

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

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Mearns Centre for Learning Announced

Marnie Swanson, University Librarian

I am very pleased to report the announcement on March 7th of the creation of the new William C. Mearns Centre for Learning. This new \$20M Centre will be funded by a donation of \$5M from the Mearns family, \$5M from the Province of British Columbia, \$5M from a series of other donors and \$5M from the University.

I believe that Thomas Shanks McPherson, whose \$1M donation in the early 1960s was instrumental in funding the McPherson Library, would be very pleased to see his legacy being continued through this generous community support. The Library named in his honor will form a major part of the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning. Other components included in the Learning Centre will be individual and collaborative study areas; two classrooms, each equipped with 25-30 computer workstations; an expanded Information Commons; a Media Commons to accommodate music listening, film viewing, multimedia instruction and interactive video; a food outlet; and new space for Special Collections and Archives.

The \$5M donation from the Mearns family is the largest donation, outside of an estate, ever received by the University of Victoria. Bill Mearns was instrumental in assembling the land that today is the University's Gordon Head campus and he played a critical role in helping raise the funds that were used to buy the property. The Mearns family's involvement with the University of Victoria spans four decades, and continues today through the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning.

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Architect's concept drawing for building expansion to create the Mearns Centre for Learning. The view represented is from Ring Road, looking at the south end and back of the existing McPherson Library. The building was first constructed in 1964, and added to in 1973. Image courtesy of Garyali Architect Inc.

...Mearnes Centre for Learning Announced, continued from page 1

We have been working towards this goal for several years and I want to acknowledge the vision and hard work of Wendie McHenry, Joan Sandilands, Terry Sherwood, Birgit Castledine and Ron McDowell, all of whom have been instrumental in helping us achieve this goal. In addition there were many other faculty and staff members who participated on a variety of committees and focus groups as we planned for both McPherson Library renovations and a new building.

The next few years will be busy ones as we plan for the new building, which will be an extension of the McPherson Library situated on the green space between McPherson and the Ring Road. The first task will be to prepare a program of requirements which will provide the selected architects with the information they will need to prepare the detailed drawings for the new building. The tentative completion date is December 2007.

We plan to create a web page devoted to the project so our Friends will be able to view our progress and I'll provide regular updates in the Friends Newsletter.

New Building Projects

Wendie McHenry, Projects and
Planning Librarian

Recently, two campus-related building projects have evolved within the McPherson Library with positive implications for the Libraries.

PROJECT NOVA CLASSROOM

Project Nova is a multi-year project to replace UVic's aging set of computing systems with an integrated, web-accessible suite of applications. The University has selected the Banner System which will provide users with convenient access to university e-services. UVic students, faculty and staff will have up-to-date information twenty four hours a day, no matter where they are or what technology they choose to use.

The next major step for the Campus is to train a large number of UVic employees on the Banner system, creating an urgent need for a classroom facility. The McPherson Library was approached by the UVic administration, and within a very short time period the Libraries and UVic representatives created a renovation plan for an area of the second floor of the library to

address the classroom need. This plan will produce a twenty-work station training room for the project. Once the project training is completed, the McPherson Library gains possession of the classroom for student use. This area of the second floor was slated for future renovations, but this project has moved the renovations forward at a rapid pace.

Once this project is finished the library gains a new classroom plus upgraded office, study and media viewing areas. Work on this project started February 3, 2005 and will be completed by July 2005.

APPLIED RESEARCH CENTRE (ARC)

A collaborative arrangement involving UVic researchers, Sun Microsystems of Canada, Sierra Systems and the UVic Libraries will see the establishment of a research computing laboratory within the McPherson Library. This facility will allow for experimentation of advanced and emerging information and communication technologies. The initial area of research will be within the health domain and specifically in palliative care and cancer management. Other projects include working with the UVic Libraries to explore the

use of an institutional repository for storage and distribution of multi-media learning resources.

The ARC will be located on the 3rd floor of the McPherson Library in what is now a closed study carrell area. The ARC will include work stations for graduate students and research staff plus controlled space for servers and communication equipment. Construction costs will be paid for by Sun/Sierra. This unique research facility is a step towards more integration of graduate students and researchers with the Libraries. Start up times for this project are yet to be determined.



Positioning Sculptured panels on Library, March 1973. Photo by R. Austin, courtesy of UVic Archives, Ref # 123.0162

McPherson Library's Remarkable Early Years

Peter L. Smith, Professor Emeritus and University Historian

When Dean W. Halliwell arrived in September 1960 as Victoria College's new Head Librarian, his mandate was obvious: he must convert the small but admirable undergraduate library then housed in the Ewing Building into a collection worthy of a future university.

Substantial progress had been made by July 1, 1963, when Victoria College became the University of Victoria. A good omen the very next day was the symbolic cornerstone ceremony for the McPherson Library, soon to be an admirable facility on the new Gordon Head Campus. But not even the most optimistic book-worm was likely to have predicted that UVic would soon rank among the leading Canadian universities in surveys designed to measure library support and achievement. There was no secret formula – just visionary leadership, exceptionally generous funding, and dedicated effort on the part of professional librarians and faculty members.

We must not overlook those three years leading up to 1963. Like Dean Halliwell, I also arrived on faculty in 1960, and can testify to the Library's spectacular progress. Books seemed to be arriving daily by the truckload. The main champions of the Victoria College Library were Sydney Pettit and Roger Bishop, long-time rival heads of History and English. The Victoria College Council had a powerful nucleus of book-lovers, most notably Judge Joseph Clearihue, Provincial Archivist Willard Ireland, and lawyer Lloyd McKenzie. All three would be future Chairmen of the UVic Board of Governors. Vigorous support at this level is crucial in achieving any academic goal.

An ardent believer in the central importance of a university library was Dr. Harry Hickman, College Principal from 1952 to 1963, and Acting President in UVic's inaugural year. President Malcolm G. Taylor could match him in library passion, and soon commanded far greater financial resources. Dr. Taylor's term of office, from 1964 to 1968, was not uniformly successful, but it was marked by at least two lasting achievements: the quality of faculty recruitment was quite outstanding; and the McPherson Library was so generously supported that it swiftly gained a reputation across Canada and even beyond.

A few statistics can document this progress. Dean Halliwell arrived in 1960 to head a library with 60,000 volumes and a total staff of thirteen. When the McPherson Library opened its doors in August 1964, the collection had grown to 150,000 volumes, with a staff of 57, including 27 professional librarians. The rate of growth now rose to over 50,000 books a year. By the end of 1971, seven years later, the collection reached the half-million mark; Library staff numbered 155, of whom 36 were professionals. Although the pace later slowed somewhat, the magic million milestone was achieved in 1982.

From the beginning, the quality of the professional staff was superb. Long-service Department Heads from early UVic years included Priscilla Scott (Public Services), Ann Van der Voort (Acquisitions), June Thomson (Cataloguing), Helen Rodney (Reference), and Jean Whiffin (Serials). I must also mention Harry Stastny, who circulated the most enticing antiquarian catalogues.

A quirk of Provincial funding gave McPherson librarians an annual spring workout. In the 1960s and early 1970s, BC Government funds could not be carried forward from one fiscal year to the next; if



The McPherson Library, 1964 as seen from the Quadrangle.
Photo by Dane Campbell,
courtesy of UVic Archives.
Archives Ref #021.0911

unexpended, they reverted to the Minister of Finance. Because Bob McQueen ran a very tight ship as University Bursar (later Vice-President, Finance), there was invariably a hefty surplus as the fiscal deadline loomed on March 31. Department chairmen would get a predictable phone call from the President's Office in late February: "Can we spend twenty (or thirty or fifty) thousand dollars on Library purchases in the next five weeks?" Those of us who knew the drill had our shopping lists all prepared, and the Acquisitions and Serials Divisions of the Library were soon put to the test. In the late 1960s Jean Whiffin had great success in buying complete runs of many British and German classical journals, vitally essential in my own discipline. Malcolm Taylor liked to have these bound immediately, so as to assure their safety and preservation.

Meanwhile, Howard Gerwing

had been put in charge of developing UVic Special Collections, another amazing success story on which I defer to Ann Saddlemeyer, most devoted Friend of UVic Libraries.

Roger Bishop, an English department head who also held a degree in library science, had probably more to do with the swift success of the McPherson Library than any other single individual. As Joan Lawrence recalls, Roger would buy large shipments of books wholesale for the entire institution, not just for English. I shall express my admiration also for the late Dr. Patricia Köster, a brilliant English scholar and bibliophile who was that Department's perennial Library representative. Accompanied often by Doreen Burrows as her able assistant, she virtually lived in the McPherson for much of the 1960s. It is that kind of tireless dedication that builds a great library.



**View of Library extension from McPherson Library stairwell,
November 8, 1972. Photo by Ian McKain, courtesy of UVic Archives.
Ref #050.0306**

**To view more historical photos of the library online, visit the Libraries
Gateway at: <http://gateway.uvic.ca/cgi-bin/WebObjects/hpc>
Under Keyword Search type McPherson Library**

Librarians Past and Present: the University Librarian from the Library's Victoria College Beginnings to the University of Victoria Libraries

Jane Turner

Victoria College appointed its first librarian in 1942, when George Black combined part-time library duties with his position as Professor of Classics until 1945.

From 1945 to 1947 Marjorie Griffin held the position of librarian, followed by Edith Stewart, 1947-48; Kathleen R. Mathews, 1948-1951; and Douglas G. Lochhead (poet, scholar and later first Librarian of Massey College, University of Toronto), 1951-52.

Finally in 1953 Albert Spratt was hired as Head Librarian, in conjunction with a second librarian who was appointed to a Junior Librarian position.

When Mr. Spratt left in 1960 Dean W. Halliwell began his long tenure, first as Head Librarian of Victoria College, then from 1963-1988 as University Librarian of the University of Victoria. When he became Head Librarian there were five librarians on staff.

Marnie Swanson succeeded him as University Librarian in 1988, when the Libraries had grown considerably. Today the University community is served by a staff of approximately 150 members, including 29 full time librarians.

Donna Signori Retires

Donna Signori, Head of Collections and Preservation Services, retires this Spring after 28 years of service to the UVic Libraries.

Donna began her career at UVic in 1977 as a General Librarian in the Collections Division. She was appointed Acting Division Head in June 1990 and became Head, Collections Management Services, in 1992.

Donna has played a significant leadership role in a number of areas throughout the Libraries. Her most notable contributions include development of the McPherson Library collection during a time of fiscal restraint, coupled with significant graduate program growth; streamlining a variety of collections related processes and procedures including preservation and disaster recovery; implementing the liaison librarian model; initiating digitization projects including electronic theses and dissertations; and enhancing the Library's relationship with faculty members. Throughout her career Donna has been a quintessential Collections Librarian who will be sincerely missed by all her colleagues. Her last working day is March 31.

Notable Achievements

The Friends' Programme and Events Committee are a busy bunch. Joan Coldwell, Chair, has added a new interest to her already active "retirement". She recently founded the Hedgerow Press, a small publishing house dedicated to producing books of high literary and artistic quality. For more information see the website <http://www.hedgerowpress.com>.

The author of the first publication from the Hedgerow Press is also a Friend of the UVic Libraries. You will find Anny Scoones' *Home: Tales of a Heritage Farm* in the UVic bookstore and at all major local bookshops. *Home* is shortlisted as a finalist for the BC Booksellers' Choice Prize, presented to the publisher and author of "the best book in terms of public appeal, initiative, design, production and content." The winner will be announced April 30. Friends are invited to join members of the Land Conservancy to hear Anny Scoones read from her new book. The event will be held at the Abkhazi Gardens on Tuesday, 26 April from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Afternoon tea will be served.

Another member of the Programme and Events Committee is Elizabeth Levinson, whose latest book, *An Edible Journey: Exploring the Islands' Fine Food, Farms and Vineyards*, published by Touchwood Editions, was the winner of two National Culinary Book Awards earlier this year, a Gold for Canadian Food Culture and a Bronze in the Special Food and Beverage category.

A member of the Friends' Executive, Professor Harold Coward, has recently taken office as President of Academy II of the Royal Society of Canada, a position he will hold for the next two years. Also, at a reception at the University Club on October 26, Harold Coward was honoured with a Festschrift, *The Twenty-First Century Confronts Its Gods: Globalization, Technology, and War*, ed. David J. Hawkin, State University of New York Press.

Last, but not least, our congratulations to Marnie Swanson, who was awarded the 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award by the University of Alberta Library and Information Studies Alumni Association.

Display: Pierre Berton's Victoria College

Lara Wilson

Acting University Archivist

Canadian author Pierre Berton (1920-2004) had life-long connections to Victoria and UVic. Berton attended Oak Bay High School and Victoria College – the predecessor to the University of Victoria. In the late 1930s, Berton was an assistant editor and principal cartoonist for *The Microscope* – the Victoria College student newsletter.

During these years, Victoria College was located at Craigdarroch Castle. In fact, still visible today is Berton's autograph, carved into the wood paneling of the Castle's Dogwood Room. Berton received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from UVic in May 1983. In 2003, during UVic's 100 Years of Education celebrations, he was the University's special guest at the re-dedication of the Historical Cairn marking the original site of Victoria College, on the grounds of what is now Central Junior High School.

The materials selected for the display come from the Archives Historical Photograph Collection, the Victoria College Principal's Office fonds*, and the McPherson Library Collections – including publications from Archives and Special Collections. Of particular note is a selection of Berton's cartoons and his satirical detective story "The Curse of the College" from *The Microscope*.

We invite the community to view this display between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Mondays to Fridays in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room of the McPherson Library.

For more information, contact the UVic Archives at 472-4480.

* Fonds is an archival term meaning all documents, regardless of form or medium, created, received and accumulated by a person or organisation.

**Programme and Events
Committee Report:
The Art of the Book
Exhibit and Book Arts
Display**

Joan Coldwell

One of the most popular events of 2004 was the Art of the Book Exhibit, co-hosted by the McPherson Library and the Maltwood Gallery and sponsored by the Friends. The touring exhibition from the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild included examples of fine binding, printing, calligraphy and decorated papers in some unique re-interpretations of the form of the book.

Visitors were treated to a guided tour of the exhibition by Keith Valentine, an exhibit award winner from B.C.

A special day was devoted to demonstrations of the different arts involved in making or restoring fine books. A steady stream of enthusiastic guests kept the demonstrators busy from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



The Art of the Book Demonstration held October 14, 2004

In November we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of Irish dramatist Oscar Wilde with a talk by distinguished lawyer Cecil O.D. Branson QC on the legal issues raised in the aftermath of Wilde's public disgrace and imprisonment. Friends enjoyed discussion with the speaker afterwards at a reception in the University Club.

Watch for announcements of exciting events to come in 2005!

Upcoming Event: Tea at Lantern Lane

JOIN US FOR TEA AT LANTERN LANE, the house in Gordon Head so named by writer and activist Nellie McClung, which she and her husband bought when they retired to Victoria in 1935.

Built in 1914 for John Fullerton, the last chief engineer on the S.S. Beaver, first steamship on the West Coast, the house is now owned by Judith and Reg Terry, both former members of the English Department.

Judith will present a brief history and tour of the house and Nellie's time in it; Misao Dean, Professor in the English Department and specialist in early Canadian women's writing, will talk about Nellie McClung's work and its significance.

**At the Former Residence of Nellie McClung in Gordon Head
Saturday, 13 August at 2:30 p.m.**

Seating is limited for this event: tickets, for a suggested donation of \$10, will be available in July. A reminder will be sent to you at that time.

The Reginald Roy Military History Collection

Victor Neufeldt

At a formal reception at the University Club on January 20, the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Iona Campagnolo, announced the creation of *The Reginald Roy Military History Collection*, in the presence of UVic Professor Emeritus, Dr. Reginald Roy, and a large contingent of armed forces brass and veterans. "It is the largest and most complete collection of military oral history in the country," said Roy.

Dr. Roy, who served with the Cape Breton Highlanders in WWII, and who helped write the Canadian official history of the Second World War, was Professor of Military History at Victoria College and UVic from 1958 to 1988. Roy encouraged his students to use oral history as a research tool. His earlier research and the oral histories collected in a new project, entitled *Lest We Forget*, will be housed in Special Collections. The project, initially offered as a special course last year, is now a regular part of UVic's history curriculum under the direction of Dr. David Zimmerman, thanks to a partnership with the Royal United Services Institute of Vancouver Island, a non-profit organization that includes serving and retired officers of the Canadian and Allied forces and the RCMP. This course in the theory, methods and practical application of oral history enables students to interview and archive the personal stories of veterans, including peacekeepers and veteran's families.

"I'm proud to recognize Professor Roy for his valuable contribution to the University of Victoria and for his part in helping to preserve this country's collective historical memories," said President David Turpin. "The foundation that Professor Roy has laid in partnership with the university and the veterans in our community will allow this significant work to endure."

The Institute, under the leadership of Col. John Eggenberger, is participating in fundraising and assisting the UVic Libraries in indexing the materials to make them publicly available. Bill Thackeray was recognized at the ceremony for his work in this respect. It will be crucial, Chris Petter has pointed out, to raise the funding required to process the planned expansion of the collection. Special Collections has assembled a display to celebrate the naming of the collection, which has many of the types of Canadian military archival materials available in Special Collections as well as some of the many books written using the collection, and Chris Petter has lectured on the archive to the History class involved in the collection of military oral history.

A sampling of books purchased or donated by Roger Bishop is currently on display in one of the Special Collections showcases on the lower level (to read more about Roger Bishop, see the story "Talking to a Friend" on page 8 of this issue); the other showcase exhibits items from the recently donated Reginald Roy collection of military history.

Membership Committee Report

Gayle Garlock

Deirdre Roberts

The newly formed Membership Committee began its work by identifying target categories or groups of potential new members. We then ranked these groups in terms of interest and size in order to get the best results for our efforts. At this time we are in the middle of organizing a tour of the Library for the group Probus.

The Committee also undertook the revision of the membership brochure. The text for the new brochure has been drafted, revised and reviewed by appropriate Library staff. The Library has recently acquired a new software package that will improve the graphic design of the brochure. We plan to have the new brochure ready for distribution early in 2005.

In the meantime our stock of old brochures has been handed out to all interested guests who attended the guided tours to the *Art of the Book* exhibition and the Oscar Wilde lecture. They have also been left for display at the Art Gallery of Victoria and during the last productions of the Pacific Opera Victoria.

In the fall we arranged with the UVic Division of Continuing Studies to have a description of the Friends and an invitation to join included in their current calendar.

Make Friends!

Encourage your friends
to become Friend of UVic
Libraries. Membership
forms are online at:

[http://gateway.uvic.ca/lib/
admin/friends/default.html](http://gateway.uvic.ca/lib/admin/friends/default.html)

Talking to a Friend: Roger Bishop

Ann Saddlemeyer

To those who attend UVic's theatre productions, Roger Bishop will be no stranger, for as a moving force behind the formation of the department his name graces one of the theatres and his portrait hangs in the foyer. What many may not realize is the significant role he also played over the years in building up the university library; in fact, without his energetic and far-sighted proselytizing and constant vigilance, the collections in both the stacks and Special Collections would have been much thinner.



It all began back in 1941. Having completed his BA Honours and Certificate in Education at UBC and a library degree from the University of Toronto, Roger was invited to teach English at Victoria College, still at that time situated in Craigdarroch Castle. Roger spent most of the winter up on the top floor where the "library", its books supplied primarily by the Carnegie Foundation, doubled as the study hall. The next three winters were spent in graduate studies at the University of Toronto and teaching at the University of Saskatchewan, while he waited the call to return.

The year 1945 was a bumper year for Victoria College – the student body tripled thanks to the returned servicemen, but the library did not. With customary energy and the realization that "you can't have a college without a library", Bishop urged the administration to budget for books. While some heads restricted their purchases to immediate needs, he moved beyond – searching out catalogues (the complete works of Shelley came from an anniversary sale advertised by Columbia University Press), roaming the few city bookstores, trying always to "fill the gaps". Finally, in 1953 there was a trip to Britain where, claimed his wife Ailsa, Roger travelled through Edinburgh "from basement to basement". There he found the first edition of Raleigh's *History of the World*, known to collectors for its missing frontispiece which was not allowed to circulate with the disgraced author's name; it cost a guinea. In another bookshop, stacked in the middle of the floor where customers had to detour around it, were the folio edition of Grafton's *Chronicles: The History of England*, and the entire six-volume folio edition of Holinshed's *Chronicles*, that massive history of England, Scotland, and Ireland which served as the source material for many of Shakespeare's plays; the owner was only too willing to get rid of the "damned nuisance", charging him only £16 including shipment. To his lasting chagrin Roger missed out on a second edition of Robert Burns' poems, but Liverpool provided the first editions of Charles Dickens, and London the collected edition of Frederick Marryat, while a sale at the Athenaeum yielded a complete run of *The Times Literary Supplement*. That year, the entire library budget was \$1500, of which, having canvassed his colleagues for any leftover funds, Roger happily spent two-thirds.

Building a collection for the university he was certain would eventually come kept Roger, by now head of a growing department, busy. The process remained, he admitted, haphazard; librarians became accustomed to "Bishop's shoeboxes" – slips of orders waiting to be filled when the money was available. During the 1960s he speeded up the process by giving Patricia Köster and Bob Lawrence one teaching section off for two years to spend time canvassing the library shelves and filling out even more order slips. During those years too he enlisted me in the search, suggesting when I was in New York that I hunt out a well-known bookseller whose catalogues were intriguing, even if I had to "climb over a fence" to get to him. The result was the first major purchase of manuscripts, a collection of Ezra Pound's manuscripts. Lew Feldman, primary agent for the wealthy University of Texas, was so intrigued by the nerve of a small unknown west coast college that he came out for a visit. And that in turn led to my instructions to meet Mr Feldman at the London docks to examine three trunks of papers; once again Roger found the money and the University of Victoria became the proud owner of Herbert Read's remarkable collection of manuscripts and correspondence with major artists and literary figures of the modernist period.

The McPherson Library is rightly known for its strength in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, thanks in great part to Roger Bishop's sleuthing skills. But since retirement he has also been generous with works from his own collection, such as the first edition of Captain Cook's *Voyages* and the accompanying volume of Plates (discovered in a bookstore in Glasgow) and the Cartoons with plates of Max Beerbohm (found here in Victoria). Thanks to his determination that "you can't have a college – or university – without a library", Roger Bishop has been a Friend in deed.