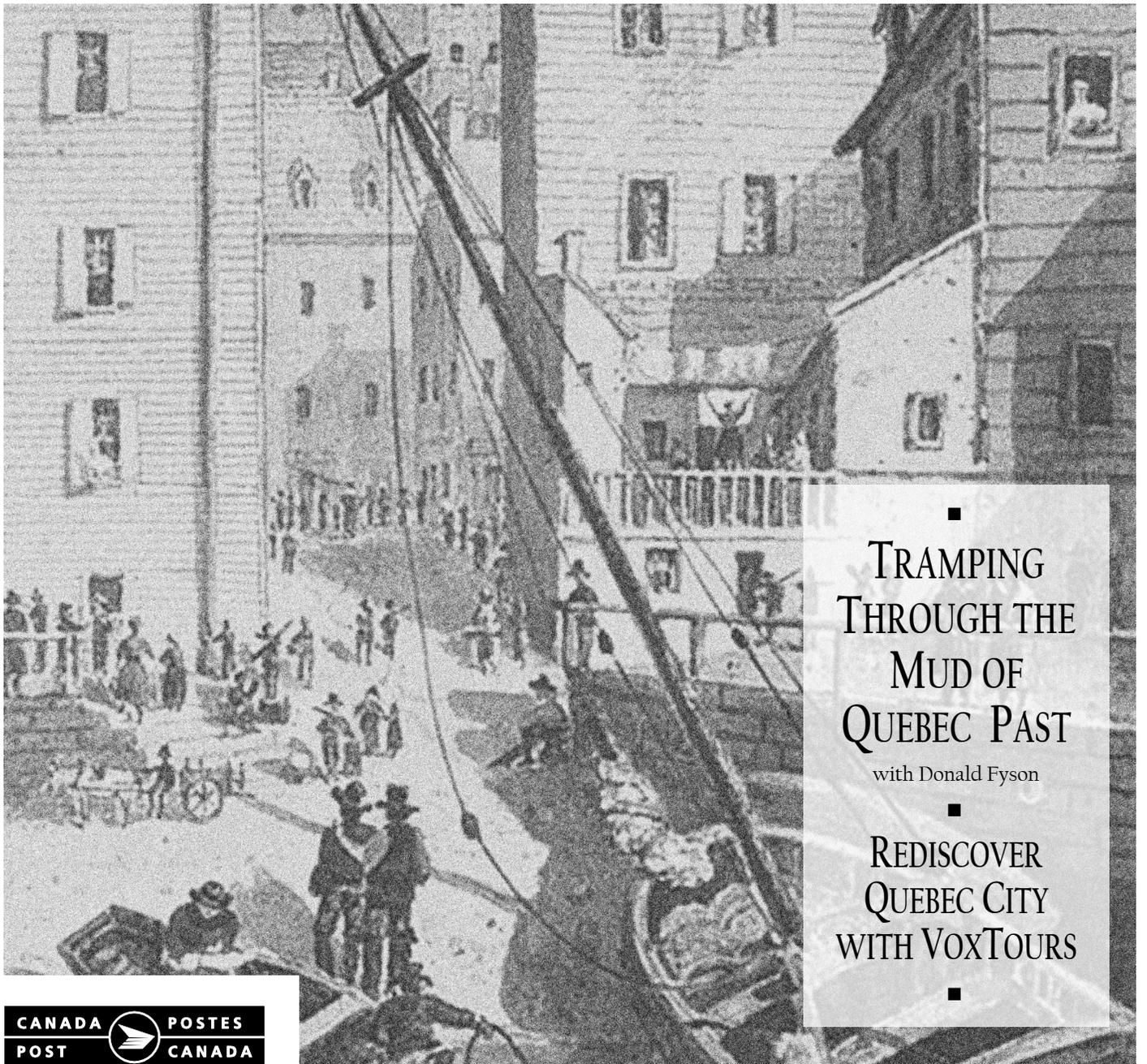




SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 20 ■ SUMMER 2008 ■ \$2,00



■
TRAMPING
THROUGH THE
MUD OF
QUEBEC PAST

with Donald Fyson

■
REDISCOVER
QUEBEC CITY
WITH VOXTOURS
■

CANADA POSTES
POST CANADA

Published with the assistance of Canada Post

THE MAGAZINE OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC, FOUNDED 1824



SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 20 ■ SUMMER 2008

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LIBRARY HOURS

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

PLEASE NOTE: LIBRARY WILL BE

CLOSED

ON JUNE 24 AND JULY 1



EDITOR AND DESIGN

Patrick Donovan

patrickdonovan@morrin.org

PUBLISHER

Literary and Historical Society of Quebec

44, chaussée des Écossais

Québec (Québec) G1R 4H3

PHONE

418-694-9147

FAX

418-694-0754

GENERAL INQUIRIES

info@morrin.org

WEBSITE

www.morrin.org

LHSQ COUNCIL

David F. Blair, *President*

Steve Cameron, *Vice-President*

James Haberlin, *Treasurer*

Diane Kameen, *Secretary*

Marie C Tremblay, *Honorary Librarian*

Peter Black

Louisa Blair

William GK Boden

Sovita Chander

James Donovan

Judith Dunn

Dorothy O'Brien

Lorraine O'Donnell

Jill Robinson

Hélène Thibault

lhsqcouncil@morrin.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

France Cliche

francecliche@morrin.org

STAFF

Simon Auclair

Library Manager

lhsqlibrary@morrin.org

Jessica Boutin

400th anniversary coordinator

jessicaboutin@morrin.org

Valérie Deslauriers

Administrative Assistant

info@morrin.org

Patrick Donovan

History-Interpretation-Conservation

patrickdonovan@morrin.org

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.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends :

What's in a name? We have been called many things, but there are two names to remember. First, the Literary and Historical Society, which was founded in 1824. Secondly, the Morrin Centre, the Society's new English-language cultural centre founded in 2004.

The building was built as a jail in 1808 and was used for that purpose until that function was moved to the Plains of Abraham in 1868. At that time the building underwent major modifications and it became the Morrin College and the home of our Society in 1868. The College ceased its educational activities at the turn of the twentieth century and the large part of the building it occupied remained essentially unused for over 100 years. In 2004, the city transferred title by 99-year emphyteutic lease to our Society, and the Morrin Centre was born.

We had a great AGM this spring. I am pleased to report the arrival of my sister Louisa on council. She replaces Grant McIntosh. Grant served on the

council for five years and I would like to thank him, on behalf of council, for his contribution to the Society.

Before closing, I wish to note the departure of a longstanding member of staff, Caroline Lamothe. Caroline has been a pillar of support for the Morrin Centre since she began seven years ago. Her delightful personality, her drive, and her unflinching support will be sadly missed. I wish her success in the new challenge she has taken up.

Stay tuned for news about our fundraising raffle this summer. I wish you all a great summer of celebration.

Sincerely,



David F. Blair
President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday March 18, 2008, attracting a large crowd of members and friends in the LHSQ Library. Major achievements of 2007 were presented:

- 46 **special events** were held at the Morrin Centre, with additional literary groups and children's activities in the library;
- A successful **Celtic Festival** drew in 4,000 visitors, a fourfold increase from last year;
- 1,178 students and individuals participated in 45-minute **guided tours** of the site;
- The Morrin Centre planned for a broad range of **400th anniversary** activities to be held in 2008;
- Work was done on a **Virtual Library** of the LHSQ's nineteenth-century publications, to be launched in 2008;
- Progress was made on the inventory of **library collections**. Young Adult and Literary Heritage collections were created;
- The presentation of **websites** and of our quarterly **newsletter** were updated;

- We received over \$1M in **Phase II restoration** project funds;
- Our first full year of **room rentals** brought in 32 rental contracts;

A new Council was elected for 2008. Grant McIntosh left Council after five years of dedicated support to our organization, while Louisa Blair joined council. Officers of Council now include Steve Cameron, who is replacing Peter Black as Vice-President. The list of the 2008 Council is available on the previous page

Thanks to our fifteen Council members, the 140 volunteers that offered their time and expertise, and the eighteen staff members who contributed to the Morrin Centre's growth in 2007.

For more details about activities in 2007, please consult our Annual Report available online at www.morrin.org under "Publications". ■

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SUMMER 2008 UPDATE

by France Cliche, executive director

Spring has been a busy season at the Morrin Centre. Several 400th anniversary projects were presented, while others will come to fruition in the coming months. Stay posted!

SOME NEWS

Staff, Interns, Volunteers: Two members of our team have left the Society in the past few weeks to pursue careers in other organisations. **Caroline Lamothe**, Library Manager from 2001 to 2006 and Assistant to the Executive Director since the beginning of 2007, has accepted a new position at Gestion Universitas. **Julie Lamontagne** has also joined a new team at the Institut de Cardiologie de Québec. I want to convey my sincere thanks to both of them for their great contribution to the growth of the Morrin Centre. We wish them the best of luck at their new positions.

Our two full-time volunteers **Alex McQuillan** (from Ontario) and **Katrina Mazurik** (from Saskatchewan) also left at the end of May to go back home after nine months discovering Canada and themselves through the Katimavik programme. Their help on special and library projects has been greatly appreciated. I finally want to thank **Gisèle Bouchard**, Oral History Project Coordinator, who is currently finishing her mandate by putting the final touches to the documentary *Echoes*. We look forward to the launch of this film next fall.

New employees have also joined us since our last publication. **David Dupuis** began work this spring as a graphic designer on several projects. His experience as a comic book artist came in handy when giving a bit of spark to our *VoxTours* project (see page 7). History student **Leah Blythe** was the first summer student employee we hired in May—she will be giving tours in addition to working on a variety of history-related projects.

Restoration project: We have now raised enough funds to complete some projects included in Phase II of the restoration work. A new commitment from the Commission de la capitale nationale and gifts

from the **Fondation Bagatelle** and other generous donors will help round up available amounts to continue the work.

Menuiserie Pouliot is currently completing work on the top floor, plastering and painting the walls. These rooms, which were used as workshops during the prison period, and as offices and apartments in later years, will be converted to office space. Wiring for our computer and Internet network is also being set up. This will allow us to have wireless access in the library and College Hall soon.

Project Grants: Several grants for summer student positions came in over the past few weeks, namely from **Young Canada Works** and **Service Canada**. We also received funding from **Canadian Heritage** to develop a marketing plan for the rental of our historic venues.

LHSQ Library: We are happy to report that all the books in our circulating collection now have labels on their spine and have been entered into the computer database. We are presently working on an inventory and recataloguing of the special collections upstairs, and have completed about 20% of this work. The implementation of the **computerized catalogue** and **loan services** will begin in July, with a complete inventory available later this year.

Rentals: The *Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique de Québec* liked the acoustics of our College Hall so much during the performance of *Rosina* that they rented out the rooms for the final exams of their students. The upcoming months should see a mix of corporate meetings, cocktails, and conventions taking place in the College Hall.

Events: Many successful events took place over the last few months—the usual exciting mix of literary, historical, and musical offerings. Recently, we were proud to participate in the Let's Celebrate Together weekend planned by VEQ within the Voices from the Crossroads initiative. Many visitors came to our heritage site for this occasion. ■

TRANSACTIONS

JEREMY COCKLOFT'S CURSORY OBSERVATIONS

by Donald Fyson



On February 22, as part of the *Written Voices Series*, I participated in a discussion of the early-nineteenth-century book entitled *Cursory Observations made in Quebec Province of Lower Canada in the Year 1811*, by "Jeremy Cockloft, the elder, esq., M.A. P.C.". The discussion was ably hosted by Louisa Blair, with Patrick Donovan demonstrating his thespian skills by impersonating the author and reading quotes from the book. I acted as historical expert, with Louisa asking me questions. What follows is a summary of the main discussion.

"Most amusing"

Characterized by historian Mason Wade as "one of the scarcest and most amusing Canadian books", Cockloft's *Cursory Observations* is fascinating. It describes the reflections and anecdotes of a purported British traveller visiting Quebec City a year or so before the War of 1812, during which the United States tried unsuccessfully to annex British North American colonies, including Quebec. Although its subject was Quebec City, the book was published in Bermuda somewhere between 1811 and 1814. There are very few originals in existence. The Library once owned a copy, which was later sold or donated to McGill University. There is also a 1960 reprint, which can be found in most libraries, including ours.

To give some flavour of the book's style, here's the opening:

"It was at nine in the morning, of one of those fine warm days, that so seldom bless this dreary Province of Canada, that I found myself half leg deep in mud in a place called very properly the Cul de Sac; in English, the bottom of the bag. As I was surrounded by a herd of gaunt swine, wallowing and grunting with much seeming delight in the mire, I experienced no small difficulty in picking my way to dry ground, without disturbing these long-faced 'Habitants of the soil; – However I succeeded at last, and was presently accosted by a company of

nondescripts, with open mouths, demanding, the news from England."

Who was Jeremy Cockloft?

The first question we addressed was the identity of Jeremy Cockloft. A few years ago I did an intensive search to discover the author. I failed, like others before me, including renowned Canadian literary historian Carl F. Klinck, who states, "My file presents a rather full record of vain attempts to identify the author who hid behind the pseudonym of Jeremy Cockloft the Elder". Jeremy Cockloft was obviously a pseudonym, inspired by the fictional Cockloft family in *Salmagundi*, a series of satirical short pieces written a few years earlier by Washington Irving and others. In this series, "Jeremy Cockloft the Younger" is a traveller who writes satirically about "exotic" places like Philadelphia or New Jersey. While Washington Irving visited Montreal in 1809, there's no indication he or his co-authors ever made it to Quebec City or Canada in 1811. Among the possible authors of the *Cursory Observations* are Edmund Ward, the printer who published the book in Bermuda. Ward was of Loyalist stock, born in Halifax in 1787, who established himself in Bermuda in 1809 and left again in 1815 after getting into a scrape with the governor. Other possible authors include John Lambert, the early traveller to Canada who wrote an almost equally scathing, though far more serious, description of Quebec a few years earlier and who published *Salmagundi* in England in 1811; even perhaps Sir Francis Forbes, later Chief Justice of Newfoundland. But none of these really fit and we're left with a mystery. And that's no doubt how Cockloft wanted it. It's difficult even to identify who he visited and stayed with. For example, he mentions Mr. H., Monsieur R_D, the Widow T. Mr. H. is possibly David or George Henderson, merchants; Monsieur R_D possibly Antoine Rod, musician, dancing master, joiner, furniture-seller and merchant; the Widow T. is completely unidentifiable.

The book is an amalgam of two styles: satire, evidently, but also semi-fictional travel literature,

like Laurence Sterne's *A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy* (1768) or *The History of Emily Montague* (1769), Canada's first novel, set in Quebec and written by Frances Brooke. Most travel literature purported to represent faithfully the places visited, for the edification of the reader. Most satirical literature made no direct claims to reality. Cockloft mixes the two, which poses the interesting question of whether we can trust what he says or not.

Cockloft's disdain

During the session, I described the route which Cockloft took through the town, from the Lower Town to the Upper. I also illustrated his generally negative view of Quebec City, including what he described as filthy streets (he describes "Prescot Gate, the entrance to the upper or fortified part of the city; which disgorge all its filth into the Lower Town, which empties its accumulated dirt into the St. Lawrence, and which gives a poignant gout to the waters of that noble river near the city; so delectable to the palates of the inhabitants of Quebec ..."), insalubrious markets, ludicrous Catholicism, the laziness of the francophone and native population of the colony ("their aversion to labor springs from pure, genuine, unadulterated indolence. Give a *Habitant* milk, a few roots, tobacco, wood for his stove, and a bonnet rouge, he works no longer; – like the native Savage, who seldom hunts but when driven thereto by hunger") and the poverty of social and economic life in the capital of Canada ("the amusements of Quebec are comprised in gaming, scandal, licentiousness and drinking; as to their pursuits for gaining money, they very much resemble all countries where chicanery is substituted for capital, and the smile of cunning supplies the place of the open countenance of ingenuous rectitude."). In sum, according to Cockloft, "it wants only a few trifling things to make Quebec the Paradise of the Earth; – to wit; clean lodgings, honest undertakings, the abolition of scandal and backbiting, the introduction of rational amusements, an abhorrence of hypocrisy, a milder climate, more industry in agricultural pursuits, and a more general urbanity towards strangers."

In true satirical style, Cockloft's disdain was not limited to the local population, as he mocked English visitors as well:

The curiosities of Quebec, are eagerly sought after, and collected by English travellers ... a piece of stone,

absolutely knocked off the rock, with his own individual hands, that the much regretted General Wolfe died upon. – What a great acquisition! And how must the virtuoso of England be delighted with such a present! ... so many fragments have been purloined from it, that I would advise every man or woman desirous of obtaining a piece, to make haste, and perform a pilgrimage to Quebec, before it is all destroyed; it is as much thought of here, as a small chip of our saviour's cross, or any other Roman Catholic relic, (found either in the Holy Land, or a monk's convent) was in ancient times, and will be of just as much utility to the fortunate possessor; the only difficulty in obtaining it, is to find out the precise stone, as there are some difficulties about the identity of it, and no less than three different ones, are by different people, pointed out as having had the honor of being the death bed of the celebrated character before-mentioned.

A key passage suggests why the author, whoever he was, wrote this piece in the first place:

Upon the whole, I think it very questionable, whether the Provinces of Canada are worth the expence of retaining under the British flag, even politically considered. The *Habitants* have certainly a strong predilection for the French ... The American people appear to have a great desire to possess the Canadas; and I really think the cession of the territory to them ... would be of great benefit to Great Britain, and an endless source of miseries and calamities to the *Fredonians* [Americans] ... hastening the disunion of the Federal Government, which already begins to totter on its foundation.

Given that the *Cursory Observations* were written and published just prior to or during the War of 1812, we might begin to suspect that Cockloft was bent on lessening British resolve to retain Quebec; perhaps even that he might be an American ...

Reliable history?

We then returned to the question of the book's reliability. In general, Cockloft's basic facts about Quebec City are more or less accurate. His geography is correct, and among the few people who are named in full, there are several we can actually identify from other sources. For example, one "Stiles, the Yankey inn-keeper at St. John's Gate, [who] would be a good subject, and an honest man, if he

did not sacrifice so often at the shrine of Moloch" is most likely Josiah Stiles, fined in 1810 for selling liquor on a Sunday. "Madame Morrigneau", who keeps a good boarding-house, but is also "very fond of cards and snuff ... and regularly pays her devotions in the French Church. I am unacquainted with the tenor of her prayers, but have reason to believe they generally request a 'bon marche'", is no doubt one of the Demoiselles Monrougeau or Morugeau on Couillard Street. But we certainly can't take Cockloft's word on matters of interpretation. The historian Mason Wade used Cockloft as a source for understanding what an English merchant visiting Quebec City might think, taking what Cockloft said pretty much at face value. For example, Wade related how a Bermuda merchant whom Cockloft supposedly met provided important information on the weakness of trade between the two colonies. What Wade didn't mention is that according to Cockloft, the very same Bermuda merchant discussed an outrageously eugenic and racist plan of forcing black men to marry white women so as to dilute the black race and produce "a more beautiful race of beings ... than any heretofore known to the world." Since this smacks of invention, how can we believe anything else that Cockloft reports or puts into the mouths of his characters?

A work of literature

I concluded by noting that from a historian's perspective, there are four possible uses for a work like Cockloft's. First, as a source of information on Quebec City itself. At this level, the book provides

very little that we don't already know, and doesn't always stand up when confronted with other sources. Second, as a source for understanding travellers' experiences and activities in Quebec City. Again, Cockloft is not very reliable in this respect, since the satirical aspect overwhelms any possible accuracy. Third, the book can be a source for understanding the attitudes of travellers towards Quebec City and its inhabitants - not what actually was, but what were their perceptions. In this respect, texts like Cockloft's can be quite useful. *Emily Montague*, for example, gives us excellent insight into the perspective of English colonial gentry on matters such as natives, *Canadiens*, or the place of women. But to use Cockloft in this manner, we would need to know who he really was; since we don't, how do we know whom he represents? It is in fact the fourth use that to me seems the most fitting: as a work of literature in its own right. It's an amusing, satirical farce, a great read spiced up with historical references to Quebec City some two hundred years ago, and a key piece of Quebec City's anglophone literary heritage. ■

Donald Fyson is a professor in the Department of History at Université Laval. He is also co-director of the Centre interuniversitaire d'études québécoises. He recently published Magistrates, Police, and People: Everyday Criminal Justice in Quebec and Lower Canada, 1764-1837, available at the LHSQ Library. Don't miss his workshop on researching history online, which will take place on November 21, 2008.

ECHO[E]S

ENGLISH-SPEAKERS IN QUEBEC CITY

The LHSQ is currently producing a documentary about Quebec's English-speaking communities. Enter the lives of people from different walks of life and see how time has changed the way English-speakers relate to this city.

Copies of the LHSQ's documentary are on presale at the low price of \$15 until its official launch. As of the day of the Premiere, it will sell for \$20 per copy.

Please fill out the following coupon and mail it to our office with a cheque. You can also buy a copy for a friend! **Order your copy now!**

ECHO[E]S
ENGLISH-SPEAKERS OF QUEBEC CITY

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Phone number _____

Number of copies _____

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Please send a copy by mail (\$15/copy + \$5/shipping fee)

Please contact me to confirm date of première

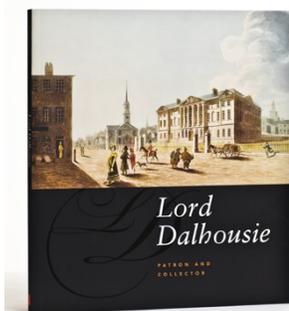
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LIBRARY PAGES

BOOK REVIEW:

LORD DALHOUSIE, PATRON & COLLECTOR

by Simon Auclair



Lord Dalhousie was not only the founder of the LHSQ, he was an art lover and rabid collector. The National Gallery of Canada's latest publication helps us to understand his complex interests, leaving aside his military career to explore his education, his

cultural and historical interests, and his relationship with various artists. The book wonderfully recreates a walk through the exhibition, with gorgeous reproductions of paintings from the likes of James Elliot Woolford, Charles Ramus Forrest, John Crawford Young. All of these works are, of course, annotated and regrouped under appropriate themes, ranging from "A Rich and Varied Land", dealing with landscapes, to "Architecture and Urbanism." This book sums up Dalhousie's "other" lives, and shows quite a few of Canada's great artists of the nineteenth century. Oh, and it fits perfectly on the coffee table too! ■

NORTHROP FRYE COLLECTION

by Simon Auclair



You may have noticed that our Literary Heritage section has been replaced by some blue books. These are all part of the Northrop Frye's collection of complete works. Born in Sherbrooke, Frye was one of the most influential literary critics and theorists of the twentieth century. Throughout his life he tried to establish criticism as a coherent field of study, which would train the imagination as much as science trains reason. This collection of twenty-five books recalls a whole life's work, ranging from a study of the Bible to English Romanticism. Come peruse this monument of literary studies. We would like to thank Drs. Jean O'Grady and Alvin A. Lee for donating these books, which constitute an important addition to our collection ■

Wish List HUGO AWARD WINNERS

We are currently trying to build up our Science Fiction collection by acquiring Hugo Award winners missing from our collection. If you have any of the following, please consider donating them 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:

Hominids, Robert J. Sawyer
A Deepness in the Sky, Vernon Vinge
A Fire Upon the Deep, Vernon Vinge
To say Nothing of the Dog, Connie Willis
Doomsday Book, Connie Willis
Forever Peace, Joe Haldeman
Mirror Dance, Lois McMaster Bujold
Barrayar, Lois McMaster Bujold
Hyperion, Dan Simmons
Cyteen, C.J. Cherryh
Downbelow Station, C.J. Cherryh
The Uplift War, David Brin
Speaker for the Dead, Orson Scott Card
Ender's Game, Orson Scott Card
Rendez-Vous with Rama, Arthur C. Clarke
Dreamsnake, Vonda McIntyre
Gateway, Frederik Pohl
The Forever War, Joe Haldeman
To Your Scattered Bodies Go, Philip José Farmer
Stand on Zanzibar, John Brunner
The Moon is a Harsh Mistress, Robert A. Heinlein
The Wanderer, Fritz Leiber
Way Station, Clifford D. Simak

KIDS' ACTIVITIES

By Simon Auclair

The Book Quest is back! This year again the LHSQ will host an exciting reading activity that will challenge kids from 5 to 12. This year's theme : the First Nations. Readers will learn how medicine men and women heal people, how mocassins are made, and more! Participants will hear about various exciting legends and stories : Rough-Face Girl, Star Boy, and the way the world was made. Don't miss this chance to deepen your knowledge of the first inhabitants of our country. Don't hesitate to contact me at 694-9147 if you need more information ■

VOICES From the Crossroads—À la croisée des VOIX

VOXTOURS: REDISCOVER QUEBEC'S ANGLO HERITAGE

By Patrick Donovan



Rediscover Quebec's Anglo heritage with VoxTours!

The Morrin Centre is offering four new self-guided tours that will be launched on June 26. These tours will allow locals and visitors alike to discover places, people and stories from Quebec's Anglo heritage. All four visits will be available as a downloadable audio package for your mp3 player, or as a traditional printed brochure. VoxTours is a chance to discover little-known facets of Quebec at your own pace and rhythm. The tours are even interspersed with reminiscences by local residents, giving a personal voice to the past. All tours will be available for purchase in both English and French. Each tour comes with its own easy-to-use map, ensuring you don't get lost between stops.

This project is part of the Voices from the Crossroads initiative. VoxTours were developed by

the Morrin Centre, but this project would have been impossible without the participation of many partners, namely Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Québec/Chaudière-Appalaches CEDEC, Cegep Champlain-St.Lawrence, Cegep Limoilou, Parcs Canada, Service Canada, and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages. This project received financial support from the IPOLC programme at the Department of Canadian Heritage. Find out more about the *Voices from the Crossroads* initiative at 400voices.morrin.org.

The VoxTours website will be launched on June 26 at www.voxtours.ca. ■



PEOPLE OF THE RIVER 🚲

This cycle tour takes you through Quebec's maritime history, which is closely linked to the heritage of English-speakers. You will cycle along new bicycle trails taking you from the modest homes of Irish longshoremen to the mansions of Scottish shipbuilders on Sillery heights via a Scandinavian church and the old yacht club. This visit provides you with a chance to learn about immigrants, ship labourers, rioters, crimps, and Charley Men.



ANCESTORS 🚲

This cycle tour takes you through the different burial grounds linked to Quebec's English-speaking community, a chance to learn about people from the past and their present-day descendants. You'll encounter mummy collectors, Chinese immigrants, women's rights pioneers, Jewish pedlars, and the man who revolutionized Canadian poetry. It is also a chance to discover how different religious traditions buried their dead.



PEOPLE AND FAITH 🚶

This walking tour allows you to sort through the various religious traditions of Quebec's English speakers. The complex differences between Presbyterians, Methodists, Catholics and other traditions are explained in layman's terms. You'll also learn about James Caughey's valiant crusade against the devil, a reverend that gave electric shocks to his parishioners, and a curious building that housed both a synagogue and a Masonic temple.



BUILDING THE CITY 🚶

This walking tour examines the Anglo-American influence on architecture in Quebec City. From the New England villa to skyscrapers and revolving restaurants, this tour allows you to see how French and British traditions mingled over the years. There's even a touch of British India in the traditional Quebecois house! You will gain a new appreciation and a deeper understanding of the unique architectural diversity in Quebec City.

VOICES From the Crossroads—À la croisée des VOIX

MORE VOICES ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER

By Patrick Donovan

Our **Written Voices** series continues this summer by taking on a familiar vacation twist, the much appreciated Candlelight formula will be offered to you for the upcoming lectures. Music and delicious desserts will thus complement the upcoming presentations.

Written Voices will showcase literary treasures from Quebec City's past. The summer begins with a talk on **Women in Victorian Quebec** by Dr. Elspeth Tulloch and Hélène Lupien. The journals of the aristocrat Lady Dufferin will be contrasted with Susanna Moodie's account of life in the bush. In July, we will examine **William Kirby's *The Golden Dog***, a classic historical fiction novel set in Quebec City. This event will be hosted by professor Mary-Jane Edwards, editor of the recent scholarly edition published by the University of Ottawa. On August 1, author Phil Jenkins will present his recent biography

of former Morrin College professor **George Mercer Dawson** (better known for his links to Dawson City, Yukon). Entitled *Beneath My Feet*, this book is an entertaining account of a quintessential nineteenth-century scholar and adventurer.

The summer ends with the third edition of the **Quebec City Celtic Festival** from August 29th to August 31st. Don't miss the whiskey tastings, evening concerts, workshops, clan gatherings, traditional food, clothing, and jewellery. Come join in the fun! Stay posted on the Festival's web site at festivalceltique.morrin.org.

This autumn will bring a fair share of Voices activities, including a symposium on Willa Cather (September), the Roots 2008 forum (October), and much more. See 400voices.morrin.org for details. ■

TESTIMONIALS

THE MORRIN CENTRE—A GREAT PLACE FOR MUSICIANS

By Jack Lavoie

I want to congratulate you on the excellent ambiance you have created for artists that perform at the Morrin Centre. As you know, I have had the privilege of recently performing twice at your venue, once in December 2007 and once in April 2008. On both occasions, both myself and my band mates were impressed with the personalized attention and very professional attitude of your staff. They were friendly, helpful, and always available. This definitely added to our experience. Thanks also for the special tour of the building that was offered to us. We really enjoyed it!

The acoustics of the hall were very pure and rich. The enthusiastic comments we garnered from the audience on the sound quality were reassuring. As my band is composed of myself and four other passionate energy giving musicians, we all



appreciated the fact of having lots of room to perform and move around. The architecture of the building and especially the hall where we played with its tall ceiling, rounded balcony, and hardwood floors make for a very warm and friendly first impression.

The P.R. help we received from your staff in promoting our last show was a definite factor in the sell-out audience of close to 50 people on a cold Saturday night in April.

All in all, I must say that I was very impressed with the whole package. As a performing artist who appreciates great sound and intimate audience contact, I can highly recommend this venue as a unique performing experience to other artists. ■

Find out more about Jack Lavoie at jacklavoie.net

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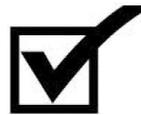
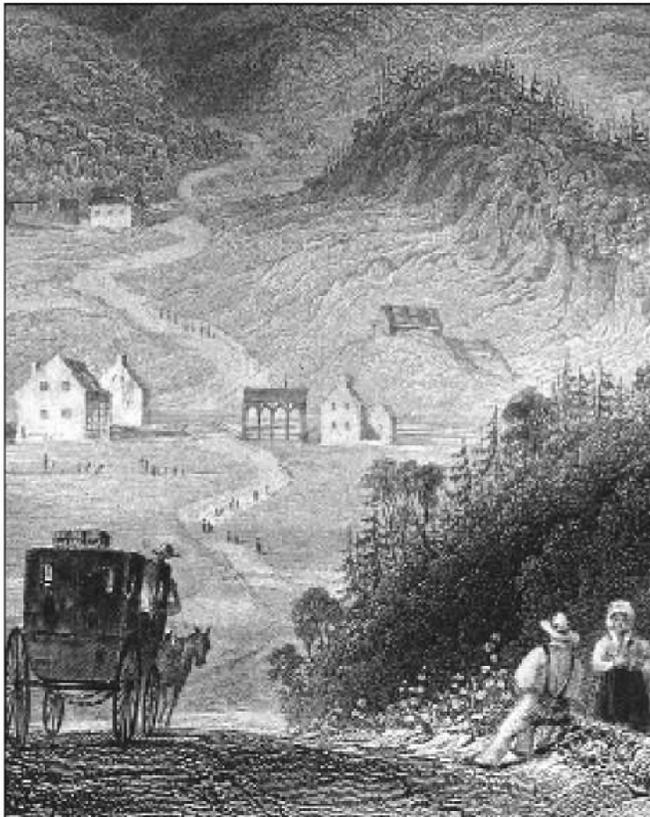
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