SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

ubc library bulletin

No. 122 May 16, 1975

## PROCESSING BUILDING - FURTHER DELAYS

The University's Ad Hoc Space Review Committee submitted its report to the President at the end of April, and the issue of new space for the Library processing divisions remains unresolved. The Committee's comments on proposed sites - Brock Hall, Main Library renovation - are negative...no really positive, constructive recommendations are made in the report, aside from a rather vague suggestion that a new building would be the best solution. But where, where? The dilemma now sits in the laps of the President and the Board of Governors. They may choose one of the previously recommended solutions, or they may send the Planning Coordinating Committee back to work to produce some other miraculous solution.

## DRIBBLE

With catalogue cabinets' delivery delayed, and the Main Library Author/Title file swollen, an interim solution to the Concourse catalogue's space problem was effected last week. The Author/Title file was expanded into the first cabinet of what was the Location File, and a corresponding number of drawers of the Location File spread into the first of the Subject catalogue cabinets. The move was affectionately known as "The Dribble". It's hoped that by September new cabinets will arrive and things can be returned to normal. If you call that normal.

## ORIENTATION STAFF MEETING

On Wednesday, May 14th, members of the Information & Orientation Division met with representatives from various other divisions and branches to discuss upcoming orientation programmes. This was the first of what will be a regular series of meetings to keep branches and divisions informed of one another's doings, to acquaint people with the technical resources available for orientation programmes, and to stimulate an exchange of ideas. The major item on Wednesday's agenda was an outline of plans for Fall lectures to all students enrolled in the English 100 course; one hundred and thirty-five (135) lectures are to be scheduled...part of the lectures will be a slide-tape presentation which will be prepared this Summer.

## MEDICAL HISTORY ON TOUR

Barbara Gibson, Medical History Librarian in Woodward, now off visiting distant libraries, sent this account of a day spent with 25 or so other medical history librarians in Philadelphia:

The first stop was at the Library of the American Philosophical Society - an elegant building. The handling of archival and manuscript material was described by Murphy D. Smith. The number of such items is truly staggering - of Darwiniana alone they have 9000!... Some interesting things were on display, among them William Shippin's day-book with a record of visits to patients, treatments and prescriptions.

After lunch we went on to the Pennsylvania Hospital where a remarkable and long-neglected historical collection is being sorted and put in order with the help of a grant from the National Library of Medicine. There is no present hope of doing more than provide a brief list of the books and a simple means of retrieving them, but it is worth the work involved and very exciting to see. Due to the wide interests of many of the early benefactors there are some magnificent natural history books in addition to the more usual early medical texts. One, the Lilacées of P.J. Redouté, is worth coming all the way to Philadelphia to see.

Later in the afternoon we visited the College of Physicians of Philadelphia... The rare book collection there is housed in an area reminiscent of the old Main Library stacks - not at all conducive to browsing or examining single works. An outstanding pleasure was to see one of the three known copies, printed on "thick" paper, of William Harvey's work on the circulation of the blood.

The day ended with wine and cheese and a discussion of the formation of a kind of loose organization of librarians working in the history of the health sciences. The consensus is that we could all benefit from a regular exchange of ideas and a sharing of problems and their solutions. With no visible means of financial support, it is not clear what might be accomplished but something useful might come of it. Those of us, particularly west of the Mississippi, who work in relative isolation, are all very much in favour of the idea.

## FEEDBACK

Just inside the front entrance to the Main Library, in case you've missed it, there's a pillar on which are posted questions and complaints from Library users, along with answers, explanations, and apologies from Library staff. Last month, the following complaint was made:

To Whom it May Concern -

Just a short note on the well-organized Library system at U.B.C. The problem arose when I needed the journal International Organization, vol. 28, no. 4 for an essay. My attempts to obtain it are listed here in chronological order.

1. Look in Sedgewick but the journal isn't on the shelf. Inquire at Information Desk and am told vol. 28 is in the Bindery. 2. Go to the Periodical section in Main. Vol. 28, no. 4 is not on the shelf. Inquire at desk and am told one copy is in the Bindery and the other has been lost for some time. 3. Go to Grad Reserve section and find the required journal on a one-day loan. As it is Thursday, I sign it out but must return it Friday as I will be away for the weekend and even though I could renew it by phone, I won't be able to return it, if someone puts a hold on it. (Besides the fact that I can't afford to pay 25¢ per hour if it becomes overdue). 4. Monday - return to Grad Reserve section to sign it out again but over the weekend it has been taken off reserve. The Librarian who knows where it is now, is on her day off. 5. Go to Law Library to see if I can borrow their copy. As the journal isn't on the shelf, inquire at the desk. Vol. 28, no. 4 has not been returned since it was sent to some faculty member to have some articles xeroxed. 6. Return to Main to put a hold on a copy of the journal if one can be found. Am told there is one copy known of, which a member of the faculty has out, and which was due Dec. 28, 1974(it is now March 17, 1975). 7. Tuesday - return to Reserve section of Main to find out where the journal was sent to. Am told by the Librarian that she took if over to sorting. 8. Inquire at Main desk about sorting procedures. Am told that journal must have already passed through and was probably up in the Periodical section. 9. Go up to Periodical section and am told they haven't received the journal. One of the Librarians phones over to Sedgewick to inquire about their copy of the journal. She reports that whoever she spoke to at Sedgewick said the journal was too recent (Autumn 1974) to be in the Bindery and I had been misinformed the first time I asked about it there. 10. Return to Sedgewick and repeat what the girl in Periodicals has told me about the Sedgewick copy. The Librarian goes into the back to check out where vol. 28, no. 4 is. She returns and tells me that it says in black and white that the journal is in the Bindery.

It appears that of the six copies of International Organization vol. 28, no. 4 I tracked down, one has been missing for months, two are in the Bindery, two are out to faculty members, meaning they have been out of circulation for months, and the one copy I actually saw is now lost somewhere in the depths of Main.

After having wasted a number of hours looking for a copy of this particular journal, I have now found one in the Political Science Reading Room. May the various departments of the libraries mentioned keep up their high degree of communication, organization and efficiency.

Some things, the Dissatisfied Student didn't understand...about binding, about faculty loa and about the inevitability of some staff error in this big, decentralized system...and the ans on the Feedback pillar tried to explain. On the other hand, it's undeniable that this poor person got a real runaround. Public service staff might take note and try to sympathize with patrons who have more or less reasonable gripes.

## CANADIAN COIN COLLECTION

The coin collection on permanent display in Special Collections has now been completed. I consists of a type set (one specimen of each different obverse and each different reverse) - as opposed to a date set - of the decimal coinage of Canada. Included are the pre-Confederation series of the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. A cut-off date of the Centennial Year was chosen, as it was in 1967 that the Royal Canadi Mint conceived the idea of prostituting itself with the regular issue of 'coins' at several tim their face value for the consumption of gullible collectors.

A uniform quality has been maintained by restricting the collection to 'extra fine' conditi or better, EF being one grade below 'uncirculated'.* A single exception was made in the case o the 'godless'** fifty-cent piece of 1911: by settling for a strong 'very fine' (one grade lower a very substantial saving was effected. The length of time required to assemble the collection is the result of strict adherence to quality.

The cost of the collection and of the display media has been borne by the sale of an agglomeration of modern foreign and Canadian coins bequeathed to the University over the years, which together formed no semblance of a meaningful collection. The time spent on the collectio has been donated outside library hours. These points are made so that no one should think that funds needed for library development have been diverted.

Any time you have an unfilled lunch hour you might find a brief survey of our numismatic heritage worthwhile. The collection, which is to be called the Gray Collection, is housed under the plate-glass surface of the reception counter in Special Collections.

*'About uncirculated' (AU) is not a true grade. It is a recent intercalation unrecognized outside North America.

**The words DEI GRA[TIA] (by the grace of God) were omitted from the obverse legend of the first year of George V's coinage

Loc Library bulletin

WORKSPACE FOR TECHNICAL SERVICES, PART III: GRIT

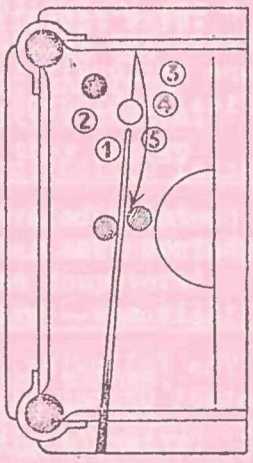
A decision on new and better working conditions for the Library's processing divisions has again been put off by the University administration. People who've been working for some time on the 7th floor have gotten used to the delays...not pleased with the pace of change, but keeping their respective tongues in cheek.

David Miller, Acquisitions, writes:

When the proposal was first made to relocate the processing divisions of the Library System I am sure that many of the staff had thoughts of pleasant working areas with fresh air, sunlight, cheerful colours, and room enough to move without running an obstacle course (see illus.).

Many were the dreams sired by this proposal and my own fondest has been that I may someday be able to run the following ad; even if I must pay the costs myself!

FOR RENT--- Area suitable for book stacks or use as temporary office space for 15-20. Excellent lighting and heating included but with no controls that might be tampered with by the staff. Occasional high ceilings with an Ecologically Balanced Ventilation System. (All air is permanently recycled.) Redecorated 15 years ago with practical, conservative, institutional colours guaranteed not to offend anyone. No windows to offer distractions and high noise level to discourage sleeping. Floors are washed and waxed yearly and some other janitorial services are provided occasionally.--- For appointment to view please contact the Acquisitions Division of the Main Library. Occupancy may be possible in two-three years. Rent will be very reasonable as the present occupants will be moving to a new building, well located, with room to move and air to breathe.



JUMPING A SNOOKER

And Ray Galbraith, Original Cataloguing, writes:

It has been like working in an armpit for the last four years. Perhaps the comparison is a bit strained as I have never actually worked in such a situation. Yet there is a kernel of truth; conditions fluctuate on a seasonal basis between the chills of winter and the sticky sweat of summer. Colds and other communicable diseases begin at one end of the Floor, head at breakneck speed to the other end, and return to strike again. The only circulation of air is that caused by people flapping their lips or by bodies shuffling from one file to another. The air on the Floor is breathed, re-breathed, and then re-breathed. The Floor is cluttered and crowded. The ceiling is oppressively low and the lighting poor. The list goes on ad nauseam.

Yet, a sort of love-hate relationship has developed with Floor 7; it has gained mythical or legendary status. It represents something permanent, unchanging. Floor 7 has always been with us, and at times, it appears it always will be. What will there be to kick around, to abuse, and to complain about when Floor 7 is no longer with us? That is, when the staff has been moved elsewhere. Obviously, we will have to create another affectionate scapegoat.

As to what we will get in return, who knows? The poor lighting has dimmed my vision, while the stale air has taken off the edge off my once vaunted analytical prowess. I am adrift. All that I request is that when some new facility is completed, renovated, or whatever, someone point me in the proper direction, and give me a push.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Introducing Quill & Quire

Quill & Quire is a monthly magazine of news and comment relating to Canadian writing, publishing, bookselling, and librarianship. In recent years its editors have so improved its coverage and quality that it has become the best means for keeping in touch with developments in these related areas. So that staff members can be better informed about Canadian books and periodicals in general, copies of Quill & Quire will be routed through all divisions and branches, beginning with the April 1975 issue.

### Water Everywhere

A new LC publication noted in their latest Information Bulletin (March 28): "Procedures for salvage of water-damaged library materials" by Peter Waters...For those seriously interested, available from - Library of Congress/Preservation Office/Washington, D.C. 20540/USA.

### Special Collections - Wanted

Contact Ruell Smith in Special Collections if you can provide:
NON STATUS NEWS. Vol 1, nos. 2 and 3 (October, November 1973).

### Collections - Wanted

The following out-of-print items are needed to complete the Library's holdings. Contact Graham Elliston, Bibliography Division, if you can supply any of them.
B.C. MOTORIST. Vol. 9, no. 2 (1970).
PRISM INTERNATIONAL. All issues for 1971-1974.
QUEEN'S QUARTERLY. All issues for 1970-1974.
WESTERN LIVING. Vol. 1, no. 6 (1971).

### Upward Mobility

The following recruitment notices have been received recently by the Library. For more complete job descriptions and contact addresses, get in touch with Michael Kasper, I & O Division.

Concordia University. Montreal. Head of Cataloguing (Letter dated: May 8).
Indiana University-Purdue. Fort Wayne. Director of Library Services (Available: July 1).
University of Kentucky. Lexington. Government Publications Dept. Head (Deadline: June 1).
University of Minnesota. Minneapolis. Library Budget & Management Planning Coordinator (Deadline: July 1).
State University of New York. Albany. Social Sciences Bibliographer (Deadline: August 1).

### Quid Pro Quo's Back

The Library's financial problems have necessitated the reinstitution of the 'Quid pro Quo' periodicals ordering policy...it had been announced as suspended for 1975, but now, once again, all new subscription requisitions will have to be accompanied by titles to be cancelled.