

SOCIETY PAGES



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY ▪ NUMBER 6 ▪ WINTER 2004

DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
SALE

SATURDAY
 DECEMBER 4, 2004

10:00—14:00

FOOD • RAFFLE • GIFTS • FUN

▪ **LIBRARY HOURS** ▪
 AS OF JANUARY 4, 2005
 IN **KIRK HALL**
 45, CHAUSSÉE DES ÉCOSSAIS

**NEW OPENING HOURS
 COMING SOON**

▪ **MEMBERSHIP** ▪
\$60 PER ANNUM
 FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

STUDENT PRICE
\$30 PER ANNUM

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The month of December promises to be a major milestone in the history of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. All our energy is focused on December 7th, a key date that will mark the official announcement of the Morrin Centre, the Society's English language cultural centre, which we expect to be our community's major cultural project for the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the City. We shall also complete the handover of the building to the Society as we sign a 99 year emphyteutic lease with the City of Québec. Jean-Paul L'Allier, mayor of Quebec, will be present to sign the lease and confirm the \$1 million grant during this important media event in the LHSQ reading room.

This date also marks the start of our official fundraising campaign. Although we have accumulated important sums so far, we are still a long way from our objectives. Important community members, politicians and dignitaries, including Mme Line Beauchamps, Québec's *Ministre de la Culture et des Communications*, will be present at the event to increase the momentum of a project that is already well under way.

The Morrin Centre has been included in the list of major projects for the upcoming 400th anniversary of Quebec City in 2008. We have a broad vision of our cultural centre as a place of exchange that will provide something for everyone: Francophones and Anglophones of all origins, young and old, tourists and locals. Recent efforts are paying off, our events over the course of the last year continue to attract more and more people, members and non-members alike. We have also built up an important collection of children's books, and circulation in this department has more than tripled in less than five years. We have recently started buying graphic novels and works of young avant-garde writers to attract more young adults. The opening of new spaces will allow us to go even further in our efforts to provide cultural activities to a broad population within the city at large. We plan to continue to increase our impact outside the community by showcasing a dynamic English-language cultural life that is given a unique flavour through its continuous dialogue with Francophone Quebec City.

We believe this project will constitute an extraordinary new resource for the community. It will create permanent new jobs in the cultural sector for dynamic young professionals and stimulate cultural and educational activities in English in a wide variety of media.

It is gratifying to see the Society move from a perspective of mere survival to one of growth and development. We are active both in new areas and in fields of activity where we were once prominent but from where we have been absent for a long time. Thank you for supporting us in these exciting times. I hope you will be able to join us at the library at 11.30 am on Dec 7th for this great event in the history of our society.

Happy Holidays.
 David F. Blair
 President

EDITOR:
 PATRICK DONOVAN

UPDATE FROM THE MORRIN CENTRE PROJECT TEAM

A PAGE DEVOTED TO INFORMING MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE PROJECT AND OUR PROGRESS

The last few months have seen us packing books and preparing for the move while continuing to hold regular events.

After 136 years of continual operation in the same charming rooms, the library will shut down for a month from December 6 to January 3, 2005. This will allow us to set up our temporary collection in the Kirk Hall across the street. We have already enlisted the help of the St. Lawrence Lions, who will be moving boxes in full sports uniforms on December 14th. Over 3 000 books have been selected for the temporary library. Regular monthly acquisitions and events will continue. We will also keep members involved and posted on changes in the main building from this location.

Our visibility within the city continues to increase. Many school groups came in for tours throughout the fall. Hundreds of people were welcomed by actors from the Quebec Art Company for the *Journées de la Culture*. Our Edgar Allan Poe event on Halloween was the most successful evening event so far. We also attracted many people for our Black Grace event, which rattled a few old ghosts with its amplified live music.

We continue to send out grant applications for a variety of projects. Recent submissions include projects to develop our online visibility and classification of our archives. Our tour guides have returned to school but we have secured enough external funding to retain the rest of our full-time staff through the winter.

David Pepin has been hard at work in the upstairs room (AKA Wood Room) completing the inventory of artifacts, photographing the items, researching their origins, and storing them in boxes. Our entire historical books collection has been packed for storage and protected with acid-free paper thanks to the dedication of our many volunteers (we couldn't have made it without them, Thanks). The artifacts are almost packed and negotiations are under way for storage. As for the

rest of the books, they will be packed early in 2005 and appropriate storage space is being negotiated.

The monumental task of counting, pricing, and packing old editions of the *Transactions* and *Historical Documents* in a coherent way was also completed. If you are interested in learning more about these historical publications, price lists and subject indexes will continue to be available at the front desk during the transition period. They provide a portrait of the Society in the 19th century with an eclectic range of articles covering everything from "The Lost city of Atlantis" to "Ostrich farming on the Cape of Good Hope." Prices range from \$7.99 to \$219.99 (see page 6).

Work on planning for the building project continues. Architects and engineers visited the building and sent in their proposals throughout the month of November. Our new restoration and fundraising committees will help set a framework around the whole process. The restoration committee includes members from the city, province and federal government to ensure that the site's heritage values are not compromised. The fundraising committee includes many board members who will be helped along by prominent Quebec City Anglophones.

The computerization of the Library catalogue moves forward thanks to a grant from Canadian Heritage. We have already started using a small database for newer books. We will soon be working with a library consultant to select the best software and implementation strategy.

The domain name www.morrin.org was selected to give online visibility to the Society and its cultural centre. We are actively working to secure enough funding to have a complete website running by this time next year.

We will continue to need your help and support over the next few months to make this project a resounding success. Please contact us if you can offer financial support, expertise, and stories about the building and the Society. ■

OUR NEW LOGOS!

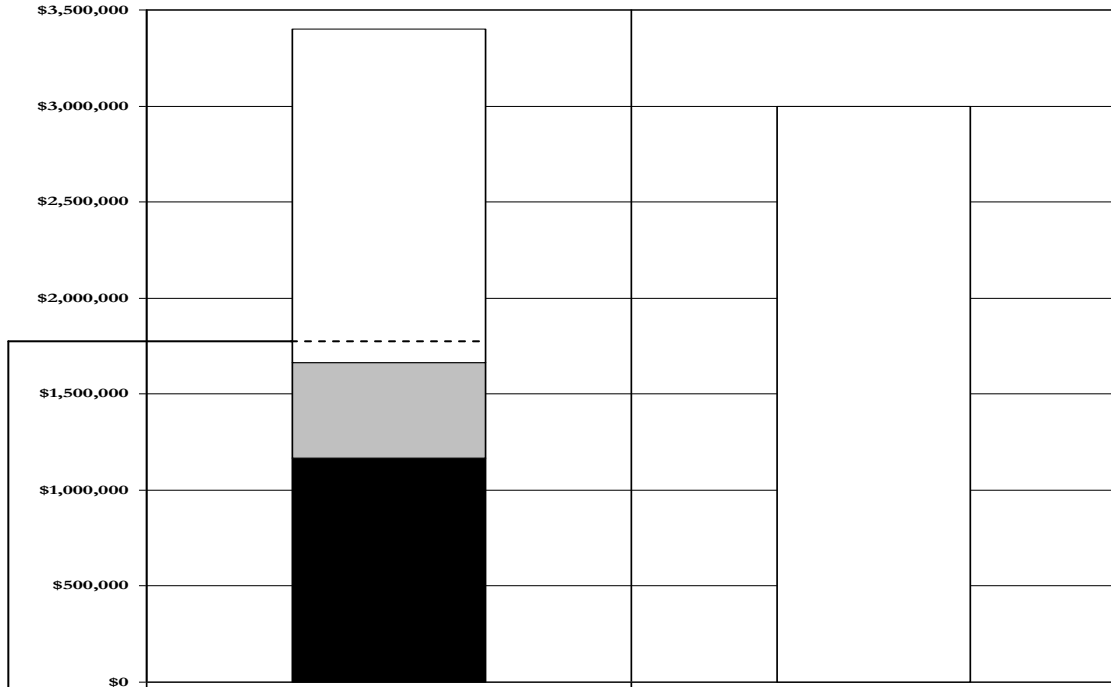
Board members, staff and volunteers spent lots of time brainstorming towards a set of logos that would age well, translate the new dynamism of the **LHSQ** and **Morrin Centre**, yet retain the classicism and dignity that befits an 180-year-old learned society. These logos consist of white lettering set against a burgundy red background not unlike that of the leather couch in our reading room.



LITERARY &
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
QUEBEC

MORRIN CENTRE: FUNDRAISING OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 2005: \$1.73 MILLION*



**MORRIN CENTRE
CAPITAL FUNDING**

**LITERARY & HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF QUEBEC
ENDOWMENT FUND**

Actual: \$1 165 000 to 1 665 000*
Objective: \$3400 000

Objective: \$3 000 000

What we want to do in 2005:

- Bring entire building up to fire, security, and accessibility code.
- Modernize electrical and mechanical systems.
- Completely restore main floor library rooms in their 19th century splendour.
- Begin phase I restoration of vestibule, College Hall, and classics classroom.

Additional financing will allow us to:

- Complete restoration of vestibule, College Hall, and classics classroom.
- Restore prison cells, chemistry lab, Children's Library (Wood Room), and other spaces within the building.
- Acquire and integrate furniture and equipment allowing for respectful reuse of spaces.

The LHSQ currently operates from a modest endowment fund made up of donations accumulated over the last 180 years. This campaign, initiated in December 2004, will allow us to move from a perspective of maintenance to the perspective of growth.

Raising our endowment fund is necessary for the following reasons:

- To ensure long-term financial viability of initiatives that support the Society's mission;
- To support the ongoing development of the LHSQ library;
- To support the implementation of the cultural, artistic and community services of the Morrin Centre;
- To fund new cultural and heritage initiatives linked to the mission of the LHSQ and its cultural centre.

*\$500 000 pending grant extension approval by the Department of Canadian Heritage



A section devoted to
the LHSQ Writers Circle

Those were the times
haunted by beautiful strangers
voices of iron voices of velvet
and we were falling and falling
and knowing all the time
that we were

those were the times
of questions without answers
words of ice words of silence
why and when and where
has everything happened
that left us afterwards
confused and exhausted

those were the times
for the fearful hopes of morrows
hours of pain hours in waiting
and we struggled yet
in the embrace of the soul killer
and we tore pages and pages
of unpublished predictions

those were the times
of the dead unfeathered bird
between marble and snow
and we were melting in our dreams
and we knew in waking up
that we were

monique laforce

Monique Laforce began her literary life at a very early age when taught by her mother to read the letters of the alphabet on wooden blocks. She then went on to read book after book of her grandfather's and father's libraries. She survived a convent education by frequent flights of imagination and by falling in love with poetry. Monique has published six books of poetry. She continues to read and write in French and English, and to live both in the real world and through her imagination.

*To find out more about the Writers' Circle,
contact Virginia Roe at 694-9147.*

OUR TEMPORARY COLLECTION

by Catherine McKenna

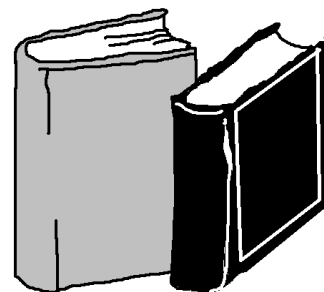
The compilation of the temporary collection (approximately 3,000 of our 27,000 books) is now complete. If you have not been in the library recently, we would like to let you know that these are now the only books (marked with green-dot stickers) that you may take out. You will notice that choices from science fiction and the classics have been incorporated into the fiction.

A variety of staff members have made most of the selections from the non-fiction with the final approval of library manager Caroline Lamothe. The criteria for fiction were to include books with a recent circulation history, all acquisitions within the last 2 years, a wide range of Canadian authors, plus a few shelves of interesting odds and ends for good measure. We included some books we like personally as well as books with tastes of our members in mind. Kim Thomson, this summer's children's activity leader and tour guide, put together the kids' collection.

A task that initially appeared daunting to me – we have been, essentially, packing your bags – turned out to be a delightful perusal, a meandering journey book by book through our shelves. Recent acquisitions were obvious choices but we made a focused effort to pick out gems you may have missed in the past from often-neglected corners of the library, particularly the gallery.

We will continue to purchase approximately 30 new books per month and take this opportunity to encourage your suggestions, accompanied by a review/synopsis whenever possible, for submission to the book committee. A few boxes of hand-picked books from past donations will also be added (including some children's books), many outside the norm of the usual monthly list. We hope you will enjoy these surprising and eclectic volumes.

We are optimistic that our enforced diversion from well-worn paths to the same familiar shelves will open up new discoveries. While we are hoping you find many of your favourite writers, we trust you will also see it as an opportunity to broaden and enhance the scope of your reading. ■



TRANSACTIONS/REPRINTED WRITINGS AND LECTURES FROM PAST MEMBERS OF THE LHSQ
THE NEW CANADIAN PATRIOTISM

Excerpts from a text read before the Society by Leigh McGregor, April 12, 1898 (Transactions no.22)

The good citizen loves his country in the same way that he loves his family—instinctively. His passion is irrational. The patriot, even the unaggressive patriot who bears no feelings of hostility to other countries, still gives a preference to his own which is neither due to its qualities nor lessened by its defects. Patriotism will not be in place in a perfect world. . .for no state can be regarded as ideal which does not include the whole of mankind. The universal republic, the federation of the world, excludes the possibility of war. When the ideal state is constituted, the army and navy will have ceased to exist and patriotism will have given way to cosmopolitanism. I do not think Patriotism will disappear unregretted, for a more powerful sentiment does not exist. . . one more capable of transforming the common man, or one which in spite of its irrationality appeals more strongly to the higher type of mind. . .

I think you will all agree that there is a New Canadian Patriotism. . .and that in recent times we have made veritable strides in the consciousness and pride of nationality. Her Majesty's Jubilee was a mile-stone by which to measure our progress in this respect. It was more than a mile-stone. It provoked a splendid explosion of loyalty and national solidarity. Who does not remember it with pleasure? Those were halcyon days in June. Peace and goodwill were uppermost in everyone's mind. Old men who are now lads will one day tell of the strange lull which fell on all British lands and held them for a time enchanted by the magic of lofty womanhood. It is a good thing to have seen the Jubilee.

Our Transactions and Historical Documents are now available for sale. These documents contain rare primary-source material on an eclectic range of subjects. A subject index is available for consultation at the Library or can be mailed to you for \$5.00. For more information, call Patrick Donovan at (418) 694-9147.

THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC

Transactions & Historical Documents

FOR SALE

SUBJECT INDEX AND ORDERING PROCEDURES AVAILABLE AT THE LHSQ LIBRARY
 DIRECT ALL ENQUIRIES TO PATRICK DONOVAN AT 694-9147

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

First Series, 1	Mémoires sur le Canada depuis 1749 jusqu'à 1760 (1838)	N/A
First Series, 2	Collection de mémoires et de relations sur le Canada. . . (1840)	N/A
First Series, 3	Voyages de découvertes au Canada, Jacques Cartier et al. (1843)	N/A
First Series, 4	Mémoire du Sieur de Ramezay (1861)	N/A
Second series, 1-6	1-6, bound (1868)	N/A
Second series, 1	. . . Manuscript journal relating to the siege of Quebec (1868)	N/A
Second series, 2	Campaign of Louisbourg, 1750 to 1758 (1868)	N/A
Second series, 3	Dialogue in Hades, between Generals Wolfe and Montcalm (1868)	**\$79.99
Second series, 4	The Campaign of 1760 in Canada (1868)	**\$49.99
Second series, 5	The Invasion of Canada in 1775, Henry Caldwell (1868)	**\$64.99
Second series, 6	Journal of an Expedition up the River Saint-Lawrence in 1759 (1868)	N/A
Third series, 1	Histoire du Montréal, Dollier de Casson, 1640-1672 (1871)	\$54.99
Third series, 2	Relation sur le Canada, 1682-1712 (1871)	\$74.99
Third series, 3	Voyage d'Iberville (1871)	\$99.99
Third series, 4	Journal of the Siege of Quebec, 1760, by Gen. James Murray (1871)	N/A
Third series, 5	Journal . . . de l'année américaine, 1775-1776, J.B. Badaux (1871)	\$99.99
Fourth series	Primary sources related to 1759 + 1775 wars (1875)	N/A
Fifth series	Documents relating to the War of 1812 (1877)	\$124.99
Sixth series	Account of the vessels arriving at Quebec in the year 1793 (1882)	\$7.99
Seventh series	Blockade, 1775-1776 by the American Revolutionists (1905)	\$64.99
Eighth series	Blockade, 1775-1776 by the American Revolutionists, cont. (1906)	\$64.99
Ninth series	Lady Durham's Journal, Mémoires du Chevalier de Johnstone (1915)	\$49.99
Tenth series	Index to the Archival Publications of the LHSQ (1923)	\$29.99

TRANSACTIONS ORIGINAL SERIES

I	Session of 1829	*\$49.99
II	Session of 1831	*\$39.99
III	Session of 1837	*\$39.99
IV. Part 1-4	Session of 1843-55	*\$39.99
IV. Appendix	Appendix to Series IV	*\$29.99
V	Session of 1862	\$199.99

TRANSACTIONS NEW SERIES

1	Session of 1863	\$41.99
2	Session of 1863-64	\$149.99
3	Session of 1864-65	\$49.99
4+5	Session of 1865-66	\$99.99
6	Session of 1867-68	N/A
7	Session of 1868-69	\$19.99
8	Session of 1869-70	\$44.99
9	Session of 1870-71	N/A
10	Session of 1871-72	\$11.99
11	Session of 1873-75	*\$24.99
12	Session of 1876-77	*\$24.99
13	Session of 1877-78-79	*\$14.99
14	Session of 1879-80	N/A
15	Session of 1880-81	*\$34.99
16	Session of 1881-82	\$89.99
17	Session of 1882-83	\$89.99
18	Session of 1883-86	\$59.99
19	Session of 1886-89	\$59.99
20	Session of 1889-91	*\$19.99
21	Session of 1891-92	\$59.99
22	Session of 1893-99	\$49.99
23	Session of 1898-1900	\$49.99
24	Session of 1900-02	\$39.99
25	Session of 1903-1905	\$39.99
26	Sessions of 1905	\$39.99
27	Session of 1906-07	\$39.99
28	Session of 1908-09	\$39.99
29	Session of 1911-1917	\$39.99
30	The Centenary Volume of the LHSQ (1824-1924)	\$69.99

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Fac. Simile of Pere Marquette's Prayer Book. (lim. Issue 200 copies) (1908)	\$219.99
The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Wurtde (1927)	\$19.99
Account of the Expedition Against Quebec 1759, J. Thompson (1872)	\$9.99
The Plains of Abraham 1759 (document for the conservation of. . .)(c.1900)	\$9.99

* 1927 reprint **1887 reprint

CURIOUS BOOKS FROM OUR COLLECTION



AN AFRICAN IN GREENLAND

Tété-Michel Kpomassie

1983, Harcourt-Brace, 296 p.

The LHSQ library is packed with bizarre overlooked treasures. Published in 1983, Tété-Michel Kpomassie's *An African in Greenland* is one such book. It differs drastically from most travel books in that it is written from the perspective of a poor African from a highly traditional family. After Kpomassie is destined to become a snake priest in the sacred forests of Togo, he is inspired by a picture book about Greenland to seek out another destiny: "when I had finished reading, one word

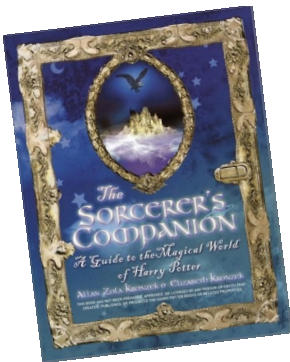
began to resonate inside me until it filled my entire being. That sound, that word, was Greenland." He runs away from home at 16. The book details his journey to Greenland via Europe and his peculiar interactions with the Greenlandic people. About his newfound home, Kpomassie writes:

In those moments of intense cold, with my eyes focused on the track beaten smooth by sleds and my body full of a sense of sweet well-being, I had never missed my native Africa, for the poetry of movement on the ice froze up the muggy heat of my native tropics. I had adapted so well to Greenland that I believed nothing could stop me spending the rest of my days there.

This is a great book to be read on winter days when the "poetry" of winter seems questionable. It is also fascinating for its non-European perspective on Greenlandic and Togolese cultures.

Patrick Donovan ■

NEW BOOKS FOR CHILDREN (TALL AND SMALL) by Caroline Lamothe



The Sorcerer's Companion : a Guide to the Magical World of Harry Potter

By Allan Zola Kronzcek and Elizabeth Kronzcek, 286 pages, For true Harry Potter fans

As all true fans will undoubtedly agree, what makes the Harry Potter series so magical is the fantastic wealth of detail about its universe. This work explores the true history, folklore, and mythology behind the magical practices, creatures, and personalities that appear in J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books. For instance, did you know that Dumbledore's friend, Nicholas Flamel, was actually a real person? Explore the myths rooted in Western magical tradition, which emerged from the ancient empires of the Middle East, Greece and Rome. A very interesting handbook and reference tool, this fascinating volume gets to the bottom of every magical mystery connected with Hogwarts.

Snowmen at night

By Caralyn Buehner, Ages 4 to 8

Have you ever built a snowman? I have. And last time I did, just before going to bed, I snuck up to the window and had a look through the window. There he was, with his long red scarf, his bunny-rabbit earmuffs and the biggest carrot-nose I had ever seen. I was very pleased. The next morning, I was very, very upset. My snowman's earmuffs were on the ground behind him! His carrot-nose was askew! And...he was missing an arm! It took this book for me to understand what had truly happened to my snowman during the night. You think the Plains of Abraham are quiet and deserted at night? Think again! A poetic, wintery delight for all of us who wonder...what *do* snowmen do at night?

NEW ACQUISITIONS

This is a partial list of new acquisitions at the library

FICTION

Atkinson, Kate	<i>Case Histories</i>
Kellerman, Faye	<i>Double Homicide</i>
McCann, Colum	<i>The Dancer</i>
Munro, Alice	<i>Runaway</i>
Roth, Philip	<i>The Plot Against America</i>

NON-FICTION

Carr, Emily	<i>Klee Wyck</i>
Dery, Dominika	<i>The Twelve Little Cakes</i>
Downes, Lesley	<i>Geisha</i>
Hakakian, Roya	<i>Journey from the land of No: A girlhood Caught in Iran</i>
Robb, Peter	<i>A Death in Brazil</i>
Wilkins, Charles	<i>Walk to New York: A journey out of the Wilds of Canada</i>

THE OLD BOOK

by Max Brosseau, CEGEP Limoilou

Over 490 high school and CEGEP students have discovered the Society through guided tours this fall. The following story was written following a visit and read before the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec at the Edgar Allan Poe event, Halloween 2004.

I had been searching for a particularly old book everywhere yet could not find it in any of the regular libraries. I was about to give up when I remembered the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec with its rows of old books dating back to colonization days. I decided to take a chance and give them a call. Not surprisingly, they apparently had it on the shelves.

As I entered the old and dusty building, I was surprised to find that the librarian was nowhere to be seen. I looked at the bookshelves, desperately trying to find the book, yet had problems concentrating on my search. A library is hardly ever a lively place to be in but I found myself overwhelmed by a strange feeling of timelessness, as if time itself had stopped in the library. I looked at the clock and noticed it was past closing time.

With the librarian nowhere to be seen, I figured she probably had left early and forgotten to lock the main entrance. I went to the front hall and locked the door to ensure some peace and quiet. I had no intentions of leaving this place, at least until morning came. I had heard many tales about this building, tales of a big fire, of prison cells in the basement and, with nobody to restrict my access, I was free to sate my curiosity.

I started with areas that were close to the main library room. They were fairly standard classes for university students but packed with piles of partially burned books which were probably awaiting an eventual restoration. A desk light was on, and a small book laid open. It was a half-destroyed book by James Douglas, a doctor whose bust was on display in the library reading room. I had heard vague tales about him being a grave robber but had never believed the stories. However, this book depicted the gruesome experiments he had practiced on corpses and, to my horror, some of the prisoners kept in the cells. The book went on and on about all sorts of operations he practiced, and I must admit some of the operations seemed more akin to torture than medical science. I vividly remember a drawing the doctor made of a patient, stretched and being cut in half while still alive. It sent shivers down my spine.

The notebook was apparently a cross between a diary and a research log and, by going back in time, I found that James Douglas had managed to convince the librarian of the time to lend him a room for his "experiments" near the cells, where he could stay undisturbed to complete his

disturbing experiences. According to the book, the door had been cleverly hidden behind a bookshelf after he started to gain notoriety in the province.

I'm not sure what madness kept me from running out of there and vowing never to return. I decided to investigate the basement and find this secret room.

As I went down into the damp basement I realized I was probably the first who had seen that room in years. I had to prepare myself for a sight I might never be able to forget.

I finally reached the room described in the notebook. It was a large library room filled with medical tomes. What immediately caught my attention was that one of the bookshelves was partially moved, as if someone had already found the gruesome horrors I was expecting to witness for the first time in decades.

I slowly approached the door, inch by inch, as quietly as can be, and took a glance inside the room. I so wish I had never taken that glance. Inside was a figure covered in blood skewering a middle-aged woman and gauging on her entrails. I covered my mouth and ran away, trying to be quiet at first, but ultimately failing and hearing someone coming after me. I was shaking all over as I burst into the courtyard and ran frantically to the street, where a car hit me and knocked me out.

When I woke up, the doctors told me I had been in a coma for two weeks, and that they seriously thought I was never going to come back. I immediately inquired about the Literary and Historical Society and, after a quick police investigation, was left with more questions than answers.

Apparently the police had found the room but it was not hidden by a bookshelf at all and contained nothing of interest. They contacted the librarian, who was apparently not the skewered woman. She told the officers about having left early that day, but also that she distinctly remembered having locked the door. Finally, with regards to the burned book, the librarian said that the book she had been restoring was not written by James Douglas at all. In fact, it was the book I had come to get at the library, straight out of the archives after my desperate call.

To this day, I have never been able to explain if what I saw was real or not, but I haven't slept quite the same since that accursed night. ■

LIBRARY BULLETIN BOARD



Past Presidents Marie Tremblay and Frank Cannon are currently making efforts to obtain a picture of Rosemary Cannon (Powers), our first woman president. Aside from this, our request for portraits of past presidents has not generated much response. LHSQ tradition dictates that families, friends, admirers, or the past presidents themselves supply us with **black-and-white** individual portraits of suitable size to grace the gallery in the entrance hall.



CHARACTERS AT THE LHSQ LIBRARY

by Catherine McKenna

The colourful descendants of Generals Wolfe and Montcalm...

Mr. Wolfe arrived with photographer and acoustic guitar in tow, while Mr. Montcalm sat in quiet dignity at the table reading magazines.

The great-granddaughters of Chief Justice Jonathan Sewell,

sent over by member and Senior Tour Guide par excellence of the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Mr. Alex Addie.

Stuart McLean, Host of the Vinyl Café on CBC,

who, after a few detours and a disgruntled phone call, "where *are* you, *exactly*!?" settled in happily and comfortably to read and absorb the atmosphere on the balcony. He left unassumingly after a couple of hours or so but not before gleaning as much behind-the-scenes information from me as he could.

Two women, unbeknownst to each other - one from Trois-Rivières, another a floral designer from Toronto - researching the same ancestor: Captain John Dick.

A sailing family who arrived in Québec on their sloop, in search of a photo and/or drawing of a cross - no longer standing - erected on the Brandypot Islands by the archbishop of the time.

A sociology prof from Laval, looking for the 2 lost volumes of *Le Journal des Jésuites*...a search, I would realise after concerted efforts, on par with that for the Holy Grail.

The **granddaughter of Peter Poulin**, Québec City clockmaker, who gave us (in my opinion) our most beautiful artefact. To her dismay, the clock had stopped once again after a generous donation from her brother for its repair. We promise to curb our over-zealous winding this time should it be restored to working order once again for our return.

And finally, our **beloved Mayor L'Allier**, who came and went without the knowledge or meeting of, any of the staff.

This illustrious list could go on, but I did feel the year couldn't end without offering a glimpse back at the exciting and interesting summer I enjoyed here at the desk of Georges-Étienne Cartier...

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

We encourage all to send their letters or questions to 44, chaussée des Écossais, Québec (Québec). G1R 4H3, or info.morrincentre@bellnet.ca

Dear Editors,

A short note to congratulate you both and the President, Board, staff and volunteers of the Lit & His for the remarkable rejuvenation that is underway.

We can feel the energy all the way to Calgary, where I enjoy perusing your newsy, well-written, well designed quarterly. . .

Best wishes to the entire team as you move forward through the challenging move that will allow restoration of the Library.

Dennis Apedaile

PETER POULIN

MAKER OF THE READING ROOM CLOCK



Peter Poulin with one of his clocks in front of his store: Poulin and Son, watchmakers, at 35, rue Saint-Jean. (undated).

Thank you to Duncan Anderson, relative of P. Poulin, for this photo.