
EX LIBRIS NEWS

Newsletter of the Ex Libris Association

Fall 1991 (Number 10)

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Editor: John F Macpherson, London

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This newsletter includes our invitation to the 6th annual meeting of the Ex Libris Association. Once again we are indebted to the Ontario Library Association for making it possible for us to hold our meeting in conjunction with their annual conference.

This year's program promises a varied view of parts of our library history by interesting and knowledgeable guests.

In keeping with our attempt to broaden our membership, copies of the newsletter, with an invitation to come to the annual meeting and/or join Ex Libris, are being mailed to potential members. We would welcome your help in passing on this invitation to anyone we have missed.

Looking forward to seeing you in Hamilton on November 14.

Betty D. Hardie, President

EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue of the News consists of some preliminary information about the upcoming Annual General Meeting and items from various sources which hopefully will be of interest. Kathleen Mathews' biographical essay on Freda Waldon follows very nicely on Katharine Greenfield's address to the members at the 4th AGM on her published history of Hamilton Public Library which appeared in Number 8 of the News. It seems appropriate that one of this year's conference speakers, Dr James J. Talman, should be associated with two items in this issue - "Temples of Democracy" and "John Davis Barnett" - which relate to The University of Western Ontario. The editor's thanks go to Deane Kent for his informative essay on his retirement activities.

In conclusion, the usual plea - please contribute!! There is more than Southwestern Ontario in the sphere of Ex Libris.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD

At press time the Nominations Committee was still at work.
The slate of Board Members will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Please note that the mailing address of the Association is:

Ex Libris Association
PO Box 536, Station Q
Toronto, ON
M4T 2M5

CONSTITUTION
of the
EX LIBRIS ASSOCIATION

I. Name

1. The name shall be Ex Libris Association.

II. Objects

1. To provide a forum for interested individuals to come together to stimulate memories of library history, publishing and consulting in Canada for the development of archival collections.
2. To provide a vehicle for the collection of oral histories related to library history in Canada not currently being taped.
3. To identify and ensure collection of materials related to library history in Canada which are not at present collected, organized, or preserved by any other organization.
4. To encourage persons and institutions possessing archival materials related to library history in Canada to preserve and publicize their holdings.
5. To provide a focus for the ongoing intellectual and social activities of retired members of the library community.

III. Members

1. Any person whose career has been chiefly in libraries or in the field of publishing, or in books or related fields is eligible for membership.

IV. Meetings

1. An annual meeting shall be held at a time and place to be decided by the Board.
2. The Board shall meet at least twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall.

V. Board

1. The Board shall consist of officers: Past-President, President, and Secretary-Treasurer and eight other members to be elected at the annual meeting.
 - A. The three officers shall be elected annually and shall be eligible for re-election.
 - B. The eight other members shall serve for a term of two years in an overlapping sequence, with four members retiring annually. They shall be eligible for re-election once.
2. If a vacancy occurs on the Board, the Board may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. A member of the board who has been appointed to fill a vacancy shall be eligible for nomination at the completion of the unexpired term.

Approved: November 6, 1986
Ammended: November 19, 1987
Ammended: November 21, 1990

BY-LAWS

1. (a) There shall be three categories of personal membership fees:

Regular membership	\$ 10.00
Sustaining membership	\$ 20.00
Life membership	\$200.00

(b) There shall be an annual subscription fee for persons, organizations or institutions that wish to support the Association and receive the Ex Libris News at \$20.00.

(c) The principal amount of life membership fees is to be invested in term deposits or other appropriate instruments. The interest is to go into the general fund for operating expenses. If the Ex Libris Association should cease to exist, this special fund shall be transferred to the Canadian Library Association to be used in a scholarship fund.
2. Membership shall be for the calendar year.
3. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board at its spring meeting to bring in a slate of proposed officers and Board members, to be presented to the annual meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor. All nominees must give their consent orally.
4. Newly elected officers and other board members shall assume office on January 1 of the next calendar year.
5. For meetings of the Board: a majority shall constitute a quorum.
6. For the annual meeting: fifteen percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.
7. The Constitution may be amended at the annual meeting provided notice of such proposed amendment is sent out one month before the annual meeting.
8. By-laws may be amended at the annual meeting without prior notice.

Approved: November 6, 1986
Ammended: November 9, 1989
Ammended: November 21, 1990

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Although the majority of our present members have retired from service in librarianship, membership is open to others interested in the program of the Association as it refers to library history. Enquiries about membership should be directed to the Association's office.

FREDA FARRELL WALDON, 1898-1973, by Kathleen R. Mathews
(The Biographical Introduction from Waldon, Bibliography of Canadiana Published in Great Britain, 1519-1763. Rev. and ed. by W.F.E. Morley. Ottawa, National Library of Canada, © 1990 Reprinted by permission of Dr. M. Scott, National Librarian)

"The right person, in the right place, at the right time." Although Albert Bowron wrote those words about Freda Farrell Waldon in connection with her share in the long campaign to establish a National Library for Canada, they may with equal justice be applied to many other aspects of her life.

She was born in Winnipeg on 29 August, 1898, but always considered herself a daughter of Hamilton, where she lived from the age of one year. Her mother's family had settled in Hamilton in 1827; her great-grandfather, William Hardy, built the first stone courthouse in Hamilton, the first firehall, and the first city hall. The third generation of her family to attend Central Public School, she went onto the Hamilton Collegiate Institute, and then to the University of Toronto, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1919. The first position of which we have any record was that of assistant employment manager for the Imperial Cotton Company. Here one of her responsibilities was editing and contributing articles to the company organ, The Fabricator. She resumed her education at Columbia University in the fall semester of 1924, completing the course work for an M.A. in English in the 1925-26 academic year. Alexander Henry (the elder) was the subject of her thesis, completed in 1930, and her degree was awarded in 1931.

In the meantime Miss Waldon had returned to Hamilton due to her mother's ill health and, fortunately for Canadian librarianship, took a position as a substitute in the Circulation Department of the Hamilton Public Library in November, 1926. The following January she was appointed head of the Cataloguing Department. At this time the Hamilton Public Library was in the throes of a reorganization along modern lines, necessitated by a devastatingly critical report by the inspector of public libraries, W.O. Carson, in 1922. Although some progress had already been made, there remained much to be done and the new staff member joined the fray with enthusiasm. A lack of formal library training was no hindrance; only the

then chief librarian, Miss Lurene McDonald (Mrs. Norman W. Lyle), had a full year of professional education, and for this omission at that time an academic background more than compensated. Only two other recruits to the staff had university degrees; few had even the basic three-month course in librarianship. However, it was not long before she herself recognized the need for professional knowledge, and in 1930 Miss Waldon obtained leave of absence for two years, first to attend the School of Librarianship at the University of London, from which she received her diploma in 1931, and secondly, to take up a Carnegie Fellowship in 1931-32, in order to prepare a bibliography of Canadiana published in Great Britain up to 1763.

This research topic was chosen in consultation with W. Stewart Wallace, then librarian at the University of Toronto, who supported her application for a Carnegie Fellowship. Miss Waldon worked extensively at the British Museum and her original work slips, with the source of information noted on the reverse, attest to her careful attention to bibliographic detail. Although she did not consider herself a "real" bibliographer, she much enjoyed the pursuit of answers to the puzzles set by variant copies and editions of some of the relevant titles. Most entertaining of the many bibliographies and lists checked was the transcript of the Stationers' Register from 1557 to 1640; possibly the thrill of coming across the first item associated with Shakespeare was recompense for the frustration of finding records of licenses issued for the printing of broadsides and ballads in her field which had long since perished. She also had access to a number of other libraries in London, as well as the Bodleian, Cambridge University Library, the National Library of Scotland, the John Rylands Library in Manchester, and Sir Leicester Harmsworth's collection.

On her return to Canada she was once again caught up in the task of transforming the catalogue of the Hamilton Public Library from a very

unreliable tool into one so useful and complete that she could consider it to be one of the achievements for which she would wish to be remembered. The other was the book collection, a testament to her belief that "the aim of public libraries is to build good collections and to organize them for use," and it was a lasting grief that straitened circumstances during the Great Depression had deprived the collection of the second copy of good titles necessary if they were to survive.

In spite of her demanding duties as chief cataloguer, Miss Waldon did not neglect the bibliography. In 1933 she visited the Public Archives in Ottawa, the New York and Detroit public libraries, and the Newberry Library in Chicago. She also worked with a private collection in Hamilton, and checked references to such distant libraries as the Huntington in California by mail. The following year she again used her holidays for this work concentrating on the Toronto Public Library's Bibliography of Canadiana, the depository catalogue of the Library of Congress, the catalogue of Queen's University Library, and Philéas Gagnon's catalogue for the Montreal Public Library. In the spring of 1935 she took a leave of absence for four months and returned to England to put her work in shape, and in September the Canadian Historical Review published "Queen Anne and 'The Four Kings of Canada': A Bibliography of Contemporary Sources," based on the materials she had found of what she considered a most amusing body of literature, the visit of four Indian chiefs to Queen Anne in 1710. Any hope of having the manuscript published in its entirety vanished with the outbreak of war.

By February 1940, Miss Waldon did not expect to find many more titles of importance, and had typed up most of her original slips, one item and its attendant notes to each sheet, thus allowing for the insertion of other titles later. She planned to use part of her vacation that year to finish typing her latest entries, mainly the result of her work at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, Rhode Island. Presumably sheets for any new items gained from the completion of Sabin's Dictionary of Books Relating to America were already

prepared. Increasing responsibilities relating to the recurring illness of the chief librarian, and to the year spent as the head of the largest branch which had been closed for three years because of the Depression, had left her with little time or energy for the bibliography. This had been a worry to her and it must have been a great relief to feel that she had done all that she could with the sources then available to her.

Freda Waldon became the acting chief librarian of the Hamilton Public Library in June 1940 and was appointed to the position on 1 October. World War II was already changing the demands made upon the library, and immediate tasks were to make the library responsive to the needs of the expanding war industries and to provide information for every type of war effort. Equally important was the response to an anxious and, at times disheartened population, first by instilling pride through organizing an exhibition of everything that was accomplished in Hamilton during the 1914-18 war, and secondly, by providing reading that would offer refreshment and respite from the war. She was one of the first to show a concern to help the foster parents of British Child Guests. In addition, she expected her staff to show calm and confident faces and to discourage gloomy talk.

Miss Waldon's administration of the Hamilton Public Library was marked by a steady growth in prestige and usefulness. During the war years and afterwards serious attention was paid to increasing the library's holdings so that, before her retirement, the collection was the fourth largest in a public library in Canada, circulation had grown to the third largest, and a nation-wide reputation had been gained for the quality of the reference service offered. Equally arduous but less successful was the effort to keep pace with the expanding city. In 1948-49 a modern branch library on Hamilton Mountain replaced a long outgrown rented store, and in the never-to-be-forgotten period from August 1951 to November 1952, the main library was completely renovated to make better use of available space. Survivors were proud to recall that service was disrupted for less than two weeks.

In those days of few, if any, libraries in grade schools, Miss Waldon became an expert at pleading

successfully the reading needs of children before board of control, emphasizing the danger that in some districts they would grow up without the enrichment in their lives which a library can bring. Over the years she was able to open four small children's branches in outlying schools, and to establish a system of book boxes for selected grades in other schools more than a mile from a branch. Possibly the memory of her own childhood search for good reading in a library with just a few shelves for children, where she considered herself lucky to find a "pennyworth of good reading among an intolerable deal of tripe," lent eloquence to her pleas for additional funds for juvenile books. It was not as easy to persuade Council that adults too were entitled to library service within reasonable distance from their homes, and it was not until late in 1956 that the travelling branch went on the road, stopping at schools and shopping centres, and serving both children and adults. It was located at, and shared the staff and adult book collection of, the modern and attractive Western Branch Library, opened in June 1957, which also housed the Schools Branch. This combination of services exemplified Dr. Waldon's concern to build only where the size of the population justified the expense of full-time staff and a satisfactory book collection. Her last project along these lines was the planning of a replacement for the city's first branch library, which had given service for almost fifty years in a former YMCA building. Not complete until a few months after her retirement, it bears her trademark of providing an attractive and serviceable building without extravagance.

Dr. Waldon's view of library service to the community extended far beyond the provision of information and good reading. With Dr. C.H. Stearn, director of Extension Services of McMaster University, she organized Hamilton's first adult education conference in 1942. Thirty-five organizations sent representatives and from this grew the Hamilton Adult Education Council, which had a positive influence in many areas of the community. Its first accomplishment was to persuade the Board of Education to re-establish their English classes for the foreign-born. The council shared her view of adult education as any leisure time activity with some intellectual or

artistic content; it established a study group on postwar reconstruction and worked vigorously, but unsuccessfully, towards the building of a civic centre. It also began the agitation which resulted in a new art gallery for Hamilton, opened in 1953, this gallery has already been outgrown, razed, and replaced. Dr. Waldon also helped to found the Hamilton Recreation Council and the Hamilton branch of the National Film Forum, which she served as programme chair for several years. In 1950 she initiated the first Programme Planners Institute in Canada, held at the Hamilton Public Library, at which was presented, with co-operation of several other organizations, a survey of the resources of the community and the services of the library.

Books and bookmobiles, buildings and a catalogue - however perfect the last might be - and excellent community programming were not the only requirements for the kind of library service Dr. Waldon wished to offer. She was well acquainted with the principles of good personnel practices and had a sincere concern for the well-being of her staff. She worked long and hard to raise salaries to an adequate level, and to produce an equitable classification and pay plan; she was warmly appreciative of staff efforts and considered it important that their work should not be so tiring that they would not enjoy it; she tried always to make working conditions as comfortable as possible while maintaining high standards of public service. Firmly committed to the belief that the first principle of library service is to know one's community and to provide the materials that the citizens need to help them in their daily lives, Dr. Waldon's aim was to instill this principle in all staff members. They admired and respected their chief and were proud of her accomplishments.

From the beginning of her library career Freda Waldon was active in professional organizations. Even before she attended the School of Librarianship she became a charter member of the Ontario Regional Group of Cataloguers and was elected to the executive. Elected again on her return to Canada, she served as chair for the 1935-36 year. A position as councillor of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) followed and in due course she served as president, 1941-42, and

organized the 1942 conference in Hamilton around the theme of public relations. Over the years she served on every major OLA committee and was either convener or chair of those dealing with war libraries, library records, salaries, and the provincial library. She was also a member of the special committee appointed in 1945 to revise the brief, "Library Needs in the Province of Ontario," and headed the delegation which presented it to the Royal Commission on Education. When the OLA Executive needed "someone with lots of experience and uncommonly good judgement in the interests of the profession" as chair of a new committee to make an award to librarians who give valuable service to the profession, Freda Waldon was their unanimous choice.

For many years Dr. Waldon was a tireless worker in the campaign for the organization of a national association of librarians and the provision of a national library service. Known and respected across the country for what Dr. F. Dolores Donnelly recognized as her "professional experience, breadth of interest, an active social conscience, and a great capacity for single minded devotion to an idea or a cause," she was the natural choice of her fellow librarians for the demanding position of first president of the Canadian Library Association. Elected at the organizational conference held in Hamilton in June 1946, Dr. Waldon and other members of the council began their work towards a National Library by inviting representatives from learned societies and other national organizations to join in planning a campaign that could not fail to produce an immediate response from the federal government. The final outcome of this meeting was a detailed and comprehensive brief, prepared by representatives of the Canadian Library Association, the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Political Science Association, the Canadian Historical Association, and the Social Science Research Council of Canada. For the first time the government was fully informed of the purpose of a national library, of its functions, and of its potential benefit to the people of Canada. Included also was the practical suggestion that the National Library start with much needed services, and that the building itself be delayed until a later

time convenient for the government. Although chair of the committee which prepared the brief, Dr. Waldon took no credit for it, citing the contributions of the more than fifty persons consulted. It is unnecessary to repeat here the record of her major involvement in the eventually successful campaign; this has been amply covered in F. Dolores Donnelly's history, The National Library of Canada. In her own words she "walked on air for the first few days after the news came out," the news being the appointment of Dr. W. Kaye Lamb as dominion archivist with the special assignment of laying the foundations of the National Library, and a copy of the typed sheets of her bibliography was the first gift to the new institution. Her part in this long campaign, both in an official capacity and as a private citizen, was cited in May 1954, when she received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from McMaster University in recognition of her contribution to Canadian librarianship. It was recognized also in two appointments to the National Library Advisory Council.

In addition to these services to her provincial and national associations, Dr. Waldon served for four years on the American Library Association Council and for three years as a director of the ALA Division of Public Libraries. She attended ALA midwinter meetings for a number of years and always returned with new ideas for services or programmes to be considered at the library.

In her tribute to Freda Waldon on the occasion of her retirement, Board chair Mrs. Mabel Taylor referred to her support of every cultural activity in the city. Ten years earlier a previous chair, Dr. Lawrence Cragg, had similarly acknowledged "the contribution she makes in so many ways to the cultural life of the city - and indeed of the province and dominion." Neither writer exaggerated. Dance, film, fine arts, history, international and public affairs, nature, recreation, and the theatre, all were of vital importance to this "Renaissance woman" as she was called during the bestowal of one of her several honours. During her early years in Hamilton there were few cultural amenities and she worked during her lifetime to make the city a place where "one could live the good life with beautiful things to do and a great variety of human

nature to observe and take delight in." Although one result of her involvement would be that the services offered by the library could become well known in all areas of the community, Dr. Waldon's personal interests were equally well served. As a founding member of the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society she promoted research about the early days of the community to which she was deeply committed. She was also a founding member of the Women's Committee of the Art Gallery of Hamilton. Her "more than thirty-five years of active membership and staunch support of the ideals and aspirations of the United Nations and its antecedent, the League of Nations" were recognized by the Hamilton branch of the association in naming her the first recipient of their Award for Meritorious Service. Her concern for the preservation of Hamilton's architectural treasure made her a natural choice for membership on the Dundurn Castle Restoration Committee, and she was responsible for much of the historical research which preceded the restoration of the fine Regency mansion of Sir Allan MacNab, one-time premier of Upper Canada. After its completion she continued to serve as a member, and ultimately chair, of the Dundurn Castle Committee, a position held almost until her death.

Although space does not permit even a listing of the many organizations of which she was a valued member, mention must be made of the Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science, and Art, of which she became the first woman secretary in 1941 and, in 1955, the first woman president in its ninety-eight year history. Her presidential address was a brilliant review, "The Massey Report: Three Years After." For many years too she enjoyed the Discussion Group of this association, at which members in turn researched and discussed literary and political issues of the day.

On the national scene, she served on the councils of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, the Canadian Institute on Public Affairs, and the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through UNESCO.

Freda Waldon was one of those fortunate persons whose career provides them with the opportunity to do those things they most enjoy.

Being "one of those who find greatest satisfaction in putting words together so they sound well than in almost anything else in life," she enjoyed public speaking and did it very well. She was in demand not only at library conferences but also by numerous other organizations. Naturally her topics frequently concerned library matters, but her other interests were also reflected. A travelogue on Greece in 1932 was a forerunner of several in later years when she had the opportunity to visit many distant countries. "The Status of Women," "Adult Education and Town Planning," "Hamilton as We Want It," all found receptive audiences, as did several accounts of the report of the Massey Commission. Trans-Canada broadcasts on the need for a national library and on the first hundred years of the Hamilton Association gave her a wider audience than the listeners to the local stations, where she spoke on various occasions about library affairs. She was also expert in the give-and-take of discussion and no long and embarrassing silence ever followed a request for questions and comments if Dr. Waldon was in the audience.

She was equally effective in print. Although she had a story published in Saturday Night and won both an award for a short story in her teens and a Canadian Forum competition for a "short, short" vacation story in 1937, her real gift lay in the clear exposition of the principles, services, and ideas in which she believed. She was a frequent contributor to professional journals and other periodicals, and wrote articles on the history of the Hamilton Public Library for The Hamilton Centennial, 1846-1946 and on several occasions for the Hamilton Spectator. She contributed the entry on Alexander Henry (the elder) to the Encyclopedia Canadiana and the article on Archibald Macallum to Volume X of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography. A larger work was The History of the First Hundred Years of the Hamilton Association, 1857-1957.

It is in her files of correspondence that those who worked closely with Freda Waldon can still hear her voice. Detailed replies of practical advice were sent to fellow librarians who needed information about such items as book cards or buildings, staff training, or supplies of furniture. Residents of small communities received a regretful refusal of direct mail service, an

explanation of inter-library loans, and an exposition of the great need for and value of a provincial library service; indeed the whole long story of a campaign for a provincial library, in which she played so important a role, can be gleaned from her correspondence of the period. Courteous pressure for the full payment of provincial grants was included in a grateful acknowledgement to the minister of education of the new regulations which increased them but did not provide full funding. Congratulatory letters were sent for new appointments or new publications; warm encouragement for a young author may be contrasted with a firm rebuke to an established one who depicted librarians as drab and uninspired. A long essay on public libraries and their place in adult education went to the director of the Department of Education after the appointment of an Adult Education Board consisting only of university members! Some insight into the breadth of her interests can be gained by a glance through her letters to the editor of various newspapers; and periodicals over the years. An especially fine issue of the Canadian Historical Review is commended; the Library Journal's reference to the American Library Association as the world's first library association is courteously refuted with a description of the Association of Mechanics Institutes of Ontario; the destruction of wild flowers, the loss of green space, the demolition of historic buildings, are all deplored. The Saturday Review receives a suggestion about its Doublecrossics competition and Saturday Night an appreciation of Robertson Davies. Whatever the topic, the writer's point of view is expressed forthrightly and without unnecessary length. Equally revealing are the annual Christmas reports sent out to her wide circle of friends for over fifteen years. Mixed in with accounts of major professional events are those of her major pleasures: travel with one or more close friends and/or her sister, Mabel Thompson; visits with or from good friends, of whom she had so wide a circle; Nice Long Walks in the Nice Fresh Air; art lessons; the Couchiching Conference; and the recurring theme of visits to the theatre.

This last was among her greatest pleasures,

both as a participant and a spectator. According to a contemporary review of her first recorded vehicle, a one-act play during her collegiate years, she possessed "real histrionic ability" and evoked applause from the audience whenever she appeared on stage. In Toronto she acted with the University College Alumnae Dramatic Club, and, on her return to Hamilton, won praise as the director of the Blue Triangle Players in a group of three one-act plays. As a student in London she made time, not only to attend the theatre regularly but also to send home to a local newspaper, The Herald her "London Letters" which included criticism and appreciation of current productions. Some of her happiest memories were of her acting days with the Attic Theatre Club, which disbanded in the early days of World War II. Although she did not act again, and her ballet lessons were strictly for exercise, she continued to attend performances whenever they were available. An ardent supporter of national theatre, she was writing to promote this cause in The Canadian Student thirty years before the Stratford Festival gave aspiring Canadian actors an opportunity to remain at home. The November 1944 issue of Saturday Night included another plea for a national theatre, not a building but a Canadian equivalent of Britain's Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts, to take responsibility for ensuring that Canadian dramatists would have an opportunity to try out their talents on a Canadian stage and that gifted Canadian actors would not have to leave the country to become professional. Similarly, a warmly congratulatory letter to Vida Peene on her appointment to The Canada Council made a case, among other suggestions, for the encouragement of professional touring companies by guaranteeing travelling expenses for those which had already proved themselves in their own communities. She likened this to a subsidy to overcome Canada's distances, just as had been done for canals, freight rates, and the CBC.

Reading, too, was a delight. Although books were always important in her home, it was not until her grandfather's library card gave her access to the public library that she had enough to read. Since there was no real provision for children or young people it is interesting to examine a list of

almost five hundred books, recorded over several years of her youth, and to try to identify which titles reflect her own taste and which were read only for lack of something more suitable. Since her adult reading reflected her other activities it was widely diversified, and books on theatre, art, and the ballet vied for her time along with biography, history, new Canadian titles, and well-written fiction reflecting human experience.

Freda Waldon lived during an exciting period of Canadian librarianship, in the course of which she saw a profession "created by unself-seeking people out of janitorial and clerical jobs." It is a sad loss to the literature of the profession that she did not accept Jack McClelland's serious suggestion that she should write her memoirs as a Canadian librarian to include her professional career, her views on librarianship, its future development, and the standards and principles needed. There is no hint among her papers that she gave any consideration to this idea, either in 1966 or in the year preceding her death when it was again proposed. What a treasure house of information, inspiration, and wisdom we should have had!

ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION HONOURS ITS PAST PRESIDENTS

In 1990 the Ontario Library Association celebrated its 90th anniversary.

As part of the celebration at the annual conference all living past presidents were invited to be head table guests at the luncheon on Saturday, November 24 at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

Prior to lunch they were entertained in the president's suite and each was presented with a paper weight engraved with the name and dates of office of the recipient.*

Many of those honoured are members of Ex Libris and the following were present: Lachlan Macrae 1949-51, Isobel McLean 1953-54, Mary Silverthorn 1956-57, John Snell 1958-59, C. Deane Kent 1959-60, Betty D. Hardie 1960-61, Albert Bowron 1966-67, Madge Allwood 1978-79. Other members of Ex Libris who were unable to attend are James J. Talmam 1945-46 and Louise Schryver 1961-62.

*The same souvenirs are to be presented to all future past presidents.

EARLY RETIREMENT - A NEW LEASE ON LIFE, by C. Deane Kent

For many people early retirement can be a new lease on life. New activities and new interests can be developed and expanded in a way never considered possible before. When a person in the public library field determines that battling boards and councils constantly for funds for the emancipation of new ideas and for better public service without any apparent results, perhaps the time is at hand to try something different. After all we have been told a person may work at half a dozen varied jobs during his or her career. Early retirement can provide us with great opportunities.

I choose early retirement and I have never regretted it! I seem to be busier than ever before and on my own time!

Almost immediately on retirement I became responsible for the estates of four persons as committee (an old English word) or executor. In time all these people died and I had to settle their estates. A very interesting exercise. I learned why lawyers don't want to be committees - it doesn't pay enough! Little money for me but I learned a lot about the law and people. One of the persons that I looked after was my wife, Barbara, who, after

spending several years in a nursing home, died of Alzheimer's Disease. A very sad case for me and my family.

After Barbara's death I remarried: a fellow graduate of McMaster who had lost her husband in the late 70's. Both of us are also graduates of McGill and Margaret has the advantage of me because she has a PhD from the University of Ottawa. She taught English for a number of years at Sir George Williams University in Montreal. From the mid 80's until his death in 1989 (two weeks short of his 100th birthday) we would spend considerable time with Margaret's father in Hamilton travelling back and forth on 401 several times a year. (Dr. Waters had been one of my professors at McMaster.)

We have always tried to spend the winters in a warmer climate. We have been to Portugal four or five times, to Mexico, Greece and Crete, Spain, Morocco, Tunisia, Malta, California, Yugoslavia and, of course, the UK, France and Italy. Before we remarried I had been to Jamaica two or three times, Florida, Jordan, as well as some of the places mentioned above. And all of this after retirement.

I'm now on my sixth year on the Gloucester Public Library Board: chairman in 1988-89. I belong to several organizations - besides library associations - the Ottawa Historical Society, the Ontario Genealogical Society and I took my turn as trustee with the First Baptist Church, Ottawa, a family connection that has existed for well over 100 years.

Perhaps one of the most interesting activities that I have pursued since retirement is in writing and publishing. I have written and published three books. None of them will be best sellers, none will be made into a blockbuster film and I am not going to be nominated for a Nobel prize. I have gotten, however, considerable personal satisfaction out of the research involved in writing these works.

The Cone Family in Canada was written, almost on demand, because when I retired I returned to the Ottawa Valley where my maternal ancestors had settled in the late 1830's coming from New Hampshire. The demand arose from relatives still living in Pontiac County in Quebec as well as kin in Western Canada. In fact I made a special trip to

visit as many of my relatives as I could in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia in the late 70's. I obtained a great deal of information from these people with leads that I followed up in more documented form through census records, the IGI (International Genealogy Index) of the Church of Latter Day Saints, registry office records in Pontiac County, the Bureau of Intellectual Property (the Patent Office), municipal records in Pontiac County, the City of Hull, and records in various rural municipalities in Quebec and, finally, church records (Baptist and Wesleyan Methodist). I tried to "vacuum" all of the data I could in the National Library, the National Archives, as well as the Ontario Archives, university libraries, public libraries in five states and five provinces, museums, state libraries in New Hampshire and Connecticut - any place where I thought I might find a piece of information, a picture, a map or a lead. Very time consuming but patience is the essence of good detective work, I'm told!

The Manitoba Journal, 1885-1887, of William Moxham was my second book. A number of years ago cousins in England on my paternal side gave the journal to me knowing that I had an interest in Canadian history after my Uncle Will (by marriage) died. With more time on my hands, following retirement, I was able to edit the "Journal", very slightly I may say, and publish it.

I was in touch with as many Moxham's as I could locate as well as examining information in IGI. While in England a few times I visited the Public Record Office and, by correspondence, several county and borough offices. Of course there was some data in Manitoba census records that I used, as well as church records. (My Aunt Lydia, a Wesleyan Methodist, and Uncle Will, a member of the Salvation Army, were married in Winnipeg by a Baptist minister.) I located an article in Garden Life (22 July 1905) which provided much information about William's father, Ezra, who was a professional gardener. I met William on a number of occasions in England during the Second War years and, knowing what I know now, I wish I had sought some detailed information from him.

My third book Norfolk Spies in 1812 stemmed from an examination of Cone records in the National Archives. Riley Cone, 14 and illiterate,

came to Norfolk County, Ontario, in late June, 1812 from Connecticut. He saw a suspicious event involving a couple of Americans and he gave a deposition about his hunch to a magistrate. Riley is an amorphous character. Very little is known about him. He is not mentioned in any of the standard works, not in the IGI and not in William Cone's book (1905) about the Cone family. In census records for 1855 of New York State he and his family were living in Evans Township, but there is a big gap in his life between 1812 and 1855. I hope more information will turn up about him sometime as I pursue my interest in historical research.

My work as a writer involves research, writing, editing and publishing. (Retailing, warehousing and publicity are also involved.) Research gives me the greatest pleasure - finding information, looking for pictures and maps. (Often I have to draw my own maps - inadequately I may say.) My books are in many libraries both public and university in Canada and the USA. Some are even found in the UK and Australia. I draw a modest income from the Public Lending Fund and I'm still listed in Who's Who.

Yes, I have found early retirement gave me a new lease on life!

TEMPLES OF DEMOCRACY -Commentary

In the Spring 1991 issue of Ex Libris News Dr. John Wiseman's paper of the above title, and subtitle "A History of Public Library Development in Ontario, 1880-1920" was published. On page 5 of the newsletter he notes that "The appearance of subscription libraries after 1800 suggests that the demand for books and periodicals was increasing, and implies a reasonable level of literacy".

Dr. James J. Talman, formerly Chief Librarian of the University of Western Ontario and now Professor Emeritus in the Department

of History there, has reminded this editor that he (JJT) was Chief Advisor for an M.A. thesis in 1982 which dealt in some detail with the topic of this quotation. The author of the thesis was Jennifer Ruth Johnson; the thesis was entitled The Availability of Reading Material for the Pioneer in Upper Canada: Niagara District, 1792-1841.

The thesis Abstract is printed below and anyone interested in reading the full thesis may acquire it through regular ILL channels from The D.B. Weldon Library, The University of Western Ontario.

ABSTRACT

The thesis investigates the availability of reading material in the Niagara District of Upper Canada from 1792 to 1841. Descriptive and travel accounts indicated that reading was not a common activity at this time owing to the hardships and demands of frontier conditions. Study of other sources however, indicated that books were mentioned frequently as were newspapers and journals as subjects of interest. The focus on Niagara as a community revealed the presence of extensive collections of books in agricultural society, church and public libraries as well as private libraries. Newspapers published between 1799 and 1841 provided evidence of book materials through advertisements by auctioneers, book sellers and publishers. Literary extracts, poetry selections and editorial reviews provided substantial evidence of reading and the availability of print resources. The role of the editor as a promoter of literary pursuits was developed. Evidence of the abundance of print materials suggests that literary interests were well developed in the Niagara District.

(Note: The following historical sketch was found in the files of Beth Miller in the Co-operative Work-Study Program Office at SLIS following her untimely death on May 21, 1991. She gave this short paper at the unveiling of a plaque in honour of John Davis Barnett in his home town of Stratford, Ontario on October 5, 1985.)

JOHN DAVIS BARNETT

Let me share with you the history of this man who made a remarkable contribution to libraries and library associations in Canada.

It all began in 1866 when, as a young lad of sixteen years, John Davis Barnett arrived in Montreal as part of a group brought to Canada by the Grand Trunk Railway. Barnett came from a family of railroad engineers, at age 16 he had already learned the basic elements of draughting. He advanced quickly, eventually becoming head of the draughting room of the Montreal GTR shops, where he drew the plans for the first coal-fired locomotive in Canada.

His forty-year career in railway engineering took him to many parts of Canada and the United States as a specialist in the design of buildings and worksites. He first went to Stratford in 1880, and, except for a four-year absence from 1884-1888, remained there until 1918.

When Barnett left England in 1866, he carried with him his most valuable possessions: a gift of half-a-dozen or so books, including a single volume containing the works of Shakespeare, given to him as a parting gift. It was his love of books, and particularly the works of Shakespeare, that led to his life-long hobby or second career: that of book collecting.

During his life time, Barnett was an avid collector of books and amassed a large library of over 40,000 titles and "bundles" of clippings and pamphlets on all topics and ideas he could find. He had chosen to live near his work at the GTR shops in Stratford, and in buying his house at 29 Douro Street, thought he had picked a house large enough to house his vast collection. However, he soon found it necessary to add a wing to the west side of the house, and bundles were stored in a barn on the property.

This was a remarkable private collection: it contained incunabula, early Canadiana (a Fleury Mesplet work published in Montreal in 1776),

books of voyages and travels in Canada and North America, books on philosophy, religion, agriculture, medicine, British history, English literature, botany, witchcraft ... the list is endless, and it drew much interested attention from fellow collectors, interested researchers and Canadian institutions. Barnett, himself, was anxious that his library go where it would be best used.

Consider this letter:

Civil Service Commission of Canada
Ottawa

January 12th, 1915

Dear Mr. Barnett:

I have just received your letter of yesterday, which I have read with interest. I shall be very pleased to talk over your problem with reference to the placing of your valuable collection of books in a proposed National Library, and their proper housing before such a library might be in condition to receive them.

I would be free for a talk almost any day within the next two weeks...

Yours sincerely,
Adam Shortt

Sometime later, Barnett made a will leaving his collection to McGill University in Montreal, but in 1918, he changed his mind and gave his entire Collection to The University of Western Ontario (In the late 1970's, the Barnett bundles were to go to the Public Archives of Canada). Barnett left Stratford and moved to London to become the Curator of the Barnett Collection. A much beloved figure on campus and in the City, Barnett received and honorary doctorate from Western in 1919. He lived in London until his death in 1926, always eager to talk with students about his collections.

Barnett was a strong-minded individual. He had his own method of organizing his library, and when, after 1902, he was appointed to the Stratford Library Board (he was soon elected Chairman), he insisted that the Dewey(sic) call numbers be placed on the right-hand side of the Catalogue cards in the public catalogue. He had his way, although the librarian placed them on the left-hand side of the shelf list. According to Jim Anderson, Perth County Archivist, this practice continued until the 1960's.

Barnett was a member of the Ontario Library Association and was a strong supporter of the idea of a National Library Association.

The wheel has come full circle. Barnett's home in Stratford has been purchased by four university professors with a common interest in Shakespeare. The four had got into the habit of bringing their students to the Stratford Festival, and, searching for a house to purchase which would provide accommodation for the students as well as room to hold seminars they chanced upon 29 Douro Street, home of an earlier Shakespearean enthusiast.

It was a great pleasure to participate in the ceremony held to salute this great Canadian and his role in library history.

RETIREMENTS

The Greater Vancouver Library Federation has established a book prize to honour two founding members, Alan Woodland of the New Westminster Public Library, and Enid Dearing, of North Vancouver District Public Library, who have retired after many years of service. The prize will be awarded to the top student in the public libraries course at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, the University of British Columbia.

John Dutton has retired from the Calgary Public Library where he has been the Director for twelve years. Mr. Dutton served North York Public Library Board as Chief Librarian from 1963 to 1977, a period of tremendous expansion for that system. He began his library career as Chief Librarian of the Lethbridge Public Library in 1953 before moving to North York and he held the same position at the Winnipeg Public Library for a shorter period before Calgary.

Pat Noonan, Assistant City Librarian of the Winnipeg Public Library and former CLA Council member has recently retired.

Flora Patterson, has retired from the National Library of Canada. Ms Patterson came to the National Library from the Hamilton Public

Library. After stints as a reference librarian and as chief of serials she became director of the Public Services Branch in 1973, a position she held until her retirement.

AWARDS

Pat Dewdney and Roma Harris, faculty members at SLIS, UWO, were awarded the 1991 "Jesse H. Shera Award for Research" by the Library Research Roundtable of the American Library Association. They presented their paper, "Community information needs: The case of wife assault," at the Association's annual meeting in Atlanta in June of this year.

John Dutton, Director of the Calgary Public Library, was named recipient of the Outstanding Public Library Service Award for 1991 by CAPL at the CLA Conference in June 1991.

Brian Land, Legislative Librarian for Ontario and former Dean of the Faculty of Library and Information Science, University of Toronto, has received the 1991 CASLIS Award for Special Librarianship in Canada. The award was made at the CLA Conference in June 1991.

Marianne Scott, National Librarian, received the Certificate of Merit in June 1991 from the International Council for Canadian Studies. The award acknowledges significant contributions made to Canadian Studies, both in Canada and throughout the world.

Nancy Williamson, Professor at the Faculty of Library and Information Science, University of Toronto, was named Distinguished Academic Librarian for 1991 by CACUL at the CLA Conference in June 1991.

IN MEMORIAM

Jean Eckmier, died on May 9, 1991 at age 84 at her place of residence in Listowel where she had moved on her retirement. She became well known to her fellow librarians when she pioneered county library development as the Chief Librarian of Huron County from 1945 to 1961. It was here she put in service the first self-contained bookmobile for county service in Ontario in 1948 which was highlighted in a film "The Books Drive On", produced by the County but later taken over by the National Film Board. She was high on our list for an oral history interview but it never got done.

Norman Hepplethwaite, former Director of the Cambridge Public Library (Ontario), died on July 1, 1991 in Cambridge. During his career at Cambridge which spanned the years 1959 to 1981 when he retired, he successfully brought together the three libraries, Galt, Hespeler and Preston at the time of the reorganization of the County of Waterloo into the Regional Municipality. Subsequently he oversaw the construction of the new central library replacing a Carnegie building which had become very overcrowded, the direct result of the growth of the city.

M.E. (Beth) Miller, Co-ordinator of the Co-operative Work-Study Program and Placement Officer at the School of Library and Information Science, The University of Western Ontario since 1985, died suddenly at her home on May 21, 1991. Beth graduated from SLIS in 1971 and, subsequently, became a well known librarian both nationally and internationally. In 1982 she served as President of the Ontario Library Association and, in 1985 she became President of the Canadian Library Association. In 1985 she was the first recipient of the Ontario College and University Libraries Association Award of Merit. Her dedication to her chosen profession was further exemplified in her work on the Accreditation Committee of the ALA and the Continuing Professional Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations. At the time of her death she had planned a summer itinerary which included attendance at library conferences in St John's, Montreal, Atlanta and Moscow. She is sadly missed by her colleagues at SLIS and throughout the world.

Bill Partridge, Director of the Espanola Public Library, died of injuries on August 4, 1991 as a result of an automobile accident near his cottage south of Goderich. For many years he had been the Director of the Huron County Library and subsequently had been employed on a special assignment at Moose Jaw Public Library. In 1986 he was the recipient of the Ontario Library Trustees Association "Librarian of the Year Award".

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Regretably a list of members was not available at the time of printing. A special mailing may be made following the Annual Meeting.