

Chronicle

McGill collections continue to be enriched thanks to new acquisitions and generous grants from foundations such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in Ottawa and donations from individual donors, many of whom are McGill alumni or faculty members.

The following list gives a brief description in random order of selected items acquired by McGill during the last few years:

A major collection of Lincolniana came to McGill as a gift from Dr. Joseph Nathanson, a 1919 graduate of the Medical Faculty. The collection consists of books by and about Abraham Lincoln, letters, pictures, and artifacts. The "Nathanson Collection of Lincolniana" is housed in a separate room of the McLennan Library. Since the material is not catalogued it is not yet open to scholars or the public.

Dr. Lawrence Lande, a long time benefactor of McGill Libraries, donated three 1759 manuscripts of the French Regime in Canada: a letter written and signed by Marquis de Montcalm shortly before the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and two marriage contracts, whose signatories show the practice, recently revived in Quebec, of wives placing their family name before their married name. The documents are kept and displayed in the Lande Collection of Canadiana, housed on the fourth floor of McLennan Library, a rare collection of Canadian history material donated to McGill University over a long period of time.

Two major acquisitions were made for the Map Collection of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections:

Dimitri Petri's large wall map of the Russian Empire, dated 1785, was donated by Professor Philip D. Longworth of McGill's Department of History. This splendid map is unique in Canada. One copy is held by the British Library.

The collection of French mapping of New France was supplemented by Nicolas Sanson's very rare and beautiful map of 1650 *Amerique Septentrionale*. It depicts the eastern Great Lakes with reasonable accuracy for the first time.

The State Education Commission of the People's Republic of China donated 1000 books to McGill including dictionaries and art books on fine and applied art. The books are beautifully printed and demonstrate the high quality of current Chinese book production. The Senior Commissioner of the State Education Commission of China, Mr. Huang Xinbai, presented the books personally during a visit to McGill.

From the National Library of Canada we received about 1000 travel books, essentially Victorian accounts of British and American origin. These books were previously held in the Library of Parliament in Ottawa.

Approximately 500 Japanese books, mostly in English and covering a variety of subjects, were donated by the Japanese peace movement, SOKKA GAKKAI.

A Japan Foundation grant allowed McLennan Library to acquire books to support the study of Japanese culture with an emphasis on literary criticism, social science and history.

A fine collection of family papers and books was donated by Bartlett Morgan, son of Cleveland Morgan, a long time library benefactor. The books relate mostly to horticulture and landscape design.

Ten original Thomas Bewick wood-blocks used to illustrate his early works, *British Birds* and *General History of Quadrupeds*, were purchased thanks to a donation from Montreal businessman David Lank combined with a SSHRC grant.

Professor Storrs McCall of the Department of Philosophy donated several hundred books from his family's library. Professor McCall's parents were both eminent members of the medical profession.

Dink Carroll, famous Canadian sports journalist, donated some 300 volumes, including several rare items, on physical education and sports.

A valuable collection of 67 works by C.P. Snow, most of which are first editions, was donated by Brian Coleman of Ottawa.

Regina Slatkin of New York donated a splendid four volume 1755 illustrated edition of Jean de la Fontaine's *Fables choisies, mises en vers*. The illustrations are by renowned artist Jean-Baptiste Ondry (1686-1755).

From William P. Wolfe of Montreal we received an important collection of thirteen contemporary documents concerning the Earl of Selkirk's conflict with the North West Company over his attempt to colonize the Red River area (1816-18).

The Libraries purchased the papers of Dr. Abraham Aaron Roback (1890-1965), a McGill graduate and well known American psychologist and Yiddish scholar.

Professor Leo Yaffe, Department of Chemistry and former Vice-Principal, donated a substantial collection of books, journals and reports related to the study of radiation chemistry.

An endowment donated by Dr. Donald Mossman of California allowed the Libraries to further develop the Mossman Collection on the History of Science and of Ideas.

Mme. Mary Maxwell Rabbani of Haifa, daughter of distinguished Canadian architect W.S. Maxwell, donated her father's collection of architecture and art books. This collection, consisting of over 300 monographs and special periodical issues, complements McGill's existing holdings from the library of Edward Maxwell, brother of W. S. Maxwell. Along with the 20,000 original drawings and photographs of the Maxwells' architectural projects, these two donations make the Blackader-Lauterman Library the most complete repository of works assembled to document the *oeuvre* of a team of prominent Canadian architects.

The Libraries purchased the 900th anniversary facsimile edition of the Domesday Book (1086) which contains details of the census ordered by

William the Conqueror. This was arguably the greatest and most detailed census ever undertaken in England. It even includes a count of livestock.

Another major purchase was British Documents on Foreign Affairs, Reports and Papers from the Foreign Office Confidential Print, 420 volumes covering the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

With the assistance of grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Ottawa, the Marvin Duchow Music Library was able to acquire major microfilm collections of manuscripts of Renaissance music in British collections and, in addition, early printed editions of Renaissance motets held in European and American collections. With this significant acquisition the Music Library becomes the first in North America to have an archive which houses complete inventories of both printed and manuscript sources to Renaissance music.

Senator Carl Goldenberg (C.O.C., O.B.E., Q.C.) former member of the McGill Board of Governors and eminent Canadian mediator of labour disputes, donated his personal memoirs to the libraries. Senator Goldenberg has recently allowed these documents to be accessible for study.

The McCord Museum of Canadian History acquired a fine Swampy Cree costume of circa 1890, from Northern Ontario. This well-preserved costume was donated by Mrs. Betty Firstbrook of Montreal.

A portrait of the Third Baron de Longueil was repatriated to Canada through a grant to the McCord Museum from the Canadian Cultural Property Review Board. The portrait was probably executed in Quebec City, 1753.

Every year the McCord Museum receives several hundred Aislin cartoons from private donors, including the artist himself, Terry Mosher.

The Notman Photographic Archives were enriched by the acquisition of a painted composite photograph of the Caribou Encampment. This photograph by William Notman was donated by Dr. William Baker of Montreal.

The McCord Museum also acquired a complete bedroom suite in neo-renaissance style. The furniture, which is in excellent condition, is unique because it is signed by Owen McGarvey, a leading Montreal cabinet maker in the 1850-70's. It was obtained by the museum as a gift from Mrs. Audrey Smith of the Eastern Townships, Quebec.

The family archives of de Rocheblave-Bouthellier-Routh was acquired by the McCord Museum Archives as a donation from the Routh Family. The members of this old French-Canadian family were active from the early days of New France until the end of the 19th Century in military, business and administrative positions.

Another major addition to the McCord Museum Archives was the correspondence of the renowned Quebec painter, Clarence Gagnon. The letters, donated by the Gagnon family, complements the collection of Gagnon papers already held by the museum.

Through a bequest, McCord Museum received a collection of books and notes from the estate of Marjorie Wilkins Campbell, author of books on the history of the fur trade.

The Libraries and University Archives have in recent years endeavoured to disseminate information on the collections in the form of catalogues and inventories. Following are some of the publications which, apart from the first, were made possible in part by grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Ottawa.

Catalogue of the Lawrence Lande William Blake Collection (1983)

Catalogue of the Rodolphe Joubert Collection on French Canada in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections (1984)

Catalogue of the Gregor Malantschuk Sören Kierkegaard Collection in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections (1984)

Guide to Archival Resources at McGill University, 3 vols., Montreal, 1985

Catalogues of the Canadian Architecture Collection, McGill University:
Percy Erskine Nobbs (1986)
Edward & W. S. Maxwell (1986)
Ramsay Traquair and his Successors, 2 vols. (1987).

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Editor