

## The Book of Hours



*“Without conservation, the history in these books could be lost; we need to preserve them for future generations.”*

### Breathing new life into a medieval gem

Five centuries ago, the Book of Hours that is now held by the William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections, was a cherished possession, an integral part of daily life in the Middle Ages.

As the years passed however, this once treasured book succumbed to a slow decay, its spine disintegrating, the fine artwork that adorned its pages flaking away little by little, another piece of history nearly lost forever.

It took more than eight months, but thanks to modern restoration techniques and skilful artistry, this medieval gem now looks as it did when its original owner first held it 545 years ago.

“A book of hours is a piece of art,” says Audrie Schell, Preservation Technician in the Division of Archives and Research Collections who restored this unique text. “Books of hours were commissioned works, so this is a one-of-a-kind item, an historical artefact that belonged to a specific person over 500 years ago. It’s very special.”

Books of hours, commonly used throughout the Middle Ages, were devotional texts containing cycles of psalms, prayers, hymns, readings and images of medieval Christianity that served as a

daily guide to help the faithful lead pious lives and find salvation.

Over the centuries, McMaster’s Book of Hours had become badly damaged. Its pages, made of animal skin, or ‘vellum,’ had been exposed to moisture, forming waves and wrinkles, which caused the pigment to crack and the artwork to begin to flake away.

Schell began the painstaking restoration process by using a specialized humidity chamber and suction table that enabled her to gently stretch and flatten each vellum page individually. Then, using a fine brush, she applied a consolidant to re-adhere the flaking pigments, and hand-bound the pages, placing them in a leather cover.

The result is a stunning, one-of-a-kind work of art that now looks as vibrant as it did in the 15 century.

“We all need to have roots, whether we’re conscious of it or not, and we need to know our history,” says Schell. “Without conservation, the history in these books could be lost; we need to preserve them for future generations.”

To view the Book of Hours, please contact [archives@mcmaster.ca](mailto:archives@mcmaster.ca) to make an appointment.

View a digital copy of the Book of Hours at [bit.ly/bookhours](http://bit.ly/bookhours)



## Paying homage to a Canadian literary great

A handwritten letter penned by Alice Munro and housed in McMaster's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections has provided the backdrop for a stamp recently issued by Canada Post honouring the Nobel Prize-winning author.

Munro is best known for her collections of short stories including the classics "Lives of Girls and Women" and "The Moons of Jupiter."

The letter is part of a collection of correspondence contained in the McMaster archives written by Munro to Douglas Gibson, her publisher and editor at Macmillan Canada. Canada Post contacted McMaster about incorporating the letter into the stamp design after discovering the letters on McMaster University Library's website.

McMaster is home to the archives of a number of Canadian publishers including Macmillan Canada, McClelland & Stewart, Key Porter Books, and Clarke Irwin.



## Message from the University Librarian

Sometimes the simplest ideas are the most transformative. Such is the case with McMaster University Library's new focus on community engagement.

Libraries are inherently service-based organizations so the concept of supporting community should hardly be revolutionary. But the rendering here in the Library is fresh and the rewards are already becoming evident.

President Deane first called the campus' attention to community engagement in his *Forward with Integrity* letter back in September 2011. The letter encouraged the University to refresh its commitment to the public good—not as an add-on, but fully integrated into everything we do.

So it's not surprising that, when the University Library set its priorities for the 2015-2020 period, a new focus on community engagement emerged as a clear direction. What might be surprising to some is the exuberance with which we've approached the task.

During the last several months, we've been reaching out beyond the campus in a more determined way to the broader Hamilton community—to local writers, publishers, bookstores and cultural organizations.

From the start, one very obvious partner has been the Hamilton Public Library. Research libraries and public libraries are more similar than they are different. Although our collection strengths vary considerably, we share the same commitment to knowledge and access. With that in mind, we've hosted a series of meetings, embarked on some



interesting research opportunities and signed agreements to allow staff from both organizations to spend time in the other.

We are very excited about the digital storytelling project Love Your City: Share Your Stories currently underway with the Hamilton Public Library and the City of Hamilton's Tourism and Culture Division. The project will gather and disseminate some of Hamilton's most compelling stories. Those of you living close to campus are encouraged to visit the lobby of Mills Memorial Library where several iBeacon transmitters have been set up to present the first set of Hamilton stories.

As you see in this edition of the *McMaster Library NEWS*, there are lots of other initiatives underway. We are thrilled to showcase some of our greatest treasures and to introduce you to some wonderful scholars and collections. I look forward to keeping in touch about these and other library projects.

*Vivian Lewis*

**Vivian Lewis**  
University Librarian



# What “Sinful Sally” can teach us about vice in the 18th century

Visiting Fellow Jessica Steinberg used 18th century literary texts housed in the McMaster Library to explore attitudes towards sin and vice in London 300 years ago.

What can “Sinful Sally” teach us about moral attitudes in the 18th century? That’s what Jessica Steinberg came to the Library to find out.

Steinberg, who recently completed her PhD at the University of Ottawa, was this year’s recipient of the McMaster-ASECS Fellowship, a program that supports 18th century studies.

Steinberg pored over a diverse array of period texts in McMaster’s William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections, looking for insights into how immorality and sin were defined and controlled in 18th century London.

“The question of morals and vice is among the most central questions of the 18th century,” said Steinberg. “Religion is a really important part of life in this period, it’s how people think about themselves, it’s how they look at themselves in relation to the world—what is acceptable conduct and what isn’t acceptable conduct. There’s a lot of moral policing around sexuality, especially women’s sexuality, and there are huge concerns that this is going to bring down the nation.”

Steinberg examined this question by looking at a number of period texts from the Division’s renowned 18th century literature collection to see how religious language associated with the seven deadly sins and the Ten Commandments was used to frame ideas around what she calls, “moral failure.”

The texts include religious writings and sermons, magazines and popular works by period authors like Daniel Defoe as well as Hannah More who wrote the colourfully titled, “The gamester: to which is added, The story of sinful Sally, told by herself,” a tale that, according to Steinberg, reveals much about moral attitudes of the period.

“Although sin specifically refers to a violation of God’s laws, it was also seen to have an immediate impact on the sinner’s soul and on the rest of society,” said Steinberg. “In the story of Sinful Sally, we see how an initial transgression leads to a life of sin, crime and ultimately Sally’s demise. Once someone committed a transgression, even a seemingly minor offense, like gaming or over drinking, social critics and moralists believed they would inevitably commit more transgressions until they were ultimately caught and punished.”

“  
*In the story of Sinful Sally, we see how an initial transgression leads to a life of sin, crime and ultimately Sally’s demise.*  
”

Steinberg, whose research at McMaster will help inform revisions to her dissertation and ultimately a journal article, says these texts have helped provide her with additional insights into the nature of Christianity, religious discourse and social order in 18th century England.

Wade Wyckoff, Associate University Librarian, Collections, says he’s pleased that through the McMaster-ASECS Fellowship, the collection is helping support scholarly research like Steinberg’s.

“The collection contains an extensive array of texts and materials that shed light on many aspects of life in the 18th century,” says Wyckoff. “It’s very gratifying that as last year’s McMaster-ASECS Fellow, Jessica was able to make use of these resources to further her work in advancing scholarly understanding of the some of the central social and religious issues of the period.”



Jessica Steinberg, the most recent recipient of the McMaster-ASECS Fellowship.



# 'I promised him I'd come back and I have to keep my promise'

A recently donated archive of letters, photos and maps belonging to McMaster alumnus, Major Stuart Ivison provides a 'very special insight' into WWII.

"I promised him I'd come back and I have to keep my promise."

This was the vow of a young Canadian soldier who returned to the battlefield to search for his missing friend who had been wounded days earlier during the Allied advance through Italy in October 1944.

Accompanying the soldier was Major Stuart Ivison who recounted the story in one of the many letters he sent home from the front:

*"We reached the muddy banks, still heavily mined, and had no way of getting over. The youngster pleaded to be able to be allowed to swim over and make a thorough search... so I let him go and watched as he swam across the rushing, dirty stream, and slogged around on the mud flats on the other side.*

*At last he found his friend, dead from his wound... When he came back, I wrapped my raincoat around him and took him back to his Company. Tomorrow, I take a party down to recover the body and there will be engineers with us to sweep a path through the minefields.*

*I don't suppose this is particularly good reading, but I thought the boy's devotion was worth putting down. At any rate, it certainly impressed me."*

Ivison was a witness to many such tragedies of war, though he never fired a shot in battle.

From 1941 to 1945, Ivison, a Baptist minister and McMaster alumnus, served as a chaplain in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and documented his experiences in detail through letters, maps, photos and other materials, creating a unique archive which Stuart's son, Don, has now donated to McMaster University Library's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections.

"My mother kept all his letters in a shoe box for many years," says Don Ivison. "After she died, we set them aside and only recently opened the box to look at them. They are numerous and they provide a special kind of insight about WWII."

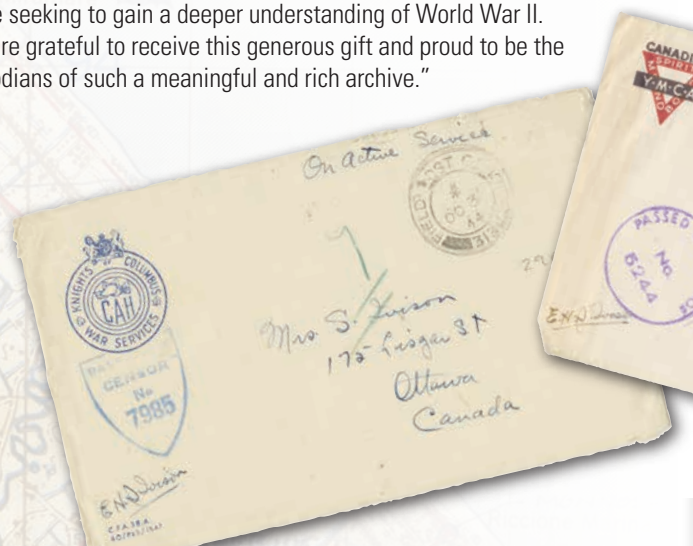
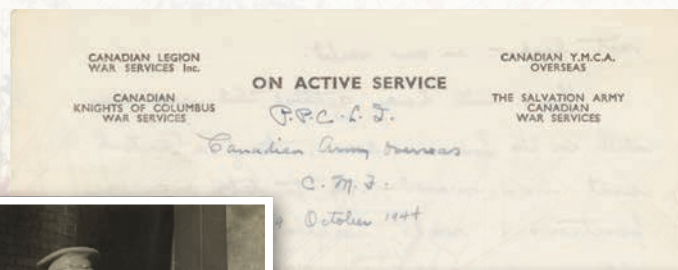
As a child, Don Ivison recalls waiting for the mailman daily with his brothers David and Duncan for letters from overseas which chronicled his father's experiences and the experiences of his fellow servicemen as they fought their way through Europe.

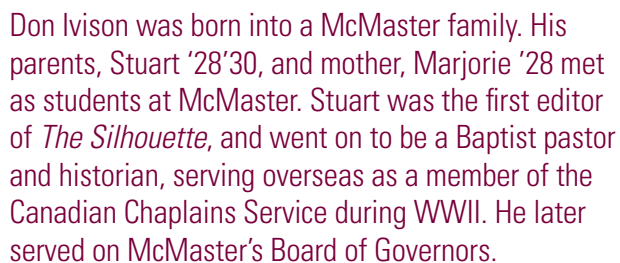
"He became a great admirer of the common soldiers and their sacrificial devotion to the war effort," says Don Ivison. "He, of course, was a non-combatant. But he saw the daily exposure of the troops to the difficult and often brutal events around them. He never failed to express his admiration and respect for them."

The archive contains a number of materials including letters written by Ivison's wife, Marjorie, that painted a picture of family life on the home front, and a series of pocket maps illustrating his regiment's journey through Italy, France, Holland and finally Germany.

The archive also reveals Ivison's deeply personal connection to the men in his regiment. As a chaplain, he saw that they were cared for both in life and death. He comforted the wounded and was entrusted with letters, money and other precious items by soldiers preparing for the worst. It also fell to him to identify the dead, see that they were properly buried, and ensure that their graves were registered.

"This collection is remarkably complete and provides a window on the war from a unique perspective," says Vivian Lewis, McMaster University Librarian. "This collection will be a valuable resource for those seeking to gain a deeper understanding of World War II. We are grateful to receive this generous gift and proud to be the custodians of such a meaningful and rich archive."





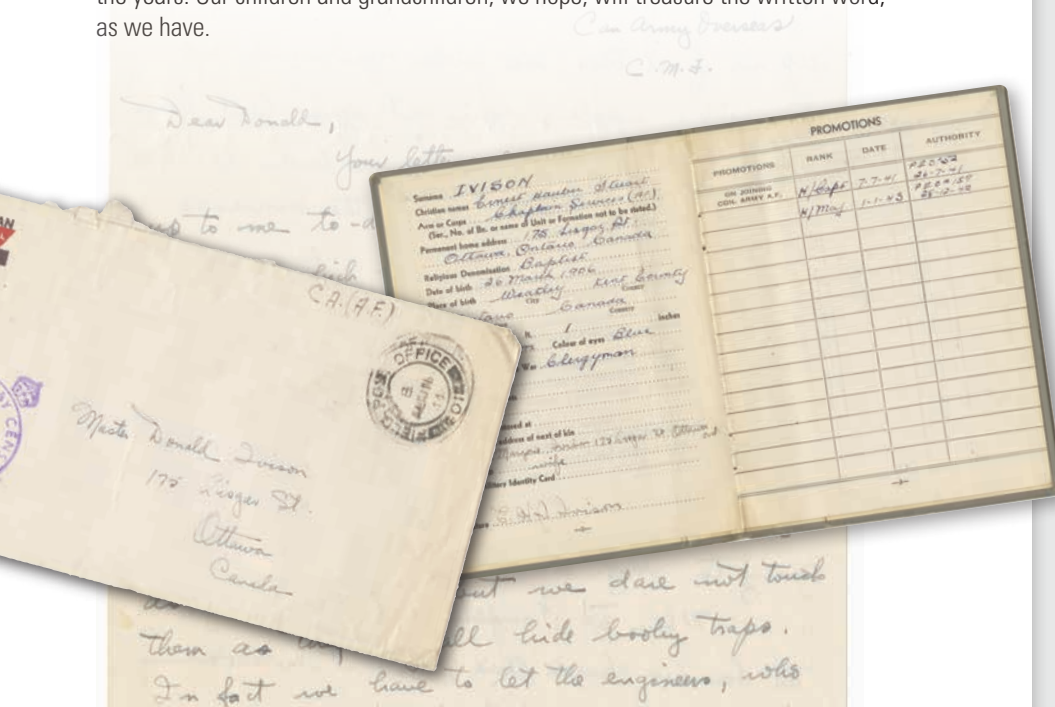
Don followed in his father's McMaster footsteps. He met his wife (Betty '52) when they were students at McMaster. In 1955, he began a 35 year career at DuPont, retiring in 1990 as Vice-President and CEO. Don also served as a member of McMaster's Board of Governors for many years, including two as the Chair of the Board. Ivison was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2000.

### Why did you decide to give the collection to McMaster?

**What does it mean to you that students and other scholars will use the letters to broaden their understanding of World War II?**

**You have made other significant gifts to the Library. Why do you choose to give to the Library?**

In our family, we have always loved books. Our family home in Ottawa was filled with books. I think books are, however flimsy, wonderful records of thought and action over the years. Our children and grandchildren, we hope, will treasure the written word, as we have.



Few stars shine as bright in the history of figure skating as Sonia Henie and Barbara Ann Scott. Now a new collection is providing a unique glimpse at these and other superstars of the figure skating world.

Carl Spadoni, former Director of McMaster's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections, recently donated his large collection of figure skating books, photos, archive material and skating memorabilia to the Division.

The collection includes over 300 books, 1,200 photos, more than 800 postcards, 400 programs, as well as medals, films, letters and autograph books featuring some of skating's biggest stars.

The collection also provides a unique insight into local skating history and includes programs and other publications created by skating clubs from cities and towns across Canada.



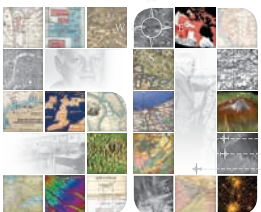
Materials span over 200 years of skating history and represent a range of figure skating ephemera from an NFB film featuring 1948 Olympic champion Barbara Ann Scott, to costume sketches for fellow Canadian stars, Brian Orser and Elizabeth Manley. Also included are the first books published on skating in Europe and North America, dating as early as 1813.

"This is one of the finest collections of figure skating materials in the world," says Wade Wyckoff Associate University Librarian, Collections. "We are grateful to receive this unique collection and pleased to add these remarkable materials to our archives."



# Celebrating the 'treasures' in McMaster's maps collection

COME CELEBRATE



YEARS  
1965 - 2015

of the  
**Lloyd Reeds Map Collection**  
at McMaster University Library

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015  
3:30 - 5:00 PM

**LLOYD REEDS MAP COLLECTION,**  
1ST FLOOR, MILLS LIBRARY  
FORMAL REMARKS AT 3:45 PM;  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

RSVP BY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015  
905.525.9140 EXT. 20711 or [mcleane@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mcleane@mcmaster.ca)

**McMaster University**  
LIBRARY



Many rarely seen, hidden gems were on the display at the event, including the oldest map in the collection, a 1462 reproduction of a second century Ptolomean map of the British Isles.



Gord Beck, Map Specialist.

Staff, students, faculty and retirees gathered recently for a celebration marking the 50th anniversary of McMaster University Library's Lloyd Reeds Map Collection.

Shortly after arriving at McMaster in 1948, geography professor, Lloyd Reeds, who would one day be regarded as one of the 'founding fathers' of Canadian geography, began looking for space to house his growing collection of maps.

At that time, he settled for an old temporary building on campus, described by one observer as a 'war-time hut,' but he dreamed of one day creating a physical space that would contain and preserve his maps for the purposes of teaching and research.

In 1965, Reeds' dream was finally realized and the Lloyd Reeds Map Collection, as it would later become known, opened its doors.

Members of the McMaster community gathered recently in Mills Library to mark the 50th anniversary of this important milestone and to celebrate the unique and extensive materials that now make up the collection.

"For 50 years, the Lloyd Reeds Map Collection has been providing students and faculty with hands-on access to these rich research and teaching tools," says Dale Askey, Associate University Librarian. "As we look ahead, perhaps to the next 50 years, we look forward to acquiring more unique pieces, as well as finding new ways to connect scholars, both at McMaster and around the globe, with these treasures."

The collection, which originally contained Reeds' personal maps including maps on the agricultural geography of Southern Ontario, has grown significantly over the years, and now consists of **more than 110,000 paper maps, over 20,000 air photos, 3,000 atlases**, and many more materials.

"We have something for everyone," says Gord Beck, Map Specialist, Maps, Data, GIS in Mills Library. "We have everything from historical maps that inform cultural studies, to hydrographic and aeronautic charts. Then, of course, we have many maps created for military purposes; the great WWI and WWII collections, as well as maps from the Napoleonic era and earlier."

Over the years, the collection has become a valuable resource for teaching and learning. According to Jay Brodeur, Manager, Maps, Data, GIS, about 2,000 undergraduates from a number of disciplines come into the space each year to work hands-on with the materials.

The collection is also being made available to scholars around the world. In the last five years, 7,000 maps have been scanned and are available through the Library's Digital Archive ([digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca](http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca)), attracting thousands of users annually.

"The collection and the staff have established themselves as leaders nationally in the area of map digitization," says Brodeur. "Through the process of scanning these maps, describing them and making them available online, we are able to change the way users interact with the materials. Instead of people coming to McMaster, we are increasingly able to bring our collection to students and researchers around the world."





# Five years later, students still 'blown away' by Lyons New Media Centre

According to University Librarian Vivian Lewis, when the Lyons New Media Centre opened its doors five years ago, no one knew exactly what direction it would take.

Instead, staff were asked listen to students and faculty and shape services to meet their needs. And that's just what they did.

Five years, a 3D printer, a video games room, and countless pieces of media production technology later, the space has become a hub for learning and creativity.

Last fall, Library staff and students gathered to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Lyons New Media Centre.

"This Centre is truly a space designed for the digital generation—a generation that doesn't just want to view media, but to create it," says Lewis.

The Centre was created in 2010 with the support of the Office of the Provost, the McMaster University Library, the Faculty of Humanities and through a generous gift made by Margaret and Ed Lyons.

Since then, it has provided a space for thousands of McMaster students to explore and interact with new technologies.

"I would like to thank Margaret and Ed Lyons for their vision in helping to create the extraordinary centre that we're celebrating today—a place of learning and of fun and a place where new ideas come to life," says Lewis.

The space is open to students from all Faculties and includes 14 video and audio editing workstations, two edit suites, a consultation room, a video games room, a classroom with a green screen, a service desk and also provides students with access to the latest media production software.

Lewis says these services have made the space one of the most popular areas of the library. Jason Lau, a third year multimedia student, agrees and says he was "blown away" when he first discovered the Lyons New Media Centre.

"I didn't realize there was a space like this on campus where students could learn new technology and just be creative," says Lau. "Technology is such a big part of the learning experience. We're expected to be more creative with our work and make slideshows, PowerPoint and videos. So the fact that someone took the time to really invest in the future of our learning experiences has really had an impact."

The Lyons New Media Centre is located on the 4th floor of the Mills Library.

## And the winner is...

The Lyons New Media Centre rolled out the red carpet in September for the fourth annual McMaster 24 Hour Film Festival gala event.

McMaster students, alumni, staff and faculty gathered at the Art Gallery of Hamilton to screen the top nine festival entries and to announce the winning films as selected by a jury of industry specialists.

The festival challenged McMaster students and alumni, as well as students from Westdale High School, to create a five-minute film over a 24-hour period using three elements; a randomly assigned prop (a twist tie), a line of dialogue ("Hey. What's your name? What do I call you?" from Mad Max: Fury Road) and a location (beside a vending machine).



Glenesha Grant, Xueqin Lin and Rosa Luo (above) took top honours at the festival with their film, "Lessons with Mr. T<sup>2</sup>," which was also received the Audience Choice Award. "Masked," a film submitted by a team from Westdale High School, tied for third place.

To help teams prepare for the competition, the Lyons New Media Centre created online workshops and provided participants with access to mentors, as well as production equipment and resources.

View all films at [www.m24.ca](http://www.m24.ca)





## Upcoming exhibits:

William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections presents:

### JANUARY 2016-APRIL 2016

**Perspectives on Peace**, an exhibit in conjunction with President Deane's initiative of the same name. The exhibit showcases archives that are synonymous with peace, such as those of Bertrand Russell and Vera Brittain, as well as some that are not so obviously connected with the theme, including the archives of Farley Mowat and 'Miss Lou'.

### MAY 2016-AUGUST 2016

**Authors in Publishers Archives:** We hold the archives of many of Canada's best known publishing houses—McClelland & Stewart, Macmillan, Dodd Mead, Key Porter, and many more. These archives are filled with letters and manuscripts of some of our best known writers, including Alice Munro, Robertson Davies, Leonard Cohen, Grey Owl, and more—come and see!

## Events:

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

#### Writer-in-Residence Closing Event

Great Hall (University Club)  
7-9 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016

#### Celebration of Valerie Tryon

Convocation Hall (University Hall)



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## Highlights of recent acquisitions of archives and rare books:

### ARCHIVES:

**Farley Mowat:** Our 20th accrual of the Farley Mowat archives includes some truly amazing material, including the earliest drafts of his very first book, *People of the Deer*. Donated by Claire Mowat.

**Terry Fallis:** The latest accrual of the archive of one of Canada's most popular writers, including a manuscript of *Up and Down* annotated by astronaut Marc Garneau. Donated by Terry Fallis.

**Boris Brott:** The latest accrual of the archives of one of Canada's best known classical music conductors. Donated by Boris Brott.

**Anna Porter:** More from writer Anna Porter, including additions to the **Key Porter Books** archive. Donated by Anna Porter.

**Susan Musgrave and Stephen Reid:** The latest accruals of the archives of one of Canada's finest poets and her bank-robber-turned-writer husband. Donated by Susan Musgrave and Stephen Reid.

**Christopher Levenson:** The poet, translator, editor, and professor of English and creative writing's latest accrual. Donated by Christopher Levenson.

**Sidney Aster:** Dr. Aster is a historian of the inter-war period, and his archive and book collection reflect this interest. Donated by Sidney Aster.

**Henry C. Nunn:** A new archive of Hamilton businessman and naturalist, Henry Carl Nunn (b. 1883). Donated by his grandchildren, Lucinda and Carl Bray.

**Christopher Powell:** A collection of interviews conducted by Powell on anti-Vietnam War protestors in Canada. Donated by Christopher Powell.

**Catherine Wilson:** Wilson was for many years a publicist at McClelland & Stewart. Her archive includes correspondence with Farley Mowat, Al Purdy, Mordecai Richler, and more. Donated by Catherine Wilson.

### RARE BOOKS AND BOOK COLLECTIONS:

**Rabbi Bernard Baskin** has donated another significant collection of rare books and manuscripts, including works by his artist-brother, Leonard Baskin.

**Skating collection:** One of the world's finest collections of books on skating, including two valuable first editions of Mary Mapes Dodge's celebrated book, *Hans Brinker; or, The Silver Skates, a Story of Life in Holland (1866)*. Donated by Carl and Anne Spadoni.

A significant collection of the publications of **"Letters" small press**. Donated by Nelson Ball.

Cataloguing is now complete for a collection of books belonging to Jamaican-born author and performer **Louise Bennett Coverley**, affectionately known as Miss Lou. [bit.ly/misslou](http://bit.ly/misslou)

A fine collection of Canadiana donated by **Ray and Donna Findlay** has also been catalogued and opened for research. [bit.ly/findlaycollection](http://bit.ly/findlaycollection)



## Giving to the Library

The McMaster University Library has been visited over **2 million** times in the last year alone. Donors like you help provide the best possible space and services to McMaster students and researchers during their time on campus.

If you would like to learn more about giving to the Library, please contact Chryslyn Pais at [paisc@mcmaster.ca](mailto:paisc@mcmaster.ca) or 905-525-9140 x21534.



Above: Selections from the Vera Brittain archive. Far left: Selections from the Bruce Cockburn archive.