

Friends of UVic Libraries Newsletter appears twice annually, in Spring and Autumn.

Office of Publication

University Librarian's Office
University of Victoria
PO Box 1800 Stn CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 3H5
Telephone: 250-721-8211
Email: friends@uvic.ca
Internet: gateway.uvic.ca/
lib/admin/friends/
default.html

Editorial Committee

Victor Neufeldt
Ann Saddlemeyer
Jaqui Thompson

Design and Production

Jaqui Thompson

Coming Events: Report of the Programme and Events Committee

Joan Coldwell

We begin the fall season of Friends' activities with events that celebrate the book as a beautiful object.

The Art of the Book Exhibit

October 9-27

McPherson Library Gallery

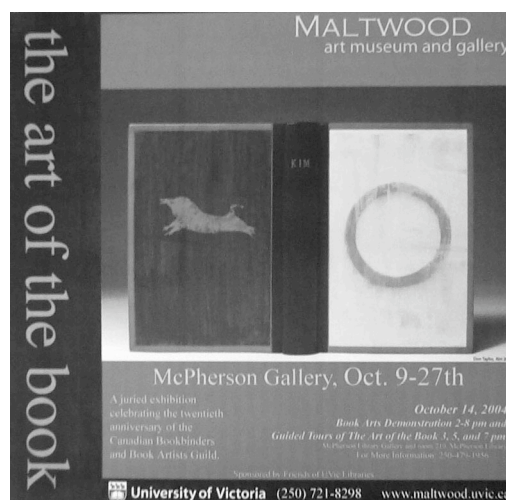
Don't miss *The Art of the Book*, an exhibition of craftsmanship and creativity in the making of fine books. Co-sponsored by the Friends of UVic Libraries and the Maltwood Art Museum, the exhibition can be seen in the McPherson Library Gallery at all times when the Library is open. This is the fifth stop on a cross-country tour that started in Toronto last September and will close in Fredericton next summer.

The show celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild. It is a juried exhibition of 74 pieces chosen from 261 international submissions. Awards were given for fine binding, papermaking, calligraphy, fine printing and such specialized arts as box-making and pop-up books.

Among the ten prize-winning entries is an example of fine binding by Keith Valentine of the Gulf Islands. Keith will give guided tours of *The Art of the Book* at the Friends' special event "Book Arts Demonstration" on October 14.

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The Art of the Book Exhibit is on display from October 9-27 in the McPherson Library Gallery, with a Book Arts Demonstration event on Thursday, October 14.

For further details on the Book Arts Event please see page 2.

For other Friends events see page 8.

From the Chair: Friends Membership Committee

Terry Sherwood

It is my great pleasure to announce that Deirdre Roberts and Gayle Garlock have agreed to serve as Co-Chairs of the Friends of Uvic Libraries Membership Committee. In these roles, they also become members of the Executive Committee.

Both persons bring valuable experience and special gifts to their involvement with the Friends. Prior to residence in Victoria, Deirdre Roberts was a CBC producer in Vancouver involved in an impressively broad variety of projects. In Victoria she is becoming increasingly well-known as an accomplished artist with shows of her works in the Winchester Gallery.

Gayle Garlock is a recent Victoria resident after retiring from the University of Toronto Library, where he distinguished himself as the Director of Development and Public Affairs. In Greater Victoria he has been following his interests in all aspects of book making and preservation, impressed by the warmth with which he has been received in this area.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank them both for their willingness to co-chair the Membership Committee. And I would like to encourage all members of the Friends to meet them at our future events.

... Coming Events continued from page 1

Book Arts Demonstration

October 14, 2004

McPherson Library Room 210

2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Eight Vancouver Island/Gulf Island bookbinders, conservators, paper makers, calligraphers and small press owners will demonstrate their craft and answer questions (see enclosed bookmark).

For those who wish to study bookbinding in more detail, the bookbinding videos from the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild will be shown throughout the day.

Guided tours of *The Art of the Book '03* will begin at 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. with Keith Valentine, an exhibit award winner. A special preview tour for Friends of Uvic Libraries will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Small Presses and Fine Printings, and

Michel Butor and the Book Arts

October through mid-November

Lower level, McPherson Library

McPherson Building Hours

Visit Special Collections in the McPherson Library basement to see an exhibit of small presses and fine printing, including works by French novelist and multimedia experimentalist Michel Butor, from the collection donated by Professor Jennifer Waelti-Walters.

Oscar Wilde Lecture

Wilde at Law: Reputation destroyed and rehabilitated by court

by Cecil O.D. Branson Q.C.

Wednesday, November 17, 4.30 p.m.

Harry Hickman Building (formerly CIT), Room 105

This year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of witty Irish poet, playwright and raconteur Oscar Fingall O'Flahertie Wills Wilde.

For details of this lecture on Oscar Wilde's legal trials and tribulations, please see page 8.

Annual United Way Book Sale

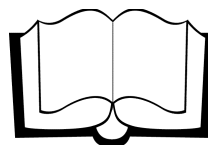
McPherson Library Gallery

Tuesday, November 2 and Wednesday, November 3

McPherson Library Gallery

From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please see page 8 for details on the Annual United Way Book Sale.



Talking to a Friend: Jenny Waelti-Walters

Ann Saddlemyer

A conversation with Jenny Waelti-Walters in her home-cum-studio ranges widely through various lives, including her student days at the University of London where she first became acquainted with the work of the French novelist, poet and critic Michel Butor, her teaching at the University of Victoria where from 1968 to 1997 she was variously a Professor of French Literature and of Women's Studies with a distinguished list of publications to her name, a brief love affair with the act of singing, a serious career as a photographer, and finally the plunge into painting and print-making (including three years at the Victoria College of Art), activities on which she now spends all her time and energy. But the one enthusiasm blends into the others, apparent in her remarkable award-winning prints as it is in the fine collection of works by Michel Butor that she donated to UVic in the mid-1990's. Selections from that collection are now on display in Special Collections coinciding with the Art of the Book exhibition sponsored by the Friends of UVic Libraries. Themselves works of art, many of these books by Butor are handmade, including the paper, most of them in limited editions, produced in close collaboration with the artist. Given her own journey into the art of the print, Waelti-Walters wonders now whether Butor himself would have preferred to be an artist: his father was an amateur artist, most of his friends were artists, his first critical works were art criticism, and his own stories are about museums and artists. He then moved on to play with typography, forcing the reader to be as much aware of the visual aspects as of the stories they told. The American artist Gregory Masurovsky produced a series of drawings with Butor – who had to learn to write backwards for the lithography process – writing poems on the plate by hand. Examples of this process are on display, as are a series of 'poem posters', of which Butor contributed several for the 1968 revolution.

Many of the books in this collection are gifts of the author; others Waelti-Walters purchased from the artists. She did not meet the subject of her doctoral thesis until well after her discovery of his novels, the first books she ever wanted 'to take apart to see how they worked'. Over the years the two became good friends, and at her invitation Butor lectured a number of times at UVic during the 1970s. Ill-health prevented his accepting an honorary degree, and after a lifetime of traveling Michel Butor now lives up a mountain near Geneva, still producing collaborative and experimental works of art.

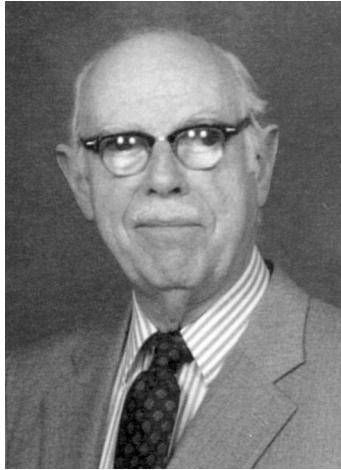
When I asked Waelti-Walters whether there was any relationship between her painting and the earlier academic criticism she paused: perhaps she was influenced by his development, for as Butor moved further away from the straightforward telling of stories, his signposting becoming ever more complex, the shifting perspectives in his work required more collaboration from the reader. Perhaps, she suggests tentatively, he taught her a lot about interconnections and multi-layering, for the prints she now makes 'are like the stories they tell'. She works 'with gesture, movement and shadow, pattern and texture; the "characters" shift and multiply, each print different from, yet born out of, the one before'. In this she differs from most conventional print-makers who deal with static subjects; hers is an ongoing relation with the plate, the long succession of prints related by ink colour and shared 'characters' in a process of constant composition. Interestingly, she now rarely takes photographs herself, relying instead on cutouts of figures discovered in a variety of genres.

In the short time she has been working as a full-time artist, Jenny Waelti-Walters has had seven solo shows, appeared in twelve juried shows and taken part in thirty-one group exhibitions. Her prints have been selected in international exhibitions in Tokyo, Montreal, and Sophia; among her Juror's Awards is one of three Awards of Merit presented by artSpacifica in the summer 2004 exhibition in Delta. Her solo exhibition at the Community Arts Council Gallery in Victoria opened September 30, and she is represented at the Malaspina Printmakers Gallery from October 5; in case you missed these, her prints will be exhibited in a separate gallery as part of a three-person show at the Campbell River Art Gallery from July 15 to October 8, 2005.

Meanwhile, thanks to Jenny Waelti-Walters' generosity, we can enjoy her gift to UVic of the Michel Butor collection, on display downstairs in the McPherson Library – a true Friend indeed!

Farewell to our Friend George Kidd

Victor A. Neufeldt



It is with much sorrow that we note the passing of Dr. George Kidd on July 22, Victoria College '37 and charter member of the Friends of UVic Libraries. After serving with distinction with the Canadian Army in World War II, he embarked on a distinguished diplomatic career spanning 31 years and 9 countries. In 1977 George Kidd retired to Victoria to begin a new career of service to the community, greatly benefiting such organizations as the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, St. Mary's Anglican Church, the UVic Board of Governors, the UVic Alumni Association, and the UVic Libraries. In 1992 he was awarded an honorary LL.D. by the University. Keenly interested in books and libraries to the very end, on November 12, 2003 he gave a talk, *Collecting Illuminated*, as part of the Friends lecture series *Adventures in Book Collecting*.

A true scholar and gentleman, he will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

The Art of Music: Symphonies of Colour in Media Services

Caroline Riedel, Curator of Collections
Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery

When colours work together, they have an amazing sound, like a good chorus in harmony.

(Aleksander Titovets, artist)

Great art is as irrational as great music. It is mad with its own loveliness.

(George Jean Nathan, author)

Music and art *aficionados*, be sure to visit Media Services on the lower level of the McPherson Library. Here you will have the opportunity to browse both the University's LP and CD collections and to view some of the University Collection's finest examples of art by Myfanwy Pavelic, Noah Becker, Eric Metcalfe, Herbert Siebner and Gwen Curry.

The faces of Glenn Gould, Yehudi Menuhin and Katherine Hepburn gaze from the walls of the central entrance. Native Victorian, Myfanwy Spencer Pavelic, who has become one of the world's greatest portrait artists, created these in the 1980s. She herself was originally interested in pursuing a career as a concert pianist, but when a problem with her wrists prevented further pursuit in music, she turned her talents to drawing and painting. In addition to her artistic skill, Pavelic clearly developed a unique ability to establish a warm and personal rapport with her subjects. The late Yehudi Menuhin and Katherine Hepburn, both of whose portraits hang at the film desk, were close life-long friends of hers.



Man Playing a Saxophone
Eric Metcalfe (BFA, UVic) 1991
Photo by Robbyn Gordon

video, installation, ceramics, and sculpture. He is a co-founder of the Western Front Artists' Centre in Vancouver.

Next to the loan desk is an imposing two metre high portrait of Pytor Ilych Tchaikovsky by Noah Becker. This piece was featured in last year's *Williams Legacy* exhibit at the Fran Willis Gallery, which showcased Michael Collard Williams' significant art donation to the University. The imposing canvas size and vigorous brushstrokes are typical of Becker's work, of which he says, "You have to crawl inside ...

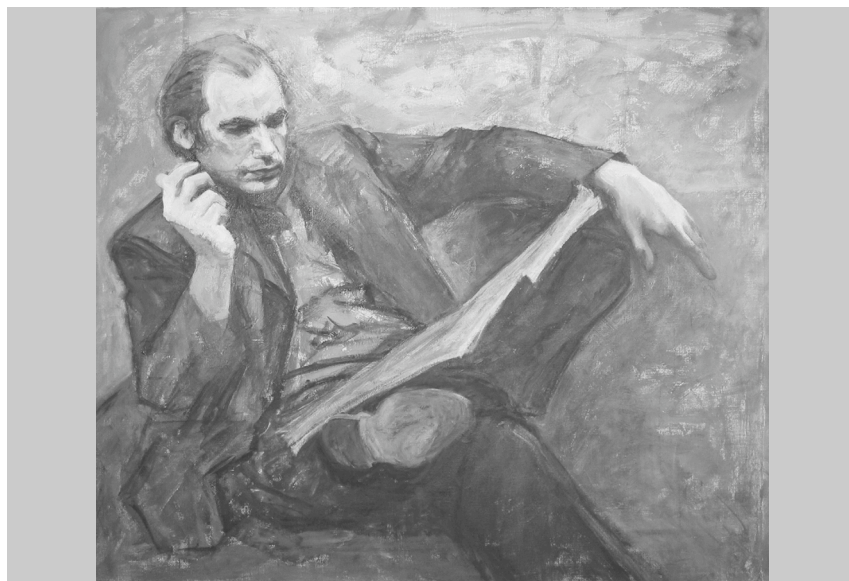
Eric Metcalfe's whimsical paintings and photographs of performance art events intersperse Pavelic's more traditional subject matter. One silkscreen print shows Metcalfe in his persona of Dr. Brute playing the saxophone with guests at an F. Scott Fitzgerald tea party. Another shows Dr. Brute and the character Mr. Peanut (Victor Trasov), who actually ran for mayor of Vancouver in 1974, with a platform that posed questions about the role of art in society. Metcalfe attended the University of Victoria in the 1960s and has developed a long-standing career in performance,

by that I mean you have to understand the subject, empathize... then breathe life into the canvas."

Tucked away at the back of the music book stacks, are two of Herbert Siebner's *scrafitto* works from 1972 with the obscure titles *Man Kissing His Belly Button Goodbye* and *Die Löcherin*, (literally, "The Hole-maker" or "Woman Making Holes"). These images are typical motifs from Siebner's oeuvre. According to his friend the late Robin Skelton, Siebner's figures are monumental and symbolic. Skelton writes of Siebner's "archetypal figures of bewildering power and simplicity. They may dance, recline, make love, or simply stand and watch, but they are all, ... inescapable presences in our spiritual and psychological lives." (Skelton, *Herbert Siebner, A Celebration*, 1993, p. 45) A retrospective of Siebner's work is on display at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Siebner passed away just last year.

Finally, I suggest a visit to the listening lab of the music and audio department. Pick out a suitable soundtrack, be seated at one of the listening booths, don your headphones and gaze upon Gwen Curry's "Bird Portraits:" (oil stick on paper, 1997-1998) the Northern Shrike, Varied Thrush and Harris' Sparrow. This series is a part of Curry's work from the late 1990s when she became interested in the process of listing, enumerating and categorizing different bird and plant forms encountered on her wooded property in Brentwood Bay, BC. Her bird portraits depict tiny creatures hundreds of times larger than life size in rich gold, green and red tones. Art critic Sherry Killam notes, "Curry has her bird turning his beady eyes on us, the viewers. Frail and dignified he asks questions about existence and extinction." Gwen Curry is a former UVic Visual Arts professor who has shown her work nationally and internationally and is represented in many private and public collections.

This concludes my tour of personal favourites from the Maltwood collection at the McPherson Library. But don't stop here. In amongst the stacks are many more preparatory sketches by Pavelic and other finished works by artists such as Rick Rivet and Pat Martin Bates. I wish you a joyful exploration.



Glenn Gould by Myfanwy Spencer Pavelic (Hon. Dr. UVic) 1986
Acrylic on canvas. Gift of Nikolai and Myfanwy Spencer Pavelic
Photo by Robbyn Gordon



Executive Committee Members

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Founding Director, Women's
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Former UVic faculty member

Harold Coward

Professor Emeritus and
Founding Director, Centre for
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University of Victoria

Gayle Garlock

Retired Librarian and
Former Director of Development
and Public Affairs
University of Toronto Library

Bill Neilson

Professor Emeritus and
Former Director of
Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives
University of Victoria

Deirdre Roberts

Artist and
Former Producer, CBC Vancouver

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Massey College,
University of Toronto and
Former Professor of English,
University of Victoria

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Adjunct Professor, Department of
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Marnie Swanson (ex-officio)

University Librarian
University of Victoria Libraries

Jaqui Thompson (ex-officio)

Secretary
University of Victoria Libraries

From the Editorial Desk: Seen Any Interesting Cockroaches Lately?

Victor A. Neufeldt
Ann Saddlemeyer
Jaqui Thompson

You may have been fortunate enough to catch the display in lobby of McPherson Library throughout September. Staff member and artist Sandra Wiles created a swarm of insects, sewn by machine and hand. *Kafka*, the large cockroach (pictured below) was fashioned out of the lining material from some clothes, fabric samples from wallpaper books and hollow plastic tubing from a set of defunct Christmas lights, while the surrounding smaller "critters" had office supplies for their bodies (markers, pens, clips, white-out), with legs of pipe cleaners and wire left behind from the last renovations. Sandra sewed *Sam the Silverfish* from fabric samples, embellished by pipe cleaners and other materials offered by staff members. "With a little hot glue and thread, I will find a use for everything when the time is right," she says of her recycling skills.



**Sandra Wiles with her textile
cockroach creation.**

Continued on page 7...

Preservation Issues at McPherson Library

Donna Signori
Head, Collections and Preservation Services

Collections and Preservation is the division in the McPherson Library responsible for the selection of materials to support the curriculum and research of the University and to ensure that they are preserved in a state suitable for this purpose.

The basement level of McPherson Library houses a small repair service with a single staff member trained to deal with loose spines, detached text blocks, tipping in loose pages, adding end papers to tighten the text block to the cover and some paper repair. This in-house repair operation shares a single room with gifts offered to the Library from donors. More serious conservation work would require an expanded facility and additional staff.

Yet the challenge to preserve the printed format has never been more essential. Paper has been in existence for a very long time and is not obsolete. Digital technology, while a marvelous invention, is not a true preservation format. By comparison, it is relatively recent and the rate of obsolescence of equipment needed to be able to read digital content is very rapid. Preservation is about saving the original format of an item as an artifact or opting to convert it to a true archival format such as microform. The McPherson Library has a great deal of material in both formats and it is our responsibility to see that all materials receive the care they need.

The materials most in need of attention are those published after 1850 and prior to 1990. During this period materials were for the most part printed on very acidic paper, characterized by the brown/yellow colour of the paper as it becomes older and the brittleness of the fold. In the 1990s many publishers started to convert to alkaline paper, lowering the acidic content by varying amounts. A notation to this effect or an infinity symbol frequently appears on the verso of the title page in books of the 1990s and 2000s. The threat to these print materials due to environmental toxins is still very much present today. Sunlight, dust, insects, heavy use, and mould are all enemies of such materials.

We need to preserve these materials because they are a part of our civilization and as such deserve some record in posterity. Archives are what future researchers will depend upon to understand the world we are currently part of and provide the information to help future generations. Local histories, unique and irreplaceable materials, literary manuscripts as well as many volumes in our general collections are targets for immediate preservation.

The McPherson Library deals with many different types of materials: paper, CDs, videotapes, photographs, microforms, DVDs, reel to reel tapes, maps, etc. They all need to be cared for and the methods for each vary. Prevention of deterioration is, of course, the best way to preserve these materials: jackets or sleeves for microforms and an appropriately temperature-controlled room, binding of current materials, specially-constructed pamphlet binders to house music scores for easy reading during performance, special kits for other non-print items (especially for multi-part resources, such as many educational materials, jewel cases for Music CDs and DVDs) and specially made clam shell boxes to protect more fragile materials. Rare and valuable materials are sent to binders who apply conservation techniques which reproduce the original state of the text as closely as possible.

In addition to binding and the construction of special cases, other non-durable protective measures are available. These include digital scanning of brittle books and replacement of materials with copies purchased on the out-of-print market, microfilming or the purchase of microfilm. Replacement costs are continuous for these damaged and heavily-used materials.

Currently the McPherson Library is developing a pilot procedure for digitizing brittle materials which involves copyright clearance, inter-library loan requests, and finally scanning and binding the printed copy from the scanned copy. This process will allow us to replace heavily-used items in the general collection. Copies of all materials cannot always be found and even those on the out-of-print market are frequently in poor and brittle condition. Scanning the borrowed copy will allow us to print it on alkaline paper, bind it and replace the missing or damaged material. Judicious selection of titles will be essential since costs accompanying this activity will be high.

Finally, a *Condition Survey* of the collection is a project which the Library must undertake in the very near future to assist in planning a preservation programme for the whole collection. This will help to determine what portion of the collection is acidic and to present recommendations for specific areas and titles of the collections. A process referred to as deacidification would add a buffer to the paper and may be considered as a possible remedy. Both the assessment and the process will require additional funds to preserve our collection.

If you would like to help us protect our collection from further deterioration or would like to know more about preservation in general please contact Collections and Preservation Services at 721-8244.

Artistic Friends

Readers will remember from a previous newsletter the article by Robbyn Gordon, whose photographs illustrate Caroline Riedel's article on pages 4 and 5. *Exterior Landscape*, a new exhibit of her work, can be seen in the McPherson Library Gallery until October 7th.

From October 10th until the 30th Deirdre Roberts, our new Membership Committee Co-chair, is exhibiting her water colours, *Memories of Andalusia*, at the Winchester Gallery, 2260 Oak Bay Avenue.

Romance in the Library?

The editors have received a provocative request from Madeleine Lefebvre, University Librarian at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. She is seeking stories for a forthcoming book for Scarecrow Press called *The Romance of Libraries*. She would like to hear about both happy and sad romances, requited and unrequited.

If you know someone who fell in love in a library, please tell them about this project.

For details or to submit a story, contact the project by email: (mlefebvre@libraryromance.com) or visit the website: (<http://www.libraryromance.com>)

*...From the Editorial Desk
continued from page 6*

This playful exhibit was a reminder to those entering the building to finish their snacks and beverages outside, away from the collections. Each year the Library mounts a Food and Drink Campaign to alert us all to the risk of water damage and the dangers of attracting silverfish and cockroaches, who devour bookbinding adhesives. Flyers were distributed in the new student orientation packages, and Library Monitors inform people entering the building of the Food and Drink Policy. Sandra Wiles' clever collection provided another witty warning.

Sandra is one of our busy Library Assistants. She works part-time in Technical Services - Serials. A native of Ottawa, she received her BA in English literature from Carleton, a BFA from UVic in Visual Arts and Creative Writing, and an MFA in painting from Claremont Graduate University in Los Angeles. Back here in Victoria she teaches at the Victoria College of Art and in the Artists in the Schools program through the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. As if this were not enough, Sandra is studying long distance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign towards her Masters in Library and Information Science, which she hopes to complete by the end of this year; she was recently awarded the North American Serials Interest Group Scholarship.

Meanwhile, watch for the next eye-catching exhibit in cabinets elsewhere in the Library!

More Coming Events

Oscar Wilde Lecture

**Wilde at Law: Reputation destroyed and rehabilitated by court
by Cecil O.D. Branson Q.C.**

Wednesday, November 17, 4.30 p.m.

Harry Hickman Building (formerly CIT), Room 105

*I know not whether Laws be right,
Or whether Laws be wrong;
All that we know who lie in gaol
Is that the wall is strong;
And that each day is like a year
A year whose days are long.*

This year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of witty Irish poet, playwright and raconteur Oscar Fingall O'Flahertie Wills Wilde.

We are privileged to begin this season's series of Friends' talks with a lecture by Cecil O.D. Branson, Q.C. on Oscar Wilde's legal trials and tribulations.

Mr. Branson, who was born in Victoria, holds both Canadian and Irish citizenships. He was called to the bar of British Columbia in 1963 and has practiced as a barrister since then. He was made a Queen's Counsel in 1984 and has appeared in provincial and federal courts in Canada, including the Supreme Court of Canada. Since 1993 his professional practice has been limited to arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution, primarily in a conciliatory or adjudicative role, most of this being international. He has numerous publications on legal subjects and has lectured in many parts of the world.

Over the years Mr. Branson developed a scholarly interest in Oscar Wilde and has accumulated a substantial library of works by and about him. His researches have taken him to libraries in England, Ireland and the U.S.A. and he has addressed many groups on the involvement of Wilde and his parents with the law and lawyers.

Annual United Way Book Sale

McPherson Library Gallery

Tuesday, November 2 and Wednesday, November 3

McPherson Library Gallery

From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

As a Friend, we are pleased to give you advance notice of the annual book sale to raise funds for the United Way through the UVic Campus Campaign.

The sale includes more than books. The Libraries receive donations of books, records, CDs, and even DVDs. All items sell for \$2.00 each and all the money raised goes to the United Way. To donate items, help the sale, or for more information, please call the sale coordinator in the Libraries, Donna Mollin at 721-7068.

We hope to see you at the sale!

Coming Next Issue

Stories planned for the Spring edition include: the University of Victoria Librarians by University historian Professor Peter Smith; New Librarians at UVic Libraries; Anarchist Art and its literature.

Watch for these and much, much more!

Your submissions and ideas for stories are always welcome:

Email friends@uvic.ca

Telephone 721-8211.

Become a Friend

Gayle Garlock

If you have not already done so, join the Friends of UVic Libraries. Become an active supporter of the Library.

Near the centre of the campus, and truly the heart of the University, the UVic Libraries support teaching, learning, and research at the University and provide an invaluable research resource to the Greater Victoria community.

Friends of UVic Libraries receive invitations to lectures, special events, exhibitions, and workshops. Friends also receive the semi-annual newsletter and access to the Libraries resources.

Show your commitment to the UVic Libraries. Complete the enclosed form and become a Friend, or pass the form along to someone you know who would enjoy the benefits of belonging to this growing community.

A special thanks to those who have renewed their memberships.