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

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Two minds, but a single thought ...

Since Edna Hajnal, the Fisher Library's manuscript curator for the past fifteen years, will be retiring this June, we thought it appropriate that she add her thoughts to my annual account of donations made to the Fisher Library during the past year. My account, therefore will deal only with printed books donated last year.

Just before she retired, Rachel Grover, Edna's predecessor, acquired an incunabula edition of the works of Saint Thomas Aquinas (ca. 1227-1274). This Dominican theologian spent most of his short life involved in the service of his order. He worked incessantly, travelling long distances to preach, to take part in church councils or to be consulted by the Pontiff. It has been said that no theologian, with the exception of Saint Augustine, had more influence on the theological thought and language of the Catholic Church. His works are of great importance for both their philosophical and for their theological content. He is perhaps best known for the *Summa Theologiae* (sum of all known learning). As the outward appearance of the Mrs. Grover's copy did not reflect the importance of its contents, she commissioned Emrys Evans, the Fisher Library's conservator, to create a new binding in a style appropriate to the age of the work. This resulting magnificent volume will join our steadily increasing collection of works printed before 1501, and will ever be a tribute to the design skills and workmanship of our master binder. Emrys will also be retiring this June and we are very pleased to have been able to add another one of his special bindings to our collections.

I always look for themes when writing this article and what is very evident as I go through the sheets of gift-in-kind forms, is the number of donors who are interested in birds, left wing politics, and theatre.

Other popular themes are Canadiana, European literature and politics, and fine printing. This year proved to be no exception. Avid theatregoer, Eric Etchin, turned over a collection of programmes and playbills dating from 1958 through to 2000. The donation included complete runs of the Toronto Symphony,

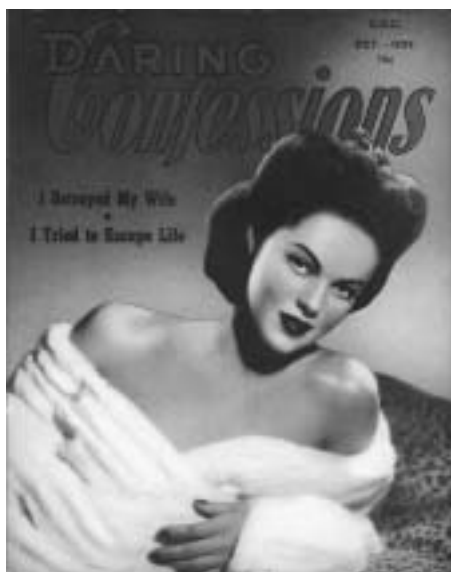
Programme collection and we hope to be able to process it this summer. The ornithological faction was represented this year by the gift of Rosemary Speirs, who enabled us to add some two hundred volumes to the Baillie Collection. The Kenny Collection saw a major increase with Professor Lee Lorch's major donation of books, pamphlets and periodicals relating to the radical left. From Mrs. Yvonne Allen we received a scrapbook that will be of interest to Kenny scholars: it is a minute book of the Parkdale Chapter of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation from 1934-1936, including news clippings of CCF activities in Toronto, a fascinating example of local politics of that era.

The Fisher Library's Duff Collection of books on fine printing will be considerably increased by Luanna Peters' donation of reference books and items issued by the Typophiles of New York. Among the treasures we found the very rare *Spinach from Many Gardens* (1935). Made up of thirty-one bibliographically distinct items, it includes illustrations by various designers, and was printed by separate presses. One of sixty copies produced, our copy (no. 48) belonged to Lester Douglas and contains his bookplate, designed by Bruce Rogers. Rogers signed his contribution, as did eleven other Typophiles. Douglas was director of art and printing for the United States Chamber of Commerce for twenty-five years and responsible for the design of all of that organization's publications, as well as a leading book designer and an authority on typography. This donation also includes extensive archival materials relating to Douglas and his collaborators. Among the many other items is a large assortment of Typophile chapbooks, previously in the possession of Arno Werner, a Typophile and well-known Massachusetts bookbinder. The chapbooks



Title page of William Shortt's Gesta Anglo-Americana.

Tafelmusik, and the Aldeburgh Connection. The Shaw and Stratford Festivals are also well represented, as are the Crest, the Red Barn, Theatre in the Dell, Second City and Tarragon. This gift constitutes an important addition to this Library's Theatre



Images this page and facing page:
Examples of pulp magazines donated by
Don McLeod.



arrived in custom leather-backed cases created by Werner to house the collection. We are most grateful to Luanna and Ron Peters for this munificent addition to our holdings

Our German language holdings received a welcome boost thanks to the generosity of Martin Landmann. In his mother's collection we found limited editions of Friedrich Hölderlin's *Antigona* (Bern, 1921), Heinrich Mann's *Die Ehrgeizige* (München, 1920) and a German translation of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* with eighty-five drawings by Richard Seewald, including two originals signed by the artist. From Mr. Landmann's own collection we received, among other interesting items, a limited edition of Goethe's *Faust*, bound in parchment, and decorated with intricate initials.

A limited edition of Horace's *Carmina Alcaica* printed by St. John Hornby at his Ashdene Press was one of several interesting additions made to our holdings by the Fisher Library's Director, Richard Landon. His gift also contained the rare *Gesta Anglo-Americana* by William Shortt. Research has found only three other copies in the United States, but none in Canada. Presented by the author to Richard Lynch Cotton, the provost of Worcester College Oxford from 1839 to

1880, and with the ink stamp of Madan Falconer, it was purportedly written by a "Diodorus Hironicus". The text is in Greek and relates to Canada, American Indians, the French and Indian War, the American Revolution and the war of 1812. Lithographed in Exeter by the author, it is, as the Latin translation of the title page states, a "liber singularis". Professor Landon also found the first issue of the first journal devoted to television. Volume 1, number 1 of *Television: A Monthly Magazine*, came out in March 1928, only two years after the medium is generally said to have been invented by J.L. Baird.

Before television and movies consumed our free time, so-called pulp magazines were popular diversions. The gift of Donald McLeod indicates the variety of these ephemeral publications. While listing the many titles for appraisal, I felt myself tempted to glance through and sometimes read aloud to my colleagues in the work room, paragraphs from *Daring Confessions*, *Detective Yearbook*, *Private Confessions*, and *Sky Fighters*. Although I have never been driven to purchase *The National Enquirer* (enquiring minds want to know), these sometime naïve magazines do have an appeal of their own.

Dr. Robert Brandeis has often been listed in these reports as a major contributor to our Penguin Collection, and that was the case again this year. One of his gifts during 2001, however, indicate that his collecting interest is not confined to that familiar format. Late in the year, Robert left a slim volume on my desk. It turned out to be an edition of Lewis Carroll's *The Game of Logic* (London, 1887) with quite a wonderful provenance. On 6 May 1894, Carroll met the schoolgirl Mary Agnes Wilson and asked her to dine in his rooms at Christ College, Oxford. She did so a week later and at that time, Carroll presented her with this work. She subsequently dined with him in November, and in June of 1895, Carroll took her and a friend to see a matinee of *The Merchant of Venice* with Ellen Terry. Wilson later married Arthur Stanley Ramsay (1867-1954), President of Magdalene College, Cambridge. Their son, Arthur Michael Ramsay was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1961 until 1974.

The Fisher Library lost a very good friend with the death last spring of Professor H. Gordon Skilling. He was chiefly responsible for the establishment of the Czech and Slovak collections at the Fisher Library and right up to the week of his death was doing research here. It was my very sad task, together with Harold Averill of the University Archives, to assist the family in selecting materials to be added to both our institutions. Our Czechoslovak holdings are now almost doubled by the addition of works on the Masaryk family. Gordon had just published a work on Czechoslovakia's first President, Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, and was working on English and Czech versions of his book on Alice and Olga Masaryk. The



family has also donated a superb portrait of Gordon, which now adorns the walls of one of our reading rooms.

Sneaking in just under the wire, Ralph Stanton's donation of works by French and classical authors, will considerably augment an already strong collection in those fields: eight volumes of poetry and prose presented to the Académie française in the seventeenth century, many works by Jean-Galbert Campistron and Philippe Néricault-Destouches, an incunabulum edition of the *Historia Ecclesiastica* by Eusebius, and another of Robert Gaguin's *Compendium super Francorum gestis* (Paris, 1500), together with a superb twelve-volume set of Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux's *Œuvres Complètes* (Paris, 1781). Yet another incunabulum in the form of a 1497 edition of Joannes Trithemius' *Liber de triplici regione claustralium et spirituali exercitio monachorum* was among the approximately 450 titles delivered in late December.

Our Friends have been very generous this past year and we thank them all for their continued support.

Luba Frastacky
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library



Manuscript Gifts in 2001

Gardens and manuscript collections are rarely compared, but they do have one thing in common - they grow. The collections of literary manuscripts and personal papers of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library continue to flourish, thanks to the generosity of its Friends.

One donor, Dr. J. Murray Speirs, a long-time Friend, bequeathed his own papers to the Library. After his death last September the Fisher received his "Daily Bird Journals" (257 volumes), dating from 1923 to 2000, (with only two short gaps from 20 September 1939 to 30 April 1940, and from 24 July to 19 December 1940) along with his "Daily Bird Records", 1922 to 1949, "First and Last Sightings Records", 1922 to 1990, and his research records from the 1930s and 1940s. His findings on the American robin, and the Lincoln sparrow, for which he and Mrs. Speirs wrote the account in Bent's life histories series, are to be found among his research records. They constitute a new collection for Fisher and complement other collections of ornithological papers, namely those of A.E. Allin, James Baillie, Gerry Bennett, and C.H. Douglas Clarke.

Sometimes a gift with only a verbal account of its provenance is documented by papers already in the Library. Last year, for example, a package arriving from Vancouver contained a portrait of James Mavor, a chalk drawing by Frederic Lessore. James Mavor's Papers contain correspondence from Lessore to Mavor referring to the drawing and thanking him for his hospitality during his stay in Toronto. The portrait was presented to Professor Mavor's grandson, Mavor Moore, by the grandson of the man to whom Mavor had given it, James Loudon, president of the University of Toronto. It is especially fitting that the Library should receive this just before the University began its 175th year celebrations.

Such a connection with manuscripts already at the Library is usual with literary papers where earlier donations may contain drafts or notes pertaining to the latest or final draft, included in the most current gift. Margaret Atwood's donation

contained a draft manuscript entitled "UK manuscript. This is the UK-manuscript from which both *Alias Grace* and *The Blind Assassin* arose." Early manuscript drafts of both books are already to be found among her papers. Another early draft of *The Blind Assassin*, "The Angel of Bad Judgment", with the author's holograph notes, was also part of the donation along with other papers. David Donnell's gift had holograph drafts of two of his books—*China Blues* and *Water Street Days*. Earlier drafts of these books are among his papers. Phyllis Grosskurth's donation included early drafts and preparatory research material relating to her biography of Melanie Klein, together with photographs not used in the book. There are also early drafts of her book on Freud and his colleagues, which now join other drafts of both books already in the Grosskurth Papers. W.J. Keith's correspondence with fellow Canadian authors was in his donation, along with the literary manuscripts of Jack Hodgins, Hugh Hood, and John Metcalf that Keith edited. Jack MacLeod gave a revised draft of his unpublished novel, "Uproar" for which the Library has earlier drafts entitled "Dreaming a Beach". From Michael Millgate came notes, drafts, and proofs for Thomas Hardy's essays, speeches and miscellaneous prose that he edited, *Thomas Hardy's Public Voice*; and the working papers of the Hardy scholar and co-editor, Richard L. Purdy, assembled for their multi-volume *Collected Letters of Thomas Hardy*.

Karen Mulhallen continued to add to her editorial and business files for her literary magazine *Descant*. Miriam Ofseyer sent additional letters and files of artists with whom her husband, Otto Schneid, had corresponded in preparation for his biography of Jewish artists. Eric Ormsby's gift contained his early unpublished poetry and short stories, including juvenilia, as well as drafts of his two recent publications, *Facsimiles of Time: Essays on Poetry and Translation*; and *Araby*. Joe Rosenblatt's gift included manuscript drafts of "Lunatic Muse" and "Parrot Fever" along

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with visual collages. Josef Škvorecký sent two television screen plays, "Little Mata Hari of Prague", described by Milos Forman, the famous director as "eminently entertaining", and "Poe v Hoboken". Various drafts of two detective romances, "Setkání Letech, s Vraždou" and "Setkání na Konci Ěry, s Vraždou" co-written by his wife, Zdena Salivarová, were also a part of this gift.

In the donation of David Solway were drafts of published and unpublished poems and essays that included revisions and corrected proofs of *The Lover's Progress: Poems after William Hogarth*, and of new poems for his forthcoming "The Properties of Things". Earlier drafts of poems in *The Lover's Progress* are already housed among his papers. Eric Wright's gift included early unpublished writings, along with drafts of his memoir, *Always Give a Penny to a Blind Man*; and of his novels *Death of a Sunday Writer*; *Death on the Rocks*; *The Kidnapping of Rosie Dawn*; *Death of a Hired Man*; and also of the novella, *The Last Hand*, co-written with Howard Engel. George Fetherling gave drafts and proofs of his book, *A Biographical Dictionary of the World's Assassins*; as well as books that he edited such as *The Vintage Book of Canadian Memoirs*.

An unexpected gift came from the University College Book Sale: about a hundred glass slides used by Dr. Charles Best in his lectures, which have been added to the collection of his papers held by the Fisher Library. Other gifts came from William Blissett who donated material for the Robert Finch Papers. Eleanor Cook gave a typed transcript of her interview with Margaret Atwood. The Champlain Society sent supplementary records. Stephen Gilbert added thirty-three original drawings from his book *Outline of Cat Anatomy with Reference to the Human* to the collection of his anatomical drawings. Suniti Namjoshi contributed manuscript drafts connected with writing workshops that she organized. From the estate of Claude Stewart came the diary of George Wilson who lived in Toronto and who kept a daily journal from 1928 to 1938. The estate of Dorothy Millichamp gave research papers connected with her work at the Institute for Child Study. Richard Pennington also added to his collection of papers. Thus the growing season for manuscript collections extends throughout the year.

Edna Hajnal
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Farewell to our Colleagues

At the end of June we will be saying farewell to four of our colleagues who are retiring from the Fisher Library: Emrys Evans, Edna Hajnal, Yvonne Huang, and Jennifer Ramlochan. Their years of service add up to an astonishing combined total of 120 years.

Emrys Evans, our Conservator since 1967, has introduced several generations of staff to the basics of safe handling of rare book material. His voice, and his exacting standards, remains our guide in all that we subsequently undertake. With a designer's eye, and a firm hand, he has mounted each of our exhibitions, and thus elegantly brought the collections to the attention of visitors from both inside and outside our community. His years of service leave behind an enduring legacy of thousands upon thousands of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and paper artifacts cleaned, restored, cased, boxed, encapsulated, unfolded or otherwise treated so that they can remain accessible to future generations of scholars.

Edna Hajnal is well known to many of our Friends who have donated collections of papers in her role as librarian responsible for our manuscript holdings. Undaunted by the announcement that yet another sixty or one hundred cartons of material has arrived at our loading dock, she has approached each new accession with keen curiosity and tireless energy. Her enthusiasm and knowledge of the collections, her quiet courtesy, and her willingness to take that extra step to accommodate both donors and researchers have been appreciated by many over the almost twenty years she has been at Fisher.

Yvonne Huang will be much missed by her colleagues, not least because she always seems to be the one we turn to when help is needed. Her ready smile, unassuming presence, and loyalty to the department are qualities that do not appear in any job description, but foster a positive working environment for all. Yvonne is a living demonstration of the truism that good service to users is dependent on the service we provide to each other internally in the Library. Her unfailingly reliable presence in the workroom and in the Reading Room set a service standard for all of us.

Jennifer Ramlochan also has an impressive record of service, having been with the Library in various capacities for thirty-two years. For many of those years she, too, worked with the Fisher manuscript collections. While on duty in the Reading Room she has helped many a puzzled user to unravel the mysteries of a finding aid, or to photocopy those few pages before the Reading Room closed for the weekend, or to track down that elusive book on the hold shelf. The workroom will not be the same without her.

Those of us left behind will miss our colleagues, on a personal and a professional level. We salute them for a job well done, and wish them all the best in their life 'after Fisher'.



Alice Prochaska Presents the First David Nicholls Memorial Lecture

On Tuesday 12 February Alice Prochaska, University Librarian at Yale, presented the first David Nicholls Memorial Lecture entitled "National Collections, Global Collecting."

The David Nicholls Memorial Lecture was established by Hilary Nicholls in memory of her late husband David. The annual lectures in this series will be devoted to the topics of librarians, libraries and collections. In thanking Hilary, Carole Moore, Chief Librarian, recalled fond memories of David Nicholls. The Library is fortunate to have one of David's wonderful photographs hanging in the chief librarian's office. The University of Toronto Libraries are even more fortunate to have exceptional loyalty and unswerving commitment of the Nicholls. We are immensely indebted to Hilary for the many ways in which she continues to support libraries on campus, and we thank her for this marvelous new lecture series in memory of David, established in appreciation of

the library staff and their many contributions to the University of Toronto Libraries.

Prior to her appointment at Yale, Alice Prochaska had spent nine years as Direc-



Alice Prochaska, Hilary Nicholls, and Carole Moore.

tor of Special Collections at the British Library. Her talk focused on issues connected with manuscript collecting through the ages. It took into account the interactions between national, international

and local interests in scholarly materials, questions of ownership, and the obligation of curators to make manuscript treasures as widely available as possible. She

illustrated her talk with examples from the British Library collections including the Lindesfarne Gospels which are the subject of a claim of repatriation; Mozart's catalogue which raises the complex issue of holocaust spoliation; and the Beowulf manuscript which is now accessible electronically. In the digital environment, there are many new possibilities, and images can now be shared across the globe. But the ethical and professional dilemmas are essentially the same as they have been at least since the European Reformation initiated the first great dispersal of manuscripts and other works of art.

A standing room only audience thoroughly enjoyed Alice Prochaska's fascinating talk. The evening concluded with a reception involving enjoyable refreshments and entertaining conversation.

Donors to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in 2001 of Gifts-in-Kind

Ms. Elvi Aer
Mrs. Yvonne Allen
Mr. Hugh Anson-Cartwright
Margaret Atwood

Mrs. Caroll Bishop
Professor William Blissett
Dr. Robert Brandeis

Professor William J. Callaghan
Professor Elspeth Cameron
Champlain Society
Mrs. Elizabeth Collard
Professor Eleanor Cook
The Venerable
Samuel Craymer

Miss Christine Donald
Mr. Kildare Dobbs
Mr. David Donnell
Mrs. Florence Drake

Mrs. Barbara Ensor
Mr. Eric Etchin

Mr. M.F. Feheley
Mrs. Julia Fenn
Mr. George Fetherling
Professor Michael Finlayson

Mr. Stephen Gilbert
Mr. Sheldon Godfrey
Miss Charity Grant
Professor Phyllis Grosskurth
Mrs. Rachel Grover

Ms. Jen Hardacre
Ms. Maureen Harris
Mrs. Nona Heaslip
Professor Peter Heyworth

Mr. Kyle Jolliffe

Professor William Keith
Mr. George Kleisner

Estate of Mrs. Julie Landmann
Mr. Martin Landmann
Professor Richard Landon

Professor Simon Langlois
Mr. Andrew Lesk
Professor Lee Lorch

Ms. Laurel Sefton MacDowell
Mr. Don McLeod
Mr. J.T. McLeod
Professor Michael Millgate
Estate of Professor
Dorothy Millichamp
Mr. Jearld Moldenhauer
Mavor Moore
Mr. Hugh Morrison

Estate of Professor
Hannibal Noce

Mrs. Miriam Ofseyer
Mr. Eric Ormsby

Mrs. Luanna Maria Peters
Mrs. Bella Pomer

Mrs. Harley Reid
Mrs. Norma Ridgeway

Mr. Joe Rosenblatt
Mr. Michah Rynor

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Scott
Ms. Elizabeth Silvester
Estate of Professor
H. Gordon Skilling
Professor Josef Škvorecký
Professor John Slater
Mr. Arthur Smith
Daniel Solway
Estate of J. Murray Speirs
Ms. Rosemary Speirs
Ralph Stanton
Professor Karen Stein
Mr. Claude Stewart

Mr. Vincent Tovell

University College Alumni
Association, Booksale
Committee

Mr. Eric Wright
Dr. J.R. Wynnycky



The Library of King George III

Visitors to the British Museum on Great Russell Street in Bloomsbury, after passing through the main entrance, and traversing the Granville Room to the Manuscripts Saloon, would enter what has been called “one of the noblest rooms in London”. This was the King’s Library; a single gallery three hundred feet long, forty-one feet wide, and thirty feet high, with a central section fifty-eight feet wide. Its shelves contained some 65,000 books and 19,000 pamphlets, the collection formed by George III between 1763 and 1820 and given to the nation by his son, George IV in 1823. The room is still there, but the books have, since 1998, resided in a six-story glass tower in the middle of the new British Library at St. Pancras, where they form the focal point of one of the world’s greatest research collections.

About eighteen years ago I ordered, from an antiquarian bookseller’s catalogue, a copy of *Bibliothecae Regiae Catalogus*, the catalogue of the King’s collection, compiled by Sir Frederick Augusta Barnard, his librarian, and published in five large folio volumes between 1820 and 1829. This magnificent catalogue, sumptuously printed by William Bulmer and William Nicol, was not available for sale and was a well-known rarity by the mid-nineteenth century. I failed to obtain it then and have been searching for it ever since. Earlier this year a set containing the even more elusive sixth volume, which describes the maps, prints, and drawings,



Sir Frederick Augusta Barnard.

was listed for sale by Jonathan A. Hill of New York and a phone call to his cell phone (I distrust e-mail for critical communication) secured the prize. In due course three very large heavy parcels arrived in my office, the purchase having been made possible by the David Nicholls Memorial Fund.

A great deal has been written about the long life and reign of George III. In the popular mind he is chiefly remembered for “losing” the American colonies, and for the madness which clouded the end of his reign. He was sometimes known to his contemporaries as “Farmer George” but he was also a sophisticated patron of the arts, including painting and music. His great cultural accomplishment, however, was the formation of his library, the size and significance of which places him squarely in the company of the Duke of Roxburghe, Earl Spencer, Richard Heber, and Thomas Grenville as one of the great bibliophiles of his age, or, indeed, any other age.

When George III ascended the throne in 1760 at the age of twenty-two he did not inherit much of a library. His grandfather, George II, had donated what came to be known as the “Old Royal Library” to the fledgling British Museum in 1757. Even before he began his own collection, George III became a donor to the Museum in 1762, when he purchased and turned over the 2008 volumes of Thomason Tracts containing 22,235 pamphlets, new sheets and a few manuscripts, all from the period 1640 to 1660. On 8th January 1763 he began collecting in earnest with the purchase, for £10,000, of one of the collections formed by Joseph (Consul) Smith (1682?-1770), the long-time British representative in Venice. Smith had published a catalogue of the collection in 1755, an unusual feature of which was a whole section of “Præfationes et Epistolæ” describing the incunables. This collection was especially rich in editions of classical texts and examples of early European printing, with a not surprising emphasis on the work of Italian printers. It contained for instance the 1488 Florence Homer, and the first edition of Dante (1472), but also the 1462 Mainz Bible, printed on vellum.

This glorious beginning lay the foundation for a collecting policy that was followed for almost sixty years. The King

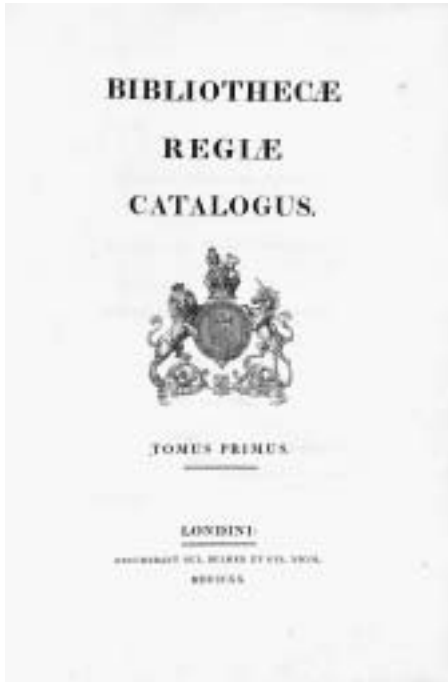


Frontispiece to vol. 1 of the *Bibliothecae Regiae Catalogus*.

did not buy more collections en bloc, but rather pursued individual acquisitions through the numerous auction sales in London and on the Continent. In 1768 he sent Frederick Barnard, who became his sole librarian in 1774 (but who was not, as was often rumoured, his natural half-brother) to Europe for three years to collect on his behalf. Before leaving Barnard consulted Samuel Johnson who was accustomed to read in the library, by then housed in the great octagon room in the Queen’s House (Buckingham Palace). Johnson responded with a long letter of advice, which was first published in Vol. I of the *Bibliothecae Regiae Catalogus*, and which included his vision of a Royal Library:

“... a Royal Library should have at least the most curious edition, the most splendid, and the most useful. The most curious edition is commonly the first, and the most useful may be expected among the last. Thus of Tully’s Offices, the edition of Fust is the most curious and that of Graevius the most useful. The most splendid, the eye will discern.”

Johnson’s interest in the King’s Library was quite personal as one of the memorable encounters of his life took place in the library at the Queen’s House. Boswell records that in February 1767 while Johnson was reading a book by the fire the King came into the room and engaged



Above: Title page of vol. 1 of the *Bibliothecæ Regiæ Catalogus*.
Centre and bottom: Two views of the great octagon room in the Queen's House (Buckingham Palace).

him in extensive conversation. When asked whether he was engaged in any particular literary project Johnson replied that he thought he had already done his part as a writer. "I should have thought so too, (said the King,) if you had not written so well". Johnson observed to Boswell that "no man could have paid a handsomer compliment; and it was fit for a King to pay. It was

decisive". When asked by another friend whether he had made any reply Johnson declared "No, Sir. When the King had said it, it was to be so. It was not for me to bandy civilities with my sovereign." He also remarked to Barnard; "Sir, they may talk of the King as they will; but he is the finest gentleman I have ever seen". The library was available for use even by those scholars whose views he disapproved, such as Joseph Priestly.

The collection and its royal progenitor were fortunate in the number and quality of the collections which appeared for sale during the last quarter of the eighteenth and first quarter of the nineteenth centuries. At the James West sale in 1773

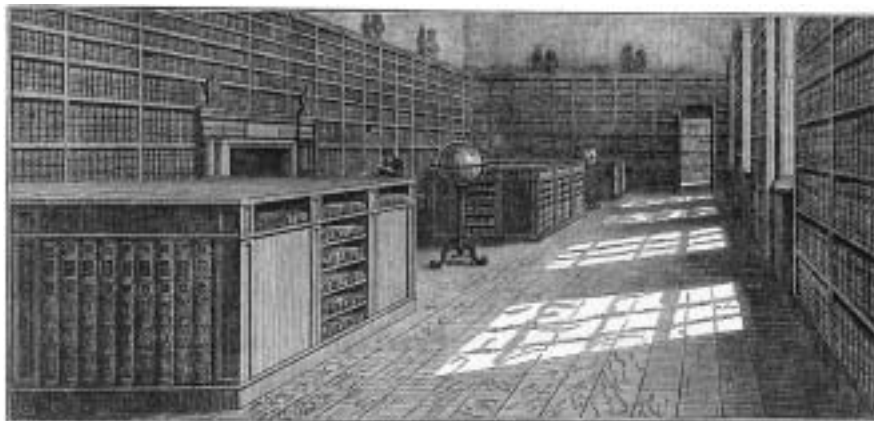
George Nicol was able to buy for him the 1460 *Catholicon* by Johannes Balbus (for £5/10/-) and most of the books printed by William Caxton, including the first edition of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (1476), which cost £47/16/6, the *Recuyell of the Histories of Troye* (1473), and Gower's *Confessio Amantis* (1483). The Anthony Askew sale in 1775 yielded more volumes of classical antiquity. Askew also owned the copy of the second folio of Shakespeare (1632) that had belonged to King Charles I, who had annotated the book on the eve of his execution "Dum Spiro Spero", and left it to Sir Thomas Herbert. George III was outbid by George Steevens on that occasion, but in 1800, at the Steevens sale Mr. Nicol secured it for him (for 18 guineas) and it remains in the Royal Library at Windsor. The sale of John Ratcliffe, a Southwark chandler whose interest in antiquarian books was said to have been aroused by the leaves he bought as wrapping for his wares, occurred in 1776 and more than fifty Caxtons came under the hammer. The King acquired some twenty of them, and so his library prospered. English literature was not neglected and at the sale of

land's sale in 1786 for the Bedford Book of Hours (or, Bedford Missal as it was then known) by James Edwards, the Pall Mall bookseller from the family of famous bookbinders of Halifax, who paid £213/3/-. At his sale in 1815 the King was out of the running and the Marquis of Blandford outbid John North with £687/15/-. The Bedford Hours did finally come to rest at the British Museum in 1852 (part of seven manuscripts for £3000) and remains one of the glories of the collection.

The library of George III, magnificent though it is (a Gutenberg Bible on paper which nicely complements Thomas Grenville's copy on vellum, the four Folios of Shakespeare etc.) was seen essentially by him as a working library, its purpose rather grandiloquently expressed by Barnard as "collected upon such a comprehensive and liberal design of embracing every species of knowledge, that the Possessor of it can call to his aid, upon any subject, all the Learning and Wisdom which the mind of man has hitherto communicated to the world". Its acquisition in 1823 raised the British Museum Library into a position of pre-eminence as one of the world's great national collec-

tions. The bequest of the Grenville Library in 1846 consolidated that position and provided the basis for Panizzi's transformation of the institution. George III's library had cost £120,000 of the king's own money, and no sovereign ever left a greater bibliographical legacy to his nation.

Richard Landon
Thomas Fisher
Rare Book Library



Richard Farmer in 1798 (the Shakespearean scholar whose chief interests were "old port, old clothes, and old books") he was able to fill a great many important gaps. He was not always successful and, indeed, was said to have refrained from bidding if he knew that a poor scholar required a particular book for research. He was, however, squarely outbid at the Duchess of Port-



The Hovevei Zion Tribute album presented to Moses Montefiore on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday



Sir Moses Montefiore

Moses Montefiore (1784-1885) was one of the greatest and best-loved statesmen and communal leaders in all of Jewish history. Born in Livorno in 1784 to an Italian-Jewish family that had settled in England in early eighteenth century, Montefiore belonged to the Sephardic Jewish aristocracy of the period. In 1803 at the age of nineteen he became one of the twelve Jewish brokers licensed by the City of London and was allowed to have a seat on the London Stock Exchange. He married Judith Cohen, sister-in-law of Meyer Amschel Rothschild. His firm acted as brokers for the Rothschilds, an association that brought Moses considerable wealth. His personal wealth enabled him to retire from the Exchange at the age of forty and devote himself to communal and other interests. He was among the founders of the Imperial Continental Gas Association, which extended gas lighting to the major cities of Europe. He was a fellow of the Royal Society, was elected sheriff of the City of London in 1837 and was knighted by Queen Victoria on her ascension to the throne. For forty years, from 1834-1874, he served as president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Montefiore visited the Land of Israel seven times between 1827 and 1875. He helped set up hospitals, agricultural settlements, built synagogues, residences and monuments. He helped the Jewish communities in Syria, Russia, Morocco, and Romania by intervening with their governments to alleviate the suffering and persecution of their Jewish citizens.

Sir Moses' philanthropic work on behalf of beleaguered and oppressed Jewish communities throughout the world brought him accolades and expressions of admiration and praise on many occasions. But no event in his life was marked with greater ceremony and outpourings of affection and admiration than his one-hundredth birthday, truly a remarkable milestone in anyone's life, but one which warranted special attention because of Sir Moses' stature in the Jewish world.

The Lovers of Zion

One of Montefiore's pet philanthropic projects was settlement in the Land of Israel. On his frequent visits to the Holy Land he lent financial and political support to the struggling new settlements. It is not surprising, therefore, that he should have been held in particularly high esteem by



Photograph of Sir Moses Montefiore. From the Hovevei Zion Tribute Album, 1884.

the members of the *Hovevei Zion* or Lovers of Zion movement. This movement which began in Russia and Poland after the Russian pogroms of 1881 had as its goals the establishment of settlements in the land of Israel, and the encouragement of immigration to build up the Jewish population. An independent state was still not even a dream. The movement struggled along throughout the 1880s and 1890s with only limited success. It was officially recognized by the Russian government in

1890. Eventually it was overtaken by the rising tide of the Political Zionist movement led by Theodore Herzl.

In order to facilitate planning and consolidate leadership and activities the *Hovevei Zion* sponsored several conferences. The first of these took place in Kattowitz (Katowice), Eastern Prussia (now Poland). The Warsaw group of *Hovevei Zion* presented a proposal for a settlement project in honour of Montefiore. It was originally intended that the conference coincide with the hundredth birthday of Montefiore which fell on 27 October, but the conference had to be delayed and was not held until 6 November of that year.

Among the fund-raising projects by the *Hovevei Zion* was the sale of a photograph of Montefiore along with a poem in his honour penned by the famous poet Judah Leib Gordon. Thousands of these were sold and funds used to support the settlements of the Biluim, or early settlers of the Land of Israel. This photograph featured in the album sponsored by the *Hovevei Zion* movement which was presented to him on his birthday.

The presentation was made at Ramsgate by David Gordon (1831-1886), the editor of one of the most influential Hebrew newspapers of the time, *ha-Maggid*, and an important spokesman for the *Hibbat Zion* (Love of Zion) movement.

The Tribute Album

The album contains paeans of praise to Montefiore and signatures of communal leaders of twenty Jewish communities, ten from Poland ten, from Russia. Poland is represented by the Warsaw community, which instigated this project, as well as Bialystok, Brest-Litovsk, Lublin, Mezritsh (miedzyrzec), Kovno (Kaunas), Mitau, Riga, Vilna (Vilnius), and Zgierz. Russian communities represented are: Ekaterinoslav, Minsk, Moscow, Odessa, Pinsk, Poltava, Rostov-na-Donu, Staro-Konstantinov, and Vinnitsa. Individual leaves were prepared and signed in the separate communities and then all were sent to Warsaw, where the album was put

together and bound. The binding is very ornate, decorated with wood-carvings in relief, including Montefiore's initials and coat of arms. Various biblical verses are included in the spaces between the carvings. The album is housed in a special wooden box, finished in leather. The binder, Numa Nirnstein, signed his work and was obviously very proud of it.

While this album is certainly important as a piece of Montefioriana, perhaps the most elaborate written tribute ever presented to the great man, it is arguably more important for the historical information it contains pertaining to the leadership of the *Hovevei Zion* movement and the communal structure and leadership makeup of the various communities represented in the album. The album contains some 1300 signatures from the twenty communities represented in it (the exact figure is difficult to determine as some of the signatures are run together and are often difficult to read). Some have only a few, others have over two hundred. The actual signatures can tell us who the leaders of the movement were. In some cases, the leaders are well known, in other cases less so. For instance, the Warsaw sheet includes the signatures of Saul Pinhas Rabinowitz, and Hayyim Zelig Slonimski. The former was the secretary of the *Hovevei Zion* Warsaw branch and the latter a well-known rabbi. Among the Vilna signatories is Samuel Jacob Fuenn, a well-known author and historian, and Rabbi Jacob Joseph, who later moved to New York City and attained prominence there.

In larger cities the leaders of various societies signed and affixed their seals, giving us an insight into the communal structure and the wealth of associations and charitable groups which existed in some communities. Thus for example, the sheet for Kovno (Kaunas) has the famous rabbi Isaac Elchanan Spektor as first signatory followed by various *dayyanim* (rabbinical court judges). For the community of Mitau there are signatures representing many cultural and philanthropic societies including: *Talmud torah* (supporters of Torah study), *Hevrat ba-nashim mish'an la-aniiyim* (the women's society for support of the poor), *Hevrah Tebilim* (society for saying psalms for the sick), *Hevrah le-kalkalat anshe ba-tsava be-ma'akhalot kesherot* (society for providing soldiers with kosher food), *Hevrat ba'e shabbat* (presumably, a society for

providing the poor with sabbath provisions), *hevrat pidyon shevuyim* (society for redeeming captives) and others. Among the fifteen societies and study-houses in Kovno are: *somekh noflim* (supporters of the fallen), *malbish arumim* (clothing the naked), *lehem la-aniiyim* (bread for the poor) and *tomkhei shabbat* (supporters of the sabbath).

The status of the signatories vis-à-vis *Hovevei Zion* is not always clear. Many sign on behalf of other organizations alongside the leaders of *Hovevei Zion*, and quite probably were not actually members of the movement. In all likelihood they simply took the opportunity offered by the *Hovevei Zion* initiative to pay homage to a beloved benefactor and statesman. Nevertheless, the willingness of these communal leaders to associate their names with this project sponsored by *Hovevei Zion* could be an indication of the broad sympathy and support the movement had among the leadership in various communities.

Historians and genealogists may find in these lists evidence of community members who are not attested in other sources. For some of the communities represented here, e.g. Kremenchug, Rostov-on-Don, Vinnitsa, there are no *yizker*-books (memorial books describing the community and listing important members,), so a list of names of communal leaders from the late nineteenth century is a precious find.

Furthermore, the number of signatures from each community, while indicative of its size can also give us some idea as to the strength of *Hovevei Zion* in that community. One hundred and twelve signatures from the little known community of Kremenchug is a significant historical witness. The additional fact that two of the signatories are rabbis, one a *rav mi-ta'am ba-memshalah*, a rabbi appointed by the government, and the other the rabbi of the Habad (Lubavitch Hasidic) community is intriguing. A comparison with historical works on the movement and its relative strength in various areas of Russia and Poland may necessitate revision of assessments of the relative strength and activity of the movement in these areas.

Provenance

The album, probably the most impressive tribute ever received by Sir Moses, was

presented to the Fisher Library several years ago by Mr. Albert Friedberg. How did it disappear from the library of the Montefiore estate and end up in the possession of Mr. Friedberg? We may never know the full answer to this puzzle. But suffice it to say that after Sir Moses' death, chaos reigned in his estate and unconscionable things were done to his archives and other records. Much of his personal correspondence was destroyed by his private secretary Louis Loewe, after he had published what he felt to be the most important letters among them. Of the two thousand letters of tribute presented to him on various occasions, only about four hundred remain. Most were destroyed. When the Montefiore Library was transferred to Jews' College many items seem to have disappeared. This album for instance is not listed in the *Catalogue of the Manuscripts of the Montefiore Library* published in 1904. I have only found one reference and brief description of it in a book on Montefiore published by S.U. Nahon in 1965.

Conclusion

The *Hovevei Zion* tribute album is a precious artifact attesting to the love and admiration felt towards Sir Moses among the broadest segments of the Jewish community, feelings which cut across denominational and political lines. At the same time it is a significant source of information about the leadership of the *Hovevei Zion* movement and about the makeup of many Jewish communities in Eastern Europe. Some of these communities are well-known and much studied; about others we know relatively little. This volume provides important primary source material about communal structure, levels of acculturation, patterns of leadership, identities of important figures in these communities, and much more. This enhances its value as a focus for primary research. The Fisher Library is proud to provide a home for this important historical document.

Barry Walfish
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

In Memoriam

Elizabeth M. Collard (1917-2001) and Edgar A. Collard (1911-2000)

Not all the great Friends of the Fisher Library regularly attend the lectures and exhibition openings that constitute most of our programme of events. The Collards (and it is difficult to write of them separately) were absent physically because they lived in Ottawa and were disinclined to travel in their latter years. Elizabeth Collard (Betty to her many friends) died on New Years Eve 2001, having been pre-deceased by Edgar in the Fall of 2000. Their interest in, and concern for, the collections of the Fisher Library have resulted in a wonderful series of gifts of books and manuscripts and a bequest of an endowment fund that will ensure that the collections continue to grow.



Edgar and Betty were Montreal people, with deep roots in the Anglo culture of Quebec. Edgar was born and raised in Montreal and spent his career in journalism with the *Montreal Gazette*, acting as its Editor for many years. Most remarkably he wrote a weekly column for the *Gazette* called "All Our

Yesterdays", a series based on his collection of Canadiana, especially in its ephemeral forms. His column appeared every week for fifty-six years without a break. Betty's field was the history of ceramics in Canada and she wrote the authoritative book on the subject. She was especially interested in the importation of English blue-and-white ware into Canada during the nineteenth century and collected an internationally renowned assemblage of pieces for use in her research. Both Collards were members of the Order of Canada.

The Collards moved to Ottawa in the 1970s and first visited the Fisher Library over twenty years

ago. Since then we have maintained close contact and it is sad to realize that we can no longer look forward to tea and conversation in their book and porcelain filled apartment in Ottawa. Their legacy, however, lives on and will be fulfilled, as they had decided all those years ago.



Our Summer Exhibition

Expectations and Experience: The World of the Medieval and Renaissance Traveller continues the travel theme of our previous exhibition, *Mirabilia Urbis Romae*. The exhibition is mounted in conjunction with a symposium sponsored by the Humanities Centre at the University of Toronto, and is held on the occasion of the 2002 Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities. The Congress, which has not been held in Toronto since 1974, will bring together approximately eight thousand delegates from one hundred scholarly associations over an eight day period (May 25 – June 1). Curated by Pam Gravestock, the Associate Co-ordinator for Congress 2002, the exhibition explores the theme of the cultural encounter of east and west.

The exhibition is divided into three thematic streams. The first, entitled 'The classical inheritance: theory and applica-

tion', explores the way in which medieval and Renaissance geographers mapped their world, drawing upon geographical theory based on ancient Greek sources as transmitted by fundamental classical Latin works such as Pliny's *Natural History*, Solinus' *Collectanea rerum memorabilium*, and Macrobius' *In Somnium Scipionis*. The second section, 'Tabula scripta: the East', illustrates the way in which the west's conception of the east was shaped through a body of travel literature from the late Medieval period, that focuses on the fabulous and mysterious East, a term used generically to refer to India, Ethiopia and Asia. These works, which circulated widely in manuscript, took the form of pilgrimage accounts, wonder books, and missionary and merchant accounts — the most famous and enduring being those by Sir John Mandeville and Marco Polo. Like the east, the new world was geographi-

In Memoriam

Hannibal Noce (1915-2001)

Another close Friend of the Fisher Library who we had not seen in Toronto for some years was Hannibal Noce, who died in Vancouver on 6th October 2001. He had been a Professor of Italian Literature at the University of Toronto for many years and a notable benefactor to the collections of the Fisher Library for much of that period. Hannibal's special field was seventeenth, and eighteenth-century Italian drama, his edition of Martello setting the scholarly standard.

He also, in some senses, represented an old-fashioned kind of book collecting which has had a significant impact on institutional research collections. When he came to the University of Toronto the fact that the collections of Italian literature were good, but not outstanding, provided him with an incentive to collect the primary sources in his specialized area. He also had bibliophilic impulses and was fortunate to be able to travel to Italy and other parts of Europe when the books he sought were plentiful and inexpensive. He had the charming and useful habit of leaving the prices he had paid in his books so that later generations can marvel at the bargains that were to be had all those years ago.

Hannibal was born in Italy, but raised in the North Beach area of San Francisco, where his neighbour was Joe DiMaggio. In Toronto he lived elegantly at 45 Prince Arthur surrounded by his books and art. He liked good food and good wine, and his pipe and his ancient Mercedes. In retirement, however, he fell in love with Vancouver and never tired of extolling the sunsets. His final gift, delivered by his executor, was, very appropriately, the 1623-35 edition of Martello's *Opere*.

cally and culturally removed from the familiar lands of Europe. The third section, 'Tabula rasa', explores the way in which many of the tales traditionally associated with the east were transposed to these new lands. Included here are early accounts of the new world such as Sebastian Munster's *Cosmographia Universalis*, as well as examples of the way in which cartographers began to re-work their world maps to reflect new information received from explorers.

The exhibition will be on display at the Fisher Library from 21 May to 30 August. An illustrated catalogue will be available.



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We thank all members who wish to remain anonymous.

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Exhibitions 2002~2003

Exhibition hours:

9 ~ 5 Monday to Friday

All exhibition openings begin at 5:00 p.m.

21 May – 30 August

Expectations and Experience: The World of the Medieval and Renaissance Traveller

7 October – 20 December

The University of Toronto: Snapshots of its History

Exhibition opening Tuesday 29 October

3 February – 2 May

Henry Vizetelly: His Life and Career

Exhibition opening Tuesday 11 February

Planned Events 2002~2003

All lectures begin at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday 10 October

The John Seltzer and Mark Seltzer Memorial Lecture

“Reflections on Rarity”

Bruce Whiteman, Librarian of The William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA.

Monday 25 November

The Alexander C. Pathy Lecture on the Book Arts

“Typography and the Digital Cartier”

Rod McDonald, type designer and lecturer at Ontario College of Art.

Wednesday 26 February

The David Nicholls Memorial Lecture

“Elective Affinities: Private Collectors & Special Collections in Libraries”

Alice Schreyer, Director of Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Thursday 27 March

The Gryphon Lecture on the History of the Book

“Artist Between Two Worlds: John Buckland Wright”

Roderick Cave, author of *The Private Press* and many articles on the private press and fine printing.

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.

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

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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.

The

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