

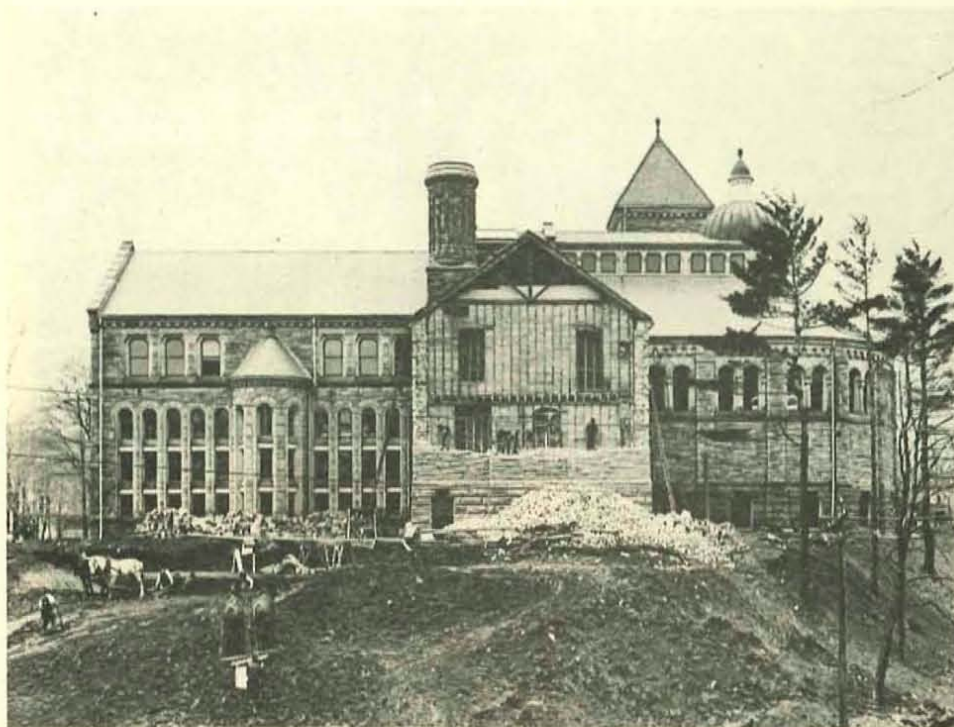
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

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Taking down the east wall of the Library building in preparation for the addition, ca. 1909.



"Evolution of the Heart"

*An Exhibition in the Fisher Library on the History of the
University of Toronto Library 1827-1923*

On 24 June 1992, a reception will launch a new exhibition in the Fisher Library. A selection of fascinating early photographs, drawings, manuscripts, books and other artifacts, has been drawn from the University Archives and various other archival collections in Toronto to illustrate the early history of the University's Library. The Royal Charter, granted in 1827 by King George IV for King's College, will be displayed, as will the delightful architectural drawings which show the design for the "new" library building erected after the disastrous fire of 1890.

The early homes of the Library included the disused parliament buildings on Front Street, the new King's College located in Queen's Park, and since 1859 the east wing of University College. By 1890 the collections had increased to 33,000 volumes. But in that same year, the Library had to begin all over again in forming a collection of books.

On the evening of St. Valentine's Day, 14 February 1890, an open house was to be held in the Library in University College. An hour before the event, a tray of some thirty lighted kerosene lamps was carried up from the basement. On the ground floor landing, one lamp tipped

over and, in an attempt to save the situation, the whole tray load was dropped to the floor. Thus started a conflagration which spread to the reading rooms and along the corridors north and west, and into the Library. Firemen could not stop the fire and practically the whole library collection was destroyed in this devastating fire.

Dr. R. H. Blackburn, University Librarian 1954-81, writes in the introduction to the exhibition catalogue —

The library collection, including a few rare and valuable items, was lost, along with its large handwritten ledger catalogues. The only records remaining were an incomplete "insurance register" in the Bursar's office down town, and a duplicate cash book that had been kept in his lodgings by James Brebner, the senior student-assistant. Brebner was credited also with rescuing about 100 volumes from the flames, and there had been a few books out on loan. About 800 altogether were noted in the new accession ledger as "saved from the fire".

The day after the fire, gifts of books began to pour in, the first in the list being sixteen volumes from Alexander Brown, the successful Yonge Street stationer, who may have felt some gratitude to the University for having twice rejected his application for the post of librarian. A local Library Restoration Committee was formed, and money was raised for it by the Young Lady Undergraduates, the students at Parkdale Collegiate, the Toronto orchestral Society, the Toronto World newspaper, and many others. Larger donations came from individuals, and \$10,000 from the province of Quebec.

A University of Toronto Library restoration Committee was formed also in Britain, and held its first meeting only two weeks after the fire ... Another high-powered committee was formed in Germany, including scientists and members of the Federal

Council and the Reichstag. The work of these committees brought a flood of gifts from around the world ... The result of this amazing outflow of generosity amounted, within two years, to about 41,000 volumes, the makings of a larger and better collection than had been lost in the fire.

The reading room of the new library building — the present Science and Medicine Library — was opened in October 1892. One hundred years later, the University's library system contains more than 7 million volumes, and ranks ninth in North America in collection size. Few comparable libraries can have been struck with such an early disaster and, like the phoenix, risen renewed from the ashes to start another life.

If one recognizes that a library is first and foremost a collection of books, our Library has surely had two lives. The University Library is celebrating its "Centenary" this year, one hundred years after the opening of the "new" library, built to house the collection gathered together after the fire. The history of the Library's earlier existence is related in "Evolution of the Heart", a fascinating exhibition which

covers the period from the granting of the charter to the University in 1827 to the retirement in 1923 of Hugh Langton, the first librarian appointed after the opening

of the new building. An illustrated catalogue is available, free of charge to Friends of the Fisher Library, \$15.00 to others.



"Going Down the Salt Mines"

Professor W.H. Van der Smissen, University Librarian (1873-91), on holiday with family in Bavaria 1889. Behind him are his wife, Mrs. Tyrrel (?), and daughters, and second from left, Aunt Amy Mason.



New Treasures: Gifts to the Fisher Library 1991

Gifts-in-kind continue to be an important source of acquisitions for the Fisher Library. Indeed, the range and depth of our research collections would not develop as they do without the generous support of our many donors. 1991 again demonstrated that there are riches in the land; important books and manuscripts which materially add to our strengths in many subject areas. The following descriptions contain only highlights from the many books and manuscripts donated to the Library over the past year and through them we acknowledge all our generous benefactors.

Margaret Atwood added to her already extensive literary archives this past year by sending 25 boxes to The Fisher Library. These included correspondence and galleys for her recently published *For the Birds*, the holograph and typescript of her short story collection, *Wilderness Tips*, and an unfinished novel, *Destroying Angels*. Also included are reviews and critical

essays about English and foreign editions of her works, and some of her screenplays and stage scripts.

A most interesting donation was made by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Armstrong of Scarborough, from the estate of James Hopkirk. It is an extensively illustrated manuscript volume, dating from the first decade of the eighteenth century, written in Mansfield, England by Robert Dodsley (1681-1759), the father of the famous publisher and author of the same name. The manuscript consists of a series of poems, histories, meditations, prayers and watercolour sketches on Biblical subjects with a distinctly pedagogical air. Dodsley was a schoolmaster for most of his career and this volume may have been compiled as an example for his students. It represents the sort of exercise recommended by John Locke in *Some Thoughts on Education*, first published in 1693.

Russell Brown was for many years the poetry editor at McClelland and Stewart.

He succeeded Dennis Lee in that position, and taught at the University of Toronto from 1983 to 1988. He edited some thirty books of poetry, including works by Irving Layton, Ralph Gustafson, Al Purdy, Susan Musgrave and Douglas LePan. His 1991 gift includes the manuscripts and correspondence regarding the editing of these works; rejection letters, some of which include long comments; general correspondence with authors, and other related files. This collection constitutes an outstanding resource for the study of Canadian literature during the 1970s and 1980s and complements the Dennis Lee Papers held by the Fisher Library.

Douglas Fetherling, who first deposited his archives at the Fisher Library in 1990, added to them this year, with his worksheets and typescripts for *The Dreams of Ancient People*, a poetry collection; *Some Day Soon*, a cultural commentary; and *Year of the Horse*, a travel narrative. The gift also includes his correspondence

with Margaret Atwood, Robert Bringham, Leonard Cohen, Robertson Davies, Vera Frenkel, Robert Fulford, John Metcalf, Bruce Whiteman, George Woodcock, and other Canadian writers, as well as with arts councils and publishers.

Dr. Malcolm Ross, literary critic and professor at Dalhousie University, who also first deposited his files in 1990, donated correspondence covering the years 1976-1991. These letters document his academic career during these years, his literary career as editor of the New Canadian Library series, and his membership on boards such as those of the National Library, and the Canada Council. As with the previous gift, they show his continuing interest in and encouragement of young scholars and writers, and his friendships with colleagues, students and others. Of special significance are letters come from Mushin Ali, A.G. Bailey, Jonathan Greenbaum, Margaret Laurence, Irving Layton, Douglas LePan, Oonah McFee and Adele Wiseman. They reflect Dr. Ross's tremendous impact on Canadian literary studies, both through his encouragement of creative writing at the university level and by his important contributions to literary periodical and book publishing. These letters constitute a valuable resource for scholars in these fields.

Drafts of manuscripts and the final version of Phyllis Grosskurth's *The Secret Ring: Freud and His Committee*, were donated by the author last summer, just prior to publication. The gift also includes notes, correspondence, manuscript galleys and printed texts of *The Memoirs of John Addington Symonds*, edited by Professor Grosskurth in 1984; photocopies of reviews of the French and Italian editions of *Melanie Klein* and photocopies of reviews of the works of Margaret Laurence for a once-projected study.

The archive of the Mackenzie-Papineau Veterans Association for the years 1979-1990 were donated by Susan Meurer and Velma Russell Elley, widow of Mac-Pap veteran and association secretary, Ross Russell. It consists of an almost complete record of the efforts of the Association during the time they were lobbying the Canadian Government for official recognition. To quote the appraiser: "The archive throws considerable light on Canadian labour history, the relations with the Communist Party and a very interesting picture of the struggles of a small group, once pariahs in their own country, gradually gaining recognition and vindication for their political activities some 40

years after the event, just as the group itself is being rapidly decimated due to death." Included with the archives are accounts by twenty-six prisoners of war, mainly Canadian, of their imprisonment in San Pedro de Cardena during the years 1938-1939. Little is known about the provenance of the latter; Susan Meurer thinks Russell may have come across them at the time of the Mac-Pap fiftieth anniversary reunion in Spain, but where they had been in the meantime, he never recorded, if indeed he knew. It is thought, however, that these accounts were either involuntarily written or written after the event, they make a fascinating addition to the Fisher Library's Spanish Civil War holdings. We are most grateful to Mrs. Elley and Susan Meurer for this donation.

With the collapse of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia, and freedom of the press once more prevailing, Dr Josef Skvorecky and his wife Zdena Salivarova, who ran 68 Publishers here in Toronto, decided to reduce their operation, and the Fisher Library was the recipient of a large amount of samizdat material, many pieces having been presented to the Skvoreckys by the authors and bearing manuscript editorial comments. 68 Publishers was responsible for issuing works in Czech and Slovak by writers out of favour with the Communist government and therefore unable to have their works issued, or indeed to work as writers. Their typescripts, smuggled out of the country, often found their way to the Toronto offices of Dr. Skvorecky, to be considered for publication. The published works were sent to an international clientele, and kept independent Czech and Slovak writing alive. Some were produced in a miniature format, incorporating a spine large enough to accommodate a magnifying glass — these were smuggled back into the country allowing the people there to read uncensored versions of works by authors such as Vaclav Havel and Nobel Laureate Jaroslav Seifert, and on banned topics such as Czechoslovakia's first president, Tomas Masaryk, human rights and jazz. As well as several examples of these miniature books, the Skvoreckys' gift also includes sixteen reels of film (which was the early method of smuggling banned typescripts out of the country), heavily annotated typescripts of two of Dr. Skvorecky's detective novels: *Navrat porucika Boruvky* and *Konec porucika Boruvky*, and a number of books in Czech and Slovak, many of which are presentation copies from the authors. This gift increases our Czechoslovak independent writing

collection by one-third and makes our holdings in this field one of the most important outside the Republic.

Adding to his literary papers here, David Solway makes the following comment about one item: *The Book of Angels*: "draft of an unpublished novel ... planned as an account of the 'Hippie' era. Provisionally accepted by Dennis Lee for publication with Anansi, subsequently rejected by the editorial board ... disappeared from view for almost twenty years but was recently discovered ... I consider it a blessing that the MS. never saw the light of print." Blessing or not, scholars in Canadian literary studies will be grateful for the opportunity to make their own judgement about it. Professor Solway's gift also includes a large amount of correspondence relating to: the publication of his *Education Lost* (the manuscript of which is already held by the Fisher Library); his participation in a conference on education at Brigham Young University, Utah; his 1991 lecture tours in Hungary and Finland; and his teaching and writing. Personal correspondence includes letters from Louis Dudek, Umberto Eco, Robert Melancon, Seymour Mayne and Witold Rycbynski, to name but a few.

Once again we have received extensive collections of books and manuscripts from Louis Melzack, the most spectacular items being historical and literary Canadiana. Nathaniel Appleton's *Sermon*, preached on the day of public thanksgiving for the surrender of Montreal, published in Boston in 1760, is a nice example of Americana which is also prime Canadiana. Another example is George Bishop's *New-England Judged* (London, 1703), with its rare appendix. Martin Martin's account of emigrating to Upper Canada in 1832, printed in Petworth, is previously unrecorded. *A Mason's manual*, printed in Quebec in 1818 is, like most Masonic literature, scarce, while *The Order of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent ... upon the Complaints of the Houses of Assembly of Lower Canada*, is found in only one other location.

The rare literary items included William Hawley's *The Unknown* (Montreal, 1831), *Hours of Childhood and Other Poems* (Montreal, 1820), by the ubiquitous "Anon", Adam Kidd's *The Huron Chief* (Montreal, 1830), Alexander McLachlan's *Lyrics* (Toronto, 1858), a presentation copy to Professor George, and two works by John Richardson, the first Canadian edition of *Wacousta* and his much scarcer *Movements of the British Legion* (1837),



Anthony Rota, antiquarian bookseller from London, England, speaking to a large audience of Friends and other guests on "A Week in the Life of a London Bookshop". (27 April 1992)

with a letter from the Duke of Wellington acknowledging receipt of the book. A contract between Alexander Mackenzie, one of the North West Company partners and a voyageur, Jean Baptiste Roussin, is a printed broadside of 1822, completed and signed in manuscript. An interesting publishing connection is documented by a letter of 1871 from Wilkie Collins (the author of *Woman in White*) to Hunter Rose and Company of Toronto.

By way of contrast to all this Canadiana, Louis Melzack also gave two notable additions to the Fisher Library's collection of Canadiana: a 1491 edition of Boethius's *De Consolatione Philosophiae* and Guilelmus Parisiensis *Postilla Super Epistolae* (Augsburg, Zainer, ca. 1472), one of only four copies recorded in North America.

The majority of items received this year came from members of the Faculty, long the mainstay of our group of Friends. The Fisher Library holds one of the most extensive and important collections of Galileo outside Italy. It includes manuscripts and books by Galileo and a large collection of Galileana: works which particularly influenced his scientific discoveries, works by his supporters and opponents, and the works of later writers whom he directly influenced. The collection has been largely assembled over a number of years, by purchase and gift from Stillman Drake, one of the world's foremost Galileo scholars, and this year there is another generous gift to record. The books all relate directly to Galileo's scientific work even though two of them were published before his birth in 1564. The undated (but probably 1510) *Dialogo ... dello Inferno di Dante* by Manetti was used by Galileo to teach cosmography in

the 1590s (Dante's circles of Hell are based on the Ptolemaic system of the universe) and the Moletto *Ephemerides* of 1563 was used by him to perform lunar calculations. The other books follow the same pattern in their relationship to Galileo's scientific research and writing. For instance, Aimoinus's history of France (1567) describes a lunar eclipse and refers to sunspots, a subject upon which Galileo published a treatise in 1613. A series of plays by Beolco were an acknowledged influence on Galileo's prose style, as they were written in Tuscan dialect, and his most famous work (the *Dialogo* of 1632 and others) were written in the form of dialogues. The biography of Giovanni Pinelli chronicles the life of one of Galileo's early friends, while La Galla's treatise *De Coelo Animate Disputatio* (1612) expresses support for the views of the Aristotelians by one of his most vocal opponents over the interpretation of telescopic discoveries. Boccacini's great satire *De Ragguaglio di Parnaso*, here in one of its many early editions, was written by one of Galileo's few anti-clerical supporters. *Trattato* (1615) written by Foscarini, a Carmelite from Naples, supported Galileo's views concerning the use of scriptural authority in scientific matters and Foscarini actually went to Rome to debate on his behalf.

Professor Andrew Watson gave the Library some very interesting 16th and 17th century botanical works, including Ralph Austen's *A treatise of fruit trees*, Oxford, 1665 (Wing A4240) and Gervase Markham's *Farewel to husbandry*, London, 1668 (Wing C6531). Before retiring to British Columbia, Professor Allan Pritchard donated several Canadian classics, including, three series of Thomas Chandler

Haliburton's *The clockmaker*, London, 1839-1840; Catherine Parr Traill's *Canadian Crusoes*, London, 1859 and *The backwoods of Canada*, London, 1836; and a beautiful set of *Geographia antiqua*, London, 1809. From Professor David Hoeniger, the Fisher Library received a collection of 18th and 19th century botanical books, nestled among which was a 1645 *Institutiones anatomicae* by Caspar Bartholin, a welcome addition to our Hannah collection of medical works. A friend of many years standing, Professor Peter Heyworth, once again found items in his collection of interest to the Fisher Library: *The works of James I, King of Scotland*, Perth, 1786; a limited edition of Sir Henry John Newbolt's *A child is born*, London, 1931; several books on Welsh history, and a Paris 1615 edition of Saint Thomas Aquinas's *Summa totius theologiae*. Dr. Robert Brandeis continues to support our growing collection of Penguin and Pelican books and also donated materials in many other fields. A donation by Professor J. R. MacGillivray included several 17th century items, such as the 1661 Amsterdam edition of Philipp Cluëver's *Introductionis in universam geographiam* and John Lightfoot's *Horae hebraicae et talmudicae in quatuor evangelistas*, Leipzig, 1684. He also presented us with several of Edna Ferber's works, presentation copies to Gertrude Lane, her editor at Doubleday, and a five-volume set of the works of Lady Mary Wortley Montague once owned by Charles Dickens. Professors G.E. Bentley, C.R. Blake, S. Dmitrevsky, Graham Falconer, Robert Fenn, Alan Gleason, Peter Harris, Richard Helmstadter, Lloyd Houser, Alexander Pathy, William Rogers, Joseph Shatzmiller, T. Venkatacharya, from this

University, and Professors William Kaplan of the University of Ottawa, Simon Langlois of Laval and John Auer of Brock also made significant contributions to our collections.

Other Friends of the Fisher Library include Mr John D. Cambridge, who donated his collection of 17th and early 18th century British plays, and John Ettlinger of Halifax, who gave a very interesting Nova Scotia land grant of 1784. While land grants are not normally considered rare, this one proved to be historically significant, since someone, possibly the first owner of the site, had taken the trouble to underline a name, location and size of the property, so we now know to which piece of Nova Scotia this grant pertains. Rachel Grover, a past staff member of the Fisher Library, continued to donate Canadiana, this time finding some 19th century sheet music that once belonged to Sarah and Eliza, daughters of John Borlase Warren, first mayor of Oshawa. James Harrison donated a 1659 *Bybel-Printen* in five languages including English: "Figgers of the Bible: in who almost every history of the Holy Scriptures are described". John Mappin of Montreal, another Friend of many years' standing, continues to interest himself in our collections, and this year was no exception. Besides donating an 1871 baseball broadside that our Director wishes to hang in his office, Mr. Mappin also contributed some 70 pamphlets on French language education in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces and over thirty constitutions and bylaws of Canadian benevolent societies. Elizabeth Kane gave 15 letters from John Galsworthy to Whitford Kane, many of which concern the first production of Galsworthy's play *The pigeon* (London, 1912), in which Kane created the role of Christopher Wellwyn. Whitford Kane was a brother of Hugh Kane, whose papers are already held by the Fisher Library. Other manuscripts received include the typescript of Katherine Govier's *Tales of Brunswick Avenue*, donated by Elizabeth Legge, and David Mazierski's anatomical drawings for the textbook *The anatomy of the dromedary*, published by Oxford University Press in 1987.

Our apologies to those whose names have not been mentioned; it is not for lack of caring, but rather a lack of space that prevents my naming you all. On behalf of all the cataloguers at the Fisher Library, thank you for keeping us (so) busy.

Luba Hussel



In Memoriam: Sidney Thomson Fisher (1908-1992)

We regret to announce the death of Sidney Fisher on 25 May 1992. Dr. Fisher and his twin brother, Charles, formed perhaps the finest Shakespeare collection in private hands, and donated it to the Fisher Library in 1973. In response to this most generous gift, the Rare Books and Special Collections Department of the University Library was named the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library after Thomas Fisher, their great grandfather, an early settler in the Humber Valley.

The following obituary notice appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on 26 May 1992, and is reprinted here with permission.

Ottawa Engineer Was Also Shakespearean Scholar

Distinguished engineer and historian Sidney Thomson Fisher died Monday in Ottawa after a long illness. He was 83.

Fisher was named to the Order of Canada in 1977 in tribute to his achievements as an electronics engineer.

But he also gained renown as a Shakespeare scholar and historian. Born in Wieseville, Alta., he grew up in Demonton and attended the University of Alberta and University of Toronto.

He spent most of his career in Montreal, where as a consulting engineer and entrepreneur he developed the tactical communications systems used by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He also held 65 Canadian and North American patents on widely used electronic devices.

For 25 years he was owner and general manager of Radio Engineering Products Ltd. of Montreal and Granby.

He sold the firm in 1973.

His career involved a lot of travel, said his wife Harriet. Fisher took advantage of repeated visits to London to develop a second career as an enthusiastic and tireless amateur historian.

He gained academic respect for his extensive research into Shakespeare. In addition, he accumulated a large Shakespeare collection, considered the finest private collection in the world.

It was donated to the University of Toronto in 1973, where it formed the nucleus of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

At Fisher's request, the library was named after his great grandfather, an early settler in the Humber Valley, now a part of Metropolitan Toronto.

*Fisher also researched pioneer life in the Humber Valley for 40 years and traced that area's rural development in his book, *Ther Merchant-Millers of the Humber Valley*.*

He wrote more than 200 pamphlets, magazine and newspaper articles, and scientific and literary papers."

The Library was represented at the funeral by Richard Landon, Director of the Fisher Library, who passed on to Harriet, Sidney Fisher's widow, the sympathy and condolences of Carole Moore, the University's Chief Librarian.



Dr. Sidney Fisher (left), shown with his twin brother Charles, as they view a display of Hollar prints in the Fisher Library.



Gill Catalogue Wins Another Major Award!

We are delighted to announce that the catalogue of the Gill exhibition, *Eric Gill: His Life and Art*, has been awarded first place in division II of its exhibition catalogue competition by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Library Association. The Chair of the Awards Committee wrote that "the committee felt that the catalogue is excellent for its content, design and production quality, and sympathy to the subject. Each element of the booklet supports the content and the design and reminds one of Gill. Well chosen illustrations from Gill's work, reproduced very cleanly, glow in vivid blacks [and] support the thoughtful text and essays that describe Gill, the exhibition, and the donors' collections. The Gill Perpetua type is generously and properly leaded, which adds authority and legibility to the text."

This is the third year in succession that the Library has won awards for its Fisher exhibition catalogues. Last year, the catalogue of *Fifteenth Century Italian Woodcuts from the Biblioteca Classense, Ravenna* won first prize in division III (catalogues are placed in divisions according to their cost); and in 1990 the Fisher Library received a special award for the catalogues produced over its twenty-five years history.

Congratulations again to all involved in the Gill catalogue, which was designed by Veronica Fisher, written by Alan Horne, Richard Landon and Guy Upjohn, and printed by Fisher Litho Arts.

Friends of the Fisher Library: Programme for 1992-93

A programme of meetings, exhibitions, receptions and other events is being planned for the 1992-93 season. The following outline is subject to confirmation: a more detailed listing will be sent to Friends shortly.

21 September 1992

Steve Weissman (of the Ximines Bookshop, New York) will speak on Voltaire

8 October 1992

A reception to honour Louis Melzack, whose many gifts-in-kind to the Fisher Library have valued at more than \$1 million

17 October 1992

U of T Day! Come and help us celebrate the Library's centenary

12 November 1992

A reception to launch a major Dickens exhibition, with a reading by Nick and Joy Hunter

4 February 1993

Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan will speak on "Gwen John and the Artist's Library"

March 1993

Peter Blaney (of the University of Maryland) will speak on Shakespeare

Editor's Note

This issue was edited by Alan Horne and designed by Veronica Fisher, and photographs were by Philip Ower. Comments and/or suggestions should be sent to Alan Horne, Director, Development and Public Affairs, University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A5 (416-978-7644).



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