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# H·A·L·C·Y·O·N

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

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## Tennis Anyone?

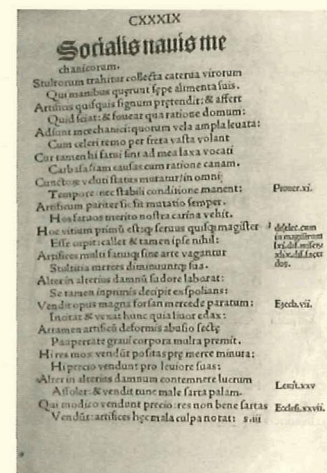
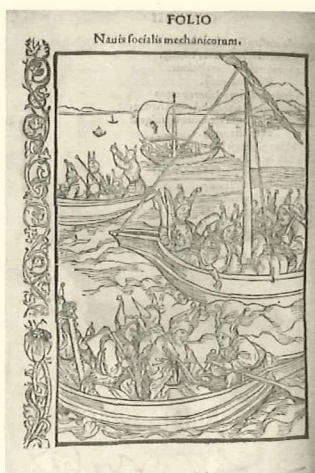
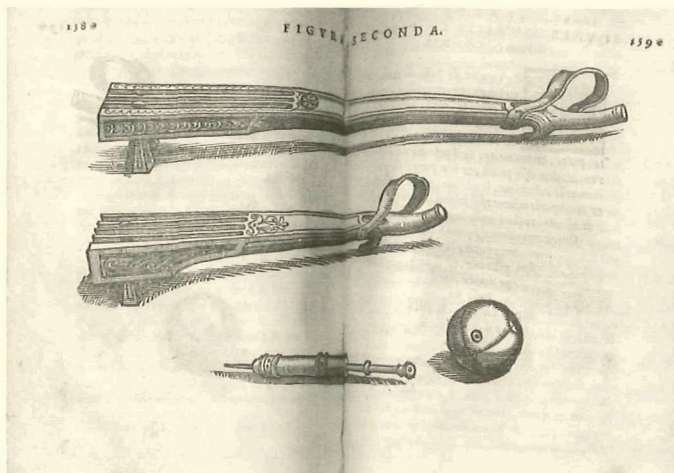
For the past several years the beginning of the "gifts" year was always the same. Early in the New Year I would be asked to meet a donor in the Reference area. I knew what that meant. I would see a tall man with a military bearing, carrying a somewhat battered brief case. From this case, each visit, he would, slowly and carefully, draw out a few items he had specially selected for the collections of the Fisher Library. Since 1990 John Cambridge has been the first donor of each new year and, for me, his visit meant that people were recovering from the festive season and beginning to think about the new year's charitable donations. Mr. Cambridge loved his books and he delighted in telling me how and where he had obtained each volume and why he had selected it for the Fisher Library. Mr. Cambridge died on January 19th, 1998, and this January was just not the same. So it seems appropriate that I begin this year's report by describing one of his 1997 donations. *Trattato del Giuoco della Palla* was printed in Venice in 1555 by the famous printer, Gabriel Giolito. It was the first work written by the lay preacher, philosopher and poet, Antonio Scaino, and contains the earliest bibliography of writers on tennis. He begins with a justification for the game: "Per conservar

sani i corpi nostri, per rendere i giovani piu gagliardi & piu robusti" (to keep ourselves healthy, to make our young men stronger and more robust). In the work, he describes a large court where one plays the game with a racquet, an innovation that had only just come into common usage, and a small court for the hand-game. There are many similarities to the modern version: a racquet is spun to decide the first server, the scoring is by "15, 30, 40, game", and the terms "volley", "deuce" and "vantage" are known. The work explains the game in great detail and is filled with illustrations of various courts, racquets, balls and instruments for pumping up the leather ball. It is a wonderful reminder of the length of time this game has been popular, and the Fisher Library was pleased to be able to add it to its collections, where this work will be for me a reminder of a very special donor.

Some time ago a member of the faculty asked if we could afford to purchase a very

important work by Simon Pierre Fournier on printing, which he had just seen in a bookdealer's catalogue. There was no money available at the time and we had to refuse. But Richard Landon was optimistic. A copy would turn up in a gift, he was sure. Several months later, I was unpacking a collection in the basement and there, in my hand, appeared Fournier's *Manual typographique utile aux gens de lettres* (Paris, 1764-1766), as well as his *Traité des historiques et critiques sur l'origine et les progrès de l'imprimerie* (Paris, 1758-1763) and his *Discours sur l'imprimerie* (Paris, 1767). I think my exclamation of delight could be heard in the workroom two floors above. Richard just smiled. There were many other treasures discovered that day: a 1498 edition of Sebastian Brant's *Stultifera Navis* (The Ship of Fools) being just another of them. Brant is now best known for this famous and important satire, although at the time it was his Latin poetry that brought him to the attention of humanistic circles. The work is in the form of an allegory (a ship laden with fools and steered by fools is on its way to the fools' paradise of Narragonia) and Brant uses this form to point out the weaknesses and vices he saw around him. Although known as a conservative, he was most vehemently

*Below left: Tennis racquets, pump and ball from Antonio Scaino's Trattato del Giuoco della Palla, 1555 (gift of John Cambridge). Below centre and right: Two facing pages from Sebastian Brant's Stultifera Navis, 1498 (gift of Ronald Peters).*





opposed to the way the Church was abusing its privileges, and this popular book proved to be a very effective preparation for the Protestant Reformation. It will now join the Fisher Library's small but growing collection of incunabula. This and other classic works on typography and printing not yet owned by the Fisher Library (nor indeed, by any other Canadian institution whose data base we were able to search) were donated by Friends of the Fisher Library President, Ronald Peters. We are most thankful for his generosity in donating his outstanding collection of works in the fields of printing, typography and type founding.

Professor Ray Morrison offered us his collection of works by and about Lawrence Durrell and Joyce Carol Oates. We were delighted to accept. Virtually every published work produced by these two authors is represented in this gift. Durrell's early works are rare and many of Oates's were issued in small runs and are now hard to find, but Professor Morrison was able to track them down during his collecting career and turn over to us an excellent research collection.

Another wonderfully complete collection was given to us by Joseph Brabant. Mr. Brabant, who died last spring, spent some forty years buying items by and about Lewis Carroll, especially *Alice in Wonderland*. His gift requires an article all to itself to do it justice and we hope to include one in a future issue of *Halcyon*. Suffice it to say that this is an incredible assembly of all the first and subsequent editions and appearances of works by Lewis Carroll, including *Alice* and other children's books as well as his mathematical works and miscellaneous publications. The accompanying but separate gift made by Mr. Brabant's heir, Nicolas Maes and his family, consisting of twentieth century editions and translations, will make the Fisher Library a centre for future research on Carroll. This donation was described as being unequalled in range and depth by any Canadian institutional or private library.

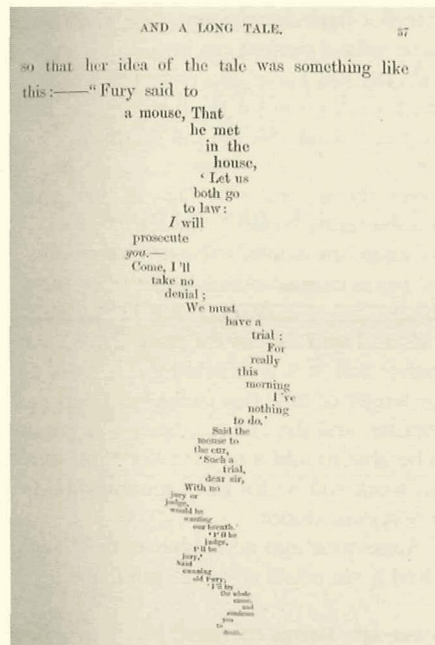
A very interesting collection was received from Mr. Jan Matejcek. It was formed originally by his father and reflected his interest in religious studies as well as his vocational interest in canon and common law. For us, the works have the added value of being in their original pigskin bindings over wooden boards. Three bindings are dated: the 1580 Lyon edition of the works of Aristotle was bound in 1584; Cicero's *Epistolae ad T. Pomponium Atticum* (Antwerp, 1582) in 1595, and the cover of Valerius Maximus's

*Right: Front cover of Cicero's Epistolae ad T. Pomponium Atticum, 1582 (gift of Jan Matejcek).*

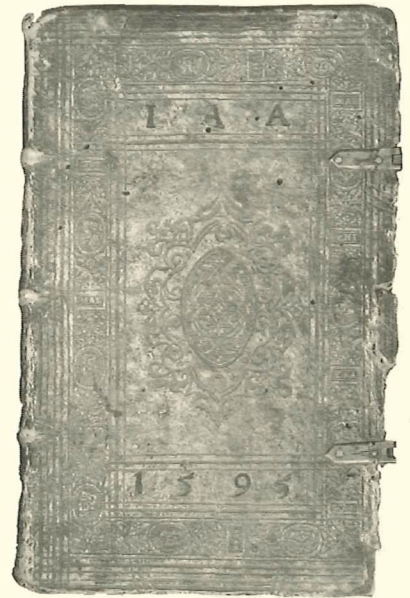
*Below: The "long tale" from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, 1866 (gift of Joseph Brabant).*

*Factorum Dictorumque Memorabilium*, issued in Munich in 1546, bears the date 1552. Such bindings are not commonly seen and rarely in such fine condition.

Last November, Professor Gerald Bentley and his wife, Beth, asked if we would be interested in some eighteenth and nineteenth century English works. Since this Library collects extensively in this area, we were, and a car was dispatched to pick up the gift. It turned out to



be a wonderful collection: a 1749 edition of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones in four volumes*, the second and third editions of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*; the first edition in original boards of James Morier's *Ayesha the Maid of Kars*, and the first Dublin edition of Ann Radcliffe's *The Italian or, the Confessional of the Black Penitents* (1797), being just some of the highlights. This donation rivalled that of William Johnston, another collector of eighteenth and nineteenth century English literature. His gift included works by a number of European and classical authors printed in England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as well as the first edition of Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* (1749) in six volumes, and a thirty-six volume set of the works of Voltaire (London, 1762-1772). Our English literature



and general collections benefited greatly from these donations.

Mr. J. Kirk Howard demonstrated the wide range of his collecting interests when he gave us his rare book collection. Not only were the great names of modern Canadian literature represented (many by signed copies presented to Mr. Howard), but also the great names in English and American literature. A beautifully bound copy of Sir Philip Sidney's *Arcadia* (1613) currently sits on the shelf beside John Masefield's copy of the 1885 facsimile edition of Shakespeare's *Lucrece*, while the first American edition of Thackeray's *Paris Sketch Book* (1853) is followed by first editions of Gertrude Stein's *Wars I Have Seen* (1945) and her operatic work *Four Saints in Three Acts* (1934). Nineteenth century Canadian literature is represented by the journal *Le foyer canadien* (Québec, 1863-1866) and by Bishop Mountain's *Songs of the Wilderness* (1846). Several collections will be enhanced by this generous gift.

In the same month, Dr. Norman Ball turned over to us some forty books. Chiefly dating from the nineteenth century, his compilation of works on mechanical engineering, machine making, shipbuilding and carpentry, such as Andrew Gray's *The Experienced Millwright* (1806) and *Shipbuilding*, edited by W. J. MacQuorn Rankine (1866), are a welcome addition to our holdings in these fields.

Also specially selected for the Fisher Library was the donation made by our Director, Richard Landon. From his collection, he chose two works by William Nicholson: *An Almanac of Twelve Sparks*





Left: Photograph of a young Gwendolyn MacEwen.

Below: Last page of Gwendolyn MacEwen's Kindergarten report.

was kind enough to allow us to select some volumes from her late husband's collection. Due to her generosity we were able to add several early Italian imprints to our collections: a 1563 edition of Petrarch's works with notes by Allesandro Vellutello, the 1740 Venetian edition of Bojardo's *Orlando Innamorato* and the two volume *Opere Scelte* of Pietro Metastasio (London, 1796). Professor Smith's interest in the area formerly known as Persia is reflected in his copy of Ludovico de Dieu's *Rudimenta Linguae Persicae* (Lyon, 1639), while the classical authors are represented by

**HOW THE HOME MAY HELP THE KINDERGARTEN**

Emphasize with the child:—

1. Independence in dressing and care of personal belongings.
2. Provision for at least ten hours sleep (seven o'clock bed time).
3. Development of habits of regularity and personal cleanliness.
4. Encouragement in the eating of proper foods.

ATTENDANCE OF YOUR CHILD			
MONTH	PRESENT	ABSENT	PARENT'S SIGNATURE
SEPTEMBER	15	2	[Signature]
OCTOBER	22		
NOVEMBER	20		
DECEMBER	15		[Signature]
JANUARY	20		
FEBRUARY	15	5	
MARCH	21	0	[Signature]
APRIL	16	0	
MAY	12	10	
JUNE	19	-	

Promoted to Grade 1.

Cicero's *De Officiis* (Amsterdam, 1588) and Julius Caesar's *De Bellis Gallico* (Oxford, 1780).

We are also grateful to Louis Melzack and Ritchie Clark for once again enhancing our Canadiana holdings. Mr. Clark was able to find several more publications by A.W. Chisholm, to be added to the collection by this relatively unknown Canadian writer which he donated last year. Mr. Melzack continues to surprise with the extent of his library. This year we were able to add to our holdings of the catalogues issued by the Art Gallery of Toronto in the first half of this century as well as increase our collection of speeches by Wilfrid Laurier. Works by Sigmund Freud, John Drinkwater, W.D. Lighthall, Heinrich Heine, Arthur Koestler and Lenin were also included in this gift, as was a very limited edition of *Le nouvel Orphée*, signed by the author, Yvan

Goll, and the artists, Fernand Léger, George Grosz and Robert Delaunay.

Another Friend who continues to amaze is Ralph Stanton. Again this year the Fisher Library was the recipient of a sizeable collection of books from the dawn of printing through to the twentieth century. Most notable are the incunabula included in this donation: Antonio Florentinus's *Summa Theologica*, parts 3–4 (Nuremberg: Anton Koberger, 1486–1487) and part 2 of a Latin Bible printed in Strassbourg in 1492; Franciscus Maronis writing about Petrus Lombardus's *Sententiarum* in *Super Primo Libro Sententiarum* (Basel, 1489) is followed by an edition of that same *Sententiarum*, issued in Nuremberg in 1491, and *Supplementum Summae Pisanellae* by Nicolaus de Auximo printed in Venice in 1481 by Andreas Torresanus. These and the accompanying nine thousand volumes will enrich the holdings of the Fisher Library.

We must not forget to thank Edward Grant for his donation of nine cartons of British and American socialist pamphlets and periodicals. We have just begun to search some of the periodical titles and have found that his gift will enable us to fill in many gaps in the periodical holdings of our Kenny Collection. Mr. Sheldon Godfrey was a most generous donor of a long run of *The Annual Register*, while Professor Simon Langlois continues to enhance our Voltaire collection. Mrs. Rachel Grover has added to the DeLury Collection with her gift of assorted works by Irish authors, and Dr. Robert Brandeis continues to find Penguin editions not yet held by this Library. This past year, he also managed to find several eighteenth and nineteenth century imprints that we were pleased to add to the collections. The highlight of one of the last gifts of the year, which came from Elizabeth Mathews, was a stunning collection of hand-coloured eighteenth century maps, bound to form an atlas of the world. Their main interest for the researcher lies in the detailed city plans and streetscapes from all over the known world.

The manuscript collections also continue to grow. Four cartons containing the carbon and photostatic copies of the works of Rabbi Benjamin Wolf Singer arrived last spring, the gift of Drs. Oscar and William Singer. The appraiser was very much struck by the clarity of Rabbi Singer's thought and found these rabbinical writings to be works of great importance. The Fisher Library and Bar-Ilan University, Israel, were both recipients of the Singer family's foresight and it is to be hoped that someday more of

and *London Types* (both printed in 1898), several limited editions, private press books and four titles to enhance our holdings of eighteenth century English imprints.

Important additions to the Fisher Library's Ukrainian-Canadian holdings were made by several donors. Dr. and Mrs. Wynnyckyj donated 225 Ukrainian plays. Some were brought to their new homeland by immigrants and represent the kind of drama that was important enough for these people to include in their belongings. This archive also indicates the continuity of this interest, many of these plays being performed time and time again in church or town halls, theatres and gymnasia, many written by and performed by Ukrainian-Canadians. It will prove to be a major resource for scholars interested in the history of Canadian drama, as well as documenting an important aspect of Ukrainian-Canadian culture. Professor George Luckyj's contribution was the archive of the Ukrainian poet, Anatoly Liubchenko, and the literary movement called *Vaplite*, of which he was the leader. Professor Peter Potichnyj has spent the past two years in one of the Fisher Library's study carrels, sifting through and arranging his archive on insurgency and counter-insurgency in Ukraine. This massive compilation of materials includes correspondence, and German, Polish and Russian documents dating from the Second World War to the 1990s. It was a major effort on Professor Potichnyj's part and he is to be congratulated for making this documentation available to researchers.

Mrs. Helen Smith, the widow of the late Professor Emeritus Ronald "Sanskrit" Smith,



Rabbi Singer's works will be published. In the meantime, researchers will find his works in our manuscript holdings.

One of the first Canadian literary figures whose papers were acquired by the Fisher Library was Earle Birney and over the years we have assembled an extensive collection. He became a familiar figure here, taking great interest in his deposits and doing a great deal of work in one of our study carrels, revising poems and going through his correspondence prior to publishing an autobiography. That was never accomplished due to accidents and general ill-health, but Mr. Birney went on working at the project as long as he was able. This year his widow, Wailan Low, donated the extensive collection still under her care. These later literary papers of this major Canadian poet will considerably augment our Birney Collection and we thank Ms. Low for this major gift.

From Mr. and Mrs. John Sabeau and Rosemary Speirs, we have acquired additional Thoreau MacDonald materials, both printed and manuscript, as well as art exhibition catalogues, many designed by MacDonald, from the Canadian National Exhibition (1917–1956), the Ontario Society of Artists (1917–1938), Art Museum and Art Gallery of Toronto. MacDonald items include pencil and ink sketches, blockprints and some reproductions. We thank Rosemary Speirs and Mr. and Mrs. Sabeau for thinking of us again this year and for this wealth of new Thoreau MacDonald materials.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the generosity of Margaret Atwood, who deposited materials relevant to her recent literary projects, including *Alias Grace*, *Princess Prunella and the Purple Peanut* and *Strange Things: the Malevolent North in Canadian Literature*. Carol Wilson, the sister of Gwendolyn

MacEwen, was also most gracious, giving us family correspondence and photographs, some of which were used in the documentary *"The Passionate Eye"* shown on TVO in February. MacEwen's younger years are brought to life through report cards, early poems and candid pictures, and we are now able to follow her until her death in 1987. These very personal papers will become part of the extensive collection, begun by her in 1972, and now generously augmented by Ms. Wilson.

Other Canadian literary figures were also generous. Don Bailey gave us the manuscript drafts of his latest work, *Always Hungry*. Professor William Blissett gave us over eighty letters from Robert Finch, thereby considerably increasing our Robert Finch Collection. Professor J.T. McLeod turned over correspondence from his 1956 trip to Hungary and drafts of manuscripts for articles and his novel, *Zinger Redux*. Douglas Fetherling added to his papers, as did Crad Kilodney. From Karen Mulhallen, the Fisher Library received her correspondence with Canadian literary figures as well as drafts of her book, *War Surgery* (published in 1996).

Professors Jane and Michael Millgate added to the Macaulay and Thomas Hardy Papers respectively, while Mrs. Ann Robson did the same with the John Stuart Mill Papers, previously donated by her late husband, Professor John Robson.

Two donors whose gifts had been on deposit here for some time formally turned them over to the Library. Mrs. Mary Hutton, the daughter of W.W.E. Ross, gave us original drafts of poems written by this important modernist poet, many unpublished or reworked. The Fisher Library is the only institution where Ross's papers have been deposited and this new gift substantially strengthens the collection already here. Maureen Scott Harris began

depositing her literary works here in 1993 and her collection has grown in step with the number of her publications.

New donations were received from Professor Elspeth Cameron and Beverly Slopen. The former is already well-known for her important biographies on Hugh MacLennan (1981), Irving Layton (1985) and Earle Birney (1994) as well as for her recently published memoir, *No Previous Experience* (1997). This year's gift, one of a planned series, concentrated on the biographies of MacLennan and Birney and her memoir. Together with the donation by Wailan Low, this additional Earle Birney material will make the Fisher Library a centre for research into the work of this important writer. Well-known literary agent and columnist, Beverly Slopen, has chosen the Fisher Library as the beneficiary of the records of her agency. Since 1972, she has corresponded with several dozen writers, many of whose papers are already held by this Library: Margaret Atwood, Mavis Gallant, and Phyllis Grosskurth are those who come readily to mind. She also wrote about them in the *Toronto Sunday Star*, *Montreal Gazette*, *Quill and Quire*, and the *Windsor Star*, and collected clippings about those she represented. Her files will be appreciated by those studying the twentieth century Canadian literary scene, and, together with the papers of the other Canadian literary figures held here, are helping to make the Fisher Library a major centre for this area of study.

In closing, we thank all our 1997 donors. We know we could not have assembled the many varied and rich collections here without the support of our Friends. We hope you all have a great summer. Tennis anyone?

Luba Frastacky

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

## Friends of Fisher Build the Collection

During 1997 both individual friends and the Friends of the Fisher Library assisted the Library in acquiring many valuable titles. Some of the most noteworthy are as follows:

A rare proof copy of *Songs of a Sourdough* (1907), the first book of verse by Robert W. Service, was acquired with the assistance of the Friends and George Kiddell.

Paolo Antonio Paoli's *Paesti* (Rome, 1784), and several works relating to the

history of photography, including Robert Hunt's *Researches on Light* (London, 1844), Hector Maclean's *Popular Photographic Printing Processes* (London, 1898) and M.A. Root's *The Camera and the Pencil* (Philadelphia, 1864), were purchased with funding from the David Nicholls Memorial Fund.

The generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hart Green funded the purchase of the following titles for the Jewish Studies

collection: *Yefeh to'ar*, a commentary to a midrashic compilation on Leviticus (Wilhelmsdorf, 1713/1714) by Samuel Jaffe ben Isaac Ashkenazi, *Song of Songs*, written and illustrated by Raffaello Bussoni (Berlin, 1923), *The Bundle of Myrrh*, a commentary on the Pentateuch (Venice, 1567) by Abraham ben Jacob Saba, and *Kuzari*, a twelfth century defense of the Jewish faith by Judah Halevi (Basel, 1660).

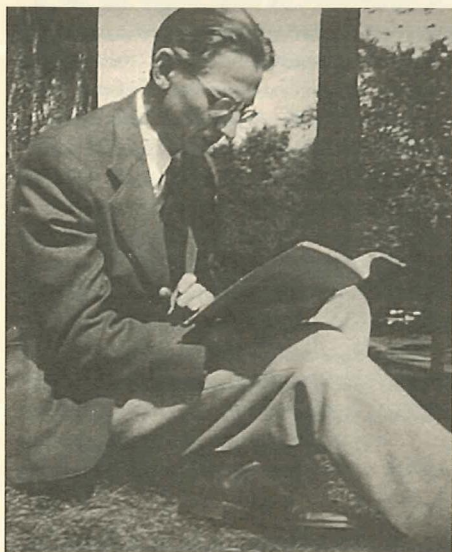




## *Radicals and Revolutionaries: The History of Canadian Communism from the Robert S. Kenny Collection*

On 2 December, 1934 17,000 people jammed Maple Leaf Gardens to jubilantly welcome home Communist Party of Canada (CPC) leader, Tim Buck, who was released from Kingston penitentiary after serving two years for 'seditious' activity. Because the arena was filled to capacity 8,000 people were turned away. This little-known event in Canadian history may come as a surprise to many people. Few students of Canadian history learn that from the 1930s to the 1950s the CPC was a significant player in the country's political life.

Hopefully, *Radicals and Revolutionaries* — an exhibition at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library running from 27 April–10 July 1998 — will change this perception by introducing audiences to the significant and neglected topic of Canadian radical history.



Popular representations of Canadian history usually focus on events and people at the top of society — prime ministers, business élites, wars, and the 'peaceful' development from colony to nation. A new generation of historians emerged in the 1970s who challenged this conventional view. They highlighted the role played by ordinary people — workers, farmers, immigrants, women and others — and the contributions of alternative social and political movements that arose in opposition to the established structures of power. This exhibition follows in their footsteps.

The radical and Communist workers' movement was a minority current on the Canadian political scene. Yet at key points it posed a pointed challenge to the established order, carving out a sizeable niche in the politics and social relations of working-class communities across the country. Within that section of the socialist movement which openly identified itself as revolutionary, the CPC clearly predominated. It was instrumental in building the industrial union movement and played a key role in many of the major strikes of this century. In the social upheavals of the 1930s and 40s, its influence extended far beyond its numbers.

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library was fortunate to have a friend in life-long CPC member and respected book collector, Robert S. Kenny. With modest financial means more than made up for in dedication, persistence and talent, "Bert" Kenny assembled the most extensive collection of printed and manuscript materials on Canadian radicalism in the

country. Peter Weinrich, who compiled *Social Protest From the Left in Canada*, a widely praised bibliography of left-wing radicalism in Canada, found that Bert's collection was his most important source.

In 1977, Bert sold his extensive collection (comprising over 75 archival boxes in addition to printed materials) of manuscripts, books, pamphlets, broadsides, posters, medals, ribbons and other ephemeral pieces on Canadian radicalism to the Library. Highlights included the personal and political records of CPC leaders, Tim Buck and A.E. Smith, and rare leaflets and internal documents of the CPC and other radical organizations spanning most of the twentieth century. It also contained important documentary information on significant historical events such as the 1935 Relief Camp Strike and On-To-Ottawa Trek, a comprehensive collection of books and pamphlets published by the CPC and other socialist parties, and many rare periodicals, including the first issues of CPC newspapers. All the significant issues engaged in by left-wing political movements were included in the collection — civil rights, trade unionism, imperialism, war, economic policies, race relations and international solidarity.

In 1992, Bert donated the rest of his vast library, supplementing the Canadian manuscript and printed material from his earlier sale to the Library, but also adding a voluminous collection of books and pamphlets from the international socialist movement. This donation included the encyclopaedic holdings of classical Marxist texts by Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Vladimir Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg, and even an extensive selection of the writings of anti-Stalinist revolutionary Leon Trotsky. Much of this printed material is in several European languages. Bert's library also included thousands of books and pamphlets published by a range of socialist, communist and other authors from the United States, Britain, Germany, France and the Soviet Union. Rounding out the donation was Bert's considerable holdings of *belle-lettres*, books on the history of printing, and works by his favourite writers, Charles Baudelaire, William Morris and Robert Burns.

The experience of curating an exhibition on the Kenny collection was simulta-



*Top left: Robert S. Kenny, circa 1940s.*

*Bottom left: Photograph of leading CPC members, Florence Custance, Bea Colle, Becky Bubay and Annie Buller, circa 1920s.*



neously fascinating and challenging. For an historian whose specialization is Canadian socialist and working-class history, I found the collection to be a treasure trove. Who could not help getting excited about finding a rare photograph of Tim Buck addressing a large rally in 1935 from the top of a car at the Saskatoon train station, or coming across a rare first edition in English of Marx's *Das Kapital*?

But the very size of the collection was overwhelming, presenting many difficult choices in selecting material for exhibition. My guiding consideration was promoting the use of the Kenny collection at the Library. But who would be interested?

While the collection is known to specialists in the field, it is still relatively unknown among students and others interested in radical history. Even among specialists, there has been a tendency to use conventional types of evidence — letters, personal papers, and books — to the exclusion of the vast and important area of ephemera (leaflets, buttons, ribbons, pins, tickets, etc.) As Thomas Fisher librarian Margery Pearson aptly pointed out in the November 1993 issue of *The Halcyon*, ephemera constitutes an important body of historical evidence. It allows us to look at how significant national events were played out at the local level and introduces us to persons and issues that are neglected in 'official' papers. For instance, there are numerous leaflets written in Yiddish and other languages which provide insight into the nature of CPC politics and their attempt to win over non-English speakers. Hopefully, students of labour history and socialism will begin to look at the whole range of available evidence offered by the Kenny collection.

I was also interested in attracting a new generation of labour activists and socialists who are interested in their own history.

There is a rich tradition of radicalism in Canadian society, of mass strikes, social movements and cultural productions, that is often neglected in popular representations and remains largely untapped. In the 1930s, there was a vibrant left-wing cultural tradition expressed through literature, art, theatre and political display. The left-wing Theatre of Action, for example, was the first Canadian theatre troupe to introduce modern staging techniques and pioneered the 'Stanislavski' method of acting. Several actors involved in Theatre of Action plays, such as Frank Shuster, Johnny Wayne and Lorne Green, went on to become popular theatre, film and television stars.

For bibliophiles and those interested in the history of printing and books, the collection offers much that appeals. There are many first editions of important texts, rare presentation copies autographed by the authors, and scarce, and often unique, copies of pamphlets and broadsides. Many printed broadsides and leaflets in the Kenny manuscript collection appear to have been editors' copies with information on print runs and estimated printing costs pencilled on the front. This provides us with important insights into their publishing history.

Visual appeal was also a factor in the selection of the material. I tried to round out the display cases by including colourful and interesting documents. Moreover, since there are many large items in the collection such as posters and other art work, I was able to fully utilize the walls in the Reading Room display area. Included here are Spanish Civil War posters and lithographs; a poster from a 1906 Hyde Park demonstration in support of the Russian Revolution of 1905; laser copied reproductions of illustrations and cartoons by Canadian socialist artists; and a selec-

tion of large election posters, signs and newspapers from the CPC.

In sum, I aimed to strike a balance between visual appeal, bibliographical interest, scholarly research and the concerns of current labour activists. Taking these considerations as a starting point, the exhibition and the catalogue are organized around a series of key themes in the history of Canadian communism. This reflects both the nature of the collection and the major areas of study in the historiography of the Canadian workers' movement. Within the boundaries of the collection, an attempt has been made to portray the history of Canadian communism in all its diversity: national developments and local experiences, top leaders and rank-and-file members, celebrated historical events and lesser-known episodes in the class struggle.

One final point: the exhibition and catalogue are not intended to provide a critical analysis of the CPC and Canadian radicalism. There are healthy debates within Canadian history circles and society as a whole over the role played by the left. This is as it should be. The purpose of this exhibition was to highlight the Kenny collection and what it has to offer to a variety of constituencies. Thus, the selection of material, the focus of the text accompanying the exhibition, and the catalogue itself are more descriptive than analytical. Inevitably, the selection of items and the catalogue text reflect my own interests and opinions; yet it is hoped that the exhibition will spark further interest and research in the full range of subjects in this rich and rewarding field of study.

The exhibition runs from 27 April to 10 July 1998. An 80-page catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

Sean Purdy, *Guest Curator*,  
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

## 1997 Donors to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Anonymous  
Sarah Anson-Cartwright  
Franklin Arbuckle  
Arts and Letters Club  
Margaret Atwood

Don Bailey  
Dr. Norman Ball  
Douglas Barlow  
Professor John Beattie  
Professor Gerald Bentley  
Beth Bentley

Patricia Bermiller  
Professor William Blissett  
Estate of Joseph Brabant  
Dr. Robert Brandeis  
Professor Jennifer Brown  
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Dr. Ross Johnson  
William Johnston





## The Case of Walker's Ear

One of the many pleasures of the research undertaken for *Early Canadian Printing*, the supplement to Marie Tremaine's *A Bibliography of Canadian Imprints, 1751–1800* (to be published by the University of Toronto Press in spring, 1999) is the insight one gains into early life in the new colony of British North America. Among the fifty-three imprints held by the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library are a number of unique titles. One of the most interesting is a notice, in English and French, printed at Quebec city "by order of His Excellency in Council" and signed by Henry Kneller the Deputy Clerk of the Council. Dated 10 December 1764, it offers a reward of two hundred pounds "to any Person or Persons who shall discover the Perpetrator or Perpetrators" who wounded Thomas Walker "whilst he was sitting with his family at Supper".

Thomas Walker had arrived in Montreal in 1763 and established himself as a merchant, dealing with the western trade. The infant colony's civilian government had just recently been established in August 1764, and the merchant class was, as ever, at odds with the military powers led by James Murray, the former military commander of Quebec and the present Governor. One of the great bones of contention was the billeting of troops in private homes. This was particularly onerous in Montreal which had no public buildings which might be used for barracks. Troops had to be put up in private homes and were to be allowed bedding, firewood, and the use of kitchen facilities by the homeowners. The merchants had no recourse under military rule, but now that civilian

authority was in place they held that the practice was illegal.

Murray had appointed Walker as a justice of the peace in hopes of allaying some of his enmity toward the military. Unfortunately the pugnacious merchant used his authority, backed by the cantankerous merchant class, to further his own aims. In November 1764, with four other magistrates, he arrested a captain in the 28th Foot for his refusal to leave the lodgings which a merchant claimed he had rented to someone else. Relations became so strained that Murray, in Quebec, requested that Walker and some of his colleagues travel to Quebec City in December to explain their actions.

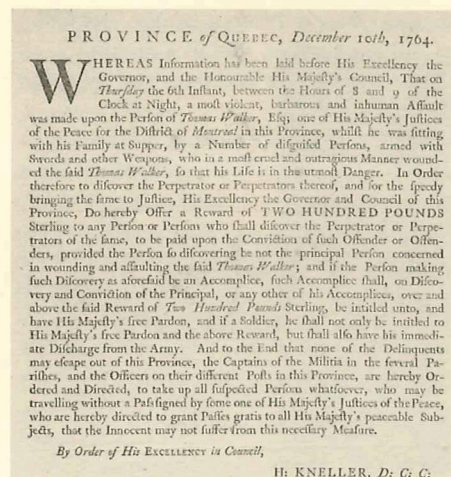
On the night of 6th December, however, "between the Hours of 8 and 9 of the Clock at Night, a most violent, barbarous and inhuman Assault was made upon the Person of Thomas Walker ... by a Number of disguised Persons, armed with Swords and other Weapons, who in a most cruel

and outrageous manner wounded the said Thomas Walker, so that his Life is in the utmost Danger". Walker had actually been severely beaten and one of his ears partially cropped. Shortly thereafter two masked men burst into the room of the adjutant of the 28th Foot and threw him the ear "for his supper". A search found no military men missing from their quarters. Even though a subscription of three hundred pounds was raised by the city, and the government in this reward notice offered a further two hundred pounds and a discharge from the army, the perpetrators were not identified. General belief in the city was that the assailants were members of the Regiment and indeed some men were arrested. They were twice rescued from prison by their friends.

After a great deal of legal wrangling the trial was finally held in July 1765, but the soldiers were acquitted and the suspicion between the military and the merchant class only deepened. Walker took the merchants' complaints to London, using the affair as yet another example of the incompatibility of a vibrant, economically sound colony with military authority. Murray was instructed to reinstate Walker and to "support him in that unmolested pursuit of Trade, which as a British subject, he is entitled to". The Governor was recalled to London to explain his conduct in the colony. He left on 28th June, 1766 and, although he ably defended himself and was dismissed of all charges of obstructing justice and mismanagement of the colony's affairs, he never returned to Quebec.

This unique reward notice in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library is history made tangible.

Sandra Alston  
Canadiana Specialist  
University of Toronto Library



Above: The notice for discovering the perpetrators of the assault on Thomas Walker, 1764.

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Professor Sheldon Zitner





## Toronto in Print: To York and Back

To mark the anniversary of the establishment of the press in Toronto two hundred years ago, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library will mount an exhibition, 'Toronto in Print', from 3 August to 2 October 1998. Sandra Alston has invited me to work on this project with her and we have debated how best to represent the role of print in the life of a city. Robert Darnton's book history model reminds us that print moves through a communications circuit from author to publisher, printer, and binder, then to sellers and buyers and into the hands of a reader who completes the link back to the author. The intersection of economic, social, cultural, political, and aesthetic domains animating this circuit of creation, production, distribution, and reception will be the central theme of our exhibition, previewed here in a discussion of the early years.

In early September of 1798 the printing press that John Graves Simcoe had regarded as essential to the government of the new province of Upper Canada was transported to Toronto (renamed York by Simcoe in 1793). By the time of the move three printers had already served the government at Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake). Louis Roy, a *canadien* who had apprenticed with William Brown in Quebec and was recruited by Simcoe from Fleury Mesplet's shop in Montreal, stayed less than two years. His successor, Gideon Tiffany, assisted in the office by an older brother, Silvester, was suspected of republican views and then indicted for blasphemy in 1797. Soon after, Titus Geer Simons, a loyalist but not a printer, was named to the post and took William Waters as partner the following year.

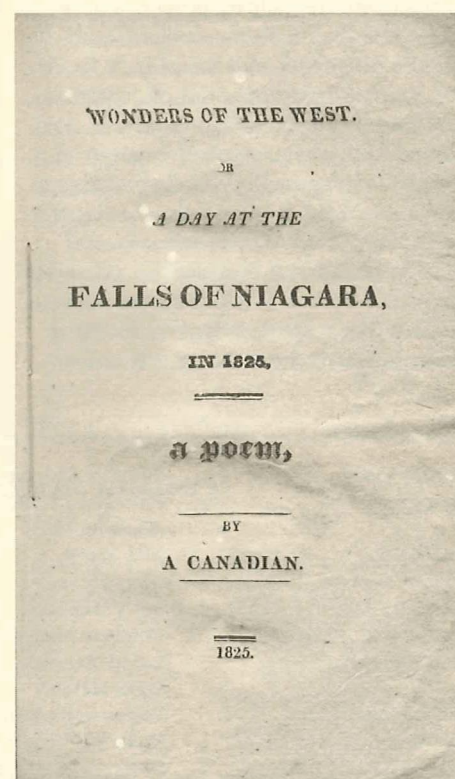
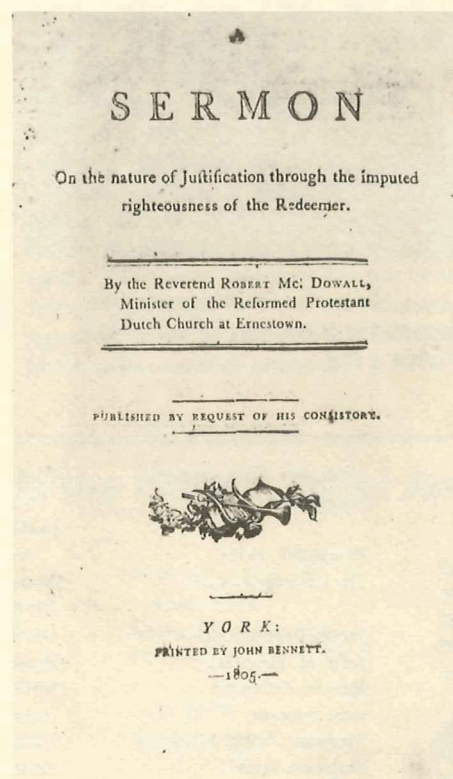
Although Lieutenant Governor Simcoe had determined in 1796, the year he left Upper Canada, that the government would

be transferred from Niagara to York, it was not until June 1798 that Titus Geer Simons prepared to move the press. His expenses, charged to the Executive Government of Upper Canada and submitted for audit, are located in the National Archives of Canada (RG1, E15B, vol 5, file 5). The file opens with three receipts completed on 23rd June. To refurbish the press Simons paid £4 2s 6d to Andrew Templeton, probably a carpenter, for a set of galleys in folio size and 'press furniture and rigglets' to hold the lines of type in place. From John Robertson he obtained a press stone and 'six boxes to contain the printing materials'. On the 6th of September the move began with 'carting the printing materials' at Newark followed by 'boating the printing materials' dated at York on the 12th. That same day at York the boxes were carted again, possibly to a site closer to the shore than in Newark, since the fee was six shillings less than they had paid the carter there. The final receipt records an account of £8 'for the freight of the printing office & Printers &c. &c.' settled on 13th September. Within a month Waters and Simons had the press up and printing.

In the early years at York the press operated for government, printing editions

as large as 1,600 copies of public notices, land grants, oaths of allegiance, and other instruments for the orderly settlement of a new province. Society was further regulated with printed forms to license marriages, shops, and taverns, to issue warrants, and to commission the militia. Printed acts and laws were in circulation as well as Journals of the House of Assembly. For election to that Assembly in 1800, at least three candidates used printed notices to address the electors.

Within the first decade, the king's printers, who operated the only press at York until 1820, began to supply private reading with a substantial almanac in 1803 and the first known sermon in 1805. The following year, after the government received instructions from London to encourage the cultivation of hemp by circulating copies of a British pamphlet, Upper Canadian readership was redefined and enlarged when a French edition was also printed at York, probably using John Neilson's Quebec text as a model. Although a copy in German has not been located, the expense account of its translator, 'detained' in the capital for eight days from his home in Markham to assist the printer with corrections, proves that it was printed (NAC:RG1, E15B, vol 16, no



Bottom: The imprint of Toronto's first printers. Courtesy of the Archives of Ontario.

Centre: Robert McDowall. Sermon. York: Printed by John Bennett, 1805. Courtesy of Bibliothèque de la ville de Montréal.

Right: James Lynne Alexander. Wonders of the West. York: C. Fothergill, printer, 1825.



26). By the late 1820s communities of native readers could own a schoolbook in Chippewa or the first seven chapters of Matthew printed at York in an English and Chippewa edition of 2,000 copies.

Although the press took an important role early in the War of 1812 with the dissemination of General Isaac Brock's proclamations, regulation of the militia, and spirited announcements such as one headed 'GLORIOUS NEWS!!!' after Brock captured Fort Detroit in August, the printing office was wrecked when American forces occupied 'Little York' on 27 April 1813. Official work then had to be printed at Kingston and, although a press was assembled from spare parts late in 1814, printing at York was limited to small jobs for much of 1815.

In a printing history of Toronto the 1820s could form a chronology of firsts, with publications by benevolent societies, banks, and schools, including the charter for King's College. Methodists and Quakers took to print as did promoters of canals and steam navigation. A local nurseryman distributed free an eighteen-page catalogue of his stock, and two books of Canadian verse were published. The confession of a young printer executed for murder was headed with a gallows woodcut after a printed petition, numerously signed in York and still preserved, failed to win his pardon.

Within the local trades, booksellers and bookbinders set up shop; Eastwood & Skinner began to supply the printers in York with paper made at their mill on the Don River; and four new presses were established between 1820 and 1829. The Methodist Book & Publishing House put down roots which nourished Canadian literature into the present generation under the Briggs and Ryerson Press imprints. William Lyon Mackenzie, who moved his press from Queenston to York late in 1824, combined politics and print with such force that his image is still invoked in Toronto's politics of protest. Strengthened in his chosen role as the voice of opposition after young friends of the government smashed his print shop in 1826, he was elected to the House of Assembly through three Parliaments. Following incorporation of York as the City of Toronto on 6 March 1834, Mackenzie was chosen as Toronto's first mayor. His dismal performance in the job does not diminish the symbolism of this event in the history of Toronto in print; indeed it serves to mark the end of the early years.

Professor Patricia Fleming  
Faculty of Information Studies

## From Forgeries to Typefaces The Friends' Events 1997-1998

The popularity of the Friends of the Fisher Library events continues to grow. Diverse topics ranging from forgeries to British typefaces, from book collecting to Dora Hood's antiquarian bookstore, all drew in large numbers of Friends. The five lectures, three exhibition openings and an evening with Margaret Atwood made for a year full of delights.

The Friends of Fisher launched the 1997-1998 year with the opening of the exhibition *'so precious a foundation': the Library of Leander van Ess at the Burke Library of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York*. When this impressive collection of 16,000 volumes came to New York in 1838 it contained the largest collection of fifteenth century printed books in North America. At the opening, Holland Lee Hendrix, President of the Union Theological Seminary, spoke about the Seminary, and Milton McC. Gatch, editor and author of the catalogue, described the significance of the collection.

On Tuesday 7th October Robin Jackson considered how collectors and great collections of the past can influence researchers of the present. In his efforts to identify women poets of the romantic period, the British Library (which acquires titles indiscriminately as a copyright library) was a "huge haystack full of potentially interesting needles". Here he discovered titles from the Reverend F.J. Stainforth's collection of British and American poetesses, and the auction catalogue of the sale of the collection. The tale of this discovery interwoven with other discoveries showed how great libraries are built from private collections, and the importance of retaining the integrity of these collections when they are acquired.

Warwick Gould from the Centre for English Studies at the University of London presented a fascinating portrait of W.B. Yeats as an artist obsessed with his *oeuvre* on Tuesday 4th November. Whenever Yeats's works were to be republished he extensively revised his earlier poems, in effect re-envisioning his collected works. In the process of re-envisioning, themes, such as the old pensioner, opened up new lines of vision. Yeats was shown to be an author who, as a reader of his own work, found his way to new writing. Warwick Gould concluded by quoting from Yeats: "works of art beget new works of art," and "Those images that yet fresh images beget."

Friends and guests enjoyed "An Evening with Margaret Atwood" on Wednesday 5th November. The idea for the evening arose when the Friends approached Margaret Atwood with the intention of celebrating her many gifts to the Fisher Library. Margaret graciously declined the celebration but offered to assist in raising funds for the Fisher Library. Thus arose the "Evening" where many Friends gathered to meet Margaret Atwood and receive a special

limited edition broadside of her poem "The Moment". We shall all remember Margaret's speech where she elaborated on her theme "Libraries are a message in a bottle for future generations".

On Wednesday 12th November North America's leading manuscript dealer, Kenneth Rendell, entertained the Friends with tales of how greed transformed bad forgeries into great hoaxes. As the expert who exposed the forgeries of the Hitler diaries and the diary of Jack the Ripper, he emphasized how obvious these



Sebastian Carter at work. Photograph by Ski Harrison, courtesy of The Rampant Lions Press.



forgeries were. In each of these instances, Rendell related, it was not so important what was genuine or not genuine. What was important was what people wanted to believe was genuine. This desire to believe led to these great hoaxes of our age. He emphasized the need to focus on the real issue of verifying the authenticity of the document in each of these instances. He concluded the evening by showing some photographs of "good" forgeries prepared by the British army during World War II.

On Thursday 22nd January, Friends attended the opening of the exhibition *Experiencing India: European Descriptions and Impressions, 1498-1898*. Prepared by Professor Willard G. Oxtoby, the exhibition presented a representative range of materials, principally in English, recording the first four centuries of European contact with the subcontinent of India. An extensive, indexed exhibition catalogue with an impressive colour cover accompanied the exhibition.

Sebastian Carter of the Rampant Lions Press delivered the fourth annual *Gryphon Lecture on the History of the Book* on Tuesday 3rd February. He set the scene with a brief history of the British Monotype Corporation, and then revealed how Stanley Morrison and a small circle of colleagues expanded the monotype repertoire between the wars. He showed how, through the impressive publications of the Fleuron and Nonesuch imprints, this group introduced typefaces such as

Neuland, Fournier, Goudy Modern, Perpetua, Joanna and others. In many of these books the quality of machine setting rivalled that of hand setting. The influence of the American type designers Goudy, Rogers and Updike upon Morrison was also traced. The accompanying set of slides illustrated the impressive range and quality of the monotype repertoire developed during the period.

Tales from three generations of a Toronto family captivated the friends when Professor Adrienne Hood recollected her grandmother, Dora Hood, in her talk "The Side Door Revisited: Dora Hood and Canadian Book Collecting". Adrienne's recollections of her grandmother were rich and many, with ample evidence shown of their shared love of books. The image of a very strong woman emerged. A woman who, with two children under ten to raise on her own, made her way in the man's world of the antiquarian book trade. Her forty-seven catalogues and ten special lists, with a grand total of 28,798 titles, gave ample proof of her success. This remarkable woman also built her own cabin in Muskoka, and retired only to begin a new career as an author. The many slides of Dora Hood and her family which touched off Adrienne Hood's personal recollections made the evening's talk especially evocative.

On 1st May the Friends brought the 1997-1998 season to a close with the exhibition opening of *Radicals and*



Above: Kenneth Rendell.

*Revolutionaries: the History of Canadian Communism from the Robert S. Kenny Collection*. Friends and guests enjoyed an exhibition which conveyed to all the exceptional breadth and depth of the Kenny collection. The impressive exhibition catalogue was funded from the bequest of Mr. Kenny.

Such an entertaining year of events can only lead the Friends to expect an even greater year in 1998-1999.



The Hood family. Standing left to right: Glen Hood-Bell, Adrienne Hood, Allison Bell. Seated: Wharton Hood.



Left to right: Gayle Garlock, Carole Moore, Chief Librarian, Professor Oxtoby, and Yves Laneuville, Senior Vice President International, Sun Life Insurance Company of Canada.





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We also thank all members who wish to remain anonymous.

\* Gift in Kind members are listed only at the Patron level.



## Mark your calendar for upcoming events . . .

### Exhibitions 1998 ~ 1999

Exhibition hours: 9 ~ 5 Monday to Friday  
All exhibition openings begin at 5:00 p.m.

#### 27 April ~ 10 July

Radicals and Revolutionaries: the  
History of Canadian Communism  
from the Robert S. Kenny Collection

#### 3 August ~ 2 October

Toronto in Print: Celebrating 200  
Years of the Printing Press in Toronto  
Reception Tuesday 15 September

#### 19 October ~ 23 December

In Retrospect: The Art and Craft of  
Michael Wilcox  
Exhibition opening Tuesday 20  
October

#### 25 January ~ 9 April

Art on the Wing: British, American  
and Canadian Illustrated Bird Books  
from the 18th to the 20th Centuries  
Exhibition opening Thursday 28  
January

### Planned Events 1998 ~ 1999

All lectures begin at 8:00 p.m.

#### Thursday 1 October

"Toronto in Print"  
Sandra Alston, Canadiana Specialist  
University of Toronto Library

#### Wednesday 4 November

"In Retrospect: The Art and Craft of  
Michael Wilcox"  
Michael Wilcox, Master Bookbinder

#### February

Ricky Jay, magician, collector,  
actor and author will speak on  
his collection of magic books and  
other esoteric materials.

#### March

"The Streeter Sale Revisited"  
William Reese, leading Americana  
rare book dealer, will speak on the  
famous Streeter sale of Americana.

## Editor's Note

This issue was edited by Gayle Garlock and Anne Jocz, and designed by Maureen Morin. Comments and/or suggestions should be sent to Gayle Garlock, Director, Development and Public Affairs, University of Toronto Library, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A5 (416) 978-7655.

*The Halcyon: The Newsletter of the Friends of The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library* is published twice a year in November and June. *Halcyon* includes short articles on recent noteworthy gifts and acquisitions of the Fisher Rare Book Library, recent exhibitions in the Fisher Library, activities of the Friends and other short articles of interest to the Friends.

Members of the editorial board of *Halcyon* are Gayle Garlock, Editor, Anne Jocz from the Fisher Library, and Maureen Morin from the Information Commons.

## Note of Thanks

Since 1992, Richard Moll, a doctoral student in Medieval Studies, has done a great deal of the work of unpacking, sorting and listing the printed and manuscript gifts that flow into the Fisher Library. His unfailing good humour and high degree of professionalism, not to mention his collection of T-shirts and his erudite discourses on celibate marriage, are very much appreciated.

Edna Hajnal  
Luba Frastacky

The

H·A·L·C·Y·O·N

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