

Preface

With the issue of this fifth volume of *Fontanus: from the collections of McGill University* it becomes quite evident that the journal fills a void as it was indeed intended to do when created in 1988. The goal then and now is to have a vehicle for the publication of articles that describe and interpret the large and very rich collections at this university. Although these collections are in constant use, many parts of them are yet relatively unknown, and the potential for wider use and the discovery of new and interesting items is enormous. This volume of *Fontanus* features a number of such new and unique pieces, which have long been in McGill's possession but which have only recently been discovered and properly described. The very existence of the journal invites research and study. Volume five also illustrates the fact that contributions come not only from the libraries but also from its museums and archives. The contributors include scholars from inside McGill as well as from several other Canadian universities.

The lead article describes a newly discovered manuscript containing a description of Verrazzano's voyage to the East Coast of North America in 1524, while the second article discusses some fascinating diaries in the McGill University Archives. The earliest Canadian Music Program (1786), until now totally unknown, is described in a brief article throwing light on musical life in Montreal at the end of the 18th century and during Mozart's lifetime. An unusual Samaritan manuscript containing the Five Books of Moses is the subject of yet another article, while a computerized version of Søren Kierkegaard's works is described and analyzed in the final article.

A special feature of this 1992 *Fontanus* volume is an article on Sidney Dawes and the collection of sixty-four Canadian paintings he donated to McGill in the 1960s. An album of colour reproductions of all the paintings forms the centre-piece of volume five. This article and album is one of the University's contributions to the Montreal 350th anniversary celebrations.

I find it encouraging to see how *Fontanus* has established itself as a scholarly journal during these five years and how it seems to attract more and more articles from different scholarly disciplines and from different scholars at McGill and other universities. The ever increasing number of contributions bodes well for the future of this unique library journal.

Dr. Hans Möller
Editor