

The

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

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Research in the Fisher Collections, 1998-1999

Staff at the Fisher Library cannot be aware of more than a small percentage of the projects and research that have involved material in our collections, but the following list may give some idea of the varying ways in which resources in our Library have been utilized.

Canadian Collections

Pre-1801 Canadian imprints in the Fisher collections were examined and described by Sandra Alston (librarian and Canadiana specialist at the Fisher Library) and Patricia Fleming, (Professor at the Faculty of Information Studies) for their supplement to Marie Tremaine's *A Bibliography of Canadian Imprints, 1751-1800*, entitled *Early Canadian Printing: a Supplement*, which was published by the University of Toronto Press in 1999.

The Canadian literary collections of both printed works, and of authors' papers, were extensively consulted by Greg Gatenby for his book *Toronto, a Literary Guide* (Toronto: McArthur, 1999).

The Margaret Atwood Papers were used for two biographies: Nathalie Cooke's *Margaret Atwood: a Biography* (Toronto: ECW Press, 1998) and Rosemary Sullivan's *The Red Shoes: Margaret Atwood Starting Out* (Toronto: HarperFlamingo Canada, 1998).

Correspondence from the Alan Jarvis Papers was published in Amanda Vaill's *Everybody Was so Young: Gerald and Sara Murphy, a Lost Generation Love Story* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1998). The Alan Jarvis Papers were also consulted by biographer Simon Burgess who used the extensive correspondence from Sir Stafford and Lady Cripps to Alan Jarvis in his biography,

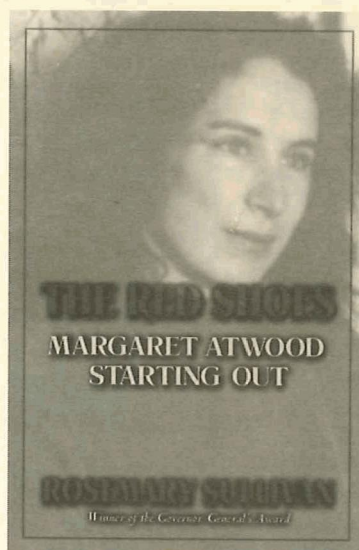
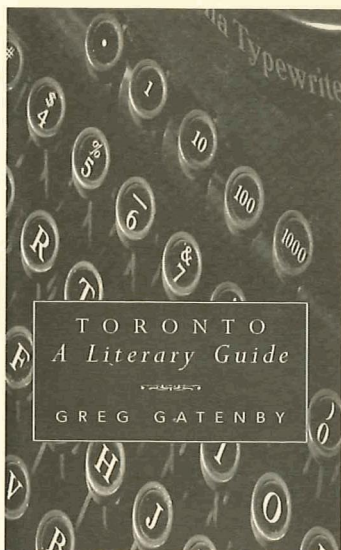
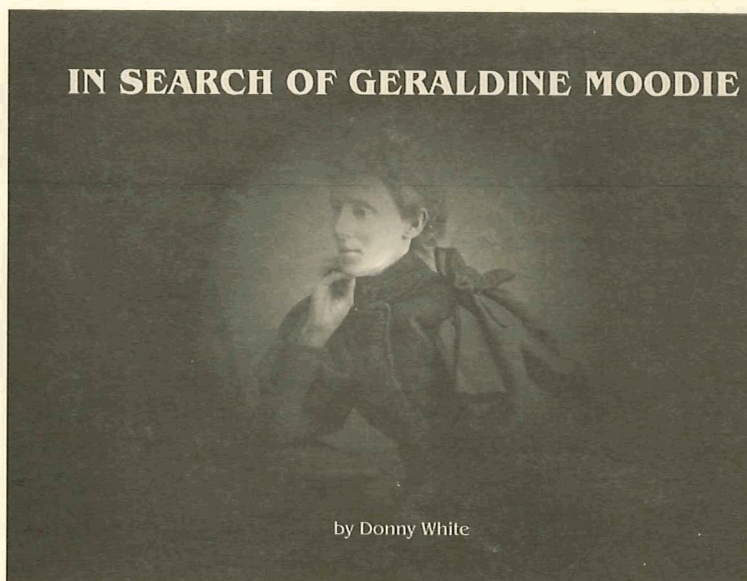
Stafford Cripps: a Political Life (London: Gollancz, 1999). Alan Jarvis was at one time secretary to Sir Stafford Cripps.

Correspondence between Robert Finch and Robertson Davies from the Robert Finch Papers was published in *For Your*

Eyes Alone: the Letters of Robertson Davies 1976-1995, edited by Judith Skelton Grant (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1999).

Materials from several collections of Canadian authors' papers were used by James King for his biography of Jack McClelland: *Jack: a Life with Writers: the Story of Jack McClelland* (Toronto: Knopf Canada, 1999).

The Agnes Chamberlin Papers were one of the prime sources for a book on Agnes Chamberlin's daughter, Geraldine Moodie: *In Search of Geraldine Moodie*, by Donny White (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, 1998) and for his *Geraldine Moodie: an Inventory* (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, 1999). Watercolour paintings by Geraldine and several albums



Above: Cover of Donny White's In Search of Geraldine Moodie.

Left: Cover of Greg Gatenby's Toronto, a Literary Guide.

Right: Cover of Rosemary Sullivan's The Red Shoes: Margaret Atwood Starting Out.

of her photographs were donated to the Library at the same time as the collection of her mother's flower paintings came to the Fisher Library.

Reproductions of photographs of Inuit camps taken by J.B. Tyrrell in 1893 and 1894 were requested from the J.B. Tyrrell Papers for display in the Baker Lake Heritage Centre, Nunavut, which opened in 1999.

The 120th anniversary issue of *Canadian Jeweller*, published in June/July 1999, made extensive use of the back files of this trade journal which are part of the Library's Maclean Hunter archive. *Canadian Jeweller* was founded in 1879, and claims to be Canada's oldest trade magazine.

Other Historical Collections

Material in the Robert S. Kenny Collection of communist and socialist works was utilized by Franca Iacovetta for her co-editing of: *Enemies Within: Italian and Other Internees in Canada and Abroad* (University of Toronto Press, 2000).

Photographs documenting the life of Jews in China in the Bishop White Papers were requested for an exhibition at the Park East Synagogue in New York, in February 2000, and for permanent display at the Jewish Museum, New York. The same photographs will also appear in the forthcoming book, *The Jews in the 20th Century – Photographic History*, to be published by Am Oved, Tel-Aviv, The Zalman Shazar Center for Jewish History, Jerusalem, and Beth Hatefutsoth, The Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, Tel-Aviv.

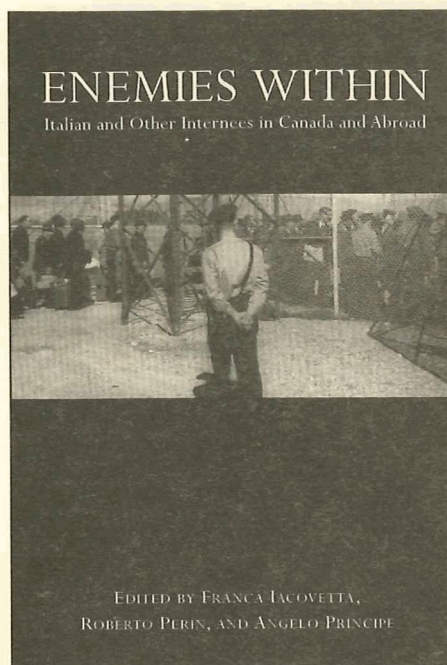
Hebraica Collections

The Zohar in the Friedberg Collection was described in an article by Avraham Elqayam, entitled "Sabbatai Tsevi's Manuscript Copy of the Zohar", published in *Kabbalah* 3 (1998).

Barry Walfish (University of Toronto librarian and Hebraica specialist at the Fisher Library), gave a public lecture on "The Friedberg Collection of Rare Hebraica at the University of Toronto Library" at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, May 8, 1998. Barry has also written several articles on items in the Friedberg Collection for *Halcyon*.

Incunabula Collection

Woodcut illustrations from the Library's copy of a French almanach, *Compost et Kalendrier des Bergères* (Paris, 1499) were reproduced in a book on the history of almanachs in Brasil: *Histórias e Leituras de*



Above: Cover of *Enemies Within*, edited by Franca Iacovetta, Roberto Perin and Angelo Principe.

Almanagues no Brasil, by Margareth Brandini Park (São Paulo: Fapesp, 1999)

Italian Collections

The Fisher Library's manuscript of a sixteenth-century Italian play, *Il Capriccio*, written ca. 1566-1568, was the basis for an edition of the text edited by Michael Lettieri and Julius Molinaro: *Il Capriccio: Commedia Anonima del Cinquecento* (Welland: Editions Soleil, 1999).

Locke Collection

The Library's collection of editions of John Locke was consulted extensively by Jean

Yolton for her bibliography, *John Locke: a Descriptive Bibliography* (Bristol: Thoemmes Press, 1998).

Discovery of Insulin Collections

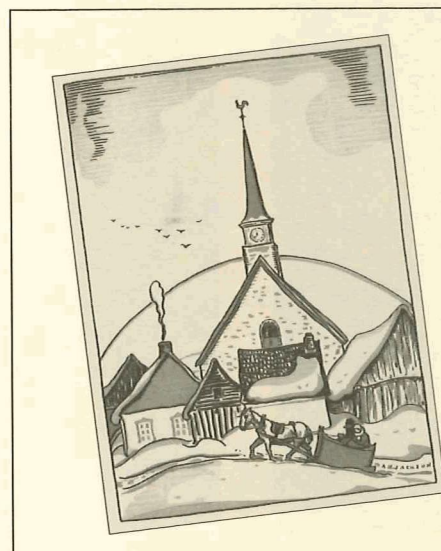
The Discovery of Insulin collections, consisting of the papers of F.G. Banting, C.H. Best, J.B. Collip, and J.J.R. Macleod, were frequently consulted by researchers near and far who required pictures of the co-discoverers for articles on insulin and diabetes. Materials from these collections were filmed for the television documentary "Egos, Ambitions, and Miracles", which was aired on the History Channel in February 2000 as part of the series *Turning Points of History*. Images from these collections were also used for a documentary entitled "One Hundred Years of Healing", shown on PBS television in December 1999.

History of Science Collections

The Istituzione del Commune de Siena requested a microfilm of a manuscript from the Stillman Drake Collection, namely, *L'Uso dell'Archimetro*, written by Ostilio Ricci ca. 1600, for comparison with a manuscript of the same work held by the Library in Siena.

Dr. Drake's personal papers, which were bequeathed to the Fisher Library after his death in 1993, were an important resource for a three-volume collection of Stillman Drake's writings edited by Noel Swerdlow and Trevor Levere: *Essays on Galileo and the History and Philosophy of Science* (University of Toronto Press, 1999).

James McLaughlin also used the Stillman Drake Collection during his research for his book entitled: *Galileo Galilei: First Physicist* (New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997).



New Greeting Cards!

Look for the Library's new greeting and Christmas cards.

Cards and exhibition catalogues can be purchased at the photocopy booth on the third floor of the Robarts Library. Cards are sold at most fall meetings of the Friends of the Fisher Library.

Left: Cover design by A.Y. Jackson for *Canadaink*, no 32, December 1927.



Twenty-Five Years On: Personal Reminiscences

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO I WAS THE Assistant Head of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections (I became Acting Head in mid-1976 and Head in February 1977) and had already been employed by the University of Toronto for eight years. Marion Brown was the Department Head.

The week in which I now write seems remarkably similar to that week twenty-five years ago. I had taught my last class of the Spring term, having just returned from a four-day stay in New York, where I had attended an Antiquarian Book Fair and purchased for the collections, among other things, the first

Cuala Press Broad-side (1908), containing two poems by W.B. Yeats, and the first edition of Alexander Pope's *The Temple of Fame* (1715). This year I will attend the New York Book Fair a week later and hope again to add to our very much larger collections. I had lunch and/or dinner with Alan Fleming, Lovat Dickson, Larry Wallrich, Jake Zeitlin, David Esplin, and Marnie Edison, all

now, sadly, deceased. Happily, I also had lunch and/or dinner with David Mason, Alan Horne, Roderick Brinckmann, Martin Ahvenus, and Merrill Distad, all of whom are still flourishing. I attended a Victorian Studies Conference at Glendon College in 1975, but had to miss this year's because of a prior engagement. And, then and now, the books and manuscripts continue to roll in.

I was concerned in 1975 and 1976 about the shortage of funding for books and I still am. The generosity of donors, then and now, however, has done a lot to expand and strengthen the collections. Henrietta, Lady Banting died in 1976 and a great deal of personal material concerning the life and career of her illustrious husband was added to the Banting Collection. Professor Beatrice Corrigan also died and left her entire library to the University, which added considerably to

the already outstanding collection of Italian Literature. Through the bequest of Professor Norman Endicott, we acquired books of seventeenth-century and modern English literature, to add to the generous gifts he had already given. The papers of Jacob Bronowski and Professor Gordon Skilling arrived, and Marnie Edison added some original sketches to the Thoreau MacDonald collection.

In 1975 Associated Medical Services Inc. was supporting acquisitions in the history of medicine, and their continuous support over twenty-five years is much appreciated. At that time we bought the

Rucker Collection – some seven hundred and fifty books on gynecology and obstetrics, including the 1478 edition of Albertus Magnus's *Liber de Secretis Mulierum* and the first edition of William Harvey's *De Generatione Animalium* (1651). In Science and Natural History we acquired seventy-six watercolour drawings by Philip Henry Gosse, the *Physica et Sphaerica Doctrina* by W.A. Scribonius

(1600), and Aristotle's *Organum* (1577). Henry R. Jackman donated a collection of the works of the seventeenth-century divine, Samuel Rutherford, one of which, *Joshua Redivivus* (1664) belonged to Robert Burns, and has his autograph on the title page.

To the Canadiana collection we added in 1976 the first edition of Robert Rogers' *Journal* (1765). Hilary Nicholls, then as now, a faithful and generous donor, gave us two illustrated works by Maurice Constantin-Weyer, who spent much of his life in Manitoba. Our holdings in Canadian literature were enriched by the addition of Ralph Connor's *Gwen's Canyon* (1898), Sir Charles G.D. Roberts' *Twilight Over Shaugmauk* (1937), and Marshall Saunders' *Daisy*.

Louis-Joseph Papineau's copy of the Kehl edition of Voltaire's *Oeuvres Complètes* (1785-1789), Giovanni Boccaccio's *De*

Mulieribus Claris (1506), the *Emblemas Morales* (1589) of Juan de Horozco y Covarrubias, Nicolas Gabriel Clerc's *Atlas du Commerce* (1786), Saul Field's *Gogol Suite* (1976), and *Tim Doolan, the Irish Emigrant* (1869) are a few examples that convey something of the flavour of the acquisitions programme of twenty-five years ago.

A look at the names of the staff of twenty-five years ago reveals something of the stability of the department. Until a few months ago eight members of staff were still working here (including me): Emrys Evans, June Felix, Luba Frastacky, Elisabeth Anne Jocz, Katharine Martyn, Sarah Sung, and Mary Garvie Yohn. With the recent retirement of Elizabeth Anne and Katharine, the number was reduced to six. What exactly this indicates about the nature of special collections departments and those who work in them is open to interpretation. We also employed the services of Michael Wilcox to restore books from the Hannah Collection; Michael has gone on to become an internationally renowned designer bookbinder.

It seems astounding to me that we began to create machine-readable catalogue records and put them into the UTL database in November 1976. Apparently we didn't altogether trust the system then as we continued to file cards into the manual catalogue for another four years. To have a xerox machine was a major event, there was no Fax, and the telephones were rotary. E-mail was not even contemplated.

We now mount three exhibitions a year and create elaborate catalogues for them. In 1976/77 we staged six exhibitions on such themes as Agnes Chamberlin's watercolours, Canadian and American independence, medieval English texts, toy theatres, illustrated books, and the nineteenth century. The catalogues were not as elaborate, but in retrospect this schedule still seems daunting.

The year 1976 began well for me as I had been awarded a three-month travelling fellowship to investigate special collections at a number of major American universities and to write a report. Accordingly, I flew from Vancouver to San Francisco in time for New



The author in British Columbia prior to commencing his career as a librarian.

Year's Eve and attended a party hosted by Andrew Hoyem, where I met the illustrator, Valenti Angelo, for the first time. I then moved across the Bay to the Berkeley Faculty Club and visited the Bancroft Library. Jim Hart, the Director, was very cordial and co-operative and I was to learn a surprising amount of detailed and useful information, an experience repeated at all the institutions I visited. I was also able to investigate the antiquarian bookshops, and happily bought books from Serendipity, Peter Howard, Brick Row, Franklin Gilliam, Randle and Windale, Jeremy Norman, Holmes, David Magee, Warren Howell and others. This year I could still visit four of these stores, though in some cases the proprietor had changed. I also visited the University of San Francisco, Stanford, and Mills College before moving on to Los Angeles. I then spent some time at UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, the Clark Library and the Huntington Library. In Los Angeles I shopped at Bennett & Marshall, Zeitlin and Ver Brugge, Peggy Christian, Heritage, and Max Hunley.

From Los Angeles I moved on to the University of Texas in Austin and the great Humanities Research Center. While in Austin Tom Taylor's bookshop provided diversion. From there I went to Boston and Cambridge for the Houghton Library, with a brief detour to St. John, before moving on to New York. As I already knew the New York institutions and the booksellers quite well, I spent only a short time there before continuing my travels with a visit to Charlottesville and the University of Virginia. My diary records three days of "flu", but I did spend some pleasant days in the Alderman Library and learned a lot about Waller Barrett's great collection of American literature. I was now beginning to run out of time, but managed a few days in Washington where I met Larry McMurtrey before flying back to Toronto on April 10th. Twenty-four years later I still regard my tour as a great experience which had an influence on my career.

Twenty-five years ago I published four articles on topics such as James Lackington and eighteenth-century bookselling, and the bibliography of Canadian literature in English, and presented papers on Canadian Literature and Victorian book collecting. These are all topics I still pursue in my somewhat haphazard manner.

What, then, do these musings signify? What have I learned in the last twenty-five years? The basic functions of the University have not changed, but the means of

achieving its purposes have. Teaching and research in the humanities now demand more original research resources and, although we can provide a lot more now than we did twenty-five years ago, the challenge of making stronger what is already strong remains. Our resources are

better known than they were, and the demand on them is greater.

I am certainly older and, possibly, wiser. I still acquire books and I still travel.

Richard Landon
Director

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library



Ave atque Vale

The end of June saw the retirement of Katharine Martyn and Elisabeth Anne Jocz, who worked in Rare Book and Special Collections for an aggregate of some seventy-four years, thus outstripping the life of the Department itself, which will not reach its half-century until 2005.

A career in special collections is cumulative, and knowledge and experience multiply exponentially in the best practitioners. It is, therefore, an irony, that the peak of a career is reached right at its very end. Katharine and Elisabeth Anne have both had exemplary careers at the University of Toronto, developing with the Department itself. They can both take pride in their many accomplishments: the numerous exhibitions curated and catalogues produced, the thousands of bibliographical records for books and manuscripts which they have made available to the international scholarly community, the many donors cultivated, and the multitude of scholars with whom they shared their expertise.

Colleagues like Katharine and Elisabeth Anne are not easily replaced. One attempts to fill the positions with the best available candidates, but it is daunting to think that EAJ is no longer at hand to provide a precise and concise report on a medieval manuscript, and that KM cannot be consulted over a detailed question about the Banting Papers.

We wish both Elisabeth Anne and Katharine well, and hope to welcome them back as researchers in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, and as Friends.



Katharine Martyn's retirement speech, June 15, 2000

ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE WORKED with me know that I have spent my entire career avoiding public speaking at all costs, but this time I do want to say a few words of thanks and (if I'm up to it) give a few reminiscences. First my thanks to you, Richard, for your kind words. We've spent the last twenty-five years working together in adjoining offices and we've shared a lot of experiences and adventures. I have been grateful for your support and encouragement throughout those years.

My special thanks to Sandra Alston, and Luba Frastacky for planning this celebration, and to all the Fisher staff for their contributions to the occasion, for the wonderful refreshments, and for supporting me through this rite of passage. Thank you all for coming to this party and for the David Milne print, so beautifully framed by Emrys Evans. I have always loved this print and will greatly enjoy it at home now.

I have been indulging in a lot of reminiscing recently. I have so many years to recall, that it's hard to know where to begin. But I thought I'd go back to some of my earliest days in Rare Books — so totally different from our present day experiences. It was July 2, 1961, when I first ascended the slippery stairs which led from the old Science and Medicine stacks to the Rare Book Room, and began my apprenticeship with Miss Brown and Miss Blackstock. I had just graduated from Library School, and it was my first real job. I'd used the Rare Book Room a few times when I was a student at U of T for an art history course, and I had been smitten by the beautiful oak-paneled room lined with bookcases in which finely bound volumes were visible behind metal grillwork. I was very much in awe of the two Miss Bs, who appeared so scholarly, and so extraordinarily elegant as well. I could hardly believe I was actually going to be paid for working in such a marvelous place. But my career did not begin auspiciously.

On my very first day Miss Blackstock asked me to help her move a collection of seventeenth-century French works, the



"In the Rare Books Room an ancient map is uncurled by Miss Cicely Blackstock and Mrs. Katherine Martyn." Photo and photo credit: Varsity Graduate, Volume Ten, Number Three, March 1963.

J.S. Will Collection, from storage in the basement up to the Rare Book Room. As I inexpertly wheeled a booktruck onto the ancient elevator, that was the only alternative to the slippery stairs, a beautifully bound slim volume fell off the truck and slipped down between the elevator door and the floor — right down to the bottom of the elevator shaft. I will never forget that moment of despair: my first day and I'd already killed a rare book. Fortunately, the extraordinary caretaker of the day (frequently mistaken for the chief librarian as he patrolled the library) fished the book out of the bottom of the elevator, wiped off the oil, and brought it back to Miss Blackstock later in the day, only a little the worse for wear. I don't think she ever told Miss Brown.

Both Miss Bs were kind to me. I know I frequently tried their patience that summer — and year. I was almost always late in the morning (that didn't change in the ensuing years). Galloping up those wretched stairs to arrive before the stipulated quarter to nine deadline, I

frequently slipped down them instead (they have some non-skid material on them now — I've checked). I was very bad at spelling and filing. I had no background in the history of the book or in bibliography. Library School appeared to have taught me nothing useful at all.

Worst of all, I was constantly browbeaten by our readers. I let professors borrow books when they complained about them being transferred out of the open stacks to Rare Books. I let graduate students take out theses (it was before there was a separate University Archive). I had great difficulty telling anyone to use a pencil. I never was able to find any of the books that Prof. Beatrice Corrigan or Sybil Pantazzi asked for. I was terrified of Mrs. Howe, the Chief Librarian's Secretary, who frequently popped up to check on me when she knew I had been left on my own. Once the previous chief librarian, Stewart Wallace, who occasionally used a little study just inside the door of the Rare Book Room, and who must have then been in his late seventies, came in

to consult the Miss B's, neither of whom were in at the time. "Oh", he said, looking right at me, "Nobody here today, nobody here." I felt this about summed things up so far as I was concerned.

My only asset was my enthusiasm. I loved the books and the manuscripts and I still do. Many wonderful things happened to me in those first years. I was given the job of working on a collection of papers which had come to the Library three years before — the J.B. Tyrrell Papers. There were cartons and cartons of Tyrrell's papers. Every time I thought I'd finished describing the collection I found more boxes, scattered through our incredibly crowded stacks. One of the best moments in my whole career was my early discovery of a rather dirty burlap sack with a lot of rolled up papers in it. Despite my fear of lurking spiders, I did look inside and found the original maps drawn in pencil on brown wrapping paper for J.B. Tyrrell by the aboriginal people he met on his expeditions in the Barren Lands in the 1890s. These were the maps that enabled

him to find his way out of the north and down to Churchill — the very maps that saved his life in 1893 and 1894. It's thirty-nine years since I first met Mr. Tyrrell and I'm with him still, working now on the project to digitize some of those maps as well as photographs and notebooks, and still trying to describe that collection. I'm on the glass negatives now. I hope I'll finish before I go, but I'm far from sure.

There were many other wonderful opportunities in those early years. Right away I began to do exhibitions. My first was of the manuscripts of Mazo de la Roche for a library "tea" or open house, a rather genteel Sunday afternoon tradition that was still flourishing in the early 1960s. Exhibitions have always been an interesting and challenging part of my work. Another early one was of Leonard Cohen's manuscripts, that had recently been donated to the Library. A bit later was an exhibition of the work of a young writer, one of my own contemporaries, whose papers had been acquired by Miss Brown in a very prescient move — Margaret Atwood. At first we didn't have any exhibition guides at all. Then we began creating little photocopied leaflets which grew into quite substantial, but still photocopied pamphlets.

In those first years I was also encouraged to organize and describe the Frederick Banting Papers, which were at that time still "restricted" and controversial, and which had been recently transferred to the Library from their long burial somewhere in Simcoe Hall. I looked at the notebooks that recorded the first breakthrough experiments in the summer of 1921. I read the letters from children whose lives had been saved by insulin. What could be more exciting than actually handling these moving documents! I've enjoyed working on papers relating to the insulin discovery and its discoverers off and on ever since.

As long as I can remember, space has always been a problem. In the mid-1960s we even had off-site storage, at 215 Huron Street. We had to hire our first stack assistant to fetch the books on request and take them back. Then, in 1967, the whole Rare Book Department was moved off campus, to the rented basement of an office building at 45 Charles Street. It was rather damp. We shared it with the Arthritis Society. Stillman Drake's collection of Galileo and the history of science arrived just after we moved, and a new young librarian, just hired by David Esplin, fresh from the Library School at UBC, began unpacking it under the guidance of



Above: The Rare Books Room, in the 1960s.

Stillman Drake himself, and absorbing every detail of every story that Stillman told about the acquisition and importance of every book in the collection. This was Richard, of course. He instantly became the history of science specialist.

Our Charles St. basement was still very cramped, and subject to floods. Once a wall crumbled and all the backlog shelving fell down overnight, but it was better space than we'd ever enjoyed before. The staff kept growing and so did the collections. Our personal collections grew too, with Britnells' quarter box just around the corner, and Coles ninety-nine cent specials just across the street for browsing in lunch hours. But it wasn't easy to do our work at Charles Street. It's hard to believe we managed to accomplish anything at all. We had to take a taxi to the main library to consult any research works other than Library of Congress and British Museum catalogues and the very few other works which formed part of our small reference collection. And just try getting a taxi from Charles and Yonge to the main campus and back again on a busy afternoon. It

was a pretty long walk with your arms full of books, but we often did it in desperation, especially in rush hour. Now I see that because of all those difficulties and obstacles and our comparative isolation from the rest of the Library system we developed a camaraderie that still links many of the present staff.

What a change when we moved into this building, in November 1972, a month of blizzards as I recall! A very stressful move, but what a sudden increase in our visibility and our status - from obscure basement to campus landmark and tower! We weren't a rare book room anymore. We were a Library. And soon we were the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, in honour of the gifts of Shakespeare and Hollar which came from Sidney and Charles Fisher. Other gifts of books and manuscripts poured in. Our collections dramatically expanded in scope and space. Our roles changed and expanded, too, as we adapted to enormous changes in every aspect of our work. I still did exhibitions, but now there were increasingly ambitious catalogues to write as well. All our exhibitions became collaborative affairs with contributions from many staff members — wonderful research opportunities and challenges.

And suddenly here I am, thirty-nine years after dropping that book down the elevator shaft, amazed at my luck in finding a job that has lasted me all these years, which has always been at least interesting, if not always enjoyable, and has given me such wonderful opportunities, and the chance to work with stimulating colleagues, many of whom have become dear friends. Once again, thank you all for coming to this party, for your gifts and good wishes, and for your friendship through the years. I look forward to seeing you all on less formal occasions in the future.

*Katharine Martyn
June 15, 2000*

Editor's Note

This issue was edited by Gayle Garlock and Philip Oldfield, 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, Philip Oldfield from the Fisher Library, and Maureen Morin from the Information Commons.



J. B. Tyrrell and the Digital Frontier

We are pleased to be able to report that the Fisher Library has embarked on its first digital project. Although the University of Toronto Library is a recognized leader in providing access to electronic resources for its community of students, faculty, and staff, to date the unique research materials housed in the Fisher Library have not been made available electronically. The J.B. Tyrrell Digital Archive is thus the first of several planned projects to digitize, and make universally available on the Library's web page, the unique research material held here. Margie Theall of the Library's Development Office has been able to secure special funding for the project from the Canada Millennium Partnership program, with additional support from the Chawkers Foundation, the Library's President's Fund, the Library Development Fund, and other private and corporate partners.

The collection consists of the personal and professional papers of Joseph Burr Tyrrell (1858–1957), the geologist, explorer and mining engineer known to most Canadians, if at all, for his discovery of dinosaur bones in the Alberta Badlands around Drumheller, and for giving his name to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. Tyrrell's papers were acquired by the Library following his death in 1957. The collection will be familiar to Friends through a fascinating exhibition curated by Katharine Martyn in 1993, which documented the years during which Tyrrell worked for the Geological Survey of Canada. It was during these years, 1881–1898, that he charted and explored previously unknown regions of

Canada from the Rocky Mountains to the prairies, and to the territory now known as Nunavut. Katharine was able to devote time to this collection over the past two decades, describing and arranging the huge mass of diverse material, one of the largest single collections ever acquired by the Library, and her work has provided the foundation on which the digital project is built. Although now officially retired, she maintains her interest in the collection and has volunteered to assemble a detailed illustrated chronology of J.B. Tyrrell's entire life and career, which will appear as part of the final web site.

route led first north and then eventually east and ended at the west shore of Hudson Bay around Chesterfield Inlet. Tyrrell, who was fascinated by the history of the region, longed for the opportunity to explore this uncharted territory. His proposal to Alfred Selwyn, the Director of the Survey, was duly accepted and intensive planning began for an expedition the following summer. J.B. was able to arrange for his brother James Tyrrell, a qualified land surveyor who had spent time at Ashe Inlet in Hudson Strait, to accompany him as assistant and interpreter. The story of that expedition is a

fascinating tale of adventure, adversity and incredible determination. After travelling some 3200 miles, 850 of it through entirely uncharted territory, and the last 300 miles in fragile canoes in the increasingly ice-bound waters of Hudson Bay the party reached Fort Churchill and relative safety. Upon their return, the Tyrrell brothers were an instant sensation and became media celebrities of their day. The following year J.B. once more secured permission to explore a different canoe route through the Barren Lands. On this occasion he

was accompanied by Robert Monro Ferguson, an aide-de-camp to the Governor General, Lord Aberdeen. Again the party was almost given up as lost, until they managed to reach Churchill and make their way by snowshoe to Selkirk to telegraph news of their survival.

The Tyrrell Digital Archive will tell the stories of the Barren Lands expeditions by presenting original historical materials which document the specific details of the



Above: Studio portraits of J.B. (left) and James Tyrrell (right), used extensively in press coverage following the return of the Tyrrell brothers from their 1893 expedition to the Barren Lands.

The Tyrrell Digital Archive will focus on two trips which are perhaps the most exciting of the Geological Survey expeditions – the 1893 and 1894 explorations of the territory known as the Barren Lands which lies between Lake Athabasca and the west coast of Hudson Bay. During his exploration in the Lake Athabasca region in 1892 Tyrrell had first heard from a number of Chipewyan sources of a canoe route north through the Barren Lands. The

exploration. The collection consists of photographs, manuscript material including correspondence, diaries, field notebooks, and maps, and published material such as the official reports and printed maps produced for the Survey, as well as other published accounts including contemporary newspaper clippings. All of these categories of material are fascinating in themselves, and each provides a different view into the collection. Tyrrell was an early proponent of the use of the camera on Canadian surveys. The photographs were taken with a Hawkeye camera purchased from the Topley Studio in Ottawa, and Tyrrell was ahead of his time in using rolls of film instead of the cumbersome dry plate glass negatives which were more common before the 20th century. One of the incredible sights thus documented was the enormous herd of caribou which still roamed the area, hunted along the route of their migration by both the Inuit and the Chipewyans.

The collection is rich in documentation on all aspects of the two journeys. Tyrrell kept copies of his outgoing correspondence, as well as the original incoming letters. We have detailed information on the provisioning and planning of the expeditions, as well as field notebooks chronicling day to day events and the scientific data collected along the route. There is also correspondence which records the more personal side of the tale, for example the evocative telegram sent by Tyrrell to his fiancée on 1 January 1894 upon reaching West Selkirk by dog sled: "Happy New Year all well telegraph & write Manitoba Hotel Winnipeg". Among the most fascinating of the manuscript materials are the maps produced by native Inuit and other aboriginal people to guide Tyrrell along his proposed route. At many stages of their journeys, both in 1893 and 1894, Tyrrell was afforded significant help by these sketch maps, and by his encounters with native people who shared information on the area. Thanks to the wealth of information found in Tyrrell's notebooks and diaries we are often able to determine both the authorship, and the exact date on which these maps were made. They are generally in pencil, on

brown wrapping paper, and will pose a special challenge for digital reproduction. Printed materials are also of importance, especially the published reports produced for the Geological Survey, and the printed maps which include details of the geological formations and an exact depiction of the territory explored. The Library is fortunate to have the papers of James Tyrrell as well as those of his brother, and we have been able to include supplementary material from this collection, including documentation on James Tyrrell's expedition to Hudson Strait in 1885 and 1886, and his 1900 survey of the Barren Lands area between Great Slave Lake and Hudson.

How will this material be brought together in electronic format and what will the finished product actually look like? Although there are prototypes available in other institutions, such as the many



Above: J.B. Tyrrell's photograph of expedition camp on the west shore of Hudson Bay, south of Corbett Inlet, taken 6 October 1893.

wonderful collections available online through the Library of Congress American Memory website, our project poses some unique technical challenges and involves intensive collaboration with both the Library's Preservation Services Department, and Information Technology Services. The basic steps involved are:

- selection of key items from the wealth of material contained in the more than 40 metres of documents in the collection, and from supplementary manuscript collections and J.B. Tyrrell's library which now forms part of the general Fisher collections;
- digital photography at high resolution using the recently acquired Kontron camera housed in the Library's Preservation Services Department, and capture of metadata such as the technical

- specifications for the digital image;
- XML coding and tagging of the digital files, item descriptions, and manuscript collection finding aids to enable structured navigation and meaningful searching of the contents of the entire online collection;
- processing of printed and typewritten documents by OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software, to enable the text of these documents to be fully keyword searchable; some of the manuscript material is being transcribed and re-keyed in order to be searchable;
- design and implementation of a web interface with a customized search engine to provide meaningful display of the documents and to enable browsing, searching, and linking of related items within the collection.

This project is truly a collaborative venture. We were pleased to be able to

hire two librarians to work on the project along with Fisher Librarians – Marlene Van Ballegoie, a recent graduate of the Faculty of Information Studies with a background in archival description, and Jennifer Toews, a cataloguer with previous knowledge of the Tyrrell collection. We are most fortunate in being able to take advantage of the technical expertise developed by Karen Turko and her staff in Preservation Services during their design and implementation of *Early Canadiana Online*, a full-text database of pre-1900 Canadian

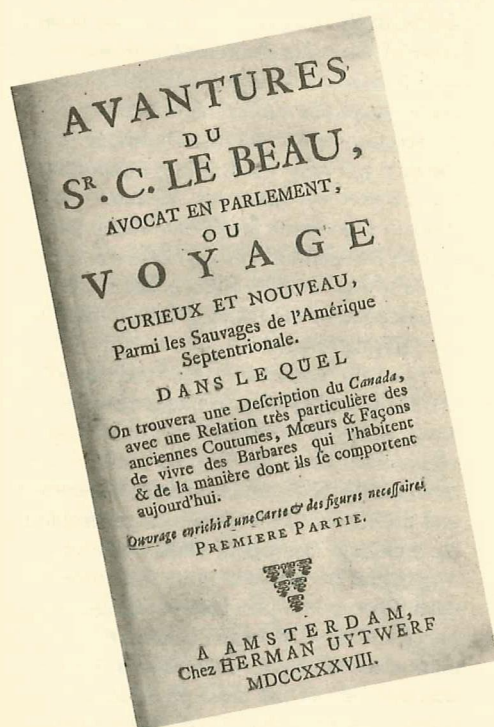
imprints which they developed for the Canadian Institute of Historical Microreproductions. We are also able to draw on the resources of the Digital Services Librarian, Sian Meikle, who is providing us with creative and innovative ways of taking the mass of data which we have accumulated and presenting it on the web as an informative, attractive, and coherent set of web pages. The project team is presently working on a prototype collection of materials in order to test the various processes involved. The entire team feels both excited and privileged to be working on the Tyrrell project, which will bring the riches of the Fisher Library's collections to a potential audience around the world.

*Anne Dondertman
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library*

Rare Canadiana

IN 1998 THE BIRKS FAMILY Foundation generously donated funds to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library for the acquisition of pre-Confederation Canadiana. Thanks to the generosity of the Birks Family Foundation, the Library's Canadiana specialist, Sandra Alston, was able to acquire, along with several other books, Claude LeBeau's *Avantures du Sr. C. Le Beau, avocat en parlement, ou Voyage curieux et nouveau parmi les sauvages de l'Amérique septentrionale. Dans le quel on trouvera une description du Canada, avec une relation très particulière des anciennes coutumes, mœurs & façons de vivre des barbares qui l'habitent & de la manière dont ils se comportent aujourd'hui*. (A Amsterdam: Chez Herman Uytwerf, 1738).

In the dedicatory epistle to his adventures, Claude LeBeau remarks "c'est une Relation exacte d'un Voyageur, qui ne recite que ce qu'il a vu, & qui a moins



Above: Map from *Avantures du Sr. C. Le Beau*... (Amsterdam, 1738).

recherché les ornemens du Discours que l'exactitude des Faits". The two-volume work recounts the author's voyage on the *Elephant* to Newfoundland and down the St. Lawrence River, his travels through Quebec, details of Canadian life and the manners and customs of the Indian tribes with whom he came into contact. He ends his travels in Boston, returning from there to Europe.

A native of Switzerland, LeBeau had studied law but was not successful in his career. He claims that his father wished to send him to Canada and nothing would turn him from "ce pernicieux dessein". He was introduced to Intendant Hocquart and invited to serve as his secretary during the Intendant's tenure in the colony. The actual facts tell a different story. LeBeau had been imprisoned in 1728, most probably for libertinism, and with a number of other prisoners, was ordered by the King to be transferred to Canada, to remain there in exile, never to return. LeBeau arrived in Canada on 1 September 1729, having been shipwrecked about thirty miles from Quebec.

His boring job as a clerk in the Bureau

du Castor, and then in the King's warehouses, was not enough to hold his interest: "Mon emploi n'étant pas assez considérable pour m'engager à demeurer en Canada, & d'ailleurs le climat du pays & la manière dont j'y avois été envoyé me plongeant dans une mélancolie inexprimable, je n'étois uniquement occupé, que des moyens dont je me servirois pour en sortir". He departed for New England, and on 14 November 1730 Intendant Hocquart issued a warrant for his arrest, offering a reward for his capture. Following his successful flight to Europe, LeBeau was sentenced by

Hocquart for circulating counterfeit card money and ordered to be hanged and garotted. The sentence was carried out in effigy.

Nothing more is known of LeBeau except that this first edition of his travels was published in 1738 in Amsterdam and was followed by a German translation in Frankfurt in 1752. A contemporary review in the *Journal de Trévoux* called it a novel. In common with many travel accounts of the period, the work relies heavily on the work of other authors; however LeBeau has been commended for his portrait of the beaver and its *Atravaux* "incompréhensibles", and his depiction of the religious ideas of the native tribes. Although the work has been praised by some bibliographers as pleasant and charming, Obadiah Rich, in his *Bibliotheca Americana Nova*, has the last word: "This work is highly praised by La Richarderie [in his *Bibliothèque universelle des voyages*, vol VII], upon whose judgment, however, very little reliance can be placed".

Sandra Alston

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Left: Title page from *Avantures du Sr. C. Le Beau*... (Amsterdam, 1738).



The Culture of the Book in the Scottish Enlightenment

ALTHOUGH THERE IS CURRENTLY NO scholarly consensus regarding the origins and nature of the Scottish Enlightenment, there is no doubt that the eighteenth century was an exceptionally fertile period in the cultural and intellectual history of Scotland. From roughly 1690 until 1815, the Scots made significant contributions to virtually every field of human endeavour, and their activities were widely recognized in the European republic of letters. In medicine, a succession of Scottish physicians from Archibald Pitcairne through to Robert Whytt, John Gregory, and William Cullen established themselves as theorists of the first rank in Europe, while the Edinburgh medical school founded in the 1720s gradually displaced Leyden as the centre of medical education in the Atlantic world. Mathematicians such as Colin Maclaurin and Robert Simson were likewise renowned across Europe. In the physical sciences, Scottish professors were among the first to introduce Newtonian science into their teaching, and Sir Isaac Newton counted amongst his earliest disciples a number of Scots, including Pitcairne, and David Gregory, who left Edinburgh to become the Savillian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford in 1691. Maclaurin, who eventually inherited Gregory's mantle as the leading Newtonian in Scotland, was succeeded by John Robison. During the second half of the eighteenth century, there was no more distinguished chemist in Europe than Joseph Black, and in the related sciences of natural history and geology, Scotland boasted naturalists of the calibre of James Hutton, whose account of the history of the earth revolutionized geological thought at the turn of the nineteenth century. In the technological sphere, one need only mention James Watt's improvements to the steam engine to realize that the modern industrial world has its origins in eighteenth-century Glasgow.

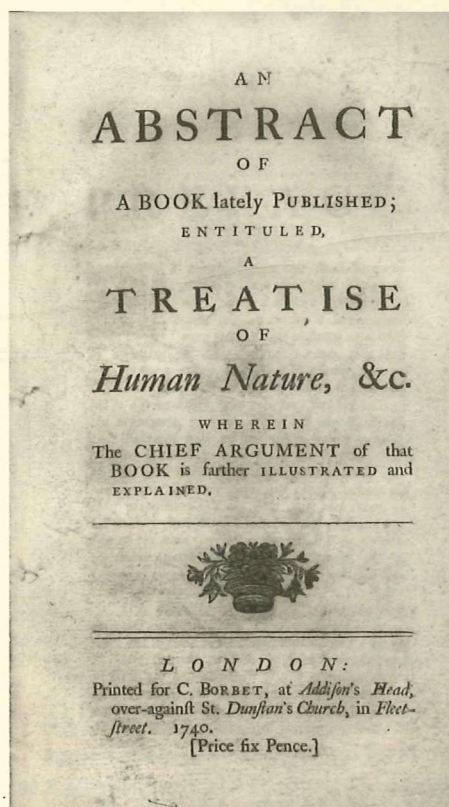
In moral philosophy, the Enlightenment "science of man" grew out of the writings of Adam Ferguson, David Hume, Thomas Reid, and Adam Smith, while Smith's *Wealth of Nations* gave birth to the discipline of political economy. Writing in 1770, Hume declared that "this is the historical Age and this historical Nation", and he had good reason to do so, in view of the success of his own historical writings, as well as those of other notable

Scottish historians, such as William Robertson and Henry Home, Lord Kames. The Scots also excelled in literature. At the beginning of the Enlightenment, the Latin verses of Pitcairne and his circle perpetuated the Scottish humanist tradition, while the vernacular poetry of James Thomson, Allan Ramsay, James Beattie, James Macpherson, and Robert Burns later shaped the literary tastes of eighteenth-century Britons. The novel flourished, too,

Foulis Brothers in Glasgow. And if the Scots did not produce a composer to rival Corelli or Handel, Scottish music echoed throughout the Atlantic world in the rhythm of the Scots snap, the fiddle tunes of Neil Gow, the skirl of the pipes, and the songs of Burns.

The exhibition, "The Culture of the Book in the Scottish Enlightenment", celebrates the richness of eighteenth-century Scottish culture as seen from the perspective of the newly emerging discipline of the history of the book. The materials on display are intended to illustrate both the intellectual achievements of the period, and the different facets of the culture of print. Among the items exhibited is a copy of an exceedingly rare pamphlet by David Hume, written to promote the sales of his *Treatise of Human Nature*, along with other works by Hume, and those of his fellow moralists George Turnbull, Thomas Reid, and Adam Smith. The exhibition also displays an impressive selection of finely bound copies of the major texts written by Scottish historians during the course of the eighteenth century, as well as a sampling of the periodical literature of the day, and a survey of the different editions of the poems of Ossian. In addition, many of the books and pamphlets convey a sense of the dynamism of science and medicine in the Scottish Enlightenment, ranging from a copy of the widely admired, but less widely read *Philosophice naturalis principia mathematica* of Sir Isaac Newton, to one of the most popular medical self-help tracts of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, William Buchan's *Domestic Medicine*. Taken as a whole, the exhibition thus serves as a guide to the breadth and intellectual significance of the Scottish contribution to the Enlightenment.

From the point of view of the history of the book, the exhibition illustrates the many facets of the culture of print in the eighteenth century. Then as now, bibliophiles amassed impressive libraries, and the riches of the collection assembled by Archibald Campbell, Third Duke of Argyll, can be sampled in the selection of titles listed in the published catalogue of Argyll's library. But these titles do more than attest to Argyll's bibliomania, for he was also one of the most powerful politicians of his day. Through his man-



Above: Title page to David Hume's *An Abstract of a Book Lately Published; Entitled, A Treatise of Human Nature, &c.* 1740.

with best-sellers written by Tobias Smollett, Henry Mackenzie, John Galt, and Sir Walter Scott. In the fine arts, Scotland's achievements were more limited, but Allan Ramsay the younger and Henry Raeburn were portraitists who rivalled the best of their English contemporaries, while such Scottish architects as Colin Campbell, James Gibbs, and Robert and James Adam helped transform the visual landscape of eighteenth-century Britain. Nor should one forget the medallions and gems of James Tassie, or the fine printing done by the

agement of Scottish affairs, he made a signal contribution to the cultural transformation of Scotland in the first half of the eighteenth century, and hence the books he collected tell us about the kind of enlightenment he sought to create north of the Tweed. Like Argyll and the other great collectors of the past, historians are interested in the physical properties of books, such as their format or quality of paper, but for different reasons. A second group of books on display is intended to show how the question of format is closely linked to matters of intellectual authority, intended audience, and the construction of authorial identity. The extensive holdings of titles by David Hume in the Fisher Library can be used to trace Hume's attempt to construct a canon of works which defined his identity as an enlightened man of letters, and to underline the point that the quarto format was regarded by authors and readers alike as a sign of status and credibility.

Moreover, the prominence of the quarto format speaks to the economic structure of the book trade, and in so doing, reminds us that authors and publishers in the eighteenth century were no less affected by the realities of the market place than they are in our own age of multinational media giants. The corporate moguls of today would certainly recognize the marketing strategies involved in the publishing of the successive editions of the poems of Ossian, exhibited alongside the works of Hume.

One person who had an intimate understanding of the workings of the book trade as both a printer and an author was William Smellie, who was a leading figure in the literary scene of the Athens of the North for much of the second half of the eighteenth century, and the editor of the first edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. A third group of books illustrates the different strands of his career, from his apprentice work on a prize-winning Latin edition of Terence's comedies, to his printing of University of Edinburgh theses, his efforts as a journalist, and his engagement in the fields of science and medicine. By the time of Smellie's death in 1795, Edinburgh had established itself as the centre of the

Scottish book trade, although from 1740 until the mid-1770s the preeminence of Edinburgh's booksellers and printers was seriously challenged by the Foulis Press in Glasgow. With the assistance of the typesetter Alexander Wilson, Robert and Andrew Foulis became famous primarily for their editions of the classics, which were renowned for both their physical beauty and their scholarly excellence. The Thomas Fisher Library boasts an extensive collection of Foulis imprints, and those displayed in the exhibition demonstrate why books from the Foulis Press were so eagerly sought after by discerning buyers in the eighteenth century, and why they continue to attract collectors today. Any book lover will readily appreciate the superb craftsmanship involved in the exquisitely bound Bibles on display. The



Above: Henry Home Lord Kames, Hugh Arnot, and James Burnett, Lord Monboddo. (From John Kay, *A Series of Original Portraits and Caricature Etchings*. New ed. Edinburgh, 1877.)

Fisher Library is fortunate to have such outstanding examples of Scottish wheel and herring-bone bindings, and although these Bibles can hardly be said to be typical products of the binder's art, they nonetheless provide us with notable instances of this facet of the culture of the book.

The most difficult dimension of the history of the book to document is the relationship between reader and text. There can be little doubt that reading practices have changed over time, but

there is much about the experience of reading in the past that eludes us, not least because of the paucity of evidence. The copies now in the Fisher Library of Thomas Reid's *Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man* and *Essays on the Active Powers of Man*, which were once owned and annotated by Reid's associate, John Robison, are, therefore, of considerable historical importance, because Robison's extensive annotations allow us to gain some insight into how he read Reid's works. Although several questions remain about how Robison read Reid, the annotations brings us far closer to the reading practices of the past than is usually possible, and they permit us to overhear the "conversation" between Robison and his much respected colleague. In addition, the personal dimension to the history of

the book can be traced in the exhibition through the number of association copies on display. Of note in this regard are Thomas Reid's copy of Berkeley's *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, Lord Kames's copy of James Macpherson's *Temora*, and the copy of Sallust given by the distinguished Edinburgh Professor of Moral Philosophy, Dugald Stewart, to his nephew. Such details serve to give a human face to the culture of the book in the Scottish Enlightenment, as do the Tassie medallions and the mezzotint portrait of David Hume on display, kindly lent by the Royal Ontario Museum and by Michael Walsh. Outside of Scotland, there are few other libraries in the world capable of providing the range and

quality of printed materials from the eighteenth century to be found in the Fisher Library. This exhibition ought, therefore, to be regarded as a tribute not only to the cultural vitality of the Scottish Enlightenment, but also to the magnificent resources of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

Paul Wood
University of Victoria

Mark your calendar for upcoming events . . .

Exhibitions 2000 ~ 2001

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

25 September – 2 February

The Scottish Enlightenment

26 February – 25 May

Book History and Print Culture: A
Celebration of the Collaborative
Program at the University of Toronto
Exhibition opening Thursday 1 March

18 June – 17 August

Printed Ephemerata from the Fisher
Library

Planned Events 2000 ~ 2001

All lectures begin at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday 30 November

The Alexander C. Pathy Lecture on
the Book Arts
"Changing Times: 45 Years of the
Janus Press"
Claire Van Vliet, Proprietor, Janus
Press

February

"From Admiration to Appropriation:
Early Thomas Hardy Collecting and
Scholarship"
Michael Millgate, University Professor
Emeritus of English

March

*The Gryphon Lecture on the
History of the Book* "Etched in
Stucco: Graffiti as Witness of History"
Veronique Plesch, Assistant Professor
of Art History, Colby College and
Martin Antonetti, Curator of Rare
Books, Smith College

The

H·A·L·C·Y·O·N

University of Toronto Library
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A5



Claude Thomas Bissell 1916-2000

Earlier this year the man who, in many ways, was responsible for the very existence of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, passed away. Claude Bissell, President Emeritus of the University of Toronto, created a vision and a mandate for the university in the late 1950s that included the development of its research function to the highest standards achieved by internationally renowned institutions. An important part of the vision was a great research library, and as a result the Thomas Fisher Rare

Book Library and the John P. Roberts libraries came into being in 1973. Claude Bissell remained one of the closest and most generous of our Friends, gracious with his advice, his time and his donations. He will be greatly missed. We extend our sincere sympathy to Christine, Deirdre, and the rest of his family. In his honour we are planning to name one of our collections of English Literature after him, and thus perpetuate the close association that we enjoyed for so many years.

Friend's Publications



"The Moment" by Margaret Atwood

A limited, signed edition of this poem, hand printed by The Massey College Press. Accompanied by a digital copy of a revised manuscript of the poem, printed for an evening with Margaret Atwood. Broadside in a folder, limited to 100 copies, \$100.

Chicory

A woodcut of a chicory plant from Mattioli's sixteenth century

herbal.

Printed from the original wood block by William Reuter. Broadside, limited to 125 copies, \$100.00.

Order from Darlene Kent, Business Office, 6th Floor Roberts

Library, 130 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A5, or by email at kentd@library.utoronto.ca

Copies of the following private press publications commissioned by the Friends of the Fisher Library are available.

Gibbings & Grey and The Charm of Birds

Robert Gibbings' wood engravings for Grey of Fallodon's *The Charm of Birds*, printed from the original blocks by the Barbarian Press. 76 pages, limited to 300 copies, \$140.

