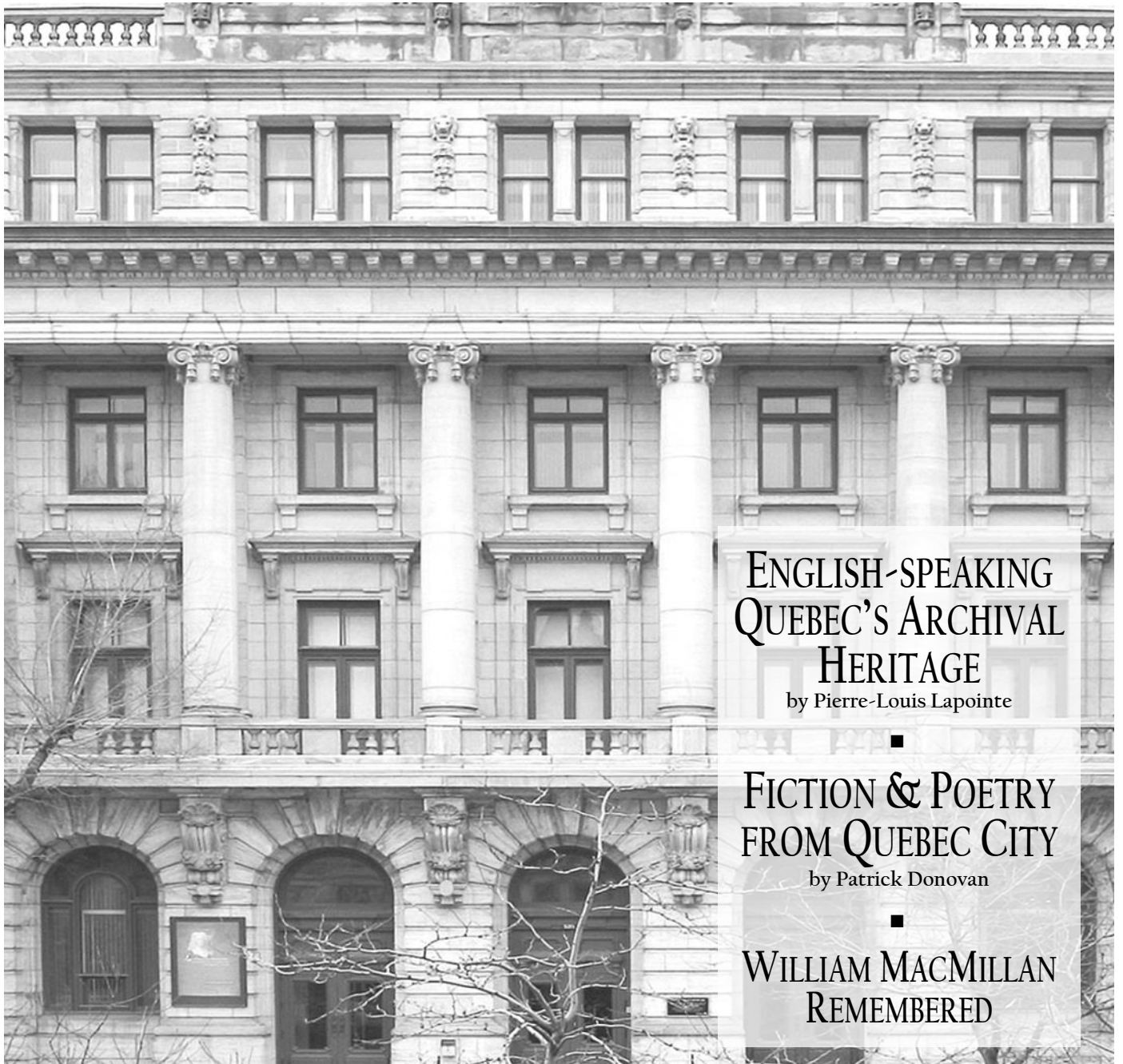




SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 15 ■ SPRING 2007 ■ \$2,00



ENGLISH-SPEAKING
QUEBEC'S ARCHIVAL
HERITAGE

by Pierre-Louis Lapointe

FICTION & POETRY
FROM QUEBEC CITY

by Patrick Donovan

WILLIAM MACMILLAN
REMEMBERED



SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 15 ■ SPRING 2007

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LIBRARY HOURS

***NEW* AS OF APRIL 1,
THE LIBRARY OPENS ONE
HOUR EARLIER ON SUNDAY**

 Sunday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	12:00PM-9:00PM
Wednesday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Thursday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Friday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Saturday	10:00AM-4:00PM

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The *Literary and Historical Society of Quebec* is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region and share its diverse heritage. The LHSQ manages the Morrin Centre

ISSN 1913-0732

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends,

It is my pleasure to present yet another issue of the Society Pages and to see it bursting with more content than all previous issues to date.

The Society recently received a commitment of over \$600,000 from the *Ministère de la culture et des communications* to finance Phase II of the restoration project. We are puzzled that the *Ministère* is no longer financing an elevator after contributing to a shaft built during the first phase. Universal access continues to be a priority and we are working with disability rights groups to ensure that the public sector responds to our request for accessibility. We expect news about Federal government funding for Phase II soon.

We are working not only to ensure the short-term success of the restoration project, but also to guarantee the Society's long-term financial vigour. The past few months have been filled with lots of behind-the-scenes fundraising work. To support the upcoming capital fundraising campaign, a cabinet has been assembled made up of the following volunteers: Frank Cabot (honorary president); Evan Price (co-chair, Quebec City); Peter Dunn (co-chain, Montreal); Peter Simons; Cynthia Moore; Dennis Apedaile; Nat Finlay; Ronald Blair, and myself. On behalf of the Society I thank them all sincerely for having agreed to take on this task and for all the work they have done so far. Since one needs to invest a dollar to make a dollar, the Society made considerable investments in fundraising-related expenses over the last few months. This provoked intensive involvement and mobilization of volunteer resources. We are very confident that we will meet the objectives of our campaign but are currently experiencing cash-flow challenges. We ask the families of members and friends to support us during this crucial time in order to maintain the momentum that we have gathered over the last few years.

I am pleased to report the arrival of two new dynamic council members: Sovita Chander and Steve Cameron. Sovita works in the field of marketing and has already begun volunteering to help the staff prepare a marketing strategy. Steve worked in upper management at Canada Post and the STCUQ (now RTC) and his business experience will surely be an asset to council. They replace Michael McCormack and Patrick McSweeney. Michael served on the council's executive for several years and Patrick continues to work as a tireless volunteer and musician at many of our events. I would like to thank them, on behalf of council, for their invaluable contribution to the Society.

We invite all members to join us for the Annual General Meeting, which will take place on March 27 at 7:00PM. It will be followed by the usual wine & cheese, magazine auction and games. Thank you for supporting the LHSQ and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many exciting events this spring.



David F. Blair, President

Annual General Meeting

March 27 ■ 7:00 PM ■ All members welcome (bring a friend)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SPRING 2007 UPDATE

by France Cliche, executive director

We are looking forward to yet another exceptional year at the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. The restoration of the building should be almost completed by the end of the year, more cultural programmes are being implemented and new interpretation services will soon be promoted. To achieve these goals, we are working very hard to make sure we can secure long-term financial stability through rigorous planning, and complete dedication of the staff and volunteers.

Some News

Restoration project: As David F. Blair mentioned in his letter, we are very happy to have received confirmation of a \$ 600, 000 contribution from the *ministère de la Culture et des Communications*. This funding is made available through the recently created *Fonds du patrimoine culturel québécois*; it constitutes a major step toward the 1,8 M\$ envelope we need to complete the restoration and the development of the infrastructure of our cultural centre.

However, we do want to share our disappointment about changes to the *ministère's* funding programmes that have resulted in a smaller contribution than we had expected from the provincial government. Providing easy access to our services is essential to be able to cater to the needs of the diversified clientele of the Morrin Centre and we are thus working hard to convince the authorities of the importance of universal access!

Confirmed funding for Phase 2 of the project is now close to \$ 650,000. We are also confident we will soon receive a response to the \$ 550,000 grant application presently being processed at Canadian Heritage. Once the federal funding is confirmed, we will have raised 1,2 M\$ out of our 1,8 M\$ objective. We are in the meantime working on other smaller public grants and on securing complementary private support.

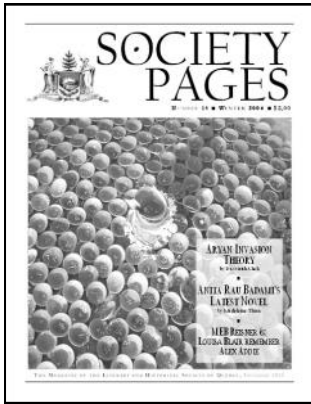
Staff: You have probably noticed a few changes to staff over the past few months. Administrative assistant **Nadia Cusan** moved to Montreal with her family in December. **Samar Sawaya** found employment with Ducks Unlimited and has been working on fundraising there since mid-January. Former library manager **Caroline Lamothe** returned from a leave of absence around that time and has since taken up the new role of assistant to the Executive Director. **Anne-Frédérique Champoux** is therefore staying on as our full-time library manager. **Mathieu Rompré**, who completed a Masters on the history of the Irish in Sillery, began working for us in late January on tour projects funded through the Federal government's IPOLC program. CEGEP Limoilou and Champlain/St.Lawrence intern **Andrée-Anne Pelletier** is assisting on the market study aspects of this project. Finally, **Sonja Taylor** left her position in public relations to pursue personal projects.

Grants and Fundraising: The LHSQ has recently received money from the Canada Council for the Arts to bring in several well-known writers from across the country as a pilot project (see back page). Your presence at these events will contribute to the success of future endeavours.

We also continue to work on several other grant applications and on planning our major capital campaign, which will allow us to complete many projects and ensure long-term operating funds for the Society.

Library: Many donations to the library have been added to the shelves recently. We also purchased over 80 local-interest books as part of the literary heritage project (see page 6). Furthermore, the inventory of the circulating fiction collection has been completed (which explains why all the books have stickers on their spines). We plan to extend this to the rest of the circulating collection. ■

Letters to the Editor



In our last issue we featured an article in which Dr. Girish Shah argued against the theory that Aryans (Indo-Europeans) invaded India four-thousand years ago. *Peter Frost*, author of *Fair Women, Dark Men: The Forgotten Roots of Color Prejudice*, challenges Dr. Shah. We encourage all

readers to send us their reactions to any printed material.

Dear Editor,

In "Aryan Invasion of India: Myth or Reality?", Dr. Girish Shah argues that the linguistic, historical, and archaeological evidence for the Indo-European invasion of India is doubtful, if not lacking altogether.

First, there is little doubt about the linguistic evidence. It is broadly accepted that most languages of Europe, Iran, and northern India share deep structural features that point to a common origin. The similarities are even more striking if we compare the oldest known representatives of this language family: Latin, Ancient Greek, Old Persian, and Sanskrit. Dr. Shah states that similarities also exist between Sanskrit and the Dravidian languages of southern India—the latter similarities, however, are largely due to borrowed vocabulary. Structurally, Sanskrit resembles Dravidian languages as much as English resembles Turkish.

This common ancestral language, dubbed "proto-Indo-European," probably began to break up 6,000 years ago as speakers moved outward into Europe, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent. Where did they initially come from? Some have suggested the steppes north of the Black Sea, others Asia Minor, and still others Central Asia. But no one really knows.

How did they enter their new homelands? As fearsome warriors bent on subjugation and

plunder? Or as meek pastoral people settling on land that nobody else wanted? Again, no one really knows. These events transpired almost wholly before the invention of writing, so we will probably never dig up accounts of what happened. Even if we found evidence of burned and pillaged Indian cities, why would proto-Indo-Europeans be the only suspects? In those days, lots of folks were in the burning and pillaging business.

But there is another witness to these events. Recent studies have compared Indian Y-chromosome DNA (passed on by fathers) with Indian mtDNA (passed on by mothers). The former—but not the latter—has strong affinities with the DNA of Eastern Europeans and Middle Easterners. According to other studies, these affinities are stronger in upper castes than in lower castes. The likeliest explanation? An outside population long ago moved in and appropriated local women, probably because it was the dominant social class. We see a similar pattern in Mexican subjects for similar reasons: their Y-chromosome DNA is mainly European and their mtDNA mainly Amerindian.

To be sure, our understanding of India's genetic history is still in its infancy. Only a few months ago the lead author of one study argued against any substantial immigration into India from the north or west. Yet a consensus is emerging. Until about 10,000 years ago, the subcontinent was home to hunter-gatherers similar in appearance to the native peoples of Australia and New Guinea. Agriculture then appeared, first in the northwest and later in the Ganges basin and further south. This spread of farming populations involved both immigration from the north and west and assimilation of natives, especially women. There then followed more movements of immigration and assimilation that likewise spread from the northwest to the south and east, one of them being initiated by proto-Indo-Europeans. Today, Indians are "South Asians" only in a geographical sense. They are, in fact, a mixture of peoples from within and without the Indian subcontinent. ■

TRANSACTIONS

ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUEBEC'S ARCHIVAL HERITAGE

by Pierre-Louis Lapointe, Reference Archivist, BAnQ-Québec City archives centre

The quantity and importance of archives related to the English-speaking community kept in various Quebec-based repositories, as well as in Library and Archives Canada's holdings in Ottawa and Gatineau, is quite considerable. McGill University, McCord Museum as well as Bishop's University usually come to mind when we are called upon to name the main storehouses of that archival heritage. However, few are aware that the *Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec* (BAnQ) holds records and papers linked to the history of English-speaking Quebec. Fewer still know that it stands out as one of Canada's main sources of printed and archival holdings dealing with English Quebec's evolution.

BAnQ keeps every possible type of documentary resource dealing with Quebec, whether printed or archival in nature. The fact that all these resources are kept under the same roof and that BAnQ is responsible for copyright registration of all books published and of all films produced in Quebec makes for an extremely rich storehouse. This paves the way for a dominant role of the new institution in the accessioning, preservation and development of heritage.

The Archives Branch of BAnQ is made up of a decentralized network of nine repositories located in Quebec City, Montreal, Trois-Rivières, Saguenay, Gatineau, Rouyn-Noranda, Sherbrooke, Rimouski and Sept-Îles, and of 30 private archives associated with and accredited by BAnQ (including the LHSQ). The Quebec City archives centre, located on the Université Laval campus, is housed in the old seminary chapel in the pavillon Louis-Jacques-Casault.

The manuscript or record groups, also called *fonds* (defined as all "the records or archives accumulated

by a particular individual, institution or organization in the exercise of its activities and functions") and collections kept in these archives sometimes include many types of media: unpublished textual documents (handwritten, typed and digitized correspondence, minutes, studies and reports), photographic and audiovisual documents (films, videos, cassettes), maps and architectural plans, iconographic and digital documents (diskettes, CDs) and microforms. Acquired over the years by simple transfer, loan, gift or sale, they eloquently bear witness to the evolution of Quebec.



BAnQ repository at Université Laval in Quebec City

In order to ensure their authenticity, protection and access, these fonds and collections are described and kept in temperature- and humidity-controlled rooms. PISTARD, BAnQ's archival network guide to all of its holdings, gives ready access to them. Unless subject to restrictions, all

documents are open for consultation, to ordinary citizens and academics alike, in the network's various reading rooms.

Government records transferred to the BAnQ are designated as public archives. Close to 16 kilometres of judicial records are to be found in BAnQ's nine centres. A large percentage of these records, probably 30%, are in English and deal with individuals, institutions and firms closely linked to the existence of Quebec's English-speaking communities. The percentage is much higher for the late 18th to the first half of the 20th century, when large corporations insisted on dealing with the Quebec government in English. Historians who, for instance, would want to document the life and career of Henry Atkinson, a Quebec City lumber baron, would delve into the 50,000-odd contracts of public notary Archibald Campbell, the civil court case files involving him

Archival Heritage *(continued from previous page)*

and other members of the business community as well as the correspondence files of the Lands and Forests Commissariat—most of it in English!

Manuscripts, photographs, films and any other documents originating from non-governmental sources are deemed “private” in nature: they are accessioned by loan, donation or sale, and a written contract spells out clearly the conditions agreed to by both parties. These “private archives” reflect the existence of individuals, families, organizations and business firms. They often bear witness to more intimate episodes or events of private life. BANQ’s 7 kilometres of shelving taken up by private archives also reflect the important role played by Quebec’s English-speaking community.

BANQ’s private archives that are closely, if not exclusively, linked to the existence of Quebec’s English-speaking minority total approximately 1 kilometre, with 45 fonds in Quebec City alone. Some outstanding local examples include:

- Price Company & Family fonds
- Neilson Family and Neilson Publishers fonds
- YWCA fonds
- Ladies Protestant Home fonds
- Literary and Historical Society of Quebec Collection
- The James Thompson Jr. fonds
- The William Sharples Family fonds
- Lady Aylmer’s Journal (illustrated by Colonel Cockburn)
- 1,500 magnificent Staveley architectural drawings

All archival institutions are interested in accessioning private archives. In the past, however, many acquisitions have been marred by instances of outright rivalry. Nowadays, things have simmered down somewhat and cooperation has set in, most organizations trying to respect the well-defined fields of interest or territorial and institutional boundaries and specificity of their potential rivals’ collection areas. Because preservation and description of archives is a time-consuming and costly process, accessioning the right manuscripts is of paramount importance.

BANQ’s accessioning guidelines stress the need to respect the collecting areas and fields of interest of its archival partners throughout Quebec. This means that a potential donor of documents may be redirected towards one of the accredited repositories. Documents linked to a family or business that operated in Western Quebec, for instance, would never be accessioned by BANQ’s Quebec City archives centre, but manuscripts linked to the immediate family of a Quebec premier would be.

Overall triennial accessioning priorities have been defined for all of BANQ’s nine archival centres: such is the case for the archives of cultural minorities (English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Lebanese, Haitian, Chinese, etc.), for those of businesses and industries and for those of politicians (MPPs, MNAs, ministers and premiers).

As for all archival organizations, BANQ’s preferred form of acquisition is the **gift** or **donation**, the donor being offered tax receipts in the amount of the fair market value of the documents, that value being established by a recognized merchant of manuscripts or by a NAB (National Appraisal Board) regional committee. Sometimes, in rather special circumstances, a loan of the documents is negotiated, in the hope that they will eventually be donated. In dire need, when all other approaches have failed and when documents of great historical value are threatened with destruction or export out of the country, the institution may offer to buy them outright!

As can be seen, BANQ is an indispensable tool for the preservation and communication of English-speaking Quebec’s archival heritage and cultural mosaic. BANQ caters to all Quebecers, irrespective of religious or cultural origin, and members of Quebec’s English-speaking community are invited to participate in the ongoing building of BANQ, as users and as donors, in order to enrich this treasure-house. It is hoped that this article will help lift the misapprehensions that may persist, thereby enabling BANQ to play an even more important role in the preservation and development of English Quebec’s archival heritage in the future. ■

LIBRARY PAGES

CELEBRATING QUEBEC CITY'S LITERARY HERITAGE

by Patrick Donovan

Last year, the LHSQ received a grant from the *Department of Canadian Heritage's Official Language Communities Development Fund* to celebrate Quebec City's English-language literary heritage. The first step of this project involved compiling a bibliography, which will be made available at the library.

Using this list, books were then purchased for the LHSQ's library. Over 80 books will soon be added to the collection. These include books by local writers and books about the city. Fiction, poetry, travel writing and kids books were purchased. Over 30 worn or paperback books were also rebound. These books will be easy to identify thanks to a small logo representing St. Louis Gate on the spine.



We also went beyond Quebec City to add other relevant books to our collection. Past winners of the Quebec Writers' Federation Fiction, Poetry and Non-Fiction prizes were purchased, totalling over 30 new books. These will be identified with the QWF logo.



The LHSQ will also be promoting this literature actively over the next year. In addition to the overview below, articles on page 10, 12, and 17 focus on this literature. With this broader vision of writing in Quebec, we can celebrate a wider range of literature from the past.

Come to the library and check out one of these great books today! ■

FOCUS ON FICTION AND POETRY FROM QUEBEC CITY

In a recent interview for *Spirale* magazine, writer David Homel (see back cover) argues that the idea of "Anglo-Quebécois" literature is baseless. Homel thinks "Anglo-Montreal" is a more appropriate adjective, claiming that there is no sign of literary life outside the metropolis.

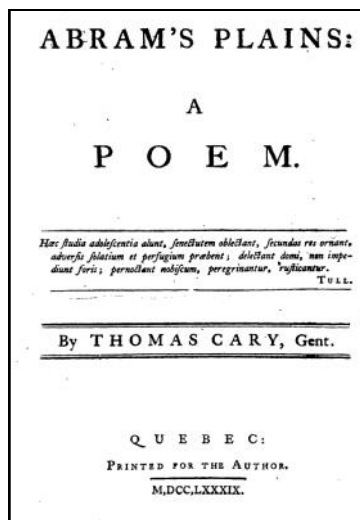
I was baffled when I read this. Not only because Quebec City writers have won QWF literary prizes over the past few years, but also because I have been compiling a bibliography that suggests a vibrant history of English-language writing in Quebec City. This story deserves a closer look.

The story begins soon after the British conquest. The first to sit down and write was Frances Brooke, who came to Quebec with her husband in 1763. She wrote North

America's first novel, *The History of Emily Montague*.

"The elegant arts are unknown here," she writes, "the rigor of the climate suspends the very powers of the understanding; what then must become of those of the imagination?"

But the imagination flourished. The eighteenth century saw the publication of several long poems extolling the beauty of Quebec's landscape and praising British might. The only one by a local writer was *Abram's Plains*, published in Quebec by newspaperman and librarian Thomas Cary. There are others, written in the same genre: J. Patrick's *Quebec: A Poetical Essay* (1760), J. Mackay's *Quebec Hill* (1797) and Cornwall Bayley's *Canada* (1806).



Thomas Cary's *Abram's Plains*, probably the first work of literature published in English in Quebec City.

LIBRARY PAGES

Literary Heritage (continued from previous page)

Some early poets were more than mere parrots for the Empire. George Longmore spent the first sixteen years of his life in Quebec City before being posted abroad in England, Mauritius and Cape Town. He wrote several poetic works, namely *The Charivari* (1824), which recounts the tale of a wedding procession gone haywire in Montreal. Irish-born Adam Kidd, who lived in Quebec City throughout the 1820s, wrote a collection of poems about evil Europeans and noble natives entitled *The Huron Chief* (1830). Bishop G.J. Mountain's *Songs of the Wilderness* (1846) is another collection of poems from this period, well-received upon publication.

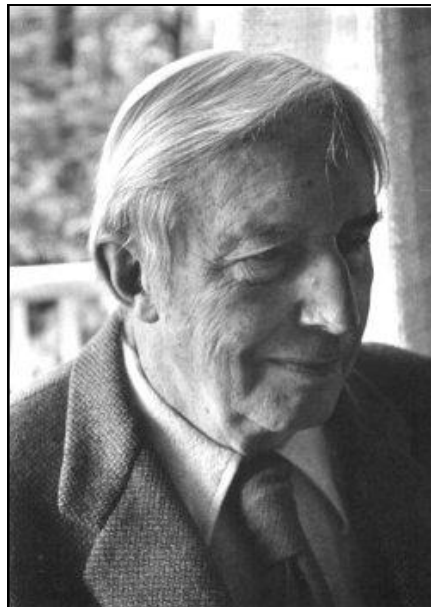
From the 1840s to the 1940s, the roman du terroir was a dominant form in francophone Quebec, glorifying the rural francophone peasantry and extolling traditional moral and religious values. A few examples within this genre exist in English, such as the work of Quebec-born James-Edward Le Rossignol, whose *Jean Baptiste* (1915) glorifies the life of the habitant. Whereas Le Rossignol praises Francophones for their self-reliance, *The Little Sergeant* (1905) commends francophones for their loyalty to Empire during the American invasion. It was written by J.M. Harper, rector of the High School of Quebec.

Many Quebec City writers collected stories from the past, retold history as fiction, or wove folktales of their own. The work of George Moore Fairchild, E.C. Woodley, James and Charlotte MacPherson, and Hazel Boswell are examples of this. Lévis-born Louis Fréchette, the first Québécois to be lauded by the Académie Française, tried his hand at writing in English with a collection entitled *Christmas in French Canada* (1899).

The popular fiction of the period reveals much about the relationship between different classes and linguistic groups in Quebec City. Anna Chapin

Ray, who split time between New Haven and Quebec City, wrote over 40 romances. By *The Good Sainte-Anne* (1904) and *Hearts and Creeds* (1906) are examples of her work dealing with French and English society in Quebec. Then there's the business romance, seen in J.M. Harper's *That Norward Business Romance* (1905), a timely tale where the quest for a girl's heart gets in the way of a colonization railway scheme.

A history of local literature would be incomplete without a look at F.G. Scott and F.R. Scott. The former became rector of St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Saint-Jean-Baptiste at the age of 25. His poems were acclaimed at the time albeit



Quebec City's F.R. Scott
redefined literature in Canada
(Photo: Lois Lord)

conservative, focusing on landscape and British imperial might. Canon Scott served in World War I and played a part in the propaganda effort through his writing. His son, F.R. Scott, broke with his father's tradition and profoundly influenced the evolution of our artistic culture. He is credited with bringing Canada into the modern era. Born in Quebec City, this graduate from the High School of Quebec later became a Rhodes scholar at Oxford. In addition to a poetic output that garnered many awards, Scott translated French-Canadian poets, played a part in founding the New Democratic Party, and even went

to Burma to help build a Socialist state.

The 1960s and 1970s saw few new faces on the literary scene. Fleur Garneau-Whitworth echoes the Trudeau doctrine in her novel entitled *Two Families: One Culture* (1966). Gordon Pape, who lived in Quebec City for many years (and now writes books about RRSPs), penned a political thriller entitled *Chain Reaction* (1979) where the independence issue rears its head. Quebec-born poet Grant Johnson also published his first book, *Compass of Open Veins* (1970), during this period,

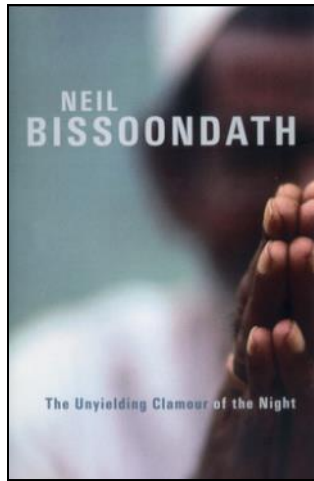
LIBRARY PAGES

Literary Heritage (continued from previous page)

following a few decades later with *Mirrors on Uncertain Mornings* (1988).

In recent years, English-language writing has picked up momentum in Quebec City. Although the English-speaking population is at a historic low of less than 2%, it is encouraging that more is being published by local writers than ever before. We have seen the rise of fiction and poetry written by visible minorities who have migrated to Quebec. Neil Bissoondath, H. Nigel Thomas, Nalini Warriar, and Madeleine Thien are the most prominent examples. Although their works are usually set outside the city, Nalini Warriar's novel *The Enemy Within* is a rare example of an immigrant's tale set in Quebec City. Set against the backdrop of the 1995 referendum, the novel features long walks through Vieux Quebec in which Sita, an Indian

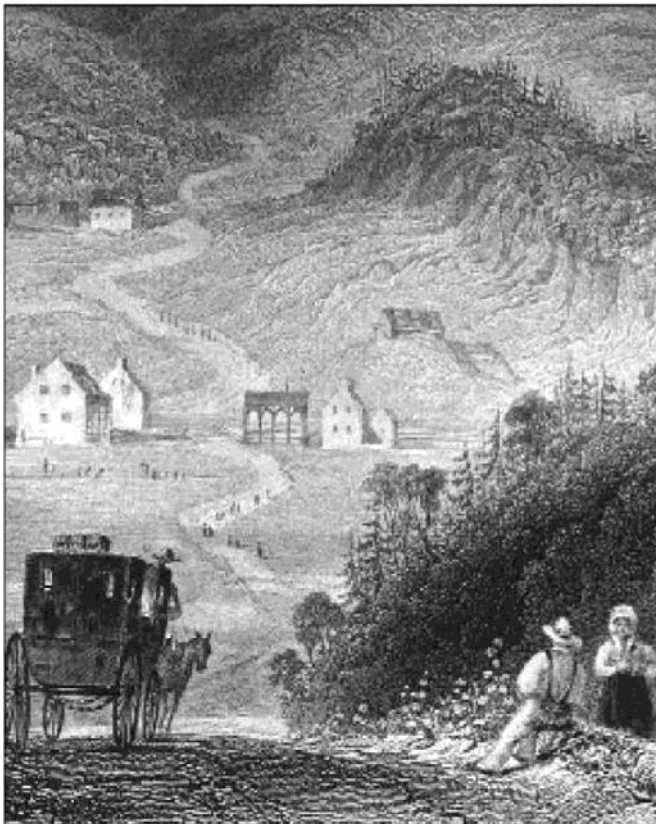
immigrant, confronts her own sense of belonging and difficult marriage. She will read from this book at the Morrin Centre on May 11 (see back page).



Neil Bissoondath won the QWF Prize for Fiction for *Doing the Heart Good* (2002), and *The Unyielding Clamour of the Night* (2005)

And the list goes on. I have not included all the emerging or self-published writers in Quebec, such as spoken word poet Rae Marie Taylor, musician Randall Spear, and others. There are also writers like Louisa Blair and M.E. Reisner who focus on history. The Quebec Writers' Circle (see p.10) attracts aspiring local writers who meet monthly in the LHSQ library to exchange tricks of the trade.

We hope this will inspire you write and take part in the future of Anglo-Québécois writing. Why not join in the 8-week poetry course by local poet Aurian Haller, starting next March? See our calendar on www.morrin.org for details



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LIBRARY PAGES

Wish List

SPRING 2007 PRIORITY
MODERN LIBRARY'S
100 BOOKS OF THE 20th CENTURY

Our library wishes to thank **Wallace and Mary- Ellen Rooney** for donations of twelve books from the last wish list (We would also like to apologize for mistakenly referring to Mr. Rooney as "Walter" in the last issue). Additional thanks to **Tomas Feininger** and **Patrick Donovan** for donations of two relevant books from the list. The library also purchased four other books. We now have exactly 56 of the top 100 books of the 20th century! We are still looking for the books below to have a complete collection of these classics. If you have any of the following in your collection, please consider donating to the Society. We also accept financial donations destined to Wish List purchases. All donations will be acknowledged in the *Society Pages* and in the books themselves:

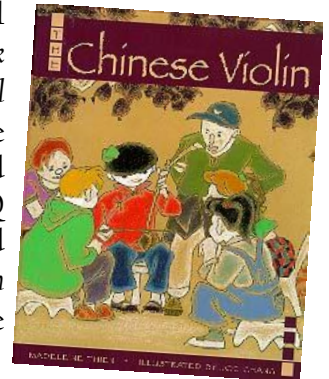
Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*
Saul Bellow, *Henderson the Rain King* and *The Adventures of Augie March*
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Death of the Heart*
Paul Bowles, *The Sheltering Sky*
Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange*
James P. Cain, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*
Erskine Caldwell, *Tobacco Road*
Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*, *Nostramo*
J.P. Donleavy, *The Ginger Man*
Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*
James T. Farrell, *Studs Lonigan* (trilogy)
William Faulkner, *Light in August*
Ford Madox Ford, *The Good Soldier* and *Parade's End*
E.M. Forster, *A Room with a View*
John Fowles, *The Magus*
Henry Green, *Loving*
Richard Hughes, *A High Wind in Jamaica*
Aldous Huxley, *Point Counter Point*
Henry James, *The Wings of the Dove*
James Jones, *From Here to Eternity*
James Joyce, *Finnegan's Wake*
William Kennedy, *Ironweed*
Sinclair Lewis, *Main Street*
Carson McCullers, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*
Norman Mailer, *The Naked and the Dead*
Henry Miller, *Tropic of Cancer*
Iris Murdoch, *Under the Net*
V.S. Naipaul, *A Bend in the River* and *A House for Mr. Biswas*
Anthony Powell, *A Dance to the Music of Time* (series)
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*
Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
Wallace Stegner, *Angle of Repose*
William Styron, *Sophie's Choice*
Booth Tarkington, *The Magnificent Ambersons*
Robert Penn Warren, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*
Evelyn Waugh, *A Handful of Dust* and *Scoop*

Library News for Kids

by Anne-Frédérique Champoux, library manager

Just like your children, the kids' section of the LHSQ library won't stop growing! Dozens of new junior books have just been ordered, and they should be received shortly. Here's a quick look at what spring is going to make blossom on our shelves!

For those who like adventure, three new titles might sound appealing. First, you may want to have a look at William Gilkerson's GG Prize winner, *Pirate's Passage*. Then, you could take up some action with the enthralling *Operation Red Jericho*, and finally, get yourself ready for a medieval makeover with *Knights And Armour*. If you'd rather enjoy a nice story, where friendship is a strong bond between humans and animals, you can choose from the whimsical *Moonbird*, the sweet *Duck and Goose* or the funny *Girl and Her Gator*. And for the ones who like to read famous authors, the LHSQ library has just purchased Margaret Atwood's *Up in the Tree* and Madeleine Thien's *The Chinese Violin*.



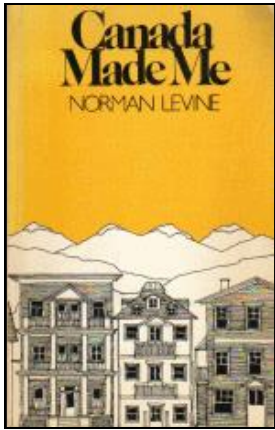
A few Children's Books were purchased as part of the Literary Heritage project (see p.6). Books set in the city include *The Juggler*, *The Quebec City Crisis* and *Bon Voyage, Christie & Company*. Why not pick up one of the old swashbuckling tales of William MacMillan (see p.17), which will also be added to the shelves soon.

That was just a glimpse of what the children's corner has to offer you and your family. Don't hesitate to drop by the library and browse our shelves yourself. Hundreds of stories are waiting to be told. And, while we're on the subject, don't forget our weekly kids' readings, every Saturday at 11:00 AM! ■

LIBRARY PAGES

BOOK REVIEW: *CANADA MADE ME*

by Mathieu Rompré



Canada Made Me is the first book published by Norman Levine (1923-2005), a writer raised in Ottawa and educated at McGill University. He lived in St Ives, Cornwall, from 1949 to 1980. It is an account of a trip through Canada in 1956, written in a very simple and straightforward –yet beautiful and moving– style.

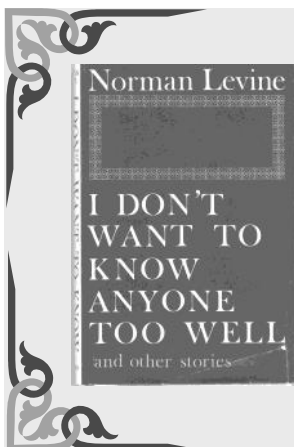
First published in Great Britain in 1958, the book was received with anger by Canadian critics at the time. It was not published in Canada until 1979. After reading it, one easily understands the critic's anger: *Canada Made Me* is a chronicle of bitter melancholy and brutal honesty. Levine has mixed feelings about Canada: though he claim to feel no sense of belonging to Canada or anywhere else, the country's cold and snow give him a sense of home: "It was a climate that rejected man. And yet I feel strangely at home in it. This is what one belonged to: the cold, the snow, the frozen emptiness." In the same way, there is no anger or frustration in his negative vision of his native country: "Mind you, I have no rancour; I don't feel that Canada has cheated me of anything, I feel quite kindly disposed towards it. But I find that in the place where I am expected to have patriotic feelings there is a little void." Whatever his feelings or

personal issues, the author finds Canada boring and its towns provincial.

In spite of Levine's negative perception, the chapters dedicated to Montreal and Quebec City, at the end of the book, are of great interest to Quebec readers. In Montreal, the author recalls his student years at McGill, and meets with one "André L.", working for the newspaper *Le Devoir* (obviously André Laurendeau, one of the most prominent intellectuals in post-World War II Quebec). In Quebec City, Levine rents a room among the students in the old town's "Quartier Latin", and spend a few days wandering the same streets we see in Alfred Hitchcock's movie *I Confess*. In his eyes, Quebec City "had the slowness, the dignity, of an old University town. But there was a deadness, a coldness about it all"; he even compares the city to a "well-kept cemetery."

Canada Made Me is extremely well written and gives the readers the opportunity to bring back to life the Canada of the 1950's, especially the neighbourhoods of the working class, which the author prefers to the upper-class districts. ■

Mathieu Rompré is a research assistant hired by the LHSQ through a project grant supported by the Federal Government. Last year, he completed his M.A. in History on the Irish of Sillery during the 1870s.



Additional references to Quebec City can be found in Norman Levine's collection of short fiction entitled *I Don't Want to Know Anyone Too Well*. The first story, "In Old Quebec," is set in the city during World War II and in the 1960s. A Jewish officer stationed in the city is invited to dinner by a wealthy family of Jewish merchants, possibly modeled on the Pollack family. The story is written in short poignant sentences that evoke the bare-bones realism of Hemingway. In less than a dozen pages, Levine creates a sense of attachment to the characters, evoking the same feelings of melancholy and bleakness as in *Canada Made Me*. He also creates a stunning portrait of Quebec City life during the war. Worth a read! Check it out at the library today.

LIBRARY PAGES

THE LHSQ'S FIRST LIBRARIAN

by Anne-Frédérique Champoux, library manager

Although the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec was founded in 1824, its library was only founded six years later. The government granted £250 to the Society in 1830, allowing for the first books to be purchased. With this came the first librarian, Dr. John Whitelaw. Born in Scotland (1774), he studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. He came to Quebec to assist the Reverend Dr. Wilkie at his grammar school, believed to be the best in the city at that time. He then signed up as a member of the LHSQ.

Dr. Whitelaw devoted most of his career to chemistry, but he was also a successful physician. He became a close friend of Dr. James Douglas after watching him night and day through a severe illness. Dr. Whitelaw later moved to Ontario. He lived in Brockville, Kingston and Toronto, but finally settled in Niagara. There, he became the head master of the Upper Canada grammar school. He died in January 1853, but the library he helped to develop is still very much alive. ■

TESTIMONIALS

COCKTAIL DE NOËL DU JEUNE BARREAU DE QUÉBEC—UN VIF SUCCÈS!

de Sébastien Jobin-Vermette, avocat

Le 30 novembre dernier, le traditionnel Cocktail de Noël du *Jeune Barreau de Québec* a été tenu au Morrin Centre. Le Jeune Barreau de Québec est une association presque centenaire, qui représente tous les avocat(e)s de moins de 10 années de pratique du district de Québec.

Plus de 150 personnes s'étaient ainsi donné rendez-vous au Morrin Centre pour fraterniser dans une ambiance celtique. En plus du lieu magique, tout y était pour sentir l'atmosphère authentique: les bouchées irlandaises de Mme Catherine Cairns et M. Gilles Mascaro du restaurant Dazibo, la musique d'un groupe celtique, le cornemuseur M. Devon Matsalla, la danse du groupe Shannon Irish Dancers de Mme Kerry Ann King et évidemment les organisateurs, Mes Sébastien Jobin-Vermette et Mathieu Trépanier, en kilt pour l'occasion!

En décidant de tenir le Cocktail de Noël au Morrin Centre, les organisateurs de l'événement ont voulu que les participants découvrent la richesse architecturale de ce lieu historique.



Le Jeune Barreau de Québec est fier d'avoir été parmi les premières organisations à profiter de la restauration récemment effectuée au Morrin Centre. Nous sommes certains que cette très belle mise en valeur permettra, sans aucun doute, pour les prochaines décennies, à faire mieux connaître à toute la communauté, ce lieu historiquement important mais encore trop méconnu.

Les organisateurs ont grandement apprécié l'accueil chaleureux du personnel du Morrin centre et ont constaté que cet endroit démontre le dynamisme de la communauté anglophone de la région de Québec.

Le Jeune Barreau de Québec remercie les commanditaires de l'événement: Barreau de Québec, Dale Parizeau LM, la Corporation de services du Barreau du Québec, Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu, Heenan Blaikie Aubut, Gagnon Sénéchal Coulombe et Ass., huissiers de justice, Boisjoly Bédard, sténographes officiels et Aventure Inukshuk. ■



A SECTION DEVOTED TO
THE WRITERS' CIRCLE

From *Aidan's Wall*
"The Battle of the Bakery"

"You see," Kat explained as the baker boxed the pastries, "back in Montreal on St-Jean-Baptiste Day—it's like St. Patrick's Day for Quebecers—the radical leader of an anglophone rights group was marching in the parade. This pissed off the folks from the most extreme French separatist group, who figured he had no business celebrating their national holiday. So their leader was waiting to confront his nemesis along the parade route.

"But a few blocks before, the anglo rights guy was intercepted by a clown, who creamed him with a pie. These clowns are part of a social conscience group called Les Entartistes. They throw pies at public figures as a peaceful way of denouncing them. And in this case, they also wanted to defuse a volatile situation, by injecting some humor and silliness. And it worked. The whole scene turned into a damp squib once it was liberally doused with whipped cream. So then I was after thinking: wouldn't the world be a better place if everyone fought with pies instead of guns?"

She put a box in each of our hands, and led us back out. "The problem with stones," she went on, "is they quickly become nail bombs. And nail bombs become petrol bombs, and petrol bombs become Semtex bombs, and Semtex bombs become mortars. But you can't escalate with baked goods."

"I don't know about that," I cut in. "My mom makes a fruit cake that could do some serious damage."

"Thrown or ingested?" Hugh asked.

"Oh, either way," I said earnestly.

We arrived just as the Protestant and Catholic gangs had collided at the intersection and the first salvos of stones were sailing across the road to the cries of "Ye black bastards!" and "Fuckin' Taigs!"

"Hugh, you're quartermaster for that group over there," Kat said, pointing across the street. "Just keep them well supplied in pastry."

"Right," said Hugh, taking it all in stride as he angled across the street outside the field of fire.

"We'll take up position on either side of the green and cream you in a pincer movement."

"Are you sure this is a good idea?" I asked Kat.

"No, not really," she answered without pause. She ducked low and sprinted behind the wall.

"This looks like a half-baked plan if ever I saw one!"

I called after her. We crouched down beside the teenagers, and Kat started passing out pastries.

"Here, lads," she said, "throw these instead."

"Ye're barmy!" One of them exclaimed. "Ye want us to throw pies?"

"Well, sticks and stones may break some bones, but pies are a helluva lot funnier."

Suddenly, the tallest one started to laugh as he envisioned the possibilities, and he grabbed a coconut cream tart. Testing the weight and balance in his hand, he swiftly stood up and whipped it across the road. It caught one of the other guys on the shoulder and splattered into his face. There was sudden silence as the others froze and looked at him.

"What is it?" One asked anxiously. He wiped his chin with a finger and licked it.

"It tastes like coconut cream," he said. They stared at him, the stones in their hands forgotten, astonished into a daze.

“Yeah, well I’ve got the good stuff,” Hugh said as he reached them. “Lemon meringue. We’ve got them outgunned.”

They looked at Hugh with the same bemused expression on their faces, but the one wearing coconut cream recovered quickly. He grabbed a tart from the box and lobbed it over our wall, where it hit one of our guys on the chest.

“Yuck,” he said, and quickly retaliated by cannonballing a creampuff, which exploded in a very satisfactory way upon impact, splattering two of them with white goo. And then the Battle of the Bakery erupted in earnest, and much cream was shed, as sticky projectiles sailed back and forth across the road. ■

Michèle Sheaff is a journalist and writer from Quebec City. She recently finished writing a novel called Aidan’s Wall. Set in Northern Ireland, it’s a Romeo and Juliet story—if Juliet survived and returned ten years later to knock some heads together.



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FROM THE VAULT

A THEATRICAL TRIP, FOR A WAGER

An edited excerpt from Horton Rhys' account of his theatrical tour to North America, originally published in 1861

Quebec is a city built on a rock, &c., &c and a mighty tall rock, too, only about 350 feet above the level of the river. How on earth Wolfe and his army ever got up to the top is a wonder. No man with any other *name* could have done it, I believe. However, any one who wishes to know, when and how, and where it *was* done, won't get any information from *me*, for lots of writers, ere now, have described (from each other's descriptions) all about it, and having myself read it, and wrote it so very early in life, that I have totally forgotten all the principal parts of the performance, I will omit the History of Quebec, and continue my own...

It was nearly nine in the evening when we drove up to the door of Russell's Hotel, and...we looked forward to a "cumfy" supper, and a ten-hour turnin with unmitigated pleasure. Judge ye our intense misery on being informed that they were all full!--and they wouldn't or couldn't tell you where to go.

"Would the ladies like to sit in the drawing-room?"

"Of course, they would--anywhere;" and to the drawing-room they went, while the wretched Stocks and I hunted up the town for quarters, which we at last found in an American House. The landlord was not to be found; but his deputy, a dissipated-looking cross between a billiard-marker and a pot-boy showed me some comfortable apartments ... and we all tumbled in, tired to death.

We are at breakfast--bad coffee, bad eggs, bad everything, but our temper is of the twain, improved. Besides, we are in Canada--our own country, her Majesty's dominions, and feel ourselves Englishmen again. We shall have respect shown us, and *our rooms* to ourselves.

We had scarcely shaken ourselves into our places, when Captain Bayly, of the Canadian Rifles, was announced, and in he came, his merry face illuminating the dingy room with a temporary ray of comic sunshine. He had only lately been

transferred with his Company from Toronto. In less than no time it was arranged that he should assist us on our "First appearance in Canada;" but how, and in what, required great consideration. The number of plays, in which there are but three or four characters, is so limited. I was perforce obliged to consent to write something "*right away*," in which the varied talent of Lucille, the Captain, and myself might be exhibited. Ten days, I thought, would suffice for the execution of our project, for puffing, posting, and all other proclamation of our arrival and intentions.

Quebec is at all times a dull-looking place, excepting when some political row breaks out, which is but of rare occurrence, and unfortunately nothing of the kind took place while I was there, therefore, I have no excitement to chronicle.

There was a little Cricket going on and we occasionally went to the Plains of Abraham to see the old English game played; and now and then, the representation reminded me of sunny "lords," old Lansdown, or the Canterbury meetings. There were handsome women, fine-looking men, and lots to eat and drink--a good Band, and moderately good play;--nothing to go into fits about, but a sort of All Muggleton *mélange*. Altogether, one could find something to do, and Quebec was bearable for the ten days we had to pass, before our first "little go" in Canada came off.

I had worked like a man at a vehicle for the introduction of ourselves and Captain Bayly, and had finished, and entitled it, *A Country Manager's Perplexities*. The plot was far from original, but the situations were startlingly new, and the dialogue of a most spirited description--at least, I thought so; so did Lucille; so did Bayly...

Find out what happens by checking out the 1969 reprint of Horton Rhys' travelogue, recently added to our collection.

SPECIAL THANKS

PERPETUAL SUCCESSION: 2006 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

by Julie Lamontagne



The Society is proud to announce that it has received a total of \$12,090 as a result of the 2006 Perpetual Succession campaign. These donations demonstrate your continued support and faith in the Morrin Centre project. On behalf of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, its volunteers and team members, we would like to thank generous donors for their precious contributions. Thank you for allowing Morrin Centre to evolve and to maintain a perpetual succession.

5,000\$ à 9,999\$
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HERITAGE CORNER

WILLIAM MACMILLAN, LHSQ PRESIDENT 1953-1956

by Cameron MacMillan

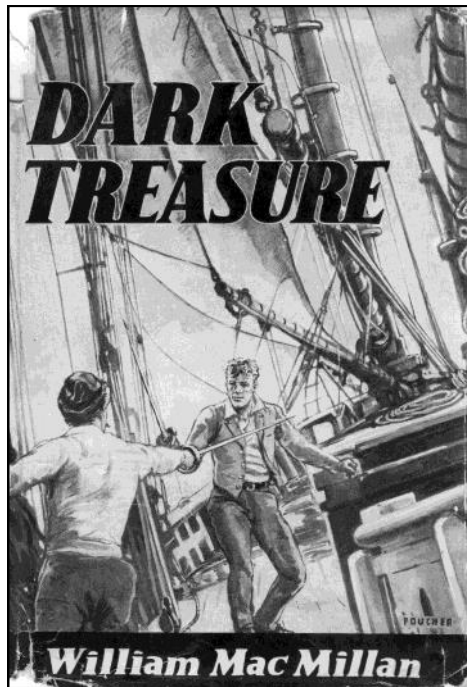
As part of the research into Quebec City's literary heritage (see page 6), many little-known local writers were rediscovered. One of these is William MacMillan, father of Cameron MacMillan, both past presidents of the LHSQ.

William MacMillan was born in Toronto while his family was in temporary residence from their home in Lévis. He often said that he felt that his place of birth shouldn't be held against him because, really, his heart was always in Quebec. His marriage to Mary Blyth MacFarlane, the daughter of the Minister of St-Andrews Presbyterian Church in Lévis, endured until her death in 1970. They had three children: Dr. Donald, a general practitioner and anaesthesiologist who served a term as Chairman of the Board of Governors of Morrin College; Joan, a teacher; and Cameron who also became President of Council in 1981.

He began working for Holt Renfrew & Company on rue Buade in Quebec City when he was 15. He retired as general manager of the store when he was over 75. His first love was furs and he managed Holt's fur department until his appointment as store manager in 1950. In those days the store was open from 9 to 6, six days a week. For a man with a cottage at Château d'Eau on the St-Charles River and a camp at the



William MacMillan (1890-1972)



William MacMillan wrote at least 4 books for young adults: *Arctic Adventure*, *Red Leg Morgan*, *Dark Treasure*, and *Mystery Ship*.

The library owns all but *Red Leg Morgan*, and would be grateful for a donation of this book from our former president.

Little Saguenay Fish & Game Club, north of St-Raymond, those hours left him very little leisure time. But, every morning at home he began his day by typing on his manuscripts before going to work. And, almost every evening, he took up where he had left off. His trout fishing weekends began at the close of business on Saturday and he would be back home Sunday evening.

He published four or five adventure novels for boys but his main effort was devoted to writing stories and articles for Sunday school papers; articles for outdoor magazines including *Field & Stream* and adventure stories for the important British and American tomes for teenagers such as *Boys' Own Annual*.

He was a charter member of the Quebec Rotary, did his stint as President, and remained a devoted member until shortly before his death. He was an active member of the Quebec Winter Club in its heyday. He also served for many years as an Elder in Chalmers-Wesley United Church.

A long-time member of the LHSQ, he was delighted to be elected on Council and to serve as President from 1953 to 1956. His family remembers him with pride and great affection. ■

BULLETIN BOARD



Rosemary Power Cannon Delaney (far right), the LHSQ's first woman president sits alongside other Quebec City television pioneers (LHSQ Collections)

On Saturday March 10 all are invited to participate in the official unveiling of the portrait of our former president **Rosemary Power Cannon Delaney**. The event aims at honouring her as a remarkable woman in connection with International Women's Day on March 8 and as the only female president the society had to date. The event starts at 1:30 p.m. Karen MacDonald and members of the family will present brief insights into the life of this outstanding lady.

Since August 2006, College Hall, Classroom for Classics, Library and Entrance Hall have been rented out for private events and parties. Many calendar days in 2007 have already been booked. If you are planning a special celebration, dinner or conference, contact Julie at julielamontagne@morrin.org or 694-

9147 and she will provide you with the necessary information.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, copies of *Science* magazine are now available for your perusal in the LHSQ library.

Don't miss the weekly **Kids Readings**. Come to the library with your children on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. and listen to some wonderful children's stories.

We want to thank **Pierre Rochette** for spontaneously crafting wonderful door

stops after visiting the library with his wife Patricia before Christmas. *Merci beaucoup!*

Last year the LHSQ welcomed a record amount of **105 new members!** Welcome to all of you.

The library needs you! Are you interested in volunteering your time regularly to work behind George-Etienne Cartier's desk. You not only get to work with great books but you also meet new people, practise English, and interact with other society members and visitors. If that sounds interesting to you, call Anne-Frédérique at 694-9147 or e-mail her at lhsqlibrary@morrin.org.

Big thanks to **Diana, Clive, and Helen Meredith** for donations of several boxes of relevant books that are closely related to the Society.



Mud & the Morrin

In order to save our softwood floors for posterity and to keep our building clean in the here and now, we ask you to put plastic slippers over your muddy shoes. These will be made available in the main entrance hall. Don't forget to slip on a pair at your next visit. Thanks!



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Introduced on February 24 by Neil Bissoondath Quebec City



April 6 Anita Rau Badami Montreal

Born in India in 1961, Badami won the Regional Commonwealth Writers Prize, Italy's Premio Berto and her novel *The Hero's Walk* was named a Washington Post Best Book of 2001. Badami's latest novel is entitled *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call* (2006).



April 13 George Elliott Clarke Toronto

Originally from Nova Scotia, Clarke will read and play songs from his operas *Québécois: A Jazz Fantasia* (2003) and *Trudeau: Long March/Shining Path* (2007). He has won numerous awards, three honorary doctorates, and is a renowned entertainer.



April 20 David Homel Montreal

Well-known to many francophones for his controversial article in *Le Monde* entitled « La littérature québécoise n'est pas un produit d'exportation », Homel is also an accomplished author who won a QWF Award for Best Fiction with his 2003 novel *The Speaking Cure*.



May 11 Nalini Warriar Quebec City

Nalini Warriar won the McAuslan First Book award for her collection of short stories *Blues from the Malabar Coast* (2002). Her recent novel, *The Enemy Within* (2005), tackles the issues of integration in a Quebec City context.



May 18 Susan Elmslie Montreal

Susan Elmslie's latest book of poetry, *I, Nadja and Other Poems*, won the A.M. Klein Prize for best volume of poetry in 2006 by the QWF. She holds a PhD in Canadian literature from McGill University, and was a poetry Fellow at Hawthornden Castle in Scotland.



May 25 Jeffrey Moore Montreal

Jeffrey Moore's *Prisoner in a Red Rose Chain* (2000) won the prestigious Commonwealth Award for best first book. He has been described as « a much nicer Mordecai Richler who may do for the Plateau in this century what Richler did in the last. » His latest novel is *The Memory Artists*.



Time: 19:30

Price for series: \$20 for passport (for sale at the LHSQ & La Maison Anglaise)

Price per event: \$4 (members/students), \$6 (non-members),

Location: Morrin Centre, 44, chaussée des Écossais, Quebec, QC



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