

IS EVERYBODY HAPPY?

According to the chronicler Holinshed, as Mary Tudor lay dying, she remarked to an attendant "When I am dead and opened, you shall find "Calais" lying in my heart." When Biblos staffers go to their just reward, I am sure that "participation" will be found written somewhere on their body.

Between September 1 and September 7 of this year, calls for nominations to four committees vitally important to the operation and general welfare of the U.B.C. Library were sent to every employce in the system. It grieves me to report that, up to the time of writing, the responses has been anything but overwhelming. These four committees, the ARC, Ombudsman, CCSBOS and Librarians Salaries, were set up by the Administration and receive its solid backing. These committees are composed entirely of Library staff, drawn from all levels, and any recommendations made are studied carefully and impartially by the Administration. Many necessary and worthwhile changes in practice and policy have resulted from the work of the committees.

Cliches, we are told are to be avoided but there is truth in this one - these are YOUR committees. Many older staff members will remember what it was like before committees were established. Have we become so complacent that the majority feels that there is no longer any room for improvement? I think this is not true at the university level any more than it is in government, or at any other institutional or corporate level.

BIBLOS urges you to think seriously about this situation - nominations for all committees close September 19th and in many cases there are NO nominations at all for many of the positions open. Please talk to your friends and get your nominations in.

A Hearty Welcome to:

Karen Kay	L.A. I	Sedgewick
Lynn Peirson	L.A. II	Sedgewick
Greg Allard	L.A. I	Cat. Preparations
Sally Blake	L.A. I	Circulation
Donna Herriott	L.A. I	Woodward
Diane Proulx	L.A. I	Woodward
Nancy Mooney	L.A. I	Cat. Preparations
Edith Kenny	L.A. II	Serials
Barry Henderson	Stack Atten.	Sedgewick
Regina Barzynska	L.A. I	Prebind
Bonnie Sullivan	L.A. I	Orig. Catal.
Sylvia Woodcock	L.A. I	Cat. Preparations.
Lawrence Jones	Stack Atten.	Sedgewick
Linda Worner	L.A. I	Woodward
Marilyn Kuye	L.A. I	Sedgewick
Susanne Douglas	KPO I	Systems
Barbara von Fritschen	L.A. I	I.L.L.
Susan Crossby	L.A. I	Cat. Preparations
Loveron Padmoroff	L.A. I	Orig. Catal.
Diane Paolini	L.A. I	A.R.E.L.
Emily Sheidan	L.A. II	Cat. Preparations
Christine Patmore	Clerk I	Acquisitions
Christina Mallalue	L.A. I	Sedgewick
Megan Winwood	L.A. I	Circulation
Heather Steele	L.A. I	Circulation
Judy Hicks	L.A. I	Fine Arts
Gillian Chamberlin	L.A. II	Map

Congratulations To:

Carol Sinclair	Sec. I Admin.	Sec. II Admin
Shirley Rudolph	L.A. I Cat. Prep.	L.A. II Cat. Prep.
Denise Leahy	L.A. I Sedge	L.A. II Sedge.
Mary Nortiffee	L.A. I Sedge	L.A. II Sedge.
Christine Jones	L.A. II Circ.	L.A. III Circ.
Cathy Belyca	L.A. I A.R.E.L.	L.A. II Read. Rooms
Toni O'Hare	L.A. I Circ.	L.A. II Biblio.
Cynthia Carter	L.A. I F.A.D.	L.A. II Serials
Teresa Ranftl	L.A. II	K.P.O. I
Susan McIlmoyle	L.A. I Circ.	L.A. II Circ.
David Miller	Clerk III Acq.	Clerk IV Acq.

A Fond Farewell To:

Kristine Kaminski	L.A. I	Woodward
Denise McCormac	L.A. II	Serials
Kerry Lukenchuk	L.A. II	Cat. Preparations
Roselina Koo	L.A. III	Special Collections
Stella Coubaraki	L.A. II	Humanities
Edith Brown	L.A. II	Cat. Preparations
Marija Potenic	L.A. I	Cat. Preparations

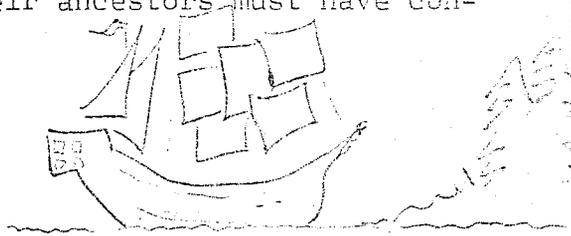
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C A J U N F R E N C H

After nearly a week in New Orleans, where French, though apparently not dead, is not noticeable to the visitor unarmed with introductions, a few days among the Cajun French of south-west Louisiana were more linguistically rewarding. In and around Lafayette, St. Martinville and New Iberia - and doubtless much further afield - French is still widely spoken. But to appreciate this situation perhaps an historical digression is justified:

The first Frenchmen to reach the area were soldiers, followed by a very meagre trickle of settlers and missionaries from France. But it was not until the advent of the Acadiens (or Cajuns, as they call themselves, pronouncing the word 'Cadgins' in French and 'Caijans' in English) that substantial settlement occurred. As every good Canadian knows (I did not), Acadian was officially handed over to the English under the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. Its French agrarian population was not intolerably harassed and remained in Nova Scotia until 1755 when their rulers, anticipating the Seven Year's War and fearful of a strong pocket of dissident Frenchmen in their midst, expelled them ruthlessly and widespread over the thirteen colonies. In time most of the survivors found their way to their fellow-countrymen in New Orleans, where they were helped to move on and settle in the wild country to the west, now largely under sugarcane. (Others, instead of filtering down the Mississippi, eventually managed to take ship to France.)

In the bayou country occasional French forts were already to be found as protection from prospective settlers from the fierce Attakapa Indians. Around these the Cajuns struggled to eke out an agrarian existence, and here their descendants still live around huge churches towards which their ancestors must have contributed a large share of their hard won earnings. Eventually word that they had found a new home reached their relatives who had taken refuge in France, most of whom were glad to rejoin them and leave the country of their forefathers which yet seemed so foreign to them.



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Cajun French cont'd

conspicuous signs put out by a Conseil pour le développement du français en Louisiane advocating French speech. How many can read them I do not know, but there they are: "Parlez français avec vos enfants à la maison!", "Soyons fiers de parler français!" "Soyez à la mode: parlez français!" and other such catch-phrases. I believe that the Roman Catholic Church is also not entirely disinterested in this campaign.

The French spoken by the Cajuns is easily understood. It tends to be rather simple, a language of the countryside, but it offers no problems. Its exponents seem to have rather an inferiority complex about their speech, more is the pity ("main nous autres ne parlons pas un beau français comme vous"), but they are nevertheless clearly delighted to be addressed in their mother tongue (a storekeeper calls up an assistant, adding "...et vous pouvez bien parler français avec Monsieur"). When talking with one apparently quite cultured lady I encountered the constant curious combination of 'tu' and 'Monsieur'. This anomaly is a direct result of illiterate oral tradition, by which a person follows blindly the speech to which he is exposed. I remember it among the natives of francophone Africa who, always 'tutoyés' by the French colonials, knew only how to reply in the form which they heard. It also occurred in the fluent speech of a New York student of French parentage who convulsed all who met him in Switzerland, having clearly never heard the word 'vous' in his life.

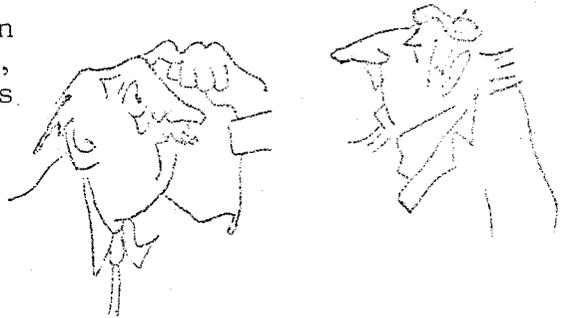
There is a parallel speech to Cajun French also widely used in Louisiana, and this I defy anyone born outside the precincts to feel at home with. I refer, of course, to the 'patois nègre', often mistakenly called 'créole*'. This speech corresponds with pidgin English in that it appears totally to lack grammar or syntax (though in fact it does have a modicum of syntax taken straight from Senegalese and thus hard for a westerner even to recognize). A sample phrase is 'M'aller courir' (= 'moi aller courir' or 'me go run', i.e. 'je vais vite'). But the speech is further complicated by the infiltration of Spanish and Senegalese words and usage. The Spanish stems from the fact that most slaves spent a staging period in the West Indies before being transshipped to New Orleans. I tried speaking French to a number of rural negroes (God knows some of them were hard enough to follow in English with their delightful southern tones!).

Cajun French cont'd

Among the soldiers and the peasant farmers a third class of Frenchmen was soon to be injected. Just before the Revolution aristocrats who saw the writing on the wall began to anticipate the impending cataclysm by shipping mountains of their belongings to New Orleans. They then followed with their families, expecting to have to sit out civil strife at home or at most one year. But things failed to work out as they had planned. On arrival they were surprised to face the threat of deportation back to France, so they decided to put a six-weeks' journey between themselves and the authorities. St. Martinville became their goal and here they had fine houses built and proceeded to do the only thing at which they were adept - to entertain each other and amuse themselves. They had brought slaves to do all the work, they had fine furniture, beautiful wardrobes and costly jewels, and they succeeded so well in their endeavours that this wayward outpost, which even aspired to having the first opera house in North America, soon earned the sobriquet of "le petit Paris".

It was some time before social links between the aristocrats (who had in the meantime been joined by wealthy Creole planters from the West Indies, where the French Revolution had also left its mark) and the peasant Cajuns began to be forged. But eventually intermarriage became the norm.

The French Language in the Cajun country is largely an oral tradition, the peasant majority of its exponents having been illiterate. Today too, most people claiming French as their mother tongue are unable to read or write it (and this they readily admit in conversation with a stranger), though they may be well schooled in literate English. It is thus possible to meet a man, as I did, actually speaking English with a French accent (though the great majority speak unaccented English), yet only literate in his secondary language. Until now French has survived unaided as the preferred language in the home. But the current crop of children are resisting this tradition, and artificial stimulation has begun to be applied in an effort to perpetuate French culture. Store windows blossom with



Cajun French cont'd

Some were able partially to understand me, but I was almost totally unable to reciprocate. If I got the merest gist of an answer I felt that I had done well! A white man helped me to understand my difficulties when he explained that 'nous venons', vous venez', 'ils viennent' all come out to sound like 'eux vint'!

This 'patois nègre' is by no means confined to the coloured people. Well-to-do white folk needed to speak it in order to communicate with their slaves, while all those born in a slave-served household spoke it fluently, as they were taught it by their 'mammies'. Thus children spoke patois in the nursery and French in the drawingroom. Many Cajuns, though not slave-owners, also picked it up. Today many French Louisianans often enjoy speaking patois (and refer to it confusingly as 'creole') among themselves. I was told that for all its practical inadequacies they like it for its musical intonation and poetic effect.

It need hardly be added that August is not the ideal month to visit this fascinating area.

*Creoles are defined as people born in the Caribbean or Gulf areas of mixed white ancestry (in the early days most commonly Franco-Spanish).

John Gray

"BIBLIOTHECAE HISTORIA"

1948-- 1949Total Staff 50

The opening of the new North Wing. New areas were created, the Ridington Room, Fine Arts, Music Room, Acquisitions Department, and a Bindery.

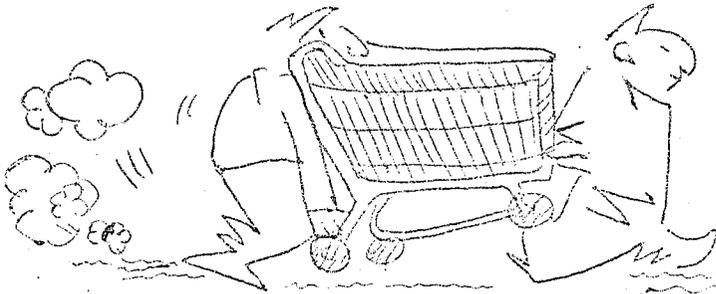
All Library fines were collected by a Mrs. Arnott and placed in the vault. She was asked to learn the combination so as not to bother her fellow workers.

Each member of the staff was appointed a turn of duty to clean up the staff-room (including the professionals!)

Staff were asked to please remember to close the door leading from the lean-to into the stacks!?!?

Three more Army tables were supplied for the Education work-room on Floor 3 making it a seating capacity for 20!

Our first grocery buggies were obtained from Woodward's Dept. Store at a cost of \$2.50 each!!



Staff "performance" sheets began.

Catalogue Division had 13 staff members.

Our first Library "BLITZ", Operation Harmac! The cataloguing of 2,000 books in the home of H.R. MacMillan.

Periodicals Division was transformed into Serials, staff 10.

87,470 volumes were circulated at the Loan Desk. Staff 16.

In October of '49 a mail-boy was added to our staff, no mail room yet!

P.M.

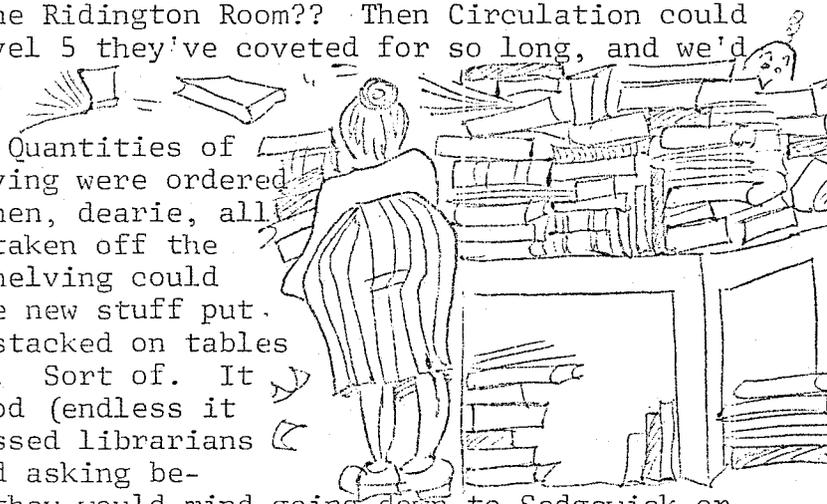
The Truth About the Riddington Room. Or,
I'm sorry sir, I won't be able to find
that book for a week.

You may have wondered, along about the end of August, just what was going on in the Ridington Room. Why all those books stacked on tables? Why all the shelving knocked down and carried away? Why the wild-eyed H.D. and S.S.D. people staggering up-stairs for frequent cold drinks?

Well, dearie, it's like this. Ever since Humanities and Social Sciences moved in together about three years ago, their reference books have been shelved in two call number sequences, simply because there wasn't enough shelf space in the Ridington Room for everything. The books they liked and used a lot were in the Ridington Room; the ones they thought they might need someday but not just now, were shelved out back on stack level 5, just west of Bev Richards's magazines. Not a Good Arrangement, because those books out back were needed more than you'd think. Also it was confusing for students and professors and cataloguers who could never understand WHY.

Well, then, when everybody started talking about the Great-Shift-When-Sedgewick-opens, H.D. and S.S.D. thought they'd get in the act. Wouldn't it be splendid (they said), to have all our reference books in the Ridington Room?? Then Circulation could have the space on level 5 they've coveted for so long, and we'd save on shoe leather.

And so it was. Quantities of beautiful beige shelving were ordered and duly arrived. Then, dearie, all the books had to be taken off the shelves so the old shelving could be taken down and the new stuff put up. The books were stacked on tables in call number order. Sort of. It was during this period (endless it seemed) that embarrassed librarians might have been heard asking bewildered patrons if they would mind going down to Sedgewick or phoning the Public Library: "Somewhere, someone must be able to find the American Library Directory!!"

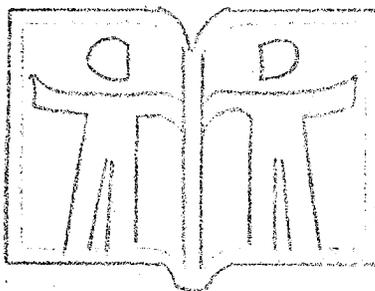


When the new shelving was up, the Varty team from Circ.

The Truth About cont'd

along with Forbes, Carrier and Associates swung into action. The books from the back were brought in, filed in with the Ridington books, and everything was re-shelved. Slowly, but by Friday of Registration Week, all was peaceful again.

So dearie, that's what happened. But don't go asking for the American Library Directory just yet. It ain't where is used to be, and they haven't quite figured out where it is now.



LUCKY CANADIANS!

WE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE BOOKS FOR GRANTED.

THIS YEAR, SHARE YOUR READING WITH THOSE LESS FORTUNATE. EVERY TIME YOU BUY OR BORROW A BOOK, DROP A PENNY INTO THE HANDY TRIANGULAR UNESCO PENNY COLLECTOR ON YOUR BOOK STORE OR LIBRARY COUNTER.

JUST THINK WHAT BOOKS ARE WORTH TO YOU.

SHARE A PENNY-A-BOOK.

From Our Resident Reporter in Woodward Library...

We want to welcome Barbara Gibson to the Woodward Staff. She is now situated in the Memorial Room (for the information of any old Main Library friends who miss her and want to see how well we are treating her.)

Claora Styron has been very busy arranging displays both inside and outside the Mem. Room. These displays are worth seeing. In one case there is a selection of engraved portraits of famous men of medicine from Hippocrates to Banting. There is a case devoted to the history of Anatomy, one on Dentistry, another depicts the history of physical therapy and yet another honours nursing. The latter is especially interesting as it contains one of Woodward Library's original letters of Florence Nightingale. There are medical illustrations from medieval manuscripts, and one very precious book from the library of King Henry 8th, believed to be his only medical book. On display is reference on the history of medicine and a number of works on the history of aviation medicine.

In two weeks the students will begin arranging their own displays of the development of the health sciences, but many of the cases I have mentioned will continue to show what is in them right now.

Anyone interested in seeing these may do so anytime.

Joan B. Stuchner
Woodward Library

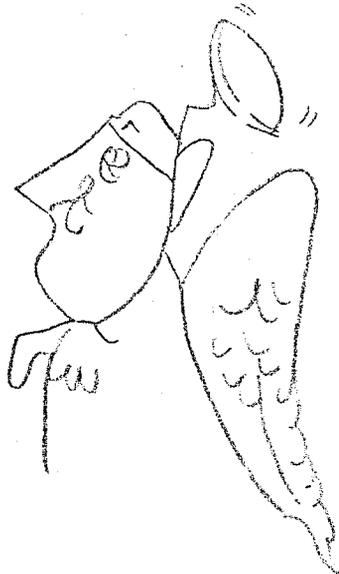
St. Wibby Reports....

ATTENDING the Association of Canadian Map Librarians Conference in Ottawa Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 was Maureen Wilson (Maps) and Francis Woodward (Special Collections).

BACK in his office after a vacation spent in the Chilkooot is Bill Bell of Administration.

INFLATION must be worse than we thought. One of the penny banks in the Curric. Lab. has been ripped off. If possible maybe members of the staff could keep an eye on the Penny Power Banks. We understand donations have been a little slow coming in but the AMS has promised to give us some help with publicity.

APOLOGIES to Jerry Andersen of the Law Library who we married off in August. The actually date of the wedding was 27th of July.



CONGRATULATIONS to Joo Sim (Periodicals) who had a baby son named David, August 22nd.

ALSO congratulations to Marie Horvath (Hum.) for producing a further supplement to her Doukhobor Bibliography which was originally printed two years ago.

Several well known members of staff are presently in the hospital. We wish a speedy recovery to Elsie de Bruijn and Janet Yuan.

FOR SALE

3 orange Cosmo swag
lamps - 2 matching.
Like new. \$13.00 each
Phone Julie at 3097.

ROOM & BOARD for girl

Single room, breakfast
dinner, sandwich lunch
washer, dryer, trans-
portation to and from
Library - 8:30 a.m. -
5 p.m. Home atmosphere
\$90.00 per month
Call 4809.

FOR SALE

A pair of almost new ladies black
leather boots. Size: 5½
Price: were \$48.00 now \$20.00
Phone Deborah at 228-4809 - work
or 731-0193 - home

BOWLING LEAGUE-
Don't forget, anyone
interested please
contact - Carol Claus,
Serials or Gwen
Gregor, Map for more
information.

NOTICE

There will be a special meeting
sponsored by the Library Assistants'
Association on Friday, September 22nd,
in Room 835, School of Librarianship.
The object of this meeting is to in-
troduce informally, nominees for the
various committees. 12 noon - 2 p.m.

DON'T FORGET: Send
your ads to Tannis -
Circulation Dept,
Main Library or phone
228-3115.