Editorial

During 1995, we lost two eminent academic colleagues of ours. Maxwell John Dunbar and John Peters Humphrey sadly passed away. Both were faithful friends of McGill Libraries. both contributed greatly to the contents of Fontanus publications and both were strong supporters of the entire Fontanus project.

John Humphrey’s papers and correspondence gave materials for three articles in Fontanus, volumes II, IV and VI, and one Fontanus Monograph IV (1994): On the Edge of Greatness vol. I. Two more volumes in preparation will complete this major contribution to the study of human rights.

In 1991, Max Dunbar published an account of his first scientific expedition in Fontanus volume IV under the title "Greenland Adventure 1935: Diary of a very young man, age 20," illustrated by his own photographs from that year. Earlier this year, 1995, he authored Essays from a Life: Scotland, Canada, Greenland, Denmark, which came out as Fontanus Monograph V (1995). I was able to give him a copy of this book just hours before he passed away on February 14th.

Generous contributions to Fontanus publications were made by friends, colleagues and relatives in memory of these two remarkable men to whom this volume VIII of Fontanus is dedicated.

It is heartening to me as editor to experience that in the eighth year of publication of Fontanus, articles and manuscripts continue to be offered by librarians, professors and other academics. The publications are beginning to be reviewed in scholarly journals, as they become better known in Canada and abroad. We are grateful that McGill-Queen’s University Press has now assumed responsibility for all marketing and sales in Canada, the United States and overseas. This should ensure a wider circulation than before.

This volume contains eight articles and some notes on a variety of topics related to the very rich McGill collections in libraries, archives and museums. It is interesting to note that the articles, directly or indirectly, and in addition to various historical topics, also touch on current and much debated issues such as equality of women, human rights, and individual rights vs. collective rights.

Hans Möller
Editor