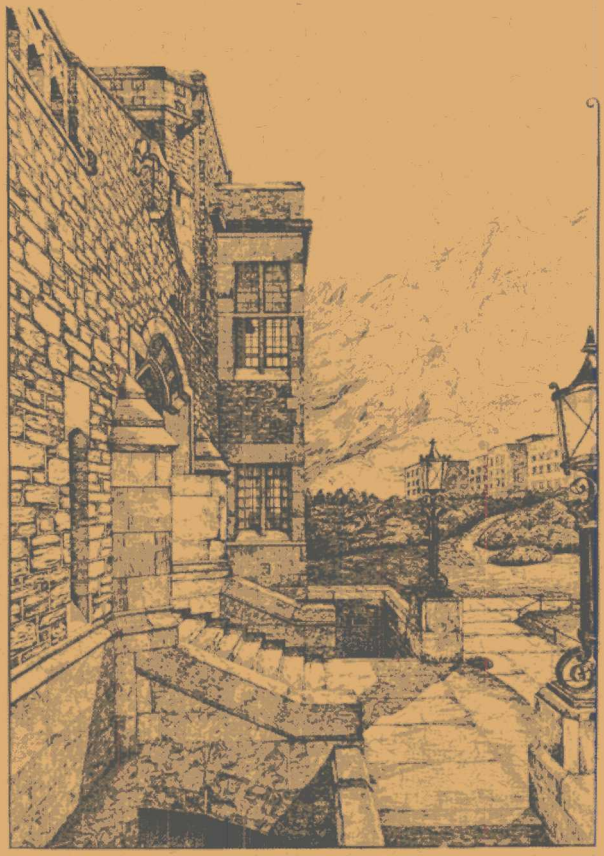


SCRAPBOOK FOR A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The University of British Columbia Library
1915-1965

SCRAPBOOK
FOR A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The University of British Columbia Library
1915-1965

Editors for this Issue

TOM SHORTHOUSE, Chairman
ELISABETH JUPP ELEANOR MERCER
JAY KINCAID ANNE YANDLE

COVER

The front of the Library by John Ridington.
Sketching was one of his many hobbies.

DESIGNED AND PRINTED BY
THE MORRISS PRINTING COMPANY LTD., VICTORIA, B.C.

Scrapbook for a Golden Anniversary

THIS IS A SCRAPBOOK to celebrate the first fifty years of the University of British Columbia Library.

It is not easy to write a history of an institution and particularly difficult to write an interesting history of a library. So we decided to make an anthology of reminiscences, quotations, pictures, and articles, to try to bring alive the Library at various times in its past and to suggest the main stages of its growth, the interest of its collections and the generosity of its benefactors. We thank all our contributors.

Our hope is that this scrapbook will entertain, for as anyone who has worked in a library knows, libraries are often comic, and there have been some interesting and some eccentric members of staff here. We also hope that this scrapbook will instruct, for it is not easy now, at this time of remarkable prosperity and a boundless future, to realize how precarious has been the past. The Library was founded by a president with vision and shared the frightful blows of fate that befell the University, a public institution without endowments supported by a young province through years of war and depression.

As we publish this it is plain that the Library has emerged from a long struggle against intimidating if never utterly hopeless odds and that it is about to become what it was planned to be fifty years ago — a major library.

THE EDITORS

University Library History in Brief

1908 "An Act to Establish and Incorporate a University for the Province of British Columbia."

1913 Dr. Frank Fairchild Wesbrook appointed first President of University of British Columbia.

1914 John Ridington appointed in charge of cataloguing the Library.
J. T. Gerould, book-buying in Europe for embryo University Library, detained three weeks in Leipzig as a British spy. Before this had managed to purchase a basic collection of 20,000 volumes.

1915 Official opening of University of British Columbia in temporary home at Fairview shacks.

1916 John Ridington appointed first University Librarian.

1925 Move from Fairview shacks to new Library on Point Grey campus.

1932 Tight times! Library budget cut, library staff reduced. Carnegie Corporation aided situation with $15,000 grant to be spread over a three-year period.

1937 Establishment of Extension Library.

1940 Retirement of John Ridington and appointment of Dr. W. Kaye Lamb as University Librarian.

1948 New north wing of Library opened. New areas created included Ridington Reference Room, Fine Arts and Music Room, Acquisitions Dept., a bindery and a binder-in-residence, Mr. H. W. Brooks.
Resignation of Dr. Lamb.

1949 Miss Anne Smith served as Acting Librarian until appointment of Dr. L. W. Dunlap in July.

1950 Serials Division established.
Opening of Bio-Medical Reading Room.

1951 Resignation of Dr. Dunlap. Service of Miss Smith as Acting Librarian until appointment of Neal Harlow in August.

1952 Bio-Medical Branch Library established at Vancouver General Hospital.

1956 Friends of the Library of U.B.C. founded. Curriculum Laboratory established.

1960 Walter C. Koerner South Wing opened improving greatly the space problem and symmetry of total building.

Undergraduate library, the College Library, opened.

New subject divisions created: Humanities, Social Sciences and Science.

Special Collections Division and Asian Studies established.

1961 Resignation of Neal Harlow. Double duty by Dr. S. Rothstein as Acting Librarian and Director of new School of Librarianship.

1962 Dr. Jim Ranz appointed University Librarian.

1963 Resignation of Dr. Ranz.

1964 Basil Stuart-Stubbs appointed University Librarian.

Opening of Woodward Bio-medical Library.

1965 Gift of $3,000,000 to the Library by H. R. MacMillan.

Beginning of automation era.

Wilson Listening Room and Record Library opened.

Massive alterations and additions increased stack and work area.

Opening of two new public divisions: Government Publications and Map Room.

College Library re-named the Sedgewick Library.

THE BEGINNING

VISION AND STRUGGLE, both greater perhaps than we imagine, created the University Library. The struggle to found a university at all lasted more than two decades, decades that witnessed the abortive Act of 1890, the granting of endowment lands, the drawing up of a constitution, the establishment of McGill University College of British Columbia when that seemed the only way to have higher education in the province and finally, in 1913, the appointment of Dr. Wesbrook to be President of U.B.C.

The vision was that of British Columbians like Dr. Henry Esson Young, Minister of Education and Dr. Wesbrook who chose "Tuum est" (It is Yours) to be the motto of a People's University. "The people's University," he said, "must meet *all* the needs of *all* the people. We must therefore proceed with care to the erection of those Workshops where we may design and fashion the tools needed in the building of a nation and from which we can survey and lay out paths of enlightenment, tunnel the mountains of ignorance and bridge the chasms of incompetence."

It is clear that he intended the Library to be one of those workshops. In 1912, before the President was appointed, the government had invited designs for an Arts and Science Building, an Agriculture Building, dormitories and a power house, but in his own programme Dr. Wesbrook included a library as one of the first group of buildings to be erected at Point Grey. Of the eight million dollars he requested the provincial government to grant over eight years, he planned to spend $100,000 initially on the basic collection of the Library and $50,000 for each of the four following years.

Dr. Wesbrook was never to see the vision realized. The University and its Library were caught by events far beyond their control. The depression of 1912, provincial deficits, and the Great War,

followed in close sequence. Grants were cut, postponing for many decades the emergence of a university "comparable in range and magnitude of its activities to the seats of learning of any country in the world." Instead the University began in September 1915 with its students crowded into the four classrooms of the "Fairview Shacks" which had belonged to McGill B.C. The Library was a couple of rooms in the tuberculosis block which the government had recently built for the Vancouver General Hospital and which was temporarily lent to the University.

Dr. Wesbrook had only $100,000 for his total budget in 1915-16 and that was cut in ensuing years. Yet he had already managed to provide sure foundations for his University in his faculty appointments and in the appointment of J. T. Gerould, Librarian of Minnesota University (where Wesbrook had been Dean of Medicine) to buy the basic collection of books in Europe.

During the summer of 1914 Mr. Gerould was actively engaged in purchasing books in England and France for the University. His excellent buying gave the University an unusually good start for its present collection. He arrived in Leipzig on August 3 to complete his work, only to be advised by his book-seller to leave at once in view of the war situation.

Mr. Gerould hastened to comply with the suggestion, but was unsuccessful and was detained for three weeks, part of the time in prison. A rather comic reason which accounted in part for his arrest was the fact that he possessed a plan of the University site which to some of the police, was proof positive that he was a spy. Almost as soon as war began Dr. Wesbrook telegraphed him to cease purchases, which reached approximately $20,000 as the adverse rate of exchange made prices much too high.

F. H. SOWARD, from *Early History of U.B.C.*

The 20,000 volumes which Gerould purchased in England and France before the war turned him back, formed the major part of the original collection. The new University could boast some 22,000 volumes and 7,000 pamphlets including United States and other government documents and the publications of the Carnegie Institute and the Smithsonian Institution.

There was no money to engage either a large staff or trained librarians. A total of four people were hired. During the spring and summer of 1915 Mr. Ridington and Miss Jefferd unpacked the books, accessioned them and arranged them in broad classes on the shelves so that they could be used and then began to classify them according to the only partially-completed Library of Congress

scheme. The decision to use the scheme was one of the far-sighted decisions for which the Library must always be grateful to Mr. Ridington.

At first the students were given free access to the shelves. However there was no stampede. In the first month of term the loans averaged "over ten volumes per day." The Library Minutes recorded:

> The total evening attendance for October is 60... on an average a little over four a night. There has not been a single visitor to the Library on Saturday evenings. It would appear that the students are otherwise occupied....

But the Reading Room soon became crowded. In November the Librarian reported, "It is not unusual to see every chair in the Reading Room occupied and from 20-30 students perched on window-sills and radiators in the stack-aisles."

Crowding was to become worse during the ten years at Fairview. In spite of the meagre budgets and partly through Mr. Ridington's flair for attracting gifts and exchanges, the collection grew. "Additional stacks had to be super-imposed on those already erected until they reached the ceiling. Part of the main lobby was taken into the stack room. A lean-to addition was erected that gave shelf space for a further 10,000 or 12,000 volumes."

In these conditions the small staff accomplished stupendous labours. In February 1916, with Miss Jefferd classifying books and Miss Attwaters classifying pamphlets, the Librarian was able to announce that six hundred items were being added to the collection each week. All the labelling was being done by Mr. Ridington himself (it took three to five hours daily) and by that time seventy per cent of the bound volumes, excluding long sets, had been classified. By the end of 1916 this could be said of most of the collection.

In such circumstances the characters of the Library staff were all important and therefore this section of the scrapbook is mainly devoted to reminiscences of them.

John Ridington

Exactly what sort of man was John Ridington? Stories about him are profuse, many of them verging on the legendary. And, as with any legend, it is often difficult to separate fact from fantasy. Certain it is that his background was colourful, his interests catholic, and his talents considerable. Dogmatic and outspoken, he was the type of person about whom controversy naturally flourished. People were seldom uncommitted about this man who made such a marked impression on our present institution.

In the 1916 student annual, for example, are two decidedly different pictures of the Librarian — the first, tinged with a certain awe; the second, acidly unimpressed.

John Ridington, our Librarian, has had rather a variegated career. He was born in England in 1871. After teaching for some years in the City of London College, he came to Canada, where he served his time in the pedagogic ranks of the Province of Manitoba. He then entered journalism, first as editor of a small-town paper and then as a reporter on the *Winnipeg Free Press*. Starting from this humble position he rose and held in succession every editorial chair. Threatened with a breakdown in health, he was forced to resign, and identified himself with a large colonization company. As American agent of this company he superintended the bringing of hundreds of American settlers into Canada. Five years ago he came to the coast, where for some time he divided his attention between the financial and the scholastic world until he was called upon to undertake his present work of cataloguing the library of the University of British Columbia. In addition to this he lectures in the English department.

He is already a well-known figure in our precincts, and there are few of us who have not at some time seen his bearded countenance appear unexpectedly from behind a barricade of books, to gaze down reprovingly upon us and, if need be, make a few remarks in pithy, and Johnsonese English. He is a walking reference book for the student who wishes to write an essay or get up a speech in a hurry, and his casual remarks send some of us surreptitiously to the dictionary. He is the only man who can smoke in the college precincts — the only man who can talk in the library.

* * * *

John Ridington looks
As if he knew books.
But we know John —
And we don't let on.

There is no doubt in either portrait that Mr. Ridington's future regime would be authoritarian. But this impression of him was not

confined to the student body alone, as the following remarks from members of the teaching faculty and his own staff attest.

The day after I joined the staff of the U.B.C. in September 1919, I went to the Library (then housed in the hospital building) to look for some books to enable me to prepare my first lecture. A portly man at once descended upon me and told me that freshmen should remember that they were no longer school children, and that they were not allowed in the stacks. This was my first encounter with John Ridington.

Ridington was a remarkable man. He was said to have entered the employment of the University to help in unpacking books for the Library. His self-image at once became that of Librarian, and he soon succeeded in justifying it. In the course of his very varied career he had done most things, though not, as far as I am aware, library work. He could give a lecture on any subject at very short notice. He quickly made himself tolerably well acquainted with the professional aspects of library work and was, I believe, accepted by university librarians without difficulty. He was a Micawber for whom something had turned up.

HENRY F. ANGUS

Mr. Ridington's pride in the new building was such that he warred with anyone who dared enter the building with his hat on. He stopped a professor one day, carrying an armload of books. "Please remove your hat when entering this building," said the Librarian. And the fusillade that followed resounded through the corridors.

He rarely admitted a mistake. I remember he misquoted Shakespeare once in dictating a letter. Eventually the letter was typed with the quotation corrected, and the mistake pointed out. "Kindly re-type it as dictated," was Mr. Ridington's comment.

Miss Dorothy Jefferd and Miss Anne Smith usually approached him together on matters of Library policy, and the two made quite an invincible team.

EVELYN HEARSEY

This combination of boundless energy and unswerving faith in himself and the Library impressed John Ridington's contemporaries. But his formidable manner was frequently tempered by a genuine concern for the welfare of his friends.

Letter to Miss Margaret Clay, on her appointment as Head of Victoria Public Library, September 12, 1924.

... If one is blessed, as I fortunately am, with reasonably good health, he can devote himself, practically to the exclusion of all other matters, to library work. I frequently work 12 to 14 hours a day in this Library, and suffer no ill effects therefrom, but if one is not in that fortunate condition, they are not justified in living almost wholly for the institution, for the success of which they are responsible. In fact, they will be unable to do as good work as though they set aside a part of their

day for recreation and physical exercises. You will, of course, agree a change of occupation permits one to return to their main job with a good deal more of vigour and resilience than if they devoted their whole attention to their professional work. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." You will, therefore, pardon my suggesting that, in the interests of your work, as well as for your own sake, you do not sacrifice your health because of your interest in your work....

Problem

LIBRARIES, like cathedrals, exude an almost sacred aura to the uninitiated public. Doubtless this was the intent behind the admittedly lofty design for the present building. But the effect achieved has not always been one sought. From the earliest days in the "Fairview shacks" the leit-motif of the U.B.C. Library has been the echo of the human voice.

December 13, 1915.

Mr. Sherwood Lett,
President, Students Council,
University of British Columbia,
City.

My dear Mr. Lett,

At the last meeting of the Library Committee two matters of importance were discussed, both having to do with the observance of Library and Reading Room regulations by the student body, and I was instructed to communicate with you.

The first matter discussed was the frequent non-observance of the rule of silence. I have on several occasions had to speak to students in the Reading Room, who were engaged in conversations so loud as to prevent study on the part of those who were reading. In all university libraries I have visited the reading rooms are as quiet as a church. Even in public libraries the rule of silence is observed. But a certain proportion of our students come into the Library in loud talking groups and, while preparing to study at the Reading Room tables, converse with one another just as they would do in a classroom in the intervals between lectures. I am informed that, during my absence in teaching, occasionally this loud conversation is proceeded with just as if the Reading Room were a students' social hall....

JOHN RIDINGTON

True to the spirit of youthful irreverance, the Class of 1921 displayed an ironic attitude to the problem.

HINTS FOR FRESHIES USING THE READING ROOM

1. When you enter hold open the door and let your sweet voice echo through the room. If there is no one with you with whom to converse, just talk to yourself anyway. It heralds your approach very effectively.
2. Come in after the style of an express train, whistling two or three times, and stamping your feet. Should this pass unnoticed, run around several of the tables before you decide where to deposit yourself and books....
4. When you sit at a table it often provides a welcome diversion if you carve your name on it in full, with your year and class section, and the names of all your friends likewise. This gives a most delightful rustic summer-house effect to the appearance of the reading-room....
7. While engaged in conversation should you hear the gentleman at the desk rapping his pencil on no account must you cease talking. He is only amusing himself by beating time to simple little tunes that he is humming under his breath. No doubt he would be greatly encouraged if you began tapping also....

from the *U.B.C. Annual*, 1917-1918

From the Minutes of the Library Committee, 1916-1924.

1916

The Secretary then gave, for the information of the Committee, a summary of the Library Budget. For the twelve months ending June 30th, 1916, the amount approved by the Governors was $7,402.01. Of this, $3,007.26 was for salaries, and $1,254.75 for building and equipping the Reading Room...

1916

...notable contributions of books had already been received from Harvard University, the John Crerar Library, and the New York Public Library, while similar donations had been promised by McGill University and the Parliamentary Library at Ottawa.

OCTOBER 16, 1916

There are no changes in the staff, except the addition of Mr. Haweis as loan clerk. In order to meet this necessary addition to the staff the sum of $360.00 had to be provided by reduction of other items of the Library budget.

NOVEMBER 19, 1918

The suggestion had been made that the Invalided Soldiers Commis-

sion establish a course in book-binding with a competent instructor, and that University books could be given to the soldier students as material.

1918 - 1919 COMMITTEE REPORT

The total attendance was 678, as against 564 for the corresponding months of last year. They were distributed by months as below:

	April 1918	167
*	October 1918	33
*	November 1918	6
	December 1918	46
	January 1919	111
	February 1919	132
	March 1919	183
		678

* Influenza epidemic.

OCTOBER 17, 1919

By direction of the President, the salary of Miss Jefferd has been raised from $75 to $90 a month, the increase taking effect on September the 1st.

OCTOBER 18, 1921

The annual check of the Library has been held. Losses were in excess of any previous years, numbering 155 volumes, of which 24 had since been recovered....

The Librarian brought to the attention of the Committee that in this year's budget, no appropriation had been granted for Student Assistance. Strong representations had been made by many students, of the necessity for the Reading Room being kept open in the evenings.... Payment for this service should be made at the rate of 30¢ an hour....

A letter was read from Mr. Albert E. Richards, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee for the Freshman Reception, requesting permission to use the Reading Room on the evening of October 21st for the entertainment of students who do not dance.... This request was granted.

AUGUST 9, 1922

During vacation Miss Jefferd had completed the classification and cataloguing of PA (Classics), the work being finished with the exception of the typing of the cards. The classification of Religion was about four-fifths completed and would be finished in two or three weeks.

NOVEMBER 20, 1922

A communication, signed by eighteen heads of Departments in the Faculties of Applied Science and Agriculture, protesting against the temporary discontinuance of subscriptions to Continuations and Serials was then read.... After prolonged discussion, the matter was disposed of by the following resolution: that in view of the inadequacy of the

Library Budget for 1922-23, the Library Committee suggests that Departments ask permission from the President to transfer to the Library Funds . . . sufficient money from any Departmental fund available . . . for the purpose of subscription to periodicals. . . .

SEPTEMBER 21, 1923

During the past session it had been discovered that some students had indulged in the practice of giving at the Loan Desk, Reader's Registration Numbers other than that issued to them. . . . In some cases this had been done without the consent of the student whose number was so used. . . . To meet this situation, it was proposed to issue to each student on Registration Day an "Identification Card." . . .

Dorothy M. Jefferd

A tiny figure in blue-grey English tweed accompanied by a large Airedale, who somehow managed to get plenty of space in a streetcar otherwise jammed to suffocation with students on their way to the Fairview campus — that is my first recollection of Dorothy Jefferd.

With her dog stretched out nearby, Miss Jefferd and Mr. Ridington undertook all the tasks of the new library from the opening of the huge crates of books to the cataloguing, typing, revising and filing of cards in the new card catalogue. Indeed the speed and accuracy of her eye in catching mistakes were phenomenal and fully justified her brothers' childhood nickname of "shrimp eye." The typists who came later would have agreed. Gradually the staff was increased. In 1920 she was officially the "Cataloguer" and in 1944 the "Head of the Catalogue Department." By 1954 when she returned the Library staff numbered 65 and that of the Catalogue Department, eleven.

At the special opening of the north wing in 1948, Dr. Kaye Lamb paid tribute to Miss Jefferd as the only person through whose hands all the books in the library had passed. In 1951, Dr. Leslie Dunlap, then Chief Librarian, said he was sure she was the only librarian on the continent who had been in charge of cataloguing for such a long period and had seen the collection grow from nothing to approximately half a million volumes, and all this with no backlog of books waiting to be processed.

But in recalling Dorothy Jefferd's career, one does not think of her as a cataloguer or as a librarian, but as a dynamic human being, whose personality coloured the warp and woof of library life and gave rise to endless stories. "Her desk was intelligence centre

for the University" said one professor to me. Amusing, soft-hearted and wonderfully generous, but with a quick wit and an astringent tongue, she had hosts of friends who will quickly recognize such favourite maxims as "never explain and never apologize," and "I'm not going to be taken for granted." She never was.

Witty, lively, an excellent raconteur, she was a marvellous hostess on whose many gay parties I look back fondly. For years she had evaded accepting office in B.C.L.A. But finally she was forced to become the Chairman of the Catalogue Section. Pressed by the executive to tell what her programme was going to be, she resolutely refused to say. In fact she said there would be no programme. True to her promise, when we went to Bowen Island for the Conference, the Cataloguers held a meeting unlike that of any similar group before or since — a party in a rowboat plus a magnum of champagne! The programme was never disclosed, but there was no doubt about the success of that session.

Miss Jefferd was never at a loss for an apt epithet, often with a touch of malice. Even yet I hesitate to quote those applied to various professors which were hilariously funny and with enough truth to sting. But I might mention one or two referring to places or things in the building, which for thirty years, were common library terminology, such as the "Cave-Brown-Cave," "Mysteria" and the "dinosaur." All have entertaining stories, now a part of our library folklore.

Among her close friends were Professor Freddy Wood and Dorothy Somerset, whose passion for the theatre she shared. She read plays constantly and was always helping the Player's Club, on whose advisory board she served. In fact she went on a number of tours with them as the official chaperone. Hugh Palmer (now a Director of C.B.C. Television) recalled the 1936 tour of *The Stoops to Conquer* when he played Marlowe against Davie Fulton's Hastings. When the tour reached Vancouver Island and Hugh was stricken with laryngitis, Dorothy produced her famous silver flask and bade him gargle with brandy just before curtain time. This worked for a while, but at Qualicum nothing seemed to help. Then Dorothy appeared with some kind of white powder and a straw through which Davie was to blow the powder to soothe Hugh's vocal chords. Whatever it was, Hugh got through the final performance thanks to Dorothy's novel remedy.

In 1954 when she retired, she went on a three months' trip to Europe. But such was the dearth of cataloguers that she was per-

suaded to return to work, which she did very happily under Miss Marjorie Alldritt, until 1957.

This ability to accept and adapt herself to changing circumstances without repining is one of her notable characteristics. During her long illness of more recent years, I have never heard her complain. The other day when she was looking at the current programme of the Playhouse, she asked me to bring her Turgenev's *A Month in the Country* to re-read. But there was no grumbling because she couldn't see the performance.

It is a pleasure to know that the name of this gay and dauntless university library pioneer will not be forgotten. Her brother has established the Dorothy M. Jefferd Scholarship in the School of Librarianship as a memorial to her. And, there is a collection of biographies relating to World War I — a topic chosen by her — given by Dr. H. R. MacMillan, in appreciation of her contributions.

ANNE M. SMITH

Lionel Haweis

"The University should pay him just to give atmosphere to the Library," said one of the Deans to me of Mr. Haweis as he passed by in the stacks.

My first recollection of him is of a tiny sprite with long flowing locks, in vest and shirt sleeves, climbing down one of those moveable floor to ceiling ladders in the old Fairview stacks, and of his tart comments when he reached the floor.

Mr. Haweis told me he was the black sheep of his family. By this he only meant, I think, that he continued the non-conformity of his forbears, who founded the London Missionary Society, assisted the literary efforts of the fiery Italian patriot Mazzini in his London exile, supported Garibaldi, and the Pre-Raphaelites before the latter became popular.

Educated at King William's College, Isle of Man, and Marlborough, he served variously on the editorial staff of the *Daily Mail*, as a tea planter in Ceylon, and as a professional photographer in Vancouver.

He donated some early photographic journals to the library, of whose value, he, a knowledgeable collector, was well aware.

Although his appointment in 1917 described him as "Loan Clerk" and in 1935 as "Accessions Clerk," which in the first place merely meant page boy and in the second mainly the accessioning

and mailing of the books, these appointments give no clue to his personality and influence. No one discounted Mr. Haweis.

A great friend of Professor Thorleif Larsen who really founded the *Letters Club,* Mr. Haweis was its official archivist for years. His desk was a favourite stopping place for professors who would remain to discuss literature, philosophy, Yoga or whatever interested them at the moment, for hours at a time, somewhat to the detriment of his work and the indignation of Miss Jefferd.

Along with his duties as the Accessions Clerk, he was supposed to sort and file the British and Canadian government publications. I well remember, after searching vainly for some D.B.S. document, asking him something about his filing arrangements. "No one ever bothered one about them until you joined the staff," he said looking at me sternly. "For the D.B.S. material I put all the things you can eat in one pile and those you can't in another."

ANNE M. SMITH

When I was an undergraduate, the personnel of the University Library was very important to us, and especially to the small group of us who were what passed for the "literati" of that day. We were a very unsophisticated group of young people, except perhaps in the intellectual sense.

Lionel Haweis was our confidant and friend, much closer to us than our professors. He was a small, slight man who wore a dusty-looking black jacket and his grey hair in a long bob. A son of Canon Haweis, he came from a literary English family and was himself a writer and poet. The hospitality of him and his wife meant much to us, and very often a group sat around their fireplace talking the long night through. Regaled with coffee, we discussed life, death, and religion; art, literature, and music. Out of this came the idea of preparing and publishing, in a limited edition, a selection of our own verses, calling it a chapbook.

Mr. Haweis was immensely interested in and sympathetic to the young, earnest, and bookish people we then were. I do believe he did more to develop our literary creativity than any professor.

ANNE ANGUS

U.B.C. MAN WINNER OF PRIZE FOR PUBLISHED POETRY

Lionel Haweis of the staff of the University of British Columbia Library has brought honor to this province by winning the bronze

medal for a published volume of verse in the literary section of the festival of arts and letters, sponsored by the Panton Arts Club of London . . .

The following is from a review of Mr. Haweis' poem, "Tsoqalem, the Cowichan Monster," in The Panton Magazine of Art, Literature and the Drama:

This remarkable poem deserves to be ranked with "Hiawatha" and "The Ancient Mariner." Accepted by the Royal Society of Canada as part of their proceedings in 1918, the published volume is introduced by a foreword from the pen of Charles Hill-Tout. . . . The story of the war between the spirits of good and evil for Tsoqalem's soul is to Indian mythology what the story of Faust is to Christianity. . . . In illustration of the haunting simplicity of the style and the writer's sympathy with Indian mentality, we may quote these stanzas from Canto VII:

And now the Fisher of the Night
  Was trolling in the sky;
His cloudy Craft was lapped in Light
  Who sailed and fished on high.

There, where no earthly Aspect mars
  The heavenly Seas, whose Tides
Are flecked and decked with cresting Stars,
  The crafty Fisher rides.

And as he rides he softly sings
  The magic Song of Sleep,
The while he deftly baits and flings
  His tackle in the Deep.

from *The Province*, August 31, 1927

POINT GREY

"HOPE LONG DEFERRED maketh the heart sick." Each year President Wesbrook planned for the long-awaited move to Point Grey and after his death President Klinck did so. But the move was slow in coming. After 1919 it became necessary to deal with matters of a different sort: growing numbers, a government with many other calls upon it, and financial difficulties which involved fees for the students and cuts in salary for the faculty.

The move to Point Grey, when it finally took place in 1925, ushered in a few golden years. U.B.C. students of the "twenties" were an unusual generation whose determination in arousing public opinion had been greatly responsible for forcing the government to float a loan. It was a generation whose joy in the freedom and beauty of a new campus was unaffected by piles of rubble and ungardened grounds.

The grandiose neo-Gothic Library was one of the few monuments of the new campus. Only three buildings, the Science Building, the Power House and the Library were built according to the original plans. Apart from them there were nine "semi-permanent" buildings, still with us, as is the way with semi-permanence. When the last of the workmen left the Library on October 31, 1926, building was over for many more years than anyone then suspected.

ON THE OCCASION OF OUR NEW LIBRARY

JOHN RIDINGTON

Till about three centuries ago knowledge was preserved, and its progress continued by being poured from mind to mind through human contact. Personal and racial experience was carried on from generation to generation almost wholly by means of the spoken word. Such formal education as then existed was pursued in like manner. The ardent Hebrew student, Paul, sat, centuries ago, at the feet of Gamaliel, and Greek philosophers and medieval moralists at Corinth and Athens, and Oxford, Padua and Paris, discoursed of life and men, its nature and his destiny, to eager minds attracted by interest in the subject and the fame of the teachers.

But Gutenburg changed all that. The long series of mechanical inventions that started with movable types and primitive presses, and, which are not yet finished in these days of mono-type machines and three-colour half tones, have effected an utter revolution in all the means of transmission of knowledge. In the twentieth century the book is the supreme symbol of education.

In the humanities, languages, literature, and the social sciences books are almost the only required educational tools. In the physical and experimental sciences the results obtained are largely valuable only in terms of previously observed phenomena as recorded in the printed page. The fact that so many universities, like that of British Columbia, have an open book blazoned in chief on its coat of arms, is therefore a fact of real significance.

It is true that development of electrical science today makes it possible for a speaker to be perfectly heard by an audience of fifty thousand people; the impress of the delicate spirally arranged serrations on a disc of glue will perpetuate, for the future generations, the voice of scholar, statesman or singer; while telephone and radio open up vistas of unprecedented educational opportunity, as yet unutilized, for the spoken word. The movie, too, may, in future days, do much, but the movie is but a book picture given motion, and interpretation of what is seen has to be furnished by reading, as in a book, the descriptive sub-titles.

These things are really marvellous, apt as we all are to take them casually. Nevertheless, in spite of the possibilities of these wonderful things, they are recognized as adjunct to, rather than the super-

cessor of, the book as a fundamental instrument of education. To say that the book is at the very heart and core of modern education — that without books, collections of books, and libraries, education as we today conceive it is impossible — is not a mere rhetorical expression, but a statement of cold sober fact.

Universities early recognized the place that books could, and must, occupy in education, and most of the oldest and greatest libraries in the world — the Bodleian in Oxford, and Harvard in America — are university institutions. Indeed, modern universities give to their libraries and library buildings location and recognition commensurate with the importance that the book plays in modern education. The largest university in America is Columbia, in New York, and its buildings are grouped round the stately Grecian pile of its library. At the present moment there is under construction at the University of Washington, the splendid first unit of a new library building that will be the architectural focus of the whole building design.

Very few universities were planned and designed from the date of their origin. Most of them were like Topsy in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, they "jest growed." Of those designed from the very beginning our own Provincial University was perhaps second, the first being Leland-Stanford University at Palo Alto in California. To California also belongs the honor of having the third university designed *ab initio*, this being the University of Southern California, now under construction at San Diego.

In any such planned and designed university the library would naturally occupy a very important place. Originally it was intended that the library of the University of British Columbia should form part of the great administration building. Fear that association with a building partially devoted to other uses might cramp and limit the library in its future growth induced the University authorities to place it on its own "quad." There the first unit has been erected and is now under occupation.

The library of the University has been designed on principles quite new among buildings of its class. From the very first, architect and librarian have had in mind the fact that one or two generations is a very short time when compared with the life of a university, and that no British Columbian now living can say with certainty to what dimensions the institution may grow in the course of even the next hundred years. This unknown, but vital, factor of expansion was at all times sought to be provided for in designing

the library building. It has been accomplished by planning a building to be erected in sucessive units, as means permit and growth demands.

The present building, erected at a total cost of about $525,000 will give reading and study accommodation to about 350 students, and accommodation for about 135,000 volumes. But twelve other units are already planned for, and reading and study accommodation can then be provided for possibly 2,000 students, while provision has been made to shelve more than 2,500,000 volumes. When it is remembered that the largest university library in America — Harvard — has, at the present time, only a little over 2,000,000 volumes, it will be seen that for some centuries to come there will be no need to tear down any parts of the library building of the University because they are incapable of expansion.

There are certain requirements in a complete library building which the present unit by no means perfectly meets. For instance, there are no seminars in which advanced classes can be guided through the book material relating to their subject under the direct instruction of a professor. These facilities will not be available until the next unit is erected. But the library has unsurpassed facilities for private study; its commodious and dignified reading rooms will, at any one time, accommodate almost one-fourth of the present student enrollment, and its fine collection of 53,000 volumes includes a very high percentage of the fundamental works necessary in the courses which the University at present offers.

It is therefore natural that every officer and student of the University, and in particular the library staff, are congratulating themselves upon the inclusion of the magnificent library building in the new equipment of the University. The really remarkable record made by its faculty and graduates in the first decade of the University existence will, it is hoped, be even surpassed under the excellent facilities for study and research which the library can now offer.

from *The Province,* October 15, 1925

Meanwhile the number of students grew steadily to almost 2,000 in 1930 and there was plenty of room for them. Relations with the government were cordial and University budgets increased each year to $625,000 in 1929-30. The sunshine and tranquillity of those years are golden in the memories of David Brock and Roland Lanning.

THE U.B.C. LIBRARY IN THE CASUAL TWENTIES

DAVID BROCK (ARTS '30)

YOU MAY THINK there is no date cut into the stone façade of the original 1925 portion of the U.B.C. Library. But if you think that, you are wrong. Slightly above and a little to each side of the main door there are two little carvings, left there as a private joke by the stonemasons. They are not very big, and they are in low relief, and your eye does not normally seek out that part of the entrance anyway. But hundreds and thousands of us know they are there, for all that. One carving represents a Fundamentalist and is labelled FUNDA. He bears a close resemblance to the familiar Prohibitionist figure of the cartoons, though I do not suppose a disbelief in liquor always went with a disbelief in Darwin. The other carving shows a kind of ape, and is labelled EVOL. And thus the visitor can tell, even now, that these carvings were made while the Scopes trial in Dayton, Tennessee, was hot news. In other words, in 1925.

This was the year when Evoe (not Evol) of *Punch* wrote one of the best of the "Carry-me-back" songs that were so popular and indeed mechanical in that decade when everybody wanted to go back to his little old shack and suffered from what you might call the Innisfree Complex. I have neither the space nor the legal right to quote you all of "Way Down in Tennessee," but it starts like this, and it starts, as all songs should, with what the singers call *attack*:

> Oh, would I were in Tennessee,
> The soil where all is fair and free,
> Where man can never, never be
> Descended from the apes;
> But here in this benighted land
> The veriest child can point the hand
> And shout to me "Ah, ha! Ah, ha!
> A monkey was your grandpapa!
> How like you look this afternoon
> To your great-uncle the baboon!"
> And other senseless japes.

There are six more stanzas, and if you want to look them up they are in a book called *Poems of Impudence*, signed with Evoe's full name, which was E. V. Knox. I doubt if you will find a copy in the U.B.C. Library, because few libraries are really strong in the old masters of the funny stuff. Which is absurd, because the really funny men are usually wiser in their generation than the children of light . . . they have a better sense of proportion, for it is impossible to know what is incongruous until you know what is congruous. Also, the targets of the funny men are essential to a knowledge of social history. Let me give you a tiny example. Today it is commonly thought that everyone in the 1920's wore coonskin coats to college, and that everyone took these absurd garments seriously. Only by flicking through the lighter magazines do you begin to realize that practically everyone laughed at them and hardly anyone wore them. During one winter term at Yale, in the dear quiet twenties, there were exactly three coonskin coats on that whole campus, and this was considered too many.

I might tell you, though, that one British Columbia library does have a rare treasure in funny books. The Vancouver Public Library owns a copy of *Krazy Kat*, a book almost impossible to get. I was once in touch with the literary executor of Herriman, who of course created Krazy Kat, and he told me that if I would steal him that book, he would make me a gift of the television rights to Krazy Kat. So you can see how rare the book is, and how rare my honesty too.

Where were we? Oh, yes, standing outside the U.B.C. Library, staring up at Funda and Evol. We half-witted freshmen liked to pretend, back in 1926, that the monkey had something to do with "Speak no evol, hear no evol, see no evol," and since the initial letter of Funda was very weak, we thought this Puritan figure was possibly named Tunda and had some connection with the T'undaboid, a West Coast myth that was becoming very troublesome even forty years ago. We had already begun to pretend we were Indians, though at least we had the wit not to go calling our athletic teams the Thunderbirds. When the Alma Mater Society ordered the English Rugby Club, quite tyrannically, to describe its first team as Thunderbirds, from the mid-thirties on, some of us prophesied that never again would U.B.C. have quite so many and such great athletic triumphs as it once had. After all, there is only one Thunderbird, if it exists, and it is probably our enemy. To borrow and pluralize its name and use it frivolously is to invite bad wishes from

the Thunderbird and from its Indian chums alike. And with the single exception of a brief heyday for the U.B.C. oarsmen, our prophecy has come all too true. In the 1920's it seemed pleasant but completely natural that we should have the best English Rugby teams in North America (and be able to hold the New Zealand Maori team to a draw); that we should hold the Canadian soccer championship; that we should have the best high jumpers in Canada, ending with an Olympic gold medal in 1932, and have a student with two Olympic gold medals for sprinting and a professor with an Empire Games gold medal for sprinting; that we should play first-class amateur ice hockey, and win a Dominion boxing championship, and so on. We took such things for granted, though we were a tiny outfit. And then some public relations type thought up that childish and fatal business about Thunderbirds.

As a result of this doom, the steps of the Library saw a stranger sight than anything that ever took place in the stacks, and this is saying plenty. One day in the 1930's I returned to U.B.C., not for the first time, to help the Rugby Club stage one of its ghastly annual vaudeville shows, which we called *The Ballet Who*, and some of us made a little pilgrimage from the auditorium to the Library steps, where we took off our hats to the figure of T'unda and said "Sorry, T'unda." I feel it is only because we did this that U.B.C. has ever won anything at all. I believe, for instance, that it recently won a football game against Sarah Bland Stoat Junior College of Pysht, Wash. (population 623).

In one edition of *The Ballet Who* we sang some feeble verses about John Ridington, who had been librarian almost from the very start of the Fairview shacks. I say "almost," because when he first turned up out of nowhere, he said he would enjoy working free, sweeping the floor and unpacking crates and so on, and this later led to his being made librarian. During the Depression I was told more than once that a good way to get a job was to follow John. I never got round to trying it, because I was terrified that instead of being made simply a librarian, I might have to be a university president. And we all know what happened to Sir Joseph Porter after he polished up that handle so carefully. It sounded a dangerous and dizzy game to me.

Some of the songs we sang about the faculty and staff were not without wit. For instance, in the days when Dr. Sedgewick wrote a column called "More Light than Heat" in the Vancouver *Daily Sun*, we sang:

Doc Sedgewick writes a column, it is called "More Light than Heat."
The Daily Sun assures us it's an intellectual treat.
I haven't got an intellect and so I read it not,
But I admire its modest name implying "Not so hot."

And there was one about Dr. Soward which explains itself:

Professor Soward once set out and said that he would test
The culture of the children in the high schools of the west.
The children all asserted the professor was no coward,
For the tests revealed the culture of Professor F. H. Soward.

But the bits about John Ridington were stupid, making fun of his harmless beard and so on. Show me a man who is rude about other men's beards and I will show you a provincial boor. Women are even more insolent about these things. I am surprised that we couldn't think of better ways to mock Honest John. His delusions of grandeur, for example. He thought he was a king and the Library was his castle, and he issued edicts. Now and then a forgery would appear on the notice boards, burlesquing his prose and the wild orders he issued, but the most outrageous parodies still sounded very like the genuine edicts of King John and we took them for genuine. I remember a fake notice which told us that we were walking too much on the white portions of the black and white squares on the floor, and in future we must all walk on the black squares only, to improve the appearance of the world's finest library. Half of us swore this was authentic. The rest pretended to, and did awkward steps along the black squares, sometimes falling with a tremendous crash, and unscholarly laughter. Those black squares were noisier than the white.

This business about the world's finest library was a rather private joke, and a rather direct quotation from King John himself. One day he had two visitors, a husband and wife team from the Carnegie Foundation, who wished to give U.B.C. some money. King John led the husband around the Library while the wife followed with one of the deans. Falling back a few paces, the husband said to his wife "My dear, you are now in the best library in the whole world." She looked surprised and said "What makes you think so?" He said "Why, Mr. Ridington himself ADMITS it."

King John made up library rules as he went along, until there seemed to be at least one rule per student. About 150 years ago there was a very good Scottish admiral named Philip Patton, and he left us some excellent notions on morale and discipline and how to prevent mutiny. I was particularly struck by his saying that any-

one can issue new rules every few minutes, but the effects of a steady stream of new orders are usually bad and never helpful. It reminded me so strongly of the day when King John issued a decree which stated that the boots of Johnny Dalton were too big and loud. He outlawed Johnny's boots. So from then on, every time Johnny entered the Library, he took his boots off, tied the laces together, and hung them around his neck. He would then make a stately tour of the whole library in his stocking feet, to make sure he had hundreds of witnesses to the fact that he was obeying the rules. And what these incessant tours did to concentrated study was very deleterious. It was meant to be.

Another enemy of discipline was the fact that many of the female librarians in those days had what we took (or mistook) to be a hostile attitude to students. I honestly used to believe, no doubt wrongly, that these sadistic monsters were positively glad to inform me that I could never borrow any of the plays of Eugene O'Neill because Professor Frank Wilcocks or Wilcox had had the whole set for a year or more, and might never return them at all. At that time, professors could do these things. Naturally, we were not encouraged to scream and yell inside the building, even when goaded by female sadists, or sadistes. But we often went down the stairs of King John's castle uttering curses so shrill that only bats could hear them. And the words those women and we spoke of each other, lambs could not forgive nor worms forget.

You will notice that I quoted Dickens just now, and I quoted the Bible in talking about the children of darkness being wiser in their generation than the children of light. I don't think we did any too much studying in the 1920's. We were ten times as carefree as any student today. James Thurber once calculated that irreverence hit its peak in 1928 and has been decaying ever since, till now it is completely outmoded. People now loathe flippancy, or pretend to, and they have forgotten that gaiety is the courage of the intelligent. But though we did not always put the Library to its proper use, preferring to use the stacks for miming scenes from the unexpurgated Arabian Nights, still, we were more literate in some ways than people are now. As one small proof among many, we never needed to identify allusions to Dickens and the Bible. Another proof is that any reasonably literary magazine could make money in the twenties, whereas in any later decade it went broke, and today things have got so bad that *The Saturday Review* and *The Atlantic* have to cook up portentous articles on science and pretend

to keep you "informed" with a little of everything, and God help the literary types. Here's another trifle, out of ten thousand: forty years ago even the frivolous *Vanity Fair* would print articles in French. Who would dare try that today, when most articles are not even in English? Perhaps one day you bookworms would like a whole essay on this one theme, the decay of literacy. Mere tables of books borrowed per capita do not prove anything. About twenty years ago I wrote for *Punch* a little Rubaiyat of a Reviewer:

> And much though each new book keeps lit my light
> And robs me of my rest by devious sleight,
> I often wonder what the writers read
> One half so rotten as the books they write.

I was referring of course to the books of the 1940's. But things have got worse since then. People have got sillier and the language has grown muddier.

And speaking of the magazines of the twenties, there was a delightful periodical room at the back and top of the old library, with windows looking eastward across green fields and woods, where the stadium is now. We reached it by a narrow little romantic stair which led upwards out of the intellectual dust and into what seemed almost civilization. The room was always half empty, as if almost nobody knew about it, and there we played hooky and read little poetry magazines, in those days when poets were important men and even made half a living out of it. It seems romantic now to think we were reading Thomas Hardy in *The London Mercury* while he was still alive, but let me tell you it was romantic at the time. There is nobody that important writing in any magazine today. That important, or that modest either.

Memories . . . if you look inside the drawers of the older desks in the stacks, you will find some of our names. I remember finding Harry Hickman's name written very large in one of those drawers, three decades later. But names alone tell you nothing. They do not awaken in your ears the sounds of those hellish hot-air dryers in the men's washroom, whose howlings made study impossible two floors above them, nor do they recall to anyone the laughing yells of a young man who was tearing the whole Library to pieces one rainy afternoon to celebrate the fact that he had won a Rhodes scholarship. When I told him he would be expelled, he gave me a drunken leer and said "They can't. Nobody can touch a Rhodes scholar. Too much scandal." And he went on wrecking the joint,

as a test case which he easily won. This young baron had King John in his power.

I helped to organize a few simple climbs around the outside of the Library, and for a while I offered a prize to anyone who could get into that empty niche at the top of the west side and stay there for an hour. I also organized the great 1930 spitting championship. We spat the length of the lily pond outside the front door, and I won the prize for distance but none for accuracy. Not that I live in the past. I am just recalling these things now because you asked me to look back, and to show that I could be described as a Friend of the Library, though I laughed at real students and real study. My own studies have no possible use. There is therefore something very noble about them. I can even tell you about quite a recent book in the U.B.C. stacks which explains exactly how to commit a murder and get away with it. But I will not tell the students its name. That shows I am still a Friend of the Library, and still noble.

* * * *

The Public Catalogue was on a couple of large tables behind the old Loan Desk on Floor 5, with windows on the East wall. For an early period we worked there on the *qui vive*, for there was the final lot of stump-blasting being carried out, with some smashing of these windows. On warm spring days, I used to go out at lunch, jump a little ditch, and lie out in the wilds — not as far over as the Brock is now.

ROLAND LANNING

Bill Tansley

A janitor, I think, at first, Bill Tansley was one who hobnobbed with the students and faculty. He was a great reader, and I once bought a volume of *Daniel Defoe* from him when the Library hadn't a copy.

W. L. MACDONALD

IN THE LIBRARY

Although acting as janitor, part of whose duties are as a watchman and the other part as sweeper and cleaner, in the long night and morning hours my brain and imagination are at times very busy, especially as I pass through the library and look on the seemingly endless rows of books.

Here is Froissart, truly in every sense a chronicler, and as I turn over the pages richly illuminated and illustrated in the quaint mediæval way, I am reminded forcibly of Sir John Fastolf and Caister Castle in Norfolk. Sir John was in charge of a section of British troops in France and being ordered to take part in a battle, refused on the grounds that it would be useless slaughter of his men and in no event justifiable. Sir John was accused of cowardice and tried, but was acquitted honorably.

I have many times visited the old castle, the first brick castellated and moated structure erected in England. The outer walls and tower still remain, also remains of the old staircase to the tower summit.

At the base of the tower is the ancient fire-place, and by using a stick and poking in amongst the crannies at the back, some of the old soot can still be extricated — soot formed by the wood fires, at one time flashing on the stern faces of battle-scarred warriors returned from Crecy and Agincourt and again from the disastrous battles against Joan of Arc.

The castle subsequently came into the possession of the Paston family. The Pastons of Shakespeare days remonstrated with the bard of Avon for libelling their ancestor, Sir John Fastolf. One of the Pastons of the sixteenth century gave a letter of introduction to a guest of his recommending him to the kind care of the landlord of the Maid's Head Tavern: "And for his good entertainment I will be charged." The Maid's Head Tavern still stands, as quaint as ever, close to the old cathedral walls of Norwich.

Another volume, *Visitations of Norwich*, brought a flood of reminiscences to my mind of old Benet's Abbey, founded by Canute the Dane, the monks of which, at Sir John Fastolf's death, were specially barbered and shaved for the funeral obsequies.

How much the secular clergy hated the monks can be seen depicted in rude fresco on West Somerton Church. The secular priests armed with pitch forks, are shown thrusting the monks into the flames of hell. In this church are still extensive remains of the rood screen and in the pulpit floor is a loose board, on the reverse of which is an exquisite painting of the Virgin Mary, probably put there to save it from the spoilers of time.

On taking up another volume, the title brings to my mind's eye Garionomme, or Burgh Castle, close to Yarmouth, the twin fortress of Richburgh, down in Kent. It had a number of turrets or Pharos which were lighted in case of threatening attack by the British.

The fort itself, built of flint and rubble and stiffened by three layers of Roman tile, is in form three side of a square; the end not walled facing what was then the sea, now a long distance away. The old well still remains, also a lane called by the natives: "The Loke," probably taking its name from Loculus. It seems a long cry to hark back to St. Fursins, the Celtic monk who established a mission in the fortification after its evacuation by the Romans. Fursins fled to France, to escape the savage Danes, who in one of their incursions demolished the monastery and slaughtered its inmates. From the writings of Fursins, it is said that Dante took inspiration for his immortal *Inferno*. That book is here also.

What a wealth of sober wisdom is between the pages of another book — *Meditations of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus*, wisdom that would be well applied today, written by one dead two thousand years or so; "Sic transit gloria mundi."

In the remotest corner of the library can be found *Appolonius of Tyana*, as if seeking an obscurity, the shadows of which he had no desire to leave.

Gray's Elegy — yes, with its pathetic lesson for all. "The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep" — and, wearied with the long and hard night's work, as I seat myself among this vast array of history, romance and philosophy, the severe modernity of the stacks seems to soften, the old, old monastic arches take shape, and the narrow spaces resolve into scriptorum, with the painstaking monks laboriously inscribing those glorious pages on vellum.

But this dreaming will never do — a janitor's job is to clean and dust and make the place presentable when the institution opens for the students in the morning.

WILLIAM TANSLEY

from *The Ubicee*, February 1917

Mr. Tansley eventually became curator of the notable ethnographic collection acquired by Dr. Burnett in his travels.

Another funny thing was an indelicate object in the Burnett collection of South Sea curios. . . . Dr. Burnett turned down an offer of half a million dollars for this collection and gave it to U.B.C. instead. It was exhibited on the ground floor where the main loan desk is now. Students who never used the Library at all would come in to laugh at this obscene object and go away with new strength for their boring tasks. So I suppose it was an aid to study.

DAVID BROCK

From the Minutes of the Library Committee, 1925-1929.

APRIL 23, 1926

. . . the Secretary was instructed to write President Klinck, drawing his attention to the fact that the linoleum tops of thirteen out of the nineteen Reading Room tables were split. . . .

JUNE 8, 1927

The half of Tier 2, hitherto given up to bound newspapers and duplicates, had to be given over to the growing main collection. . . . Every book in the Library has, therefore, to be moved. Three student assistants are doing the work under supervision of the Staff. . . .

SEPTEMBER 14, 1927

An anonymous friend of the University has offered, and the Board of Governors has accepted, a gift of $1,500 to install the Arms of the Dominion and Eight Provinces in the lunette window in the inner hall.

OCTOBER 12, 1927

It was the opinion of the Committee that, while in a University Library there should be a fairly liberal interpretation as to the type of books permitted general circulation, readers should be protected against casual contact with works that have a proper place in the collection, but should be consulted only for specific educational purposes. . . .

OCTOBER 12, 1927

The Catalogue Department has this year been engaged . . . in making a beginning of their work of re-organizing the Subject Headings. This is a long task and will take over five years.

NOVEMBER 9, 1927

The request of the students who have organized a shoe shine stand for permission to use the lower lobby of the library building for this purpose on rainy days was granted.

DECEMBER 14, 1927

Only one work in the Library was specifically named as being undesirable, because of its contents, for general circulation. . . . One head of Department suggested the segregation of unnamed works of Freud.

DECEMBER 14, 1927

All newly-received and catalogued books have been placed on exhibition in the Faculty Room each Friday from noon to 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 7, 1928

The Periodical Department will proceed at once to the ordering of subscriptions for 1929. In placing these orders it has been decided to transfer from the firm of F. W. Faxon Company, Boston, to William Dawson, Toronto, all subscriptions for Canadian publications. The motive for this action is purely patriotic.

DECEMBER 12, 1928

The strain of the present system of lighting on the eyes of the staff would appear to be indisputable. Five members of the staff have, within the past year, had to see oculists, and one member of the staff has had to have her glasses changed twice.

. . . The Librarian has opened the seminar room to partially meet the overflow and has given permission for students to use the book exhibit table in the main hall. At times students have been studying on the staircases and every day others may be seen using the encyclopaedia stand as a desk, and studying standing.

JANUARY 16, 1929

For the second time since the University moved to Point Grey, the Applied Science students, as a body, made an organized parade through the Reading Room as part of the preliminaries of a "Pep Meeting." The demonstration was made in spite of the warnings of the Librarian, who met the head of the procession at the basement stairs.

MAY 7, 1929

All members of the teaching staff were . . . notified by circular that this year all loans were to be returned for the annual check. This was done in the majority of cases, but a large number of professors and members of the teaching staff have not yet complied with this request. . . .

NOVEMBER 12, 1929

The Librarian reports that on Tuesday, November 5, a freshman who refused to wear his green cap broke from his captors and fled into the Reading Room. He was pursued by five second-year men, who were taking him by force out of the building with the intention of throwing him into the pool. The proceedings were interrupted by the Librarian who took the names of the offenders.

THE THIRTIES

FEW ESCAPED the economic cataclysm that produced the Great Depression. The seats of learning could claim no immunity and it was during this decade that the very survival of the University came into question.

The pattern was familiar, but being familiar made it no less devastating. In three years the provincial budget for U.B.C. was slashed by two-thirds — to a low of $250,000 in 1932. The Kidd Committee, investigating government economy in that frightful year, actually suggested that the grant to the University be dropped. As an alternative it recommended scholarships to other universities in the Dominion. This advice was rejected. U.B.C. survived. But, for a considerable time, higher education in the province was severely handicapped. Enrollment was limited; members of faculty were dismissed; salaries cut, and all appointments were for a year only. Although recovery began in 1933 and the University's budget was up to $400,000 in 1937-38, the thirties were lean years.

The U.B.C. Library had come to the worst crisis in its history. In the Minutes of the Library Committee are recorded many painful exigencies forced upon Mr. Ridington and his staff.

MARCH 9, 1932

The Librarian was instructed to prepare a circular letter to all Heads of Departments advising them that the book funds for the coming University year were not expected to be sufficient to continue more than half the present periodical subscription list, and suggesting that the cost of these . . . should be borne by the Departments interested . . .

APRIL 12, 1932

On April 1st . . . the Library Staff was reduced by the discontinuance of a second typist, two call boys, and all paid student assistants. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, particularly in the period just

prior to examinations, a number of student assistants and a few other students offered to give unpaid service. Members of the Library Staff volunteered for extra duty for the same period.

The discouragement which John Ridington suffered under these circumstances is vividly reflected in his correspondence at the time.

Letter to Donald Cameron, University of Alberta, February 16, 1932.

... We have been working for years to build up a collection and a service of books that, so far as I know, is (within limits, of course) the best of any University Library in Canada. I have a good staff — and I have to cut it practically in two. For seventeen years, the building of this Library has been with me my life work. All sorts of plans and projects yet remain to be realized — and none of them will be, at least in my time. This Library would have been my only memorial — "Si monumentum requiris, circumspice," as St. Paul's Cathedral is of Christopher Wren. And now the prospect is — starvation, retrogression. I am weary at heart and sick of soul — and underlying every other emotion are feelings of impotence and rage.

Letter to Ernest Kyte, Librarian at Queen's University, March 2, 1932.

... The campus is thick with rumours. Old friendships are ruptured; men are in opposite camps, taking sides, sometimes in the most unexpected fashion, and uncertainty and suspicion envelop us like a miasma... The City of Vancouver is apparently quite indifferent to the fate of the University. If we were a sash and door factory or ran a plant for making jams, I suppose the Board of Trade would be right up in the air at the "loss of an industry." But though the University of British Columbia means at least one and a half million dollars a year to the City of Vancouver hardly a finger has been lifted in our aid or a pen dipped to point a protest...

Letter to Dr. Robert Lester of the Carnegie Corporation, October 13, 1932.

... this particular note stated that the Committee on Appropriation to College Libraries in Canada had met; that he had strongly urged the claims of this Library; that he had met with sympathetic response.... We certainly need this grant, Robert — we need it bad! This Library has for years past been spending about $12,000 a year in books and periodicals. This year we are down to $2,000. Yesterday I turned in to the President the Estimates for the University year 1933-34. In the letter requesting me to do this there was an instruction that these estimates were not to exceed those of the present year. Unless the financial situation eases up, therefore, or the University authorities experience a change of heart, we shall be compelled for

the second year in succession to buy no new books, and to cut down more than one-half of our periodical list. You can understand, therefore, with what anxiety — and hope — we are looking forward to the news of the grant.

U.B.C. Library has always owed much to generous donors. Mr. Ridington's earnest plea was heard, and at the Library Committee meeting on November 8 came good news.

It is with great pleasure that the Librarian presents copies of correspondence from Dr. Keppel, President of the Carnegie Corporation, to President Klinck, intimating that a grant of $5,000 a year for three years has been made to the Library.

The Ubyssey, long engaged in its crusade against real and imagined tyrannies in the Library, paused briefly to pay its respects.

ANSWER TO AN UNSPOKEN PRAYER

The recent announced grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the U.B.C. Library is another indication of the esteem in which this university is held all over the continent. Especially is it a tribute to the library itself, although at the same time it is one which that institution has well and truly earned. For our library now ranks as the fifth largest university library in Canada, and is unsurpassed from a viewpoint of efficiency. In this position it is an invaluable contributor to the international prestige of the university as a whole, and combined with an excellent faculty has made possible the high standard of scholarship for which U.B.C. graduates are so justly renowned. For the maintenance of an up-to-date list of periodicals and books is one of the most essential aids offered by a university to its students, and students of U.B.C. appreciate the comprehensiveness of the material and excellence of the service offered to them. Some have even given evidence of their apreciation by offering their services free to the library in its time of need.

Credit for the intrinsic value of the U.B.C. Library as recognized in the latest grant of the Carnegie Institute is of course due to the Librarian, John Ridington, and the staff of able assistants who have been working with him. Their faithful devotion to the interests of the university through its library has at last brought forth tangible fruit, and for that they are to be congratulated.

Through these hard time the University Library had a small staff of remarkably able and devoted people who, with the energy of beavers and the husbandry of squirrels, collected for a future library which could only have been visible to faith. It was during this time that Mr. Ridington obtained a depository set of Library of Congress catalogue cards, that Miss Smith resolutely increased the ref-

erence library, and that Roland Lanning somehow went on collecting serials concerned with subjects which the University did not yet teach. Of those days, Mr. Lanning recalls:

The Library dropped some periodicals subscriptions, sending out a general appeal to graduates to take on any they could. Students even entered into the spirit, issuing a notice: "Due to the shortage of Library janitors, you are requested to walk only on the black tiles." Lawns were allowed to go wild. I did have a picture of a wagon being loaded with hay in front of the Library.

In 1936, when the Library was twenty-one years old it had 100,000 volumes, 15,000 pamphlets, and subscriptions to 600 general, scientific and technical periodicals. What it had it shared, lending to every part of the province. The Extension Library developed during this period, fulfilling many obligations of the "People's University" Dr. Wesbrook had envisioned. Its remarkable work enriched the lives of many borrowers in distant, sometimes book-deprived, areas.

The Government has begun sending me cheques for fifty-five dollars so I am celebrating by enclosing five dollars from the first cheque towards a new book for the library which means so much to me.

The U.B.C. Library meant much to a great many people. All accounts agree that by the start of the Second World War its collection was small but unusually well balanced. It was an accomplishment against the odds.

The Lannings

Once upon a time, about eleven years ago, a battle-scarred veteran made his very first foray in two years at the University into the forbidding stone library and with studied bravado passed his loan slips to a little brown lady. She scurried into the stacks and returned with seven of the ten books and apologized for not having found the three others. "That's all right," quoth he, "I only wanted to sample each of them anyway." Shocked by his cavalier attitude, she drew a verbal sword; forgetting the knightly code, he then drew one too. Across the counter they battled until magic words sent him reeling, paralyzed: "You don't want an education! You want ice cream — you don't have to work at eating that." Though the little brown lady probably does not remember the incident — for she has no doubt had many such battles — she had tossed the man a challenge, the most potent he was to have in seven years. At that moment, however, she was transformed by her own outburst; he was bewildered by the truth of it. In a trice they recognized honesty, one in the other, and although they did not marry, they lived happily as good friends ever after.

This affectionate testimonial was written by a former student upon Mabel Lanning's retirement in 1961, after thirty-five years as the presiding spirit of the main loan desk. She did more than preside, of course. While locating and lending books she instructed, corrected, criticized and commanded generations of library users, and succeeded in making the connection in the student mind that she was, in fact, the Library. And so she was, and so she remains, for the question most often asked by the reminiscent visitor is "Where is Miss Lanning?" The answer is that she is enjoying an active retirement, having, after a post-retirement assignment, finally refused to work for the Library any longer.

Unquestionably she could seem severe. But to all but the most unperceptive, it soon became obvious that this was a mock severity, a cloak for a soft heart. As Anne Smith recalls "Nothing was ever too much trouble to help a student in distress. Running up and down five flights of stairs because, by some sixth sense, she could locate a misplaced book needed by a freshman when no one else could, she never spared herself hard physical labour. For it was a matter of pride with her that the inquirer obtained the book he requested as soon as it was humanly possible. For many years it was Miss Lanning who gave up her Easter weekend to keep the Library open in order that students might have a quiet place to study before exams."

This kind of selflessness demands a modicum of iron in the soul, and this is to be found in equal amounts in her brother Roland, who joined the staff with her in 1926, but whose duties kept him out of the public eye. So much the worse for the public, and so much the better for the scores of faculty members and fellow workers who thus came to know and respect him. At his retirement in 1965 it was possible to estimate that he had personally supervised the acquisition of about a quarter of the library's collections, that quarter being the invaluable scholarly periodicals. His retirement was quickly followed by his reappointment and a mandate to continue his life's work, and so it happens that his knowledge of his specialty still daily astounds and confounds his colleagues. His kind of knowledge is based on a high order of scholarship and mental discipline, for it involves outstanding powers of memory, familiarity with a score of languages and an uncommon breadth of learning. Add to this the facts that he has always been the first to arrive at the Library every day and is one of the last to leave, that those who observe him in his characteristic rapid shuffle between home

and work see that he carries periodicals to read, and that he digests at least three newspapers with lunch, and one begins to grasp the extent of his commitment to and interest in the serially printed word.

But the man is so much more than a memory bank. His wry humour, distilled in a crabbed script on tiny ragged slips of paper, in the delight of all who are fortunate enough to discover the scribbled fragments in their mail, in books, or even in the card catalogue.

One searches in vain for the clue to whatever it is that makes the Lannings special. There is a mysterious chemistry in the making of human character. It is fondly hoped that the Lanning formula has not been lost, although at present nonpareil is the only adjective that fairly describes this remarkable sister and brother.

Anne Smith

As readers of this history are by now aware, the U.B.C. Library "old guard" were supreme foundation layers; and none more so than Anne Smith. She came as Reference Librarian in 1930, was later made Assistant Librarian, and retired in 1964. For the first seven years, A.M.S. presided alone in a small corner of the concourse; but, despite her small stature, her presence was definitely well known to faculty and students. A first-rate scholar and a perfectionist, she covered all fields of research, and easily met professors on their own ground. There was no time to spoon-feed students; she taught them how to use the catalogue and the bibliographies, and turned them loose to get their own essay material. Even in the days of little money, she built an excellent reference collection; when the School of Librarianship began, we already had most of the necessary tools. She sought out government publications and out-of-the-way items, and trained her staff to use them.

A librarian's librarian, Miss Smith is known with awe and affection throughout the continent. She has always worked diligently in professional organizations; has held high office, served on councils and on countless committees. She also encouraged and trained many young persons to become first-rate librarians.

During two interregna, Miss Smith served as Acting Librarian. The first of these, in 1949, was a particularly difficult period when the University was short of money. Many times she had to fight battles for the Library, and usually she won them. By standing firm, seemingful small staff injustices were corrected when it would

have been much easier to let them go on for the sake of campus relations.

A wee mite, A.M.S. is a bundle of energy. She is a frequent and perceptive traveller, a gay hostess, an avid reader (mysteries included), a devotee of music and art. At the time of writing this piece, she is enjoying an active retirement studying classical Greek and preparing for another long trip.

Eleanor Mercer

If you travel anywhere with Eleanor Mercer you soon cease to marvel at the fact that wherever you may be — in Canada or abroad — strange young men keep coming up to her and saying — "I know you! You used to be at the U.B.C. Library!" Invariably she remembers them too, and calls them by name without hesitation. In the thirteen years she spent at the U.B.C. Library's Loan Desk, between 1938 and 1951, Eleanor saw a great many students come and go and it would seem that she hasn't forgotten any of them — nor have they forgotten her.

Although she is no longer in this position where she met so many students, she is still very much a part of the institution in which she has spent all her working life.

In 1951 when Sam Rothstein left U.B.C. to go (temporarily) to Illinois, Eleanor was asked to take over as Head of the Acquisition Department which he had recently organized. She served the Library well in this capacity for twelve years but left the position in 1963 when an opportunity came to get back into an area of service which provided more direct contact with the Library's users. As Acting Head of the Extension Library for the year before it wound up its affairs, Eleanor became well known to the Library's many borrowers in the province and took a keen interest in the requests and problems which came to her by mail.

At present she is in charge of the Library's Gifts and Exchange Department where her wide knowledge of the book collection, gained through her years in both Circulation and Acquisition stands her in good stead.

Eleanor has always been actively associated with the professional library organizations. She has served with distinction on many committees of B.C.L.A., C.L.A. and P.N.L.A. She was President of B.C.L.A. in 1950-51 and an elected member of the Council of C.L.A. from 1950 to 1953.

In her out-of-office hours, Eleanor's most absorbing interest is in sports. She is an enthusiastic follower of football, hockey and basketball — and her friends know enough not to ask her out — or call her on the phone — when a game is being played in Vancouver or broadcast on TV. She is also to be found at all the concerts given in the City and most of the plays. She is keen on travelling — on shopping — on knitting and needlework — and lately has developed a passion for cooking! What else? Oh yes, I almost forgot — she also reads!

* * * *

Perhaps it is a commentary on the tenacity of the U.B.C. student that in bad times as well as good he was capable of variations on a perennial theme . . .

FEBRUARY 11, 1931

The Librarian reported that 27 of the 30 "Silence" stands had disappeared from the Reading Rooms, and 31 of the 39 signs are likewise missing.

. . . and the usual cry of editorial outrage . .

A REIGN OF TERROR

The drastic sentences recently passed by the Faculty Council on three victims for talking in the library will not serve to increase the respect of students for the new regime of silence, or for those who enforce it. The severe punishments were calculated to overawe the undergraduate body, but they have succeeded in arousing a great deal of resentment and ill-feeling. Those who were sentenced are regarded as martyrs rather than as criminals. . . .

Antagonism is not the way to secure silence in the library. This Reign of Terror that the authorities have instituted has produced antagonism, and a natural but deplorable disrespect. Pouncing on students who dare to exchange a whisper, banishing them from the library for several days or weeks, suspending them from the University — these methods are to be condemned. Let us have more consideration and co-operation on the part of both students and authorities.

and the more effective satirical jab

LINES WRITTEN IN A DENSE FOG

While seated in the library's sheltered home,
My hair awry, my hands athwart my brow,
A sudden thought bestruck my fuddled dome,
"Where are those cards with 'SILENCE' on them, now?"

No more we shrink before that awesome word,
That ominous stand upon each table laid.
With silent warning to forbid the herd,
From thundering in that sanctimonious shade.

Where are those signs that once bechilled the soul?
We wondered if they'd passed from human ken.
But now we know they were the cherished goal
Of many a fratman to adorn his den.

So now take heed all ye that wish to learn
The force that made those grim reminders roam,
They now display their cryptic message stern
In happier guise in many a happier home.

With the retirement of John Ridington in 1940 an era came to an end. He had once been described as "an anomaly in a university, since he has no degree, and an anomaly in a library, since he has had no formal training as a librarian." Now he was no longer part of the campus scene. But the great impetus he gave to the growth and development of the U.B.C. Library cannot be overestimated. In the twenty-five years since he was at the helm many changes have occurred. But his many contributions are still fondly remembered by his former colleagues.

I have never felt that his contemporaries on the faculty gave John Ridington his due. To his judgment in selecting the Library of Congress classification when there were few using it, we owe a great deal. Through the friends he made at the short course he took in Albany and through his activities in the American Library Association we owe innumerable gifts, not least among them the thousands of government publications. Perhaps some of the early staff members would be surprised to know how often and earnestly Mr. Ridington pleaded their cause before the President. Dr. Klinck told me of how eloquently he spoke on their behalf.

ANNE M. SMITH

I remember a man who was a great asset to the Library in the days when donations did not come easily. Mr. Ridington worked indefatigably both with letters and through interviews to acquire gifts of valuable sets of books and money. The Library is richer for his zeal.

EVELYN HEARSEY

From the Minutes of the Library Committee, 1930-1940.

JANUARY 15, 1930

The New Year is notable in that the Library has completed another 10,000 in its registered accessions, the total of accessioned volumes reported today being 70,181. It will interest the Committee to know that it has taken about 30 months to add the last 10,000 volumes.

NOVEMBER 12, 1930

There has arrived at the Library about 70 volumes, works on Canadian history. These were purchased by Mr. R. L. Reid, K.C., while in England, as part of the Valedictory Gift of the Class of '31, and in due course will be one of the Library's Special Collections.

APRIL 15, 1931

Mr. H. F. Angus took the Chair, and suggested to the Committee the possibility of reductions in the expenses of the Department for the University year 1931-32, in view of the serious loss of revenue consequent on the reduction of the provincial grant.... The Librarian stated that, in expectation of decreased book revenues, the cataloguer and the typist had planned this year to make fuller analysis in the catalogue of the book collection.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1931

Miss Lanning recommends to the consideration of the Committee the passing of a regulation that students should not be granted their year's standing until all library loans were returned and fines paid, or the book replaced.

JANUARY 20, 1932

Notification has been given to the Librarian by the President's Office of expected reductions in staff and appropriations for the coming University year.

FEBRUARY 3, 1932

Captain Watson-Armstrong was in attendance in order to present on behalf of His Majesty, the King of Siam, a copy of the Tripitaka or Buddhist Scriptures, and also a Commentary on the same. The Librarian, in accepting the volumes, noted that this was the first important gift formally presented to the Library from any person outside the University's own ranks. From its geographical position, the University of British Columbia would appear destined to have still larger and more important relations with the industry and culture of the Orient....

OCTOBER 4, 1933

Miss Mary Barton, a professionally-trained librarian, has given service for the past ten months. There being no library position open to Miss Barton, she accepted the position of Call Boy for the present session at a salary of $50 a month.

NOVEMBER 22, 1933

A letter from the President was read requesting that suitable books, not required by the library, be turned over to Colonel Letson for the use of the Unemployed Relief Camps.

JANUARY 24, 1934

In response to the President's invitation for suggestions for expenditure under this [Carnegie Corporation] grant, the Librarian wrote urging the establishment of this Library as a "Depository Library" for the Library of Congress Union Catalogue.... Dr. Putnam, Librarian of Congress, generously renewed his offer to this Library to present one and a half million cards constituting the Catalogue. This represents a gift of $37,500.

A second suggestion was that the Carnegie Art Collection together with a library of one hundred and eighty volumes on the History of Art be purchased.

NOVEMBER 26, 1935

... twelve students are working on the filing of the [Library of Congress] cards, each doing four hours' work a week. Satisfactory progress is being made. At the present rate, it will take from three to four years to complete the filing.

APRIL 28, 1936

During the winter there was received a catalogue of Fiedler, offering a first edition of *Audubon: Birds of America* at a price of $300.... Efforts have been made to secure a special grant for its purchase, but this could not be given. Fiedler agreed to hold the item until the end of the University year in the hope that a supplementary grant would enable the committee to purchase the work.

APRIL 28, 1936

The Department of Buildings and Grounds has been requested to take action to get rid of mice in the building. Newspaper files have been nibbled, and other damage done.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1936

Curtis: *North American Indians*.... the Committee went on record in a vote of thanks to the Librarian for his successful efforts in securing, from Friends of the Library, subscriptions for the purchase of this valuable, scholarly, and beautifully illustrated work.

APRIL 8, 1937

The Librarian is pleased to report that three Friends of the Library have each contributed $100 for the purchase of this beautiful and important work. The donors were His Honour Eric W. Hamber, Lieut.-Governor, and University Visitor; Mrs. J. M. Lefevre; and a third lady who desires to remain anonymous.

NOVEMBER 15, 1938

Mr. R. E. Stedman, a graduate of this University now resident in

Scotland, has during the summer made further gifts of old and valuable works. These are:

Biblia Sacra: Vulgatae Editionis 1541, Antwerp.
Lactantii Firmiani Opera: Venice, 1521.
A commentary upon the prophecie of Isaiah.
By Mr. John Calvin, London, 1609.
C. Cornelii Taciti Opera. Plantin, Antwerp, 1648.

NOVEMBER 15, 1938

Sir Charles S. Sherrington, of Cambridge University, has shown his continued interest in this University and its Library by the gift of a copy of *Valerius*, dated 1476. This is the oldest book in the University collection, and came as the result of a social call made on the donor by Dr. James Gibson, a graduate of this University, and last year on the teaching staff.

NOVEMBER 21, 1939

The Committee agreed that eleven exits from the Stacks (nine of them unlocked) was an altogether unwarranted number for a total of sixty or seventy students, all in the prime of physical activity.

JANUARY 30, 1940

The Hon. J. Van Rickstal, Consul General for the Belgian Government, has notified the Librarian that he had been recommended to the Belgian Government for a decoration for his services in connection with the plans for the Library to be erected by the Belgian nation to the memory of King Albert I.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN,
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1941, AT 3:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Dr. M. Y. Williams, who addressed those present as follows:

Mr. President
Messrs. Deans
Mr. Ridington
Present and past members of the Library Committee.

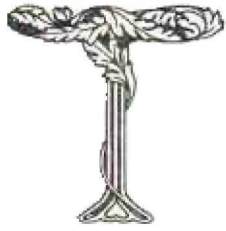
... The Board of Governors, the President, the Deans and University Staff have all played a worthy part in building up and maintaining this library, just as the University architects played their part in designing this building: but as is the case with most worthy organizations, so with this, there has been one guiding mind, one who has made this library, both as to contents, housing and administration, his chief thought and care. For a quarter of a century, throughout the life of this University — through all this formative period — this has been the case. His name is John Ridington.

And now with the passing of time, well earned rest and relaxation have rewarded a task well done. But those of us who have been so closely associated with John and who know him and his accomplishments have felt that we would like to meet him here in this beautiful office, with all its associations, and to tell him something of our feelings for him and for his work. We would desire too that this occasion be associated with a tangible token of our esteem....

Professor Soward spoke with feeling and appreciation of the many years of service which Mr. Ridington had given to the Library, and mentioned a few of the important gifts and acquisitions which had been secured, thanks to his untiring efforts. In conclusion, he explained that the President, the Deans of the Faculties, and past and present members of the Library Committee were anxious to give Mr. Ridington a small personal gift by way of a remembrance, and he was happy that it had fallen to his lot, as a past chairman of the Committee, to make the presentation.

Professor Soward then handed to Mr. Ridington a copy of *A Treasury of Art Masterpieces*, by Thomas Craven, bearing the following inscription...

TO JOHN RIDINGTON
LIBRARIAN, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
1915 - 1940
A TOKEN OF ESTEEM AND APPRECIATION FROM
THE PRESIDENT
THE DEANS OF THE FACULTIES
AND PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE



New Librarian takes over 170,000 tomes

King John's castle has a new master. You'll find him seated at King John's desk in King John's big office overlooking the lily-pond in front of the University Library that was John Ridington's castle for 15 years.

And if you catch him when he's not busy — a difficult feat in itself — he may consent to tell you about the time King John gave him his first job as assistant in the brand new stone library which opened on the Point Grey campus in 1925.

To Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, the University of British Columbia is home, for he spent seven years as an undergraduate, and later as a graduate on its campus. He knew the University when it was nothing more than a motley collection of shacks at Fairview and he still recalls the first few weeks at Point Grey, when students sat on the Auditorium floor, when the graduating class sold hot dogs in front of the Arts Building, and when the only means of reaching the Library was by a plank walk through the mud.

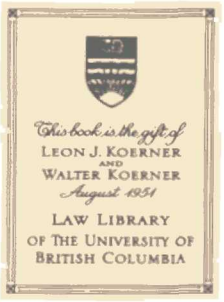
It's a very different Library and campus from the one he knew and worked in 15 years ago.

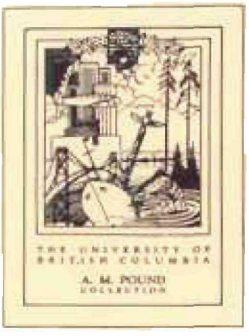
The new librarian hasn't been at work long enough to make many plans for changes in his castle. But he admits that he has visions. He has caught the torch thrown him by John Ridington, and students may remain confident that the U.B.C. Library will continue its progress onward and upward.

from *The Ubyssey*, September 24, 1940

John Ridington, Librarian 1915-1940

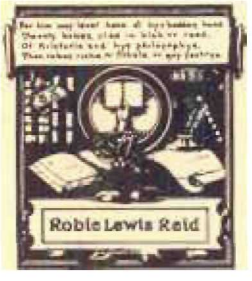
just befc the the new campus 'he uild right centre, housed the Library





THE UNIVERSITY OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

WOODWARD HISTORICAL
COLLECTION



THE LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Bulwer Collection
Gift of
Mrs. Henry A. Bulwer

Carnegie Corporation Grant
for
French Canadian Studies

The rother C. Koerner
Slavonic Collection
Honouring Dr. William J. Rose

Gift of
The Friends of the Library
Thomas Murray Collection

Otto Koerner
Memorial Fund

Rockefeller Foundation t
for
Slavonic Studies

The H. R. MacMillan
Collection in Forestry

Leon and Thea Koerner
Foundation

The Canada Council
Fund for Slavonic Studies

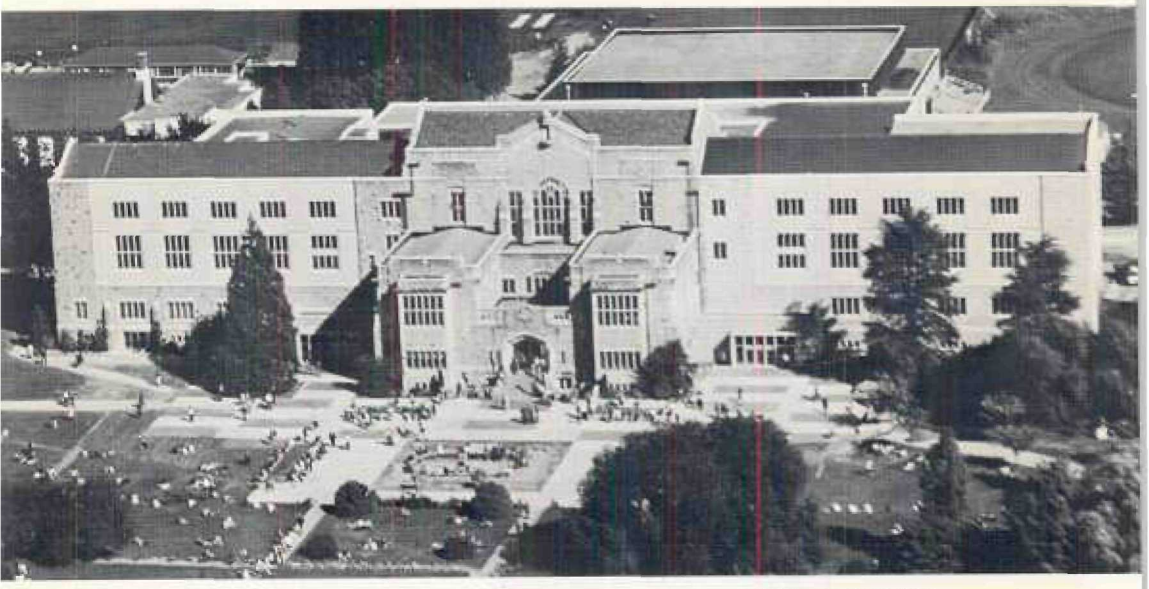
This series of book-plates represents some
f the many gifts by which the Library has been enabled to
develop its collections in special fields

M·T·C Questionum tusculanarum ad Brutum
Liber primus incipit de contemnenda morte felicit.

Cum defensionum laboribus senatorisque mu-
neribus aut omnino aut magna ex parte
eem aliqn̄ liberatus: retuli me te orāte
maxime ad ea studia que retenta aīo remissa tempori
bus longo intermissa interuallo reuocaui. Et cum om
nium arcium que ad rectam uiuendi uia ptinerent
ratio et disciplina studio sapientie que philosophia dici
tur, hoc mihi latinis litteris illustrandum putaui nō
quia phia grecis litteris percipi non possit et doctoribus:
sed mecum iudicium semper fuit omnia nr̄os a[illegible]
uenisse per se sapientius q̄ grecos aut accepta ab illis
fecisse meliora. Que quidem digna statuissent in
quibus elaborarent. Nam mores et instituta uite resq;
domesticas ac familiares nos profecto melius tuemur
et lautius. Rem uō publicam nostri maiores certe
melioribus temperauerunt institutis et legibus. Quid
loquar de re militari in qua tam uirtute nostri mul
tum ualuerunt: tum plus etiam disciplina? Iam illa
que natura non litteris assecuti sunt, neque cum
grecia, neque cum illa gente sunt conferenda. Que
enim grauitas? que constantia? que magnitudo aī?
probitas? fides? que tam excellens in omni genere uirtus
in illis fuit ut sit cum nostris maioribus comperanda.
Doctrina grecia nos et omni litterarum genere supe
rabat, in quo erat facile uincere non repugnantes.
Nam quō apud grecos antiqssimum et doctis genus
ut poetarum siquidem homerus fuit et hesiodus an

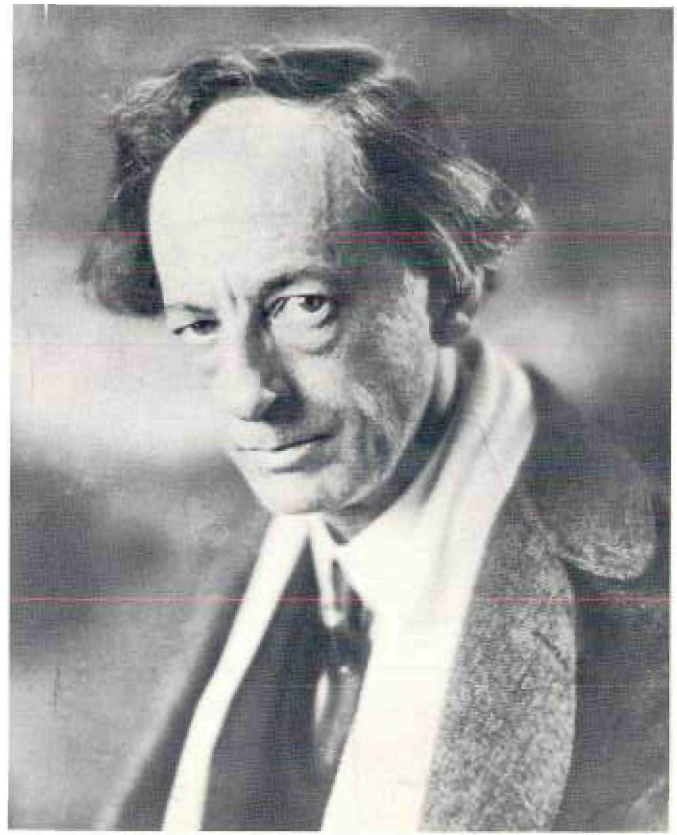
A page from the fifteenth-century Italian manuscript of Tusculanae disputationes *by Cicero*

The Library at Point Grey, 1925



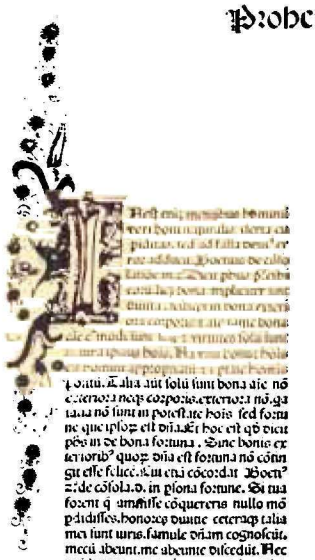
As it appears today

Dorothy Je[illegible]erd, hief cataloguer, 1925.



Lionel Haweis

Prohemium



Est enī; inq̄bus hoīnū
veri boni ipfectiue dicit ea
q̄dictū. sed ad falsā opīa
ne addūcat. Boetius de cōso
latōe iij. Quā pulc̄ p̄fecti
cētū hoīes implēt sue
dūtis. Quāq; in bona ex
cidere cōpetit. sic eīq; bona
p̄ patū. Alia aūt solū sunt bona alic nō
ceteroz; neq; corporis. ceteroz; nō. ga
lia nō sunt in potestate hois sed fortu
ne que ipsoz est dīa. Et hoc est qđ dicit
pōs in de bona fortuna. Bone bonis ex
teriorib? quoz dīa est fortuna nō cōsun
gat esse felicē. Alii etiā cōcordāt Boeti?
z: de cōsola. d. in pīosa fortune. Si tua
fuerint q̄ amabile cōquereris nullo mō
p̄ditasses. bonoz; duūte ceteraq; talia
mea sunt uria. famule dīam cognoscūt.
mecū abeunt. me abeunte discedūt. Hec
etiā bona corporis sunt naturā bona ho
minis. cū non sint hominī appropriata.
sed multis alijs inhercūa. Sola aūt alie
bona quasi mōi est ipsa pbia sunt in pote
state hois posita z ībi appropriata. Et
h est qđ de istis duobus dicit Seneca i
quadā epistola ad Lucillū ipm. puocās
ad pbiaz. Si magnus es z arboreus, si fō
tis es z leones. si pulcher es z pauones.
si velox es z lepores. si aūt sapiēs tu es
vnus deus in hūano corpe latitas. Et in
quadā alia sic dicēs. Si diues es laudā
fortunā. si fortis es laudā naturā. si aūt
bonus laudā teipm quasi bona alie sint
in potestate hois posita z alie appropria
ta. Et ga inter bona alie pbia est pricipa
lia. ideo per vnū bonū in verbis z ppositis
ipsa pbia cōmeniēter pōt describi. In
est enī. z. In quibus quidē verbis Boe
tius breuiter duo tāgit. Primo enī tāgit
ipsius ad pbiam naturalē inclinationez
z affectū. z. tangit ipsā ab ipsa erroneaz

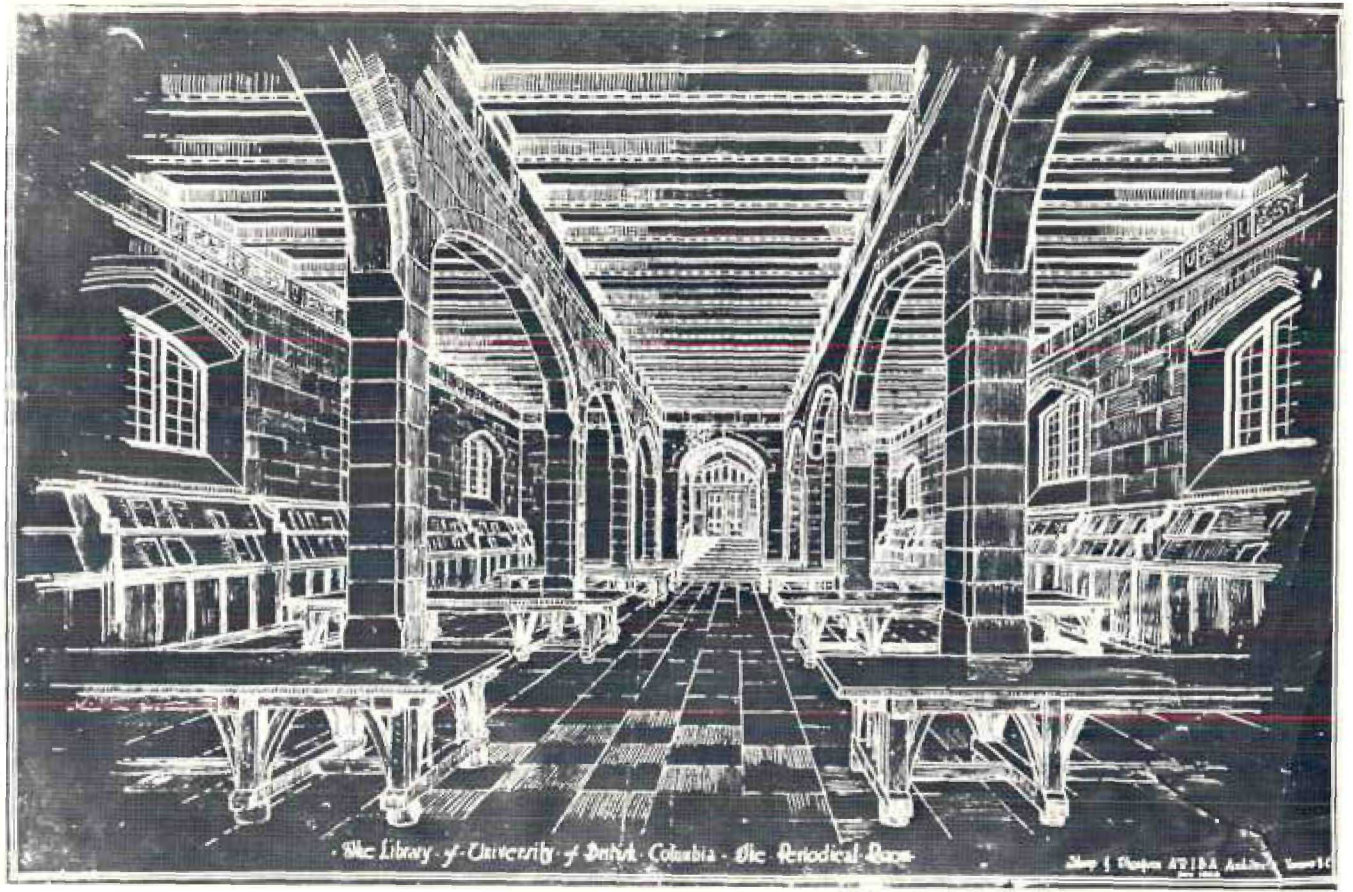
dēuationē z impedimentū. Primū qdē
tangit cū dicit. Inest enī meniē? bonū
vera bona naturalis ifirma capiditatio. z?
quidē tāgit cū subdit. Sed ad falsa de
mine erroz addūcat. Primū enī nobis
innatū est et naturale. primo ex parte ei
gnalis imperfectionē. z? ex ipsius cū fino h
ne vltimato iunctōe. Primū qdē istoz
notat actus verbalis determinatus cū di
cit. Mentibus hoīuz. Secundūz vero
nobis innatū bona naturalia pertinētia
ad cū subdit. bona magni. Primūer
go primū ps er boīo originalis ipfectōe.
Ha enim humanis naturalis ipfectio e na
turalis inclinatio z affectus ad tria ppria
pfectōne. Et h est qđ dic pbs i p?phyco
rū. n. Entiū cui qđa diuino z optio
z appetibila. tapta forma vel pfectione.
aliud quide bui? genus. tapta. primo.
aliud aūt aptū natū esse appetere z de
derare ipm. sm ipsius natura. tapta ma
teria vel pfectibile. sed hō est naturaliter
imperfectus. primo enī est ipfectus ad
ad corpus. z. aptū ad alias. Secundō ad cor
pus. Ha natus est primo sub imperfecta ān
tate. z ppter h data est sibi virtus aug
mentatiua ipm producens ab imperfecta
quātitate ad pfectā vel ad pfectiorez. z?
nascat indigēs corporis ab extrinsecis cō
rupentibus defectibus. Has natura alijs
tradidit cōmia in sui corpis defectione
qđ admodū bob? cornua. Alijs dedit
quēadmodū porcus. Aliis vnam quēad
modū pecorib?. Boies oibus his nudatos
fecit. Tie qđ ad aliam natū
tur ipfectus. Primo qđ ad aliam senti
tiua. z. qđ ad intellectiua. Secundus ad
sentiuā vel appetitiuā. z h est qđ dicit
pbs p?ethicoz. Nō quidē semp depcat
ad optima. Videt aūt z in his quoddā
innatū esse qđ semp aduertat z obuiat
rōni. f. appetitus sentiuus. Et hoc etiaz
dicit z?ethicoz dicēs. Apm. n. fumus ad
delectationes. rō difficilius é resistē con
cupiscētie q̄ ire. h enī nobis ex primo cō
comitat. Secūdo nascit ipfectā qđ
ad alias intellectiuā. z h est qđ dicit pbs
3?ō dia. d. q? est vt prima fui creatōe ticut
tabula rasa in q̄ nihil est depictū. vl? ita
scriptū. Vti etiam paulo ātea dicit. Neq;
nullā natura habz aiē intellectiuā secūdā
naturā. aut hāc qua possibilis vocatur é
z nihil é actu coz q̄ sunt ante sui itelli
gere. Prim? aūt act? é primo pfectōis

a z

anduno 'Quaestiones . . .', *a commentary on Aristotle's* De anima, *1480, is one of the Library's several incunabula. This page demonstrates how the earliest printed books continued to be illuminated in the same way as manuscripts*

BASILEAE

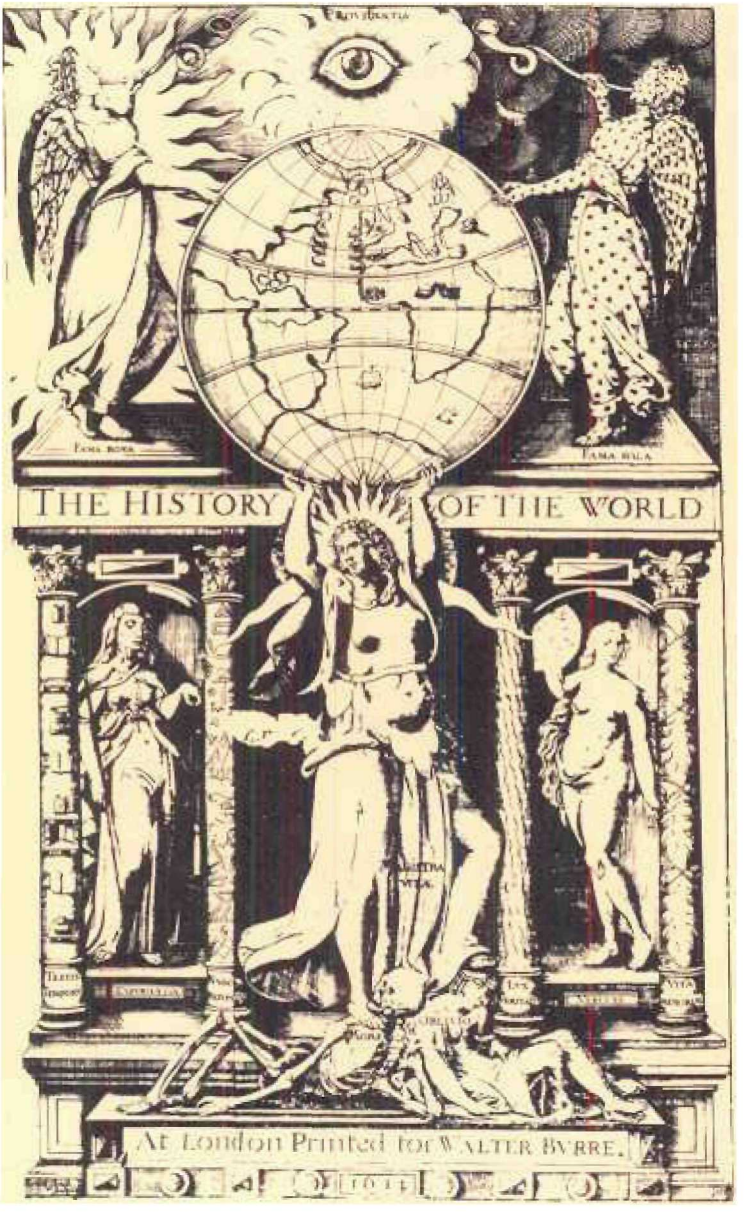
The Fabric of the Human Body *by Vesalius, 1543, is one of the finest possessions of the Woodward Memorial Collection in the history of Medicine and Science*



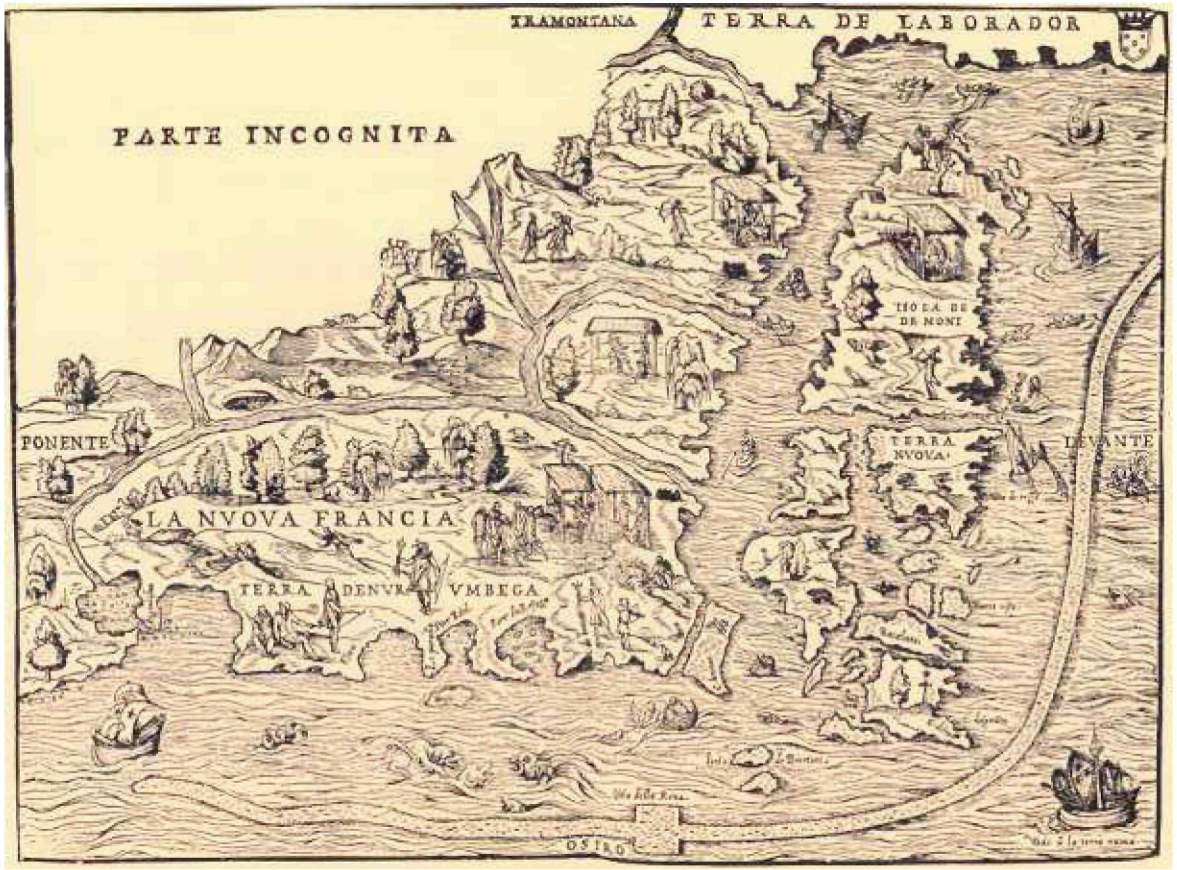
Vision of a periodical room, 1928. It was never built

Mabel Lanning in the Circulation Division which she headed for 35 years

Anne M. Smith, in charge of the Reference Division from 1930, and twice Acting-Librarian



This title-page from Sir Walter Raleigh's History of the World *is a delightful example of Renaissance iconography*



Some of the rarest maps of Canada are found in the Rogers-Tucker Collection. This 1556 woodcut of New France by Gastaldi was one of the first post-Cartier maps of the St. Lawrence region to be published

Ex Libris Gasribelini Burton [illegible]
Ex dono Amici mei [illegible] Thomae
Sturges Armig.

MICROGRAPHIA:

OR SOME

Physiological Descriptions

OF

MINUTE BODIES

MADE BY

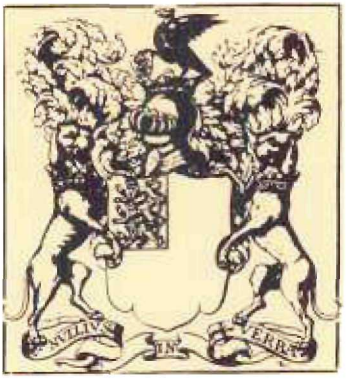
MAGNIFYING GLASSES.

WITH

OBSERVATIONS and INQUIRIES thereupon.

By *R. HOOKE*, Fellow of the ROYAL SOCIETY.

Non possis oculo quantum contendere Linceus,
Non tamen idcirco contemnas Lippus inungi. Horat. Ep. lib. 1.



LONDON, Printed by *Jo. Martyn*, and *Ja. Allestry*, Printers to the ROYAL SOCIETY, and are to be sold at their Shop at the *Bell* in S. *Paul's* Church-yard. M DC LX V.

The title page of the first edition of Hooke's Micrographia, *1665, in which he used the word "cell" to describe the structure of cork. "These pores, or cells, were not very deep, but consisted of a great many little Boxes"*

HISTORIÆ CANADENSIS,

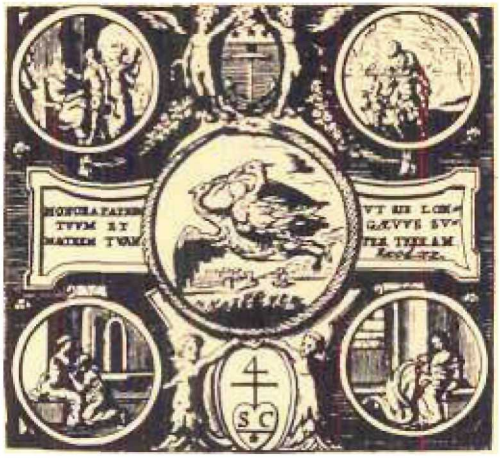
SEV

NOVÆ-FRANCIÆ

LIBRI DECEM,

Ad Annum vſque Chriſti MDCLVI.

Auctore P. FRANCISCO CREVXIO, è Societate IESV.



PARISIIS,

Apud SEBASTIANVM CRAMOISY, Et SEBAST. MABRE-CRAMOISY, Typographos Regis, viâ Iacobæâ, ſub Ciconijs.

M. DC. LXIV.

CVM PRIVILEGIO REGIS.

One of the rarest pieces of Canadiana, a summary of the Jesuit Relations, 1638-58. Sebastian Cramoisy, the printer, was one of the original Hundred Associates

aye Lamb, Lib arian 948

Leslie Dunlap, Librarian 1949-'95

amuel Rothstein, Acting-Librarian 1961-1962
and Director of the School of Librarianship from its beginning

im Ranz, Librarian 1962-1963

A

New Diſcovery

OF A

Vaſt Country in AMERICA,

Extending above Four Thouſand Miles,

BETWEEN

New France *and* New Mexico;

WITH A

Deſcription of the Great *Lakes*, *Cataracts*, *Rivers*, *Plants*, and *Animals*.

Alſo, the *Manners*, *Cuſtoms*, and *Languages* of the ſeveral Native *Indians*; and the Advantage of Commerce with thoſe different Nations.

WITH A

CONTINUATION,

Giving an ACCOUNT of the

Attempts of the Sieur *De la SALLE* upon the Mines of *St. Barbe*, &c. The Taking of *Quebec* by the *Engliſh*; With the Advantages of a Shorter Cut to *China* and *Japan*.

Both Parts Illuſtrated with *Maps*, and *Figures*, and Dedicated to His Majeſty K. *William*.

By *L. Hennepin*, now Reſident in *Holland*.

To which are added, Several *New Diſcoveries* in *North-America*, not publiſh'd in the *French* Edition.

LONDON, Printed for *M. Bentley*, *J. Tonſon*, *H. Bonwick*, *T. Goodwin*, and *S. Manſhip*. 1698.

A sample title from a large U.B.C. collection dealing with exploration in North America and the Arctic

THE DESTRUCTION OF TROY

BEING

The SEQUEL of the ILIAD.

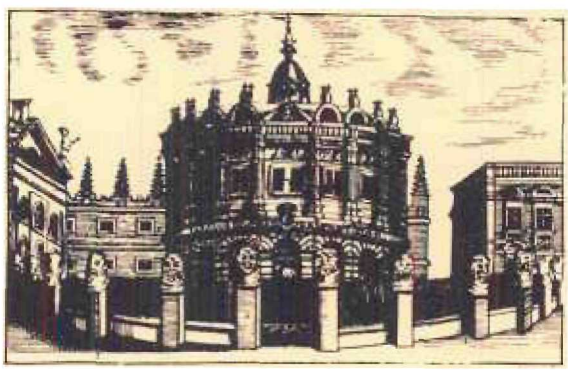
Tranſlated from the *Greek* of

TRYPHIODORUS.

With NOTES.

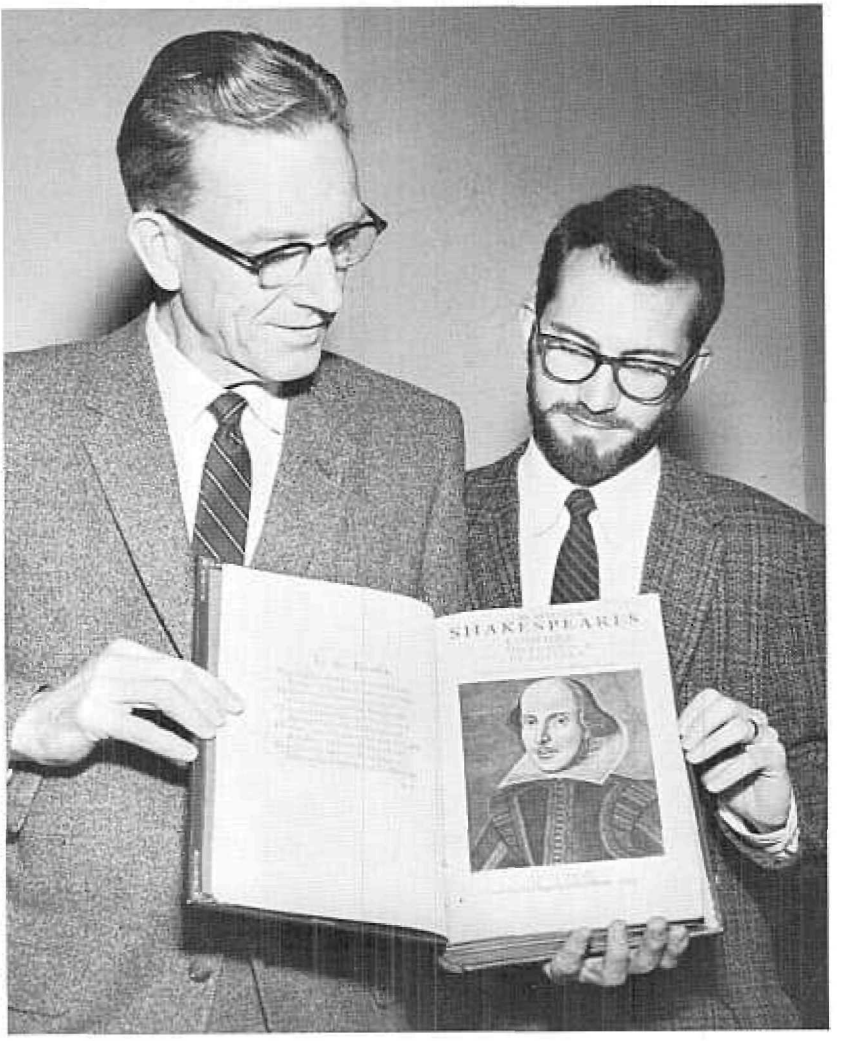
By J. MERRICK Scholar of *Trinity* Coll. *Oxford.*

Tu canis æterno quicquid reſtabat Homero,
Ne careant ſummâ Troïca Bella manu. Ovid.

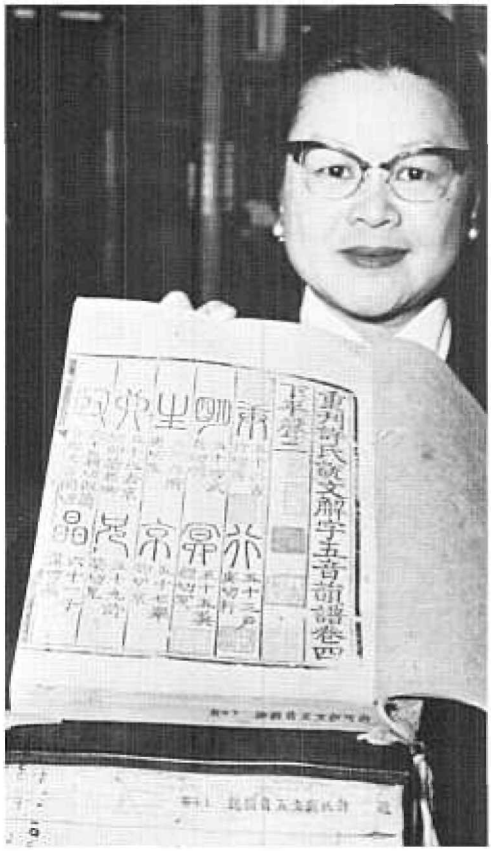


OXFORD, Printed at the THEATRE.

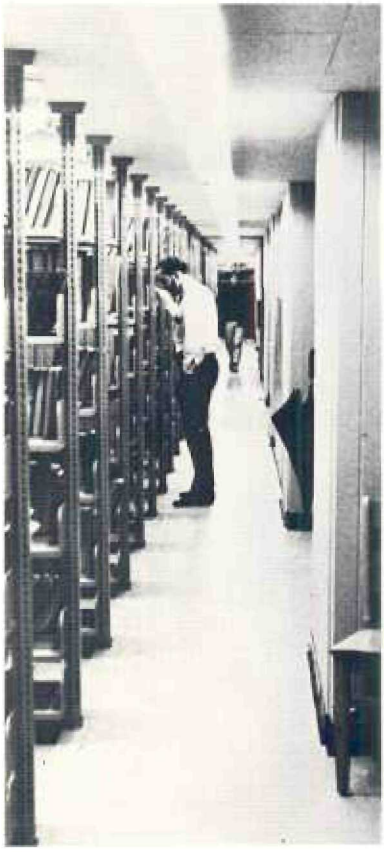
An early publication (1739)
of what has since become Oxford University Press



Neal Harlow, Librarian 1951-1961, and Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Librarian since 1964. They are demonstrating a first folio of Shakespeare presented to U.B.C. by the Folger Library in 1960



Miss Ng of Asian Studies displaying a rare book from the P'u-pan Collection



In the stacks

POEMS,

CHIEFLY IN THE

SCOTTISH DIALECT.

BY

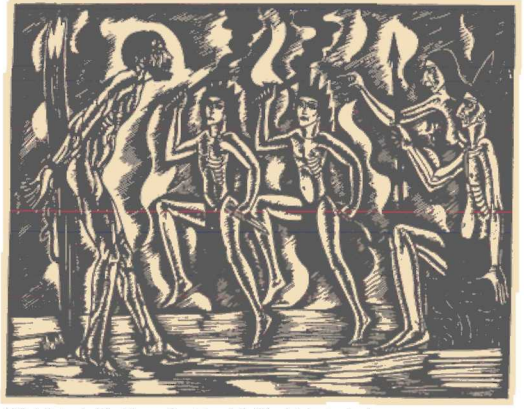
ROBERT BURNS.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH.

M,DCC,LXXXVII.

The Library holds a notable collection of books by and about Robert Burns, presented by the Friends of the Library in honour of N. A. M. MacKenzie

THE TRAVELS OF FATHER JEAN DE BRÉBEUF + AMONG THE HURONS & SUFFERINGS OF CANADA AS DESCRIBED BY HIMSELF EDITED & TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH AND LATIN BY THEODORE BESTERMAN



THE GOLDEN COCKEREL PRESS MCMXXXVIII

Special Collections maintains an interest in not only the rare but also the unique and well-made book. This volume is one of a limited edition of three hundred copies

Current journals in the Woodward Library

The Wilson Listening Room which houses a large collection of recordings

The Circulation Division in transition, 1965. The many loan slips will eventually be entirely superseded by computers. A new IBM unit stands by the counter

THE WAR YEARS

THE SECOND WORLD WAR created problems for the Library both directly and indirectly. While the number of new books on the market slowed to a trickle and many periodicals were forced to suspend publication altogether, Dr. Lamb took steps to protect the existing library stock. Roland Lanning recalls one of those steps.

Not long after Pearl Harbor, with the Japanese working their way across the Aleutians, we stored what we could of what we judged most valuable in the Vault and under the basement staircases. The number of books that can thus be housed (in the cupboards, *solid*) is incredible. In view of present reproduction methods my choice of serials for "conservation" was pathetic.

This was a period in which the appearance of the building itself adopted something of a new tone. The Library windows were boarded up with tar paper.

From the Minutes of the Library Committee, 1941-1945.

OCTOBER 14, 1941

Dr. R. E. McKechnie, Chancellor of the University, has presented a collection of medical books to the Library, and in doing so expressed the hope that a Medical School, to which they might prove useful, would be established in the near future.

FEBRUARY 3, 1942

Mr. C. K. Morison, Provincial Librarian, has agreed to deposit in the University Library several long runs of the British Parliamentary debates which the Provincial Library possesses in duplicate. The understanding is that should the set in Victoria be damaged or destroyed in the course of the war, the volumes will be returned. If this calamity does not occur, arrangements will be made after the war to transfer the books outright to the University.

OCTOBER 14, 1942

As reported to all members of the teaching staff in a special circular, steps were also taken to give a measure of protection against bombing to some of the Library's more valuable books and files of periodicals and transactions. Additional shelving was built in the vault, and two supplementary storage vaults were constructed under the main staircases, in the basement of the building. If absolutely necessary, any of the books stored can be secured for readers, but it is hoped that staff and students will keep such demands down to a minimum.

OCTOBER 14, 1942

Bibliographic Centre. Dr. John Van Male, representing the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Centre, which is being built up at the University of Washington Library with the aid of a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, visited the Library in June, and made a survey of the book collection for the Centre.

FEBRUARY 11, 1943

At the suggestion of Professor A. W. Currie the Librarian made inquiries regarding the files of the Japanese newspapers printed in Vancouver before the outbreak of war with Japan. He found that the files proper had either been spirited away or placed in vaults, but through the courtesy of 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, December 6, 1941.

NOVEMBER 24, 1943

The Secretary reported at some length upon the very valuable collection of Canadiana and North West Americana that had been bequeathed to the University by His Honour Judge Howay. He explained that the collection was especially strong in local material relating to British Columbia, and that the sections relating to the maritime fur trade were probably the finest to be found in any private library. To mention only two items, the bequest included the most complete collection known of books by and about John Jewitt, and the only surviving complete file of the early volumes of the New Westminster *British Columbian.*

OCTOBER 13, 1944

A rental department will be open in the Library, on an experimental basis, towards the end of October. The response of the students will determine whether it is to be continued and expanded.

OCTOBER 13, 1944

The Reference Department . . . was experimenting with an art loan collection. About 20 original paintings had been deposited with the Library by local artists, and these were being loaned to students for use in their homes. Most of the pictures were for sale, and had been priced with student budgets in mind. . . .

The addition of a Faculty of Law, almost at the last minute, had complicated matters at the opening of the fall term, as no provision had been made for the extra work involved in getting together even a minimum collection of law books. . . .

FEBRUARY 21, 1945

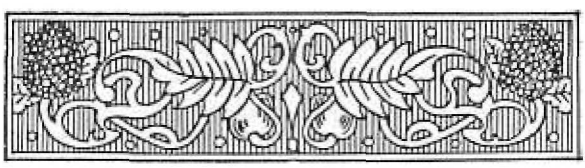
The Board of Governors has approved the proposal that the Library should become a member of the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Centre, in Seattle, at an annual cost of about $200.00.

FEBRUARY 21, 1945

The Secretary informed the Committee that Dr. Robie L. Reid, who died on February 6, had bequeathed to the University his extensive collection of Canadiana. The bequest was to be reported to the Board of Governors on February 26, when, no doubt, it would be formally accepted. Dr. Reid himself estimated that his collection consisted of about 9,000 books and 4,000 pamphlets.

OCTOBER 18, 1945

In October Mr. R. P. Pettipiece presented to the Library his files of the various Labour and Socialist newspapers of which he was at one time Editor. The 16 volumes included the *Canadian Socialist*, *Western Socialist*, *Western Clarion*, and *B.C. Federationist*. Such files are rare, and this gift, taken in conjunction with the similar files purchased in 1943, give the Library a valuable and perhaps outstanding collection in the field.



THE MOST INDISPENSABLE THING ON CAMPUS

W. KAYE LAMB

TALL TREES FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW — and so do great university libraries. Most of them begin life with a few books that for the most part are required reading for specific courses. But as the book collection grows the stature of the library grows with it. Finally there comes a moment when the library is recognized as an entity in its own right and people begin to realize that it is the most indispensable thing on the campus.

It was my privilege to be Librarian when the U.B.C. Library reached and passed this crucial moment in its development. At the time the book collection consisted of no more than 250,000 volumes, but 250,000 are a lot of books if they have been well chosen. I remember being greatly cheered and encouraged by a visit from a librarian whose business it was to survey American libraries for an accrediting body. He had never visited a Canadian library and asked if he might satisfy his curiosity by touring the stacks. When he had done so his comment was: "You may have only 250,000 volumes, but you have a better library than most universities that have half a million — your books are up to date and you have virtually no junk."

Our most determined watchdog against junk was Roland Lanning, Head of the Serials Division, and one of the four remarkable department heads who served the Library throughout the eight years I was Librarian. No one in Canada can match Roland's knowledge of periodicals and learned transactions, and no library in the country (with the possible exception of the Library of the National Research Council) has built its collection of serials with as much system and care as U.B.C. Roland's awareness of our holdings was astonishing; he knew the gaps in every incomplete set so precisely that he rarely needed to refer to the Kardex file when checking a dealer's catalogue.

Mabel Lanning managed to maintain the circulation services in conditions that became well nigh impossible when the war ended and veterans flocked to the campus. In 1947-48 we were endeavouring to serve 9,300 students in a building designed to accommodate a maximum of 1,500. We tried decentralization, including a reserve reading room in the Armouries, but the students preferred the library building, however crowded. Perhaps the pipe band that frequently practised in the Armouries was one reason! In any event, we finished the year with all services back within the old familiar four walls.

Anne Smith, Head of the Reference Division, not only gave staff and students a superb service but built up reference collections that U.B.C. will appreciate more and more in the years to come. Many of the foreign and commonwealth document files she acquired are still unmatched elsewhere in Canada. The faculty appreciated her qualities. I recall one day when she was away and I happened to be at the reference desk when Dean Clements asked for some information we could not find for him. "Where is Anne Smith?" he demanded. "She's worth the lot of you!"

Dorothy Jefferd, Head of the Cataloguing Division, had catalogued or directed the cataloguing of every one of the 300,000 books on the shelves in 1948 — surely a unique record. She had seen the library grow from a few thousand volumes in boxes which she had helped to unpack and place on shelves. From the first the Library of Congress classification was used, and years later, when Luther Evans, then Librarian of Congress, visited the campus, Miss Jefferd (who is a Roman Catholic) greeted him with a smile and the remark: "I'm delighted to meet you. For most of my life I've been governed by two infallibles — the Pope and the Librarian of Congresss!"

The north wing — the first addition to the library building — was completed just before I left the University. It was built on what would nowadays be regarded as a shoestring and actually cost less per cubic foot than the original building, erected in 1925. At the formal opening, with the need for a further addition in mind, I remarked that I hoped the President and the Board of Governors would realize that not even an angel could fly gracefully on one wing. Recently I have begun to jot down the different versions of this remark, which has been told to me in a dozen forms, and ascribed to at least a dozen other people.

As a student I knew both the old crowded reading room in Fair-

view and the new Point Grey building in the spacious days of 1925, when it seemed inconceivable that all that wonderful space would ever be filled either with books or students. And my memories are crowded with people and incidents, of which I have space to mention only two.

One day between terms, when the building was deserted, Dean Buchanan came up the main stairway into the reading room. At the top he stopped suddenly and said: "I've always wanted to do this!" Striding down to the end of the room he turned about and in his magnificent voice, which echoed grandly through the rafters, he called out: "Now loading on track 12, train number 5, for Toronto, Hamilton, Buffalo . . ."

The second incident I remember specially because I think it impressed the students more than anything else I ever did on the campus. One afternoon, in my office, I sensed that something unusual was happening in the reading room overhead. A moment later the telephone rang, and Miss Lanning, obviously under some strain, said quietly: "Will you please come up to the loan desk right away." When I came out of the stackroom door I was greeted by a jam-packed student audience all agog to see what I would do about a hen that some prankster had picked up at the University farm, and which was now perched precariously on the end of the huge old bookcase that used to house encyclopaedias and dictionaries in the reading room.

Fortunately there was one thing the students did not know. Buried deep in my past were two years spent on a farm in close association with hundreds of chickens. I could see that I was dealing with a nice little biddy and I was able to approach her gently and pick her up without any of the fuss and screeching to which my large audience was looking forward so eagerly.

I am sure that the little hen was as relieved as I was. She sat quietly in a carton in my office for a couple of hours, making small contented noises, until someone came to take her back to the farm.

THE YEARS OF EXPANSION

THERE HAS BEEN MORE of everything in the years since the war. More people — 3,000 in 1944, 9,000 in 1947, gradually more and more until there were 16,500 in 1965. New faculties — Law, Medicine, Commerce, Education, Graduate Studies; new schools — Home Economics, Social Work, Physical Education, Architecture, Nursing, Librarianship; new institutes — Oceanography, Fisheries, Social and Economic Research; new departments galore, and with them the need for the systematic accumulation of materials in their fields of study. As Neal Harlow kept repeating in his annual reports in the fifties there had to be a new kind of Library at the heart of it all.

For some years after the war the Library, without sufficient funds, could not really keep pace with the physical growth of the University. Mr. Harlow's reports are reiterated pleas for new building, for better salaries for librarians so that more could be recruited, for a School of Librarianship, and above all for a vast book-buying programme which should change the nature of the Library from a teaching collection to a great archive for research.

In the 1960's we have seen the persuasion and planning of the 1950's begin to be realized, partly because of a great public emphasis on higher education, partly because of the remarkable generosity of benefactors, the Koerner family, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Woodward, and H. R. Macmillan. It began with more people and more research. The momentum of expansion is now so great that it is dizzying to imagine where it will all end.

1945 THE LOCAL SCENE

ERIC NICOL

Now the overcrowding has eased a little, so that I've been able to slip from under the fat boy who's been sitting on my lap in chemistry and thereby lighten the load for the small chap whose gallant knee has borne our combined weight for the past six weeks, it is perhaps timely to review our status quo. (Readers of this column who have no status quo will be relieved to learn that the Book Store has ordered 5,000, expected tentatively to arrive in the spring of 1952.)

Latest figures from the Registrar's Office, discovered in a suicide note of one of the staff, reveal that 5,700 students have registered for this session. Of these roughly 80% are people, the remainder being made up of freshmen, former R.C.A.F. descips, and little men who came out to work on the huts but somehow got sucked into the powerful updraft of higher education.

Despite emergency measures, reliable sources report that there are English 9 students, crowded back into the gods of Arts 100, who still haven't seen Dr. Sedgewick. The same sources report that this is jake with Dr. Sedgewick.

"I ain't actually seen him," admits Kathy Slotch, English Honours student, "but I hear him quite frequent, when the wind is right."

Similarly, people in Physics 1 continue to be shoved out the windows by sheer weight of electrical engineers, and instructors are only gradually becoming accustomed to seeing the same person enter the classroom several times during a lecture.

Conditions are rapidly improving in the Caf, however, where there have been several cases recently of people ordering coffee, being served, and drinking the coffee, all in the same day. This is exciting news indeed.

The situation seems well under control, in fact, everywhere but in the Library. There things remain critical. Dr. Kaye Lamb has been reluctantly obliged to admit that merely fitting the librarians with jet propulsion has failed to meet the demand. And with the shadow of exams driving into the Library more and more students who were at first frightened of the commissionaire or the card catalogue, obtaining a seat in the great hall has taken on the primitive charm of musical chairs, with predators circling tables watching for the slightest sign of somebody rising to leave.

Only the other day, for instance, while sitting at a table I made the mistake of closing my book. I never knew what hit me. When I came to on the floor, my chair had been taken and someone was thrusting into my hand what he considered a fair price for the book.

More insidious, however, was a discovery I made while in the Library's stacks, a discovery suggesting the staff has taken into its own hands the reduction of the clientele. I was browsing around the lowest and gloomiest floor, tracking down a rare vellum of Thorne Smith, when I came upon a section of carrell that had recently been sealed up with books. As I was about to pass this I suddenly heard faint knockings on the opposite side. My blood ran cold, causing my radiator to start steaming. I stopped to listen more closely. Almost immediately a sinister stackman appeared at my elbow, obviously fresh out of a secret panel.

"Looking for something?" he asked, with an evil smile that bared his fangs sufficiently for me to see that the poison sacs had not been removed.

"Who've you got sealed up behind this set of Kaufmeyer's 'Principles of Sex for Beginners, with Simplified Keyboard'?" I demanded.

His eyes narrowed.

"Who are you?" he purred softly, as I scratched him under the chin. I flashed my wallet.

"I'm from the Department."

"Police?"

"No, Animal Husbandry," I murmured, stooping to pick up the bus tickets fallen from my wallet. "Now, who've you got behind these books?"

The stackman glanced around furtively, then whispered: "It's the third vice-president of the Jokers. He asked to be sealed up till 1947. Part of his initiation. His mother knows about it."

With that the stackman scuttled away, but I strongly suspected the truth of his story. Besides, I have since heard the ominous humming of machinery behind the first floor wall, and I've seen librarians carrying trussed-up freshmen hurry through a mysterious door, to emerge later with buckets of heavy green fluid which they hand to workmen, who hastily slap the fluid on huts.

Frankly, I don't like the look of it. I'm going down into the stacks again, by George; if you don't hear from me in a couple of weeks, send for the cops. from *The Ubyssey*, November 10, 1945

From the Minutes of the Library Committee, 1946-1949.

MARCH 6, 1946

The Secretary reported that Mr. H. R. Macmillan had offered to make available to the University sufficient funds to enable the Library to acquire a comprehensive collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets, etc., relating to Forestry. He had discussed the project recently with Mr. Macmillan, and the latter had agreed to make an immediate gift of $3,000.

OCTOBER 21, 1946

Full-time staff has increased from 14 to 34 in 14 months.... the fall term had no more than started when it became very evident that demand for "Reserve" books could no longer be met in the existing building. The "Reserve" book department was therefore moved, over the Thanksgiving holidays to emergency quarters in the Armouries....

OCTOBER 21, 1946

The contract for an addition to the Library building was signed. The addition would be approximately one and a half times as large as the existing first unit, and it was gratifying to learn that the contract price was substantially lower per cubic foot than the cost of the original building in 1925....

OCTOBER 21, 1946

In August Field Marshall the Viscount Montgomery sent to the Library copies of his two books *Alamein to Tunis* and *Normandy to the Baltic*. Both volumes were privately printed in Germany while the Field Marshall was in command of the British occupation troops.

FEBRUARY 20, 1947

The Vancouver *Sun*, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Charles Bailey, its business manager, had given the Library a model C Recordak microfilm reader — an item of equipment that had been very badly needed. The machine presented was generally regarded as the best of the kind available.

APRIL 15, 1947

The Custodian of Enemy Property sent to the Library a large collection of miscellaneous literature in German, most of which had belonged originally to the German Embassy in Ottawa. As two wars and a depression had made it extremely difficult for the Library to acquire an adequate collection in that language, this gift was a particularly welcome one, and most of the several hundred items included will be very acceptable additions to the book collection.

APRIL 15, 1947

The difficulty of collecting library fines following the abolition of Caution Money deposits had proved to be a problem, but a solution appeared to be in sight, thanks to the kind co-operation of the Regis-

trar. Mr. Wood had so arranged matters that no student could either register or receive a transcript of his official University record if any library fines were outstanding against his name.

OCTOBER 2, 1947

Last August Professor F. H. Soward learned that the United Nations had designated McGill University Library, The University of Toronto Library, and the Provincial Library of Manitoba as depository libraries to receive all United Nations publications free of charge on condition that they would be made available within the Library to anyone who wished to consult them.

. . . At Professor Soward's suggestion the Librarian wrote to the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs asking if he would endorse this suggestion and forward it to the proper authorities. This was done, and late in September word was received from the Librarian of the United Nations to the effect that the Library of the University of British Columbia had been added to the list of depositories.

JANUARY 19, 1948

Some months ago Miss Smith and Miss Jefferd of the Library staff had suggested that the name of the late John Ridington, first librarian of the University, should be commemorated in some way in the enlarged library building. This suggestion was discussed at several meetings of library department heads, and it was decided that much the most suitable plan would be to have the large new reference room named The Ridington Room.

NOVEMBER 3, 1949

It was moved by Dr. Brink, seconded by Dr. Duff, that only graduate students have access to the stacks; that only graduate students needing carrel accommodation have such accommodation temporarily assigned to them; and that temporary permits be available to others for day access.

THE POST-WAR YEARS

N. A. M. MACKENZIE

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN of the opinion that the Library is about the most important part or facility of a university. When I came to the University of British Columbia as President in the summer of 1944 I was naturally delighted to find that the Library was situated at what was then the very centre of the campus. At that time it consisted of one unit only — the centre block of the present Library - but, though it was not large and its book collections not extensive, it was, in spite of the youth of the University, one of the best academic libraries in Canada, surpassed, in its English language collections at least, by only the libraries of the much older universities of Toronto and McGill. The first librarian, John Ridington, who died in 1945 shortly after my arrival on the campus, had established firm foundations, and it was appropriate that one of the main reading rooms of a later addition was named in his honour.

As I have already said, I consider the Library as an institution of primary significance in the overall structure of the University, and I have always felt and acted on the assumption that the Librarian should be one of the most important members of the university staff, not only in respect of the Library and its holdings, but also in respect of the general problems of the University, its policies and its administration. For this reason I soon arranged that the Librarian should become a member of Senate and should be treated as if he were a Dean of a faculty. I am happy to note that this arrangement still exists.

In my eighteen years as President, four Librarians served with me. About them I could write at length, but restrictions of space demand that I be concise.

In the opening days of my presidency, Dr. Kaye Lamb was the Librarian. Dr. Lamb was not only an outstanding librarian, archivist, and historian; he was also a most loyal and efficient colleague,

and a man of great vision and dynamic energy. It was during his regime that the first great expansion of the University took place. Within two and a half years the student body increased from about 2,300 to over 9,300 and it was this expansion that brought about the first addition to the original Library — the north wing. After months of planning and building, Dr. Lamb saw his dream become a reality, and in 1948 the official opening took place, with Dr. Luther Evans, Librarian of the Library of Congress, and Dr. Stewart Wallace, Librarian of the University of Toronto, in attendance. It was then that Dr. Lamb remarked, with his usual urbane wit, combined with a sense of vision, that not even a good angel can fly to Heaven on one wing.

Shortly after this opening, however, Dr. Lamb left U.B.C. to go to Ottawa to create and organize the National Library and to become National Archivist. He was reluctant to leave, but the challenge was so great that we all agreed he should go. We deeply regretted his departure, but we had an informal agreement with him that if the National Library were not built at the end of ten years he would return to U.B.C. The ten years passed; the National Library was not built; and we were ready to welcome Kaye Lamb back to our campus. But then the government of the day finally did agree to begin construction, and Dr. Lamb stayed on in Ottawa to witness another dream turning into a reality. The construction of the National Library is now well under way and the building will be opened in 1967, the Centennial Year.

A second Librarian to whom I must pay special tribute is Neal Harlow, who for ten years, 1951-1961, carried out his duties with shining distinction. Ever affable, quick of wit, imaginative, and hard working, he quickly entered into the life of the University and the community, and it was he who planned and brought to reality the second great addition to the Library — the south wing. This was officially opened in 1960 in the presence of many dignitaries, including Sir Frank Francis, Director of the British Museum, Dr. Louis B. Wright, Director of the Folger Library, and Dr. Lamb himself, pleased to see his angel with balanced wings at last.

With the south wing finished, Mr. Harlow felt free to take up a new role, that of Dean of the Graduate School of Library Science at Rutgers, the State University, in New Jersey. It was with sorrow that we saw him leave. He and his wife Marion had become part of our lives, and we could not have wished for finer or more outstanding colleagues.

Between the long terms of Kaye Lamb and Neal Harlow, Dr. Leslie Dunlap gave fine service for two years, 1959 and 1960. He was an excellent Librarian and a most co-operative colleague, but he was drawn back to his native land, the United States, by a most attractive offer which he felt he could not refuse. Dr. James Ranz succeeded Mr. Harlow, but he, too, stayed for a brief period only. He left within a short time after my own retirement in 1962. He was succeeded by the present Librarian, Mr. Basil Stuart-Stubbs, to whom I would pay tribute for his brilliant beginnings did he not fall outside of the chronological bounds of my assignment.

I should now like to comment on certain particular developments and activities that occurred within the Library itself during my own years at U.B.C. But here again I must be selective and concise.

Foremost, in my own mind at least, was the development and establishment of the School of Librarianship. In 1947, while we were planning the north wing of the Library, we became convinced that Canada (and Western Canada in particular) needed another school of librarianship if the needs of new and expanding libraries were to be met. My colleagues and I also agreed that U.B.C. was the place for the establishment of such a school. So, in planning the north wing, rooms and facilities were provided that would make possible the realization of the idea when the time was ripe. Because of Dr. Lamb's departure to Ottawa and Dr. Dunlap's brief tenure in office, and because of the many problems arising from the large enrolment of veterans, action was sadly delayed. As a matter of fact the whole idea appeared to be lost in the morass of other demands. But in the early days of the Harlow period, Dr. Sam Rothstein, one of our own graduates who had been doing graduate studies in the States, returned to us to become the necessary catalyst to turn plans into action. He was interested in library schools; his knowledge was extensive; his enthusiasm and vigour, boundless. Aided and abetted by Neal Harlow, he drew up definite plans, and finally, with the support of the Senate and the Board of Governors, he saw the plans bear fruit. The School of Librarianship offered its first classes in September 1961, and, starting in a modest way, it has already doubled in size, and is now well known in library circles throughout North America. Quite appropriately, Dr. Rothstein is its Director. To him I pay warm tribute; it is his due.

Two other institutions, if I may so call them, have also developed in the north wing. Both are noteworthy because of the valuable

contributions they have made to the university and to the community, and both have been housed in basement quarters where physical restrictions have made expansion almost impossible. The first is the Museum of Anthropology, the second, the Art Gallery.

When I first came to the University, I noticed a small but valuable collection of West Coast Indian artifacts, in which were intermingled some artifacts from the South Seas. They had no proper housing, no proper care. With the opening of the north wing, however, we were able to find some space for them, and — more important — were able to find an able and devoted Curator, Mrs. Audrey Hawthorn. Under her superb direction, order came out of chaos, proper display arrangements were made, and new and valuable additions to the original collection were acquired. Today, the Museum of Anthropology is one of the great campus attractions. It is used for instruction; it draws numerous visitors; it is constantly increasing in significance and value; and it is widely known throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The Art Gallery, too, has had a phenomenal development. It started in a small way, but because of the warm support it has received, especially from the University Hill Chapter of the I.O.D.E., and because of the constant interest taken in it by such men as Professors Binning and McNairn, of the Department of Fine Arts, it now attracts thousands of visitors a year through its superb exhibitions of art — traditional, modern, and experimental. Its present Curator is Mr. Alvin Balkind, an able, imaginative, and hard working person.

About these two centres I could say much more; but here I only add my present hope — that within the not too distant future both will be given decent accommodation where they may steadily expand to the benefit of the University in particular and the community at large.

Along with the growing activities of the Museum and Gallery, another activity I wish to comment on briefly came into being. Books and periodicals make up libraries, but until the arrival of Mr. Harlow we had always depended on outside resources for all of the binding and the repairing that must be done if a library is to be worthy of its name. As Mr. Harlow and I saw eye to eye in this matter, we agreed to install our own bindery. While it is not as large nor as adequately staffed as it should be, it has given invaluable service under the most able direction of Mr. Percy Fryer, a most skilful binder himself, well trained in the great tradition of

the art. His binding of the Book of Memory, to be seen in the lobby of the Memorial Gymnasium, is fine evidence of his own craftsmanship.

In the south wing, too, certain developments took place that call for particular comment. To begin with, the actual building of this wing was made possible only through a most generous contribution by Mr. Walter Koerner and a sizeable grant from the Canada Council. In the wing are housed the College Library (now officially known as the Garnett Sedgewick Library, in memory of that much beloved Professor of English), and the Special Collections Division, as well as many seminar rooms and study areas. The Sedgewick Library was designed especially for the use of undergraduates in their first and second years; the Special Collections as a division to stimulate graduate work and research.

And here a word might be said about the development of the Library as a research institution. In my own day, the University had difficulties in getting enough money for its immediate needs, but we managed, in one way or another, to add some very valuable special research collections. When Neal Harlow was on the campus, he, in consultation with others on the university staff, organized a group known as the "Friends of the Library." These "Friends" were men and women especially interested in the Library and all were willing to help provide additional funds and to locate and acquire special collections. Over the years this group has actively contributed to the enrichment of the Library, often in ways unknown to the public at large. The Library Committee, made up of representatives of the various faculties, has also done admirable work in assisting the Librarian and his staff, in the selection and acquisition of books, and in urging that more funds be made available and more trained staff be added.

Among the many collections acquired during my own term of office was the great Chinese collection from Macao and Hong Kong. Again Dr. Walter Koerner generously assisted us, and he and Dr. Ping-Ti Ho were largely instrumental in obtaining these prized books and manuscripts, many of them really priceless, many of great antiquity. In this acquisition, they had the full support of the Librarian, the Department of Asian Studies, and the Board of Governors. This particular addition has made this Library one of the three or four outstanding libraries in the field of Chinese studies on this continent, and in due course, when the Department of Asian Studies is further developed, as it will and should be, this

collection will prove invaluable to those scholars who wish to do specialized research in certain periods and areas of Chinese life and history.

If I had the freedom of space in which to do it, I would like to mention other collections and other donors who have given so generously to the evergrowing collections we have, but this I cannot do. Before concluding, however, I must mention the Biomedical Library, now housed in the beautiful building made possible by the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Woodward and their Foundation; and I must mention, too, the constant, varied, and invaluable support given by Mr. H. R. Macmillan to nearly all aspects of library activity. He has given many rare books of travel and exploration to Special Collections; he has consistently added to the holdings of the Anthropological Museum; and he has been a steady supporter of the Department of Fisheries and Oceanography. Within the last year, in addition to some six million dollars for scholarships and research, he has also given three and a half millions for the purchase of library acquisitions over the next ten years. This I believe is unique in the library history of Canada.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to all members of the Library staff whom I have known over the years — to Anne Smith, to the Lannings, to Miss Mercer, to Inglis Bell — and to many others. They are a loyal, dedicated, and most efficient group, and I wish I could list them all and tell something of the great contributions they have made over the years, to the Library in particular, and to the University as a whole. Without them it would have been impossible to have done what has been done — for the veterans, and for the thousands of others who have been students, and are students, at U.B.C. To them, on behalf of everyone connected with U.B.C., I would like to say: Thanks for your patience, and for your willingness to help — beyond the call of ordinary duty.

1955 LIFE AT FORTY

NEAL HARLOW

The University of British Columbia acquired its first book in the spring of 1915. Forty years and 300,000 volumes later its library is one of the leading teaching and research collections in Canada.

That the Library ranks third among institutions of its kind in Canada may be a surprise to some. That the University is singularly dependent upon library facilities for its existence and growth is overlooked by many. The University Library is not primarily a building, as undergraduates commonly suppose, but it is the continually growing collections of research materials and the facilities and opportunities to make them useful to competent users. In two-score years these library resources at U.B.C. have remarkably expanded.

The relationship between the growth of the University and the development of the book collections is direct and intimate. When it is remembered that in the last decade alone U.B.C. has added 810 new courses (and changed the content of many others), increased its faculty by 300% (126 to 378 full-time people), and developed study and research programmes in fifteen major new fields (including Medicine, Law, Slavonic Studies, Architecture, Anthropology, Pharmacy, Oceanography, and Fisheries), it may be understood why the Library is not what it was even to those who knew it in 1945. More demanding of library resources is the Graduate School: the whole new doctoral studies programme (non-existent ten years ago and now proceeding in sixteen subject fields) and the very great expansion of Master's work (into some fifty fields, with 148 degrees awarded in 1953-54 compared with 27 in 1943-44).

When the University offers a new course, hires a new professor, or establishes a new Faculty or School, not only must the Library begin acquiring current material in these subject fields but it must secure many of the books and periodicals which have already been published. Such is the University youth, and so rapidly has its expansion taken place, that the problem of keeping abreast of the enormous amount of new library material being issued is surpassed only by that of collecting the essential publications which appeared before the University became interested in them.

During the academic year 1953-54, over 22,000 volumes were added to the Library's holdings, 24% above the previous year's

new record. Of these 12,600 were of bound journals, which was more than the total of all acquisitions in the year 1951-52. About 4,000 current journals are regularly received. The Library is a regular depository for British Columbia and Canadian government publications and for those of the United Nations, UNESCO, and other related international organizations. In addition, it secures thousands of items annually from the federal and state governments of the United States, from Great Britain and the Commonwealth, and from other nations throughout the world. Recently it has secured large collections in the fields of French-Canadiana, Slavic and Oriental studies, Forestry, and Anthropology. In micro-form, over four and a half million pages of the important Sessional Papers of Great Britain for the nineteenth century have been acquired, plus long sets of English literary journals, American and English drama, and Russian publications. The Howay-Reid Library of Canadiana (history and literature) has been steadily enlarged since it came to the University over a decade ago. The recently established Sedgewick Memorial Reading Room provides new books of general interest which were often not available to students in former years.

In the quality and scope of library service the University is the leader in Canada. For many years the Library has emphasized the use of its collections as well as their growth, and many of the Library staff work directly with users in the literature of their fields. The staff of professional librarians to instruct students and to assist them and members of the Faculty is the largest and best developed in the country. Of the Library staff of sixty-four persons twenty-three have completed studies in Graduate Schools of Librarianship in Canada and the United States. Both human and bibliographic means must continuously be improved as knowledge and the sources of information become more complex.

The University Library is intended primarily for the use of Students and Faculty of the University, for study, general reading and research; and all registered graduates and students in the last two years of undergraduate work are now admitted into the book stacks. Individuals outside the University who are "engaged in projects which cannot be advantageously pursued in other libraries in the province" may also make use of the Library in person by registering as Extra-Mural Readers (paying an annual fee of $1.00). Persons outside the metropolitan regions of Vancouver, New Westminster, and Victoria may borrow directly by mail through the

Extension Library (annual fee $2.00), and within these municipal areas access to University Library materials is available through the interlibrary loan privilege which is extended to all libraries in the province. Anyone may visit the Library and make use of its materials within the building. By such varied means the Library's usefulness is extended to all; and the annual loan of 234,000 volumes to campus users, 22,600 to extension borrowers, and over 1,600 on interlibrary loan, plus an unaccounted use of materials within the building itself indicate that the Library programme is a very active one.

In ten years, as the University Librarian's last Annual Report pointed out, the total cost of operating the University has increased 5.8 times and the expenditures for library purposes 6.78 times. Yet, compared with statistics for seventy other college and university libraries in North America, we are in our best aspects only at about the middle point in this representative group. But we are 33% below this median point in the number of full-time Faculty, 70% low in quantity of Graduate Students, 32% subnormal in size of Library, and 13% off in the total income of the University. In Canada alone, our Library is third in strength of library resources among English-speaking universities, but it is a poor third, and we should need to be 100% larger than at present to approach the library next above us in the scale. This great handicap must surely be overcome if the University of British Columbia is to maintain even a respectable third place among institutions of higher learning in this country.

Fifteen per cent of the expenditures made for books and periodicals last year was met from non-University sources. The U.B.C. Development Fund has been of assistance several times. Through Rockefeller and Carnegie grants, Slavic, French-Canadian, and Anthropological materials have been secured. Dr. H. R. MacMillan, Mr. Leon J. Koerner, Mr. Walter C. Koerner, B.C. Forest Products Limited, the fishing industry, the Vancouver Chinese community, and a number of the professional groups in the province have contributed heavily and many of them regularly to special book funds in their fields of interest. However successful the University may be in providing financial support for its current library needs, substantial funds from other sources will be increasingly required. The University, at forty years of age, is in this respect a problem child.

As the Senate Library Committee represents the interest of the

University Faculty in the Library's programme, and a Student Library Committee speaks for the student group in Library matters, so a Committee of Friends of U.B.C. Library is being formed to support and promote the Library in its relations with the community at large. Life truly "begins at forty" for this group of participants at the close of the University's fourth decade of growth. A University can never exceed in greatness the strength of its Library collections, and the graduates, friends, and backers of the University of British Columbia must see to it that the institution's growth is never handicapped by too scanty support for its Library programme.

At forty, the U.B.C. Library is strong, a bit scrawny, showing some signs of early undernourishment, but is fully determined to do the work cut out for it.

from *U.B.C. Alumni Chronicle*, Spring 1955

As if administering the third-ranking academic library in Canada weren't enough, Mr. Harlow found time for a little show business:

A new star is born! Neal Harlow — in the Varsity Gold and Blue Revue. He, with two other prominent members of the Faculty (President Mackenzie and Dean Chant), had a wonderful time eyeing the pretty freshettes while littering the Library lawn with banana skins and lunch papers. Undoubtedly his services in this new line will be in considerable demand.

from *B.C.L.A. News*, Spring 1953

From the Minutes of the Library Committee, 1950-1965.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1950

Dr. Cowan asked the meeting to consider what length of time should be allowed on loans of books and periodicals to faculty members.... Some books have been in possession of faculty members for very long periods of time, in one extreme case for twenty years.

DECEMBER 7, 1950

Dr. Friedman said that the Committee was attempting to establish the principle of a central library, and he did not believe bound volumes should be housed outside the main building, but if such material is to be sent out, it ought to go only to quarters considered fireproof. Professor Halliday asked whether this regulation could be enforced while the Law Library is housed in a hut.

JANUARY 24, 1951

The Librarian has been informed that his estimates have been cut by

$40,000, and that the 1951-52 budget will be $15,000 less than it was for 1950-51.

FEBRUARY 7, 1951

It was moved by Mr. Larsen, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, that as a result of further revision of the estimates . . . the Committee regrets to find that it will not be possible to keep the Library open at night after March 31. . . .

It is evident that large sums of money are spent each year by departments out of their general expense accounts (for book purchases). Requisitions for these books are not going through the Library. The result is that some of the best library material on the campus is in departmental reading rooms rather than in the Library.

FEBRUARY 13, 1962

Approved by the Senate: *Statement of Policy on the Library Committee*. . . . all Library material which is the property of the University is to be recorded in the central Library and is to be purchased and received by the Library or acquired with its knowledge and supervision. All funds to be used for Library purposes are to be listed by the Librarian. . . .

OCTOBER 9, 1953

Some persons off-campus have expressed a continuing interest in a Library "Friends" group, to assist in the development of the Library's collections. It has been discussed with the President and the Alumni Association, and preliminary steps are being taken.

DECEMBER 11, 1956

The Library Committee attaches the greatest importance to steadily increasing funds for the development of the research collections to assure that our rapidly expanding University becomes distinguished and not merely large.

DECEMBER 11, 1956

The establishment of a graduate school of librarianship at this University is becoming increasingly pressing, and the Committee recommends to the Senate that it study carefully the findings and recommendations of the joint committee set up by the Public Library Commission to investigate this need.

DECEMBER 11, 1956

The Committee strongly supports the Librarian's declaration that some drastic action must be taken in regard to the present status and salaries of the professional library staff if competent personnel are to be secured and recommends that a full re-assessment of the situation be made. It will present formal recommendations to this effect to the Senate and Board of Governors.

DECEMBER 4, 1957

. . . the Committee wishes to give special recognition to Miss Dorothy

Jefferd on the occasion of her retirement after forty-two and a half years of service to the Library. Since January 1915, she has been a vigorous member of the University staff and a symbol of the continuum of human effort and skill which have gone into the formation of this institution.

The Committee calls to the attention of the Senate and Board of Governors the urgency felt by the Librarian and the Committee to provide funds for books and journals on an unprecedented scale. A large graduate school will soon materialize at the University under the pressure of increasing enrolment, and research collections must be rapidly and systematically developed in fields of graduate interest. Provision for an open-shelf "college library" for undergraduates is also required in order to make the basic materials of education accessible to the mass of students.

1958

Thomas Murray Collection — Dr. Rothstein stated that this very considerable collection of Canadiana, comprising perhaps 20,000 volumes and including material in many fields, was obtained for the University Library by the Friends of the Library. Its large proportion of items relating to eastern Canada fits well with the Library's present holdings, which pertain chiefly to the western region.

DECEMBER 8, 1958

The time has now arrived when all activities in the Library that cause unnecessary noise must be eliminated. Among those causes discussed by the Senate Library Committee at its meeting on November 7 were the occasional operation of polling stations in the Library during student elections, the sale of student publications, and the solicitation of funds during campus drives.

DECEMBER 3, 1959

The Library Committee is especially concerned with the declining position of the Library with reference to those of universities of comparable size and equivalent academic programmes. In more immediate context, the problem that has arisen is that the funds available for book and periodical purchases are no longer able to keep up with the demands. As of today over half the Departments in the University are without funds for book purchase until the new academic year. The situation has been worsening year by year but has never been quite so bad before.

1960

There will be an official opening ceremony for the new south wing in October, about the time of the Fall Congregation, under the auspices of the Friends of the Library, who are at present undertaking a campaign to raise $50,000 a year by continuing donations for research material for the Library.

NOVEMBER 1960

A commissionaire had been appointed by the University Administra-

tion in an informational and supervisory capacity in the Library at the beginning of the fall 1960 term, as recommended by the Senate Library Committee. Members of the Committee felt that student decorum seems to have improved.

NOVEMBER 7, 1961

Circulation Statistics. There has been a dramatic increase in circulation over the past year. For the month of October 1961, there was a total circulation at the Loan Desk and College Library of 62,000 (50,000 in October 1960); in the College Library itself the increase was over 90%.

Dr. Rothstein stated that, in view of the general shortage of funds, all departmental allocations were admittedly inadequate; many other departments were also overspent. He explained that, since there had been no increase in the book funds for 1961-62, each department had received the same allocation as in the previous year.

Dr. Rothstein stated that he had made a preliminary investigation of the Xerox 914 photocopier. He felt that this machine could provide excellent service to the Library and the University.

DECEMBER 5, 1961

Dr. Rothstein summarized the contents of his Annual Report. The two highlights of the year were: the collections had passed the half-million mark and the creation of the subject divisions had provided the organizational basis for service in depth.

Mr. Edwin Williams, Counselor to the Director on the Collections of Harvard University, is conducting a survey of the holdings of Canadian university libraries with respect to resources for support of graduate studies and research in humanities and social sciences. He visited the University of British Columbia to interview faculty members and to examine the Library collections. He indicated that the U.B.C. Library was surprisingly strong in these fields, especially in serials holdings, and praised the efforts of Mr. Roland Lanning in acquiring these materials. The Committee asked the Chairman to write to Mr. Lanning expressing its appreciation for his contribution.

OCTOBER 29, 1962

The Chairman, Dr. Cowan, reviewed the terms of reference of the Committee and briefly described its work during the past decade. Some of the more important topics that have appeared on the agenda are: allocation of departmental book funds; expenditure of Committee funds; review of Librarian's annual report, including a comment to Senate regarding the Librarian's recommendations; review of library building plans, discussion of plans for the School of Librarianship; conditions of employment for librarians; policy for the centralized purchase of campus library material; access to bookstacks; book losses; and student conduct in the Library.

FEBRUARY 10, 1965

After the meeting was called to order Mr. Stuart-Stubbs gave an ac-

count of the circumstances relating to the gift of $3,000,000 from Mr. H. R. Macmillan, to be spent for the development of the library's collections. He said that it has been arranged that the amount be spent over ten years, at roughly $300,000 per year.

OCTOBER 8, 1965

The Chairman called the meeting to order, and asked the Librarian to introduce the first item on the agenda, arrangements for use of U.B.C. Library by Simon Fraser University.

The Librarian distributed copies of existing loan regulations, a sheet entitled "Proposals for Reciprocal Use," which described the existing relationship between the two libraries, and copies of letters received from members of faculty relating to the problem.

The Librarian observed that since all loans were now being recorded on punched cards, it would be possible to make a title by title analysis of S.F.U. borrowing, and provide lists of books which could be used by S.F.U. in making selections for their own collection. He promised to make a complete statistical report on borrowing at the end of the year, based on the information collected on punched cards.

The Librarian distributed a document entitled "Factors Affecting Capital Development to 1974." This had been prepared at the request of the Academic Planner and the Architect Planner, and may have been acted upon by them in the preparation of the campus plan. It was hoped that it could be reviewed and discussed at a future meeting of the Committee.

FOUR LIBRARIANS IN FIVE YEARS
OR
How a Sound Institution Survives its Administrators

BASIL STUART-STUBBS

IN AUGUST 1951 the University of British Columbia had a new librarian. Neal Harlow, upon arriving from the University of California in Los Angeles, settled down to the writing of his first annual report, a document which made it plain that he was not going to be an easy man to please. He saw a clear need for a better library, and knew that this implied more financial support. The decade he spent in pursuit of his goals must have had their moments of satisfaction, for when he resigned in 1961 to become Dean of the Graduate School of Librarianship at Rutgers University, he could point to a library that under his administration had doubled in every respect.

Most obvious was the new Walter Koerner Wing of the Library, the construction of which provided for a series of specialized subject reference divisions, including a College Library and a Special Collections Division, and increased stack areas to contain a collection of half a million volumes, twice as large as the collection of 1951. Three times as many books were being loaned, and the book funds had undergone an incredible ten-fold increase. The staff too was doubled in size, and librarians were paid at twice the salary rates of a decade before.

After Mr. Harlow's departure, in the spirit of duplication, two hats remained for Sam Rothstein to wear. The former Associate Librarian now found himself playing the roles of Acting Librarian and Director of a new School of Librarianship. The academic year 1961-62 is one which he must look back upon in horror as others look back upon it in amazement. The symbol of Rothstein was the overstuffed briefcase, transported nightly to his basement study.

The librarian's job consists of a mountain of paper surrounded by a sea of words. He traversed both with great skill, sustaining a library which was in the throes of adjustment to a changed physical

and administrative environment, while at the same time collecting a faculty, a student body, and a course of instruction for his School.

The waiting game for the Library ended in June 1962 when Jim Ranz arrived from the University of Wyoming. His arrival almost coincided with the appointment of John B. Macdonald as University President, and with the publication of Edwin E. Williams' historic report on the resources of Canadian university libraries in the Humanities and Social Sciences. It was a time of fresh approaches, and much that followed can be attributed to the reflections of these three men on library problems.

Within a few months a new course had been set for the University and the Library. The rapid development of the graduate programme, as prescribed by the President, called for a much stronger library. A winning case for increased book funds was made, based on E. E. Williams' findings and arguments, and in the space of a few years an additional quarter of a million dollars of the university budget was allocated to the purchase of books and periodicals. Faculty members and librarians indulged their collecting tastes to the tune of almost $700,000 last year, compared with $380,000 in 1961-62. In the same period some 200,000 volumes were added to the collections, almost as many as were added in the previous decade.

Dr. Ranz saw clearly that in a university larger in geographic area and in scope of programme, a single point of service would no longer suffice. Centralized services through the Main Library, sensibly maintained throughout the previous period for reasons of economy, would be replaced by a decentralized system of branch libraries serving related disciplines. A magnificent gift from the P. A. Woodward Foundation gave substance to this new policy by providing the Woodward Biomedical Library, a handsome and successful model for future branch libraries. To assure an orderly development of library services, Dr. Ranz drafted a policy on branch libraries for Senate approval. Formal adoption occurred in November 1965, after the policy had been scrutinized and re-worded scores of times by librarians, Senate Library Committee members and Academic Deans.

The Main Library itself in 1962 already plainly in need of a further stack addition, also drew Dr. Ranz's attention. Remodelling in some areas, he felt, would make the library more useful to borrowers. New plans followed his careful re-examination of the whole building. Subsequent construction was not completed until more

than a year after his departure; the result was a larger and more rationally organized structure.

Dr. Ranz possessed an enviable ability to secure co-operation and assistance from both the faculty and staff, which he employed to good advantage in bringing about an administrative reorganization, involving clarification of duties and lines of responsibility, and specialization of functions. At the budget level, all planning and expenditures for library purposes were centralized through the Librarian's Office. The Senate Library Committee was changed from an unwieldy assembly of departmental representatives to an effective group of seven or eight members. Three assistant librarians, each with special areas of authority, were appointed, and division heads were given more individual responsibility and room for initiative.

In 1964 this sound framework, held together at all levels by a superlative professional staff, was inherited by the present librarian, Basil Stuart-Stubbs. Since that time there has been little change in general direction, but the two years have been marked by events of far-reaching significance.

Librarians everywhere have been interested in the possible applications of data-processing equipment to library routines and the retrieval of information. At the University of British Columbia, staff members in all divisions attended lectures and short courses in order to acquaint themselves with the fundamentals of computership. The first fruits of this interest were to be seen in a machine-processed list of scientific periodicals. By the fall of 1965 the voice of the keypunch was heard throughout the Library. Under the guidance of Robert Harris, an electronic data collection system was applied to the circulation of books and magazines. The Library's own Systems Analyst, Robin MacDonald, worked with several division heads in devising efficient and often mechanical methods of producing catalogue cards, accession lists and serials lists. The work of the Library in almost all its aspects will be affected by the introduction of computer techniques.

Planning for the further decentralization of the Library is in progress. By 1975 it is expected that some 24,000 students will be enrolled here. Scores of new buildings are projected, among them several major branch libraries serving broad areas such as science and education. As the University is growing, so is the whole system of higher learning. In September 1965 Simon Fraser University began its first term of instruction on a new campus only fifteen

miles away from U.B.C. Close co-operation between the libraries at Simon Fraser, the University of Victoria and U.B.C. has been the rule, and will continue to be, in order to provide the province with the maximum in library service and collections.

By far the most exciting event in the Library's history fell appropriately in the year of its fiftieth birthday. In February 1965, a long-time friend of the Library, Mr. H. R. MacMillan, presented the University with three million dollars, to be used exclusively for the purchase of books. This was the largest gift of uncommitted funds ever received by a university library. Its effect will be to triple the collection to over two million volumes within a decade, thus assuring a solid base for graduate scholarship.

At the end of fifty years, the University of British Columbia Library can look back with satisfaction and forward with cheerful anticipation. Its future seems assured, for it has been blessed with ample funds for books, an administration aware of its importance and sympathetic to its need for expansion, and a well-trained and energetic staff. Few libraries can make such a claim, with or without an anniversary to use as an excuse for self-appraisal.

Senate Library Committee

The Senate Library Committee is charged with the responsibility of advising and assisting the Librarian in:

1. Formulating a library policy in relation to the development of resources for instruction and research
2. Allocating book funds to the fields of instruction and research
3. Developing a general programme of library service for all the interests of the University
4. Keeping the Librarian informed concerning the library needs of instructional and research staffs
5. Interpreting the Library to the University.

The Senate Library Committee and the University's Librarians have had a close and productive relationship throughout the Library's history. Hundreds of faculty members have served on the Committee, ensuring that the development of the Library has been in step with the academic programme.

Chairmen

1915-1919	E. H. Archibald	1935-1937	F. H. Soward
1920-1923	G. G. Sedgewick	1937-1939	A. H. Finlay
1923-1924	T. H. Boggs	1939-1940	M. Y. Williams
1924-1926	D. Buchanan	1941-1943	B. Eagles
1927-1931	H. F. Angus	1944-1946	T. Larsen
1931-1935	W. L. MacDonald	1947-1965	I. M. Cowan

To those familiar with the University, the list of the Committee chairmen reads like a roll of honour.

Librarians 1915-1965

Abernethy, Isabel	1947-1949
Adams, Alice (Rutherford)	1952-1957
Allen, Helen	1958-
Allingham, Margot	1965-
Anderson, Susan	1960-1963
Aylen, Dorothea	1946-1949
Bateson, Norah	1928-1929
Beattie, Margaret	1960
Belak, Margot	1962-1965
Bell, Inglis	1952-
Berry, Marilyn	1963-
Brearley, Anne	1956-1961
(Clayton)	1964-
Brongers, Lore (Bewer)	1960-
Buckley, Frances	1964-
Burndorfer, Hans	1964-
Butterfield, Rita	1962-
Buttery, Jill	1963-
Caballero, Helen (Walsh, Fraser)	1945-1950
Chatwin, Dorothy	1937-1947
Chen, Marian	1965-
Clark, Adrienne (Flook)	1965-
Cockburn, Mary (Barton)	1933-1942
Constable, Helen	1964-
Cooper, Diana	1965-
Cummings, John	1962-
Cummings, Joyce	1964-
Cunningham, Margaret	1955-1956
Detwiller, Georgina	1965-
Dobbin, Geraldine	1956-
Dodson, Suzanne	1963-
Donald, Jean	1953-1955
Dore, Nancy (Macdonald)	1956-1960
Dunlap, Leslie	1949-1951
Dutton, Marilyn	1963-
Dwyer, Melva	1953-
Edmonds, Barbara	1962-1963
Elias, Elizabeth	1955-1956
Elliston, Graham	1961-1964
	1965-
Erickson, Ture	1964-
Fisher, Robyn	1962-1964
Fiszhaut, Gustawa	1964-
Ford, Marguerite (Stewart)	1952-1956
Fraser, Alan	1951-1952
Fraser, Doreen	1947-1964
Freeman, Carol	1964-
Freeman, George	1965-
Gaensbauer, Ena (Murphy)	1961-1964
Gallup, Jennifer	1965-
Gibson, Barbara	1963-
Giesbrecht, Josephine (Chamberlain)	1957-1959
Godefroy, Isabel	1965-
Grant, Penelope (Tucker)	1965-
Gray, John	1964-
Green, Larry	1965
Gregory, Eleanor (Gibson)	1943-1947
Hamilton, Robert	1964-
Harlow, Neal	1951-1961
Harrington, Walter	1965-
Harris, Robert	1962-
Haydock, Eleanor	1962-1964
Heine, Ann (Barton)	1950-1953
Henderson, Betty	1944-1949
Hennessey, Reginald	1952-1955
Hoeg, Eleanor (Cock)	1960-1965
Ingram, Doreen (Dowd)	1961-
Jefferd, Dorothy	1915-1957
Johnson, Marion (Searle)	1958-
Johnson, Stephen	1957-
Johnstone, Kathleen	1965
Jupp, Elisabeth	1964-
Kannawin, Jane	1960-1961
Katz, Salem	1958-1959
Keevil, Susan	1964-
Kincaid, Jay	1963-
Knowles, Dorothy	1953-1956
Kwong, Linda	1965-
Lamb, W. Kaye	1940-1948
Lanning, Mabel	1926-1961
	1963-1964
Lanning, Roland	1926-
Leaf, Lawrence	1965-
Lee, Grace (Kent)	1950-1952
Leith, Anna	1959-
Liggins, Patricia	1952-1956
Little, Margaret	1945-1950
(Howieson)	1953-1955
	1956-
McAlpine, Barbara (Grossman)	1957-1959
Macaree, Mary	1963-
McCloy, Doreen (Woodford)	1939-1949
McCloy, T. R.	1947-1949
McDonald, Heather-Ann	1964-

McDonald, Isabel	1947-1950
McDougall, Maria (Laddy)	1958-1959
McInnes, Douglas	1963-
McKay, Jean (Fannin)	1937-1941
MacKenzie, Margaret	1948-1952
MacLean, Mora	1958-1959
MacRae, Georgia	1965-
Malin, Audrey	1961-1963
Mawhinney, Islay (Sampson)	1962-1964
Mercer, Eleanor	1938-
Minard, Sylvia	1960-1961
Misewich, Elizabeth	1965-
Molson, Jean (Rennie)	1964-
Nelson, Ann (Vlag)	1950-1952
Ng, Tung King	1960-
Norbury, Elizabeth	1950-1952
Ollerenshaw, Janet (MacKenzie)	1956-1958
O'Neill, Margaret	1965-
O'Rourke, Joan	1948-1965
Owens, Noel	1951-1957
Pahr, Margaret	1965-
Parker, William	1964-
Pearce, Catherine	1950-1952
Phelan, Georgia	1951-1952
Port, Susan (Hand)	1963-
Preibish, Andre	1964-1965
Raff, Walter	1952-1953
Ranz, Jim	1962-1963
Reeves, Sylvia	1956-1958
Rendell, Mary	1947-1951
Ridington, John	1914-1940
Rothstein, Samuel	1947-1962
Rowley, Ann	1964-
Russell, Phyllis	1954-1955
Scott, Priscilla	1953-1961
Selby, Joan	1959-
Selth, Geoffrey	1959-1962
Shanahan, Claire	1954-1955
Shaw, Donna	1965-
Shields, Dorothy	1961-
Shorthouse, Thomas	1965-
Sinclair, Helen (Lamont)	1950-1953
Smith, Anne M.	1930-1964
Spratt, Albert	1952-1953
Steckl, Peter	1953-1955
Stewart, Edith	1942 1948-1964
Stuart-Stubbs, Basil	1956-
Taggart, William	1952-1953
Taylor, Doreen	1951-1956
Thomas, David	1965-
Thompson, Mary	1952-1954
Thornton, Patricia	1961-1962
Turner, George G.	1956-1964
Turner, Marjorie (Alldritt)	1951-1960
Vespry, Marianne (Forsythe)	1958-1961
Vogel, Betty	1956-1961
Ward, Katherine	1964-
Watson, William	1965-
Wells, Isabel (Hoggan)	1945-1946
Wilshere, Gillian (Flew)	1957-1959
Wilson, Maureen	1959-
Woodward, Emily	1957-
Woodworth, Frances	1920-1929
Yandle, Anne (Carson)	1961-