

EX LIBRIS NEWS



Autumn 1994

Number 16

ISSN 0833-4278

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Enclosures

Annual meeting Nov.7  
Registration form  
Membership form

THE PRESIDENT REPORTS:

*Elizabeth Morton and CLA*

In the Fall of 1950, after returning from Europe, I attended a conference of the Library Association of Great Britain celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passing of the first public library act. Elizabeth Morton, first executive secretary of the Canadian Library Association, appointed me as a representative of the fledgling Association. As I think back, I carried out this awesome responsibility rather casually. I was duly impressed by an introduction to Lord and Lady Mountbatten and a conversation with the legendary Indian librarian Dr. S.R. Ranganathan. The other Canadian delegates were Peter Grossman, William K. Lamb, Miss L. Proctor and Miss E. Henderson.

I have remained grateful to Elizabeth Morton for giving

me, a green librarian one year out of library school, the chance to attend that impressive celebration. As I found out, however, this was typical of this decisive yet open-hearted and modest woman.

***Author-librarian selected to write C.L.A. History***

At its April 11 meeting the board of Ex Libris approved the selection of Elizabeth Hulse, M.A., B.L.S., to write the history of the Association's first 25 years. Aimed to be a lively and popular treatment emphasizing Morton's contribution, the book is planned to be available for C.L.A.'s annual conference in 1996 when the Association celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Elizabeth Hulse's list of original publications and works edited is impressive. Author of articles and bibliographies in several important publications, Ms. Hulse worked in the rare book library of the University of Toronto, the Canadiana Department of the North York Public Library, and the archives of the Art Gallery of Toronto. She has lectured on research collections and conducted seminars on the history of publishing, been a general and contributing editor of the Bibliographical Society of Canada and, from 1986 to 1990, was manuscript editor of The Dictionary of Canadian Biography. In addition to the Ex Libris project, she is editing a collection of essays on Sir Daniel Wilson (1816-1892), Scottish-Canadian anthropologist and artist.

Work on the book is well underway. Elizabeth Hulse has completed her research, and the information and anecdotes garnered from individuals who remember Morton or the early days of the Association are being edited. A first draft of the manuscript is expected in January, 1995.

This is a major project for Ex Libris Association. All funds were donated by libraries and ELA members. At the end of April the fund stood at \$18,000 -- sufficient to cover the cost of preparing the manuscript. Contributions are still needed to meet the expenses of publishing and marketing. We are asking all members to give what they can. A charitable receipt will be issued.

Please make out your cheque or money order to the Elizabeth Homer Morton Fund, Canadian Library Association, and send it to:

Morton Project Committee  
The Canadian Library  
Association  
200 Elgin Street, Suite 602  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 1L5.

***Changes to the Newsletter:***

Our Newsletter has changed its editor and format. In an effort to cut mailing costs the type size has been slightly reduced and there are fewer pages. Our new editor, Wendy Scott, left the National Library of Canada in 1992 to do freelance library consulting, writing and editing. We are confident that she will do as good a job as Stan

Beacock did for so many years. Reprography and distribution are being handled in Toronto by members of the executive committee. News items, articles, etc., should be sent to the editor (address on page 23).

*EX LIBRIS logo:*

You will, I hope, have noticed our new logo, designed free of charge by Leslie Smart and Associates. It uses a woodcut created many years ago for L. Bruce Pierce, former editor of Ryerson Press. Dr. Pierce has kindly given us permission to use the woodcut as the basis of our logo. The pine tree bent to the wind and the geese flying south are found in all parts of Canada. I will leave it to you to connect the symbolism to our members and the work of EX LIBRIS ASSOCIATION.

Cheers!

ALBERT BOWRON

**STAN BEACOCK AND  
EX LIBRIS NEWS**

*The spring, 1994 issue of Ex Libris News (Number 15) marked the end of Stan Beacock's long association as editor and publisher of Ex Libris News.*

*Betty Hardie, who sent the following tribute, writes: "I think it is almost impossible to overstate Stan's contribution, but have tried to make the record speak for itself."*

After Stan Beacock spearheaded the formation of the Ex Libris Association (including getting a

start-up grant from New Horizons), he recognised that some form of communication would be needed to keep a widely scattered membership informed about Ex Libris activities and in touch with one another.

In the spring of 1987 Stan published the first issue of *Ex Libris News* as a follow-up to the first general meeting in November 1986. It was essentially a report from the President (Stan himself). Since then, however, its scope has been greatly expanded. The issues produced each spring and fall have included papers by speakers at the annual meetings; articles on library history; letters, biographical and autobiographical accounts of early pioneers in Canadian library history; and personal reminiscences on the growth and development of library service. Each issue includes news of librarians: winners of awards and honours; retirements and the great variety of activities taken up by library retirees; and in the In Memoriam section, the contribution each librarian made to Canadian librarianship. The newsletter also publishes an annual membership list, with addresses and telephone numbers.

*Ex Libris News* has been pivotal in the growth of the Association. It has not only enabled members unable to attend the annual meetings to maintain contact with Association members and former colleagues, but has added to the growing body of academic and anecdotal information on the

history of Canadian libraries and librarians.

From the beginning Stan encouraged and enlisted help from other members. June Munro served briefly as editor until ill health made this impossible; the late John MacPherson was editor for several issues until his death. Stan always filled in the editorial gaps. As publisher, he handled the time-consuming tasks required to reproduce and distribute the newsletter. He encouraged a wide range of contributors and made himself master of the computer so that readers could enjoy a professionally produced newsletter. He made sure that, from the first issue, the *News* was deposited with the National Library, complete with ISSN number.

For the last several years Stan made clear his wish to have someone take over these tasks. Meanwhile, however, he continued to maintain the standards he had established. Members of Ex Libris have many reasons to be grateful to Stan Beacock. Of all the Association's activities, initiating, editing and publishing the *Newsletter* are among the most important. To carry on this vital role in the future will be a challenge; success in doing so will be the best expression of our appreciation.

<b>LIBRARIANS IN THE NEWS</b>
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**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

**Father Harold Drake, College**

Librarian of St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba, from 1959 until his retirement in 1992, was honoured recently when the library was formally named after him.

**R. Brian Land** was presented with the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto Alumni Jubilee Award on June 3, 1994. This award is given to a graduate of the Faculty who has contributed to the profession in such areas as innovation in library and information service and management, leadership, and service to the university. Professor Land was Director (later Dean) of FLIS from 1964 to 1972. In 1978 he became Executive Director of the Ontario Legislative Library while continuing to teach part-time at FLIS (now FIS). He retired from both positions in 1993. He is a past president of CLA and an active contributor to the Association of Parliamentary Librarians. This award is the latest of many honours he has received.

**Eric Marshall**, retired Head of Library and Information Services of the Freshwater Institute, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Winnipeg, was honoured in March 1994 for his exceptionally high standard of service to Institute employees and the University of Manitoba community when his library was named the Eric Marshall Aquatic Research Library. The library is considered to have one of the best collections of materials on freshwater biology and related subjects in North America.

**Dr. Marianne Scott**, National Librarian of Canada, was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in June 1994.

## RETIREMENTS

**Irene Aubrey**, head of the Canadian Children's Literature Service, National Library of Canada, end of 1993. Ms. Aubrey established the service in 1975 and is well known among children's and school librarians for her work as an advisor, promoter and authority on reading matter for children and young people. She plans to continue reading and consulting, storytelling, and, perhaps, writing her own children's stories.

**Dr. Mavis Cariou**, Professor at University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies since 1967, in May 1994. Dr. Cariou was a teacher and teacher-librarian with Toronto area school boards before earning her BLS and MLS from Toronto (1963, 1967) and Ph.D. from Michigan (1983). She was responsible for the Faculty's Continuing Education Programme as well as teaching, and will continue with the programme in retirement.

**Sylvia Hall**, CEO of Vaughan Public Library, Ontario, at the end of July 1994.

**Bill Isarin**, a member of the University of Manitoba's Original Cataloguing Section, May 1, 1994, after working 15 years at the University.

**Tony Jeffreys**, Ph.D. (Plant Science, UCLA), MLS, has taken

early retirement from the University of British Columbia Library. He joined UBC as Life Sciences Bibliographer (1979-81), and became Assistant University Librarian for Collections as well as Technical Services Librarian (1991-93).

**Lily Laakso**, Head, Reader Services at Victoria University, University of Toronto, after 30 years at the Library. She was on several university committees, the executive of LAUT (Librarians' Association of the University of Toronto), and the editorial board of the Bibliographical Society of Canada.

**Ron Mackenzie**, former Director of Public Library Services, Northwest Territories, retired to Victoria from his post as Territorial Librarian December 31, 1993. Previously he was assistant Director, Central Services, British Columbia Library Services Branch, and Director of the Georgian Bay Regional Library System (Ontario).

**Charles Meadow**, May 1994, after ten years at FIS, University of Toronto. Before joining the faculty he was professor of Information Science at Drexel University. He had held senior positions at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, and was Project Manager for Technology Applications of Dialog Information Services. He has published widely in his field and has been active in the Canadian Association for Information Science (President 1994) and the American Association for

Information Science. He will continue to teach some courses and to supervise doctoral students.

**Natalia Pohorecky** on July 1, 1994, as Reference Librarian, Medical Library, University of Manitoba, after 33 years of service.

**Jim Sharpe** took early retirement recently from the Catalogue Division, U.B.C. Library. He joined the Library in 1967 after working at the University of Toronto, Toronto Public Library, and the University of Victoria. From 1976 to his retirement he coordinated the Cataloguing-in-Publication operation.

**Erik Spicer**, on April 9, 1994, after 34 years as Librarian of Parliament. He served under eight prime ministers and was one of the few remaining Diefenbaker appointees. Before becoming a librarian, he was in the RCAF, the Canadian Infantry, and 10 years in the Governor General's Footguards. During his tenure, the Library became a highly sophisticated information service for Parliament, providing indexing of reports from committee hearings, updates on the status of legislation, and an effective research service program.

**Nancy Williamson**, MLS, Ph.D., in May 1994 after 29 years on the faculty of the University of Toronto. Originally Head Cataloguer at Hamilton Public Library, she taught cataloguing, subject analysis and classification, and records management. She will continue to

supervise doctoral students and to teach a few courses.

**Peter Wolters**, June 7, after 32 years at the National Research Council, Ottawa (later Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI)). He was responsible for the Library's automation program, List of Serials, Union List of Scientific Periodicals, the current awareness service CAN/SDI, CAN/OLE, and intergovernmental and international projects such as DATAPAC, INET, and the Canadian Construction Information Service.

**Marie F. Zielinska**, in January 1994, from her position as Chief of the National Library's Multilingual Biblioservice, which she headed since its inception in 1973. She went to Ottawa from the Université de Montréal, where she was Serials Librarian and Head of the Biology Library. She was awarded the 125th Anniversary Commemorative Medal in recognition of her significant contribution to librarianship.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**Agatha Bystram** (59) in Ottawa, suddenly on January 14, 1994. Widely respected in the federal library community, Agatha Bystram left Hungary in 1957, received her BLS and MLS at McGill University, and worked in several public and special libraries in Montreal before her appointment as head of McGill's Physical Sciences Library. In 1973 she moved to Ottawa to become Librarian at Environment Canada. Under her direction the

many libraries in the department were coordinated into one regional network that became a leader in automation and information services. She was instrumental in the development of the ENVIROSOURCE database; became the National Focal Point for INFOTERRA, the United Nations environmental program; and was an active member of the Council of Federal Libraries.

**Pat Cherniak**, 74, who joined the University Manitoba Library as Reference Librarian in 1959 and later moved to the Legislative Library of Manitoba.

**C. Donald Cook** (71), Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto, in Toronto. From Scottsbluff, Nebraska, he studied at the University of Arizona (BA), Columbia (BS, MS), and the University of Geneva. His career included five years as Documents Librarian at the United Nations in Geneva, and 18 years at Columbia University, nine of them as Coordinator of Cataloging. In 1969 he joined the Ontario Universities Bibliographic Centre Project as Research and Planning Officer. He was Director of the Council of Ontario Universities 1971-72, and was appointed Professor, University of Toronto Faculty of Library and Information Science, in 1972. In 1982 he received a grant from the Council of Library Resources and the University of Toronto to examine catalogue headings used by the national libraries of Australia, Canada, Britain and the United States in their applications of AACR II. He was active in several organizations and the author of numerous articles

dealing with automation and standardization of cataloguing.

**Clifford Currie**, who served as Executive Director of CLA from September 1968 to August 1971, died in Britain in February 1994. Among the appointments he held in Britain were those of Librarian at the Imperial College, London, and from 1973-1980, Librarian of the Ashmolean, Oxford.

**Enid Dearing** (62) in North Vancouver, of cancer, March 10, 1994. In 1964 she was made the first (and only) Chief Librarian of North Vancouver District Library. By 1971 the District Library had grown to a thriving system of Headquarters and three branches with a circulation of 532,200. An acknowledged expert on library buildings in British Columbia, she planned renovations for branches at Capilano, Seycove, and Parkgate. She was President, B.C. Library Association, and played an active role in the formation of the Greater Vancouver Library Federation.

**Helen (Eakin) Donaldson**, March 22, 1994, in Toronto. BA, (Queen's) 1936, MLS (University of Southern California), she was the first librarian to be honoured by the Ontario Library Association for her work in school librarianship. She retired in 1979 after 13 years as coordinator of school libraries for the East York Board of Education.

**J. Eldred Fulton** died June 25, 1994 in Toronto. She was 91. Born in Chesterville, Ontario, she received her Bachelor of

Arts degree from the University of Toronto in 1928, and the diploma in Library Science from the same university. In her own words, she "worked happily" with the Toronto Public Library for 28 years. Before her death, she requested that anyone wishing to make a donation to her memory make it to the Toronto Public Library, 281 Front Street East, Toronto M5A 4L2.

**H. Pearson Gundy**, on July 27, 1994. University Librarian of Queen's University 1947-1966, Professor Gundy was a scholar-librarian who taught Bibliography and English Language and Literature at Queen's, and edited the comprehensive edition of Bliss Carman's letters. For an account of his career by William F.E. Morley, see *Ex Libris News* no. 13 (Spring 1993), p. 17-21.

**Emily Alice Keeley**, 81, June 2, 1994, in Ottawa. She held senior positions at the Royal Canadian Institute and Victoria College in Toronto, the Oakville Public Library, the Engineering Institute of Canada, Montreal, and the Industrial Cellulose Research Library in Hawkesbury. From 1962 until 1974 she was Head Librarian, federal Department of Forestry. She represented Canada on an FAO-sponsored committee working on implementation of a worldwide information service for forestry research.

**Ian Kemlo**, on December 31, 1993. A cataloguer at McPherson Library, University of Victoria from 1970-1975, he had also worked at East Kootenay

College, Cranbrook, and David Thompson University, Nelson, B.C.

**Adèle Languedoc**, 99, Assistant National Librarian of Canada (1964-69), in Ottawa, Christmas Day, 1993. A "founding mother" of the National Library, Miss Languedoc grew up in Montreal and Tadoussac, Quebec, studied at McGill (library certificate 1929) and Columbia University (BS, Library Service, 1946). She was a cataloguer at McGill, then for five years directed its McLennan Travel Libraries program. Between 1946 and 1950 she was a Librarian for the American Relief of Libraries program in Soissons, France. In 1951 she went to Ottawa to work at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre (later the National Library) where she was Director of Acquisitions and created the Canadian Authors File, which still exists.

**Gerard Lavoie**, 46, Chief Librarian at Centre universitaire, Saint-Louis-de-Maillet, l'Université de Moncton, on January 17, 1994. He received his BA from Collège Saint-Louis in Edmunston and his MLS from Dalhousie (1974). He was Librarian of Edmunston Public Library from 1970 until his university appointment in 1974.

**Elizabeth (Betty) Sloan**: *Betty Hardie contributed the following memoir of Betty Sloan, whose death was reported in our previous issue (No. 15, spring 1994).*

"Betty Sloan was the driving force behind the establishment of the Kent County Library Association. In the early 1940s



there was a movement in several counties to improve library service in smaller libraries through co-operation. In some this was spearheaded by the chief librarian of the largest library, e.g., in Lambton County it was Dorothy Carlisle of Sarnia, and in Essex County, Anne Hume of Windsor Public Library. Others like Betty Sloan took a different route. As librarian at Tilbury, she brought together the representatives of the boards of the small libraries in the county. In 1942 they formed the Kent County Library Association, contributing funds from their local budgets to support it.

"I joined the staff of the Chatham Public Library just before the meeting to organize the Kent County Library Association. I remember having \$600 to purchase books to start a rotating collection among the libraries. Like all early county libraries, the Association was without legislative status, with no access to tax support or provincial grants. But from this beginning came county library co-operation. Betty Sloan's energy and enthusiasm played an invaluable role in its development."

**Henry Stasny**, former Antiquarian Orders Librarian, Collections Division, University of Victoria, on March 21, 1994. BA (UBC), MLS (McGill), he joined Victoria's McPherson Library as Librarian-Bibliographer in 1961.

**Sister Gertrude Stock**, retired teacher-librarian and one of the early members of Ex Libris, died recently at the age of 80.

**Stephen Charles Willis**, 47, of cancer Sept. 11, 1994. Head of Manuscripts in the Music Division, National Library, since 1977, Dr. Willis was born in Collingwood, Ont., and educated at the University of Western Ontario (BA) and Columbia (MA, M.Phil., Ph.D.). He was active in the Canadian Association of Music Librarians and was on the boards of several musical organizations.

#### **JESSIE B. MIFFLEN -- A TRIBUTE**

By Pearce J. Penney

*On April 1, 1994, Jessie B. Miffen died at St. John's, Newfoundland at the age of 87. In his reply to our request for this memoir, Pearce Penney, former Provincial Librarian of Newfoundland, wrote: "Your request to write a tribute to the late Jessie Miffen is a real privilege because I had such great respect for her and what she did to develop public library service in this province." His tribute is revised slightly from the memoir published in APLA Bulletin.*

Born in Bonavista, Newfoundland, in 1906, Jessie graduated from Memorial College (now Memorial University) and Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B. She began her career as a Field Worker and Executive Secretary, Adult Education Division, Department of Education, followed by a brief stint of

service in the Women's Division of the Royal Air Force during World War II.

Her first library position was with the Newfoundland Public Library Service in 1950. Later that year she entered the University of Toronto and received her degree in library science. She returned to Newfoundland and in 1951 became Regional Director for the provincial library service, with a mandate to visit and establish public libraries in various parts of the province. During her twenty-two years with the service she held the positions of Deputy Director and Acting Director.

Jessie was one of our profession's most distinguished pioneers. And this was truly pioneer work: when she first assumed her responsibilities with the public library board, there was little public library service in Newfoundland, especially in the many outports and remote communities. By the time of her retirement in 1972, the number of libraries had grown from 25 to 78 and public library service had been established throughout the province.

Such an impressive achievement was due to Jessie's persistence and dedication against difficult odds. Her warm personality and sense of humour gave her a rapport with people at all levels of society. It also required a genuine commitment to her task, and an adventurous spirit -- illustrated by the stories of her visits to outport libraries in the early days, and

her use of such different modes of transportation as dogteam, bush plane, small boat and coastal steamer, for trips that could take many days and, in some instances, weeks before she reached her destination.

Jessie did not confine her professional activities to the outports of Newfoundland. In 1962 she was awarded a Canada Council grant to visit libraries in Scandinavian countries, and in 1966 was one of five Canadian librarians selected to observe libraries in the U.S.S.R. She also served as Vice-President of the Canadian Library Association and as President of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association.

She shared her commitment to her native province as a writer of local history, was an eloquent speaker about Newfoundlanders and Newfoundland ways, and wrote radio scripts and broadcasts for the CBC.

Her outstanding contribution to the development of public library service in Newfoundland and Labrador has been recognized throughout the country. She was awarded a Canada Council Centennial Medal in 1967, was made a member of the Order of Canada in 1973, received the APLA Merit Award in 1975, was granted Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees by both Memorial and Mount Allison Universities in 1975, and in 1980 was awarded the CLA Outstanding Service to Librarianship Award. Jessie was a great storyteller, and in her book, *Be You a Library Missionary, Miss?* one can sense her warmth and humour. In

relating the story behind the title, Jessie summed up the way she saw her work. "It was in a little village in an isolated area of Newfoundland that an elderly man said [this] to me on my arrival to hold a public meeting, with a view to setting up a library . . . A pious church-going man, he knew quite a lot about missionaries but librarians were an unknown species to him . . . I hadn't exactly thought of myself in the role of missionary, but, on reflection the comparison didn't seem so ridiculous as it had first sounded, for, armed with a goodly store of tracts or library literature, I roamed the country side 'at sundry times in diverse manners', in season and out of season, to propagate the gospel of library service to all the people . . ."

Jessie Miffen was indeed a "Library Missionary" in the true sense of the word, and the title is characteristic of her deep commitment to the development of public library service in Newfoundland and Labrador. It can be truly said that, to those whose lives were touched by hers, the world was a better place.

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## THE FATE OF THE CANADA HOUSE LIBRARY

### *Introduction*

*In this issue, we present the first part of a personal history of Canada House Library. It was written by Ruth Church Spencer, first professional librarian at*

*Canada House. A second article on the years 1979 to 1986 will appear in a future issue of the News. If any of our readers have additional information on Canada House Library, the editor would be pleased to hear from them.*

### *The current situation*

On March 31st, 1993, the 54-year-old library of Canada House was closed; one year later its collection was transferred to the Senate House, University of London Library, Bloomsbury. The Canadian High Commission said that operational cuts forced closing of the library; it argued that this transfer would keep the collection together, and that the library's principal users would find the new location and longer library hours more convenient. The University has stated that this collection --nearly 27,000 items of political, statistical and legal material, journals, literature and reference material, including folklore and art books -- complements its extensive holdings in United States, Caribbean and Latin American material, and will maintain its separate identity. Marigold Cleeve, Senior Assistant Librarian at ULL, says: "The High Commission considered the university the most appropriate place for the collection, as ULL has always had strong Commonwealth collections. For instance, in the Goldsmiths' Library we have records of the Hudson Bay Company, and the folklore material complements our anthropological holdings. The Library and Resources Group of

the British Association for Canadian Studies participated in discussions regarding the transfer and has approved the new arrangements. The collection is now being catalogued and processed before being made accessible for research purpose, although terms for access have not yet been finalized. (1)

***Elizabeth Ketchum comments:***

The closure of the library at Canada House was accomplished with a minimum of publicity, no debate, and few protests. Yet in its 50 years on Trafalgar Square it had served the interests of hundreds of thousands of British, Canadian, and other users, and taxed the talent and stamina of a succession of professional librarians and their staffs, who had helped it grow from a small office collection to a modern, fully equipped (though never automated) library.

Paul Koring, of the *Globe and Mail's* European bureau, alerted Canadians to what had happened with his article, "Time Running Out for Canada House" (April 3, 1993). David Twiston Davies, a Canadian journalist on the *Daily Telegraph* and a frequent library user, also voiced his protest in an article and in a letter to the *Globe and Mail* (April 7). Ruth Church Spencer, now living in Toronto, received a copy of Davies's article from a friend, and wrote an eloquent reply to his letter ("National death wish?" *Globe and Mail*, April 24, 1993). No official comment was ever published.

At the first meeting of Ex Libris Association after the closing, I suggested that the Association protest the closure. Instead, the executive decided to ask the four Canada House librarians known to them to contribute essays recording their memories of the Library.

**THE CANADA HOUSE LIBRARY**

Part I.

**IN AT THE CREATION:  
ESTABLISHING  
THE CANADA HOUSE LIBRARY, 1945-  
1950**

by Ruth Church Spencer

In September 1945 I joined the staff of the Office of the High Commission for Canada, in its stately building on Trafalgar Square, as the mission's first professional librarian. At the time London was emerging from six years of war. The Japanese surrender was but a few weeks past, VE-Day had come only three months before, and the new Labour government elected in June was struggling against formidable odds to manage the transition to peacetime and to effect a social revolution at the same time. The hideous scars left by the Blitz were still evident everywhere, as, hampered by shortages of every sort of material, rebuilding had scarcely begun.

In 1942 I had left the library of the Royal Bank of Canada head office to enlist. After three years service in the WRCNS at home and abroad in the RCN

Library Service, I was conscious of the gaps in my experience and anxious to refresh my techniques and brush up my academic credentials by further study. In June 1945 I managed to get myself demobilized at HMCS Niobe, the RCN naval base in Glasgow, and made my way to London. I applied to and was accepted by the University of London Library School. Its Common Room, like those of all good library schools, was alive with news of job opportunities. Soon after I began my studies I learned that the Office of the High Commissioner, Canada House, was about to establish a library to serve the diplomatic staff and to provide information for the interested public.

My engagement by the High Commission was arranged in an informal manner. I called at Canada House and enquired at the reception desk as to whom I should speak about applying to work in the new library. I was directed to a first floor office and introduced to a Mr. John Holmes. I explained my qualifications, background, and service with the Royal Bank and the RCN. I enquired about the plans for the library and my possible employment. He suggested that I return the next day to discuss my application with the High Commissioner, Mr. Vincent Massey. I returned to Canada House and was ushered into Mr. Massey's office (he was disappointed that I was no longer in uniform). We retraced the discussion of the previous day. They seemed to be satisfied with my qualifications, as Mr. Massey said shortly: "Can you start tomorrow?" Salary was

agreed to, and I was assured of time off to attend occasional lectures at the University of London. There appeared to be no reference to External Affairs in Ottawa, who were presumably simply informed that I had been hired. Hence the rather frosty relations I enjoyed with Ottawa from the start.

On my arrival at Canada House, I discovered that the library, such as it was, occupied a single room on the ground floor to the right of the entrance, next door to the office of Campbell Moody, the mission's Information Officer. It was presided over by a Mr. Dearle, who had been on the clerical staff for many years. With his interfering ways he was a cross I had to bear for many months. The meagre collection consisted of Hansard, clippings from English and Canadian newspapers, some pamphlets, the odd official paper, and a number of books, many dating from Lord Strathcona's time. There was of course no catalogue. One of my first tasks was to make the acquaintance of the locally engaged maintenance staff to secure the basic furniture: a desk, a chair, a filing cabinet, some shelving, and card files with which to start a catalogue. In all this, from the High Commissioner on down, I received every co-operation and support. Ottawa was less than helpful.

During my period of service the diplomatic staff included many officers who went on to distinguished careers in the Department: John Holmes, Robert Ford, Douglas LePan, Ed Ritchie, and Jules Léger. Younger

recruits who arrived in subsequent months included John Halstead and P.T. Molson. Later arrivals included Max Wershof, who was most meticulous in his request for correct references to obscure legal publications; and John Sigvaldson, who wrestled with problems of mission administration. "Miss Mac", the Social Secretary, arranged all the social events for the mission, and saw to it that the librarians were often included. We thus had a chance to meet socially with those in the Foreign Office and other missions accredited to London with whom we worked. She also arranged for tickets to such events as the Victory Parade and Buckingham Palace Garden Parties. (And she introduced us to the local butcher in Whitcomb Street who sometimes provided us with extra rations!)

To assist in the library, Catherine Rous, a graduate in library science of the University of Toronto, joined the staff in December 1946 and was a tower of strength. We quickly became fast friends.

Soon the library moved into a splendid, large ground floor room located towards the rear of the building, which had a row of windows looking onto Trafalgar Square. When Mackenzie King appeared on one of his visits to London, he remarked that from my desk, situated at the far end of the room, I had the finest view in London. On his last visit in October 1948, alas, he was confined to his bed in the Dorchester Hotel. But his requests for information and publications did not slacken, and

we organized a courier service to meet his requirements.

As the library collection grew, additional, free-standing shelving was provided in the space beyond the reading room. To escape from the hazards of working in the area frequented by the public, I arranged for an office in the back room close to the bookshelves.

Gradually the collection was built up, with items purchased locally or sent from Ottawa. Cataloguing was on a modified Dewey system based on the one used by the Royal Bank. While most of the research was geared to the needs of the diplomatic staff, there were endless telephone calls from other London libraries, business firms, banks, tourists, would-be immigrants and students. Many travellers from Canada could be found at all times catching up on news from home as they passed through the city. We served readers within and without the building, as well as answering queries about such things as the weather in Canada. This was a time when there was great interest in emigration to Canada, and the library served as a source from which to respond to many queries. Early Canadian tourists and others came to read the newspapers. One visitor seeking information was the mother of Kathleen Willsher, who had been arrested in Ottawa in the aftermath of the Gouzenko revelations. Most of the books added to the library came from Ottawa; others were purchased from Hatchards or from shops in the Charing Cross Road, and were paid for

locally. Mr. Frederick Hudd, longtime Official Secretary, encouraged and approved the buying of books locally. One unusual responsibility I undertook was to purchase books for other posts (for John Holmes in Moscow, for example), which were paid for by Ottawa. The Foreign Office was most generous in supplying us with Hansard and other British government publications. Occasionally I was called on to assist in a non-library role. When one of the diplomatic staff was available for the purpose, I was asked to represent Canada at the founding conference of UNESCO in Church House, Westminster, and to prepare a report on the proceedings.

Mr. Massey left Canada House one year after I arrived, in September 1946. As a consequence of a major shift in postings, which saw Mr. L.B. Pearson return from Washington to become Under-Secretary, and the appointment for the first time of career diplomats to Washington and London, Mr. Norman Robertson was posted from the Privy Council office to London as High Commissioner to succeed Mr. Massey. He brought at the top a new sense of professionalism and of intellectual activity. From the start he displayed a great interest in the library, of which he was a frequent and a refreshingly demanding user. He was invited to become a member of the London Library, and I was frequently asked to procure items for him from St. James's Square.

Life in Canada House was not immune from bureaucratic hazards. When in early July 1948 I returned from my honeymoon in Italy, a note from Ottawa was awaiting me, conveying congratulations on my marriage but adding that, in accordance with the then prevailing civil service regulations, I "would be in due course replaced". The next morning I bounded into the High Commissioner's office to seek his support. He insisted that I must stay, and took up the matter energetically with Ottawa, arguing *inter alia* that I was not a stay-at-home spouse but was supporting a struggling student husband. Ottawa eventually relented, and I remained a further two years until my husband had finished at Oxford.

In March 1950, I gave due notice and prepared to leave -- we were to spend the months until the beginning of the Toronto term divided between France and Germany. Ottawa was unable to produce a successor in time, and ironically in view of the earlier notice of dismissal, I was asked to stay on for several additional weeks. I reluctantly agreed to do so. My successor did not arrive until some weeks later.

After nearly five years in the post I left Canada House and London with many regrets but with some sense of achievement. From very small beginnings the mission now had a library which over the years was to serve a wide range of users, and which provided a foundation on which my successors were to build a

much larger and more sophisticated institution.

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*Catherine (Rous) Moyes Knowles adds some of her own recollections:*

I arrived at Canada House in December 1946, about a year after Ruth (Church) Spencer had begun to expand and rejuvenate the former old-fashioned library, quite inadequate for postwar needs, into a modern, well-equipped reference and reading room. This she did most successfully, with full support from the High Commissioner, Norman Robertson, as well as that of his staff.

One of my duties was to assist Ruth in assessing, sorting and often discarding many of the thousands of newspaper clippings, which were no longer needed, since this information was now becoming available in less brittle form.

It was a joy to work with Ruth and to see the splendid results of her imaginative and experienced organization. Her skills as a librarian were coupled with her warmth and humour.

(1) "Canadian gift to London University", *Library Association Record*, v. 96, no. 4 (April 1994), p. 185.

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*Marie Zielinska, former Chief, Multilingual Biblioservice, National Library is a new member of ELA. (See "Retirements"). She contributed the following article.*

IFLA IN CUBA
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by Marie Zielinska

Cuba, the beautiful Caribbean island favoured by many Canadians tourists, was this year's venue for the 60th conference of IFLA (the International Federation of Library Associations), August 20-27.

It was an unusual conference, as American librarians had to apply to go to Cuba, a rather cumbersome and lengthy procedure, I was told. As a result the regular American contingent of around 300 persons was reduced by half. Still, almost 1,500 delegates from 80 countries gathered in Cuba's capital to share and exchange ideas, meet colleagues from all over the world, and explore the beauty of "Habana vieja" (the old city) and the neighbouring countryside. The Conference was also a real bonanza for the 400 Cuban librarians who attended, as they have almost no opportunity to travel abroad to establish personal contacts with librarians from other countries.

As this was the first IFLA conference held in a Latin American country, our Cuban colleagues worked very hard to make it a successful event despite the economic difficulties facing their country. All who attended appreciated their hard work and gracious hospitality.

Three professional resolutions were approved. The first



recommended closer cooperation with other non-governmental organizations such as FID (Fédération internationale de la documentation) whose expertise is relevant to IFLA's, and that IFLA conferences present regular progress reports of joint cooperative ventures.

The second urged Unesco to reconsider its new depository policy of one depository library per country in order to provide equitable access to its resources. It suggested that Unesco should provide up to ten depositories in the largest countries, based upon demographic and geographic needs.

The third recommended that IFLA Round Tables provide copies of their own publications on a sale or return basis to increase sales and reduce the costs and delays of shipping.

This was not an election year for IFLA, so the usual caucus meetings, lobbying and political excitement were absent and the attendees were able to devote their attention to professional matters.

The conference was preceded by an official pre-conference seminar dealing with libraries' literacy programs in geographically and socially isolated communities. Held at Matanzas, the seminar was planned, as usual, for librarians from developing countries.

Since my personal interests continue to revolve around public libraries and services to ethnic and linguistic minorities,

I attended the Satellite Meeting organized by the Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations and the Round Table on Mobile Libraries.

The two-day seminar was held in Trinidad, Cuba, nestled in the foothills of the Escabray Mountains. The organizers provided a bus which brought all overseas guests from Havana to El Alcon, a beautiful hotel on the beach 10km from the city. The 450km trip from the north to the south coast of Cuba with views of the countryside, its flora, crops and settlements, was most interesting in itself, and Trinidad is one of Cuba's oldest and most perfectly preserved colonial cities. Founded in 1514 by Diego Velasquez, it is recognized by Unesco as a historical treasure.

60 librarians attended the seminar, held in the former Francisco de Assisi convent, at which eight speakers reported on mobile library services in the English-speaking Caribbean, Trinidad, Tobago, Netherlands Antilles, the Amazon area, Colombia, and, in Canada, services to Indians.

All agreed that mobile libraries are the most economical and efficient way to serve areas with dispersed, multicultural and difficult-to-reach populations. Most problems derive from the fact that bibliobuses built in developed countries are often too big and difficult to manipulate on narrow, winding, often poorly maintained roads. Lack of replacement parts and skilled mechanics may immobilize

western bibliobuses for lengthy periods, disrupting regular route schedules.

As alternatives, some countries are using locally manufactured buses and trailers, or other vehicles like helicopters or boats. One of particular interest was the use of bibliohorses to reach Indians living in the mountains of Colombia. All regretted that the speaker from Colombia could not be present to answer such questions as: does the librarian ride a horse? Who feeds and grooms it? and (the most mischievous): is horseback riding included in the library-school curriculum?

The organization of the seminar was flawless. There was ample time to visit the city, buy local crafts at the market and visit the local library. It certainly was a revelation to see librarians chain-smoking in the stacks! Before our departure we were treated to a surprise excursion to the mountains to see the waterfalls, streams and spectacular views of the coast. Our thanks went to all who made the seminar such a delightful and memorable event.

<p><b>South African Libraries in Transition:</b></p>
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*On April 27, 1994, the State of South Africa held the first fully democratic election in its history, ending over half a century of apartheid. Leonard Wertheimer, a long-time observer of library developments in South Africa, has sent us this article.*

## SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES AND APARTHEID

by Leonard Wertheimer.

Members of Ex Libris have no need to learn from me about the institution of apartheid, meaning separateness, or its effect upon the people of South Africa. They also need not be told that all laws and related measures relating to apartheid were abolished after the recent election.

As librarians we are, of course, interested to know how this new freedom has succeeded in opening libraries to groups that in the past had no or limited access to them. I do not intend to dwell unduly on past injustices or humiliations suffered by non-whites in their quest for information or recreation. Instead, I shall paint the background against which future improvements can be understood and measured.

### 1. *The Past*

The "bad old days" have been well documented. One of the best descriptions can be found in Donald Schauder's "Librarians and Apartheid" (1). "Apartheid or separate development", he begins, "is a social ideology governing all aspects of life in South Africa. It is seen by its supporters as a means of ensuring that the various groups which make up the population of Africa south of the Limpopo retain their own identities and determine their own political futures...The opponents of apartheid see the system as an elaborate means of

perpetuating white supremacy and racial exclusiveness, using the principle of divide and rule."

### ***Public Library Service under Apartheid***

A UNESCO document published in 1967 (2) gives us a description of public library service in South Africa. Service was provided separately for the different population groups. In urban areas, library use was governed by the Group Areas Act, which reserved public buildings in a particular area for the major population group in that area. It was also governed by the Separate Amenities Act, which provided that separate amenities be provided for White and non-White groups using the same service.

As a result, the major libraries were closed to non-White South Africans, and separate reading rooms provided in the deposit libraries. Collections in other libraries could only be used through inter-loan service. In some areas, in accordance with the ideology of separate development, branches were opened up for the different sections of the community.

In Cape Town, where there was some use of public library facilities on a non-segregated basis, the Cape Provincial Administration ruled in 1993 that the Council would have to make further efforts to provide separate facilities for the different population groups. Libraries for non-Whites were built in Wynberg and Woodstock,

while separate reading rooms and separate entrances to the lending libraries were constructed in other branches.

### ***School Libraries***

Inasmuch as education is a prerequisite to interest in books and use of the library, it is important to bear in mind that "Bantu" education by definition had no other aim than to enable the Blacks to serve the Whites in menial capacities. Thus school libraries were geared not to the population as a whole, but mainly to the White section. For example, two professional associations for school librarians, the Transvaal School Library Association, and the School and Children's Library section of the Southern Transvaal Branch of the South African Library Association, served mainly schools for White children, although Coloured and Indian schools were given some grants for the purchase of books and were permitted a quota of books for central rebinding.

Provincial authorities did not provide libraries for African schools. While Coloured and Indian schools were still governed by the provincial education department and so had theoretically the same financial arrangements as White schools, the Bantu Education Act had placed African schools under the care of the Department of Bantu Education, and so African school libraries were no longer the responsibility of the provincial authorities.