

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

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Inside This Issue

Mearns Centre for Learning
Progress Reportp. 1
Centre for Studies in Religion
and Society Contributions to
McPherson Libraryp. 2
A History of Abebooks.com p. 3
New Books Displayp. 3
LibQual+ Library Surveyp. 3
Index of Christian Art Received
as a Giftp. 4
Japan Foundation Library
Donationsp. 4
South Island Women for
Economic Survival (SIWES)
Donationp. 5
Talking to a Friend: Dr Joyce
Clearihuep. 6
Invitation to a Summer Garden
Eventp. 7
Samuel MacLure Architectural
Plans Now Available on the
Webp. 8



William C Mearns Centre for Learning Progress Report

Marnie Swanson, University Librarian

I am pleased to report that on March 21st the UVic Board of Governors gave the Vice President Finance and Operations approval for the Mearns Centre construction to proceed. The Board also approved the construction of a fourth level to the new building. This additional level will remain unfinished for future development by the Libraries.

Meanwhile, Warner James Architects presented designs to library staff and user groups in February, which included exterior illustrations of the west and east sides. Pictured above is the west side main entrance of the building, which will feature an entrance canopy, and a cafe. The image below illustrates the expansion on the east side of the building, facing Ring Road.

The Mearns Centre will include the following: an enhanced information commons; a media commons with services that integrate the Libraries' extensive music, audio and video collections; collaborative learning classrooms where students will be taught information literacy and study skills; a cafe on the main floor; and educational support services including a writing centre, study skills program, research workshops and peer tutoring.

Ground breaking for construction is still on schedule for August 2006.



Images courtesy of Warner James Architects

Editorial Note

Victor A. Neufeldt
Ann Saddlemeyer
Jaqui Thompson

As we were putting together copy for this issue, we became aware of an emphasis on the many recent donations. It seems appropriate while we follow the progress of our new building to celebrate the importance of those benefactors who quietly and without fanfare also augment the libraries' holdings.

In addition to the collections mentioned here, we cannot overemphasize how important such gifts-in-kind are in enhancing the reputation of the University's Libraries.

This is an opportunity to acknowledge the support of many individuals over the years. We salute them all!

Make Friends!

You can make a difference to the work of students and researchers in your community.

Encourage your friends to join Friends of Uvic Libraries.

There are three ways to become a member:

- ▷ in person
- ▷ by mail
- ▷ online

<http://gateway.uvic.ca/friends/>

Gift Idea

Consider giving a membership to the Friends of Uvic Libraries as a gift idea for the person who has everything. The gift of knowledge can never be depleted.

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Contributions to McPherson Library

Harold Coward

The Library Support Program of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society buys books for the Main Library, using the annual interest from a variety of its endowments. Another component of the Program has been the gifting by a great range of supportive communities and individuals.

Notable in the early years were the collections given, in whole or in significant part, by five retired religious studies professors or their estates: Dr. Robert Florida (Brandon); Dr. Paul Newman (University of Saskatchewan); Dr. Robert Osborne (Carleton); Dr. Jordan Paper (York); and Dr. Joseph Richardson (UBC). These gifts provided valuable additions to the Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and Chinese religions collections of the Library.

More recently, Dr. Lionel Adey (UVic emeritus) donated many of the books collected by his late wife, Muriel, who was the first female Anglican priest to be ordained in British Columbia. Especially valuable are a number of reference books, while some others deal with women in religion.

The Sisters of St. Ann have been very strong supporters, having given over the years histories of their activities in the Pacific Northwest, some items complementing the Bishop Seghers Collection; valuable reference books, including the miniaturized two-volume complete edition of the Oxford English Dictionary; and many volumes of contemporary Canadian literature.

Two *Friends* of the Centre have donated anonymously valuable Pali Text Society volumes supporting our Buddhist resources.

Bishop Remi de Roo, a delegate to Vatican II, gave his complete set of Proceedings, much enhanced by working papers, memoranda, and contemporaneous commentary.

Some seventy books, including a dozen antiquarian items from the collection of the late Dr. Alcorn, a well-known Victoria doctor and bibliophile, came to us via the Unitarian Church of Victoria.

The Embassy of Saudi Arabia and the Dar Al-Madinah Islamic Society of Vancouver have donated several Korans, one being a parallel columns Arabic/English edition.

A Vancouver South Asian community provided a complete set of the *Writings and Speeches* of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, India's leading Untouchable scholar, first Minister of Justice and drafter of the Constitution.

Local faith groups, e.g. Christian Science and Bahai, have presented their texts to the Library.

Fellows who have authored or edited books often donate copies of their works. Dr. Erica Dodd donated her monumental *Medieval Paintings in the Lebanon* (Wiesbaden: Reichert, 2004).

In a number of cases *Friends*, Fellows, and staff have been able to fill in back volumes and issues of serials, notably the *Religious Studies Review*.

The above gifts and donations and many others made over the past decade have done much to build the Library's Religious Studies collection which now supports not only the research of Centre scholars, but also a rapidly growing Religious Studies teaching program for undergraduate students in the Humanities Faculty.

Programme and Events Report: A History of Abebooks.com

Judith Terry

Friends of UVic libraries are book-buyers by definition. That is no doubt why there was such a good turn-out for the recent Friends' event, "The World's Bookstore - Take your Pick of 70 Million Titles: a history of Abebooks.com". At least, that was the title as announced, but by the time Richard Davies, PR and Publicity Manager of Abebooks spoke to the group on February 23rd, the number of titles had risen to 80 million. Abebooks is the latest concept in book-buying, and the company continues to grow exponentially since its 1995 beginnings.

Abebooks was founded in Victoria by two local couples, one of whom, Keith Waters, had attended UVic and had studied computers. Cathy Waters owned a used bookstore and she and Keith, together with Richard and Vivian Pura, hatched the idea of Abebooks. Since those early days the company has become a giant catalogue (database, if you prefer) of the books of 13,500 booksellers all over the globe. Recently it expanded its operations to include new books as well as the used, rare and out-of-print books with which it began. And Abebooks still maintains its head office in Victoria, although there are now other offices in Düsseldorf, Germany, Oviedo, Spain, and San Francisco, with a total staff of 120.

It was a brilliant notion, as the success of the company has proved. Booksellers, who pay a monthly subscription fee according to the number of titles they list, have an international showcase for their wares, a highly trained technical staff and a constantly updated system and website for support. Buyers have a resource with no previous parallel: Abebooks enables them to trawl the world. They can find the one volume required to complete that otherwise perfect set, for example, or cross-check to establish the average price for a particular title. The keen student can find that much-needed textbook, the obsessive reader a new title, at a bargain price. Book lovers of all stripes have been quick to pick up on the advantages.

Three million searches, and up to twenty-five thousand transactions are conducted every day - although, of course, no books are actually handled by the company. It would be a mistake to suppose that, as a result, the transactions are impersonal. Booksellers, as Richard made clear, are interesting characters everywhere, and contacting a bookseller on the other side of the continent (or the world) who has the required title is often quite an adventure.

After providing us with an overview of the company's origins, Richard went to the computer and gave us a few lessons on how to negotiate through the screens, and examples of the intriguing nuggets of information to be found there. The website is easy to follow and only demands, as most sites do, that spelling be accurate. From the questions following the talk, it was obvious that some of those attending were tempted to try selling on Abebooks as well as buying.

Richard's lively presentation made us all very proud of this local success story, as well as provided some information about posting for sale those valuable titles languishing dustily on our own shelves; it also whetted our appetites for a world-wide hunt for those elusive titles which will fill the spaces thus vacated.

New Books Display

Did you know that you can view a sampling of the 1,200 to 2,000 new monographs the Libraries acquire every month?

Each week Librarians place about 300 new acquisitions on the New Books display shelf in the main floor seating area of the McPherson Library.

LibQual+ Library Survey

UVic Libraries are in the process of assessing the level of satisfaction with their services. Campus opinions have been polled via an email to 4,000 randomly selected students, faculty and staff, inviting them to participate in a web-based survey.

The results will be distributed to interest groups within the Libraries and the University community later this Spring. This is part of a long-range plan to identify best practices and improve quality of service for the UVic Libraries. The information will also be used to develop plans for the Mearns Centre for Learning.

To encourage participation in the survey, a chance to win an iPod Nano by random draw was offered to all who returned the survey. The winner of the draw was undergraduate student Katrina May, pictured on the right below receiving her prize from Shailoo Bedi, Director of Access and Branch Services.

Once the survey results are analyzed they will be published on the Libraries Gateway website.



Index of Christian Art Received as a Gift

Lynne Woodruff, Information Services Librarian (Fine Arts)

In a surprise announcement after his recent Lansdowne lecture, Colum Hourihane, Director of the Index of Christian Art, announced he was giving the University of Victoria Libraries a subscription to this valuable resource. The gift is in recognition of Dr. Erica Dodd's scholarly contributions to the Index. Dr. Dodd is Adjunct Associate Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture in the History in Art Department.

Before coming to teach in the History in Art Department at the University of Victoria, Dr. Dodd taught at the American University of Beirut. She has travelled and written extensively about art and architecture in the Middle East. Her interests include Byzantine silver, Arabic inscriptions, and medieval frescoes. References to many of her publications are included in the Bibliography section of the Index.

The Index of Christian Art, housed at Princeton University, contains records for thousands of medieval works of art dating from the early apostolic times to A.D. 1400. Each record provides information on style, location, subjects, and bibliographic data. The Index also includes over 100,000 digitized images from collections such as Dumbarton Oaks, the Morgan Library, and the Courtauld Institute of Art. As part of a collaborative project with the Morgan Library, the Index is cataloguing the entire collection of western manuscripts and making the text and image records available.

If you wish to explore the database and see some of the extraordinary images, The Index of Christian Art is located under "Databases" on the University of Victoria Libraries Gateway page at: <http://gateway.uvic.ca>



Japan Foundation Library Donations

Tad Suzuki, Information Services Librarian (Humanities)

The McPherson Library has been fortunate to receive annual book donations from the Japan Foundation through its Library Support Program since the late 1980's. The 2005 Japan Foundation gift is especially large with 113 volumes of academic books, worth about \$4,500 Canadian dollars. In addition, the Libraries have recently received a Notice of Award for 2006, and look forward to receiving another generous donation of books later this year.

The 113 volumes are part of seven survey sets, representing Japanese social history, history of literature, and modern theatre (see details at right), and are all in Japanese. They help to build up much needed primary materials in the areas in which UVic's Japan Studies programs are most interested.

The books are donated in honour of the late H.I.H. Prince Takamado. The Prince Takamado Norihito, once called the "Canadian Prince," studied at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, devoted himself to international cultural exchange, working closely with such organizations as the Japanese Red Cross and the Canada-Japan Society. He also had a "day job," unusual for a royal prince, as an administrator for the Japan Foundation. He passed away suddenly in November 2002 from heart failure, after he collapsed while playing squash with the Canadian ambassador Robert Wright at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, just across the road from the Imperial Palace. Thus, it is most appropriate that the Japan Foundation Library Support Gifts to Canadian libraries are made in his honour this year.

The contents of the Japan Foundation gifts are as follows:

- Nihon Gendai Engekishi (History of Modern Theatre in Japan), 7 volumes
- Nihon no Rekishi (History of Japan), 26 volumes
- Nihon no Jidaishi (Periodic History of Japan), 30 volumes
- Iwanami Koza Nihon Bungakushi (Iwanami Compendium of the History of Japanese Literature), 10 volumes
- Nihon Bungaku Shinshi (Revised History of Japanese Literature), 6 volumes
- Nihon no Kindai (History of Modern Japan), 16 volumes
- Nihon Bungaku no Rekishi (History of Japanese Literature), 18 volumes

These survey volumes are most useful to upper year and graduate students for gaining access to in-depth knowledge and up-to-date research summaries.

South Island Women for Economic Survival (SIWES) Donation

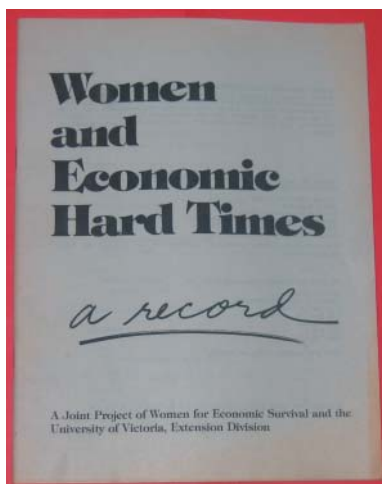
Lara Wilson, Acting University Archivist and Associate Archivist (Records, Access and Privacy)

The UVic Archives, located in the McPherson Library, is pleased to announce the donation of the records of the non-profit society South Island Women for Economic Survival (SIWES). SIWES' donation was accompanied by a gift of \$500 which will be used to purchase specialty supplies needed to preserve this archival material. UVic Archives commends SIWES for ensuring that the records documenting its activities on behalf of women in poverty are cared for and available to the public. The donation consists of textual material including minutes, official documents, correspondence, project files, newspaper clippings and publications. The society voluntarily dissolved in 2005.

SIWES began in 1984 as a research and study project, led by Brishkai Lund (presently of UVic's Women's Studies Department). The project was concerned with how economic conditions affected women and their children, and research was conducted amongst low-income women of South Vancouver Island, with the resulting publications: *Women and Economic Hard Times* and *Women, Poverty and Public Policy*. In 1986, persons associated with the project and other interested individuals committed to establishing an on-going group and a Steering Committee was established.

SIWES received registration as a non-profit society in September 1987.

SIWES went on to produce a number of other publications including: *For a Better Future*, *Free Legal Aid for Low Income Women* and *Single Mothers on Welfare: The Trap We're In*. SIWES direct services to women included counseling and support, referrals to local agen-



cies, a legal aid clinic, parents' group, and information sessions on income assistance.

UVic Archives regards this donation as an excellent addition to its *Victoria Women's Movement Archives*, which documents the important contributions local women have made to the improvement of women's social, economic and political condition in the Victoria area. The *Victoria Women's Movement Archives* consists of the archival fonds* of women activists and women's movement organizations, including the Status of Women Action Group-Victoria

The SIWES' Constitution stated the purposes of the society as:

- to provide educational programmes on issues related to poverty as it affects women and their families. These educational programmes will be structured to assist economically disadvantaged women and to raise community awareness regarding economic issues
- to undertake research on issues related to women and their economic survival
- to provide a centralized source of information on and referral to resources which meet the needs of women facing economic hardship

Chapter, one of SIWES ally organizations.

UVic Archives thanks Josie Schofield, Brishkai Lund, and the other members of SIWES for their donation.

A listing of UVic Archives holdings is available at the Archives in paper form, and online at the following webpage hosted by the Archives Association of BC (<http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/uviclist.html>) and through the national union list hosted by the Canadian Council of Archives and Library and Archives Canada (<http://www.archivescanada.ca>)

Other Donations

UVic Archives is also pleased to announce these recent donations:

Jack Wise fonds

Correspondence, photographs, posters, publications, clippings and miscellaneous items from the Estate of Jack Wise. Wise was a well-known west coast artist, known for his calligraphy, based upon Chinese brushwork, and for his mandalas (colourful, circular forms which embody Buddhist cosmology).

Archie Wills fonds

Correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, family and local history material, war diaries, and drawings from the Estate of Archibald H. Wills. Wills was a gunner in the Canadian Field Artillery in World War 1, editor at the *Victoria Times*, and City of Victoria alderman.

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

Talking to a Friend: Dr Joyce Clearihue

Ann Saddlemyer

Physician, philanthropist, environmentalist, local history buff, world traveller, mountaineer, backpacker, tour leader, jazz enthusiast, keen bridge player – Dr Joyce Clearihue is difficult to pin down. I caught her between the New Orleans Mardis Gras and a downhill skiing trip, my appointment further sandwiched between two lectures, a luncheon talk on sewage at the Union Club and an evening at the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group at the University of Victoria. Later that week she could be seen leading a group of hikers as she described the history of the Songhees Nations territory; and she is already booked to lead a tour of the graves of pioneer doctors at Ross Bay cemetery in the fall. For the Sunshine Hiking Group and the Outdoor Club Dr Clearihue regularly leads historical tours, including of the lands now occupied by UVic. Now proudly in her 80th year, Joyce Clearihue claims she is no longer a joiner, but attends “a lot of meetings” in addition to the talks she herself gives.

Many of the local hiking tours combine historical and family interests, for among the graves is her mother’s, a general practitioner and then anaesthetist in Victoria during the war, who was in the first class of women doctors in London. But of course the name Clearihue will always be associated with the University through the efforts of her father, Judge JB Clearihue, who as Chair of the Victoria College Council guided the College to university status and became its first Chancellor. Those with even earlier memories may recall her grandfather Joseph and his brother Alexander Clearihue who were commission merchants at 26 Yates Street, dealing in fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and consignments of furs and skins. Prints of his packtrain en route to Dawson

are now in the Canadian Archives, but Judge Clearihue’s papers, and many of his books were donated to UVic Archives. It is hoped that those records, which in addition to personal memorabilia contain much on the evolution of the University of Victoria, will be digitized this summer if at all possible.

Family history, the environment and the wilderness remain Joyce Clearihue’s greatest interests; the risk of a few broken bones will never stop her! With the Alpine Club she has climbed mountains in Nepal, and among her 37 Elderhostel trips a journey down the Amazon and a safari to Namibia and Zambia stand out in memory. This is a woman who likes going where not many people go, and although she claims she “now knows how to say ‘No’”, enthusiasm for adventure tends to lead to “quite a few talks” about her travels.

It was that excitement for adventure that eventually led her to exploring not just our own territory, but its past. She lectured to the BC Historical Society on her grandfather’s gold rush days, and became hooked on local history, especially the fur trade and the Hudson’s Bay Company. When asked to give the prestigious Listerian Oration to the Victoria Medical Society, she decided to combine her medical knowledge with an acknowledgement of the visit to Victoria of the renowned Dr Joseph Lister, known as the Father of Antiseptic Surgery. The result was a lecture on Fort Victoria and the Hudson’s Bay Company doctors; so successful was it that she was asked to write for the BC Historical Society. The resulting article won the award for the best article of the year.

Perhaps however, that curiosity began much earlier, when at fourteen she started collecting First Na-



Dr Joyce Clearihue

tion artifacts; a superb basket collection was once on display at the Maltwood, and her apartment is crammed with beautiful objects of all kinds. Not surprisingly, this interest was aroused in North Saanich, where her father built one of the first houses in the Pat Bay area when she was just two years old. He did not bother adding plumbing and electricity till much later, but unlike their only daughter, her parents were not interested in the outdoors. She still however spends the summer months in North Saanich, her “favourite place in the world”.

This divided life carried over into her professional career. After attending St. Margaret’s School in Victoria she spent a year at Victoria College. But in those early days at Craigdarroch there wasn’t much opportunity to study science, so she switched to UBC, receiving an Honours BA in Bacteriology and Zoology. After a year working as a bacteriologist she went to McGill for her medical degree, and interned at the Vancouver General Hospital. But Dr Clearihue always knows what she wants and goes after it. She decided that a med-



Invitation to a Summer Garden Event



Don't miss this garden event -- a Special Summer Occasion! Hear renowned garden historian and designer Cyril Hume talk about bringing "New Life to Old Gardens" and then receive a rare opportunity to visit two of the private gardens he helped to revive. Mr. Hume is well-known for his passionate commitment to ensuring the survival of old gardens, Point Ellice House and the Abkhazi Gardens being two examples.

On Wednesday, August 9, Mr Hume's lecture, *Bringing New Life to Three Old Gardens*, will tell the story of his work through looking at three older Victoria area gardens over time. He will discuss the challenges each restoration presented, and the resources of trees, rock, mature plantings and older homes in each setting.

On the following Saturday afternoon, two of these private gardens will be open to Friends and guests. You are invited to tour the beautiful gardens at the Oak Bay home of Professor Lloyd Howard, and the nearby garden of Lord and Lady Chatfield.

The Chatfield garden has largely been redesigned and replanted since 1990, as much of the original garden from 1926 had been overwhelmed in ivy and brambles. The *new* garden respects the style of the house and lay of the land while also seeking to respond to the directive, "create a mature-looking and relaxed garden . . . quickly".

Professor Howard's garden, originally laid out in 1927, welcomed an infusion of sympathetic new life when he acquired the property sixty years later. The garden in its present shape, molded to a rocky slope, demonstrates Cyril Hume's commitment to keeping an old garden in a style appropriate to it. Mr Hume will be present to chat with visitors and answer questions.

Tea and cakes will be served there—a perfect way to spend a summer afternoon!

Lecture: August 9 at 7:30 pm in the David Lam Auditorium, University of Victoria

Garden Tour: August 12 from 2:30 to 4:30 pm in Oak Bay

Lecture and gardens: \$20 | Lecture only: \$10 | Gardens only (including tea and cakes): \$15

Tickets will be available in July and a reminder with further details will be sent to you then.

Talking to a Friend continued from previous page

ical specialty rather than a surgical one was right for her, that she didn't want to get up at night, and was interested in solving problems. So, coolly sitting down with the journals, she decided to specialize as a dermatologist, a field which would be sufficiently people-oriented and challenging. Post-graduate training followed at the Montreal General Hospital, the University of Pennsylvania, the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and the University of Illinois. It was a decision she never regretted.

An only child and lover of the outdoors, she naturally returned to the west coast, setting up private practice in Victoria in 1959, where she remained happily engrossed in her work until she retired in 1986. Professional duties have included terms as President of the Pacific Northwest Dermatological Association, Chair of the BC division in Dermatology of the Canadian Medical Association, Board of Directors and Vice-President of the Pacific Dermatologic Association, and President of the Vancouver Island McGill Alumni.

Claiming she has always done everything she wanted to do in life, she wouldn't do anything differently, though with neither siblings nor cousins she does regret having no family. UVic has benefitted: when she realized that her parents had decreed in their wills that money should go to the University if Joyce died before them, she became interested in giving while still alive, claiming "it's a lot more fun". In addition to her continuing support of the UVic Archives, she donated funds to the Faculty of Music to purchase and restore an antique organ from Quebec. An avid jazz lover (she has two umbrellas and can be seen occasionally at Herman's Jazz Club), she helped establish the Faculty's jazz programme. The University of Victoria Foundation, the Victoria Foundation (of which she is an Honorary Governor), the Royal BC Museum (a Board Member), the "Y" (Past President and Board member) and numerous historical associations and outdoor clubs have also benefitted from her generosity. Numerous awards are interspersed

with artifacts on her walls, including a Union Club leadership award, life membership of the Craigdarroch Castle Society, and the "Fir Cone Award" from the Mountain Clubs of BC.

There are many memories of her father's involvement with UVic. She remembers sitting beside Sir Edmund Hillary at dinner when he received his honorary doctorate (I sat on his other side). She treasures her mother's support as a founding member of the University Women's Club. And one day, when lecturing on dermatology at the University, she spoke of the privilege of standing in the Clearihue Building – and promptly burst into tears.

Joyce Clearihue's feet never touch the ground. And there is always that ongoing challenge of trying to become better. I left her apartment with the gift of a Mardi Gras necklace as she prepared to attend yet one more lecture. That evening she was headed for UVic, a territory she knows better than most and has been equally generous to – a true friend of learning indeed.

Samuel MacLure Architectural Plans Now Available on the Web

Chris Petter, Special Collections Librarian

The Libraries' Special Collections house the architectural plans of one of British Columbia's most notable architects, Samuel MacLure (1860-1929). Born in Sapperton, BC, near New Westminster, MacLure attended school in New Westminster and Victoria, developing an early interest in art. In 1884, he spent a year studying art at the Spring Garden Institute in Philadelphia, taking classes in architecture and mechanical drawing as well as art. In the late 1880s, MacLure set up his own architectural practice, first in partnership with Charles H. Clow and later with Richard P. Sharp. MacLure and Clow built the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster in 1889. With Sharp, MacLure designed houses for the Hill family of New Westminster.

In 1892, MacLure and his family moved to Victoria. One of his first commissions in Victoria was the Temple Building. During this time, he maintained a second practice in the lower mainland and built "Gabriola" for BT Rogers in Vancouver in 1901. Samuel MacLure and Francis Rattenbury were appointed architects for the new Government House in 1901, completed in 1903. MacLure also received commissions from many prominent Victoria and BC businessmen and politicians. In addition, he kept up his interest in drawing and painting, producing many impressive drawings and water-colours of local West Coast landscapes. He and his friend Emily Carr both belonged to the Vancouver Island Arts and Crafts Society, one-quarter of whose members were MacLure clients. "Miraloma" in Sidney, the summer residence of Lieutenant-Governor William Nichol, was MacLure's final large commission and a culmination of his originality. Three years later, in 1929, he passed away after a short illness.

MacLure's plans, many of them for baronial mansions in Victoria and Vancouver, are rich in every kind of design detail. The influence of Frank Lloyd Wright has been noted in his Arts and Crafts design and line. MacLure also had a unique affinity for native materials and was well known for his use of site-quarried masonry in his designs. A major feature of many of the houses is a spacious staircase, fireplace, and balconied second floor. Major rooms opened onto a spatial core through wide-sliding doors; and at ground level the hall often opened directly out into the gardens, which often were designed to incorporate and reflect his house designs. Houses and gardens were sited to take maximum advantage of the view. In Victoria he undertook between 200 and 300 commissions. It is estimated that close to 100 of these buildings remain, though some have been renovated beyond their original design. In New Westminster and Vancouver, MacLure himself or his firms (Sharp and MacLure, and Clow and MacLure in New Westminster; MacLure and Fox, and MacLure and Lort in Vancouver) designed more than 150 buildings.



One of Samuel MacLure's architectural drawings scanned for the online collection—a Shaunessy mansion held in McPherson Library's Special Collections

MacLure's houses and buildings contribute a unique heritage value to the Province. Higher density urban development has meant in many cases that a MacLure design has been lost to remodeling or that the original building has been completely destroyed. Access to the plans can give owners with a personal interest in restoration the means to return a building to its original design. It is hoped that by making the MacLure plans available online, current owners, architectural historians and anyone interested in our heritage will benefit. The UVic collection consists of 2,138 plans, 10 water-colours, and 10 photos. Microfiche of the plans have been scanned and are now available online. The majority of the Special Collections plans date from 1910 to 1929, although a few of the earlier plans have been collected from their original owners. The archive was originally acquired by the History in Art Department from the architectural practice of Lort & Lort in 1968 and transferred to the University Archives in 1980 and then to Special Collections in 1996. The digitization was done with partial funding from Young Canada Works together with funding from general donations to the Libraries, but also with the volunteer help of Kerry Moog, who is now studying Library Science at the University of Western Ontario. It is only a first step in providing images of the plans to browse and search. If further funding becomes available, an improved search and browse interface will be developed allowing searching by style or type of detail.

A Special Collections MacLure homepage <http://gateway.uvic.ca/spcoll/MacL_Search.html> has links to a biography, the finding aid of the collection and the digital images.