



# ExLibrisNews

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## Thanks to Our Contributors

We received a greater than usual response to our request for reminiscences for this issue. Unfortunately space limitations did not permit inclusion of all the articles this time. This ensures, however, that we have a store of interesting articles for our next issue. Thanks to all for your efforts.

By the way, we are still interested in receiving short, preferably amusing, accounts of life and events in the profession. Send them along to Wendy Scott—share your experiences with us.

## A Message from the President

### Plans for 1997

A few items that I wish to bring to your attention will be the thrust of ELA activities this year.

#### ELA's 1997 Meeting in Ottawa

At the January Board meeting approval was given to hold a get-together in Ottawa in September. A count of the membership revealed that there are twenty-three members in the greater Ottawa area, and many more retirees who are not members. I felt we should try to make the ELA more meaningful for those who do not live in southern Ontario. There is no intent to establish chapters or regional groups. Erik Spicer has agreed to chair a committee to organize this event. Please assist us by sending or phoning names of retirees to him so that a mailing will reach all retirees in the Ottawa area. Keith Crouch has volunteered to compile a list of names for the Kingston area. Plans for the meeting are still in the preliminary stage, but we intend to have a speaker, an opportunity to discuss with Board members how ELA can be relevant, and a time to socialize.

#### A Finding-Aid for Library History

The Board wishes to undertake another important project: to promote the identification and preservation of library history. The Association wishes to compile a finding-list of materials that provide information relating to the history and development of libraries, librarians, associations and other library-related topics. The materials could include personal papers, memoirs, and oral histories. As these are now scattered in various private collections, libraries and archives, such a list would be useful to scholars and historians. If you know the location of any such papers or collections, or if you yourself have material you have collected, please contact me or one of the other Board members.

To begin this project, Beryl Anderson will investigate collections at the National Library

and National Archives of Canada and at the University of Ottawa. I would also ask you to undertake oral history interviews yourself, so that these aspects of library history may be recorded and stored before they are no longer available.

#### Recent Decisions of the Association

I also want to mention a few of the actions taken at the November get-together and the recent Board meeting:

- Nancy Williamson has agreed to be the ELA archivist.
- John Wilkinson is compiling the "responsibility statements" of Board and committee members.
- John Ball is Membership Chairman. Jean Weihs is now Recording and Corresponding Secretary.
- Sales of *The Morton Years* have not lived up to expectations. Will you consider purchasing a copy and donating it to your local library? We are grateful to the Toronto Public library for storing the volumes.
- Wendy Scott and Les Fowlie are now co-editors of the Newsletter.
- The Association is in good financial condition.
- The Sustaining Membership category was dropped and fees for Life and Regular members will be reviewed by the Board and recommended to the membership annually.
- CIA provided us with space at the Halifax conference and will do so again for the Ottawa conference. And OLA did the same for us in February in Toronto.

To conclude: your ELA is alive and well. Ours is not an organization for senility but activity. Your participation and comments will help keep it that way in 1997. ♦

*Erich Schultz*  
President

# ELA's 1996 Get-Together

by Arn Bailey

A panel discussion on the new environment in libraries chaired by ELA President John Wilkinson was the feature event of ELA's annual get-together, held November 4, 1996, at the Richmond Hill Public Library. The day's programme was organized by Vice-President Erich Schultz and his committee members Jean Orpwood and Les Fowlie. The afternoon speaker was Howard Engel, author of thirteen published works including ten novels in the Benny Cooperman mystery series.

Virginia Gillham, University Librarian of Wilfred Laurier University, was the first speaker on the panel. She outlined the efforts and accomplishments of the Tri-University Group (TRUG), composed of the Universities of Waterloo, Guelph and Sir Wilfred Laurier, in the context of all of Ontario's nineteen universities that have undertaken various co-operative projects, such as interlibrary loan, with no attempt at overall conformity or compulsion. The three universities have a twenty-year history of limited cooperation, recently intensified and formally ratified. In the rationalizing of collections, the universities check with one another regarding purchases and serial cancellations. They have decided on one system, Endeavour, to cover cataloguing, acquisitions and borrowing. One joint storage facility, the Annex, is in use for single copies of seldom-used materials, with daily pickups. Licenses for databases are being negotiated for prices lower than the total cost of three separate contracts; cost formulas are worked out in consideration of the different sizes of the three universities. This cooperation is a way to meet and use the challenges of the new environment for libraries.

Jane Horrocks's comments described how the Richmond Hill Public Library, of which she is CEO, is aware of a new world for librarianship. In organization, new structures have been made, new skills learned (such as Hypertext Markup Language), electronic publishing started, and fee-based services considered. The Library has plans to counteract the fact

that a large, computer-literate segment of the public is to some extent bypassing the library. Partial contents of publications are to be available online, on demand. Some of the new services already available or identified as needed are the Internet, video reference interviews, digital publishing, uniform search strategies and consolidated search results. Delivery services will be high speed and in some cases virtual reality. For all of this, foresight and the will to change are essential along with an understanding of the economic impact of libraries. Librarians will have to reinvent services, revise their skills, hire risk-takers, and identify new sources of funds.

Rose Dotten, Teacher-Librarian at the University of Toronto Schools, mentioned briefly documents from the Ontario Ministry of Education that have influenced school libraries, but noted the irony of their not being made policy, with the result that they can be ignored. In the current economic crisis, teacher-librarians of some Boards are being removed from libraries.

With the Internet have come problems for the young: questionable material, huge quantities of information, items in a wide range of intellectual difficulty, and temptations for plagiarism. Solutions include improved research skills for all teachers in cooperation with their teacher-librarians, more imaginative assignments, meetings with parents, lessons in using and building data, a system for students to record sites visited, and cooperative use of these notations. Her ideas on the ongoing importance of the role of teacher-librarians are evident in her articles, "The New (Il)lteracy" (*Quill and Quire*, July 1996), and "Teacher-Librarians and Technology: Implications for Programme in Ontario Schools" (*Orbit*, volume 27, issue 3, 1996).

As there was not enough time for the panelists to answer questions from the audience at the end of the morning session, participants were invited to submit their questions to be answered later by the appropriate panelists in the next issue of *Ex Libris News*. Three questions were received: two for Virginia Gillham, and one for Jane Horrocks. We have received Ms

Gillham's replies, and they are reproduced below (Ms Horrocks's answer will be in our next issue):

When the Midwest Interlibrary Centre was founded in the 1950s, it had some problems with the ownership of its material. Who actually owns the material placed in the Annex and who can take decisions regarding its discard?

*Materials located in the annex become the joint property of the three participating libraries. That means that users on all three campuses have equal access to them, and all three institutions can claim them for things like OCGS appraisals. We have had discussions about how we will handle things like a faculty member on one campus wanting something back to go on reserve for a semester, and another one, perhaps from the library that owned it originally, wanting to borrow it at the same time. It is unlikely that this kind of thing will happen often, as this is, after all, less-used material, and heavily weighted to journals, but if it does, we will at least start out trying to make reasonable decisions on a case-by-case basis. It may be that after a little experience we will feel we can establish some firmer guidelines.*

*We have had only preliminary discussions about discarding so far, but decisions are likely to be made by a committee of three with representation from all participants. The facility itself is governed by a Board which includes the three University Librarians and a Vice-President from each University. We, of course, delegate much of the day-to-day activity, but most decisions have tripartite input. Virtually everything we do these days both in connection with the Annex, and the automated system and everything that flows from it, is handled by tripartite committees. So far, decisions have virtually always been by consensus and compromise. We have never, to my knowledge, had to put anything to a vote that had a dissenter. It's almost too much to believe, I realize, but it really is true.*

In a system where one library card is honoured by all three TRUG libraries, are there faculty

concerns about materials being unavailable because they are used by individuals from campuses other than the one that acquired the material in the first place?

*There has been very little of that kind of concern articulated to date. I may have a skewed impression of the situation because Laurier, as the smallest participant, has the most to gain, and most of our faculty realize that; however, we do have very strong collections in our areas of academic strength such as Music, Business and Social Work. I have not heard much concern either from this campus or from my two counterparts. We are working hard to bring people to the mindset that this is one large collection located in several places ... just like the library collection at a large institution with many branch*

*libraries... so that fact that an item is "out" should be handled in the same way regardless of who has it and which institution they call home. It will take a while to bring people completely around to that way of thinking (even some of the librarians are struggling with it), but so far, it has not been acrimonious. Should an item prove so popular that there are line-ups for it, there obviously should be another copy in the system, and if that item is found to be located in the annex, then putting it there was the wrong decision and it should be returned to an active collection.*

*A lot of what we are doing is without much precedent, so we are rather feeling our way. So far the results are heartening and it is exciting to be doing something new and different.*



In his after-lunch address, writer Howard Engel described his research for his latest book, *Lord High Executioner: An Unashamed Look at Hangmen, Headsmen and Their Kind*, and its connection with the Cooperman novels. Finding that he had to look into the subject of hanging for his latest novel, he was led to further research into the whole matter of capital punishment and its practitioners in Canada. His talk went into some of the more macabre details he discovered concerning the history, methods and statistics relating to executioners. His presentation made his fascination understandable. ◆

## Celebrating the Libraries at Havergal College

*Excerpt from an address by Dr. Catherine Steele commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Ellen Knox Library, December 8, 1996.*

It is difficult to realise, I think, that the Ellen Knox Library was formally opened on December 8th, 1926, exactly 70 years ago. May I talk about a little local history to give us the setting for this celebration. In the Ontario Archives, there is a record of the McDougall family, who lived near this property and whose baby was formally adopted by the Indian tribe which lived here. A little later, this property became the Anderson farm, and it was also used as a golf course: the original club house can still be seen from the windows of the Ellen Knox Library...

This Library is named to honour the first principal of Havergal College 100 years ago. Miss Knox was brought up in an English country rectory and educated at home by her father. At that time, women were not given degrees at Oxford, but they were allowed to sit for examinations. Ellen Knox was given a first class standing in English literature. She had a great love of books and learning and this she shared with her girls. It is an important legacy for the school.

Remembering this legacy, it is easy to understand why the Old Girls of Havergal decided to make this Library their special pro-

ject. They provided the oak panelling, the furniture, and the books. Miss Knox's own library formed the nucleus of the collection. At first, the Old Girls thought the library project should be spread over three years, but soon decided it should be finished in one year. They asked each Old Girl to give \$5.00. Naturally, some gave more, others less, but they soon collected more than their goal, \$10,000. The winners were the Old Girls in Walkerton, Ontario, where every Old Girl donated. The collection was considered one of the best of its kind in Toronto in 1926. Certainly, it was a wonderful achievement for the Old Girls.

Now for some reminiscences. The first that comes into my mind is of mud—mud everywhere. It reminds me of the Flanders and Swann song "Mud, glorious mud." Miss Wood, our principal from 1924 until 1937, wrote about it in *Ludemus*, our school magazine:

*Day by day we had watched the Library grow—seen the special blocks picked for its floor, seen its walls being panelled, watched piece after piece of furniture arriving—beautiful bits, from years long gone: an old chest, a gate-leg table, great comfortable chesterfields and armchairs. We had looked upon the Old Girls unpacking books and books, watched the books being catalogued and numbered and put into the shelves to*

*aggravate us with their invitation which we might not accept; but I think that it was only on the night of the Opening, when we saw the room with the firelight gleaming on the dark benna-coloured curtains, bringing out the colour of the Persian rugs, and the deep dark and gold, the blue and green of the cushions, playing on the backs of the books, and lighting up the portrait of Miss Knox opposite the fireplace, that we realised fully the beauty, dignity and spaciousness of the room. It was the fulfilment of a dream, that room. But it is a dream that has been realised only by days and weeks and months of loving work and effort by the Library Committee. ◆*

Afterword by Arn Bailey: *Catherine Steele, a student at Havergal when the Knox Library opened, became Principal of the College (1952–72). On the day of celebration, the current Principal, Dr. Winn Barlow, addressed the gathering in the Rita Weston Resource Centre, a modern facility added in 1979, and Wendy Thompson (class of '67), Chair of the Board of Governors, Christine Christiansen, student, and Sharon Doyle, Anne Moir and Darlene Sinnot, teacher-librarians, cut the ribbon on the online catalogue.*

# Reminiscences

## The Music Thief

by Jean Weihs

In the Order Department at University of Toronto Library where I worked from 1953 to 1959, the librarians were responsible for the selection of books in the subject areas of their degrees. Many areas were not covered by our collective education, and these were assigned randomly. One random assignment I received was music.

Because I knew little about this subject, selection was done by a professor from the Faculty of Music. Among the many catalogues the library received was one that arrived from time to time from a dealer in Germany. His catalogues offered rare items that the Faculty of Music felt we should buy even though this would strain the allotted budget severely. After much discussion and correspondence, we would usually purchase one or two items from each catalogue.

In 1959 a Toronto newspaper published a story about the dealer. He was a man who looked much like the stereotype of the absent-minded professor, the sort of man who would be completely involved in his research. Each catalogue he issued listed the more important music holdings of a particular German library, not mentioning, of course, that the items already belonged to an institution. On receiving an order he would go to the library that owned them. Generally, because of their rarity, he was required to use them in the library, so he would then spend day after day ostensibly using them in the library until the librarians became used to his presence. When he determined that he was no longer being watched, he would walk out with the items, immediately move out of the city, and send them to a library outside Europe.

He repeated these actions over a number of years in different German cities, never

returning to a place where a theft had been made. He also was careful to have his buyers widely separated. I believe that other North American libraries receiving his catalogues included one at a university in California, one in the American southwest, and another in the American northwest.

He was finally caught when he was recognized by a librarian who had worked in one of his "theft libraries" and moved to another in which he was in the process of setting up another theft.

German police were puzzled by his motives. He had a very large sum in his bank account, but lived in a miserly fashion in a series of small, single rooms. He appeared to have no extravagant tastes, no glamorous mistresses. Perhaps stealing rare books was his Everest. ♦

## Married Women at the TPL

by Grace Buller

The year was 1954. I had been working at the Toronto Public Library Beaches Branch for eight years. I was getting married.

The rule at the time was that when a woman married, her salary was reduced to the starting rate. The reasoning was that she would devote most of her time to her spouse (cooking, cleaning, love-making) and be less effective at her job. At that time, few men had positions in libraries other than chief librarian. And of course, when a man married, he would devote even more time to his job, since he now had a wife to care for him.

A month before the wedding, the head of circulation, Miss Anne Wright, called to tell me that the Library Board was considering changing the rule, and that my salary would not be decreased—if I could postpone my marriage.

I obliged. I was the first person at TPL to benefit from the new rule. ♦

## Jack Brown and Dave Appelt Remembered

by Marion Wilson

It was with great sadness that I read of the deaths of Jack Brown and Dave Appelt.

Two doors closed on the past. Jack Brown and I worked as pages in the Edmonton Public Library in the early 1930s. I made twenty-five cents an hour, often for as short a time as an hour and a half. (If I had to take a bus to the library to come on short notice, that took five cents off the twenty-five!) Because he was a man, or perhaps because he was a Baptist, not a Catholic, Jack made thirty cents an hour. He and the head librarian were co-religionists. In those days that counted.

Dave Appelt was the sole stackman at the University of Alberta Library when I worked

there in my first year after graduation in 1936. He was doing his M.A. year in English Literature and I typed his thesis for thirty dollars. That was half a month's salary for me. It took all my spare time for a couple of months. I was not the world's best or fastest typist.

I remember how poor we all were in monetary terms, and how much fun we had. Dave's mother used to send him food parcels from home. Sometimes he may have gone hungry. Certainly he was lath-thin in those days. But always he had that wicked sense of humour.

Dear men both. Like cream they rose to the top of our profession. To my great joy "I knew them when!" ♦

# “Pioneers, O Pioneers”

by Shirley Elliott

I was very young when I decided to become a librarian: the career choice was inevitable, because my mother, Jean Haley Elliott, had graduated from Simmons College, Boston (then known as Simmons Female College) in 1910 with a degree in librarianship, and in our home books and libraries were common topics in everyday conversation.

My parents became engaged when they graduated from Acadia University in 1908, but my father had set his sights on a career in medicine, which required at least five years' preparation including four at Harvard Medical School, making any consideration of marriage out of the question. My mother, seeking a way to occupy her time for the next few years, was inspired by an article in *Ladies' Home Journal* by Herbert Putnam, Head of the Library of Congress. It described careers in librarianship open to women, and the colleges they might attend that offered professional training. This was in 1909. The neighbours in my mother's home town regarded it as madness that a young woman would spend a year studying how to charge out a book.

After she graduated in 1910 she was approached by the President of Acadia University Dr. George Barton Cutten, an author and bibliophile, offering her the position of university librarian. She accepted without hesitation and the task of incorporating the collection of 20,000 volumes in the Dewey Decimal System was begun and completed four years later, when she resigned to marry my father. Acadia therefore had the first professionally-catalogued academic library collection in the Atlantic provinces; moreover, it provided service to students six hours daily throughout the working week.

In 1911 she approached the administration with a proposal to offer two introductory courses in librarianship: Library methods, which included cataloguing and classification, and Library economy, ostensibly library house-keeping. They were adopted into the curriculum the following year and were continued by successive librarians for many years. These

courses proved to be very popular with women students, leading many to seek further education in librarianship in Canada and the United States. I believe my mother to have been the first professional librarian in the Atlantic Provinces; for me she was a true pioneer.



When I graduated from Acadia, I considered attending the University of Toronto Library School, but Simmons held a strong attraction. I entered the Library School in September, 1939, the only Canadian in the class. At that time Nova Scotia's record in public library service was abysmal; the only opportunities were in the academic field. Consequently, when on graduation from Simmons the following spring, I was offered a position as reference assistant at Brookline Public Library, close to Boston, I was overjoyed. I spent six pleasant years there, and three more years at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston. However, I had no wish to become an American citizen. I was hearing rumours that a positive change was taking place in Nova Scotia. Since 1937 Norah Bateson had been spreading the gospel of regional libraries with the blessing of Premier Angus L. Macdonald.

The Annapolis Valley Regional Library was the first region in Nova Scotia to be organized—in 1949, with Alberta Letts as its chief librarian. Before long other regions were showing interest. Colchester Hants had voted for library service, but no one expressed an interest in organizing it. Peter Grossman, then director of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, approached me, asking only that I organize it, for I was hesitant to involve myself in this particular branch of library service. I finally agreed, and for the next three years my base of operations in Truro was a building that had originally housed the Provincial Normal School, built in 1852.

I seem to have been destined to spend my days in buildings redolent of antiquity, for when I was appointed legislative librarian in 1954, it was to work in Province House, built in 1819. This time, however, I had inherited an actual library established in 1862, a library with a unique character and charm, reminiscent,

with its mezzanine balcony and alcoves, of a library in 19th century England. Originally this main chamber served as the Supreme Court of the province and was the scene of many historical events including Joseph Howe's defence of freedom of the press in 1835.

The building's first librarian was its custodian, James Venables. In 1880 John Thomas Bulmer, a lawyer, began two hectic years in office, followed by Francis Blake Crofton, a native of Ireland and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, who is remembered for the superior game of bridge he played at the Halifax Club nearby. When he retired in 1906 he was replaced by Miss Annie Donahue, who had served as his assistant since 1899 and served as legislative librarian for fifty-five years. She did not give me a tour of the library when I was appointed to succeed her, and, except on rare occasions, seldom visited it. Consequently, during my first years I was frequently making exciting discoveries and no two days were ever quite the same. On one, a pre-1800 item of Novascotiana would come to light, or perhaps a manuscript of special local interest. The library occupied five levels; the collection was arranged mainly by shelf location, though this was not to be trusted. During the first legislative session I was on more than one occasion challenged to find a book for Premier Macdonald at a moment's notice, and it was three weeks before I discovered the location of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Miss Donahue was a true Luddite—no machines were permitted to invade the tranquil, if not stagnant atmosphere of her library. On one of her infrequent visits she spied an innocent LC Smith Corona which I had had the temerity to introduce; her reaction was disturbing, to say the least. During my term of office I attempted to maintain a balance between the library's special ambience yet make the necessary concessions to progress. When I retired in 1982 we were at the threshold of the computer era. Today, I am happy to report that the library is now part of an integrated system with access to any online system it wishes. Somehow I feel that Joseph Howe, an internationalist and a man of vision, would approve heartily. ♦

## The Baked Girdle

by Jean Weibs

The summer of 1953 was very hot; at least that is my memory of it. As a recently graduated librarian, newly hired—and therefore the most dispensable member of the University of Toronto's Order Department—I was delegated to be the vacation replacement for Julia Jarvis, secretary of the chief librarian, Dr. Wallace.

To my young eyes Dr. Wallace was a fearsome creature, stern and demanding. He believed that librarians should set an example for the rest of the staff. Wearing stockings was one of the standards he set. If he noticed a

librarian with bare legs, he would mention this lapse to the appropriate department head who would then reprimand the offender.

Wearing stockings in those days also meant wearing a girdle, a combination that increased body heat in an already-hot, un-air-conditioned building. While I could afford several pairs of stockings, the cost of a second girdle was beyond my resources. Therefore, the perspiration-soaked girdle had to be washed every night.

One morning after a night of rain and high humidity, I awoke to find my girdle still wet. Panic! Dr. Wallace was certain to spot bare legs

on his temporary secretary, particularly since my inferior secretarial skills—I could neither type nor take shorthand—were (or so I believed) a source of irritation to him. So I threw my girdle into the oven, turned on the heat, and went to do my morning chores while the girdle dried. Suddenly the smell of burning rubber permeated the apartment. I opened the oven door to find the girdle had melted and was drooping down from the rack. How did I manage to go to work that day? Did I call in sick and buy another girdle? I don't remember, but to this day my roommate recalls with glee the day I baked my girdle. ♦

## Ernest Cockburn Kyte: The Forgotten Librarian

by William F.E. Morley

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Bibliographical Society of Canada (BSC), the June 1996 issue of *The National Library News* featured several articles on the early years of the BSC and the Canadian Library Association. They include an excellent account of the creation of the BSC by Liana Van der Bellen, author of a history of the Society, in which she mentions "the three original 'founders'" of the BSC at the organizational meeting in 1946, in Toronto. These three had come together four years earlier for the purpose of forming a Canadian bibliographical society. They set up a temporary executive but decided to postpone further activity until the end of World War II.

Ms Van der Bellen writes:

*Present at this meeting were three scholars the BSC honours as its founders: Lorne Pierce (1890–1961), a major figure in Canadian publishing as Editor of the Ryerson Press, one of Canada's oldest and most important publishing houses; Ernest Cockburn Kyte (1876–1971), Chief Librarian of Queen's University and noted bookman; and Marie Tremaine (1902–1984), then on the staff of the Reference Division of the Toronto Public Library, already well known as a bibliogra-*

*pher and author of articles and monographs on the history of printing in Canada.*

Who, then, was E.C. Kyte? While those of the other two founders are still household words among librarians—Dr. Marie Tremaine is remembered by the BSC's Tremaine Medal, and Dr. Lorne Pierce by the Lorne Pierce Medal of the Royal Society of Canada and the Lorne Pierce Collection of Canadiana at Queen's University—Kyte's name seems almost forgotten. In fact, an article by W. Kaye Lamb names only Tremaine, Dr. W. Stewart Wallace (Librarian of the University of Toronto), Father Morisset (Librarian of the University of Ottawa), and Lorne Pierce among those who met in 1946.

Born June 30, 1876 in Cardiff, Wales, Ernest Cockburn Kyte began his library career at 18, when he was appointed assistant in the Free Library of Marylebone, a borough in Central London. Successively he became Reference Librarian in the Public Libraries of the City of Westminster, Assistant-in-Charge of the Branch Library at Holborn, and, from 1907 to 1914, Librarian and Secretary at Harlesden, not far from London. With the outbreak of war, Kyte enlisted and served in the British Army from 1914 to 1919, rising to the rank of Captain, and finally as Education Officer of his Brigade on Salisbury Plain.

In June 1919, a month before he was demobilized, he was appointed Secretary of the Library Association, then as now the organization of professional librarians in Britain. He drew on his army experience by assuming the responsibilities of the Association's educational work; he also became editor of its scholarly journal *The Record*, to which he contributed on a regular basis.

After three years with the Library Association, he was invited to join the London firm of booksellers, J. and E. Bumpus, as Consulting Librarian. Bumpus held the coveted title of "Booksellers to H.M. King George V." In this capacity the firm was brought into contact with the libraries of the British nobility during the 1920s. Kyte was required to evaluate and advise upon the collections of the Earl of Verulam (the first baron was Francis Bacon, 1561–1626) at St. Albans; the Duke of Marlborough (ancestor of Sir Winston Churchill) at Blenheim; of Earl Cadogan, and of many other private and institutional libraries. Sometimes these assignments involved the rearrangement of these libraries, even of their cataloguing and classification, so the Bumpus duties brought Kyte some valuable experience as well as an increasing recognition and respect. So much so, in fact, that in 1927 he was appointed Librarian at the royal residence of Sandringham in Norfolk. He became an ex

officio member of the Royal Household, and the cataloguing of the library at Sandringham required many enjoyable discussions with the King and Queen. He was then offered the position of Assistant Librarian of the Royal Library at Windsor.

However, he was casting his net more widely. He had responded to an advertisement in a library journal inviting applicants for the position of University Librarian of Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario. His request "to have his name considered" was reported to the Board of Library Curators by Queen's Principal, the Rev. Dr. R. Bruce Taylor. He was interviewed in London by Sir Edward Peacock, a Governor of Queen's University, and as a result he was invited to appear in March 1928 before the Board in Kingston. Although almost all the other applicants were from within 500 miles of Queen's, the members of the Board of Library Curators were sufficiently impressed to offer the post to Mr. Kyte. He declined the position at Windsor Castle, and assumed his duties at Queen's on 1 July 1928, the day after his 52nd birthday.

Queen's University was fortunate in its choice. E.C. Kyte brought both youthful enthusiasm and mature experience to his responsibilities.

In an interview just before his death he stated: "I found Queen's just emerging from the old Arts Building (which had opened in 1880 and provided very limited space for the library before moving in 1924 to become the Douglas Library) and not knowing exactly what to do to become a modern university. I started collecting books from here, there, and everywhere ... laying a foundation."

Under his direction, Douglas Library grew rapidly, not only through purchases but also in the gifts he attracted. In 1970, *E.C. Kyte: A Tribute*, a publication by the Library's Special Collections, gives us this sketch of his character and modus operandi:

*His enthusiasm, his witty and informed conversation (spiced with quotations from literature and the classics), and the warmth of his personality, attracted many friends to the Library, and he was directly responsible for a goodly number of donations. With the assistance of a student who knew the owner of the Charles Mair Collection, Mr. Kyte was able to acquire it for Queen's as an outright gift.*

Those powers of persuasion also attracted the McNicol Collection on the history of telecommunications to Queens:

*Although the McNicol books were destined for Rutgers University, a brief and casual meeting between the Librarian and Mr. McNicol at Cornwall, Ontario, deflected them to Queen's: "[I] mentioned a boy's book that I loved, [and] found that it had been the key to his career." Upon such adventitious remarks are empires built!*

*Tribute* also tells of his pursuit of the collection of children's books owned by a Mr. Harry Hereford of Ottawa. With only four or five important juvenile titles in the Library, he nevertheless decided to make them the foundation on which to build. Hearing of Hereford's distinguished collection, he wrote to Dr. Charlotte Whitton, graduate and friend of Queen's and later Mayor of Ottawa, and she invited Mr. Kyte to call upon her. In Ottawa they visited Hereford, and his and Kyte's shared interest in children's books led to the diversion of the collection from Carleton to Queen's. October 1944, when the volumes arrived in Kingston, marks the effective beginning of today's outstanding Children's Collection.

One of the most important benefactions to the University, that of Dr. Lorne Pierce (1890–1961) also began during E.C. Kyte's tenure. Both men were active scholars, in fact pioneers, in the field of Canadiana, and they soon developed a mutual respect and affection. Lorne Pierce, a Queen's graduate, was then the Editor of Ryerson Press in Toronto. His gifts of books, manuscripts, and funds established the celebrated Edith and Lorne Pierce Collection of Canadiana, which formed the resource basis of Queen's reputation as a centre for Canadian studies. The printed materials, held in Special Collections, continue to grow in perpetuity; they now number fifty-five thousand. The size of the aggregation of literary manuscripts even fifty years ago may be found in the *Catalogue of Canadian Manuscripts Collected by Lorne Pierce* (Toronto, Ryerson, 1946). Now preserved in Queen's Archives, the manuscripts were reported in 1978 to occupy sixty-six linear feet of space. The *Catalogue* was edited and introduced by Mr. Kyte, who dedicated it to the donor, his friend Lorne Pierce.

During his term of office as University

Librarian, E.C. Kyte was also responsible for many other publications and articles, produced in his effort to make the strengths of the Douglas Library more widely understood and appreciated. Among these were *A List of the Books on Vergil* (1931), which speaks of his interest in and knowledge of the classics (he was fluent in Latin); *Canadiana, 1698–1900* (1932), demonstrating the great strength of his library; and the *Catalogue of the McNicol Collection* (1942), mentioned earlier.

Besides these finding-aids, E.C. Kyte also contributed to library and other journals, such as *Queen's Quarterly*. The wide range of his interests and knowledge is also evident from his lectures in Canada and the United States, and from his radio broadcasts—impressing one listener as precursors of Lister Sinclair's programme *Ideas*—which brought favourable attention to Douglas Library and Queen's from many parts of North America. He lectured at the Library School of the University of Toronto and delivered the first art lectures at Queen's.

In June 1947, after 19 years in office and during the month of his seventy-first birthday, E.C. Kyte retired as Chief Librarian of Queen's—but not from active librarianship. He assumed extensive archival and library duties for the United Church of Canada in Toronto, organizing their archives, and setting up the Archives periodical *The Bulletin*. As another outlet for his immense vitality and learning, he accepted the position of resident curator of the William Lyon Mackenzie Museum, on Bond Street, in Toronto, from 1949 until 1951.

At his second retirement in 1953, he was commended by the United Church for having "done so much under so many circumstances." and the Archives Committee's "vast debt" to him for his six years in office was acknowledged. At this point in his life he and his wife Constance Anne left Toronto for Cobourg, Ontario. Here this inveterate librarian set to work to provide the Cobourg Public Library with its first card catalogue. Now approaching his eightieth year, he catalogued each title and typed each card entirely unaided.

Five years later, after thirty years in Canada, the Kytes decided to return to live in England. For the next few years he found peace in full retirement in the quiet pastures of the West Country, but he missed his many friends in Canada, and in 1965 he and Mrs. Kyte returned, first to Peterborough, Ontario, where

he celebrated his ninetieth birthday in 1966, then, in 1968, to Bridgenorth, a community six miles from Peterborough on the shores of Chemung Lake. They moved to Cobourg a year later, where he died in 1971. The orderly transfer of his papers to Queen's University Archives was begun in 1967.

As Queen's Chief Librarian, E.C. Kyte had entered fully into the life of the university, and had enhanced its reputation at large. Devoted to his responsibilities, he saw the library burgeon from a staff of 18 to over 200. He also developed a great love for his adopted country, and an understanding of its literature and history. He was an early and vocal advocate of a National Library for Canada, and lived to see it established.

He was succeeded as Chief Librarian of Queen's by H. Pearson Gundy (1905–1994), who served in this office for a similar period (19 years). Together, the two men provided

the Library with almost four decades of scholarly leadership.

From my own correspondence and encounters with Mr. Kyte, I would add that he possessed an unflinching lively and gentle wit, both written and spoken. He was first and foremost a librarian, in the traditional and loftiest sense of a humanist, one dedicated to learning in the most catholic interpretation, and to the logical ordering of books and knowledge into a purposeful utility for the benefit of all mankind. In an address to the American Library Association at Yale University in June 1931, he makes clear his feelings about his profession:

*An audience of librarians is potentially the most enlightened audience upon earth. Preachers are apt to dispute upon creeds, doctors to differ over remedies; your lawyer is a cynic by decision, and members of the*

*two Services hunt each others' reputations up and down the world. To the librarian alone (in conference) is given the Athenian wisdom that rejoices (temperately) to hear any new thing, and if disapproval be expedient, veils that disapproval in silence.*

In summary, librarians are a force for enlightenment, a civilizing influence in society; and this is a role they have played with distinction across the centuries. E. Cockburn Kyte was a living and articulate expression of this ideal. To have known him is, for a librarian, to be proud to have followed in his vocation. ♦

*For more information, refer to Ernest Cockburn Kyte: A Tribute (1970), upon which this article freely draws, available from Special Collections, Queen's University Library, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5C4. The cost is \$5.00.*

## ***Vacance en France!***

We recently heard from ELA member Susan Reid, who worked with the Toronto Board of Education, OISE, and the Ontario Ministry of Labour, and has moved to Haut du Bourg in the southwest of France.

Her new home, Le Fournil, was constructed in 1782, and is built entirely of stone, with a tile roof. It is a three-bedroom house, with two modern bathrooms and modern kitchen. Completely renovated, it now combines the charm of beamed ceilings, fireplaces and exposed stone walls with the comfort of central heating and up-to-date facilities. An enclosed terrace in front of the house, with acacia, lilacs, roses and herb garden, is a lovely spot for dining or for relaxing to the sound of church bells, and provides views of the hills and valleys around Carlux, a small village north of the Dordogne River (about 15 km from Sariat).

Le Fournil is available for rent to interested ELA members. John Wilkinson (416-221-7277) can fax you information, or you may contact Susan Reid or Harry Neal at:

Le Fournil  
Haut du Bourg  
24370 Carlux, France  
Tel.: (33) 53 29 39 90  
Fax: (33) 53 59 63 92

## **An Invitation to Our Readers**

Over the years, Ex Libris members and others have helped make this newsletter a reality by sending us their reminiscences, historical articles and other items of interest.

If you have a short item you would like us to include, an idea you would like us to pursue, or an article you have written or plan to write, we would like to hear from you.

Articles on any aspect of our profession—memories of your own career; firsthand histories of a library or library service (municipal, regional or provincial; in or outside Canada); reports of interesting collections, projects, or organizations; biographies of outstanding librarians—all will receive our careful consideration.

"Milestones" items are also very welcome. Information from outside Central Canada is particularly useful, as we may not have access to it locally.

Please send your contributions to:

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Any photographs you can send in to accompany your contribution would be greatly appreciated.



# Gladys Black and Interlibrary Loan in Nova Scotia

by Maud Godfrey

The idea of providing interlibrary loan service by means of a union catalogue of the holdings of Halifax libraries was a frequent topic of discussion at Halifax Library Club meetings after the Club's founding in January 1935. And Nora Bateson recommended it in her *Library Survey of Nova Scotia, 1938*.

But serious consideration waited upon the end of World War II and the appointment of Peter Grossman as Director of the Regional Libraries Commission in January 1949. It was the main item on the agenda of the June 1949 conference of the Maritime Library Association, which appointed a committee to study the possibility of a union catalogue.

Meanwhile, before the establishment of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library in 1952, the nucleus of a union catalogue was taking shape when the centralized cataloguing service of the Regional Libraries Commission began adding cards from the Nova Scotia Research Foundation and the Nova Scotia Technical College to the cards produced for the service. Development of the Union Catalogue became one of the responsibilities of Miss Gladys Black when she left the Toronto Public Library and came to Nova Scotia to join the Commission staff as Reference Librarian in May 1951.

On her arrival Miss Black was confronted by "several thousand catalogue cards in boxes and bundles and piles." a two-year unorganized accumulation. For the most part she worked alone at her three responsibilities: Regional Reference Service, Interlibrary Loan Service, and creation of the Union Catalogue, with only brief occasional help from another department or a summer student. But by April 1953 she wrote triumphantly to Martha Shepard at the National Library: "We have at last succeeded in reducing the numerous packets of cards into two alphabets and are about one third through editing the first alphabet."

Nova Scotia's libraries were quick to make

use of the embryo catalogue's services. Miss Black's first report in 1952 recorded 800 books routed through her office to libraries elsewhere. In 1953 the count was 1,067. No count was kept of loans arranged and sent directly from lending library to borrowing library.

Meanwhile, participation in the catalogue was growing. By 1954, when Martha Shepard and her team arrived to photograph the main entries of major libraries for the Canadian Union Catalogue, eleven contributing libraries had been added to the original two. Copies of the films were ordered; from there ensued a frustrating battle with the Customs Department. Development of the film was done in the United States, and Customs insisted on treating the reproductions as imports requiring a substantial duty. Several months of intervention at the highest political level secured an order for release of the films, only to have Customs demand payment for the time the film had been held in storage! Further time-consuming interventions finally brought the film containing its 220,000 entries to Miss Black at the end of 1954.

Now began the truly massive undertaking of stamping the holding libraries' symbols on all entries in the rolls of film, cutting each obstinately curly entry to 3x5 size, and packing them into boxes tightly enough to keep them flat. The effort to retype each entry onto a clean card was persevered with for two years when it had to be given up and the flattened film entries interfiled into the catalogue with the ever-increasing shipments of new cards from contributing libraries. The last of the photographed entries was cut, stamped and filed early in 1957.

Gladys Black coped with this unending task as well as with the growing demand for interlibrary loan service, and increasing requests from the Regional Libraries for reference service. To help her she had only one full-time clerical assistant and occasional assistance from people when they could be spared from other departments. She took a lot of

work home for evenings and weekends. The day in November 1954 when the first requests were received from the National Library and forwarded to the holding libraries was counted a red-letter day.

At this early stage, interlibrary loan was conducted by letter in very courteous, civilized terms: "I shall be grateful if you can fill the enclosed request." and "We should be happy if you could tell us where the following books can be located."

Gladys Black's annual report of 1955 showed that the "impossible dream" of 1949 had become a reality. Entries forwarded to the National Union Catalogue totalled 4,556, requests by mail came to 1,363, and 338 by telephone. The Provincial Library routed 983 books loaned by various Halifax libraries. 34 loans arranged in cooperation with the National Library involved 19 Canadian libraries, two American and one British.

In the course of learning how to cooperate with the Provincial Union Catalogue and use its interlibrary loan service, many member libraries came to rely on Gladys Black as a source of information and friendly counsel on a wide variety of problems in operating their services.

Gladys Black retired from the Provincial Library of Nova Scotia and returned to Toronto on August 22, 1967. From the unorganized heaps of thousands of catalogue cards she had found in May 1951, she left an authoritative bibliographic tool of 520,869 entries and a smoothly operating, efficient system of interlibrary cooperation serving patrons of all types of libraries throughout the province and beyond. ♦

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*Maud Godfrey left the Hamilton Public Library in 1967 to replace Gladys Black as Head of the Reference Department, Nova Scotia Provincial Library. She retired in 1977 and lives in Halifax. Bertha Higgins, former head of Cataloguing for the Regional Libraries, assisted in the preparation of this article.*