letters from Cynthia Rendall Toller (B.A. 1936) to Dorothy King were received from the latter. G.D. Armstrong (B.A. 1941, D.D.S. 1949) deposited a set of "The Marlowe Lowdown", a private newsletter of a group of friends, including several McGill students, documenting their experiences during the war years, 1940-1945. Dr. R.V.V. Nicholls deposited additions to the papers of chemical engineer J.R. Donald (B.A. & App. Sci. 1913).

From Gordon and Peter Kohl, the University Archives acquired daily journals kept by their father George H. Kohl (App. Sci. 1910) while serving as Chief Engineer and Alternate Member, Canadian Section, on the St. Lawrence Seaway Project, 1953-1963. Mrs. M. Carroll donated writings and correspondence of Austin "Dink" Carroll (LL. B. 1923), Montreal sports journalist. Althea Douglas (B.A. 1947, Assistant in English 1948-1951) contributed course notes as well as records relating to the English Department's drama program, 1945-1960, including programmes, production files, slides of productions, and original drawings for costumes.

The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections deposited publications by McGill groups and offices, an extensive chronological series of unworked examinations in most disciplines, photographs of groups and buildings (including 39 photographs presented to Sir William Macdonald), and other records relating to McGill University, ca 1895-1940.

### Redpath Museum – Ethnology Collections

There has been a considerable effort over the past year to consolidate like holdings that have been spread amongst McGill's varied museums, libraries, and special collections. There were 78 objects from Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome added to the Ethnology Collections from the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, including papyrus fragments, shawabti figures, scarabs, amulets, terracotta figures, and Roman glass. Two boxed sets (12 in each) of paintings on mica from nineteenth century India were also transferred to the Redpath Museum from Rare Books.

Perhaps the most significant addition to the Ethnology Collections resulted from the transfer from the Osler Library of the History of Medicine of 267 rare objects related to the practice of medicine in Ancient Ceylon (15th-17th century) collected by Dr. Casey Wood. This important collection of medicine boxes and implements used by Ceylon's "Vederalas" or native doctors was supplemented by a transfer from Rare Books of an additional 14 artifacts from Sri Lanka and India.

### Library Publications

Christopher Dewdney, *Recent Artifacts from the Institute of Applied Fiction*. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, McGill University Libraries, 1990.

*Fontanus: from the Collections of McGill University*, vol. IV, Montreal, 1991.

*The Libraries of Edward and W. S. Maxwell* in the Collections of Blackader-Lauterman Library of Architecture and Art, McGill University (Montreal), 1991.

*John Bland at Eighty – A Tribute*, edited by Irena Murray and Norbert Schoenauer. Blackader-Lauterman Library of Architecture and Art, School of Architecture, McGill University, Montreal, 1991.