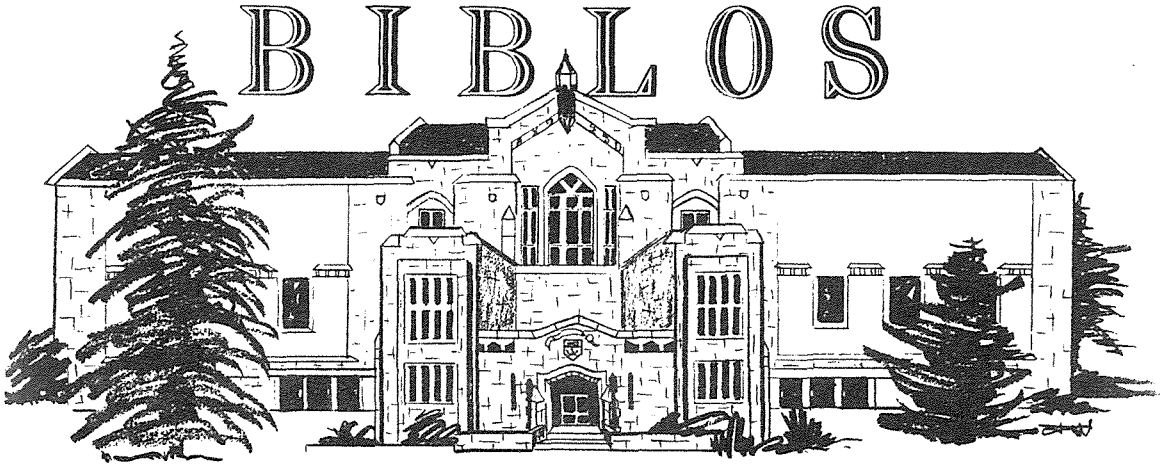
BIBLOS



VOL. 5 No. 5 OF THE UBC LIBRARY STAFF NEWSLETTER. FEBRUARY/MARCH 1969

Spring has sprung, days are lighter and so is Biblos this month, after January's massive production, both in weight and content.

Panic not about the fact that this is headed the Feb/March issue - we have not missed a month, just caught up with our dates.

so..... Hail to March the month of hope
For projects filled with depth and scope
For dreams of funds thrice '68
Ho! Hum! What springtime fancies minds create!

And a happy April 1st to all you hopeful budgeteers.

PAL

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University of British Columbia.

STAFF CHANGES

Welcome to:-

Anita Houston	L.A. I	Serials
Penny Vroom	L.A. I	Circulation
David Kent	L.A. I	Sedgewick
Gwen Telling	L.A. I	Catalogue
Ruth Schreier	L.A. I	Catalogue

Congratulations to:-

Luba Kalmakov	L.A. II	Serials	to	L.A. III	Serials
Bessie Wong	L.A. I	Serials	to	L.A. II	Serials
Mary Paterson	L.A. III	Serials	to	L.A. IV	Serials
Gudrun Hiemstra	L.A. II	Circulation	to	L.A. II	Catalogu

Farewell to:-

Cisca Schmall	L.A. I	Catalogue
Cheryl Huchula	L.A. I	Catalogue
Paul Deglau	Stack Supervisor	Woodward
Diana Browne	Flexowriter Operator	Systems
Gillian Mullen	Flexowriter Operator	Catalogue

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CENTENARY OF LIBRARY SERVICE.

The Vancouver Public Library is observing the centenary of Vancouver's first library. Moodyville Mechanic's Institute began lending books in 1869. The first Vancouver Public Library was a small wooden building at the foot of Dunlevy Street. In 1903, the dignified Carnegie Free Library was opened at Main & Hastings. It served Vancouver readers until 1957, by which time it had become woefully inadequate even with the addition of a large annex. In its early days, rules limited borrowers to one book at a time, but they could borrow one every day. Every day except Sunday, that is. Mr. Carnegie didn't believe that Sunday was a good day for borrowing books, although it was all right to read on that day.

On November 1, 1957, the splendid new building was opened at Burrard and Robson. Now in its 12th year of operation, it is still an outstanding example of library concept and design.

DISPLAY AT MAIN LIBRARY

To celebrate 100 years of library service in Vancouver, an interesting display has been arranged. It includes books from the Vancouver Public Library's original collection, old clippings, Library Board minute-books and blow-ups of rare photographs of the Library at various stages of its history.

Other memorabilia seldom seen by the public includes old letter books - the finely scripted predecessors of todays carbon copies, a Library Board minute-book from the year 1892; and one of the first volumes presented to the Library in 1869 - "A Memoir of the Rev. Sidney Smith" by his daughter, Lady Holland.

INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS

Visitors to the Library will see a photograph of the tiny white frame building sitting on a dirt road at the foot of Dunlevy Street, a photograph recording the laying of the cornerstone of the former Main & Hastings Street Branch, March 29, 1902; a 1927 view of the Sincere Grocery Company which was located at the present site of the Main Branch.

One news story takes R.A. Douglas, one of the early librarians, to task for spending public money on "rare books with fine

bindings". These volumes now constitute some of the Library's most valuable possessions.

A history of the Library's past hundred years is currently being prepared by members of the Library staff, and is due for publication in 1969.

Reproduced from the "Buzzer" February 1969, by permission of Mr. G. Appleby. Ed.

"I'LL SAY IT'S A RARE VOLUME, MYRTLE! IT'S BEEN OVERDUE SINCE 1934—COME BACK, YOU!"

.....

COLLECTOR'S ITEM

HOW'S THIS FOR A TITLE? (Book of Love, 1578)

A courtlie controversie of Cupids cautels [i.e. tricks] conteyning five tragicall histories, very pithie, pleasant, pitiful, and profitable: discoursed uppon wyth argumentes of love, by three gentlemen and two gentlewomen, entermedled with divers delicate sonets and rithmes, exceeding delightfull to refresh the yrkesomnesse of tedious tyme. Translated out of French as neare as our English phrase will permit...[&c, &c.]

jg

Returning travellers report.....

From January 1st to 19th my husband Steve, and myself exchanged Vancouver, the city of ice and snow, for Honolulu, the city of sun and palms, and horrors! - deluges of rain.
It was our first trip to the Hawaiian Islands and I am afraid we acted like typical tourists and did all the touristy things. We had intended to visit both the islands of Oahu and Maui, but were inflicted with the local disease. Polynesian Paralysis and could not drag ourselves away from Waikiki.

The weather had been generally bad before our arrival and we were very disappointed when it poured buckets for five days during our first week. After all you can get all the rain you could want in Vancouver!

Ah....but then the torrents stopped, the clouds parted, and when the sun came out with all its heat and brilliance, we could see why so many people rave about Hawaii! Sunning on the beach, swimming, sailing, sunburn; dancing under the stars, Chi-Chi's, MaiTai's, Scorpions, sunburn - everything combined to make a truly great holiday.

They say that when you first arrive in the Islands, you just sit around and think - and then, after awhile, you just sit around.

- D. Kent.

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Ah yes, the West Indies! The chief results of my trip were: a strong tan, good health, and an overwhelming yearning to return there as soon as possible.

With a friend from northern Ontario (she left five feet of snow) I spent five days on Tobago, then in Port of Spain boarded a small island freighter which carried 50 cabin passengers and about 150 deck passengers going home for Christmas. We sailed by night and had the day on several islands: Grenada, Barbados, St.

Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Antigua; then two days at sea to Jamaica, from where we flew home.

Impressions: weather hot, but kept comfortable by the strong trade winds; local people extremely pleasant, but their creole accents a bit difficult to follow; shopping wonderful for tourists - tax-free European imports, the best rum at Can.$2.00 for 40 ounces.

Canada is in evidence everywhere. Our banks provide handsome buildings, our government builds (and gives) the best docks and artesian water systems; our elderly retireds live there in a tax-free haven.

Would I want to live in the West Indies? No, unless I could come back here every few months for a change of climate. But, as I said before, I cannot wait to spend another winter holiday there. And I now toss Angostura Bitters into all my food, including coffee! Try it.

Eleanor Mercer
Bibliography Div.

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FRIENDLY FIJI - or - HOW WE GOT PLASTERED ON NEW YEAR'S

Fiji is an early morning landscape of fantastic hills seen through a fine mist as the Orsova sails slowly and silently through the gap in the reef which marks the entrance to Suva harbor. Fiji is the police band, in their navy shirts and white pointed skirts, marching up and down the wharf as they play "The Happy Wanderer" to greet us. Fiji is the smell of copra, the narrow twisting streets of Suva, the Grand Pacific Hotel, with its ceiling fans, Burns Philp (South Seas) Ltd. and Morris Hedstrom - the large department stores.

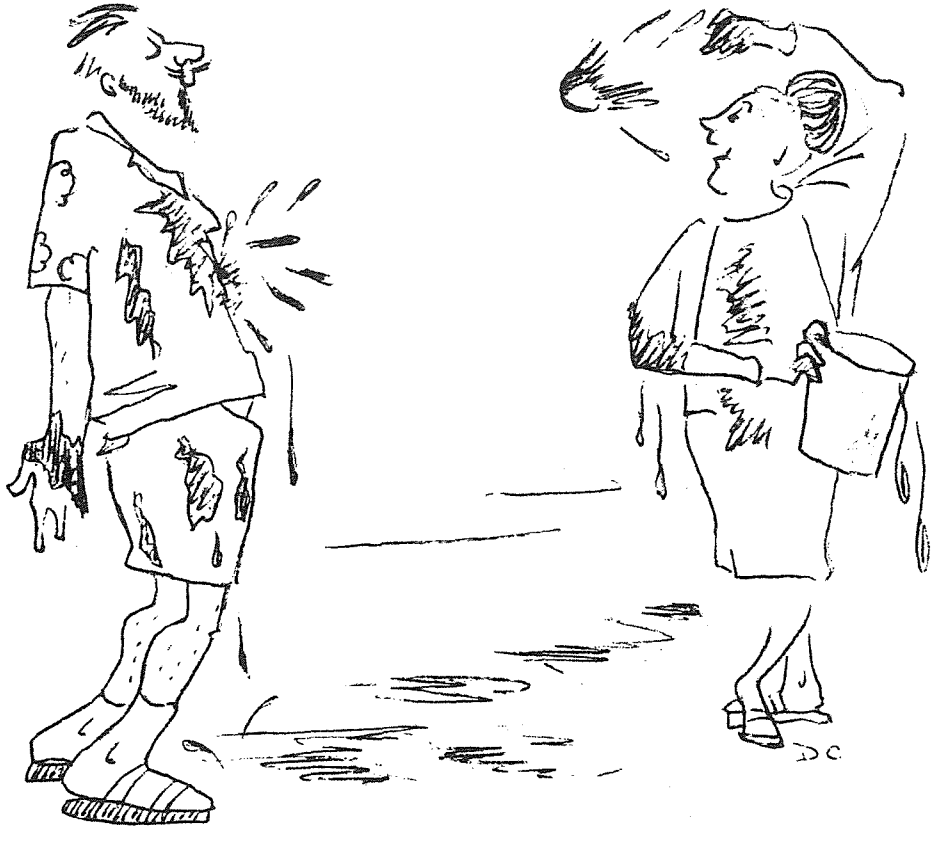
Fiji is the people - the tall, handsome, strong but graceful Fijians with their marvelous erect carriage which makes us feel short and the equally handsome, but in a different way, Indians. It is the Fijian women in their long skirts and the Indian women in their saris. It is the rough dirt road that runs around the island of *Viti Levu - Queen's Road in the south, King's Road in the north.* It is the open-air buses that charge at you around corners and the Indian taxi-drivers who appear out of nowhere, coming at you on your side of the road. It is driving on the left. It is horses and oxen all over the road all the time. Fiji is brilliant red flame trees and hibiscus bushes and flowers in everyone's hair. Fiji is thatched 'bures' with washing plastered on their sides, and it's other washing hung on barbed wire clotheslines - you don't need clothes-pins that way! Fiji is coral reefs with brilliant little fish flitting in and out and it is men spear-fishing on those reefs. It is funny little terrier-type dogs we nicknamed 'south seas dogs' because they do not seem to exist up here. Fiji is the shops in Suva and Nadi and Lautoka and Ba - duty-free and crammed with radios, cameras and saris. It is clear turquoise water and hot sandy beaches - coconut palms and curious sea shells and flying fish. It is also high jungle country with orchids sprouting from the tree tops and wild pig tracks in the mud. It is taro and walu and bananas and huge sugar-cane fields, with tiny children dragging oxen around by the nose. It is the South Pacific Sugar Mills and the smell of molasses at Lautoka. Most of all, though, it is the Fijians with their wonderful warmth and friendliness. It is having strangers smile and wish you "Good morning" or call "Bula - hello" as you drive by. It is also days like our New Year's Day.

On New Year's Day we drive up into the Nausori Highlands - high jungle above and to the east of the Nadi Plain. About 40 miles in we come to a small native village called Bukuya where everything seems very natural and relatively primitive. As we stand talking to a group of children which magically pops up as soon as we stop the car we become aware of a group of about 6 men advancing down the road. They are liberally covered with mud and one has a bucket in his hand. Their Fijian features, normally so welcoming, are stern, and to be honest, frightening. We want to turn and run but we stand our ground, smiling weakly, thoughts of the last missionary to be eaten in Fiji a scant 50 years ago running unhappily through our heads. The man with the bucket reaches Earl, sticks out his hand and says fiercely, "Happy New Year!" As I watch in horror he reaches in the

bucket and hauls out a huge handful of mud which he plasters over the front of Earl's shirt. At this point they all burst out laughing and after a stunned moment we join in. After they have all had a turn applying mud to Earl they use up the rest of the mud on me - and believe me there was lots to go around! And there we stand, covered with red mud, front and back - a quaint old Fijian New Year's custom. Not the way most people get plastered at New Year's!

And so we leave Fiji, remembering the native New Year's lunch we were invited to, the 'mekes' (concerts, really, of singing and dancing) and the fact that everyone there - even in Bukuya - knew something about Canada. I hope if they visit us their welcome from Canadians will be as warm as ours was from them. Really what I want to say to all Fijians is "Sa mothe...vinaka vaka levu" - Goodbye...thank you very much!"

Suzanne Dodson



Shades of Dr. Fu Manchu...but for real.....

This letter is reprinted in its entirety from Factotum, Queen's University, January 1969.

GUOZI SHUDIAN
P.O. Box 399, Peking, China

China Publications Centre.

Our Ref.; 68EM/1316

Queen's University Library
Kingston, Ontario
Canada.

Dear Sirs

Your order of October 28, 1968 has been received. The book you need is a counter-revolutionary biography of the common enemy of the people Chiang Kai-chek. This book has long been out of print permanently. We are therefore returning you the order herewith.

At present this lackey of U.S. imperialism still illegally occupies our sacred territory Taiwan and is engaged in counter-revolutionary activities in every possible way, committing towering crimes against our compatriots on Taiwan. The 700 million Chinese people armed with Mao Tse-tung's though are determined to liberate our Taiwan.

Very truly yours,

GUOZI SHUDIAN

China Publications Centre

Li Zhi'ou

.....

ST WIBBY REPORTS....

WHOOPS!! we goofed. Apologies to Mr. Hutchison for linking him to the wrong Ann. (Jan. issue) Of course, as stated elsewhere in the issue, it should have read Ann Gillanders of Science - who married Mr. Hutchison.
Note from the other Ann - Gardner that is - to the effect that "She is still shopping"...

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Help celebrate 100 years of service to the Community (see further details page 3) Same place March 3 - 22 a showing of motion pictures and still photos by professional B.C. cameramen.

SOCIAL NOTE
Woodward Library celebrated St. Valentine's Day by crowning Helen Allen as "Queen of Hearts". She was presented with a scrap-book composed of valentine wishes from her many appreciative co-workers, revealing an amazing source of previously unsuspected talents. (How about a public showing? Ed.)

THE GOBELIN TAPESTRY, Woodward Library, is on a cover again - featured in this month's issue of "La Presse Medicale".

WOODWARD DISPLAYS
A display on the history of medical education, by the first year, History of Medicine students.
On the second floor, there is an interesting display on mushrooms. This includes the beautifully illustrated "Mushrooms, Russian and History" by Valentina and Wassen- non-circulating, a Guide to Common Mushrooms of British Columbia by R.J. Bondini and two books on Mushroom Cookery. If you want to "turn on", the display also includes "Les Champaignons Hallucingenes on Menique".

REMINDER to see the permanent display on "Infant Feeding Through the Ages" which is also on the second floor. This includes an early Americal blown glass nursing bottle with glass nipple, an 18th Century pewter feeding bottle and many other interesting early infant feeding devices.

WORLD TRAVELLERS
Mavis Balshaw, Cataloguing off to Peru!!
Graham Elliston, Bibliography, joining the senoritas in Mexico.
Janet Lenko, Sedgewick, already "sunning it up" in Hawaii, and Diana Cooper, Fine Arts, our resident artist, enjoying Austria and those gay Viennese nights. And who was that seen registering at a "downtown hotel" ---with his own wife.....!

ONE RESULT of that column in the Sun. One book returned by one wife, from one husband's downtown office - length of "loan"

about 4 years.

BELATED BEST WISHES to the former Maya Veleglavac of the Biomedical Branch Library V.G.H., Now Mrs. Muir.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ian Lee, Systems, and his wife, Pat, on the birth of daughter Justine.

ON THE ARTS SCENE.
Linda Putnam, Cataloguing, Property Mistress for Barefoot in the Park. March 13-15th St. James Auditorium. Joan Cosar, Serials, visited Fort St. John with the B.C. Tel. Choir (see page 14). Bernie Olson & Heather Jones appeared very successfully in the Greater Vancouver Operatic Society's production of Oklahoma. Congratulations to Claudia Kaye wife of Doug Kaye of the Record Collection who received the highest honours in the Metropolitan Opera Company Auditions recently held in Vancouver. Then on to Seattle where she placed second. Claudia is presently in Library School.

THE GALLERY. Tues. Feb. 25 - Sat. March 15. Three studies in the human and aestetic uses of cloth of diverse sorts; their twisting, turning, basting, coloring: their knittings and purlings....."

1) Human envelopes from 1885-1935 loaned by Mr. I. Sayers
2) West African Fabrics loaned by Mr. Abi Jones.
3) Tie-dyed and paste resist cottons by Mrs. Penny Gouldstone.

THIS AND THAT
Nureyev move over....
We hear David Miller of Acquisitions is "pulling on the points". Good luck, David! Also in Acquisitions - long distance call for - Nickolas - Butterfield!!
Riddle..When is a student not a student? When he's storming the beaches at Spanish Banks.
WHICH brings us to the student who checks his symbol in at the Main Loan Desk before entering the stacks. The symbol, a foot long construction spike complete with cement bulb at one end. Symbol of what? Protest against the proposed road. Any more questions.

QUERY TO ST. WIBBY
Does the rule still apply about not having husbands, boyfriends, etc., in the staffroom for lunch, coffee, etc? If so perhaps a friendly reminder could be made to certain people over this.
signed...a frustrated employee (who can never find a table.)
Answer...it does...and here is the friendly reminder to whom it may concern.

and a HAPPY ST.PATRICK'S DAY to all you lucky Irishmen - and all you other less fortunate mortals. Must go find my friend Pat and banish a few more snakes from the lands.....
See you next month.

COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH

Special Collections Division houses files of three newspapers published by the Japanese community in Vancouver before W.W. II. The most complete file is that of Tairiku Nippo (The Continental News) which ran from 1907 to Dec. 6th, 1941. It published news from all over the world but concentrated on events in Japan (always on the front page) and in the Japanese community here. There are columns on public opinion, education, arts, family counselling, and serial stories, as well as advertisements, mostly for Japanese businesses in Vancouver. One of the early editors, in his inaugural column, told his "brethren" in this foreign land that newspapers are the eyes and ears of a society, and have a great influence on it; this impartially is essential. He encouraged his brethren, saying that their future was full of hope.

During 1941, the newspaper expressed concern about the actions of the Japanese government and the situation of Japanese people in foreig countries. But even in the last issue of Dec. 6, 1941 (the day before Pearl Harbour), the tone remained optimistic.

Between March and October, 1942, under the supervision of the B.C. Security Commission, about 23,000 Japanese were evacuated from "protected areas of B.C. and placed in settlements in the interior, in Alberta, and in Manitoba." The "Custodian of Alien Property" came into operation on March 4, 1942, and assumed from that date complete responsibility for all Japanese matters in connection with Real Estate personal effects, business and farms.

U.B.C. acquired the Japanese newspapers in 1943 when, "...the Librarian made inquiries regarding the files of the Japanese newspapers printed in Vancouver before the outbreak of the war with Japan. He found that the files proper had either been spirited away or placed in vaults, but through the Custodian of Enemy Property he was able to secure for the Library, files of all three of the local Japanese papers for the last six or seven months they were published. In each instance the final issue appeared on Saturday, Dec. 6, 1941." (Minutes of the Senate Library Committee, Feb. 11, 1943).

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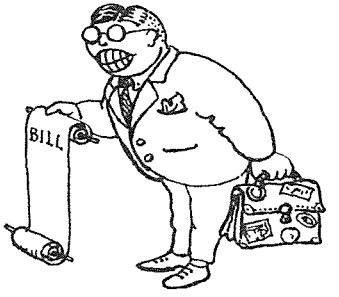
We knew it was a small world but really!!

The tedium of paying invoices was broken in the Serials Division recently when they received a bill from Thailand reading thus:- "enclosed please find our bill #015667 being your subscription to our BANGKOK POST. We should be obliged if you would let us have a cheque in settlement at your earliest convenience." An added note read; Our bill collector will call on you in three days time. If you are not at home please leave money due for this bill with someone who will be at home. Thank you".



If anyone should spot a little bill-collector wandering around please direct him to the division with the melody telephone!

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And how about this gem recently received in the Front Office - envelope addressed thusly:-

University of British Columbia
Man Library and National Library
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

.....

REPORT FROM SERIALS

Ann Gardner

On February 1st, while we in Vancouver were complaining about the cold weather, Joan Cosar of Serials Division took off with the B.C. Telephone Choir to present concerts to the residents of Fort St. John, where the temperature was minus 55°! A warm reception was given the choir by the townspeople; apparently a chinook wind had preceded the choir's arrival, bringing the temperature to minus 20°; the choir, not the chinook got credit for the "warm spell".

Joan has been a member of the B.C. Telephone Choir for nearly three years. She reports that out of town concerts are performed in all parts of the province, from Mission to Fort St. John; sponsored by various service clubs, all profits from such concerts accruing to the service club involved and used to promote their charitable works.

The forey into Fort St. John started with 80 members of the choir and the conductor, Leslie W. Monk, boarding a chartered plane leaving Vancouver at 9 a.m. arriving in Fort St. John at 11.30 a.m. Matinee and evening concerts were played to a SRO, extremely receptive audience.

Between concerts, the choir group were given a guided sightseeing tour of the town, which took all of half an hour!

The group arrived back safely at 1 a.m., February 2nd and were grateful to return to the snows of Vancouver.

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COLLECTS

John Steinbeck, 66.
Norman Thomas, 84.
Saturday Evening Post, 148.
Canadian Citizenship Council, 28.
Pee Wee Russell, 62.
John Stuart Mitchell, Mercenary.
Raymond Gram Swing (Good Evening), 81.

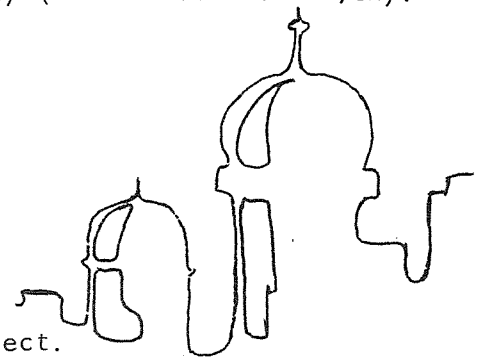
RMH

.....

MORE FROM HELEN - in Moscow

Dear Science,

At long last here I am again. Probably thought I had forgotten you all. On the contrary, I just haven't had time before this because I've been studying for exams. We've just finished oral and written exams, and now I'm on holiday (back to school on 7th).



First of all, thank you ever so much for the letters and card! Many, many thanks for the issue of Biblos. I was really thrilled to get it. It sure brought back memories! Believe it or not I still domiss ye ole Library! Now on with my diary!! I guess you're all interested in the exam system here, or at least I hope so. First of all, there are orals in each subject. One must pass these before one can take the written exams! And the marking system is based on a total of 5. We had orals in everything (ec. geog. histroy, literature, Russian, phonetics, grammar, newspaper and comprehension). For the first 3, here's what we had to know - ec. geog., river, oceans, natural resources of USSR; history - from primitive times up to the Decembrists; literature - Pushkin and Hermontov (biography and works). Each one in class had to answer or discuss different things. It was difficult, especially when I had to make myself understood in Russian, and that's difficult because each subject has its own vocabulary, although I understood everything said and took notes in Russian. Well, I guess I didn't do too badly, got 5 in all three.

For the newspaper, we were given an article from Pravda to read, then had to make up questions based on the article and discuss it, to make sure we knew what we read. The newspaper has a language of its own as well!

In phonetics and comprehension, we listened to a taped story twice, then into another room where we were asked questions on the story by 3 Profs, and also had to read aloud a short excerpt. The next day we were given a story to read for 15 mins., then a break of 10 mins. followed by questions on the story by 3 Profs.; to make sure we remembered and understood what we read. We were also asked

questions like where are you from, how long will you be here, what are you going to study, etc.

For this session we had only 1 written exam. A story was read to us twice, then we had to rewrite it in our own words, using our vast vocab. accumulated by this time. We had 3 hours, which I utilized to the last minute. In all of these I also received 5's. It was more difficult for me because all the teachers expected a great deal more because I had had a previou knowledge of the language, so consequently they were a bit more strict in marking me! Knowing this, I had t study more. Study - you should have seen me, I eve have to chuckle to myself, now when I look back! I tried studying regular hou for 2 days, but it didn't work. It was too noisy in in the study. It was more like a gathering for gab sessions and I couldn't study in our room because was like Grand Central Station. So I came up wit an odd but marvellous solution. After classes finished at 3 p.m. I wo eat, go for a walk, then have a coffee, then down to the study hall. B that time, most had retired to their rooms and it was nice and quiet. So there I sat studying till 3 or 4 a.m. with coffee breaks every $1\frac{1}{2}$ h mainly to keep warm! And so this went on for about a good 3 weeks.

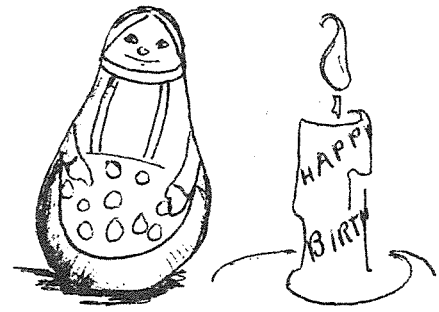
Well, now on to more pleasant things in my life here. I think I mentioned there were 3 of us from Canada here in the prep. fac. So co Christmas Day, we received an invitation for Christmas dinner at the embassy. So Dec. 25th, off we went to the embassy. As soon as we stepped into the Taylor residence it was like taking a giant 10,000 mi step and being at home. Smell of turkey, decorations all over, a huge decorated tree, fire place, the works! We had a wonderful meal, turke with all the trimmings, plum pudding and even gifts - a Scotch each fr the ambassador. We had a very pleasant day indeed, including playing with the 4 Taylor children! Sure didn't feel like going home and to school the next day! The next big occassion was New Years Eve. Here the dorms we had an official party Dec. 30th, to enable us to go to M.S.U. on the 31st. We decorated the study hall with all sorts of streamers and decorations, some were bought, others were made by stude had a nice big tree. We had a live band for the dance. During breaks

students from various countries provided entertainment in the form of skits, pantomimes, songs, dances, etc. However, the music was mostly jive, shake, etc. which is O.K. but I guess I'm a bit old-fashioned and longed for a good fox-trot or a fast Viennese! Anyway a good time was had by all!

So came the 31st. We could get tickets to go to the 5 M.S. U. parties or stay at home and celebrate. We decided to stay at home for two reasons - it was too cold and also, we were told by local students, they weren't so good, which was confirmed by my room mate who came home early. About 11 of us got together and celebrated. One of the local students and myself prepared a meal, the rest contributed 'zakuski' and drinks. So came 11.50, we turned on the radio, listened to N.Y. greetings from the Kremlin and at 12 heard the Kremlin chimes and also pop went the champagne cork. I think we drank a toast to everybody and everything! Champagne was followed by other liquid refreshments and music provided by records and my tapes! Incredible as it may seem, I went to bed shortly after 12.30 with the flu which I had been fighting off for two days! As always I am the last to get sick.

So there I was in bed listening to the kids dancing and singing in the corridors until the wee hours of the morning. Well, for the first time in my life I spend N.Y. day in bed. By evening I managed to get up but felt rather washed out and for a week thereafter. That evening there was another party with friends from M.S.U. who came to our dorms. However, I couldn't eat or drink, just sat there enjoying myself nevertheless. And so to classes the following day! Because Christmas is not celebrated here, N.Y. is a big thing. You won't believe it, but they go all out for N.Y. The stores all decorated with decorations and lites. People by the thousands doing last minute shopping for gifts. People in the Metro carrying parcels, trees big and small. In apartment windows lighted trees glittering, snow gently falling. It was like being at home. Gifts are given here on N.Y. I got a lovely miniature model of M.S.U. and a little black sly fox from one of the Russian students.

And so the day went by when suddenly it was my birthday right in the middle of exams as well. I really didn't think I would celebrate it in any way shape or form. But I sure got a surprise. One of my friends came down about 6 and suggested we go see our friends at M.S.U. Not wanting to study or stay home, I got dressed and out we went. When we arrived and I opened the door, there stood about 11 people all coming up and wishing me Happy Birthday, sat me down behind a table full of food and drinks and presented me with an armful of presents. I was never so stunned in all my life! What a wonderful evening that turned out to be. These were all Russian friends which I have met in the past months. When I got home, I found more presents lying on my pillow from the kids in our dorm. What a mish-mash of feelings I had inside. It was too, too much! Never expected anything like this at all. It was great!



I think the greatest day in all the time I've been here came on the 17th. I went to hear Richter, the famous Russian pianist, at M.S.U. He was fabulous! He played some of Mozart's works accompanied by an orchestra. To see him was one of my biggest dreams. I understand he has left on a 6-week North American tour. So if he should come to Vancouver, I recommend him highly, well if you like piano!

At this point, I think I'll give you a break and ramble on about the weather. BRRRRRRRR!!! We've been having temperatures ranging from -22° to -32°C. Wow, was that cold! Outside I could only last for about 5 minutes, then had to pop into a store to defrost then out again and so on. However, the last couple of days have been warm (-2°C) with snow. I had to give in and buy myself a woollen shawl for my head, so far with 2 or 3 sweaters and my Van. winter coat I can still manage.

I guess by now you're all wondering whether I've gotten used to things

Yes, I have. Maybe it's because I feel more confident in utilizing my Russian and have acquired patience for the line-ups. So, if any of you are ever in Moscow, here are some tid-bits of info. They serve fabulous cocktails at the Moskva Restaurant, good coffee at the Metropol hotel. You can buy the best ground coffee in GUM! You will find the stores more to our style on the New Arbat. There's a fabulous souvenir shop on Kutuzovsky Prospekt across from the Hotel Ukraina. So slowly but surely I'm getting around Moscow, even astonishing my Moscovite friends. Discovered a fabulous place that serves delicious shashliki (shish-kabob) not too far from where I live.

I think perhaps this semester, I will try to get out and see more concerts, operas, plays, etc., now that I have my bearings. But it is really difficult to get tickets. Almost have to apply months in advance. You would be surprised at the fantastic attendance in theatres! Right now, there's a movie "Brothers Karamozov" playing in 4 parts, which I would like to see having seen it in Canada.

Now to catch up on news from home! How are things with the Library? Any new happening, like a new Library building? What's SUB like? Has the clock tower been finished as yet? Longer Library hours? Any new branch libraries opened? Any other interesting news?

Gimny crickets, just look at my watch, it's 4 a.m., better get some shut eye! So I shall sign off for now.

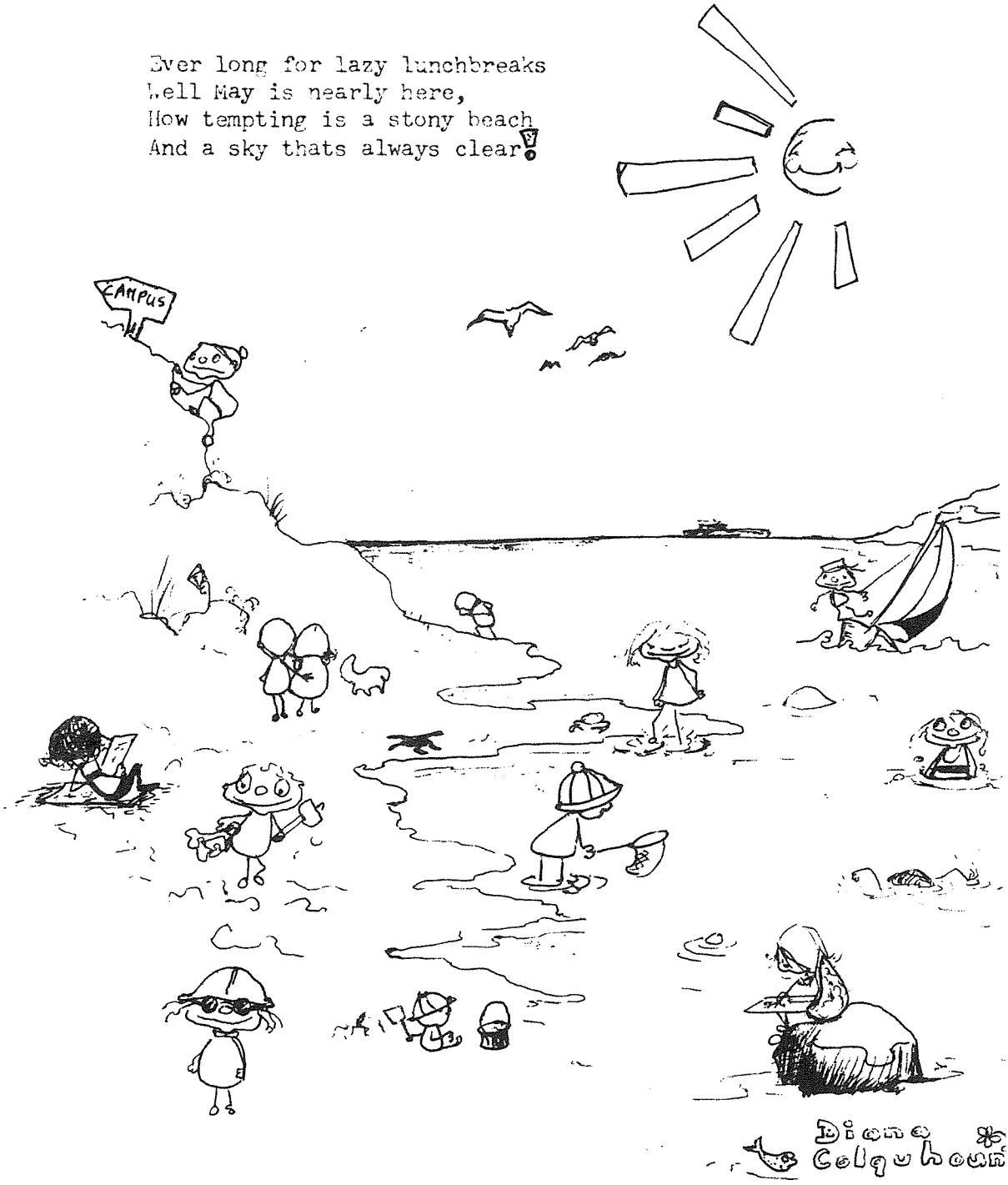
Again, thanks for the letter and Biblos. My best regards to all of you. Because I can't possibly write to all individually, I would like to pass on many thanks to Anne Brearley and Barbara Gibson for the cards and letters they sent me for Christmas! Anne and Valerie - thank you for your letters, and Rein - congratulations, daddy, say hello to Lore. My best regards to the "Three B's" in the front office, also to the staff I know in Woodward and the branch libraries. Oops, I better stop or this will keep on going for another few pages and few more hours!

Hoping to hear from all of you soon,

As always -

Science Division

Helen Derewenko speaking!

P.S. A Happy New Year to all and to all a Good Night!

Ever long for lazy lunchbreaks
Well May is nearly here,
How tempting is a stony beach
And a sky thats always clear!