

# The H·A·L·C·Y·O·N

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

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## A TIME FOR THANKS

Loryl MacDonald

Director, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

**W**ELCOME TO THE fall 2021 issue of *The Halcyon*. The fall symbolizes harvest, gratitude, and change. Fittingly, this issue embraces all of these themes.

The fall *Halcyon* is traditionally devoted to gift-in-kind donations to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Over ninety donors gave us rare books, archives, and other primary sources in 2020–2021, marking another bountiful year. The notable materials added to our holdings range from several rare South American first editions to LGBTQIA+ ephemera to a collection of Holocaust testimonies. Our historic Canadian collections were considerably strengthened by the acquisition of the diary and letter-book of Alexander Schomberg documenting the Siege of Louisbourg, several scarce federal political posters from the 1870s, and an album of early landscape photographs of the Trans Canadian Railroad. Noteworthy archival donations include materials relating to the discovery of insulin collected by historian Michael Bliss, photographs of post-Cultural Revolution China taken in the early 1970s by journalists John Fraser and Elizabeth MacCallum, and the records of Nobel Prize winner John C. Polanyi. Unfortunately, it is

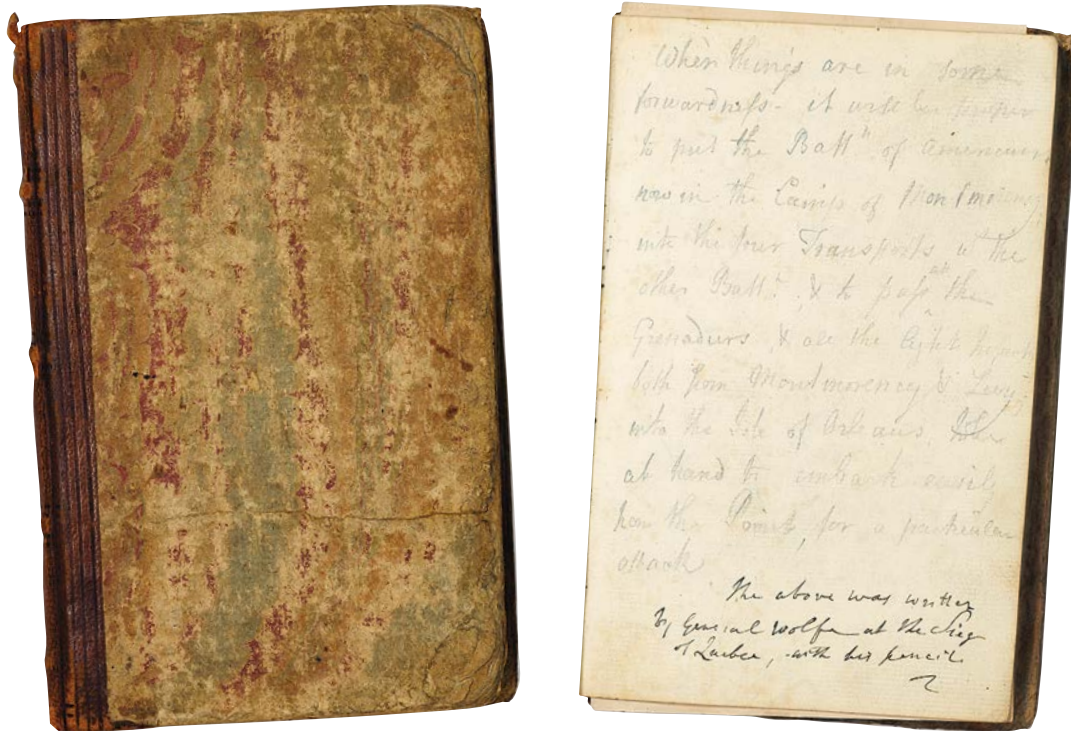
not possible to detail every donation but my colleagues Chana Algarvio, Leora Bromberg, P.J. Carefoote, Natalya Rattan, Nadav Sharon, Andrew Stewart, and Danielle Van Wagner have written in this issue about donations in their areas of expertise.

The fall also marks transition at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. The Head of Rare Books and Special Collections, P.J. Carefoote, is retiring from the University of Toronto Libraries as of 1 January 2022. P.J. has played a pivotal role at the Library. He joined the Fisher in 2002 as the librarian responsible for medieval materials, early books, bound manuscripts, and theological collections. In 2017, he became the Interim Head and then, in 2019, the Head of Rare Books and Special Collections. Under P.J.'s remarkable leadership, Rare Books and Special Collections made many significant acquisitions for its outstanding collections, including two items printed by William Caxton: *De amicitia* ('On Friendship') and *De senectute* ('On Old Age'), 1481; and *Recueil des histoires de Troyes* ('Collection of the Histories of Troy'), 1474 or 1475. Knox College recognized his expertise and service by granting him a Doctor of Divinity degree

(honoris causa) in 2019 for 'the preservation and cataloguing of their heritage collections and for the promotion of Church History at the University of Toronto'. We are thankful for all that P.J. has done on our behalf and for the opportunity to have worked with him. I wish him a very long and happy retirement.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to our donors, who have so generously given books and other special collections materials to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Your gifts-in-kind enable us to continue to build research collections of national and international significance. Thanks also go to the Fisher Library staff, especially to David Fernández and Leora Bromberg, for their contributions to the donation process. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the Head of Rare Books and Special Collections, P.J. Carefoote, for nurturing donor relations over the years and for making extraordinary additions to the collections. For this, I am most grateful.

Best wishes for fall 2021. I hope that you and your family stay healthy and well until we can see you again in person.



## THE SCHOMBERG MANUSCRIPTS: A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE STRUGGLE FOR A CONTINENT

P.J. Carefoote

Head of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections

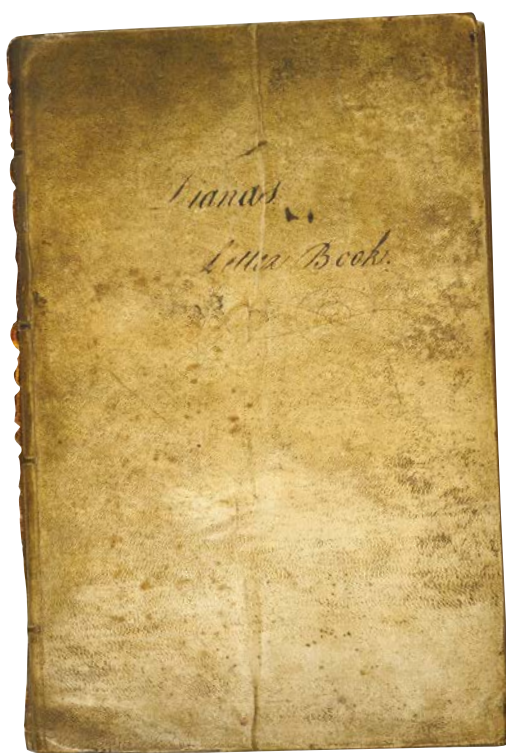
**W**HEN WE THINK of 'gifts', our tendency is to picture individual items, like antiquarian volumes or archival collections, that make their way from your home libraries to the desks of Fisher staff, and then on to expand our vast holdings. While that impression is indeed accurate, it should also be remembered that it is through financial gifts, bequests, and trusts that the Library translates your generosity into important research and instructional material. Such was the case with the addition of two new manuscripts that will become part of our growing Wolfe collection.

As most of our readers are aware, the Fisher holds several items of great importance that contribute to our understanding of the life and career of General James Wolfe (1727–1759), especially with regards to his pivotal role in the North American theatre of the Seven Years' War. This autumn, his personally annotated copy of Gray's *Elegy in a Country Churchyard* and collected manuscript letters were joined by

two previously unexamined and unpublished items belonging to one of his close associates, Sir Alexander Schomberg (1720–1804). Schomberg, who converted from Judaism to Christianity as a young man in order to enter the military, served as captain of *H.M.S. Diana*, which saw action at the Battle of Louisbourg (1758). He was subsequently involved in the logistical planning for the Battle of Quebec (1759). The two recently acquired items, Schomberg's pocket-book diary and the letter-book he kept on board the *Diana*, both of which cover the period of the conquest, had passed through five generations of Schombergs by the time members of the family contacted the Fisher this past year to see if we had any interest in adding the manuscripts to our holdings. Schomberg's descendants now live in Dorset, England, but knew about our Wolfe holdings through an Internet search that had brought them to our site specifically dedicated to the General and his military career: <https://fisher.library.utoronto.ca/general-james-wolfe-manuscript-collection>.

The diary covers the period 11 July to 10 December 1759, with the famous battle for Quebec, of course, occurring on 13 September. Schomberg does not actually describe the events of that particular day since he had been given orders in mid-August to depart Quebec for New England. What the journal does detail, however, are his activities in preparation for the final siege. Throughout the summer months he describes, among other things, reconnoitering the land on which the British troops would land some two months later, information received from French deserters, and the process of refloating his ship while under French attack. He recounts interactions with the Indigenous population, who offered strong resistance to the English presence in their territories. Most detailed, however, are his entries chronicling the preparations for, and execution of, the Battle of Beauport on 31 July, at which the British forces were checked with numerous casualties. The diary is peppered with the names of both famous and





lesser-known personalities associated with this pivotal moment in Canadian history: Wolfe and Montcalm (1712–1759), of course, but also Admiral Sir Charles Saunders (1715–1775), the Chevalier François-Marc-Antoine Le Mercier (1722–1798), and General Robert Monckton (1726–1782), to name but a few. The most intriguing feature of the book, however, is a set of strategic instructions, probably for the taking of Beauport, written on the final pages with the legend: ‘The above was written by

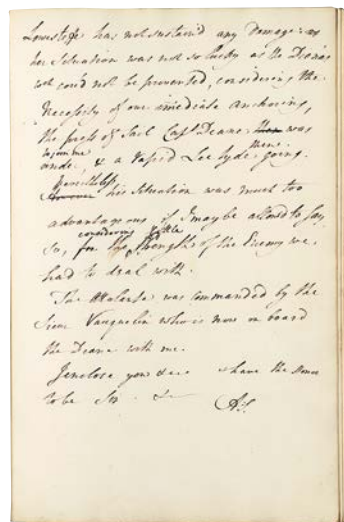
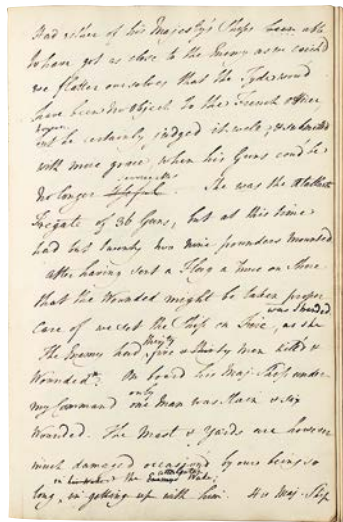
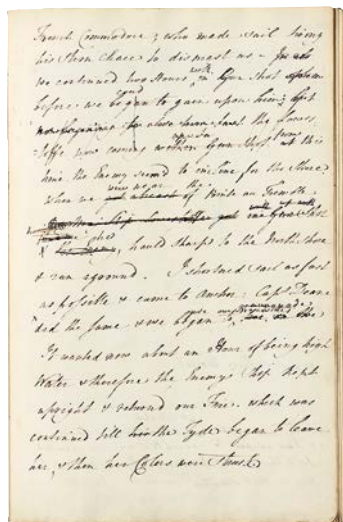
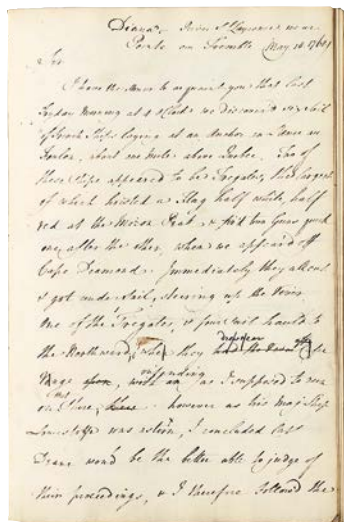
General Wolfe at the Siege of Quebec, with his pencil.’ A comparison of the page to text known with certainty to have been written in Wolfe’s own hand supports the claim, but this is still not an absolute certainty and will require more serious attention.

The second document is what is known as a letter-book. Letter-books have been described as our ancestors’ ‘hard drives’. Military leaders, church authorities, business people—effectively anyone who wanted to maintain a record of transactions—kept letter-books. In the eighteenth century, of course, there was no such thing as a carbon or digital copy of one’s correspondence, and so soldiers like Schomberg recorded letters and instructions into books such as this one. Schomberg’s letter-book is a glimpse into the life of an eighteenth-century military figure operating at a pivotal moment in Canadian history and covers the period of his command of the *Diana* from 29 December 1757 to 18 May 1760. The majority of the volume conveys information surrounding Schomberg’s activities prior to and during the Siege of Louisbourg in the late spring and early summer of 1758. The fall of the French fortress at Louisbourg was key to opening Wolfe’s path to victory in Quebec the following year. Since the *Diana* had been reassigned to New England and New York just before the Battle of Quebec, this volume (like Schomberg’s diary) provides no information about the events of the conquest itself. The *Diana*, however, returned to Quebec

in 1760 and the volume records its ongoing skirmishes with the French, including the capture of the French frigate *Atalanta* on 18 May off Anse-au-Foulon, near Sillery. Such acts of aggression in North America became increasingly infrequent in the years leading up to the 1763 Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the Seven Years’ War, though they were not entirely unknown.

The book is divided into two neat parts. The front section contains copies of incoming correspondence while the second part, written from back to front, consists of copies of outgoing letters. Not surprisingly, Vice-Admirals Edward Boscawen (1711–1761), who oversaw the Siege of Louisbourg, and Philip Durrell (1707–1766), commander-in-chief of the British fleet in North America, feature prominently, as does Vice-Admiral Charles Saunders (1715–1775), the naval victor at Quebec. The letters appear to be mostly in Schomberg’s own hand, although there is occasional evidence of other interventions.

Taken together, the journal and letter-book provide more details about that great eighteenth-century struggle to control the North American continent, but from the point of view of one of the drama’s supporting characters. These two newly acquired manuscripts will help scholars better understand that conflict by providing another and slightly different perspective on it. Thus do our historical Canadiana holdings continue to grow in scope and depth, thanks to the generosity of all our Friends.





## ‘ON THE RAILROAD LINE’ WITH JOHN SIEBERT NELLES

Andrew Stewart

Reading Room Coordinator, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

**‘For we’d work like fools, and pack like mules, on the --- --- railroad line.’**

**J**OHNN SIEBERT NELLES graduated from Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto in April 1908, with a degree specialising in railroad building. He had been offered a job as a surveyor/instrumentman who would accompany a party of men as they surveyed and staked out the last section of track for what would become the short-lived National Transcontinental Railway, which stretched from Moncton to Winnipeg. This railroad was meant to compete with the booming Canadian Pacific Railway and would carry goods across the country, particularly wheat from the western provinces. The Nelles collection, which was donated to the Library by John Nelles’ granddaughter, Ginger Nelles, includes a book titled *Pioneer Trails*

that Nelles wrote to describe his experiences, three photograph albums, a diary, a notebook of recipes, and a camera, all of which relate to his work as a surveyor.

*Pioneer Trails* includes maps of the survey mission, photographs of those involved, and vivid descriptions of the trials and tribulations that it took to construct a railroad through what was then mostly uncharted wilderness. A map at the beginning marks out the journey, which began just west of Cochrane, Ontario (four hours north-west of North Bay by means of modern transportation), and carried on to the Kabinakagami River. The innocuous and rather small red line representing their journey to stake out this portion of the railroad belies the eight months of gruelling labour required

to complete the mission.

The party that set out consisted of twenty-seven men: nine men responsible for the engineering work, a cook, eleven axemen, and six Indigenous guides. The mission was beset with numerous difficulties throughout its duration but two incidents in particular stand out. Near the start of the voyage, the Indigenous guides left in the middle of the night, taking the canoes and deserting the group, which begs the question of the nature of their participation in the mission and how they viewed its goals. The cook’s mental state degenerated. First it was noted that he had put cacao in the coffee, which not only made the coffee taste odd, but used all their stores of cacao. Then one night, when the dinner gong



failed to sound, he was discovered with a loaf of bread in each hand telling them bedside stories. It was determined a new chef was needed, so two men went with him on the 150-mile journey by foot to Cochrane to get him help and to find a replacement. This meant they were not only short-handed, but no one had sufficient skills to cook for the group even if they had the inclination to do so. They were put on a rotation to share the responsibility, but the food was so terrible that morale sunk to a considerable low. To make matters worse, as soon as one person started to learn the ropes, it was time for the next rotation and the cycle of awful food repeated itself. It got so bad that, when a large amount of sugar was accidentally ruined, nobody minded since it was clear no one could make anything complicated enough that it would require sugar anyway. Nelles swore he would learn the basics of cooking so as to never be caught short again, and a notebook of recipes in the collection shows that he stayed true to his word. All the recipes in this book are for various sweet treats. Some, such as 'Paris Buns' and meringues, were made in the oven, but others were solely meant for cooking on a hot plate, such as 'plain scotch scones' and 'cream scones'. The presence of the oven recipes makes it seem unlikely that he wrote the recipe book on this particular voyage, but the hot plate recipes show that he was making sure he knew how to cook both indoors and out.

Later in the mission, when a transport met them at a river, the chief of the party took a spontaneous one-month vacation to visit home, leaving Nelles in charge. Several men immediately pretended they were sick so they would not have to work. Nelles sensed the danger of his position and was caught between losing control of the mission and confronting several men much stronger than himself. He pretended to buy into their deception and administered them the 'strongest physic in the medicine chest' at a triple dose, thereby frightening the men into no longer feigning illness. This ruse worked, except with one man, who came out wearing a prison shirt that he could only have gotten by breaking out of prison, a clear challenge to Nelles. After he continued to undermine Nelles' authority,

Nelles fired him in full view of everyone and, by saying he would charge him room and board for each night he stayed in the camp, successfully dispensed with him.

Personnel problems were not the only hardships to be endured. There was also the danger of getting lost, as Nelles discovered when he let his mind wander on the way back to camp and walked a full circle back to where he started. He kept the incident to himself to avoid the inevitable mockery of his colleagues but was nonetheless shaken by the experience.



A beaver downed a large tree that fell only feet away from the tents. A fire started by sparks from their cooking fire almost engulfed all their supplies. Mosquitos were a constant plague and the black flies were so terrible that Nelles referred to them as 'carnivorous pests' and regarded his bug-netted sleeping area as a refuge.

They were cut off from the outside world to such an extent that newspapers brought in on the return of the men with the new chef were passed around and read for weeks, and a month later were still furnishing topics for arguments and debates. Nelles also got about thirty letters on their return and he read them

at a rate of one or two a night so that he would have something to look forward to. A copy of Bleak House that Nelles had brought with him was read and reread by himself and others and he regretted they had not brought more good books with them.

In his book *Pioneer Trails*, Nelles says that his romantic notions of the life of a surveyor in remote wildernesses were quickly shattered on his first survey mission. A song learned on campus kept popping into his head: "For we'd work like fools, and pack like mules, on the --- railroad line". This song took on new meaning and the romance was mainly lost in hard work with a dash of danger and an element of chance. It is clear, however, from the care with which he wrote up his tale, and from the arrangement of and annotations to the photograph albums accompanying it, that he came to appreciate and even relish life in the wilderness.

The photograph albums provide a fascinating look at both the gruelling hard graft of surveying, as well as the lighter side of life in the bush. Photographs of beautiful scenery or an impromptu haircut are juxtaposed with a photograph of a man receiving medical attention for an unknown affliction or men carrying extremely heavy packs. The albums themselves are temporally jumbled. Some images clearly come from this initial survey mission, while many show other projects, as well as his family life. The diary from 1916 describes his work on another section of track near modern day Pikwitonei, Manitoba, and his attempts to work through an unspecified illness until he finally visited a doctor and was told it would be suicidal to return to the bush without an operation. He goes back to Toronto for the operation and the diary ends after a period of convalescence with him returning to finish up his work, evidently with family in tow.

Taken together, this donation of albums, diary, cookbook, camera, and the book *Pioneer Trails* offers an intriguing view of the life of an early-twentieth-century surveyor, as well as what it took to build a railroad across the Canadian wilderness. It also complements a growing number of collections about survey and exploration in Canada.



## 'A SPLENDID PROBLEM FOR A THEORETICAL CHEMIST': A LETTER FROM ALAN TURING TO JOHN POLANYI

Danielle Van Wagner

Special Collections Librarian, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

**P**ROCESSING AN ARCHIVAL collection is often akin to uncovering hidden treasure. Donors send in their boxes of material, containing the paper trail of their lives and careers, and it is our responsibility to organize it, conserve it for the future, and create a detailed finding aid. For many collections, going through the boxes can lead to unexpected surprises when an especially significant photograph, draft, letter, or diary entry is discovered. Such was the case with John Polanyi's second accession of archival papers.

Polanyi (1929–), a professor emeritus in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Toronto and a recipient of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, provided 149 boxes of material pertaining to his lengthy and momentous career. Some highlights of

the collection include the original telex from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences informing Polanyi of his Nobel Prize, as well as a comprehensive collection of his published articles and talks, his scientific correspondence, and his dedicated involvement with human rights organizations. Several boxes relate to the personal life of Polanyi. Of particular note was a rather thick folder titled 'memorabilia', which contained material saved from Polanyi's childhood and young adult life. Such collections may be familiar to many of us—photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, and other ephemera such as plane tickets or restaurant napkins—carefully stored as mementoes of memorable life events. Polanyi's memorabilia file emphasized his very interesting and varied life: a typewritten diary of a journey across

the perilous Atlantic Ocean in July 1940 at the age of 12; an invitation, photograph, and written memory of a dinner party with the Queen for Canada's Centenary on 5 July 1967 (where he was shocked to find himself seated directly next to the Queen herself); a letter detailing a small get-together with William Faulkner (1897–1962), 'the great enigma of American letters', at the home of Faulkner's publisher in Princeton in 1953: 'I got a lesson in how to kill a al-liga-taw ... watch out for the tayul because they have terrific strength there'. Also present in the file was a letter and an envelope written in a tight yet clear hand, which when flipped over revealed the signature, 'Alan Turing'. The address, written in the upper right-hand corner, 'Hollymeade, Adlington Rd, Wilmslow', confirmed the identification: the



**OPENING PAGE:** Selection of items from John Polanyi's memorabilia folder, including a photograph of Polanyi as a young man, his diary entry as a twelve-year-old crossing the Atlantic, an invitation to a dinner party with the Queen, a letter describing a meeting with William Faulkner, and a letter and envelope from Alan Turing. **BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Letter from Alan Turing to John Polanyi, 17 February 1953.

letter was from the famed English codebreaker, mathematician, and pioneer of computing, Alan Turing (1912–1954).

Turing and Polanyi became acquainted through Polanyi's father, the polymath Michael Polanyi (1891–1976), whose archival papers are also held at the Fisher. Michael Polanyi and Turing were colleagues at the University of Manchester, and according to Andrew Hodges's biography, *Alan Turing: The Enigma* (1983), Turing was a frequent visitor to the Polanyi home, where the two scientists often engaged in lively academic discussion. Turing was also friendly with the younger Polanyi, and even invited 'him to dinner to talk about morphogenesis,'<sup>1</sup> the chemical basis of naturally occurring patterns about which Turing wrote an article in 1952.

The letter is dated simply '17 February', but can be definitively dated to 1953 by Turing's reference to the death of Meredith Gwynne Evans, who died on Christmas Day 1952: 'No doubt you heard that M. G. Evans died about

Christmas time. Almost all my contacts in the Chemistry Dept have gone now. Brown is still here, but I think he's a little bit scared of me, so I don't often see him.' At the time of the letter, Polanyi had recently relocated to Ottawa to take up the post of Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Research Council Laboratories and had previously sent Turing a card: 'I was delighted to hear from you. It was the first I knew of your having gone abroad: I should have seen more of you before you went.' For Turing, it had been ten months since he was convicted of gross indecency for a consensual gay relationship under Victorian-era laws against homosexuality; to avoid a prison sentence, he was forced to take injections of synthetic estrogen for a period of one year. Yet Turing's writing is personal and friendly, the only indication of his current hardship being a reference to his voluntary psychoanalysis sessions with Dr Franz Greenbaum (1903–1961), which he calls 'one of my chief interests in life

just at the present moment'. Turing writes that through his meetings with Greenbaum, 'I suspect that in a year's time I shall be an entirely reformed character, but entirely moronic'. This statement stands as a heartbreaking example of the mental toll placed upon Turing after his conviction. He clearly understood that societal norms expected him to suppress and hide his sexuality, but he saw the treatment as stripping a fundamental aspect of himself. Turing would commit suicide in his home sixteen months after writing this letter.

Turing closed his short missive by stating: 'I thought of a splendid problem for a theoretical chemist the other day ... its probably nonsense anyway, but perhaps curiosity will make you write again.' This was not the first time Turing had attempted to engage with Polanyi through his work as a chemist. The other item from Turing held in Polanyi's archives is a sealed envelope, likely sent to Polanyi before June 1952, when he was still living in Manchester,

Hollymeade  
Addington Rd  
Windsor  
Feb 17

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your card. I was delighted to hear from you. It was the first I knew of your having gone abroad: I should have seen more of you before you went.

No doubt you heard that M. G. Evans died about Christmas time. Almost all my contacts in the Chemistry Dept have gone now. Brown is still here, but I think he's a little bit scared of me, so I don't often see him.

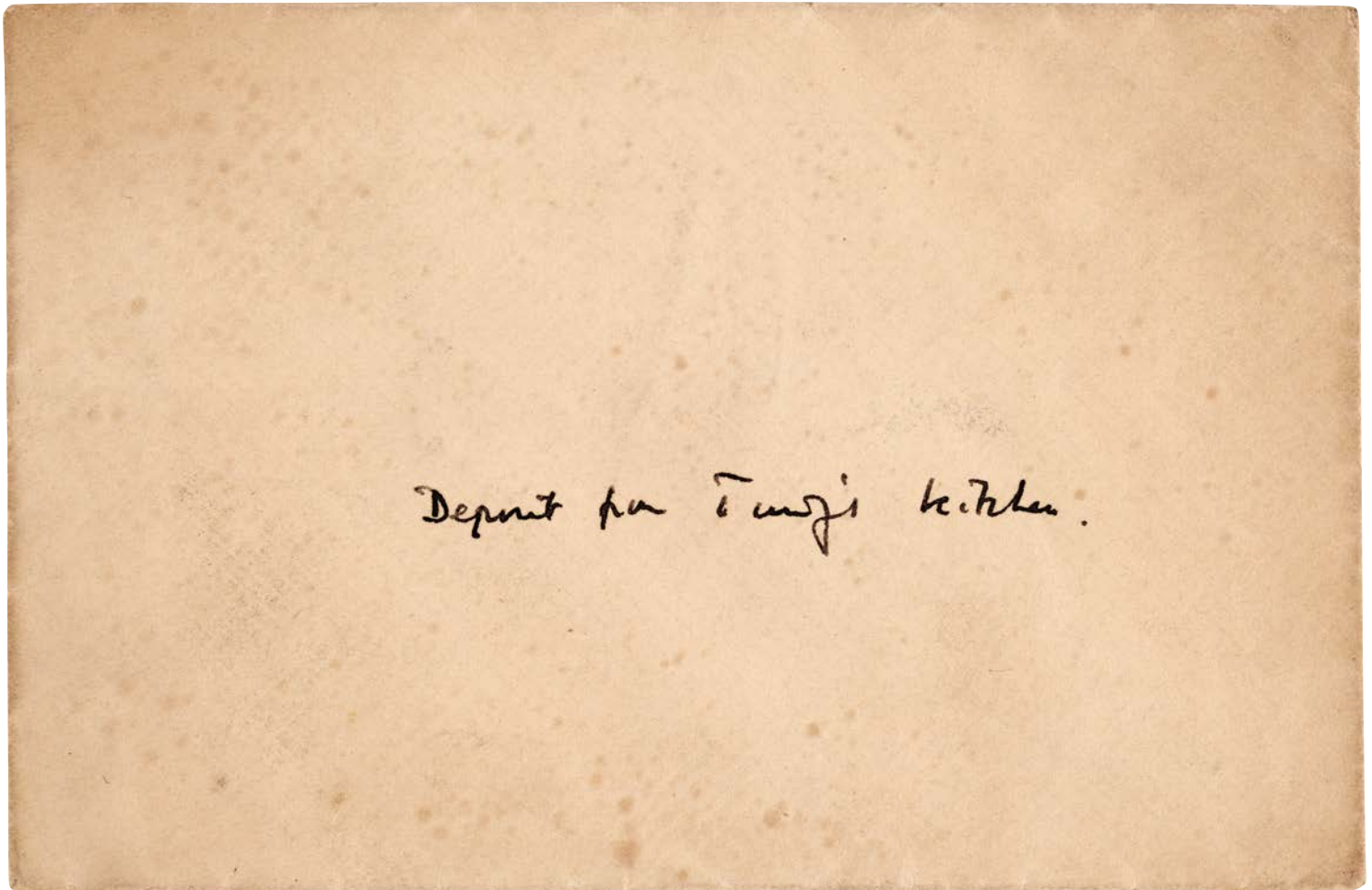
One of my chief interests in life just at the present moment is provided by psycho-analysis. I am undergoing treatment with a Dr Greenbaum. I expect that in a year's time I shall be an entirely reformed character, but entirely moronic.

I thought of a splendid problem for a theoretical chemist the other day. To devise a chemical heat pump. There is not really room to explain on this bit of paper & its probably nonsense anyway, but perhaps curiosity will make you write again.

Yours ever  
Alan Turing



**BELOW:** Envelope marked 'Deposit from Turing's kitchen' sent to John Polanyi by Alan Turing, 1952.



which reads: 'Deposit from Turing's kitchen'. Turing thought the young chemist might enjoy identifying the type of mould growing in his kitchen, but Polanyi never took up Turing's challenge and the envelope remains sealed.

Correspondence of a personal nature written by Turing, such as the letter and envelope received by Polanyi, is quite scarce and offers a rare insight into his life. His archives are held at his alma mater, Kings College Cambridge, where he studied mathematics and graduated in 1939. The material donated by Turing's mother and his executor, Robin Gandy, contains just a handful of personal letters. In May 2017, an additional collection of letters written by Turing was found in a filing cabinet at the University of Manchester

during a storeroom cleanup; these pertain almost exclusively to his professional career and provide very few references to his private life. Turing kept no surviving diaries, though he did record his dreams in eight notebooks during his psychoanalysis sessions with Dr Greenbaum. After Turing's death, his brother, John, destroyed seven of the eight notebooks to prevent evidence of his homosexuality 'from reaching his mother's eyes'.<sup>2</sup> The surviving notebook came up for auction in 2015, accompanied by much publicity, demonstrating the sustained public interest regarding Turing's personal life, his persecution on account of his homosexuality, and his tragic death.

Alan Turing's significance was not fully known at the time of his death. His

extraordinary work as one of the key figures in cracking the German Enigma Machine at Bletchley Park during the Second World War would not be revealed until 1974 owing to the Official Secrets Act. His early work in the fields of computer science and artificial intelligence is now accepted as foundational to the development of the computer. His personal life has also been a subject of much discussion in recent years; in 2009, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown publicly apologized to Turing for the inhumane treatment he received due to the homophobic laws of the British justice system; in 2013, Queen Elizabeth granted Turing a royal pardon. Today, Turing is credited with being one of the most influential scientific figures of the twentieth century, and also recognized as an early LGBTQIA+ pioneer. Personal letters, such as the one found in Polanyi's collection, provide powerful insight into, and the potential for invaluable research on, the inner life of Alan Turing.

#### Endnotes

- 1 Hodges, Andrew. *Alan Turing: The Enigma*. The Centenary Edition. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012: 526.
- 2 Hodges, Andrew. *Alan Turing: The Enigma*. The Centenary Edition. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012: 491.



## THE FISHER LIBRARY CELEBRATES THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF INSULIN

Natalya Rattan

Fisher Library Archivist, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

**O**NE HUNDRED YEARS ago, scientists Frederick Grant Banting (1891–1941), Charles Herbert Best (1899–1978), James Bertram Collip (1892–1965), and John James Rickard Macleod (1876–1935) discovered the first successful treatment for diabetes at the University of Toronto. Their discovery, insulin, was a significant medical breakthrough that has since saved the lives of millions of diabetics around the world.

To celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the discovery this year, the Fisher Library participated in a variety of outreach activities to highlight its extensive collection of archival material related to the early history and development of insulin, including the personal papers of Banting, Best, Collip, and Macleod. The archives, which document the various stages of the discovery of insulin, contain early research carried out by Banting and Best, including original handwritten notes, notebooks, and charts concerning early experiments, as well as academic papers,

research files, newspaper clippings, and correspondence between doctors, researchers, patients, and the Eli Lilly Company and the University of Toronto. All of this material was donated to the Fisher over a number of years. Banting's archives were the first to arrive in 1957, deposited in the Library by the 'Committee Concerned with Banting Memorabilia', which had been set up after his death in 1941. The remainder of the collection arrived as a bequest from his widow, Dr Henrietta Banting, in 1976. In 1982 the papers of C. H. Best were transferred from his office in the Best Institute to the Library; among these papers were two boxes pertaining to J. J. R. Macleod, whose material had been inherited by Best when he succeeded Macleod as head of the Physiology Department in 1929. Additional material about Best for an unpublished biography by William R. Feasby was donated in 1983 and 1985 by the Canadian Diabetes Association, which had received the archives from Feasby's widow, Margaret

Feasby. Other material relating to the discovery is included in the papers of J. B. Collip, which were donated to the Fisher in 1989 by his daughter, Dr Barbara Collip. Another key document pertaining to insulin can be found within the Academy of Medicine archives at the Fisher — included in this collection is the note for Banting's original idea for diabetes research, jotted down in the middle of the night on 31 October 1920.

Earlier this year, Alexandra Carter (the Fisher's Science and Medicine Librarian) and I assembled a virtual exhibition on the discovery of insulin. Initially, this was going to be the first physical exhibition to display original documents and artifacts from the insulin collections since 1996, but it was moved online owing to COVID-19 restrictions and library closures. The exhibition, *The Discovery of Insulin at the University of Toronto: An Exhibition in Celebration of the 100th Anniversary*, features highlights from the Library's collection of archival material relating



**FACING PAGE:** Photograph of C. H. Best and F. G. Banting, ca. 1924. **THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Canada Post commemorative stamp for one-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of insulin. Formal photograph of Leonard Thompson, the first patient to receive insulin in Toronto, ca. 1930. Assignment of the patent for the preparation of the extract to the University of Toronto's Board of Governors for the sum of one dollar, 1 January 1923. Banting's original idea for diabetes research in a note dated 31 October 1920.



to the history of insulin. It tells the story of insulin through an essay by the late Michael Bliss, a professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, published online for the first time. Alongside the essay are highlights from the archives, including images of the laboratory notes and notebooks, patient charts, newspaper articles, correspondence, photographs, and other documents originally selected for the insulin exhibition that took place at the Fisher Library in 1996, curated by the Library's former Assistant Director, Katharine Martyn. We specifically chose to emphasize the first clinical trials, early patients, and the manufacture of insulin, which are all heavily researched areas within the collections. The exhibition complements the Fisher's existing digital collection site *The Discovery and Early Development of Insulin*, which contains all of the material pertaining to the discovery, including images of over seven thousand original documents from the Fisher Library, the University of Toronto Archives, and the Sanofi Pasteur Limited Archives (formerly Connaught Laboratories).

Owing to library closures, the usual tours of the collection that we would provide for external visitors were not possible. As a result, Alexandra and I participated in other virtual activities to showcase the Fisher's collections including creating a video of highlights for the Royal Society of Canada's symposium on the Impact of the Discovery of Insulin and a panel at the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry conference titled 'Celebrating 100 years of Insulin: Preserving and Sharing the Memory of Chemical Past'. This was a fascinating seminar to be a part of and demonstrated the different ways in which the Library's collections are currently being used by scientists and historians of medicine, pharmacology, and endocrinology.

Throughout the pandemic, without access to the physical materials, resources such as the online exhibition and the insulin site have been crucial in supporting research and study involving the Library's collections. *The Discovery and Early Development of Insulin* site is frequently consulted and images of archival material from it have been reproduced in many articles, magazines, academic papers, books, newsletters, films, television shows, and news segments, especially for the centennial anniversary.

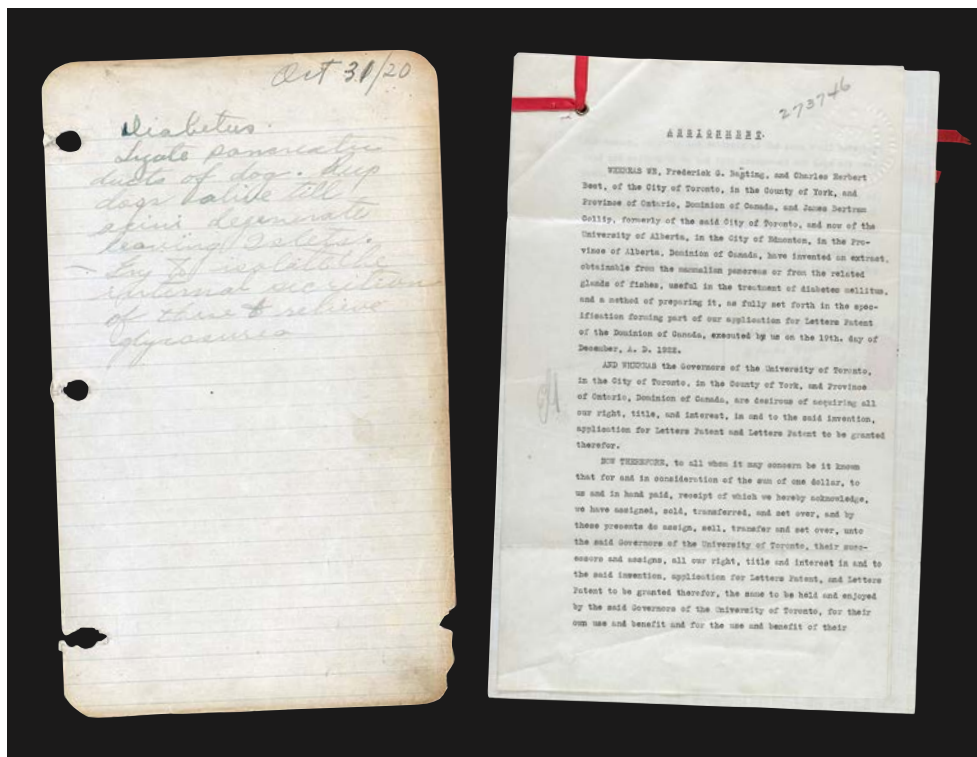
To commemorate the one-hundredth anniversary of the discovery, Canada Post created a stamp that features an excerpt from Banting's unpublished memoir from his archives, alongside an image of one of the original insulin bottles (held in the Sanofi Pasteur Limited Archives). For the first day cover, Canada Post used additional material from the Fisher's archives, including images of the envelopes from letters sent to Banting to congratulate him on his discovery and to request treatment.

Another way in which the discovery was celebrated this year was through the creation of a Heritage Minute by Historica Canada

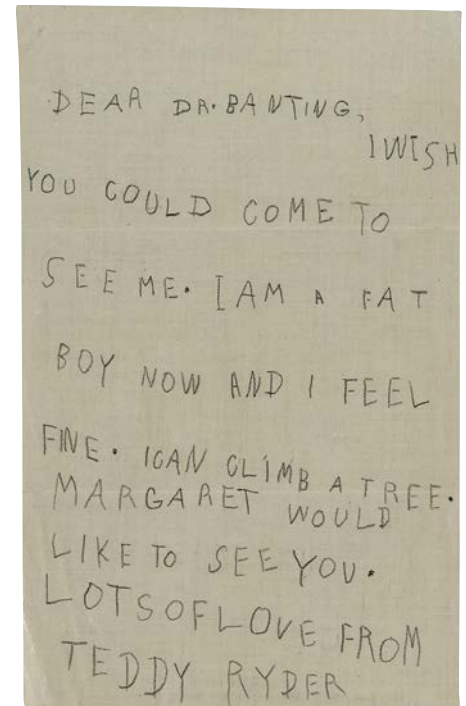


LEONARD THOMPSON  
First patient to receive insulin in  
Toronto.

that features the story of Leonard Thompson (1908–1935), the first diabetic patient to receive injections of the extract. Christopher Rutty, a medical historian and one of the three historical consultants on the team that



**BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Photograph of Teddy Ryder when he first arrived in Toronto weighing 27 pounds, 10 July 1922. Photograph of Teddy Ryder one year after his initial treatment, at a weight of 45 pounds. Letter to Dr Banting, ca. 1923.



created the Heritage Minute, says he relied on Michael Bliss's work, original documents, and newspaper reports to help develop a full reconstruction of the story.<sup>1</sup> Records in the Fisher's archives show that Thompson was very ill when he was first admitted to Toronto General Hospital on 2 December 1921. At age fourteen, he was only sixty-five pounds, and on admission Banting noted that he was pale, his hair was falling out, his abdomen was swollen, and he had the odour of acetone on his breath. He received the first injection of Banting and Best's pancreatic extract on 11 January 1922. Although it caused a slight lowering of his blood sugar, Banting noted that 'no clinical benefit was evidenced'. On 23 January, Thompson was given five cc of a new version of the extract, refined to make it more concentrated by Dr James B. Collip. The latter shot resulted in immediate improvement. All of these key details, including a historically accurate recreation of the laboratory in which Banting and Best worked, were well captured in the Heritage Minute segment.

With the creation of Canada Post's commemorative stamp and the Heritage

Minute, the stories of the first patients treated with insulin were showcased this year. Before the discovery of insulin, treatments for diabetes were limited, and a diagnosis typically meant that a patient would only have a year or two to live. The patient stories within Banting's archives—told through correspondence, charts, photographs, and other materials—capture the challenges diabetics faced and how their lives changed drastically owing to insulin. In addition to the material relating to Leonard Thompson, the Fisher also contains material from other diabetic children whom Banting treated in 1922, including two of his biggest success stories: Teddy Ryder (1916–1993) and Elizabeth Hughes (1907–1981). When five-year-old Ryder arrived in Toronto for treatment, he weighed only twenty-seven pounds. The following year, he wrote to Banting from his home in Connecticut: 'I wish you could come to see me. I am a fat boy now and I feel fine. I can climb a tree.' Ryder lived for over seventy years on insulin. Elizabeth Hughes's treatment and recovery is thoroughly documented in a series of letters to her mother and Banting, which

were donated to the Fisher by her family. She had a full and active life and lived for fifty-eight years on insulin.

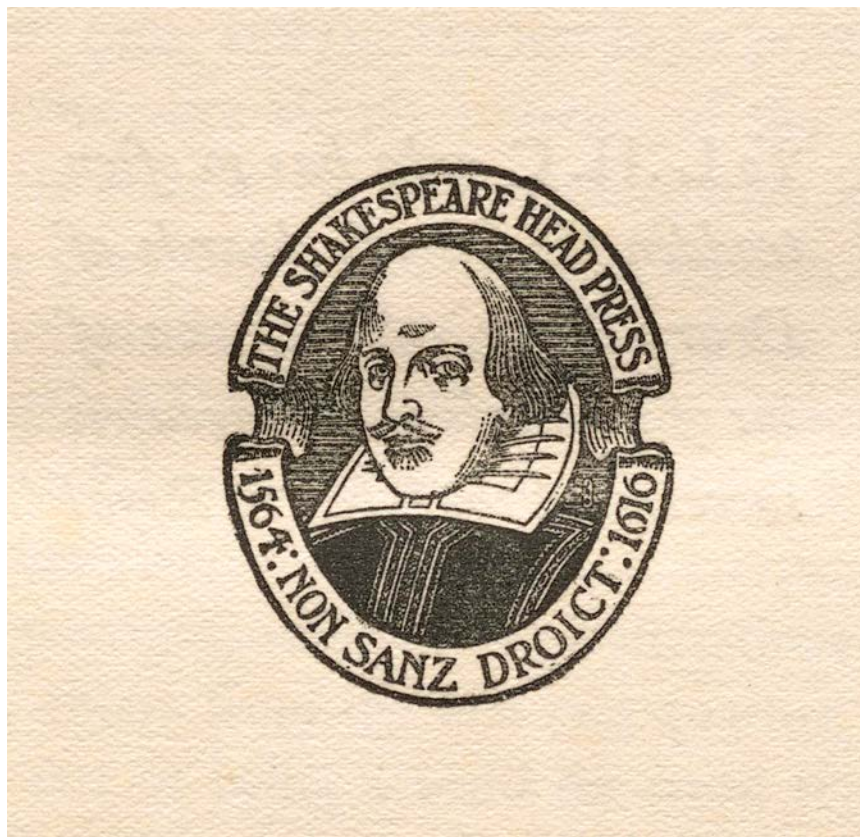
Other items that have been consulted frequently speak to current discussions on the rising cost of insulin. For example, the Assignment to the Governors of the University of Toronto is frequently accessed. In this document, signed on 19 December 1922, Banting, Best, and Collip gave the University of Toronto the Canadian patent for the preparation of insulin for the token payment of one dollar; this was part of their legacy to keep insulin affordable for all.

Beyond these few examples, the discovery of insulin archives continue to be a rich resource for those wishing to study or explore the history of insulin, drawing in researchers from many backgrounds, including medical historians, doctors, and members of the public personally affected by diabetes. This centennial anniversary has been a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the story of this remarkable discovery, highlighted in the original material held at the Fisher.

## Endnote

- 1 Wang, Yanan (2021). Heritage Minute Showcases Life-Saving Impact of U of T's Insulin Discovery. *U of T News*. Retrieved from: <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/heritage-minute-showcases-life-saving-impact-u-t-s-insulin-discovery>.





## THE SHAKESPEARE HEAD PRESS AND BASIL BLACKWELL

Leora Bromberg

Acquisitions Specialist, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

**T**HE IDEA OF establishing a printing press in Shakespeare's home town came to Arthur Henry Bullen (1857–1920) in a dream. Bullen recounts his dream as follows:

"I had not visited Stratford for many years, when one night I dreamt that I had been looking over Shakespeare's Birthplace, and the Church where he lies buried, and was preparing to leave the town when someone said to me:

"You're not going away, surely, without seeing the Book?"

"What book?" said I.

"Why, haven't you heard of the whole edition of Shakespeare that is being printed here—the first complete edition ever printed and published in Shakespeare's own town?"

I knew all the time that I was dreaming, and I thought to myself "I must remember this dream when I wake up." I did remember it, and couldn't get away from it. I soon saw clearly that there would be no peace of mind for me until my dream came true.<sup>1</sup>

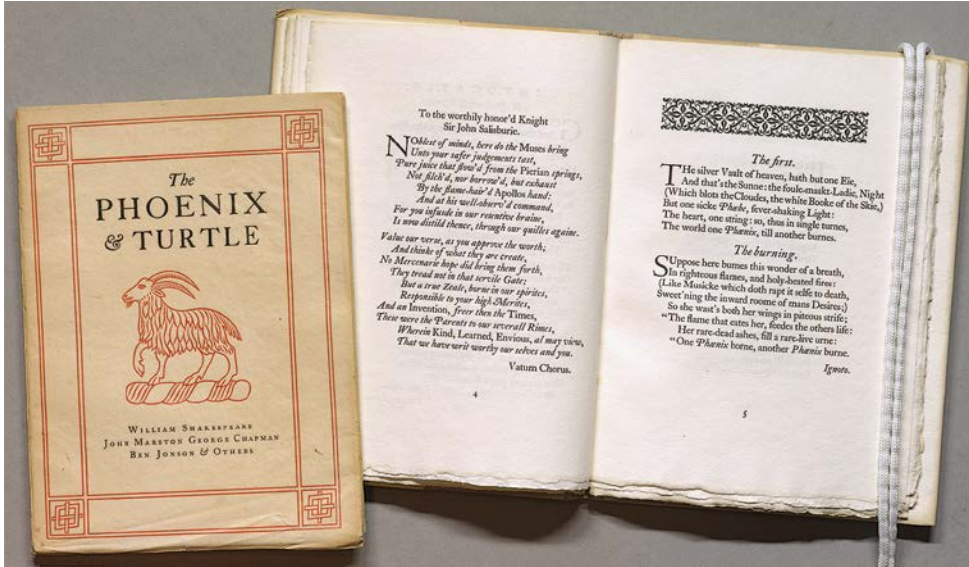
In 1904, Bullen teamed up with Frank Sidgwick (1879–1939) to found his small printing and publishing business, the Shakespeare Head Press (SHP), at 21 Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon. The storefront is now home to the Chaucer Head Bookshop—its name a nod to the shop's past and the printing presses themselves. Some of the equipment used at the SHP, including some type cases and the older of their two hand-presses, had formerly belonged to William Morris (1834–1896) and was used to print his edition of Chaucer.<sup>2</sup> Much of the history of the SHP is preserved in the Archives of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, but beyond Sidgwick's diary, which was published in 1975, no complete history of the press has been published.

By 1907, Bullen had actualized his dream of becoming the first person to print and publish a complete edition of Shakespeare's works in Stratford, nearly 300 years after Shakespeare's death. The 'Stratford Town Shakespeare', as it came to be known, was published in

ten volumes on handmade paper and in a limited print run of 1000 copies.<sup>3</sup> (There are copies available at the University of Toronto, including the Fisher Library.) Founded in the tradition of William Morris' Kelmscott Press and Arts & Crafts Movement, the SHP was dedicated to the art of printing and creating beautiful editions by hand.

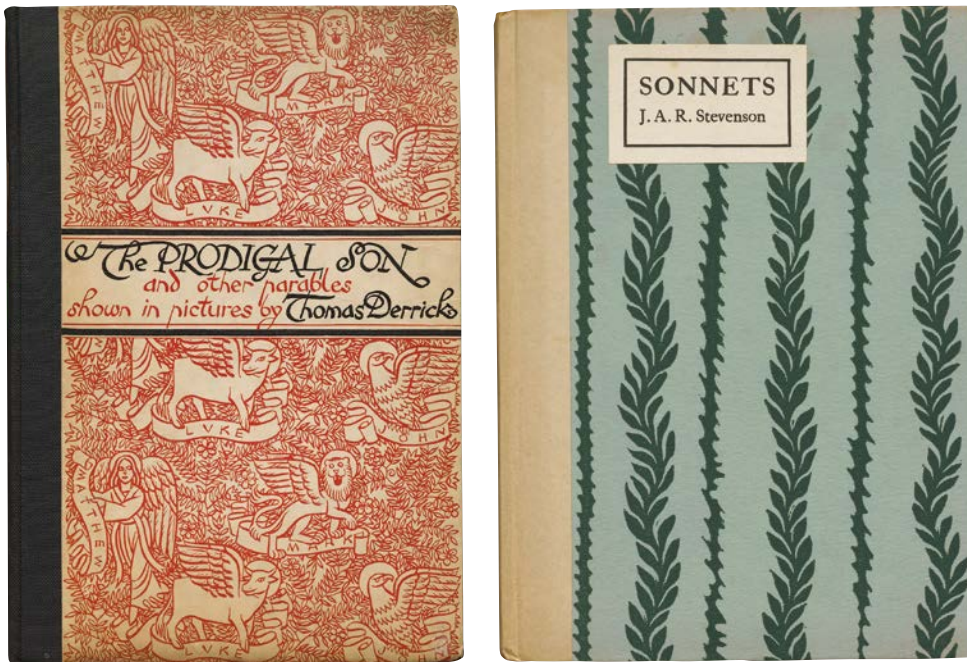
Bullen's lofty goals apparently did not account for the business expenses that come along with fine press printing, however, and the SHP faced financial difficulties. They kept their heads above water by publishing English and classical reprints, taking on projects commissioned by authors and publishers, and with the support of loans.<sup>4</sup> Bullen's efforts and contributions to book arts and publishing were certainly appreciated and defended by others. Take for instance an article in the May 1916 issue of the *Bulletin of the American Library Association*, which calls for fundraising to 'save' SHP and declares Bullen 'a Caxton of our day'.<sup>5</sup>

**OPENING PAGE:** The Printer's device of the Shakespeare Head Press, as featured on the title page of *The Rehearsal* by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham (Stratford-upon-Avon: The Shakespeare Head Press, 1914). **BELOW, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** William Shakespeare, John Marston, George Chapman, Ben Jonson, and others, *The Phoenix and Turtle*, edited by Bernard H. Newdigate (St. Aldates, Oxford: Printed and made in Great Britain at the SHP and published for the Press by Basil Blackwell, 1937). J.A.R. Stevenson, *Sonnets*, St. Aldates, (Oxford: Printed at the SHP and sold by Basil Blackwell, 1936). Thomas Derrick, *The Prodigal Son and Other Parables Shown in Pictures* by Thomas Derrick (St. Aldates, Oxford: at the SHP, Basil Blackwell, 1931).



location of the press, Blackwell did eventually manage to relocate it to Oxford in 1929, as is reflected in the change in the wording of the imprint across the donated volumes.

From Bullen to Blackwell, the imprints of the SHP stand out as beautiful examples of visual editions, many displaying decorated covers and bindings, illustrations, fine hand-set typography, and hand-made paper. This most recent addition of SHP books to the Fisher Library holdings was donated by Mr Richard W. Ramsey. These volumes offer insight into the endurance of a fine press over time as well as the artisanal roots of a mass publishing company that lives on today. Bullen's dream and the name of the press also serve as a reminder of Shakespeare's legacy and impact—driving innovation and experimentation not only in literature, but also in printing and publishing.



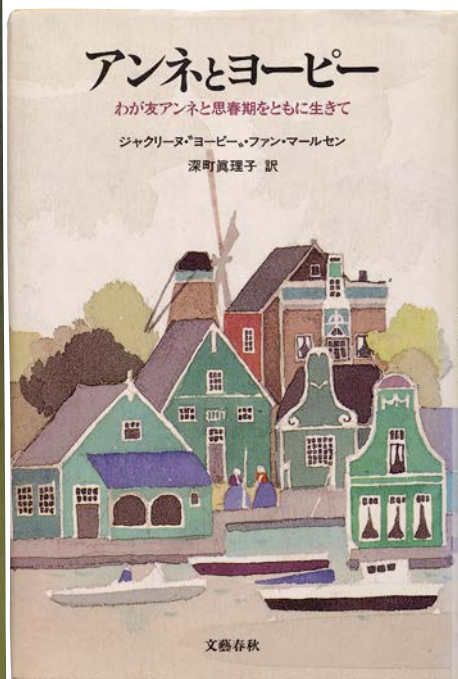
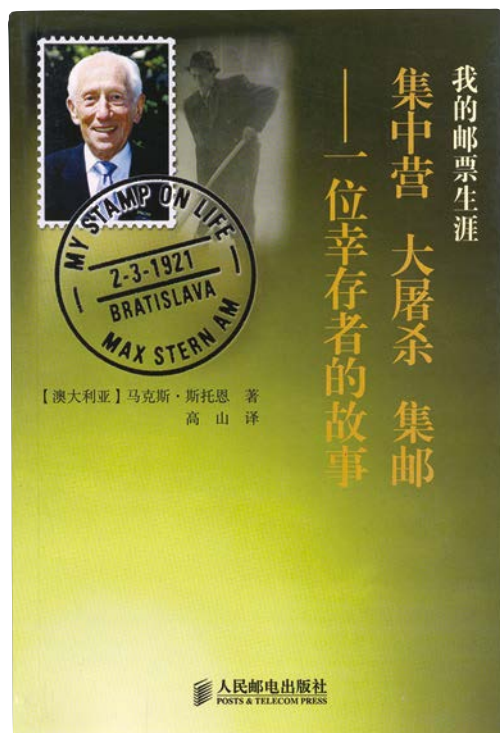
A recent donation to the Fisher Library includes a selection of SHP editions published between 1908 and 1941. These volumes document a time of transition for the press and how it carried on following Bullen's death in 1920. After his death, Bullen's secretary Edith Lister (1867–1938) organized the sale of the press and a deal was made with Basil Blackwell (1889–1984), the namesake of what is now the major publishing firm Wiley-Blackwell, through which SHP remains an active

imprint. Although Blackwell and his family's bookselling business were based in Oxford, the sale of the SHP was made on the condition that the press would remain in Stratford, in order for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust to continue preserving their records.<sup>6</sup> Blackwell took over the SHP in partnership primarily with Bernard H. Newdigate (1869–1944), a distinguished printer and typographer, who carried on the legacy of the press in the Morris tradition. Despite the significance of the

## Endnotes

- 1 Dixon Scott, *Stratford-on-Avon with Leamington & Warwick* (London: A & C Black, 1911), pp. 46–47.
- 2 The William Morris Society, 'The Ideal Book: William Morris and the Kelmscott Press', retrieved from: <https://williammorrisociety.org/current-exhibitions/the-ideal-book-william-morris-and-the-kelmscott-press/>; Sylvia Morris, 'The Shakespeare Head Press: A link to Stratford's past', *The Shakespeare Blog* (13 February 2013), retrieved from: <http://theshakespeareblog.com/2013/02/the-shakespeare-head-press-a-link-to-stratfords-past/>
- 3 Sylvia Morris, 'The Shakespeare Head Press: A link to Stratford's past', *The Shakespeare Blog* (13 February 2013), retrieved from: <http://theshakespeareblog.com/2013/02/the-shakespeare-head-press-a-link-to-stratfords-past/>; Natalie McGarthland, 'Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Blogs', retrieved from: <https://americanfriendsofsbt.org/wp-content/uploads/Natalie-McGarthland-Blog-Posts.pdf>
- 4 Paul W. Nash, 'Shakespeare Head Press' in *The Oxford Companion to the Book* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).
- 5 American Library Association, 'Shakespeare Tercentenary and the Shakespeare Head Press', *Bulletin of the American Library Association* 10(3), May 1916, p. 101.
- 6 Natalie McGarthland, 'Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Blogs', retrieved from: <https://americanfriendsofsbt.org/wp-content/uploads/Natalie-McGarthland-Blog-Posts.pdf>





## THE GOLDSCHLÄGER COLLECTION OF HOLOCAUST LITERATURE

Nadav Sharon

Judaica Librarian, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

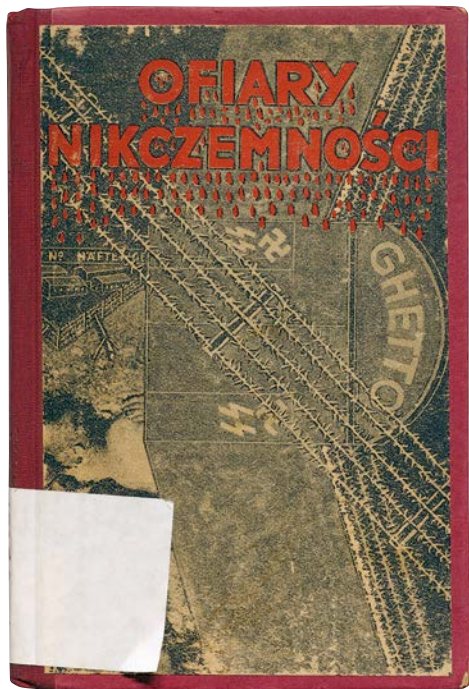
**D**URING THE TRIAL of Ernst Zündel (1939–2017), the German neo-Nazi and Holocaust denier, in Canada in the 1980s, Professor Alain Goldschläger (1946–) was called in to help the prosecution. A professor in the French Department at the University of Western Ontario in London and an expert in semiotics, Goldschläger was asked to help owing to his work on hate literature. His involvement in that trial led Goldschläger to realize just how important the testimonies—first-hand accounts—of survivors are to counter the claims of Holocaust deniers such as Zündel. He then also realized that libraries with Holocaust collections focused mostly on historical documents and there was no concerted effort by any library—including Israel's

Yad Vashem—to collect such testimonies, many of which were published shortly after the Holocaust in small press runs in various locations across the globe, and were thus at risk of being lost. So, Goldschläger decided to collect such works himself. He subsequently established the Holocaust Literary Research Institute at Western, which specialized in such first-hand accounts.

Goldschläger went on to collect thousands of these titles and also compiled a database-bibliography of such published testimonies (whether in his collections or not). Though several other libraries have, in the meanwhile, amassed collections of testimonies, Goldschläger's privately collected library remains one of the largest in the

world. Approaching his retirement, Professor Goldschläger looked for a library to be the new home for this collection—somewhere it would continue to be useful for research and teaching—and the University of Toronto Libraries were a natural choice. Toronto is home to the country's largest Jewish community, including a large population of survivors. In addition, the University of Toronto houses the largest Jewish Studies program in Canada, and one of the largest in North America, in the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies. Taken together with the fact that 'History of Conflict, Violence and Genocide' is one of the main thematic fields at the Department of History, all this indeed makes the University of Toronto Libraries the most fitting home for this unique

**OPENING PAGE:** Holocaust testimonies in Chinese, Japanese, and Greek. **BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Mieczysława Cherszteina, *Ofiary Nikczemności* (Stuttgart, 1945). Raghild Andersen and Helge Larsen, *Vi blev reddet denne Gang* (København, 1945). Anna Molnár Hegedűs, *Miért?: Egy deportált nő élményei a sárga csillagtól a vörös csillagig* (Arad, 1945).

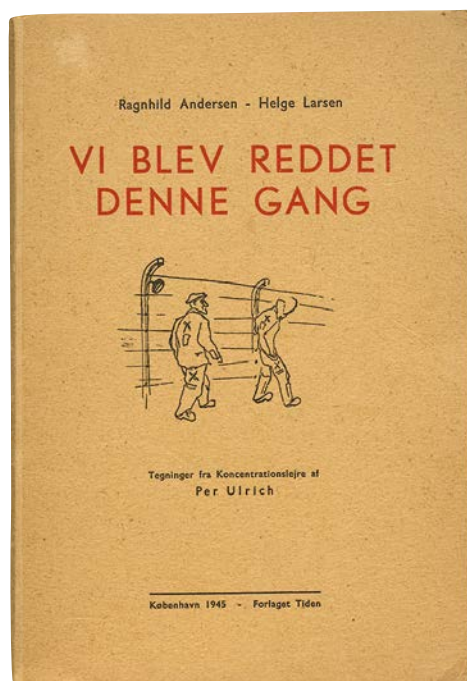


and important collection. Thus, a few months ago, following a long COVID-related delay, the more than 3,500 volumes that comprise the collection finally arrived at the Fisher Library.

What makes this collection truly exceptional is its comprehensiveness and tremendous breadth. As one would expect, many of the works are written in Hebrew, Yiddish, English, French, and other languages commonly used in countries such as Israel, the USA, Canada, France, England, and other European countries. However, the collection includes works in nearly thirty languages from forty-four countries from all the populated continents on the globe. There are titles that were written in languages such as Greek and Portuguese—and even Japanese, Chinese, and Turkish—and titles published in countries such as Monaco, New Zealand, Chile, and Venezuela—and even Morocco, Congo, and Turkey. This was made possible by Goldschläger's meticulous collecting efforts, including searching in rare bookstores and synagogue libraries around the world. Thus, in addition to holding the well-known works of authors such as Elie Wiesel (1928–2016) and Primo Levi (1919–1987), the collection includes many little-known works—self-published and other books printed in small runs, including many books

published in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War and some even during the War. Consequently, many of the titles in this collection are quite rare, and some are not held even in the greatest Holocaust libraries.

While this large collection is still being processed at the Fisher, this is an opportunity to highlight a few such rare and exceptional titles. One example is the Polish book *Ofiary Nikczemności*, written by Mieczysława Cherszteina. Already published by 1945 in Stuttgart, Germany, it was probably written in April 1945 in the displaced persons camp in Mosbach. The short, 157-page book is based

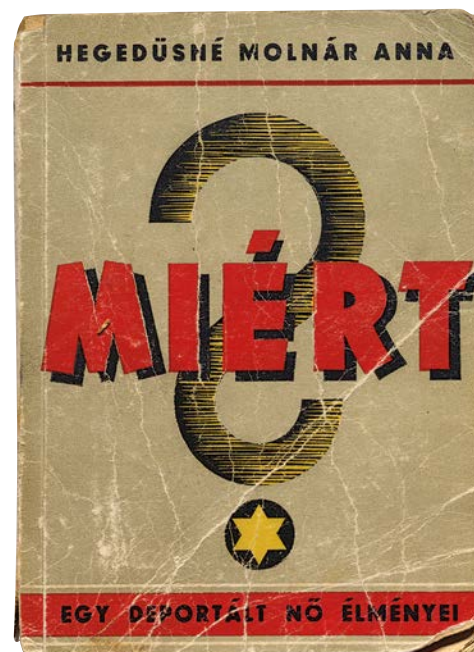


on the accounts of former concentration camp prisoners, both Jewish and non-Jewish, with whom the author spoke in Mosbach. The account is preceded by a foreword in English by US military officer Moses Moskowitz (1910–1990), in which he writes: 'When I read it through, I first realized the full meaning of what I had seen in the Concentration Camps...'

Another little-known book already published by 1945 is the Danish book *Vi blev reddet denne Gang*, by Raghild Andersen (1907–1990) and Helge Larsen (1915–2000), who were activists in the Danish Communist Party. They were arrested in summer 1941 and transferred

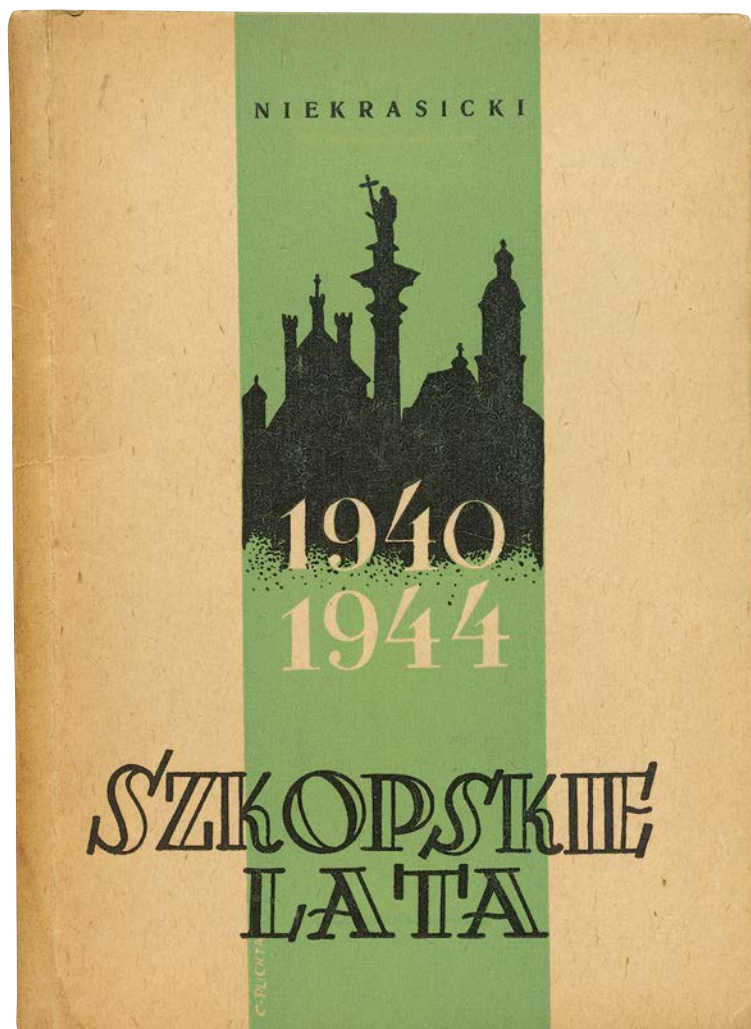
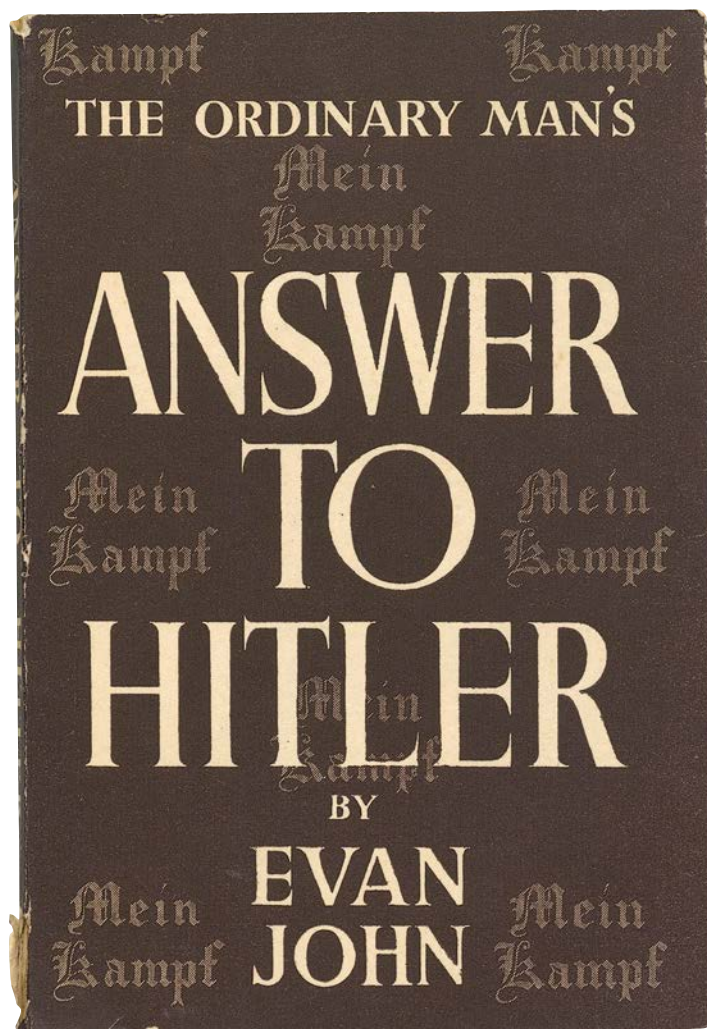
in 1943 to the Stutthof concentration camp near Danzig, Poland, and the book recounts their terrible experiences. Another example of a first-hand survivor testimony published in 1945 is the Hungarian book *Miért?: Egy deportált nő élményei a sárga csillagtól a vörös csillagig*, by Anna Molnár Hegedűs (1897–1979). This book recounts her horrific experiences in the ghetto set up in her home town of Szatmár, in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, at the Schlesiersee forced labour camp, and during a perilous death march. A few years after the war, Molnár Hegedűs immigrated to Israel and then, in 1952, to Montreal. An English translation of her book was recently published by the Toronto-based Azrieli Foundation, with the title *As the Lilacs Bloomed* (2017).

Although the focus of the collection is the survivor testimonies, it includes other Holocaust literature as well, some of which is similarly early and rare. In fact, the earliest book in the collection is a rare book written in English and published in London in 1939. It was written by Evan John (1901–1953) and is titled *Answer to Hitler: Reflections on Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' and on Some Recent Events upon the Continent of Europe*. Another example is a Polish book written by Wincenty Czerwiński (1895–1986) under the pseudonym "Niekrasicki" and published in Wrocław in 1946. Entitled





BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Evan John, *Answer to Hitler: Reflections on Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' and on Some Recent Events upon the Continent of Europe* (London, 1939). Niekrasicki, 1940–1944: *Szkopskie lata: bajki, satyry i utwory aktualne z okresu okupacji niemieckiej* (Wrocław, 1946).



1940–1944: *Szkopskie lata: bajki, satyry i utwory aktualne z okresu okupacji niemieckiej*, this book is a collection of anti-Nazi satirical poems and songs that he wrote underground during the war years.

While this article surveys only a select few out of the thousands of titles in this collection, it illustrates the collection's extensiveness and

uniqueness, which provide the Fisher Library with a strong base on which it can further build. In fact, in the few months since the arrival of this collection, the Fisher Library has already acquired a number of additional rare titles that will be added to it.

Though obviously not an easy collection to deal with, the Goldschläger Holocaust

literature collection promises to be an important addition to the Fisher Library's holdings, both in terms of its range of languages and in its research and teaching potential. It is an especially important addition in our time, when hate speech, the denial of facts, and conspiracy theories are once again on the rise.

A symposium inaugurating this collection to the Fisher Library's collections is scheduled for January 27, 2022. Details will be made available at <https://fisher.library.utoronto.ca/>.



## DEPOSITED TREASURES: THE PAPYRI COLLECTIONS AT THE FISHER LIBRARY

Chana Algarvio

TALint Student, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

SINCE 1901, THE University of Toronto has been home to fragmented texts from a distant place and time—papyri from Ancient Egypt. Originally made up of only four fragments donated by the Egypt Exploration Fund, a British non-profit archaeological organization now known as the Egypt Exploration Society (EES), the University's holdings eventually grew to more than four hundred papyrus fragments. In 1904 and 1906, thirty-five additional papyri were sent by the EES to Victoria College, secured by a subscription made by the College's principal together with an alumnus. The arrival of Dr Alan E. Samuel (1932–2008) in the Classics Department in 1966 resulted in the acquisition of yet another, much larger, papyrus collection, with Samuel housing his personal assemblage of papyri, including unpublished papyri found in El Hibeh, in the Department for teaching purposes.

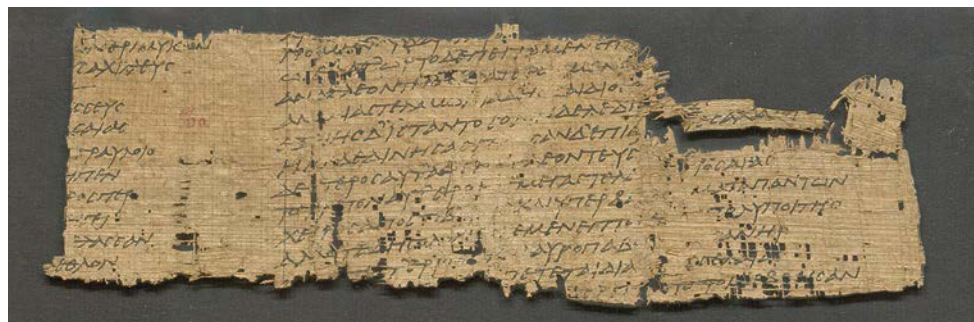
Today, the Fisher Library has become the home for all of the University's various papyrus collections, receiving the Victoria College Papyrus Collection in 1977 and the Classics Department Papyrus Collection in 2004—both on long-term deposit. Except for the four fragments donated in 1901, the Fisher does not have ownership of the papyrus collections—depositing items effectively means they are on loan for an indefinite length of time—but they have become as much a part of the Library as any other collection. This is particularly the case with the Victoria College papyri as the fragments have been at the Fisher for nearly fifty years—almost since its founding. One of the Library's hidden gems, these wonderful collections not only preserve valuable texts, they also reveal the materiality of the book as it existed in Ancient Egypt.

All of the papyri from the various collections date to the Greco-Roman Period of Ancient

Egypt (ca. 300 BCE–ca. 300 CE) and were mainly found at the archaeological sites of Faiyum, El Hibeh, and Oxyrhynchus in Middle Egypt. The language of the papyrus fragments from the Victoria College Papyrus Collection is Greek, and the texts they contain cover a variety of subjects: Classical literature, legal documents (e.g., marriage contracts, land transfers, tax receipts, wills), miscellaneous accounts and receipts, and personal letters. *P. Hibeh 54*, for example, is a private letter likely dating to the end of the reign of Ptolemy II (309/308–246 BCE) in which Demophon requests that Prolemaeus acquire (amongst other things) musicians, imported instruments, and food items for a banquet or ceremony. Prolemaeus held a law enforcement post in the nineteenth Upper Egyptian nome and Demophon appears to be his superior within the Egyptian administrative hierarchy; the letter therefore provides a glimpse into elite



**FACING PAGE:** A winged goddess (Isis or Nut) crowned with a sun-disc and holding the feathers of *maat* (truth). **BELOW, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Text from Book XXIII of Homer's *Iliad*. The four sons of the god Horus. The *usekh* collar. Fragmented accounts in Demotic.



culture during the Ptolemaic Period of Ancient Egypt (305–30 BCE). The letter also exhibits Egypt's cross-cultural relations at the time since flutes from Phrygia in Anatolia (Turkey) are specifically requested, as are cymbals. The latter were not native to Egypt but rather a favourite of the Greeks, especially in religious ceremonies. *P. Oxy. 451* is the end of chapter seventy-three and beginning of chapter seventy-four from the second book of Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, a passage in which the Athenians recount the Greco-Persian wars that occurred twenty years earlier, emphasizing the great deeds of the Athenian leader Themistocles (ca. 524–459 BCE). *P. Oxy. 560* contains an excerpt from book twenty-three of Homer's *Iliad* that describes the series of competitions held by Achilles in honour of his recently deceased, close companion, Patroclus.

The texts preserved in the Classics Department Papyrus Collection are predominantly written in the Greek alphabet, but there are also fragments written in Demotic, Coptic,

and one interesting instance of Arabic. The contents of these papyri are more administrative in nature, but nevertheless deal with a variety of matters: legal documents, miscellaneous accounts and receipts, and personal letters. The Greek fragments are particularly fascinating because they were reused for cartonnage dating to the Ptolemaic Period. Cartonnage is a type of composite material made from layers of linen or papyrus covered with plaster, and it was first used to create funerary masks during the First Intermediate Period (ca. 2180–2055 BCE). By the Ptolemaic Period, administrative papyrus documents deemed to be worthless were reused to create individual cartonnage pieces that would cover the face, chest, torso, legs, and feet of the mummy. The coverings would be decorated using a variety of pigments—and, sometimes, gold leaf, depending on the deceased's social status—to depict divine and royal iconography, geometric and floral designs, and hieroglyphic inscriptions of funerary spells to assist the deceased through the Underworld to reach the Afterlife.

Some of the more common iconographic features preserved in the Classics Department

Papyrus Collection are: extensive blue colouring, used to depict hair on funerary masks; a winged goddess, who serves an apotropaic function; mummiform figures, representing funerary deities; and concentric U-shaped designs, characteristically placed atop the chest and representing the *usekh* (or broad) collar—one of the most famous types of jewelry from Ancient Egypt. *P. Tor. Sam 8a* is one of the better-preserved examples of funerary deities, the mummiform figures likely representing the four sons of the god Horus. They were primarily regarded as protective deities, sometimes referred to as *genii* since they are only found in mortuary contexts and have no cults. Horus' four sons were also associated with canopic jars because they were regarded as guardians or reincarnations of specific organs removed during the mummification process. The jackal-headed mummiform figure on the left is Duamutef, who was associated with the stomach, and the human-headed mummiform figure on the right is Imsety, who was associated with the liver.

By looking at the iconography of the papyrus fragments, much can be learned about Egyptian religious and funerary practices, as well as the manufacturing process and distribution of cartonnage during the Ptolemaic Period. Likewise, the textual fragments are an important source for understanding the socio-economic systems and fascinatingly diverse book culture of Greco-Roman Egypt.



## EXHIBITIONS 2022

Exhibitions are currently on hold while we await the reopening of the Fisher Library to the general public. Until that time, we invite you to enjoy our online exhibitions, lectures, and video podcasts.

Visit the News & Events and Exhibitions sections of our website at <https://fisher.library.utoronto.ca>.

**TO LEARN MORE** about how to support the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library through gifts of materials, donations or a provision through your will please contact the library advancement office to confirm the nature of your gift. We will be in touch with you regarding recognition, should you wish to join our list of distinguished Heritage Society donors or remain anonymous.

For more information please contact Anna Maria Romano at 416-978-3600 or visit <http://donate.library.utoronto.ca>.

**Thank you!**



## EDITORS' NOTE

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*The Halcyon: The Newsletter of the Friends of The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library* is published twice a year in June and December. *The Halcyon* includes short articles on recent noteworthy gifts to and acquisitions of the Library, recent or current exhibitions in the Library, activities of the Friends, and other short articles about the Library's collections.

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For more information about the Fisher Library, please visit the website at [fisher.library.utoronto.ca](https://fisher.library.utoronto.ca).

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