



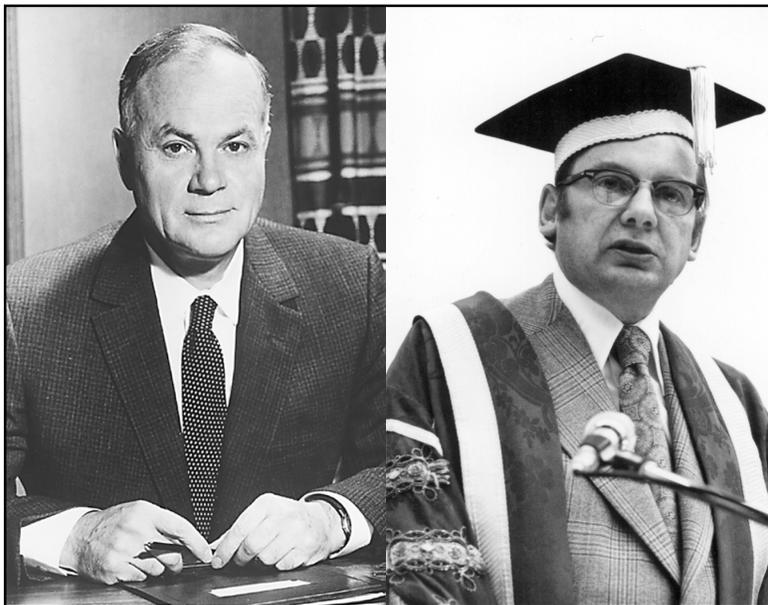
Papers of McMaster Presidents Thode & Bourns

In 2002 McMaster University Library received a wonderful gift of sixty volumes with fore-edge paintings from Robert A. Stevens, a graduate of McMaster from the early 1950s who later assumed senior corporate positions with Beatty Brothers and GSW Limited.

In the several meetings that we had with Mr. Stevens, he expressed an interest in the possibility of making a financial gift to the Library for a particular project. When we informed him that we had a backlog of unique papers from two university presidents (Henry G. Thode and Arthur N. Bourns) that had not been arranged and described, his eyes lit up with great interest. "Professor Bourns taught me a course in chemistry," Mr. Stevens stated, "I may not have been his best student, but he made a lasting impression on me." On that note Mr. Stevens generously donated funds to have these archives arranged and described.

Archives and Research Collections houses many outstanding collections of scholarly value both in archives and rare books. We strive not only to maintain these collections for current and future generations of researchers but we also try our utmost to make them accessible to users. Responsibility for the university's records remains complicated. Archives of the Faculty

of Health Sciences are located in the Health Sciences Library, archives of the university prior to 1957 are at the Canadian Baptist Archives, and post-1957 university records are often deposited in Archives and Research Collections.



Henry G. Thode

Arthur N. Bourns

The gift from Mr. Stevens provides the Library with an opportunity to make the records of these two influential university presidents available to researchers. These records also contain documents from the presidency of George P. Gilmour (1950–61). Extending to 20 metres, the presidential records consist of correspondence with faculties, various departments and organizational units, students, faculty members, members of the board of governors, as well as external correspondence with government and heads of universities. There are minutes and reports of ad hoc and

standing committees, annual reports of the presidents and departments, speeches, and convocation material. Issues such as the political demonstrations of the 1960s and the controversy over the building of the Medical Centre are also reflected in the papers.

Charles M. Johnston's *McMaster University* (1976, 2 vols.) is an engaging, well-researched history of the university up to 1957. Obviously a history of McMaster for the more recent past cannot be written without an in-depth examination of presidential archives and other relevant records. Thanks to Mr. Stevens, some of that history can now be explored. It is his expressed hope that others will consider making a similar gift that will allow us to arrange and describe other university papers.

C. Spadoni

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e-Resources: Brought to You by Your Library

According to some recent studies, many students at the college and university level are using search engines such as Google™ as their primary resource for academic research. Unfortunately, much of the information available on the Internet is unreliable and probably not scholarly. Academic literature is generally available through commercial publishers by subscription. McMaster's libraries bear this cost and make the literature available to their community of scholars.

In spring 2000, we had over 1,000 electronic journals in our collection. Since that time electronic full-text journals have become the standard format for scholarly publishing and the Library now provides access to over 16,000 electronic resources, including almost 10,000 electronic journals. Our collection continues to increase rapidly with the addition of a new electronic resource or suite of journals almost weekly.

In 2003–04, approximately \$3 million were spent to provide access to electronic resources. We are able to maximize our purchasing ability through participation in cost-sharing consortial agreements, which permit us to acquire access to many more resources than we could acquire independently.

What do we have? Our collection of e-resources, like our collections of books, encompasses the whole spectrum of academic disciplines. Some recent additions are:

- online version of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*
- *JSTOR Ecology and Botany*, and *JSTOR General Science*
- *New York Times Online* (historical coverage from 1851–2001)
- *Oxford English Dictionary Online*
- *SAGE Communication Studies Full-Text Collection*
- full journal suites from Blackwell

Publishing, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and the American Psychological Association.

How can you find out what we have? To find electronic resources “owned” by the Library, you can search MORRIS¹, the Library’s catalogue, or our e-Resources page². Announcements about new electronic acquisitions appear on the Library’s website³ and are sent to subscribers to the Library’s listserv⁴. Library users are also able to look at resources that are being considered for purchase, comment on their usefulness and suggest other titles for consideration⁵.

Overwhelmed and confused? Ask for help at the Reference Desk in any library. Another great way to find out what’s available is to attend information literacy sessions taught by librarians at the beginning of each term. Participants learn how to do research using the best resources available in the library and elsewhere. Last year 434 of these classes were given to 10,832 participants. These classes are invaluable, and we strongly encourage faculty to book sessions for their students in their classroom or in the library (go to: <<http://library.mcmaster.ca/instruction>>). You can also attend sessions offered in the Library during term, or use the online tutorials at the site given above.

Naturally we are concerned when we hear about students who are having difficulty finding the materials they need, and are responding by trying to find new and better ways of communicating information about all our collections to McMaster’s community of researchers. The message is simple—the ultimate search engine is @ your library®!

¹ <<http://morris.mcmaster.ca/>>

² <<http://library.mcmaster.ca/search/>>

³ <<http://library.mcmaster.ca/>>

⁴ subscribe at: <<http://mailman.mcmaster.ca/mailman/listinfo/libnews-list>>

⁵ <<http://library.mcmaster.ca/cat-coll/coll/trials/>>

A. Plessl & C. A. Stewart



Comes to McMaster!

RACER, the new Interlibrary Loans system adopted by university libraries throughout Ontario, was introduced at McMaster in March. RACER seamlessly allows users to find locations and order books and articles from libraries across Canada and beyond. Interlibrary Loans staff at Mills Library and the Health Sciences Library began ordering materials for patrons with the new system on March 10. Since May 4, all registered patrons (currently enrolled students, staff and faculty) can search and order materials using RACER themselves. The RACER system replaces our old web and print forms with a better and more efficient system. Training is available to anyone wishing to learn the new system.

RACER is better because:

- users only need to register once—no more typing personal information over and over again!
- patrons can search various library catalogues and fill a request form with a simple click on “request”—no more typos or incorrect information causing potential delays
- patrons receive automatic email notification when material has been received by the library—quicker service is always better!

McMaster joins the RACER project, which has more than ten other university library systems already in full production. RACER is also part of the larger ScholarsPortal project <<http://www.scholarsportal.info>>, which provides access to various electronic services such as e-journals, collections and databases in addition to Interlibrary Loan functions.

If you have any questions about RACER, please contact Donna Millard, Interlending and Document Supply Librarian at 905-525-9140 ext. 22904 or <millard@mcmaster.ca>. ■

D. Millard

WWI Trench Maps Index Online

“...and with maps I make him familiar with the topography of Golgotha.”

This single line from a letter written by the soldier/poet Wilfred Owen during the Great War has particular relevance for those who work in the McMaster University Library. McMaster has over 400 maps used by the likes of Owen during World War I, and the staff at the Lloyd Reeds Map Collection have launched a new web site that provides a visual index to this collection at: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/maps/ww1/home.htm>.

Researchers can simply point and click on a map of France and Belgium to generate a list of our holdings. If a map in the list looks promising, the researcher can click on it to get a more comprehensive description, which may include anything from the name of the Field Survey Battalion which created the map to a transcription of hand written instructions for a creeping barrage pencilled in its margins.

Most of the maps in the collection were produced by the British Ordnance Survey for the Allied forces, although a few German and French examples are present. They range in scale from very detailed operations maps used for trench raids to very broad overview maps used to show the entire front. Students of cartography or remote sensing will be interested to know that our modern method of mapping actually had its genesis during World War I. With the obstacle of miles of impenetrable lines of trenches impeding traditional survey methods, aerial photography was employed for the first time to gather photo mosaics which could be combined with other compiled material to produce highly detailed and accurate maps.

These maps are portals to the past through which researchers of all kinds can travel. Every machine gun nest, communication trench, aerodrome and supply cart track can be seen, except when obscured by the spatter of vintage 1918 mud. In

future, we hope to be able to link high resolution, zoomable images of the maps directly to their records on the web site.

Ever wonder what landscape met the eyes of Brigade Surgeon John McCrae on that fateful day in 1915 while he stood on the banks of the Yser Canal? Have a look at map sheet 28, call number G5720 S40 MC67E and see for yourself. ■



G. Beck

University Library Wireless Project

The University Library in partnership with CIS has commenced a project to provide wireless access in selected public areas and study spaces of Mills, Thode and Innis libraries. Each partner is contributing \$35,000 to the project. The provision of wireless access will allow students who have laptops with wireless cards to access university and Internet

electronic resources while in areas of the libraries which are within range of the wireless access points. The pilot installation is already operational in Research Collections in Mills Library; work has also been completed in Thode Library, where study spaces in the basement and on the second and third floors have wireless access, and in Innis Library, where all study areas have wireless access. Priority areas have been identified in Mills and wireless access points will be installed there over the summer. The work in

the libraries is part of a general initiative by CIS to provide a wireless “canopy” for all student areas on campus and thus allow students to have location-independent access to electronic resources in support of study and research. Students will need a laptop/notebook computer, a WIFI or WPA compliant wireless card, and a Virtual Private Network client which is downloadable from CIS at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/cis/network/wireless/>. ■

P. Otto

Recent Notable Gifts

The Library has received the following gifts from:

- S Virginia Aksan, *Encyclopedia of Modern Asia* (6v.).
- S The Alexander Gallery (Gord Russell), the archives of Gisela Commanda, an English woman who came to Canada and adopted Indian culture as her way of life.
- S George H. Baldwin, books on signal processing.
- S Rabbi Bernard Baskin and Mrs. Marjorie Baskin, *The Workes of Benjamin Jonson*. 2 vols. London: 1616–1640.
- S Alwyn Berland, the archives of his wife Jayne Berland, writer and poet.
- S W. Watson Buchanan, books and journals on Scotland.
- S Lilian Chan, books on accounting.
- S Eileen Crookes, a photo album of Aubry J. Crookes, containing photographs of appliances produced by General Steel Wares in the 1950s.
- S Manfred Dietrich, a collection of books by or about Matthew Arnold and his circle, and 6 autograph letters signed by Arnold and his father, Thomas Arnold.
- S Lorenzo DiTommaso, books on Judaism.
- S Colin Dovey, *Works of Robert Louis Stevenson* (17v.), *Critical and Historical Essays Contributed to the Edinburgh Review* (3v.), and the collected novels and poetical works of Sir Walter Scott (24v.).
- S C. H. (Marty) Gervais, poet, playwright, historian, editor, journalist, photographer and publisher, his archives consisting of 5.68m of textual records and graphic material.
- S Rita Griffin-Short, many books on a variety of topics.
- S Don Measner and Josephine Meeker, atlases, rare maps and hymnals and related books.
- S John Hanly Morgan, the fourth accrual of the Canadian Peace Congress fonds.
- S Farley Mowat, the thirteenth

accrual of his archives extending to 1.5m of textual records and graphic material.

- S Morris Norman, a collection of 47 posters, mainly Canadian in origin, concerning the two world wars and other political events, and a 1909 map, Bell Telephone Systems.
 - S Charles Roland, books on various topics.
 - S Susan Shaw, the archives of her late husband Denis M. Shaw, Professor Emeritus, School of Geography and Geology.
 - S L.W. Shemilt, Professor Emeritus and former Dean of Engineering, his archives extending to 2.56m of textual records and graphic material.
 - S John C. Weaver, books on Canadian and Australian history.
- We are grateful to all donors for their generosity to the Library. ■

Publications

The following recent publications made use of our collections:

- Carter, Kathryn. *The Small Details of Life: Twenty Diaries by Women in Canada, 1830–1996*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000 (contains Marian Engel's diary, Prince Edward Island, 1976, edited by Afra Kavanagh).
- Clift, Robert Frederick. "The Fullest Development of Human Potential: The Canadian Union of Students, 1962–1969." M.A. thesis, University of British Columbia, 2003.
- Donati, Stefano. *I fondamenti della matematica nel logicismo di Bertrand Russell*. Firenze: Atheneum, 2003.
- Engel, Marian. *Sunbeams from a Golden Machine: Early Poems and Stories*. Afra Kavanagh and Tammy MacNeil, eds. Edmonton: Juvenilia Press, 2002.
- Griffin, Nicholas, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Bertrand Russell*. Cambridge, UK, and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Jens, Inge and Walter. *Frau Thomas Mann: das Leben der Katharina Pringsheim*. Hamburg: Rowohlt, 2002.

Morton, Richard. *Examining Changes in the Eighteenth-Century French Translations of Homer's Iliad by Anne Dacier and Houdar de la Motte*. Lewiston: E. Mellen Press, 2003.

Ortega Gutiérrez, David. *Educación, libertad y tolerancia; Vida y pensamiento de Bertrand Russell*. Madrid: Editorial Biblioteca Nueva, 2003.

Stantor, Judith Phillips, ed. *The Collected Letters of Charlotte Smith*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003.

Stephanson, Raymond. *The Yard of Wit: Male Creativity and Sexuality, 1650–1750*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004. ■

Calendar

Exhibit in Archives and Research Collections, Mills Library:

June–August: A Celebration of Publishing.

Event:

September 26, 2004: Reception for Library donors. ■

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