



Society Pages

The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec's Quarterly Newsletter
Volume I, No. 2 Fall 2002

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I am delighted to report that our Children's Library has taken two major steps forward in recent weeks, first with the publication of the Autumn Family Program and now with the generous donation of 1300 books from the Champlain St-Lawrence Library.

In spite of the fact that the physical proportions of the Children's Library have not yet been dramatically transformed, as is planned in our now Cultural Centre Project, the activities and collection are expanding rapidly. Following completion of our successful Summer Camp Program, the new Autumn Program has been ably assembled by Children's Library animator, Melanie Cantin.

It is a most attractive program and promises to be very popular, I encourage all members with children to register.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to extend special thanks to Champlain St-Lawrence and librarian Ann Murchison for the extraordinary donation of their entire children's collection. This will form the foundation stone for our ambitious projects for the development of the Children's Library which in itself is a fundamental component for the future of our library.

Happy Halloween,

DAVID F. BLAIR
President

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IN OUR COLLECTION

Colonel William Wood (1864-1947)

By Christine Veilleux

While browsing through our catalogue, perhaps you have come across the name "Wood's Room" and wondered where it comes from? Well the name was suggested back in September 1961 by Mr. John H. C. McGreevy, then President of the Literary & Historical Society. It was given to a reading room situated on the 4th floor above the Library in memory of Colonel William Wood, a former distinguished President of the Society and a noted Canadian historian. This room is now used to store our archives and part of the older library collection.

William Charles Henry Wood was born in Quebec on June 7, 1864. He was the son of George Augustus Leslie Wood, a merchant, and of Charlotte Feodora Louisa Augusta Guérout, the granddaughter of Pierre Guillaume Guérout, a French-born Huguenot who became an MP in the first Parliament of Canada. Wood's grand-mother, Rhoda Ann Williams Guérout was from Providence, Rhode-Island. Col. William Wood was always very proud of his English, French and American ancestry.

William Wood was educated in England then in Germany while serving in the British army. Upon his return to Canada, he joined the non-permanent Canadian militia and was made Lieutenant in the 8th Regiment, Quebec Royal Rifles in 1887. He was promoted to the grade of Colonel and reserve officer in 1910. He rendered valuable service to his country during WWI as a member of the Canadian Special Mission at the Naval and Military Fronts. Afterwards, he was elected President of the Quebec unit of the Army and Navy Veterans' Association for five years then Dominion President for another five years.

Col. Wood was also active on various other fronts. He served three terms as President of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec (1900/01, 1904/05 and 1838-41) and was a life associate member. One of his biographers, E. Fabre Surveyer writes: "He took the greatest interest in that venerable Society [...]; his tall, distinguished features fitted in perfectly with the old-world aspect of the society's premises, which he visited every day."* Throughout his career, Wood occupied many other important functions: he was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (1905), and President of the Royal Society's Section II (1908/09), member of the Quebec Landmarks Commission (1906), President of the Canadian Landmarks Association (1907-10), Vice-President of the Quebec tercentenary celebration (1908), president of the Boy Scout movement in Quebec City (1909) and later on became assistant custodian of the Provincial Archives. In 1907, he received an honorary Doctorate of Civil Law from the University of Lennoxville.

Col. Wood's literary and historical work is quite considerable. Many of his books which cover a wide range of topics were published abroad (London, New York, New Haven...) as well as in Canada. The great majority of his works can be found in our Library collection. Among the list of unpublished papers read before the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, we find three titles written by Wood: *Darwinism and Evolution* (March 7, 1888), *John Keats* (January 31, 1889) and *Novels* (March 26, 1891)

Col. William Wood died unmarried on September 2, 1947. He resided at 59 Grande Allée, Quebec.

* E. Fabre Surveyer, "William Wood, 1864-1947", reprinted for the *Proceeding of the Royal Society of Canada* 1948).

NEW ON OUR SHELVES

- ∞ Good Wives? Mary, Fanny, Jennie & Me: 1845-2001. – *Margaret Forster examines the marriages of Mary and David Livingstone, Fanny and Robert Louis Stevenson, Jennie Lee and Aneurin Bevan as well as her own.*
 - ∞ I have landed: the end of the beginning in natural history. – Stephen Jay Gould. – *The renowned scientist's tenth and final collection of essays.*
 - ∞ Dispatches from the sporting life. – Mordecai Richler. – *Selected pieces reflect Richler's passion for sport, sports and the sporting life.*
 - ∞ Love strong as death: Lucy Peel's Canadian Journal 1833-1836. – J.I. Little, editor. – *Narrative of young English bride's three years in Lower Canada.*
 - ∞ And that's not all. – Joan Plowright. – *A memoir.*
 - ∞ The Arctic voyages of Martin Frobisher: an Elizabethan adventure. – Robert McGhee. – *Using reports from the men who participated, Inuit oral histories and archeological information recovered from the Baffin Island sites, McGhee describes Frobisher's expeditions.*
 - ∞ Dot.con : the greatest story ever told. – John Cassidy. – *An account of the Internet boom and bust.*
 - ∞ The double bond: Primo Levy, a biography. – Carole Angier. – *In depth study of this Italian-Jewish scientist and writer.*
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NEW MEMBERS

The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members on behalf of the library staff, council and existing members.

Marie-Jeanne Audet
Patricia Bailey
Francine Belleville
Elizabeth Burn
Jan Cellucci
Linda Cross
Susan Deichert
James Donovan

Ilona Kerner
Rachel Leblanc
Dr. Robert W. McManus
Susan O'Brien
Marie-Helene Pacaud
Ron Ray
Andre Senecal

BOOK REVIEW

**On Human Bondage**

By W. Somerset Maugham

Reviewed by Cheryl Anne Moore

Certainly, most well-read people are already acquainted with the works of W. Somerset Maugham, internationally celebrated author and playwright whose style and narrative power have strongly influenced much of contemporary literature and theatre. *Of Human Bondage* is deservedly considered one of the great English novels of our time, therefore it seems redundant, even presumptuous to attempt a review.

I see my role as one who would encourage a younger generation, with a plethora of literary choices before them, not to allow such an important treasure fall into obscurity. For, sadly, this would seem to be the case (as indicated by the card in back which reveals it as only having left the shelf an average of once every two years).

Not once but three times made into award-winning films, the last in 1964 starring Kim Novack and Lawrence Harvey, nevertheless even at a time when classics have returned so brilliantly to the movies it might be difficult in today's "bang 'em up" world to persuade an audience to accept an awkward well-intentioned protagonist. This timeless story of "besotted" passion and retribution travels through the richly contrasted texture of the three great powers of pre-First World War Europe; England, France and Germany. Predominantly the indelible Paris of Manet, Monet (and Degas). Maugham's eloquent prose captures Paris as Monet paints it, albeit shedding more clarity on the sordid and the sublime while somehow retaining the illusionary, transitory impressionism.

In Phillip Carrey he has finely drawn a masterful portrait of an unlikely hero. A slightly handicapped (who isn't), earnest, young gentleman preoccupied with understanding the purpose of existence and the role of morality and religion who falls victim to the charms of the deceitful, tragically flawed Mildred and accompanies her to inevitable ruination while spurning the selfless love of another.

But, from the ashes, obsessive love and lust are transformed into everlasting compassion and acceptance and it is precisely this quality that is needed to help us cope in our confused and reckless world.

For those who have already profited from the experience, if you are unable to recollect the revelation in the piece of Persian carpet, may I suggest you revisit, as I recently have, and I guarantee you'll come away with yet a new perspective.

If you have a book that you would like to share with us, send us your reviews. You can direct your submissions to us by mail, fax, e-mail or in person. See our coordinates on page 6.

KIDS CORNER

NEW CHILDRENS' BOOKS

Spider Spins a Story: Fourteen Legends from Native America. – *edited by Jill Max*

Fun is a feeling. – *Chara M. Curtis*

Fright Night Flight. – *Laura Krauss Melmed*

I'm Gonna Like Me: Letting Off a Little Self-Esteem. – *Jamie Lee Curtis & Laura Cornell*

Halloween Hats. – *Elizabeth Winthrop*

Thirteen Moons on Turtle's Back. – *Joseph Bruchac and Jonathan London*

The Wide Window. – *Lemony Snicket*

One Grain of Rice : a Mathematical Folktale. – *Demi*

Clifford the Big Red Dog. – *Norman Bridwell*

CHILDRENS' ACTIVITIES

Our *Journey to the Origins of the World* was a most rewarding and fulfilling summer camp experience for children and animator alike. This past realm of life was experienced fully and the children were most satisfied with their natural creations. During the Pre-historical Camp, they listened to the stories of the shaman, they learned about the seven original animal clans and chose the one they belonged to. They painted their animal on a totem pole and sang and danced as the animal they had chosen. They entered the dream world to catch dreams that their rock paintings carried as a memory. During the Literary Camp, our multicultural bunch discovered ancient ways to write original stories. We explored the myths of creation coming from Turtle Island (North America), China, Mesopotamia and Africa and have made these mythical stories our own through our creations of how the world came to be.

This season our Family Program offers 6 different areas to discover : Circle Round Emotions, Sing Along, Young Explorers, Young Writers and Illustrators Circle, The Babybook Workshops and Celtic Celebrations. Places are limited and registration is necessary for all the activities. For more information please contact Mélanie Cantin at 694-9147 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Any other day, our Library staff will be glad to take your registration during our opening hours.

* Please see the Family Program Calendar on page 7 for a complete listing events.

DONATION OF CHILDRENS' BOOKS FROM CHAMPLAIN ST. LAWRENCE

The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec benefited from Champlain – St. Lawrence's generosity October 5th, 2002. The College graciously donated approximately 1,300 children's books to the Library, all of which are in excellent condition. The books were donated to the Library because of the weeding process carried out at St. Lawrence, following the need for more space for expansion of the collection. Furthermore, the Society hired a Children's Library Animator and has developed activities and other diffusion means for the collection. The collection was made available to readers the week of October 7th. What an invaluable addition to the Lit. & Hist. collections!

LIBRARY BULLETIN BOARD



This Fall our Family Program's activities will be held in two locations : The Library and Holland Centre. Circle Round Emotions will be on Wednesday evenings, once a month at Holland Centre enabling working parents and school-aged children to participate to our program. Sing Along will be part of the activities of the Parents and Tots Cooperative Playgroup on Tuesdays, once a month. Moreover, parents of infants will be invited to make their own baby journal through the Baby Talk Program of Holland Centre. By offering these new services, we hope to reach out to new families, thus adding to our family membership, developing an enduring partnership with Holland Centre and addressing the parking issue making participation to the activities more convenient for certain families.



As part of our Family Program this Fall, we are organizing two Celtic Celebrations : Samhain on October 31st and Yule on December 21st. The children's library animator is seeking helpful ones as she wishes to join her creative talents to those of others so that these events may truly reflect the richness of those traditions. She seeks Celtic musicians, storytellers and cooks to help children enjoy new culinary activities, songs and stories. If you are interested please contact Mélanie Cantin at 694-9147.



Musicians and singers wanted for our Sing Along Christmas Songs held at Holland Centre on December 17 and at the Library on December 19. Please contact Mélanie Cantin, children's library animator at 694-9147.



Old magazines are needed for some of our Fall collage activities. Please bring some to recycle on your next visit to the Library. Thank You !



Do you have an hour or two to spare? We need volunteers to help organize fundraising events. If you are interested, please contact the library and ask for a volunteer application. On this form, you will find a timetable on which to indicate your availability. Help of all kinds is required, so let us know if you can spare an hour or two, even if it's for one time only (eg. "I can give four hours on one Saturday in the month"). The future of your library is at stake as we rely heavily on membership fees and special fundraising events to survive. Please respond before Friday, November 1st, 2002. Thank you for your valued assistance.



The LHSQ will hold its annual Christmas Sale and Raffle December 7, 2002, as of 10:00 a.m. You are welcome to donate baked goods or items for the White Elephant Table. For more information call the library at 694-9147, weekdays.



The Newsletter Committee is Caroline Lamothe, Christine Veilleux and Callie Palmer. Your comments, questions, submissions and/or questions can be directed to us by mail, phone, fax or e-mail.

The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec
44, chaussée des Ecosais
Quebec City, Quebec
G1R 4H3

Ph. 418-694-0526
Fx. 418-694-0754
lhsq_library@qc.aira.com

Family Program Autumn 2002

Registration is necessary for all the activities. Places are limited.

October

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|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 10 | Sing Along with the Dinosaurs* | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | Age : 0-5 |
| 16 | Circle Round Emotions* | Location : Holland Centre | Time : 6.30 pm | Age : 4-8 |
| 18 | Young Explorers : Assyria | Location : The Library | Time : 9.30 am | Age : 6-12 |
| 19 | Young Explorers : Assyria | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | Age : 6-12 |
| 19 | Jeunes explorateurs : Assyrie | Location : The Library | Time : 1 pm | Age : 6-12 |
| 22 | Sing along with the Dinosaurs* | Location : Holland Centre | Time : 10.30 am | Age : 0-5 |
| 24 | Circle Round Emotions* | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | Age : 4-8 |
| 26 | The Babybook Workshop | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | For parents |
| 26 | Young Writers and Illustrators Circle | Location : The Library | Time : 1 pm | Age : 8-11 |
| 26 | Young Writers and Illustrators Circle | Location : The Library | Time : 2.30 pm | Age : 12-15 |
| 28 | The Baby Talk Workshop | Location : Holland Centre | Time : 1 pm | For parents |
| 31 | Celtic Celebration : Samhain* | Location : The Library | Time : 9.30 am | Family |

November

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 6 | Circle Round Emotions* | Location : Holland Centre | Time : 6.30 pm | Age : 4-8 |
| 8 | Young Explorers : Ancient India | Location : The Library | Time : 9.30 am | Age : 6-12 |
| 9 | Young Explorers : Ancient India | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | Age : 6-12 |
| 9 | Jeunes explorateurs : L'Inde ancienne | Location : The Library | Time : 1 pm | Age : 6-12 |
| 14 | Sing Along and Have Fun* | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | Age : 0-5 |
| 19 | Sing Along and Have Fun* | Location : Holland Centre | Time : 10.30 am | Age : 0-5 |
| 23 | The Babybook Workshop | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | For parents |
| 23 | Young Writers and Illustrators Circle | Location : The Library | Time : 1 pm | Age : 8-11 |
| 23 | Young Writers and Illustrators Circle | Location : The Library | Time : 2.30 pm | Age : 12-15 |
| 25 | The Baby Talk Workshop | Location : Holland Centre | Time : 1 pm | For parents |
| 28 | Circle Round Emotions* | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | Age : 4-8 |

December

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|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 4 | Circle Round Emotions* | Location : Holland Centre | Time : 6.30 pm | Age : 4-8 |
| 12 | Circle Round Emotions* | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | Age : 4-8 |
| 13 | Young Explorers : Ancient Egypt | Location : The Library | Time : 9.30 am | Age : 6-12 |
| 14 | Young Explorers : Ancient Egypt | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | Age : 6-12 |
| 14 | Jeunes explorateurs : L'Égypte | Location : The Library | Time : 1 pm | Age : 6-12 |
| 15 | The Babybook Workshop | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | For parents |
| 15 | Young Writers and Illustrators Circle | Location : The Library | Time : 1 pm | Age : 8-11 |
| 15 | Young Writers and Illustrators Circle | Location : The Library | Time : 2.30 pm | Age : 12-15 |
| 17 | Sing Along the Christmas Songs* | Location : Holland Centre | Time : 10.30 | Age : 0-5 |
| 19 | Sing Along The Christmas Songs* | Location : The Library | Time : 10 am | Age : 0-5 |
| 21 | Celtic Celebration : Yule* | Location : The Library | Time : 9.30 am | Family |

* Parents must accompany their child