

Celebrating the “incomparable” Valerie Tryon



World-renowned pianist and former Associate Professor in McMaster's School of the Arts. Tryon also served for many years as McMaster's Artist-in-Residence.

“Incomparable.”

That was how world-renowned concert pianist Valerie Tryon was described at a concert hosted by McMaster University Library which paid tribute to her life and work.

“Valerie is a consummate musician in almost every form,” said internationally recognized conductor Boris Brott who spoke at the event. “She plays with such perfection, that I think that’s why the word ‘incomparable’ is truly the right word to describe her.”

The event, held in Convocation Hall, featured performances by Tryon and celebrated the donation of her personal archives to the Library's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections.

“The collection is quite extraordinary in importance,” said University Librarian Vivian Lewis, “While it is not physically large, it helps to tell the story of one of Canada’s great musical figures. It tells the story of a woman, British by birth, who travels the world to perform and record, but who considers Hamilton and McMaster her home.

“*She plays with such perfection, that I think that’s why the word ‘incomparable’ is truly the right word to describe her.*”

”
Boris Brott

We are grateful to have been entrusted with the documents and artifacts that capture the life’s work of this remarkable talent.

The archive, in large part assembled by Alan Walker, Professor Emeritus in McMaster’s School of the Arts from scrapbooks kept by Tryon’s father, consists of a range of materials collected between 1941 and 2012 including newspaper clippings, reviews, photographs, concert programs, and other artifacts that document her prolific and celebrated career.

For many years, Tryon served as both Artist-in-Residence and an Associate Professor in the School of the Arts. She was awarded an honorary doctorate upon her retirement and since then, has continued to teach, record and play at concerts and recitals around the world.

“To be here at McMaster, the place that I’ve known for so many years is really quite wonderful,” said Tryon. “I started my whole Canadian ‘visit’ here in the 1970s and I’ve played in this hall so many times that I know the names on all the portraits. McMaster really feels like home to me. It seems absolutely right that this is the place that my archives should go to.”

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Celebrating the “incomparable”
Valerie Tryon



McMaster is home to the archives of a number of prominent musicians including Bruce Cockburn, Ian Thomas, Jackie Washington, Boris Brott, Alan Walker and Morley Calvert.

Dean of Humanities Ken Cruikshank, who also spoke at the event, said it’s important to continue to build these archives.

“It’s these special collections – these things that people can come and see and feel and touch – that are really important,” said Cruikshank. “Having collections like this one are extremely important to our students and our researchers and this collection adds remarkably to that.”

The youngest student to be admitted to the The Royal Academy, Tryon is a Juno Award winner, a Hamilton Gallery of Distinction inductee and also holds the Harriet Cohen Award for Distinguished Services to Music, and the Franz Liszt Medal from the Hungarian Ministry of Culture for her life-long commitment to, and promotion of, Liszt’s music.



Message from the
University Librarian



McMaster University Library has been preparing for Canada’s sesquicentennial for some time. As the holder of some of the nation’s most significant literary and historical collections, we have felt a responsibility to help both celebrate and critically reflect on our country’s past as we turn our collective attention to the future.

Over the course of the year, we will dip into our vaults to showcase some truly magnificent treasures. With assistance from McMaster’s Office of Alumni Advancement, we will be releasing short videos showcasing some of our most significant collections. The artifacts, carefully selected by our archivists, tell some of Canada’s most powerful stories – tales of both great courage and painful loss, of extraordinary achievements and lamentable flaws. We hope these videos and the collections they describe will encourage viewers to explore our nation’s past with a clear, 21st century lens and to reflect deeply on what it means to be Canadian.

We are eager to bring McMaster’s amazing student body into the sesquicentennial conversation. With that in mind, we are working with the School of the Arts’ Studio Art program to offer a student art competition with a Confederation theme. The winning artist will receive a small honorarium in addition to permanent installation of their art piece in Mills Memorial Library. We were also thrilled to host a special version of our popular 24-hour film festival – this one with a Canada 150 theme. The event, hosted by the Library’s Lyons New Media Centre, allowed aspiring campus filmmakers a singular opportunity to write, record and edit a short film – incorporating a specified prop and piece of dialogue – all within a 24-hour period. If past M24 events are any indication, we should be in for some interesting takes on Canada’s storied past.

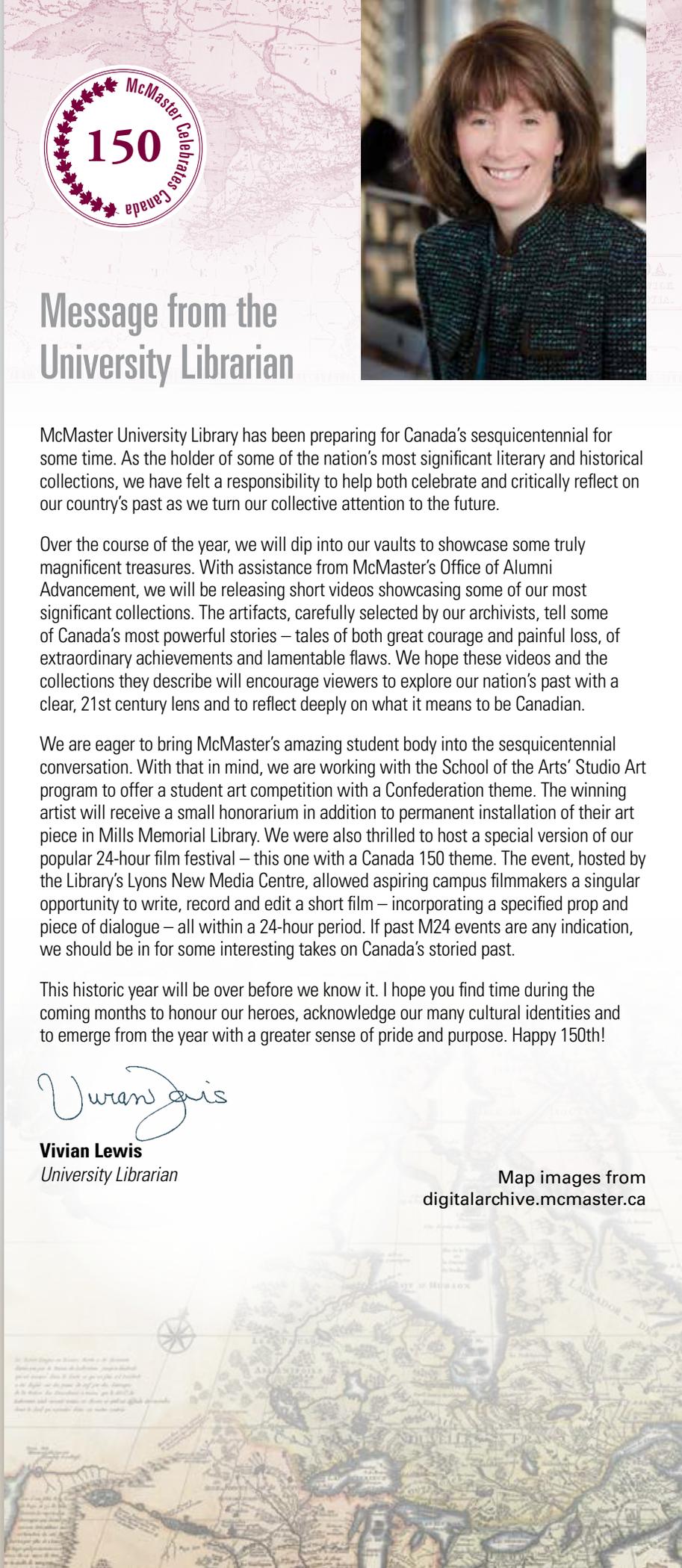
This historic year will be over before we know it. I hope you find time during the coming months to honour our heroes, acknowledge our many cultural identities and to emerge from the year with a greater sense of pride and purpose. Happy 150th!

Vivian Lewis
University Librarian

Map images from
digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca



Valerie Tryon
ARCHIVES



How a dog named Boom is helping us learn more about the lives of service animals

When Melissa Marie (emmy) Legge first started as a graduate fellow in the Lewis and Ruth Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship*, the PhD candidate in Social Work had no idea how a computer processor works, let alone how to program one.

Now, with help from the Sherman Centre, Legge has not only learned electronics and coding skills, but has used those skills to build a specialized sensor package, which has become a key part of Legge's dissertation research.

"In Social Work we don't really work with technology but there's so much potential, especially in research," says Legge who will use the sensor to gather data aimed at better understanding the experiences of therapy animals while they're working.

Legge recently talked to us about this research and to demonstrate how the sensor works:

“
People here in the Sherman Centre provided me with support, education and space to work. ... So many people here have a wealth of knowledge.
”



Tell us about your dissertation research

I grew up as an animal activist. I had always had pets and worked with animals and so I was really excited about the increasing popularity of that kind of social work, but once I got involved in it myself, I found that it was more complicated than I thought. Just because a dog is suited for therapy work, it doesn't mean they'll be comfortable in every environment – every dog is different.

I wanted to get an idea of what it's like for the animals that do all this work for us. What do they see, or hear while they're working? I wanted to find ways to collect both qualitative and quantitative data about the animal's experience – hopefully the sensor will paint a picture of what the animal is experiencing.

What does the sensor package do?

I built the package using an Arduino – a little computer that you program and give instructions to. It has a number of sensors plugged in. My package measures things like heart rate and breathing rates. But I also wanted to get more nuanced data, so there's a sensor that measures the volume levels of the (ambient) noise, and a video camera mounted on a GoPro harness, which is great because you can see where the animal is looking, and because the animal's head is in the shot, you can see whether their ears go up and down.

I'm also hoping to put a sensor on the tail because when dogs are happy they really express that physically.

You don't have a technical background – how did you learn these skills?

I had never done anything like this – literally zero – before my fellowship. I had done basic programming in high school which is pretty obsolete now, but that was it.

I worked at the Sherman Centre and a makerspace in Toronto and I asked a lot of questions. I found that the first steps were the hardest in the learning process, but once I got going I found there were lots of resources available. People here in the Sherman Centre provided me with support, education and space to work. It's so valuable to have a space where you can sit and make a mess and, if you get totally stuck, have people around to help. So many people here have a wealth of knowledge.

Anything you want to add?

I feel in so many ways that I didn't understand what could be done in research with digital technologies before I started working in the Sherman Centre – I think not everyone in every discipline knows what's out there. It's been really exciting – I have more enthusiasm for research now after having been here for a year; it's such a valuable resource.

** The Sherman Centre, which is a part of McMaster University Library, provides consulting and technical support to faculty and graduate students with all levels of technological experience. The Sherman Centre consults on any stage or aspect of a digital scholarship or pedagogical project to help determine the digital tools, techniques and methods that best suit the project whether big or small.*



In memory of Graham R. Hill

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of former University Librarian Graham R. Hill last April. Hill was Librarian from 1979 until his retirement in 2005, and also served as President of the University Club for many years.

Hill received a B.A. from the University of Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1968, an M.A. from the University of Lancaster in 1969, and an M.L.S. from the University of Western Ontario in 1970. He came to McMaster in January 1971.

During his tenure, Hill oversaw tremendous changes in the University Library, from the advent of the computer age to unprecedented growth of the campus in the 1980s and 1990s and the digital revolution in collections. Asked upon his retirement about his proudest achievement, Hill referenced the major expansion and renovation of Mills Memorial Library in the early 1990s, which significantly increased collections and study space.

In 1998, Hill was named as the first winner of the CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries) Award for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship, recognizing, in particular, his longstanding commitment in the areas of copyright reform and education.

McMaster's current University Librarian, Vivian Lewis, recognized the indelible contributions Hill made to libraries on campus and across Canada. "I had the great honour of working with Graham for many years prior to his retirement. He was an inspired leader and a trusted colleague who will be missed by the library community."

18th century science education "for women, by women"



While examining a rare botanical textbook contained in McMaster's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections, visiting scholar Anna K. Sagal made an unexpected discovery.

Pressed between the brittle pages of one of the textbooks written and used by early female botanists, she found a tiny golden flower, likely placed there more than 200 years ago – a tangible connection to the world of the 18th century and a symbol of women's participation in one of the few fields of science open to them at the time – botany.

Sagal, who recently completed her PhD at Tufts University in Boston was last year's recipient of the McMaster-ASECS fellowship, a program that supports 18th century studies.

Sagal spent a month poring over McMaster's unique collection of 18th century English botanical textbooks, examining a number of works written and referenced by trailblazing women, early pioneers of female science education.

"This is science education for women by women," says Sagal, "I'm interested in the role that scientific writing plays for women's intellectual lives in a culture where women and science were often divorced from each other."

According to Sagal, in the late 18th century, while many fields of science were still largely closed to women, botany was considered a "feminized science," making it socially acceptable for women – who were culturally linked with nature and flowers – to participate in the practice of botany.

Unlike other fields of science like chemistry or astronomy, Sagal says botany was also comparatively accessible to women, requiring only simple, inexpensive equipment – like a magnifying glass – and access to a garden.

A number of female writers emerged at this time, publishing botanical textbooks aimed primarily at a feminine audience, but which turned out to have broader appeal.

Sagal says these textbooks, many of which are contained in McMaster's collection, were quite different from works authored by men at the time. While they were scientifically accurate and contained the Latin terms associated with the Linnaean system of plant classification, they were written in a simplified, conversational style – sometimes taking the form of letters or dialogues – so they could be easily understood by female readers, many of whom didn't know Latin.

And to keep costs low, they used fewer illustrations; instead providing detailed descriptions and encouraging aspiring botanists to take the textbooks into the field to identify plants and collect specimens, like the one discovered by Sagal.

Sagal's research at McMaster is contributing to her larger body of scholarship on women in scientific writing in the 18th century and the different genres in which scientific writing appears.

McMaster University Librarian Vivian Lewis says she's pleased the collection is helping to support scholarly research like Sagal's.

"The collection contains a diverse array of texts and materials that provide valuable insights into many aspects of life in the 18th century," says Lewis. "It's very gratifying that as a McMaster-ASECS fellow, Anna was able to make use of this unique collection to shed light on some of the central social and cultural themes of the period."

Harold Siroonian



Harold Siroonian is a two-time McMaster graduate (B.Sc. 1955, M.Sc. 1958) and was awarded an MLS from Columbia University in 1962. In 1970, he returned to McMaster as Science and Engineering Librarian, retiring in 1992 as Associate University Librarian, Science and Engineering Division. One of the highlights of his career at the Library was his participation on the Thode Library Planning and Building Project Committee. Since retiring, Harold has remained active with his alma mater and in the Hamilton community.

What was your experience of the Library when you were a student?

In the years that I was a student at McMaster in the 1950s, there were only two libraries: the newly-built Mills Library that served the Social Science and Arts faculties and the Science Library. The Science Library was a large room on the second floor of Hamilton Hall. It was often crowded, had only tables and no carrels, and the shelves were of the metal warehouse type, not very attractive at all. I spent a lot of time in Mills, especially for work and study since it was new, had carrels and was spacious, compared to the small Science Library.

Why did you choose to come back to McMaster to work?

I was in New York City and was in my fourth year as Science Librarian at the City College of New York, the oldest college of the new City University of New York, which had several campuses. I had transferred there from Columbia University, where I was the head of three libraries – the Geology, Chemistry and Biology libraries. I came for an interview to McMaster because of a twist of fate. A colleague of mine from Columbia had applied for the position of Science and Engineering Librarian at McMaster and had been offered the job, but turned it down since he preferred to remain in the United States. He gave my name as a candidate since he knew I was a McMaster science alumnus. The rest is history.

Why do you give to the Library?

As a graduate of the university and later as a retired member of the library staff, I feel I have an obligation to the institution which has been so beneficial to me in having a successful career.

What do you hope will be the impact of your gift(s)?

I hope my gift will help the Library carry out its mission to help all members of the university community – students, faculty, researchers, employees – as they advance in their own careers.

What would you say to donors considering a gift to the Library?

I say just do it, it is the right thing to do. It will make a great impact on the Library being able to carry out its mission. It is an indisputable fact that a library is the heart of a university. The scope and strength of its collections and resources, and the variety of services it provides to its users make it an indispensable part of the university. Without a library there could be no university.

New digitization project captures 50 years of McMaster on film

From the pomp and circumstance of convocation ceremonies in the 1930s to a short film produced and directed by celebrated McMaster alumnus Ivan Reitman, a new video digitization project is taking vintage McMaster films and making them publicly accessible for the first time online.

Thanks to a gift from the Class of 1950, McMaster's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections has digitized a number of films and videos that have been in storage for decades.

The films, shot between 1930 to 1980, capture a number of key events and prominent figures in the University's past including the opening and dedication ceremonies held after McMaster relocated to Hamilton in 1930 and footage of former presidents George Gilmour and Harry Thode.

The films also capture student life over the decades and feature some hidden gems including a series of skits created for a psychology lecture and performed by McMaster alumnus and actor/comedian Martin Short, as well as *Orientation*, a short film produced and directed in 1968 by Reitman and the McMaster Film Board. According to Reitman, the film was the forerunner to his comedy classic, *Animal House*.

"These films are snapshots of McMaster's history," says Wade Wyckoff, Associate University Librarian, Collections. "This is about making that history accessible to a much larger audience and making sure that these films are preserved."

Wyckoff says that so far, roughly a third of the collection has been digitized, adding that more videos will be digitized in the near future.

"This gift leaves a wonderful legacy," says Wyckoff. "It ensures that this important archive will be available not just to current students, staff, faculty and alumni, but to the McMaster community for generations to come."

Long-time supporters of McMaster University Library, the Class of 1950 has provided funding for a number of Library technology projects over the years.



McMaster's rare maps provide students with a window into the past



Arts and Science students pore over a series of rare maps in McMaster's Lloyd Reeds Maps Collection

From a 300 year-old English county map, to an oversized map of the Franklin Expedition, students are learning that these artifacts are more than simply tools for navigation – each one tells a story about the period in which it was created.

Now, many of the insights revealed in these maps can be found in a digital display and experiential learning project created by students in *Arts and Science 3BB3: Technology and Society II* in collaboration with maps experts from McMaster University Library.

"For a long period of time, maps were the only way to get information about the spatial distribution of cities or see what rivers actually looked like, we couldn't simply go to Google Earth," says John Maclachlan, course instructor and Assistant Professor in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences.

"I wanted students to see how maps have changed over time," he says. "These maps are different from modern maps – they're more artistic. They're not always complete, but they give you different types of information."

the edges of the map? How accurately are the maps drawn and what might that tell us about the degree of the scientific knowledge? "These maps can help students wrap their minds around culture and society at a given point in time."

“*These maps can help students wrap their minds around culture and society at a given point in time.*”

Students began by visiting the Library to view a range of rare maps from McMaster's extensive collection.

Students were asked to select a map and formulate three research questions. The map collections staff then connected students to a range of reference resources, which they used to complete a research essay on their map.

Brodeur then incorporated the students' work into the digital exhibit, which is now permanently accessible through the Library's website, providing context and

background information for members of the public or researchers seeking to learn more about these maps.

"I can lecture all day about the usefulness and history of maps, but for them to formulate their own questions and put their own identity on that work can be a very valuable experience for them," says Maclachlan. "It's nice that this isn't just another project students put in their drawer; it's out there, it's being used and it's useful information."

About 2000 students come to the map library each year to work on assignments, a number that continues to climb as Library experts work with an increasing number of faculty members to develop experiential learning opportunities.

"The Library has been changing over the past decade or so and moving from a place where the books are to where learning happens," says Brodeur. "It's important that we're not just a repository of the University's maps, but also a place with the expertise to structure students' learning and develop activities where students can use our materials to learn in a different way."

Maclachlan worked with Library experts Jay Brodeur, Manager of the Maps, Data and GIS department and Gord Beck, Maps Specialist, Maps, Data, GIS, to develop the project, which is now available online.

"We wanted to expose students to this incredible collection," says Brodeur.

"This project was a great way to get students into the Library and interacting with Library materials. We also wanted to take the work they produced for this assignment and share that with the public."

"There's a lot these maps can tell us," says Beck "If you're looking at a map of North America created 200 years ago by a European, how are they portraying the Indigenous people in the illustrations around



"Only 23 and gone"

A son commemorates the father he never knew



Left: John Dorsey as a baby wearing the woolen tam and mittens sent home by his father.

**I stood beside a graveside
and tears came to my eyes**

Tears I didn't know I had

For a man I didn't know

with the same last name

First time I stood beside my dad

I really wish that I had known him

Only 23 and gone

He never got off the beach in Normandy

But he left me to carry on.

These words were written by John Dorsey, lyrics to a song about his father, McMaster alumnus, Lieutenant Robert (Bob) Dorsey, who died in World War II – a father he never met.

John, an educator and a musician, wrote the song after visiting his father's grave in France for the first time 30 years ago, a fitting tribute to his father who, by all accounts, shared his son's love of music.

John was three months old when his father was killed in France on June 7, 1944 – his life, and those of 19 others, claimed when a German aircraft strafed their position as they dug in on the beaches of Normandy.

"I never thought I had feelings for my dad because I never knew him, but when I was in France, I found myself standing beside the grave and crying," says Dorsey. "You can't escape these things – he's part of me and I'm part of him, that's why I wrote the song – I distilled my feelings into that."

Bob Dorsey embarked for England in 1943, not knowing at the time that his wife Florence was expecting. But after hearing of his son's birth, an excited Bob bought "a wee small tam," and a set of tiny mittens, purchased while on leave in Scotland, and sent them home to Florence – a gift from a proud father to his son.

Now these items, along with a collection of photos, mementos and documents that shed light on Bob's life, are part of an archive recently donated by the Dorsey family to McMaster University Library's William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections.

"(The collection) helped me to learn about who I came from – it helps me understand my dad," says Dorsey who, over the years, heard stories about his father – about his outgoing

and fun-loving nature, and how he would often lead his regiment in song, earning him the nickname, "Tommy Dorsey."

Included in the collection are a number of family photos, as well as a stack of publications known as the "The Rocket," a regimental newspaper co-founded by Bob that was full of cartoons, jokes, editorials and news from the front – it was intended to be a source of information, but also to help boost morale among the troops.

"We are grateful to receive this generous gift from the Dorsey family," says Wade Wyckoff, Associate University Librarian. "This collection contains unique materials that will serve as a valuable resource to scholars seeking to learn about the lives and experiences of Canadian soldiers during World War II. We are proud to preserve this collection and to make it available to future generations of scholars."

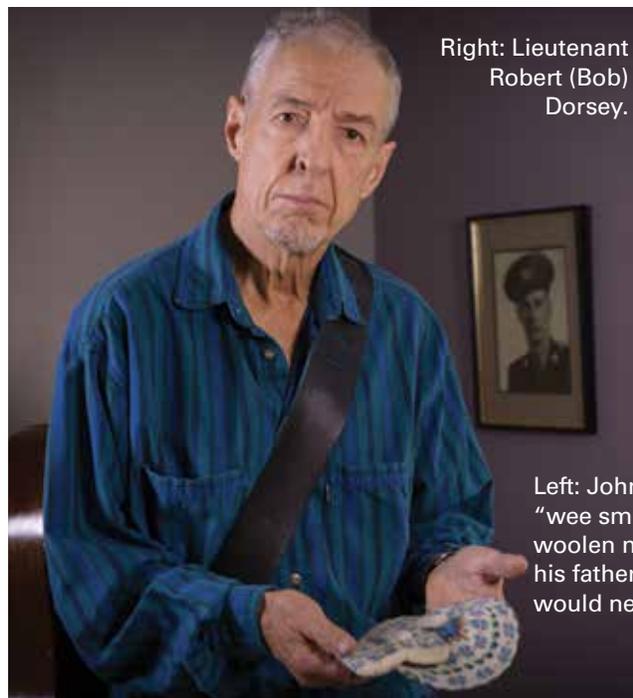
The Dorsey archive is part of a special Library initiative inspired by McMaster's World War II Honour Roll project, led by Dr. Charles M. Johnston (Class of 1949), professor emeritus of history, with the support of McMaster's Alumni Association.

As part of this online project, Johnston researched and wrote comprehensive biographies of the 35 McMaster alumni who died in World War II, the names of whom are listed on the Honour Roll plaques housed in Alumni Memorial Hall.*

Johnston's biography of Bob Dorsey provides many details and insights into his life, military service and student activities, painting a picture of a man who, while at McMaster, was an active and enthusiastic member of the Chess Club and of McMaster's Political Economy Club and who also excelled at numerous sports, winning both tennis and badminton championships as a varsity athlete, and dubbed "a leader on the field" by the Silhouette for his contributions to McMaster's championship-winning soccer team.

"The Library's archive project complements the comprehensive and meaningful work of Dr. Johnston intended to bring to life the stories of the McMaster alumni who served and died in the Second World War," says Director of Alumni Advancement, Karen McQuigge. "The Library's archive initiative will help deepen our understanding of the contributions, and sacrifices made by the McMaster graduates who didn't return home from that tragic conflict."

** Alumni Memorial Hall was named in honour of McMaster's fallen soldiers from World War I and World War II. Each year the names of these graduates are read aloud during McMaster's annual Remembrance Day ceremony.*



Right: Lieutenant Robert (Bob) Dorsey.



Left: John Dorsey holds a "wee small tam" and a pair of woolen mittens sent home by his father – a gift to the son he would never meet.



Upcoming exhibits:

William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections presents:

JANUARY 12 – APRIL 15, 2017

The Age of Enlightenment (at the McMaster Museum of Art) is a joint exhibition featuring works drawn from the Pierre Conlon rare book collection of the Division of Archives and Research Collections and the art collection of the Museum. Concurrently, the Division will feature a complementary exhibit on the British Enlightenment.



Above: *The Age of Enlightenment* on display until April 15, 2017.

MAY – SEPTEMBER 2017

Dystopian Archives will include selections from our Anthony Burgess archive (honouring the 100th anniversary of the birth of Burgess) and other literary archives and rare books.

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1280 Main Street West,
Hamilton ON L8S 4L6

EDITED BY

Erica Balch balche@mcmaster.ca
Anne Plessl plessla@mcmaster.ca

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Highlights of recent acquisitions of archives and books:

ARCHIVES:

Marianne Brandis: The archive of the Stratford-based writer and McMaster graduate. *Donated by Marianne Brandis.*

Peter Calamai: The archive of the journalist, literacy advocate, and McMaster graduate. *Donated by Peter Calamai.*

Morley Calvert: The archive of the Canadian composer and conductor, featuring scores, correspondence, photographs and memorabilia. *Donated by his children, Eric Calvert, Lianne MacGregor and Christine Skippen.*

Antonio D'Alfonso: The second accrual of the archive of the Montreal-based publisher, writer, editor and film maker. *Donated by Antonio D'Alfonso.*

James Herbert Gibson: Twice wounded while serving with the Canadian army in France during the First World War, the Gibson archive consists of letters and diaries, 1916-1919. *Donated by his grandson, Dr. K. Bruce Newbold.*

J. Robert Janes: The third accrual of the archive of the author of the St.-Cyr/Kohler mystery series. *Donated by J. Robert Janes.*

Mark Krawkowski: The third accrual of the archives of the Canadian labour union leader. *Donated by Mark Krawkowski.*

Daniel David Moses: Our first accrual of the archive of the award-winning Indigenous poet, playwright, and essayist. *Donated by Daniel David Moses.*

Henry Eugene (Hank) Novak: A small but poignant archive of this McMaster student and WWII RCAF officer who was killed in action on January 17, 1945. *Donated by his brother, Dan Novak.*

H.R. Percy: The third accrual of the archives of the Canadian writer and editor. *Donated by his son, Jon Percy.*

Simpson-Reid family: A diverse archive of this Scottish-Canadian family, including a collection of English business licenses and contracts on parchment from the early 19th century, James Simpson's pocket diaries detailing his life, and a substantial number of letters describing Thomas Bassett Reid the younger's experiences of India during the 1830s-1850s. *Donated by Paul Simpson.*

BOOK COLLECTIONS:

Rabbi Baskin: 136 volumes, chiefly on topics related to Judaism and religion

Walter Peace: 143 books on topics related to geography, as well as maps and atlases for addition to the collection in Maps, Data, GIS

Bruce Wilson: more than 360 volumes on a variety of topics, including history, science, and mathematics.

A sincere thank you to all our donors for their generosity to the Library.



Notable new online resources:

Over **5,000 streaming films** from the National Film Board have been licensed for classroom use, allowing faculty to create playlists of Canadian documentaries, animation, and feature films. <http://library.mcmaster.ca/articles/national-film-board>



Giving to the Library

“Working in the Maps, Data, GIS department at the McMaster Library provided me with a great opportunity to develop useful skills in my field of study. I applied my interests in history and geography while being exposed to different subject areas. The experience led me to pursue a minor in Geographic Information Systems, which will continue to impact my future career in Earth Sciences.”



Jenny Ni

*B.Sc. Earth & Environmental Sciences,
Minor Geographic Information Systems
Class of 2016*

University Library donors help provide the best possible learning experience to students like Jenny. To support the Library's mission to enhance student learning at McMaster, please contact **Chryslyn Pais** at 905.525.9140 ext. 21534 or paisc@mcmaster.ca