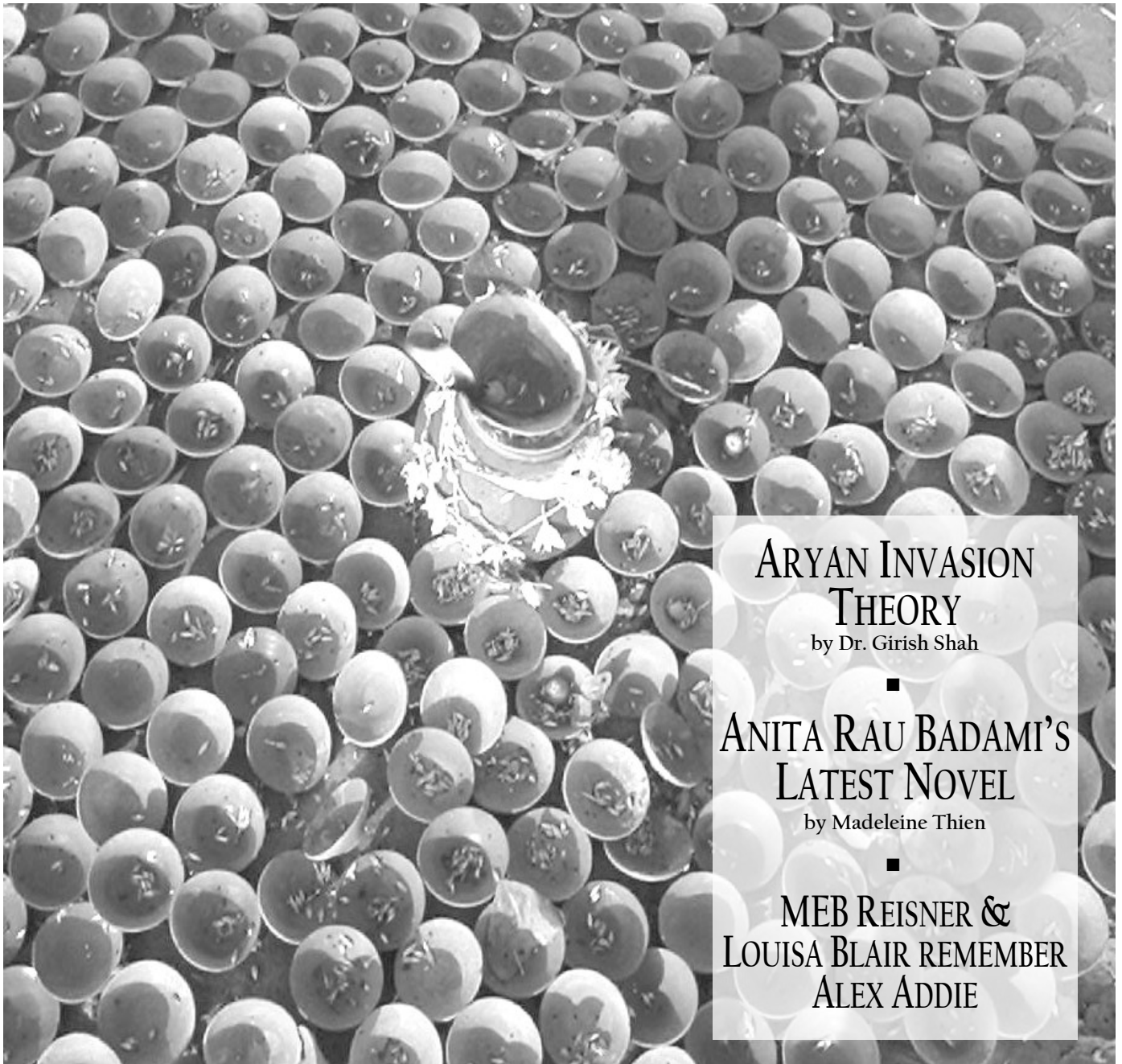




SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 14 ■ WINTER 2006 ■ \$2,00



ARYAN INVASION THEORY

by Dr. Girish Shah



ANITA RAU BADAMI'S LATEST NOVEL

by Madeleine Thien



MEB REISNER &
LOUISA BLAIR REMEMBER
ALEX ADDIE



SOCIETY PAGES

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LIBRARY HOURS

Please note that the library will be closed
from **DECEMBER 23** to **JANUARY 3**

Sunday	1:00PM-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	12:00PM-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

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends,

On September 1st, 2006, the Morrin Centre was officially inaugurated with a bang. Over 135 were present to get a glimpse of the newly-restored spaces formerly used as an assembly hall and classroom for classics. The event attracted people of all generations, ranging from older denizens of the Society to younger people who had come to listen to artist-in-residence Clément Jacques, who strummed along with Randall Spear. The evening truly showed that Morrin Centre is poised to attract people of all ages with a wide range of activities. Many of those present felt very emotional and in awe as they beheld the magnificently restored spaces. All wished the Morrin Centre a great beginning, feeling privileged to be part of this event.



Morrin Centre Inauguration. September 1, 2006

All wished the Morrin Centre a great beginning, feeling privileged to be part of this event.

A series of speeches launched the evening. After giving well-deserved thanks to fellow council members, staff, and the professionals behind the restoration work, I passed the podium to Mr. Ralph Mercier, representative of the City of Quebec. He gave a speech highlighting the importance of the Centre within the City on behalf of the *Mairesse* Andrée Boucher. Mr. Steven Blaney, representative of the Federal Government and deputy for Levis-Bellechasse, said a few words on behalf of Ms. Bev Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women. Mr. Blaney was delighted to be at the Morrin Centre for the first time and wished everyone the best of luck in the years to come. Ms. France Cliche then took center stage to thank all the participants in the project and to demonstrate how this project is an important achievement and addition to Quebec City's cultural scene. The inauguration speeches were followed by a cocktail. People roamed freely around the Centre, many taking a few sips of wine inside the Victorian library.

Although the work accomplished so far is certainly cause to celebrate, the building project is only half completed. The centre still awaits government funding for Phase II from Federal and Provincial authorities. We also encourage you to contribute to our Annual Campaign. This will allow us to furnish spaces, prepare interpretation projects, restore the cellblocks and upper stories, and ensure universal accessibility. We hope governments will react soon, having seen the positive results accomplished so far, and the important cultural addition to Quebec City provided by the Morrin Centre.

Happy Holidays!

David F. Blair, President

NEW FORMAT

You may have noticed the new format of the Society Pages. This is one of the many ways in which the Society continues to forge ahead. The Society Pages has moved from a newsletter and create an exciting magazine with more feature articles and illustrations. We hope you enjoy this issue. Letters or suggestions to the editor are welcomed and can be sent to patrickdonovan@morrin.org—we are also on the lookout for contributors.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LHSQ?

AUTUMN 2006 UPDATE

by France Cliche, executive director

Although LHSQ staff hoped to heave a collective sigh following inauguration on September 1, things haven't exactly slowed down. All of us are now comfortably settled in the old Wood's room, happy to be back in our historic building. 2007 promises to be filled with excitement as we focus on completing the restoration project, developing interpretation strategies, securing long-term funding for operations, and finalizing 400th anniversary plans.

SOME NEWS

Restoration project: Many odds and ends related to Phase I of the project were wrapped up this autumn, namely doors, handles, phone systems, kitchen equipment, etc. Library chairs and other antique furniture has come trickling in throughout the fall, following restoration by Parks Canada. The presidents' portraits are back up on the walls and General Wolfe has a new shelf. We are still waiting to hear from our pending applications for the upcoming phases, which will allow us to operate more efficiently with modern equipment and full accessibility.

Public Art Project: François Mathieu, an artist from the Lotbinière region, was chosen to design a sculptural installation for the Morrin Centre under the *Programme d'intégration des arts à l'architecture* managed by the *Ministère de la culture et des communications du Québec*. Stay posted in our next issue for more details.

Staff: The Morrin Centre continues to operate with a full-time staff of seven people. Two new full-time volunteers from the Katimavik programme joined us in September: Audrey-Anne Harvey from Candiac, Quebec; and Marc Menegon from Maple, Ontario.

Grants and Fundraising: New grants have been coming in throughout the fall. The LHSQ recently received a two-year contribution totalling nearly \$100,000 from the Department and Fisheries and

Oceans via the IPOLC (Interdepartmental Partnership with the Official-Language Communities) program. This will enable us to prepare tour products and activities on a variety of themes for the 400th anniversary. In addition, the Department of Canadian Heritage approved a grant totalling nearly \$30,000 around the theme of Quebec City's literary heritage; new books will be purchased for the library, events about local-interest writing will be held, and bibliographic research produced.

The LHSQ continues to apply on a variety of grants. Projects submitted include the digitization of the LHSQ's historic publications, revival of oral history research, work on long-term fundraising, and bringing in well-known writers from across Canada.

Rentals: Thirteen groups have rented out rooms in the Morrin Centre since September. This included private cocktails, a wedding reception, wine tasting, educational training sessions, and other events.



The College Hall set up for our first wedding reception, November 18, 2006

Events: Autumn was packed with events that attracted hundreds of people. CBC Radio One broadcasted live from the Morrin Centre for the inauguration, which was followed by an exciting weekend Celtic Festival. We hope to expand this festival in the upcoming year. Actors were on hand to bring a new set of historic characters to life for the *Journées de la Culture*. Over 250 students toured the building throughout the fall, and thousands of casual visitors came to the library.

Merry Christmas to all from the LHSQ team!

ARYAN INVASION OF INDIA: MYTH OR REALITY?

by Dr. Girish Shah

Transactions is a new recurring series that provides an in-depth exploration of a lecture or event held at the LHSQ. The name refers to the Society's journal, published from 1824 to 1924, which reprinted papers read in the Society's reading room. This current feature is a follow-up to Dr. Girish Shah's presentation about India in April, 2005.

■

Aryans are among the ancient peoples of India who used Sanskrit to recite their epic poems (e.g. Mahabharata) and to write the Vedas and Upanishads (e.g., Rugveda). Although the period around 1500-2000 BC is commonly stated as the time for these Aryan epics, some suggest this civilization started from the fifth or sixth millennia BC, based on astronomical observations reported in Aryan literature. While the Aryan line of civilization in India has since continued up to the present, there is a strange gap in the understanding of how Aryans came to be in India.

An appearance of common root words in Sanskrit and many European languages led European scholars to believe in a common ancestral origin between both peoples. This idea was crystallized in the form of the Aryan invasion theory by eminent Oxford scholar Max Muller in 1882. He suggested that proto-Aryan people, starting from Central Asia, conquered many lands from India to Europe. He claimed these fierce Aryan warriors had superior warfare techniques and swift horse-drawn chariots. They were able to quickly and completely dominate less-developed indigenous people in these lands. This invasion theory has

been reshuffled by others since: Did Aryans actually invade or simply migrate? Did they come to India or go out from India? Did they invade/migrate in successive waves or simply move from one place to the next, evolving independently in each region as a separate branch of Aryans? The Aryan migration/invasion theory has been reported in almost all world history books. It is accorded the same credible status as more established historical events, such as the invasion of India by Alexander the Great from Greece.



Seal from Indus Valley Civilisation

While accounts of Alexander's exploits have been verified by records from both Greek and Indian sides, no such recorded proof exists for the Aryan invasion in India. If we were to assume that the losing side (the "indigenous" people of India) did not have the luxury to write the history, we should expect somebody from the winning side to make a capital out of their victories. The Aryan forefathers in central Asia should have recorded

great victories in India. The least we should expect is an account from the victorious Aryans in India about how their forefathers came to India and established this great civilization. While these records have not yet been discovered, the only available evidence we have are the Aryan epics and literature, which were orally recited as poems prior to being written down. In these stories, great Aryan kings trace their ancestry back to seven sages and their great leader Manu, who survived a great flood that destroyed the earlier world, which in turn was ruled by ten

Aryan Invasion *(continued from previous page)*

great ancestors (Pitris). In addition, the events described in the ancient Aryan literature does not refer to the geographical area that is beyond present-day Afghanistan, Pakistan and Western India.

The second problem with the Aryan invasion theory is the assumption that the forces opposing them were weak and disorganized, so as to allow a rapid and complete victory. Archaeological discoveries in the vast geographical area mentioned above indicates existence of an Indus valley civilization (Harappa, Mohenjo-Dero and Lothal-excavations) which had flourished for almost 2000-3000 years prior to 2000 BC. This Harappan civilization had well-organized cities with structured roads and housing, a consciousness of fashion and industry and a system of communication and governance that extended over many cities. Thus, Aryans would have had to come in as a large force with a sophisticated army to rout the Harappan civilization. None of the archaeological digs indicate massacres of that scale in Harappan cities. Neither Aryan forefathers nor the population in-between (e.g. Iranians) mentions passage of such a large force through their lands. It has been suggested that the Harappan civilization either perished in floods or droughts due to shifting or drying up of their great rivers. Hence Aryans are not likely to have fought the Harappan civilization. On the contrary, Aryans refer to their forefathers' survival from great floods.

Early non-Indian historians found it convenient to suggest that invading light skinned Aryans defeated indigenous dark-skinned Dravidians and drove them down to the South of India beyond the Deccan plateau. The "proof" provided for this "Aryan-Dravidian war" is mainly philological, i.e., dissimilarity between languages of the South (Dravidian origin) and North of India, and references to enemies being dark-skinned Dasyas and Asuras or Rakshashas. There is neither archeological proof, nor the mention in Aryan or Dravidian literature of warfare between Dravidians and Aryans. First, let us examine the issue of skin color. Dark skin color is not confined to enemies of Aryans—Lord Shiva and Lord Krishna, God and God-incarnate for Aryans, are invariably described

in darker skin tones. In addition, a greater incidence of darker skin tones near equatorial locations is observed among all races, as it is a natural protection against harmful effects of sunlight. Secondly, more often than not, the Aryan epics describe great wars among Aryan kings and not with outsiders, e.g., the Mahabharata describes a great war among close family members of an Aryan dynasty, which involved active participation of many other Aryan kings, as well as dark-skinned Lord Krishna. The most famous North-South war in the Aryan Epic Ramayana describes how the northern Lord Rama defeated the Sri Lankan King Ravana. However, Ravana is the son of an Aryan sage, who was well-versed in Aryan Vedic scriptures as well as being a worshipper of Lord Shiva. Finally, closer examination of Dravidian languages, such as Tamil, reveals many similarities to Sanskrit. Hence, if at all, the philological argument should support common Aryan-Dravidian ancestry rather than enmity. Thus, non-Aryan enemies are not likely to be people of the Indus valley civilization, or Dravidians, but could be the early people who inhabited these lands at the same time as the Indus valley civilization.

Therefore, a careful reevaluation of Aryan origin in India needs to be made with rational arguments and scientific proof. The best proof may be found when we will be able to decipher the language of the Indus valley civilization. Until then the jury is out whether Aryans ever invaded India or were simply a continuity of the Indus valley civilization. It is a different story altogether to determine how the Indus valley civilization began in India around 5000 BC, because that might reflect the beginning of many other ancient civilizations of the world. ■

Dr. Girish Shah is an active member of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec and a leading light in Quebec City's South Asian community. Dr. Shah is a senior researcher at the skin cancer research laboratory. He is also a professor at the faculty of medicine at Université Laval.

In Focus is a regular political discussion event held at the LHSQ. The next In Focus event will take place on February 2007 and will examine the situation in Lebanon.

LIBRARY PAGES

BOOK REVIEW

ANITA RAU BADAMI - *CAN YOU HEAR THE NIGHTBIRD CALL?*

by Madeleine Thien

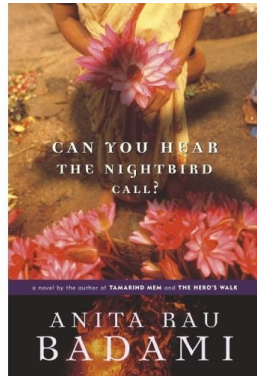
In Anita Rau Badami's remarkable new novel, *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?*, home is a complex and multi-layered landscape: a place, a memory, an act of the imagination, a political landmine, and more than anything, the object of intense, personal longing. For Bibi-ji, Leela and Nimmo, the three women at the heart of the novel, two homes—Canada and India—exert their pull, and both homes—their landscapes, politics and complex communities—touch in glorious, terrifying and unforgettable ways.

Can You Hear the Nightbird Call? begins with the story of Bibi-ji, raised in Panjaur village in West Punjab. In an act of willful defiance, she steals the man meant for her sister and, in 1946, begins a new life in Vancouver. Bibi-ji is, as she knows, "greedy for something much larger than the world she inhabits." On Vancouver's Main Street, she and her husband, Pa-ji, start up the The Delhi Junction Cafe, and before long the restaurant is a crossroads for the settled and the newly arrived, the colonial and the post-colonial.

Into this crossroads comes Leela, raised in a town outside Bangalore, daughter of a German mother and Hindu father, and the wife of Balu, a professor in chemical engineering. Leela, taunted as a child for being 'half-and-half', finds she fits into this community more easily than she could ever have anticipated. With her days spent working in the shoe department of The Bay, nights with her husband and two beloved children, and weekends at the Delhi Junction among her Sikh, Hindu and Muslim neighbours, Leela embodies the crossroads of Vancouver's Main Street, with all its multiple strands of identity and memory.

Home is where you set your own life story, and it is

also the place that holds your history and draws a line to your present life. It is where you come from but it is also where you are. "I could be living on the moon," Nimmo's husband, Satpal, says, "and still Punjab would be my heartland." Nimmo, who, as a child, survived a terrifying flight from West Punjab into India during the Partition of India in 1947, but lost all of her family in the terror, stands in her Delhi home, and responds, "This is my heartland. This house, this gully, this city. Nowhere else."



If home is the thread running through *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?*, then history is the weave. The Partition caused horrifying turmoil, resulting in the displacement of more than 14 million people and more than half a million deaths. As Badami writes in a historical addendum to the novel, this division caused "massive loss of life, ancestral land, history and memory; it created wounds and resentments that festered and grew..." It is these

wounds that she illuminates to devastating effect, as Bibi-ji, Leela and Neemo live their lives in the aftermath of this sectarian violence. Badami is astonishingly adept at contrasting light and dark, at bringing to life both the joy and the sorrow of her characters' lives. A scene in which Neemo and Satpal leave handprints on the newly whitewashed walls of their house will live in my memory forever. And, just as she does not shy away from portraying joy, Badami shows no hesitation in portraying the cruelty and terror of war, of neighbour turned against neighbour, and of violence for which there can be no forgiveness. Near the end of the novel, when Air India Flight 182 explodes over the Atlantic Ocean, killing all 329 passengers, the disaster happens not in isolation, but in the context of escalating violence and repercussions. For those who have no home,

LIBRARY PAGES

Anita Rau Badami (continued from previous page)

no security, and no government to turn to, whose hopes are manipulated and darkened, a violent act can become the means to the end, and the end begins to justify every act.

Home, as Badami rightly portrays, is an emotional and politically charged place, capable of making us brothers with each other. Capable, too, of tearing us all apart. This is a truly astonishing novel, a story that is both a reminder of history and a warning to the future, a story that is alive and vivid and unafraid. ■

Madeleine Thien's first book of fiction, *Simple Recipes*, won four awards in Canada, was a finalist for a regional Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book. Her first novel *Certainty* was published in June 2006. Originally from Vancouver, Thien recently moved to Quebec City.

Library News for Kids

Have you recently sneaked a peak at our kids' section? No? Surprises are waiting for you—we've just received a bunch of new books!

Youngest kids will enjoy bonding with everybody's favorite piglet *Olivia*, will need all their strength to unroot *The Enormous Potato*, and will have a good time eating lunch with *Houndsley and Catina*. Along the road, they'll also encounter two very different boys: David, the most disobedient kid ever, and Rink, the one "who grew flowers".

Older readers will have the chance to read the beginning of Cornelia Funke's saga *Inkheart*, as well as *The End of the Baudelaire's Series of Unfortunate Events*. Travel through time and countries with the books *I Love our Earth* and *A Life Like Mine*, see how *Skyscrapers* are designed and built, take a closer look at *Pumpkins* and catch all the beauty of the night sky with the glow-in-the-dark guide *Constellations*.

Enjoy our new books, and if you have any suggestions, please tell us!

Wish List

WINTER 2006 PRIORITY
MODERN LIBRARY'S
100 BOOKS OF THE 20th CENTURY

Thanks to Brian Skidmore, Jean-Charles Martineau, as well as Mary-Ellen and Walter Rooney for donations of relevant books. Thanks also to Virginia Roe, Ronald Blair, and Miriam Blair for donating eight of the top 100 books of the 20th century. We now need to acquire the 59 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. All donations will be acknowledged:

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*
Samuel Butler, *The Way of All Flesh*
James P. Cain, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*
Erskine Caldwell, *Tobacco Road*
Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*
John Cheever, *The Wapshot Chronicle*
Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*, *Nostramo*, and *Lord Jim*
James Dickey, *Deliverance*
E.L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*
J.P. Donleavy, *The Ginger Man*
John Dos Passos, *U.S.A. (trilogy)*
Theodore Dreiser, *An American Tragedy* and *Sister Carrie*
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
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*
Robert Graves, *I, Claudius*
Henry Green, *Loving*
Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*
Richard Hughes, *A High Wind in Jamaica*
Aldous Huxley, *Point Counter Point*
Henry James, *The Wings of the Dove*, *The Ambassadors*, *The Golden Bowl*
James Jones, *From Here to Eternity*
James Joyce, *Finnegan's Wake*
William Kennedy, *Ironweed*
Sinclair Lewis, *Main Street*
Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*
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*
Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire*
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*
Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*
Richard Wright, *Native Son*



A SECTION DEVOTED TO
THE WRITERS' CIRCLE

An Evening at the Lit, by H el ene Lupien

Nous sommes en juillet 2006, fin d'une autre journ ee de canicule et la chaleur ne semble pas avoir encore enrob e l'int erieur des murs de la biblioth eque de la Lit.

C'est la premi ere rencontre du Writers' Circle dans le local r enov e o  les pr ecieus volumes observent, en se moquant peut- tre, nos r eflexions d'auteurs en herbe, pour la plupart!

It is a moment of peace and calm. The smell of the fresh renovations, the softness of the lights and Randy with his guitar trying to create a melody with the words spontaneously written by each member of the group.

Naturally we made brief comments on the necessity of the draperies hiding the beautiful windows, but we are still blessed and happy to be here, French and English-speaking people, working to compose a song while other countries are at war.

Then I saw the statue of General Wolfe on the mezzanine that gave me a sign to come up. I apologized to the other writers and after a brief introduction to the general, who is very tall in real life (in spite of the smallness of the statue), he asked me in an austere tone what was going on with us French and English meeting in the library ?

General Wolfe: I thought that after the renovations, this space would be cleaned, embellished and only reserved for English speaking people. I choose you, to briefly explain this situation to me because I know that you are a tour guide in old Quebec and you speak respectfully about my victory.

H el ene: Well my general,

General Wolfe: I remind you madam, that my rank is Major General

H el ene: Yes Major General. Is the black ribbon a sign of your rank?

G en eral Wolfe: No madam. I am mourning my dearest father who recently passed away before me.

H el ene: Major general, je sais que vous parlez fran ais, puisque les officiers de votre pays utilisent notre langue pour discourir dans les salons avec les dames et la noblesse.

Well, nous avons fait alliance avec les anglais pour nous prot eger des envahisseurs, Major General. En effet nous avons combattu c te   c te, fran ais et anglais, contres les Patriotes de la Nouvelle-Angleterre etensemble nous avons remport e la victoire.

General Wolfe: I'll be damned. All those deaths and fights in 1759..... But as I am an excellent strategist I suppose that it was the only way to build this country that you call Canada?

H el ene: I suppose so, Major general.

General Wolfe: Well all right, I have my answer. But be sure that from my point of view, I will be tr es soucieux de l' volution des travaux des  crivains anglais et fran ais de ce tr es s elect Writers' circle of the Lit.

H el ene: Oui major g en eral.

And his tall presence vanished

Je revins   la table o  se trouvaient th e et petits fours. Randy avait termin e une autre m elodie. Tout le monde  tait  bahi de voir les mots enrubann es de notes.

Je songeais aux paroles du jeune g en eral Wolfe qui veillait sur notre groupe et qui avait peut- tre commenc e   prendre plaisir   nos  changes pour enfin se reposer et contempler son  uvre! ■

All her life, H el ene Lupien has been surrounded by books.: as a reader and as a librarian. Now, she is using her own imagination and own words to be part of the world of writing.

IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING ALEX ADDIE

by MEB Reisner

Alexander Davidson Addie died in the city that he loved on 13th October 2006.

Although his family had only recently settled in Quebec City, Alex was born a quintessential Quebecker. He knew every street and *quartier*, and delved - quite literally - into its history. As a boy, he mudlarked in the St Charles River for cannon balls. When the Battlefields Park was laid out, he watched what the steel ploughs turned up as landscaping was begun. With equally curious friends, he peered into excavations as new construction expanded the city westward, glimpsing skull fragments - from battles or epidemics - who knew?

As a schoolboy, he enjoyed the High School's excellent athletics programme and the well-equipped chemistry lab (where he and fellow students tried to manufacture laughing gas while the master was out having a smoke). "What did you plan to do with it?" I asked, on one of my visits to listen to his stories. "We wafted it into the next form with bellows through the ventilator," he grinned conspiratorially. "We thought we were going to hear them all laughing any minute, but all it did was make them sick!"

One of the secrets of Alex's skill as a *raconteur* was the immediacy of each story. He could thrust himself back into the event and describe it as if it had just occurred!

Like his two elder brothers, Alex was sent to McGill, but a first semester football injury sent him home for recuperation. During that time he strayed into the old Price Brothers offices where a friend had recently found employment. Alex pitched in, helping to sort out accumulated papers. When someone higher up happened by and asked what was going on, the encounter led to his first job offer. From that day, Alex never worked for another company.

He had many interests. A boy scout himself, his involvement in Scouting was virtually lifelong - from scout leader and camp counselor, to District Commissioner. He was, besides, a keen fisherman and an excellent shot. Also active in the Rotary Club, Alex was honoured as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Further volunteer work saw him as Secretary Treasurer of the Finlay Home where he built an icerink for the boys and saw to the cheerful repainting of the Home's interior.

Perhaps best known of all, however, was his lifelong attachment to the Anglican Cathedral - from serving as a choirboy (when the troops were embarking at Quebec in World War I) to volunteering as a guide - until his 96th year. He shepherded tourists around the beloved old building, pointing out notable features and sharing his fund of Cathedral lore. Many visitors from all over the world will be disappointed when they ask for "the white-haired old gentleman" whom they have heard about. There are many more, closer to home, who will miss him, too. ■

ALEX ADDIE REMEBERS

by Louisa Blair

Alexander Addie has been a member of the *Lit & His* since 1908. As a boy at Miss Barrington's School, on Garden Street, he would race over to the *Lit & His*, soon as school was out.

"We all did. In those days you could get ten streetcar tickets for 25 cents, so we'd take the streetcar over there and go up to the balcony, on the north side by the window, where they kept the Gahenty books, all about the wars the young English officers had fought. Or we'd read the Boys Own paper, that the *Lit & Hist* subscribed to in those days. Those were adventure stories for boys, published in England. Or we'd go for

Remembering Alex Addie *(cont. from previous page)*

Thorton W. Burgess stories, they were about animals, like Reddy the Fox, Grandfather Frog, and Jerry Muskrat.

“We did that for years, three or four boys at a time – Prices and Rosses – and if we made a bit too much noise, Mr. Strachan would bang his cane on the floor to warn us, and we’d stop. Before that, the librarian was Dr. Harper, and he’d always keep us quiet with the bag of peppermints he kept in his pocket.”

Ever since he retired, Mr. Addie has been practising as full-time historian. He did much of his research at the *Lit & His*, but even researched his cases as far afield as England, in the old *Lit & His* tradition. Also in the *Lit & His* tradition, he makes a point of researching conventional historical wisdom, and delights in proving it wrong.

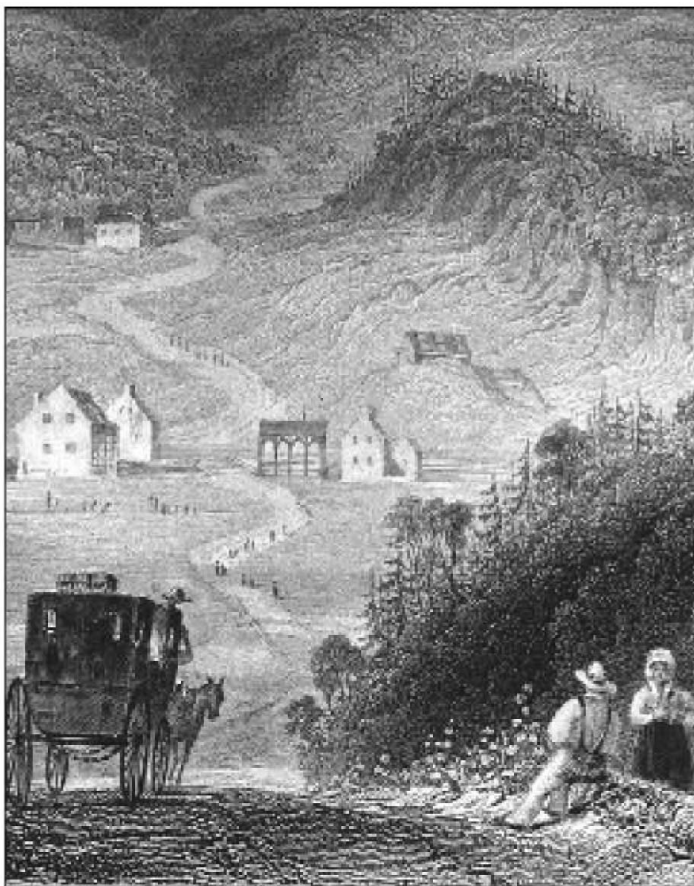
“A lot of Quebec history is wrong,” he says, “starting with the Jesuit Relations. They were a little bit biased, and not always truthful. They said

that General Montcalm was buried outside the walls of the Ursuline Chapel because they were afraid the grave would be desecrated by the British troops. The troops never desecrated graves. The reason he was buried there was that he was actually a Calvinist, not a Roman Catholic at all.”

A great raconteur on almost any topic of Quebec history, Mr. Addie keeps jumping up from his chair as limber as a teenager, to go and fetch a document to prove his point.

Mr. Addie’s eyes are failing him. “But Mrs. Dooley been so good to me. I’d tell her what I was researching and she’d take me into the back room and read me the paragraphs that applied.” Surely no library in the world could enable a historical researcher who can’t read any more to continue his life’s work. *Originally written in 1998.* ■

MEB Reisner and Louisa Blair are two historians. They have written numerous volumes that add to our understanding of Quebec City’s English-speaking population.



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FROM THE VAULT

ACROSS THE PERUVIAN DESERT ON A “BROKEN” MULE

An excerpt from “Notes of a Journey Across the Andes,” read before the LHSQ on April 3, 1861 by E.D. Ashe
Originally printed in *Transactions*, Vol. 5, Quebec: LHSQ, 1862

... roads and vehicles being in those days unknown, everything was carried on the backs of mules. [The journey from Arica to Tacna was] a distance of forty miles across the desert, without a single drop of water or blade of grass to cheer the way. It is truly marvellous how muleteers manage to secure some of the things which these animals have to carry on their backs, for the packages are of all sizes and shapes from a Collard and Collard pianoforte to a case of wine. The consequence of this state of affairs is, that from his first journey until his last, the poor mule has always a raw and bleeding back. No wonder that the track across this desert might generally be found by the skeletons of these poor animals. I have often thought that if there is any truth in the theory of the transmigration of souls, great must that sinner be who has to expiate his crimes in the body of an Arica Mule.

Our party started about eight in the morning, in high glee, and as the sun in the course of the day became nearly vertical, the only shadow each of us had was that of his sombrero; but to prevent our faces from being blistered and losing all our good looks, we took the precaution to cover them with silk handkerchiefs.

About four in the afternoon, my mule showed symptoms of breaking down; and I persuaded the party not to think of me, but to go on ahead, and to send back help.

Accordingly I was left, and I endeavoured to urge my poor brute forward with all the power I had; but in vain; not even the muleteer's words « Caramba! Cari carajo, maldita! » had any effect: he drooped his head as a signal for me to dismount. This done, I began to speculate on our condition as to which was the greater ass, the mule or I. But as I could not afford to pay for mule and saddle, I managed to urge the poor animal before me, so that at least when he drooped I should only have to saddle myself. Matters now were becoming serious. It was evident that I was in a scrape. A loose

burning sand around us, my temples throbbing from heat and exhaustion and intense thirst, having to drive a poor sinking mule before me,— and yet not a hundred yards from me I thought that I could see a beautiful lake; nay, I could even see the ripple on the water. Alas, what delusion!

Happily my reveries were broken by the sound of bells; and on looking up I beheld a man on a mule coming on at a brisk trot, leading a horse. What relief this was I need not say. Often had I exclaimed, in despair of ever seeing it,— “Oh, give me but my Arab steed!” but here was a steed as good for me as any Arabian. He bore me in safety to the hospitable door of the English consulate.

A warm bath, a slight stimulant, and I was ready for dinner at eight. Here I was enjoying the cool breeze as it was rustling among the leaves of adjacent trees, delicious claret, the most luscious fruit, and the sweet voices of charming young ladies. No wonder that sailors are always in love.

On the following morning, a handsome young man entered my room, and it soon appeared in our conversation that his visit was to take his farewell of the consul, being about to cross the Andes. “Cross the Andes!” I exclaimed; “How much I should like to accompany you.” ■

Read about E.D. Ashe's journey to the Andes at the LHSQ library today. For more about E.D. Ashe, see page 12.



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TESTIMONIALS

GUY MORISSET OF THE 78TH FRASER HIGHLANDERS

The St. Andrew's garrison of the 78th Fraser Highlanders is intended to promote military history and values, and to promote the Scottish culture. Learning history, music, dance, and Gaelic are now big parts of our activities.

The next step to learning is giving our people access to activities for them to show their talents and acquired knowledge while promoting history and culture. We are doing this in many different ways such as hiring young students to become 18th century soldiers and miladies, engaging in our own cultural activities, participating in private conferences, in important social events and in festivals.

To achieve our goals, we are using a networking organisation model. For insiders, we became an organic organisation using the creativity and passions of our members to develop the different venues of the Garrison. For outsiders, our Garrison became a highly networked organisation, developing relationships and special alliances where we are bringing our "savoir faire" to the table.

Our alliance with the Morrin Centre is at the core of our outside strategic planning. The Morrin Centre, with its highly devoted personnel, its mission to promote anglo-related cultures, its generosity and its aggressiveness, is one of our top partners.

The Commanding Officer,
Guy Morisset, 78th Fraser Highlanders

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SPECIAL THANKS

FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

by Samar Sawaya



2006 has been a very special year for the Society. One cannot let the year end without thanking those who have taken part in this nice adventure.

Special thanks to our dedicated volunteers

Volunteers have been a great part of our major activities, events and everyday tasks at the Society. Over 100 people have volunteered this year. A very special thank you goes to the LHSQ Council, Steering Committee, and Book Committee. Their time has been invaluable. Another special thank you is addressed to all the great individuals who have helped us at events, whether as guest speakers and helpers or at major events like the Celtic Festival. Thank you very much to our dedicated volunteers who have committed themselves to helping with collection sorting in the temporary offices, library move and reinstallation, library desk functions and mobile library functions. Thank you to all the Katimavik volunteers who have helped out in 2006.

Special thanks to our generous donors

Very kind donations have poured in all year long, and we

take this opportunity to thank our donors. A special thank you goes to La Fondation Bagatelle who made a generous contribution in 2006. Appeals for the 2006 annual campaign "Perpetual Succession" have been sent out to all our members, partners and friends, and pledges are still coming in as we speak. Thank you very much for such generosity and for believing in the Morrin Centre project.

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HERITAGE CORNER

JAMES GREEN'S BAROMETER

by Patrick Donovan

You may have noticed the Society's old barometer in its new display case, presently installed on the same bookshelf as the Cosmo.

Barometers have always had many uses: measuring atmospheric pressure, predicting weather, determining altitude, and decorating living rooms. Water was initially used to measure pressure, but evaporation created problems. Mercury was first used in 1643 by Evangelista Torricelli. This was more stable, but mercury's affinity for other metals remained a problem.

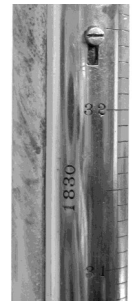
The problem was best solved by instrument maker James Green, who assembled the LHSQ's barometer. He got around the problem of mercury's affinity for other metals by using boxwood, glass and leather inside. The accuracy of his barometers was such that governments specified them as standard surveying equipment. Green's barometers were used to measure the height of the Andes.

The LHSQ's barometer raises an enigma, which has not yet been solved. Knowles Middleton's *History of the Barometer* indicates that James Green emigrated from England and established a workshop in Baltimore in 1832, later moving to New York in 1849. However, our barometer is clearly engraved with the inscription "J. Green N. York 1830." How could Green's New York workshop produce a barometer 19 years before it even existed? The history of barometers may need to be revised!

This early Green barometer was donated to the LHSQ by Captain E.D. Ashe in 1870. Ashe was a pioneer in Canadian science, and served as president of the Society. His contributions to the Society's publications are filled with wit and humour—these include ingenious patents for numerous devices; interesting (but wrong) theories about sun spots as burning planets that have collided with the sun; and an amusing account of travelling across through Peru on a mule (*see page 10*). Ashe set up the observatory on the Plains of Abraham to observe star transits and provide accurate time to the port of Quebec. His work established the longitudes of all major Canadian cities. The observatory stood on the plains from 1852 to 1936. It is not known how or when he acquired the barometer.

By the early 1990s, the Society's barometer was effectively broken. Its fortunes were revived by another Andes-traveller, eminent scientist, and former LHSQ president: Dr. Tomas Feininger. After a letter writing campaign to numerous institutions, the Canadian Conservation Institute agreed to restore this precious device in 1996. 30 hours of restoration work were necessary. Senior conservator Bob Barclay gave a presentation about the work required to restore the device at the 1998 AGM.

The barometer will eventually join other scientific collections in the Morrin College chemistry and physics lab, which will be restored in the upcoming year. The history of the device, alongside the work of E.D. Ashe, will be displayed and explained. ■



BULLETIN BOARD

Since August 2006, the Morrin Centre venues (namely the College Hall, Classroom for Classics, Library and Entrance Hall) have been rented out by various clients 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 Samar at samarsawaya@morrin.org or 694-9147 and she will provide you with the necessary information and assistance in planning your event. You can also visit our website at www.morrin.org/pages/spaces.php for detailed information about our rooms.

To receive regular reminders of upcoming LHSQ activities, join our email event list at info@morrin.org

A new group of volunteers has taken on 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. The target group is 3-5 years, but older or younger siblings are most welcome to join and listen.

In our last issue, we were looking for volunteer knitters to create a Quebec Helmet for future interpretation use by the IODE. We recently received a hand made example knit by LHSQ member Susan Hudson.



Full-time Katimavik volunteer Marc Menegon wearing Susan Hudson's Quebec Helmet.

Thank you very much, Susan! Quebec Helmets are special balaclava hats that were patented and knit by Quebec women meeting at the Morrin Centre during WWII. They were sent to soldiers across Canada to protect them from the cold.

A big thank you to Louise Gunn. Due to her continued efforts and dedication we were able to present lectures like the Golden Dog and the evening with Diana Gabaldon in October.

Don't miss this year's Bake Sale on Saturday, December 9th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Delicious home baked and home cooked goods, great crafts, and a cosy atmosphere are awaiting all visitors in the College Hall. There will be a raffle for great prizes. Tickets can be purchased in the LHSQ library. Ticket prices are \$2, and \$10 for six tickets.



Prizes include a 2 books from the LHSQ library, books by Louisa Blair, 1 free subscription to the QCT, 2 free tickets to the Celtic Christmas dance, 1 free membership, 1 prize of 2 free nights at the Chateau Frontenac, 2 free tickets to the Parc Aquarium de Quebec, 3 vouchers from the Dazibo restaurant (value \$20 each), and 1 gift certificate from Paillard (value \$100)

The Bake Sale team, under the leadership of Marie Tremblay, is still looking for volunteers who would like to bake, sell, or donate items for the odds and ends table. Please contact us at 694-9147 if you are interested.

Right after the Bake Sale, the LHSQ is proud to present a special Christmas treat for the whole family: Celtic Christmas. Young and old will be enchanted by a Christmas fairy tale performed by the young Irish dance group Violon Vert, who will tell the Celtic legend of "Quempel et le Boiteaux". Come with your whole family. The event is free for children, members pay \$4, and non-members \$6.

We need you! Yes, we are recruiting volunteers again. Call to volunteer for different library projects, events, kids' readings, the Book talk group, or more. The society wishes to extend current library hours with the help of volunteers—if you are interested in donating a couple of hours each week or would like to be added to our general bank of volunteers, please let Sonja know at 694-9147 or sonjataylor@morrin.org.

To perpetuate remembrance of the lost men of WWI, and to mark the rededication of the monument at Vimy, in April 2007, the 'Words from Vimy' project wishes to contact families across Canada who had relatives who took part in the battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. If interested, please contact 1-866-599-8469 or e-mail wordsfromvimy@gmail.com. Visit their website at www.wordsfromvimy.com



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
from the LHSQ