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# SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 37 ■ Spring 2013 ■ \$2.00



**morrin**

- IMAGINATION
- EVERYDAY PEOPLE COLLOQUIUM
- HOSTAGES ALONG THE BORDER

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NUMBER 37 ■ SPRING 2013

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<b>Thursday</b>	12:00PM-8:00PM
<b>Friday</b>	12:00PM-4:00PM
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00AM-4:00PM

Front cover: The Morrin Centre, lit up during Lumocité. Photo by Julien Auger. See article on page 14 for details about the event.

#### **EDITOR**

**Bethann G. Merkle**

#### **PUBLISHER**

Literary & Historical Society of Quebec  
44 chaussée des Écossais  
Quebec, Quebec G1R 4H3

#### **PHONE**

418-694-9147

#### **FAX**

418-694-0754

#### **GENERAL INQUIRIES**

[info@morrin.org](mailto:info@morrin.org)

#### **WEBSITE**

[www.morrin.org](http://www.morrin.org)

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[lhsqcouncil@morrin.org](mailto:lhsqcouncil@morrin.org)

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#### **DIRECTOR**

**Barry McCullough**

*Executive Director*

[barrymccullough@morrin.org](mailto:barrymccullough@morrin.org)

#### **FULL-TIME STAFF**

**Maxime Chouinard**

*Conservation and Interpretation Advisor*

[maximechouinard@morrin.org](mailto:maximechouinard@morrin.org)

**Rosemarie Fischer**

*Administrative Assistant*

[info@morrin.org](mailto:info@morrin.org)

**Stefanie Johnston**

*Guided Tours Coordinator*

[stefaniejohnston@morrin.org](mailto:stefaniejohnston@morrin.org)

**Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume**

*Library Manager*

[lhsqlibrary@morrin.org](mailto:lhsqlibrary@morrin.org)

**Elizabeth Perreault**

*Program and Communications Director*

[elizabethperreault@morrin.org](mailto:elizabethperreault@morrin.org)

The mission of the **Morrin Centre** is to share and foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region. The Morrin Centre is administered by the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec.  
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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members and Friends,

As I write these words in mid-March, the Society is in the thick of preparations for our Annual General Meeting. The invitations are being sent to members. The financial audit is underway. And the Nominations Committee is confirming Council candidates.

Sadly, we are saying *au revoir* (but thankfully, not goodbye) to several Council members: Louisa Blair, Taylor Ireland, Barbara Salomon de Friedburg, and Elspeth Tulloch. On behalf of our members, I would like to thank them all for their work on Council. Louisa has seen us through years of transformation as the Morrin Centre has grown, and we will miss her wise counsel on history and the “content” side of things.

Most recently, Louisa very generously served as interim Honorary Librarian and as a member of the Executive Committee. Taylor brought a business perspective to Council that contributed to the effective management of the Centre. Barbara fulfilled her role as Honorary Librarian admirably, even in the face of diminishing health. We wish her the best in her recovery. And Elspeth has been instrumental in shaping the ImagiNation Writers’ Festival. It wouldn’t be the success it is today without her work.

We have a promising year ahead of us, full of wonderful events and opportunities to build and share in our culture. We also have a solid group of candidates for Council – all people who are deeply committed to making the Morrin Centre thrive and flourish.

I hope to meet many of you, our members, in the coming weeks at the Annual General Meeting and at upcoming events. One event I am personally proud to support and attend is the ImagiNation Writers’ Festival, which showcases some terrific writers. Isn’t it wonderful that we, the Morrin Centre and the Lit and His, are the ones bringing them to Quebec City? Your support over the past years has made this possible. I hope you’ll be there for the Centre in the years to come.

Yours Sincerely,

Sovita Chander  
LHSQ President

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**FOR YOUR EVENTS**

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

Spring is now here and the ImagiNation Writers' Festival is just around the corner. From April 6 to 16 the Festival celebrates its fourth year with 12 renowned authors from all across Canada. You can check out their biographies in the centrefold of this issue of *Society Pages*.

On a less happy note, Library Manager Virginie Haustrate left us in January. Her expertise and sunny disposition will be greatly missed by everyone. I would like to thank her for over two years of exemplary work and wish her the all the best in Vienna. Our loss is Austria's gain.

However, with loss comes opportunity and I am pleased to officially welcome Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume to the Morrin team. She has just relocated to Quebec City from Montreal and has already made a positive impact on the Centre. She is very enthusiastic about the library and is eager to further its development. We all look forward to working with her.

On a frigid night in January our volunteers demonstrated their terrific enthusiasm by braving the -40 degrees weather to attend the annual Volunteer Appreciation Night. The evening featured a cocktail, a dinner as well as the first-ever Morrin trivia game. The volunteers were divided into four teams and vied for Morrin knowledge supremacy. Even though the Lit-n-Hissers took home the top prize, nobody went home empty-handed. Door prizes were generously provided by our sponsors, all of whom are members of the Association des gens d'affaires du Vieux-Québec. You can find their logos on the inside of the back cover. This was our way of saying thanks to our invaluable volunteers, who generously donate their time to us throughout the year.

We have hosted several stimulating events and talks so far in 2013, including our Everyday People colloquium, an exploration of the history and culture of Quebec City's English-speaking communities. The event was at full capacity, as was a recent talk by noted member and volunteer Jack Bryden.

With the increasing popularity of these events, we request that you reserve your place in advance. We are already busy planning the rest of the year's programming and there are some wonderful events and activities in store. I hope to see you at one (or several) of them.

Sincerely,

Barry McCullough  
Executive Director



Follow us on Facebook.  
Check out pictures of our events and more!

## TRANSACTIONS

## HOSTAGES ALONG THE BORDER

Jack Bryden and Britta Gundersen-Bryden

Life in Nouvelle France and New England was difficult during the eighteenth century. Harsh winters, disease and accidents took their toll on settlers and First Nations alike. European conflicts quickly spread to the North American colonies and often involved First Nations that became allied with France or England, the global superpowers of that period.

North American history tends to focus on the major Franco-Anglo battles that took place during the 1700s. But coastal privateering, small-scale skirmishes and frontier raids were more common and served to terrorize civilian populations. In many cases, the objective was not only to kill and create mayhem but also to take hostages.

The French and English forces both took hostages, usually to exchange for prisoners who had been captured in earlier encounters. First Nations, principally the Abenaki and Mohawk, had various motives for taking hostages. In some cases they aimed to strengthen their links with their European allies. In other cases, they profited from the ransom fees paid by families and communities for the release of

hostages. In still other situations, their goal was to replenish their populations by bringing new (and usually younger) people into their communities.

Hostages were often seized during raids on villages on the western or northern fringes of the widely dispersed Massachusetts

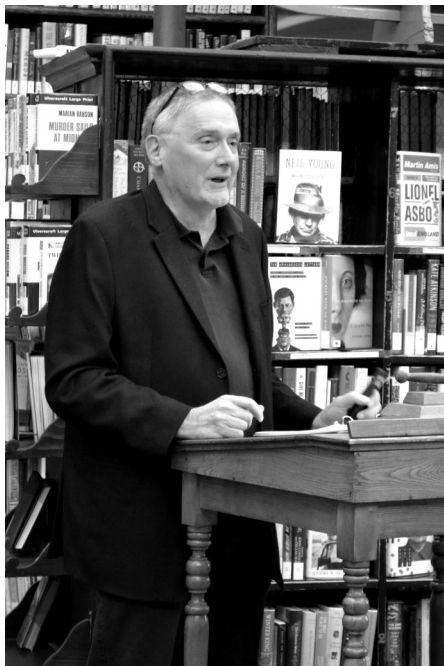


Bay Colony (which included much of present-day Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire). Hostages were quickly marched north towards Mohawk and Abenaki settlements in the French colony. The route followed established trade routes such as the route across Lake Champlain or the route along the Chaudière River. The pace was gruelling in order to out-distance the search and rescue parties that often followed. Those who were weak and could not keep up (the elderly, young children and often their mothers) were quickly dispatched. The highest survival rates was among healthy teenagers and young adults under 25.

Once the hostages and their capturers were safely in French territory, delicate negotiations usually began. In many cases, French authorities or priests helped arrange the ransom and return of the captives. Some captives were initially ransomed by French families. Some young women were placed in the care of various convents. Some captives were quickly incorporated into their capturers' tribes.

Hostage-taking increased during periods of wider conflict. One of the largest and best-documented raids took place during Queen Anne's War (1703 - 1713). On February 29, 1704, the settlement of Deerfield, in Massachusetts Bay Colony, was attacked. During the raid 109 settlers were taken captive and 89 survived the arduous trek north. Of these, 36 remained in Quebec permanently.

The Seven Years' War (1754 - 1763) saw another spike in hostage-taking. A number of these hostages had a significant impact on Quebec society. Lydia Longley was captured by the Abenaki at her



Jack Bryden delivered a talk on 18th-century Anglophone hostages to a full crowd in mid-February.

## TRANSACTIONS- CONTINUED

family's homestead near Groton, Massachusetts in 1694, when she was 20 years old. Once she reached Montreal, she was ransomed by Jacques Le Bar, a wealthy French merchant. Lydia soon converted to Catholicism, entered the Congregation de Notre Dame as a nun and rose to the highest ranks of the order. She served the church on the Ile d'Orléans and became an adviser to church and civic leaders.

Zechariah, John and Sarah Tarbell were also captured in the Groton area in 1707. Sarah was also ransomed by a wealthy merchant in Montreal. Her baptism as a Catholic is still on record at the Basilica de Notre Dame in Montreal. She, too, entered the convent. The two boys were adopted by the Kahnawake Mohawks, became leading members of the tribe and eventually chiefs. They were among the founders of Akwesasne. Many Tarbell descendants trace their lineage to these two captives.

Another captive of note was Mathias Farnsworth, who was captured in 1704 and taken north. The Sulpicians ransomed him in 1706. He was baptized and chose to remain in Quebec, where he married Catherine Charpentier. The surname gradually changed from Farnsworth to Fanef, then to Faneuf, and eventually to Phaneuf. All the Phaneufs in Quebec today are related to this single hostage.

Official records, church documents and personal accounts from both sides of the border give some insight into which English colonists were taken hostage

and what became of them. A number of 21st-century Quebecers can trace their roots back three hundred years to some of those hostages.

However, although it is known that more than 1600 settlers from various New England settlements were captured during the eighteenth century, it is not known how many stayed. ■



Photo courtesy of CBC

Jack Bryden's skillful telling of this little-known chapter in Quebec and Canadian history prompted Louise Bernier Gunn and Barbara Campbell to share their own family stories. *Thank you to all three for bringing us back in time and telling a captivating story!*

FROM HISTORY TO LEGEND

*Marie-Josephte*

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# TRANSACTIONS

## ONCE UPON A PRESIDENT

Maxime Chouinard

### John Murdoch Harper (1845-1919)

“Perhaps nowhere in the Dominion has this *esprit d’histoire* been more fully developed than in the old town of Quebec.”

- John Murdoch Harper  
“Champlain’s tomb.” *Transactions*, New Series, No. 19 (1889).

Born in Johnstone, Scotland, in the County of Renfrew, John Murdoch Harper was destined to a life in education. He grew up in Scotland but following the death of his mother in 1867 he moved to New Brunswick where he became the principal of Harkins Academy in Newcastle.

He moved from one job to another and from Saint John to Charlottetown, working as headmaster or superintendent. His major contribution to the Canadian education was the establishment of an age-graded curriculum and an appropriate workplace for formally accredited teachers. His first historical publication, *The History of the Maritime Provinces* (1876) served as



a school textbook for many years.

He moved to Quebec City in 1880 to become rector of the High School of Quebec. Three years later he obtained a PhD from Illinois Wesleyan University and joined the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, where he presented papers on the history of Canada including a lecture speculating on the location of Champlain’s tomb. In 1885 he lectured at the Royal Society of Canada on the LHSQ’s own history. He was president of the St-Andrew’s Society from 1885 to 1887.

In 1886 he resigned from his rectorship of the High School of Quebec and was named Inspector of Superior Schools, in which role he was in charge of evaluating Protestant model schools and academies throughout the province. He used his various subsequent positions - e.g. president of the Quebec Protestant Teachers Association and president of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers - to promote a federal system of public, graded education.

Many of the schools were unable to meet the



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GUIDED TOURS



# TRANSACTIONS—CONTINUED

## ONCE UPON A PRESIDENT: JOHN MURDOCH HARPER

standards Harper recommended as minimal and resorted to manipulating exam results. The poor state of protestant education noted by John Adams in 1902 pushed some legislators to shoot the messenger rather than address the problem: in 1903 they forced Harper's resignation.

A staunch imperialist, Harper had old-fashioned views about relations between the French and English, describing them as a "regime de courtoisie" and avoiding the issue of the rise of French Canadian nationalism. The multiplication of professional historians left his historical works, written in a florid and effusive style, mostly ignored and led him to focus more on poetry and fiction. His life met an abrupt end in 1919 when he fractured his skull in a traffic accident. He was buried in Mount Hermon cemetery.

Harper was a key figure in encouraging, shaping and establishing reforms in Canadian education. It seems his misfortunes were caused not by his inaptitude, but mostly by the failings of his colleagues and by changing trends in the world of education and research.



To read Harper's articles online, see our Virtual Library at [www.transactions.morrin.org/index.htm](http://www.transactions.morrin.org/index.htm). ■

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# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

\* An asterisk means the event is free.

APRIL 6—16, QUEBEC 2013

## imagination

Writers' Festival • Festival d'écrivains



**SATURDAY, APRIL 6**

**19:30 – Christine Eddie launches the first of her books translated into English, *The Douglas Notebooks* \***



**CHRISTINE EDDIE** is the winner of the 2008 Prix littéraire France-Québec, the 2009 Prix Senghor du Premier Roman francophone, and the Prix Club des Irrésistibles des bibliothèques publiques de Montréal for the *Douglas Notebooks*.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9**

**19:30 – *The Alford Saga*: Tête-à-tête with Paul Almond**



**PAUL ALMOND** is an author and filmmaker best known for his film trilogy starring Geneviève Bujold and for *The Alford Saga*, a series of Canadian historical novels.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10**

**17:00 – Deni Y. Bécharde launches the French translation of *Cures for Hunger* (*Remèdes pour la faim*) \***

Presented by: Éditions Alto



**20:00 – “The Dean of Canadian Science Fiction” – Ottawa Citizen**



One of only eight writers (and the only Canadian) to have ever won all three science-fiction prizes, the Hugo Award, the Nebula Award and the John W. Campbell Memorial Award, **ROBERT J. SAWYER** is the author of twenty novels, including *Flashforward*, the *WWW* series and the *Neanderthal Parallax* trilogy.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11**

**20:00 – Reading and literary panel “Truth is stranger than fiction” – Mark Twain**

**DENI Y. BÉCHARD** is the author of the highly acclaimed memoir *Cures for Hunger* (Indie Next pick and Amazon Canada’s Editor’s pick as one of the best memoirs/biographies of 2012) and of the bestselling novel *Vandal Love* (2007 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize).

**CHARLES FORAN** is the author of ten bestselling books, including *Mordecai: The Life and Times* (2011 Governor General’s Literary Award for Non-Fiction), *Maurice Richard* and *The Last House of Ulster*



(winner of the QSPELL Prize for non-fiction in 1995, and chosen as Best Book of the Year by *Maclean’s*, *The Toronto Star*, *Quill & Quire*, and *NOW Magazine*).

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12**

**19:30 – 1982: Glam, Glitz and Bowie**

An award-winning broadcaster, musician, producer and writer, **JIAN GHOMESHI** is the host and co-creator of the national daily talk program, *Q*, on CBC Radio One and CBC TV. His feature interview subjects on *Q* have

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# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

included Woody Allen, Paul McCartney, Neil Young, Van Morrison, Salman Rushdie, Barbara Walters, Tom Waits, William Shatner, Jay-Z, Al Gore, Margaret Atwood and Leonard Cohen. *1982* is his first book.



**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**  
**14:00 – Writers Out Loud:**  
**Engaged Storytelling**

**PETER DUBÉ** is the author of four works of fiction, the editor of three anthologies and a widely published art critic. He will be reading from his latest novel, *The City's Gates*. Released during the student crisis last spring, this novel set in Montreal discusses activism, cultural politics, and the dynamics of subcultural identification.



**18:00 – “Canada’s greatest chronicler of the West” –**  
**The Globe and Mail**

**GUY VANDERHAEGHE** is the author of many Canadian classics including the collection of short stories *Man Descending* (winner of the Governor-General’s Award for Fiction and the Faber Prize in Great Britain), the novel *The Englishman’s Boy* (winner of the Governor-General’s Award for Fiction) and *The Last Crossing* (winner of the CBC’s Canada Reads Competition, The Canadian Booksellers Ex Libris Prize and three Saskatchewan Books Awards).



**20:00 – Room and Astray:**  
**Emma Donoghue’s fact-**  
**inspired fiction**

**EMMA DONOGHUE** is a highly celebrated Irish-Canadian author. Her historical and contemporary fiction includes *Astray*, *The Sealed Letter*, *Slammerkin*, *Touchy Subjects* and *Room*. The latter was shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prizes, and winner of the Commonwealth



(Canada and Caribbean) Prize and the Rogers Writers’ Trust Prize.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**  
**14:00 – Stories About**  
**Storytellers**

After more than 40 years helping others to write their books, including authors Hugh MacLennan, Alice Munro, Robertson Davies, Mavis Gallant, and Alistair MacLeod, as well as Prime Ministers Pierre Trudeau, Brian Mulroney, and Paul Martin, **DOUGLAS GIBSON** has published his first book, *Stories About Storytellers*. He has taken his one-man stage show, based on the book, across eight provinces and given more than 45 shows.



**MONDAY, APRIL 15**  
**19:30 – An evening of**  
**poetry\***

Award-winning poet **KEN HOWE** updates the vocation of the lyrical "nature poet" for the twenty-first century in his latest book, *The Civic-mindedness of Trees*. At once playful and sublime, Ken Howe’s linguistically daring investigations pitch the staid genre of "eco-poetry" headlong into the information age.



**TUESDAY, APRIL 16**  
**19:30 - Writer-Reader: A**  
**Thorny Relationship**

Citing from Plato, Horace, Wordsworth, Thoreau, Arnold, Auden, Chinua Achebe, **H. NIGEL THOMAS** hopes to show that writers have always been expected to be entertainers and purveyors of truth. But to the extent that truth is for the most part subjective and socially constructed, usually by the powerful classes, serious writers find themselves in conflict with huge segments of their society and are frequently punished for it. Thomas will explore this in relationship to the writing of African Canadians and to his own writing.

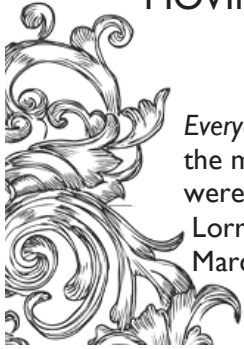


## EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

## EVERYDAY PEOPLE

## MOVING BEYOND MYTHS AT THE EVERYDAY PEOPLE COLLOQUIUM

Bethann G. Merkle



*Everyday People* focused on “Getting at the myths of who the so-called Anglos were or are,” said one of the organizers, Lorraine O’Donnell (CBC interview, March 1, 2013).

O’Donnell also pointed out one of the primary motives for the colloquium. “I still come across the myths of the rich Anglos,” she said. “I’m not denying that those people have existed, but there are a lot of other kinds of people in our community. We wanted to focus on them, too.”

Those “other kinds of people” were widely discussed and carefully considered during the sold-out colloquium. Organized around three guiding questions, it featured the perspectives of researchers, historians and business people. It was “a mix of academic and non-academic reflections on the topic,” said O’Donnell.

*Who are the Anglos?* provided context, framing the topic from a slightly academic angle. Speakers addressed demographics, social-ethnographic makeup, statistics, intergroup relations, and identity.

Dr. Paul Zanazanian, Assistant Professor of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University, emphasized the question of Anglo identity and cultural narrative. He specifically raised the question of the persistent Francophone misunderstanding of this minority culture. Zanazanian asserted that the vibrancy and growth of contemporary Anglophone culture depends upon our development of our own historical narrative.

Patrick Donovan, Ph.D candidate in history at Université Laval, discussed statistics and information gleaned from the latest Quebec City Metropolitan 2011

Census. Dr. Donald Fyson, a Université Laval-based historian, offered a humorous review of revolt and tension in “Conflict and Intergroup Relations In Anglophone Quebec City, 18th - 20th Centuries.”

In *What did the Anglos do?* Université Laval lecturer Robert Grace looked at Anglos, specifically the Irish, as part of the working class and not just part of the elite. He described the life of “the Irish families who lived down by the docks” and the Irish dock workers who sought work as far away as Georgia and Louisiana each winter.

This section also addressed the diverse roles of contemporary Anglos. President of the successful translation bureau Anglocom, Grant Hamilton, spoke about “Translation, the new game in town,” and Patrick Glynn, director of the language school École Glynne, addressed “ESL teachers and their students, a history of growth and changing perceptions.”



Paul Zanazanian, Patrick Donovan, Donald Fyson and host Julia Caron interact with the audience during *Who were the Anglos?*

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES—CONTINUED

### MOVING BEYOND MYTHS AT THE EVERYDAY PEOPLE COLLOQUIUM

The final section dealt with culture and identity, seeking to answer, if only in part, the question of *How are the Anglos different?* Karine Vieux-Fort, PhD candidate in the Social Foundations of Education at Université Laval, offered a bilingual portrait of the students currently in English-language schools. Marc Durand, a Radio-Canada sports journalist, delivered a bilingual presentation on the Quebec Bulldogs. Featuring highlights from his recently published book, *La Coupe à Québec*, Durand described how English and Irishmen were largely responsible for the birth of hockey. Peter O'Donohue, Consul General



Consul General of the United States, Peter O'Donohue, found the "lost" Consulate's Diary a couple days before his presentation and read some of the entries of his predecessors.

of the United States in Quebec City, spoke about "Good Neighbors: The American Experience in Quebec."

The three sessions were facilitated, in order, by: Julia Caron, a researcher for CBC's *Quebec AM* program; Lorraine O'Donnell, Coordinator and Researcher for Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research

Network; and Angelica Montgomery, CJAD reporter at the National Assembly.

O'Donnell emphasized the significance of the colloquium's blend of history, current issues, and specific focus on ordinary people. "It is really gratifying to have a conference that looks at the people that many of us can identify with," she said.

O'Donnell concluded, "Our hope, at the end, is that people will have a more complex and nuanced understanding of who we were and who we are, and that we move towards, collectively, breaking down some of the myths and misunderstandings that don't get us anywhere."

It can be said with confidence that this goal was achieved. Those participating in the colloquium came away with deeper knowledge of, and appreciation for, the historical and contemporary context of Quebec City's English speakers. ■

*Editor's note: the event received coverage from CBC's Quebec AM and Breakaway programs, as well as the Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph. This coverage can be viewed online at [www.cbc.ca/breakaway](http://www.cbc.ca/breakaway) and [www.qctonline.com](http://www.qctonline.com).*

*The colloquium was made possible through the generous support of the Department of Canadian Heritage.*

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### LUMOCITÉ: MORRIN CENTRE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Barry McCullough

From February 6 to 9, the Morrin Centre was part of the first presentation of the Quebec Winter Carnival's spectacular urban mapping circuit, *Lumocité*. Our building was one of the four monuments invited to take part in the 2013 event, and it was illuminated by Nortik Studio from Geneva, Switzerland.

Thousands of Carnival-goers passed by the Centre to see it lit up, then seemingly demolished, and then rebuilt stone-by-stone. The Morrin Centre may have been the most popular stop on the circuit, as it was featured on the cover of *Le Soleil*.

The 2013 display was a prelude to North America's first architectural projection and mapping competition slated to take place in 2014. The competition will highlight Quebec City's architectural heritage and aims to position the city as one of the world's Cities of Lights. ■



Photo by Julien Auger

# LIBRARY PAGES

## ON THE SHELF

A THEMATIC REVIEW OF SOME INTERESTING, IMPORTANT, OR JUST ENTERTAINING BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Britta Gundersen-Bryden

### “A” IS FOR AFRICA

Writers have the ability to transport readers to into the past and the future, into the lives, thoughts and feelings of people, real and imagined, and into all corners of the globe. The Library’s collection includes many volumes of both fiction and non-fiction, including classics and new acquisitions, that take readers to Africa, a continent filled with literature, history, fact and fantasy.

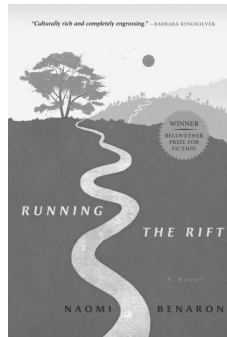
There are several contemporary works about Africa in the Library’s collection. Of particular note is *One Day I Will Write About This Place*, by



Binyavanga Wainaina. Published in 2011, this memoir of growing up in a middle-class family in Kenya, spending time in South Africa, visiting Nigeria and Togo and eventually teaching university in New York provides insights into social and political matters. However, the great strength of Wainaina’s book is his accounts of universal human challenges and successes young people face as they

search for their own identity and a place in their families, their communities and the wider world.

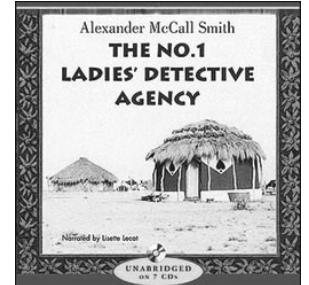
Other recent works to consider include Naomi Benaron’s *Running the Rift* (2012), set in Rwanda, and Yejide Kilanko’s *Daughters Who Walk This Path* (2012), set in Nigeria.



Alexander McCall Smith and Wilbur Smith share a common surname. Both have lived in and write about Southern Africa; both tell stories that draw their readers in and carry them along; and both are well represented on the bookshelves of the Library. But their stories, their characters and their approaches to Africa are quite different.

With his stories of Mma Precious Ramotoswe, Botswana’s “No. 1 Ladies’ Detective,” Alexander McCall Smith has created one of the last decade’s most widely read series. The Library has all thirteen No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency novels, including the 2011 addition, *The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection*. Mma Ramotoswe (a

down-to-earth character both wise and fallible) is once again joined by her husband, J.



L. B. Matekoni, her assistant Grace Makutsi and her new husband Phuti Radiphuti, the matron of the orphanage Mma Potokwane, and the two garage apprentices, Charlie and Fanwell. As a bonus, readers finally get to meet Clovis Anderson. With humour and humility, Mma Ramotoswe and her colleagues foil a car thief, a scheming building contractor, and a “leading citizen” bent on kickbacks and nepotism. Like earlier stories, the latest is a delight to read, especially with a nice cup of bush tea at hand.

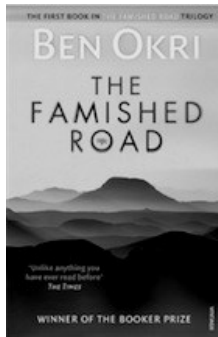
Wilbur Smith writes novels full of action, intrigue and larger-than-life characters. The Library has a baker’s dozen of these adventures, most of which are set in Africa. Some are set in the past while others touch on issues facing Africa today. Readers who enjoy sagas that follow generations of a single family may enjoy following the fortunes of the Smith’s Courtney across several generations and more than one continent. Smith has a talent for capturing (figuratively, of

## LIBRARY PAGES—CONTINUED

course) African wildlife and the sights, sounds and smells of the savannah.

Africa has been the home of and the source of inspiration for a number of award-winning contemporary writers.

Ben Okri won the Booker Prize for *The Famished Road* (1991), a novel set in Nigeria. Political corruption, environmental exploitation, personal greed and human suffering are all seen through the eyes of Azraro, a spirit-child who has the ability to move between the worlds of poverty and fantasy. Okri creates creatures - and human characters - that are both magical and monstrous.



*Zanzibar* (2002) takes readers to the eastern edge of Africa. Its author, Giles Foden, won the Whitbread First Novel Award in 1998 for *The Last King of Scotland*, a fictional account of the times of Idi Amin.

Barbara Kingsolver, winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction for a later work, depicts the lives of a missionary family in *The Poisonwood Bible* (1990), set in the Belgian Congo in 1959. Sometimes humorous, sometimes tragic, Kingsolver brings her characters, as well as the very plants and insects that surround them, to life. This novel was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Nadine Gordimer and Doris Lessing are two of Africa's most acclaimed

writers and the Library includes many of their works. Two of Lessing's novels, *The Good Terrorist* and *Martha Quest*, offer readers compelling stories. Her 2008 publication, *Alfred and Emily* is about the lives of her parents, including their settling in what is now Zimbabwe.

The Library contains more than ten works by Gordimer, a Nobel Prize in Literature winner. Her most recent novel is *No Time Like the Present* (2012). She writes of "comrades" who fought, both literally and figuratively, against apartheid in South Africa. She looks at the first decade of the "new South Africa" not so much by looking outwards as by looking into the lives, thoughts and hearts of Steve and Jabu, a "mixed" couple who met when each was a freedom fighter and who now struggle in their different ways to make their way in the new world for which they fought.

Gordimer is not a light read: her work is intense, insightful, compelling and universal. Another way to enter the world of this writer is via a 2011 collection of her short stories, *Beethoven Was One-Sixteenth Black*, which takes its title from the first story. This particular story tells of Frederick Morris, a white activist who is trying to find his roots and explore the possibilities of being connected to the "new South Africa" through blood.

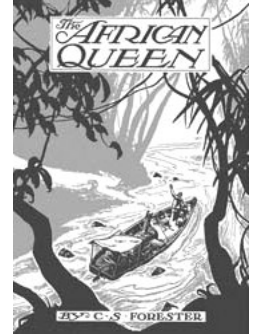


For another South African perspective, readers will enjoy

*Disgrace*, by J.M. Coetzee, winner of the Booker Prize in 1999.

Of course, the Library's collection includes literary classics. C.S.

Forester's story of that improbable couple, Mr. Charles Allnut and Rose (*The African Queen* - 1935) and Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* (1902) are both on the shelves.



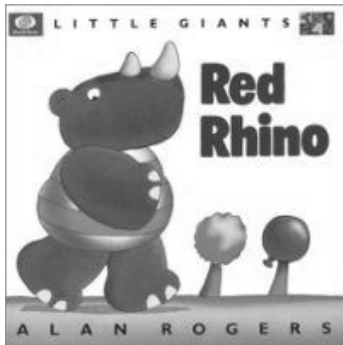
Jacques Pepin has worked as a doctor in sixteen African countries, including four years in a bush hospital in Zaire. He is now a professor in the Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the Université de Sherbrooke, Quebec. *The Origin of AIDS* (2011), is based on thirty years of experience and research supported by a copious reference list. Pepin writes of the roles of "western" medical care/ interventions in sleeping sickness, leprosy, tuberculosis and AIDS and how these interventions interact with cultural practices and political decisions. His work focuses on lessons learned.

In *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary* (2011) Andrew Westoll tells readers about Gloria Grow and her "family" of chimps who live on a reserve near Chambly, Quebec. Westoll chronicles Grow's fight to prevent the use of chimps for biological/medical research and includes suggestions of what a reader can do to help the chimps.



## LIBRARY PAGES—CONTINUED

### “A” IS FOR AFRICA (continued)



#### FOR CHILDREN

Alan Rogers' book *Red Rhino* is a first reader for four- or five-year-olds as well as a book that can be read to younger readers. Its use of colours, nouns (bird, ball, plane, apple – and balloon) and repetition all help little ones build their vocabulary.

*A Life Like Mine: How Children Live Around the World* (2002) is aimed at readers aged 8 – 15. There are four themes: survival, development, protection and participation. Topics such as water, food, housing, education, as well as tougher ones, such as war and child labour, are presented at age-appropriate levels. The photos are stunning. The coverage is world-wide but there is lots about Africa and the children who live there, including features on children from Sudan, South Africa, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and mention of children and their circumstances in Burundi, Botswana, Angola, Lesotho, Kenya, Zambia, Mauritania, Mozambique.

Harry Belafonte wrote in his preface: “*A Life Like Mine* records the courage, energy, joy and optimism of children from all over

the world.”

*Cleopatra* (1986), part of the World Leaders Past and Present Series, is the story of Egypt's last queen who lived from 69 – 30 BC. The saga of her relationship with Mark Anthony and the Roman conquest is accompanied by excellent black and white photos of ancient sculptures, murals, monuments and other works of art. Secondary students interested in the ancient world will appreciate this book.

*Books featured in “On the Shelf” all relate to a general theme. Readers are welcome to contact the Editor of the Society Pages with any suggestions (418-694-9147).* ■



### MEET THE NEW LIBRARY MANAGER

Born in Quebec City, **Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume** grew up in the Gatineau area and her family eventually settled in Montreal. Prior to becoming a librarian, Jessica completed her undergraduate studies in Fine Arts at Concordia University in Montreal. During this time she participated in several group art exhibitions and was a member of a folk choir. She obtained her Masters of Information and Library Studies at Université de Montréal in 2012.

Jessica worked in the children's department of the Westmount Public Library, in Montreal, from 2005 to 2013. She still assists there, updating their website and helping with current events and new acquisitions. She has also worked in a private school library and at the Library of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. She enjoys reading, knitting, fiddling and, more recently, exploring Quebec City.

*Please come say “Hello” and “Welcome” to Jessica during regular library hours. She looks forward to meeting LHSQ members and library patrons.* ■

## LIBRARY PAGES—CONTINUED

## BOOK REVIEWS

Mary Linklater

The Morrin Centre has a small but significant graphic novel section which contains many of the well-known and up-and-coming authors in this genre. Graphic novels are able to transport the reader beyond the written word and with a simple drawing create a feeling or setting so powerful that it would take many pages and thousands of words to capture in text.

Local author Guy Delisle presents a unique travel experience through his illustrations of some of the most secretive countries in the world. Guests in North Korea, Burma, China and, most recently, Jerusalem, are forbidden cameras, but as Delisle travels with a pen and paper, he is able to capture images off limits to most travelers.

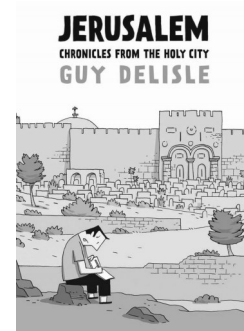
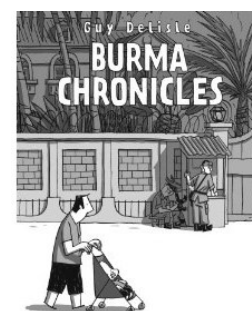
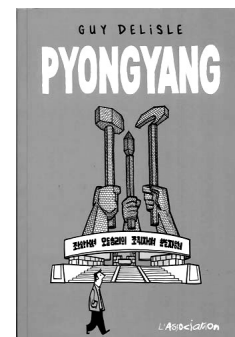
Delisle's first book, *Pyongyang* (2003), recounts his time in North Korea working as the head of an illustration team. The book is a gripping insight into the most mysterious country in the world and contains wonderful sketches not only of the tourist showpiece capital but also the restricted countryside. Best are his night-views of the capital with its dim lighting and empty streets, which drive home the loneliness and depression of North Korea.

In *Burma Chronicles* (2006) Delisle travels to another forbidden country, Myanmar. In this book we learn more about his family, as the purpose of the trip this time was to accompany his partner, who works for Doctors Without Borders. The book spends more time describing the expat community than the locals, but we learn how frustrating yet beautiful this ancient nation is.

More in the style of his first book, Delisle's third book, *Shenzhen: A Travelogue from China* (2008) is an account of his travels around the country sketching out his impressions. The drawings are darker and the use of charcoal gives a smudgy effect, effectively capturing the oppressive air pollution issues in China.

Delisle's latest book finds him accompanying his partner and their two children to *Jerusalem* (2012). Delisle is the childcare parent in Jerusalem while his partner travels to Gaza to provide medical care for the Palestinian population. Delisle takes advantage of his situation to visit the famous sights of Jerusalem as well as gaining access to the private life of both Jewish and Muslim communities. One gets the sense that Delisle intended this book to be an impartial observation of his experiences in the Holy Land, but one of the final illustrations powerfully depicts how observing the current conflict up close can leave no one impartial.

Delisle's books can be read singly or as a set, and do not need to be read in any particular order. He openly declares that his books are not meant to make political statements or represent any particular point of view. His purpose lies in sharing his experiences in some of the world's most forbidden spots with the rest of us, who feel the power of those experiences through his delightful illustrations. ■



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## A SPECIAL NOTE:

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 21-27, 2013.

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**Morrin Centre**  
44, chaussée des Écossais  
Québec, Québec G1R 4H3  
418 694-9147 | info@morrin.org

[imagination.morrin.org](http://imagination.morrin.org)

