

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

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Bringing New Life to Old Gardens

Joan Coldwell

Perfect summer weather, two beautiful Oak Bay gardens and the expertise of renowned horticulturalist Cyril Hume combined to make this year's special Friends' event special indeed.

A large crowd had gathered mid-week to hear Cyril describe the philosophy he followed in restoring and reconstructing many old gardens, including the Abkhazi Gardens and those at Point Ellice House. With the help of slides he described the process of bringing new life to gardens without losing the vision of their original makers.

The following Saturday, Friends and guests were privileged to tour two of the private gardens so inspiringly documented for us. The half acre lot of Lord and Lady Chatfield presented a daunting challenge when they took it over in 1989. There was so much ivy running rampant that many of the garden's original features, including a pond, were completely invisible. Other challenges developed over the years as sightlines were disturbed by neighbouring building development; relatively new plantings were moved and a pergola, 110' long and covered in colourful rambling vines, had to be re-designed.

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Guests enjoy the reception in Professor Lloyd Howard's beautiful garden during the Friends' summer event on August 12, 2006.

Message from the University Librarian

Marnie Swanson

The Friends of UVic Libraries is undergoing a renewal and restructuring of its committees. The group began in 2002 and has undergone a steady growth over the past four years.

At the end of this summer, we thanked our founding Executive members for their dedication to building this new community group: Terry Sherwood, Chair (2002-2005) and Past Chair (2005-2006); Joan Coldwell, Chair, Programme and Events Committee (2002-2005); Harold Coward, Executive Committee Member (2002-2005); Bill Neilson, Executive Committee Member (2002-2005); and Ann Saddlemyer, Executive Committee Member (2002-2005). I would also like to thank all the members of the Programme and Events Committee for all their hard work organizing the lectures and special events to date: Lloyd Howard, Elizabeth Levinson, Judith Terry and John Tucker.

Continuing on the Membership Committee are Gayle Garlock and Deirdre Roberts (Deirdre is currently on leave, but will return). There will be a restructuring of the Programme and Events Committee and the Membership Committee, which will merge these two groups into one committee. We are in the process of recruiting additional members to help with promoting membership and providing benefits to Friends members.

And continuing on the Newsletter Committee are Victor Neufeldt and Ann Saddlemyer. We are grateful for their expertise in providing such an interesting publication through which to share news about the Libraries' past, present and future.

I sincerely thank you all.

The Humanities Book Club

Sponsored by the Faculty of Humanities, this new initiative invites readers to come together once per month at the UVic Bookstore for lively and convivial discussion. The theme for this inaugural year is the province of BC; selections include fiction and nonfiction whose content focuses on our province. Attendees at the Book Club's first meeting on September 27 were surprised by a visit during the last hour from Terence Young, author of our first selection, *After Goodlakes*, a novel set in Victoria.

Moderated by Dr. Ed Pechter, Professor Emeritus of English at Concordia University and Adjunct Professor of English at UVic, the Book Club meets from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm; during the break after the first hour, refreshments are served. The program for the 2006-2007 academic year includes:

Nov 1st, 2006 *My Turquoise Years* by M.A.C. Farrant

Dec 6th, 2006 *All That Matters* by Wayson Choy

Feb 7th, 2007 *Golden Spruce* by John Vaillant

Mar 7th, 2007 *There is a Season* by Patrick Lane

Apr 4th, 2007 *Passage to Juneau* by Jonathan Raban

The Club members present in January will select the works to be read for the May and June meetings.

Friends of UVic Libraries are cordially invited to join us in this exciting new venture. Please register at <http://bookstore.uvic.ca/bookclub.htm> as numbers will be limited in order to facilitate discussion. If you do not have online access, please contact Jane Buzza, Libraries Development/External Relations Officer, at 721-8192. We look forward to meeting you.

Brining New Life to Old Gardens, continued from page 1

A unique feature of this garden is the knot garden, constructed of clipped box shrubs, with the owner's initials intertwined in its centre. A reminder of old English settings, the box garden reflects the owners' delight in incorporating memories of loved plants, trees and flowers into their present surroundings.

Afternoon tea provided a refreshing break in Professor Lloyd Howard's garden. A member of the Friends' Programme and Events Committee, Professor Howard bought his present home in 1987. Built in 1927, the house had been much altered since that time, even converted into an up-down duplex. We learned how the house, in its return to a single-family dwelling, gradually grew to harmonize with its setting. A paved walkway and terrace replaced the intrusive circular driveway; stone retaining walls echoed the natural rock of the treed slope. The wonderful mature trees of many varieties were possibly originally planted by William Westerby, the gardener who helped Jenny Butchart create her famous gardens. Now more than 80 years old, some of the trees had to be carefully "edited" to restore balance with the plant growth around them.

At the top of the rocky slope is a newly built wooden bench, a memorial to Professor Howard's father. Designed by Cyril Hume to seat eight or nine people in a kind of semi-circle, it offers a peaceful viewpoint for admiring the different textures of the trees and shrubs below and the play of light on pond water.

A display of garden books from the McPherson Library gave a hint of the wealth of such material available there, a continuing source of inspiration to gardeners, as Cyril Hume had noted in his talk.

The afternoon was especially enriched by the presence of the owners of both gardens, as well as Cyril Hume, all of whom were endlessly patient and gracious in answering questions. The love of the gardens they created together was infectious and we thank them for sharing this with us.



**Top Left: Guests admire the Chatfield garden
Middle Left: Lloyd Howard, Host and Wendie McHenry, Assistant University Librarian, both members the Programme and Events Committee
Middle Right: Lynne Woodruff, Fine Arts Librarian who created the event's book display, and Lord Chatfield, Host
Lower Left: Cyril Hume, Renowned Horticulturalist and Marnie Swanson, University Librarian**

Statistics Canada Research Data Centre

Wendie McHenry, Assistant
University Librarian

The Libraries now offer local access to a Statistics Canada Research Data Centre. Opened in April 2006, this centre is affiliated with the BC Regional Data Centre situated at UBC.

UVic is providing the space for this facility which will support research for faculty and graduate students. These centres are often located within university libraries and this UVic facility is located in the north-west corner of the Microforms area. The library location at UVic was selected given the role of the library with respect to Statistics Canada public access datasets on campus.

The Research Data Centre was built to maintain the highest levels of security and is staffed by Statistics Canada employees as it remains a Federal government facility. Such local centres offer researchers access to the same datasets presently available only in centres on the mainland or in other provinces. Researchers at UVic are very excited about having this data available to them in a convenient location.

Make Friends!

Encourage your friends to become a Friend of UVic Libraries. They will enjoy invitations to special events, can apply for a Community Borrower's card and receive the newsletter by mail!

Membership forms are available online at:

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

Thai Scholars Visit McPherson Library

Tad Suzuki, Information Services Librarian

On July 19th, 2006, UVic Libraries were honoured to host a visit by a group of scholars from Thailand. The group was from the King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI) in Bangkok, which is an independent public organization under the supervision of the Thai Parliament. The Institute undertakes academic work in the form of research, training, and dissemination of information about democracy and governance.

The group was welcomed by Marnie Swanson, University Librarian, and then taken on a tour of some of the service areas of the McPherson Library, including the University Archives, Access Services (Loan Desk and Reserve Reading), Interlibrary Loans and Infoline Distance Education Services.



Chris Smith (left), Supervisor at the McPherson Library Loan Desk, demonstrates the magnetic book desensitizing system as part of a tour to visiting scholars from Thailand. The group toured areas of McPherson Library with Tad Suzuki, Information Services Librarian (right)

Chinese Benevolent Society Project

Victor A. Neufeldt

The projected digitization of 55 documents (mainly letters) from the Chinese Benevolent Society as part of the Multicultural Canada Project described in our Autumn 2005 Newsletter is proceeding. The documents, dating from 1884-1922, will appear in both the original Chinese text and in English and French translations.

The Victoria Society is the oldest consolidated Chinese Benevolent Society in North America.

In Memoriam

Peter L. Smith

UVic Libraries lost a strong friend and supporter with the passing of Peter L. Smith, March 31, 1933 - August 29, 2006. The University of Victoria's 'unofficial historian', admired teacher, administrator, colleague and community ambassador died suddenly following a stroke.

Peter taught in the Classics/Greek and Roman Studies Department for over 30 years and served as Dean of Fine Arts. Many will also recall his stellar performances in the Phoenix Theatre productions, some of them his own translations.

Following his retirement he continued his involvement with the University through the Alumni Association and leading numerous study tours to the Middle East. Peter demonstrated his skill as historian with his excellent piece in the Spring 2005 Newsletter on the early years of the McPherson Library.

Truly irreplaceable as friend and helper, Peter leaves his wife Mary Jean, three children and two grandchildren, to whom we send our deepest condolences.

Susan Englebort

We lost Susan Englebort just as we were getting to know her. The newest member of the Friends of UVic Libraries Executive Committee, and Co-Chair of its Membership Committee, Susan passed away October 19, 2006 at her home in Victoria.

For over 30 years, Susan had worked with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Vancouver as Area Executive Producer of Performance Programming and Regional Director of Radio for British Columbia. Susan moved to Victoria in July 2005 where she joined the Victoria Foundation and the Friends of UVic Libraries as a committee member.

Family and friends gathered at Susan's home to celebrate her life and to share with each other the joy of having had the privilege of knowing such a creative and inspirational person.



Portrait of Peter Smith from the early 1970s (Archives reference #120-0205)

United Way Book Sale Report

The University of Victoria Libraries' United Way Book Sale, advertised for October 17 and 18, then held over until October 20 due to the large volume of donations received, raised over \$5,000 toward this year's UVic campaign goal of \$220,000. A number of Friends were active on the United Way Campus Committee including Elizabeth Grove-White, Chair of the Friends Executive Committee, Marnie Swanson, University Librarian, and Victor Neufeldt, Co-editor of your newsletter.

A special thanks is due to Jean Ives, the artist who graciously allowed the book sale to take place amid her exhibit entitled *Island Idlings*, October 13 to November 13 in the McPherson Gallery.

The McPherson Library will be unable to host a book sale next year as the main floor will be under renovations again to merge the existing building to the new Mearns Centre for Learning. Whether another department will volunteer to host the event next year has not yet been determined.

The United Way Book Sale has been a popular event for the past eleven or more years. What could be better for book lovers on campus and throughout the community than exchanging reading and having the profits go to charity?

Talking to a Friend: Cyril Fox

Ann Saddlemyer

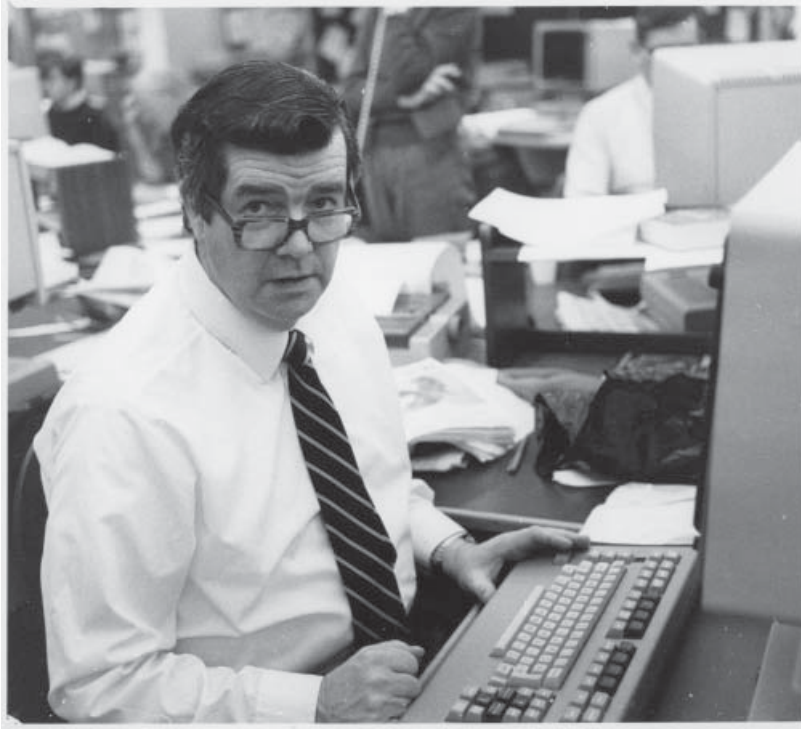
For years Cy Fox had a recurring dream: he walks into Blackwell's Bookshop in Oxford, and notices, high on a shelf on the back wall, a copy of *The Doom of Youth*, a book by Wyndham Lewis that had been suppressed for fear of libel action. But just as he reaches the coveted trophy, the book bursts into flames. Some twenty years after this first apparition, Cyril J. Fox reached his prize, and it didn't burn. Now, thanks to his generosity, copies of both the English and American editions of this rare book can be found in his magnificent assemblage of materials relating to the writer and painter Percy Wyndham Lewis recently presented to UVic. The impressive collection of Lewis' own works, enriched by audio and visual materials associated with him and a large circle of friends, colleagues, antagonists and other contemporary dissidents, enhances an already important area in UVic's Special Collections.

There are other connections with Canada. Lewis spent his early years in the United States (his father was an American who fought on the Union side during the American civil war) and Britain (his mother had been an art student), then managed to be expelled from both Rugby and the Slade School of Art. He spent a number of

years studying art in Europe before returning to England. But, having been born on a yacht off Nova Scotia in 1882, Lewis claimed Canadian citizenship and in 1917 was officially seconded as a war artist to the Canadian Corps Headquarters, where he produced *A Canadian Gun Pit* (now in the National Gallery in Ottawa) and *A Battery Shelled* (in the Imperial War Museum, London). In 1939 he returned to Canada, once again became an official war artist, and for three years eked out a living painting portraits and occasionally lecturing at Assumption College in Windsor and elsewhere. It was not a happy time, as recorded in the autobiographical *Self Condemned*, and as soon as the war was over he fled back to England. After a tumour completely blinded him he continued to write until his death in 1957.

Since 1955 when a fellow student introduced him to Lewis and other writers of the period, Mr Fox has been seeking out material related to this artist, novelist and cultural critic once described by T.S. Eliot as "the most fascinating personality of our time". Always intellectually independent, Lewis gathered about him such well known authors as the poets Richard Aldington, Robinson Jeffers, Eliot, and Ezra Pound; the

philosopher T.E. Hulme; the artists Edward Wadsworth and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska. He quarrelled over art and literary matters with Robert Graves, Herbert Read and Edmund Wilson; corresponded with W.B. Yeats; satirised the Bloomsbury group in his novels; decorated the famous London nightclub "The Cave of the Golden Calf" founded by wife of the playwright August Strindberg; and then established his own "Rebel Art Centre". Ezra Pound once described him as "the only English writer who can be compared to Dostoevsky"; his essays on art and culture sparked controversy; and his experiments in art initiated the "Vorticist movement" in painting. Interested in everything, he was a pioneer in the study of pop culture: his writing inspired Marshall McLuhan's famous phrase, "the global village". Among his best known works are the novels *Tarr* (1918) and *The Apes of God* (1930), the essay collection *Time and Western Man* (1927), and the autobiography *Blasting and Bombardiering* (1937). One of the most original artists of the first half of the twentieth century, his paintings include portraits of Eliot, Pound, Edith Sitwell, and Virginia Woolf. Lewis remained throughout his life the supreme, if active, outsider, a focal point



Early days at Reuters

for other subversive thinkers and artists. All of these authors and movements are chronicled in the library's holdings; now, thanks to C.J. Fox, the interlocking web of social, literary and artistic history has another rich layer.

Talking with Cy Fox brings vividly to life not only the career of his chosen subject, but the characteristics of a dedicated bibliophile who has, he admits, "all the cross-references, inter-relationships and other background information" in his head. So how did a young man from St Johns, Newfoundland become one of the most knowledgeable and certainly the most enthusiastic member of the small select band of Lewisites, founder of the *Wyndham Lewis Newsletter*, and founding member

with Ezra Pound's son Omar of the Wyndham Lewis Memorial Trust? His family was interested in politics rather than literature – his grandfather had been Prime Minister of Newfoundland, an uncle the leader against union with Canada. But a school friend who read widely introduced him to contemporary literature and culture, all the "offbeat characters out of political fashion" such as Peguy, Baudelaire, Mauriac, Ortega, Robinson Jeffers, and suppressed books by Wyndham Lewis. Cy read everything he recommended and as an undergraduate at St Francis Xavier University, met an equally influential adviser who lent books from his own library. He next moved to Merton College Oxford as a Rhodes

Scholar, supposedly studying law, but admits he was "over my head there." However his Newfoundland friend, still on the track of revolutionary thinkers, was also at Oxford and presented him with a copy of Lewis' novel *Self-Condemned*. Without completing his studies, Cy headed off for Europe with about a dozen of Lewis's books from Blackwell's (the "tank books" that led to the big books of the 1930s). While hitch-hiking he carried with him Lewis' autobiographical *Rude Assignment* ("full of terrific stuff").

Life became a series of coincidences. Chance encounters with publishers and writers while on the road led to European contacts, who arranged a meeting with the American poet Robert Creeley in Majorca, who offered him hospitality for a week and then gave him Irving Layton's address in Montreal. Invited to join a party at Layton's, he met Omar Pound – and so the circle broadened. In 1957 after a brief period at home (where his overzealous family burned some of his books) he went to New York to study history at Columbia University. Although he did complete an M.A., Cy realized while unhappily teaching at Queen's College that the academic world was not for him.

And again happenstance directed his career. Introduced to an advertising executive in

a Madison Avenue bar, he was advised to contact a former Jesuit who was a genius at placing individuals; this led to a job with the Associated Press wire services in New Jersey and the beginning of his career as a journalist. Some time later an opening appeared in the New York office of Canadian Press, where he remained happily within reach of bookshops until he moved to Montreal in 1963. By 1967 he had manoeuvred a transfer to London where most of his colleagues were novelists or midnight poets. For the next seven years there and for short stints in Paris, Brussels, and Belfast he took advantage of the many opportunities to meet “fellow conspirators” of the Wyndham Lewis circle. When the Canadian Press decided to send him back home, he moved instead across the street to Reuters until his retirement in 1986.

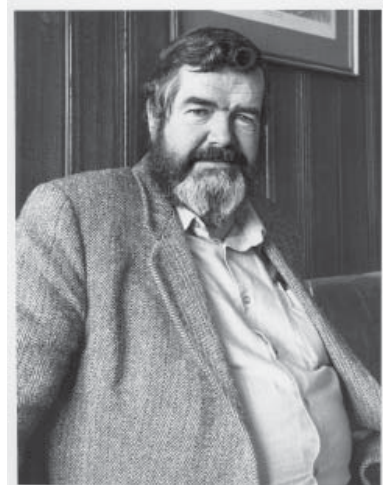
The pursuit of Wyndham Lewis in Blackwells in Oxford, Foyles in London, and the Gotham Book Market of NY, gained Cyril Fox not only more books but many friends. Although he was too shy to meet Lewis himself, he became good friends with the artist’s widow (who presented him with one of her husband’s drawings and a signed copy of a limited edition of *The Roaring Queen*). Indefatigable, he wrote to almost everybody who had known Lewis or written about him. Thus he came to know the historian and crime novelist Julian Symons,

poet and translator C.H. Sissons, and the art historian Walter Michell, a physicist with Bell telephone whom he first met in New York and with whom he co-edited a collection of Lewis’ art criticism. He travelled to Australia and collected works by the MacInnes brothers who had known Lewis, started *The Wyndham Lewis Newsletter* which was “great fun – a gossip column and all about books”. Tales of his adventures abound – such as the discovery of six copies of Lewis’ suppressed travel book on Morocco “tied up in rope in a back room” of a bookseller suspicious of an admirer of that “disreputable character”. He admits that he is writing his memoirs – not for publication but to “serve as a cover for the collection, my only legacy.”

Why does he admire Lewis? In part because of his “conspiratorial character”, a man who stood for his own opinions against the world, but even more so for “the commanding forceful jagged spoken prose, the sense of listening to a voice speaking from the page”. For this enthusiastic newshound, Lewis has provided “a sort of shortcut to world knowledge”, “a zig-zag progress through life and education – not of books read but of names heard, usually through WL and all the art talk”. And so the Wyndham Lewis collection abounds with those other talkers – more than 150 items on Richard Aldington alone – Edmund Wilson, Ford Madox Ford, H.L. Mencken, David Jones,

dissenting historians, writers on the two world wars, memoirists of the period. The collection boasts almost a hundred items by Lewis, and close to a thousand about him, his world, and his influence. Cy Fox sees the opportunity at UVic to keep a satisfying collection together “a godsend”. But the search has not yet ended. Still looking out for Lewis memorabilia, he jauntily departs with a chuckle, a new friend to UVic Libraries – indeed, a godsend himself. We look forward to his next visit to the collection he has now generously shared with us.

Note: The Wyndham Lewis Collection is in the process of being prepared for future cataloguing. When the collection is ready for public viewing, Friends of UVic Libraries members will be among the first to know.



The scholarly Cy Fox

Building Update

Wendie McHenry, Assistant University Librarian

A bright blue tower crane has become a part of the library landscape. Construction of the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning began in August with site preparation, excavation and exploratory demolition work. Over the past three months 48 seismic anchors were drilled to a depth of 75 feet. The remaining seismic work will be completed by the end of December 2006 and the plan is to have the roof on by January 2007.

Staff on the east side of the building have had a bird's eye view of the building site. In spite of the noise and dust during the summer excavation, it has been very exciting to watch the development of the project with concrete columns going up and foundations being poured. The project is on schedule with completion slated for December 2007. For more information and photos please visit the Mearns Centre building webpage at: <http://gateway.uvic.ca/intra/projects/building/mearns/default.html>



Top left: dump trucks are loaded during site excavation. Top right: cement and steel girders form the beginning of the foundation. Bottom: the view of the construction site from the roof of the McPherson Building. (Photos by Kate Daley, University Librarian's Office; Wendie McHenry, University Librarian's Office; and Don Lovell, Facilities Management, respectively.)

Notable Achievements

Victor A. Neufeldt

Executive Committee member and Membership Co-chair Deirdre Roberts exhibited a collection of watercolours entitled *Venetian Vignettes* at the Winchester Galleries (Broad Street) September 9-30, 2006. The watercolours were based on recent visits to Venice and Prague. Deirdre currently resides in China and we look forward to her next exhibition.

Meanwhile, another busy member of the Friends, Joan Coldwell, has launched the third book from her press, this time a volume of poetry by Christine Smart called *Decked and Dancing*. Christine Smart has a Fine Arts degree from UVic.

Details of Joan's press can be found on her website, www.hedgerowpress.com.

Ann Saddlemyer, one of your Co-editors, has recently published *Conversations With Our Past: Stories of North Saanich*, an illustrated script compiled from memoirs and other unpublished material as a fundraiser for the North Saanich Heritage Advisory Commission. The volume is available at the Municipal Hall in North Saanich.

Notable Acquisition

Victor A. Neufeldt

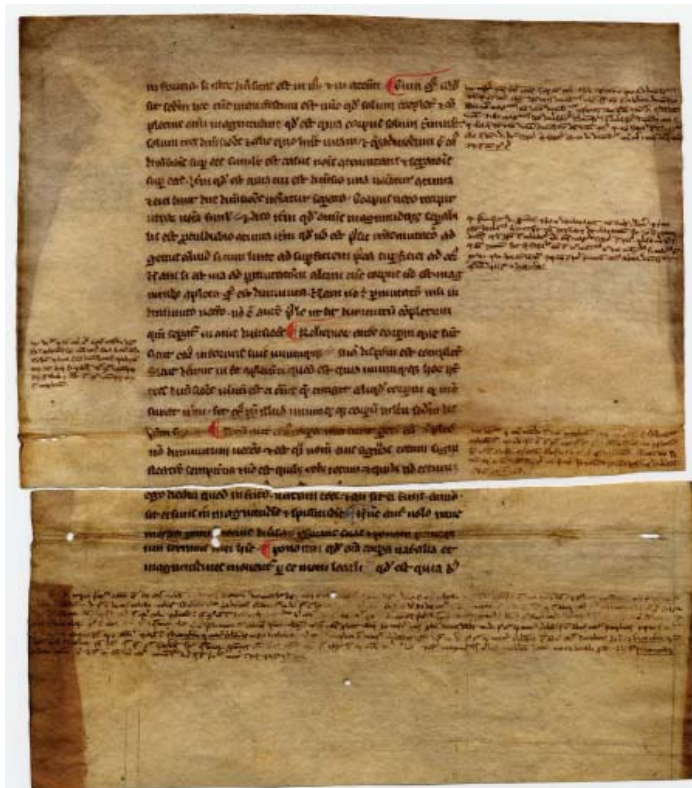
The Priestley Law Library has acquired a 72-volume Talmud, the only publicly available collection of its kind in Victoria. It is an Art Scroll Talmud, in Hebrew and Aramaic with English facing translation and an accompanying study guide. Neil Campbell, Associate University Librarian, Law, noted that the acquisition fits well with his vision of a library collection that incorporates legal sources from a variety of cultures and traditions.

Medieval Manuscript Fragments Acquired by McPherson Library

Danielle Russell, Rare Books Librarian and Dr. Erik Kwakkel, Medieval Studies

McPherson Library recently acquired seven "new" medieval book fragments for Special Collections. Fragments of manuscripts are the most concealed representatives of medieval book culture. Recycled by early-modern bookbinders, who cut up old-fashioned handwritten books and used their leaves to support the inside of the bookbinding, fragments have been out of sight for centuries: the hidden treasure is revealed only when a bookbinding is removed or repaired.

Identified and catalogued over the summer of 2006 by Dr. Erik Kwakkel of Medieval Studies, the acquired fragments have turned out to be much more valuable than anticipated. The jewel among them is a leaf from a 13th-century university textbook containing works by Aristotle, which is the first medieval presence of The Philosopher in Canada. Other fragments acquired are *Roman Law* (origin unknown, 1200-50), *Commentary on the Psalms* (France? 1250-1300), *Corpus Iuris Civilis*, glossed (France, 1250-1300), and *Encyclopedic Text on Plants* (France, 1250-1300). Dr. Kwakkel introduced the fragments along with other examples of early books bound with fragments at a recent Medieval Studies lecture held at the Library.



An Aristotle 13th Century manuscript fragment recently acquired by Special Collections

Welcoming Pia Russell, Information Literacy Librarian

Lisa Hill, Libraries Assessment and Statistics Coordinator

“Knowledge of one’s information concerns and needs, and the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, organize and effectively create, use and communicate information to address issues or problems at hand; it is a prerequisite for participating effectively in the Information Society, and is part of the basic right of life long learning.”

So reads the Prague Declaration issued at the 2003 International Information Literacy Meeting of Experts’ definition of “Information Literacy”, but what does it really mean?

If our newest Librarian at UVic has her way, everyone will become more aware of this leading edge trend in academic libraries that is sure to become more significant over the next few years and onwards into the next decade.

Pia Russell wasn’t planning to move on from her position at University of Toronto Libraries quite yet – she was still finishing her Masters degree in Education (her second, following a Masters of Information Studies in 2004). However, one day an interesting job posting popped into her “In” box. UVic Libraries was looking to find a new Information Literacy Librarian and the rest, they say, is history.

After studying and working in the sprawling Library world of the University of Toronto, Pia is happy to be presently ensconced in our somewhat smaller but dynamic McPherson Library. She feels that “the Library is her classroom,” where she hopes to gain a solid understanding of the needs of stakeholders and provide leadership in developing Information Literacy and instruction programs, with the goal of planning collectively with faculty and subject Librarians for future initiatives towards this important aspect of learning.

So how did this self-proclaimed “information junkie” find her way to us?

It seems that it all started when Pia was a young child, spending countless hours at the local public library. She always felt that libraries were interesting places and this fascination naturally progressed to a student assistant position at the UBC University Librarian’s Office while she was there pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She felt that the library was an inspiring, yet familiar environment where she could focus on helping people and earn a living.

Fast-forward to present day and think about how the dissemination of scholarly information has changed so much in the past decade with the advent of electronic resources and the Internet.

It seems that Pia has challenging and exciting work ahead here at UVic Libraries to ensure that our Library users become more effective and critical consumers of information. We are fortunate and pleased to have this young and inspired Librarian in our midst to meet this challenge.



Pia Russell, Information Literacy Librarian

Carole Sabiston Tapestries

Kate Daley, University Librarian's Office Secretary

This Spring the Curriculum Lab of the UVic Libraries was the fortunate recipient of renowned artist Carole Sabiston's Crystal Gardens Art Banners. These vibrantly coloured banners were installed in a ceremony on March 14th, at which Carole Sabiston was in attendance. The 12 double-sided banners were originally commissioned for the Crystal Gardens in downtown Victoria in 2000 and generously donated to UVic's Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery in 2005 when the Crystal Gardens closed. The plain and patterned fabric banners were inspired by the exotic flora and fauna within the Gardens; their designs include depictions of flamingoes, monkeys, iguanas, birds and fish.

Carole Sabiston, a long time Victoria resident, has received international recognition as a fibre artist for her innovative technique and expression of colour, pattern and texture. She began her art career as a painter but found that she could not achieve the light, movement and texture that she desired with paint, so she moved into working with layers of fabric, netting and thread to create a unique and dramatic style. Her works are known for their explorations of space, movement, distance, perspective, water, sky, horizons and nature, through the layering and assemblage of diverse materials, shapes and structures. The 'assemblage medium' she uses is based on construction and deconstruction and is closely related to collage in other art forms.

Sabiston has exhibited around the world and has been commissioned by various institutions to create installations. Some of these include the street banners for the City of Victoria, the Phoenix Theatre curtain at UVic, the 'Sunburst' backdrop at the Opening Ceremonies for Expo '86 and the 'Cape of Many Hands' for the Closing Ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games in 1994. She has taught at UVic and UBC, is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy and was the recipient of the 1987 Saidye Bronfman Award for Canada for Excellence in Art. The Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery hold several other works of Sabiston's; many of these are on permanent display around campus.

