

Context

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Number 7, October 2007

The Dalhousie Rare Book Collection



For over a hundred and fifty years the rare book collections of Dalhousie University have been developed through the efforts and support of dedicated faculty, alumni, and generous donors from far and wide. Housed on the 5th floor of the

Killam Library, the rare book collection now boasts twenty-two major research collections, a general rare book collection of significant individual items and small collections, and a comprehensive Canadiana collection with an emphasis on Canadian literature. Altogether there are approximately 80,000 items in all subject areas available to explore.

The earliest printed book in the collection dates from the 1470s, and the latest is a Canadian small press volume from just a few months ago. Printing history, 18th century intellectual history, North American travel and exploration literature, Canadian literature, early anatomical texts, and the writings of Francis Bacon, Thomas Haliburton, Rudyard Kipling, Oscar Wilde and Thomas Raddall are areas of significant research strength.

Each collection and volume has its own unique story. In most cases the contents of the volumes are significant, but in others it is the binding or the specific printing. Some volumes are of interest because of the inscriptions and/or annotations that have been added, while others offer insight into influences on important former owners. The following offers just a glimpse into some of the highlights in the collection.

www.library.dal.ca

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Early Works



The earliest printed book in the collection is an excellent example of a 'storied' volume. *Florum nobiliorum* (Nuremberg, 1472), writings by Saint Bernard, the celebrated abbot of Clairveaux, was beautifully printed by Johann Sensenschmidt. The impressive folio volume in an elaborate blind-tooled, full-leather binding found its way into the library of famed British poet, publisher and designer, William Morris (1834-1896). A magnificent and complete copy of the most famous woodcut-illustrated book of the 15th century, the *Nuremberg Chronicle* (1493), was presented to Dalhousie University in the 1920s by the family of John Forrest, Dalhousie President from 1885 to 1918. The last book seen through the press by the respected scholar-printer Aldus Manutius was *De Rerum Natura* (Venice, 1515). Contemporary corrections and margin notes distinguish the Dalhousie copy of this significant work. Francis Bacon (1561-1626) advanced scholarship in many disciplines. The first edition of Bacon's influential *Elements of the common lawes of England* (London, 1630) is a key work in the strong Dalhousie Bacon collection of over 70 first editions. Sir Isaac Newton's *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (London, 1687) presented his radical new theories of mathematical physics to the world. Two other important editions followed in 1713 and 1726. All three editions of what is considered the greatest scientific book ever written have been an important part of the Libraries' collection since the 1930s.

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The Eighteenth Century

It was not the first English language dictionary but Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* (London, 1755) is certainly the most famous, setting the standard for English spelling, grammar and usage for the next 150 years. Many of Johnson's more 'colourful' definitions were removed in subsequent editions, so his 1755 edition with a limited printing of only 2,000 copies is especially significant. The 11th century Domesday Book of England remained in manuscript form until the 18th century. To make the content of the first detailed census of England more readily available, an edition was printed from especially designed type

in 1783. An interesting and fitting addendum to the Dalhousie set is a series of manuscript indices and commentaries. To assist him in his teaching, the Scottish surgeon and medical school professor John Bell drew his own anatomical illustrations and wrote his own surgical texts. His massive four-volume set *The Principles of Surgery* (Edinburgh, 1801-1808) was ranked among the most respected surgical texts of the 19th century. Dalhousie is fortunate to have three of the four volumes.

Canadian Literature




The strong Canadian literature collection has many very significant works. Among the earliest is a four volume set considered to be the first Canadian novel. Frances Brooke's *The History of Emily*

Montague: or Letters on Canada (London, 1769) was based in part on her life in Quebec between 1763 and 1768. The much beloved Dalhousie professor James DeMille did not live to experience the critical acclaim that greeted his novel, *A strange manuscript found in a copper cylinder* (New York, 1888). The first edition, in a royal blue cloth binding and simply decorated with the image of a copper cylinder, is one of the most prized volumes in the Dalhousie collection.

The Kipling Collection

One of the most important research collections is the Rudyard Kipling Collection, which was assembled and donated to Dalhousie by James M. Stewart., Dal B.A. '09 and LL.B. '14. Totalling over 5,000 books, newspapers, magazines, letters, proofs and manuscripts by and about Kipling, the collection is a must for every Kipling researcher. An example of the depth of the collection is the presence of 44 separate editions of Kipling's famous poem "Recessional."



It is hoped that these few highlights have provided an indication of the wealth of truly remarkable material readily available to Dalhousie researchers. The Libraries online catalogue, Novanet, provides access to the rare book holdings by author, title and/or keyword. For more information please contact Karen Smith, Special Collections Librarian, by email (k.e.m.smith@dal.ca) or by phone at (902) 494-8803. 

Maes Wins Outstanding Academic Librarian Award



On May 25 2007, the Canadian Library Association (CLA) and the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries (CACUL) presented Dalhousie University Librarian William Maes with the 2007 Miles Blackwell Outstanding Academic Librarian Award.

The CLA press release describes Maes as “a visionary leader, a thinker

who has the courage and commitment to turn his vision into action.” (<http://www.cla.ca/top/whatsnew/wnmay08awards3-07.html>)

Maes has been University Librarian at Dalhousie since 1998. Prior to his appointment at Dalhousie, he worked as Director, Office of Library and Information Services, University of Regina; University Librarian, University of Regina; Assistant Area Head and Head, Public Services, Medical Library, University of Calgary; Northern Studies Librarian, University of Calgary; and Librarian, Parks Canada, Western Region. He holds an MLS from the University of British Columbia and an MA in philosophy from the University of Calgary.

Maes has been very active in a leadership capacity with CARL, OCLC, COPPUL, Novanet, and CIDL. It was his vision which led to the creation of the Dalhousie Learning Commons in 2001; he has also been instrumental in the development of the Atlantic Scholarly Information Network. Maes is Adjunct Professor at the Dalhousie School of Information Management and recognized as an excellent mentor for Dal SIM students. In 2003 Maes was awarded the Golden Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II for his contributions to the region and to the profession.

From A to Z at Killam Book Collection Reorganized



(Left to right) Move team Ben Gormley, Kristin MacKenzie, Kat Cochrane, Said Msabaha (Supervisor), and Ray Edwards

Finding books at the Killam Library just got much easier. This summer the entire collection was reorganized to run in consecutive call number sequence from A to Z. It begins with the A's in the southeast corner of the 4th floor and proceeds in clockwise call number order down to the northeast corner of the 3rd floor, with a small portion being located in the northeast corner of the 2nd floor. The south side of the 2nd floor houses all government publications and oversize books, and continues to house the map collection. Check our print and online floor plans for more details.

Why make such a massive move? The Killam has had a reputation for being hard to navigate. Call numbers E-PQ were on the 3rd floor, with A-D & PR-Z on the 4th. Government documents were split between two different floors. This non-contiguous arrangement has confused users for years.

Another compelling reason for the move: the Killam was originally designed with an expected enrollment of 8,000 students. As of 2007, there are 15,435 full and part time students at Dal. Our surveys have shown clearly that there is a great demand for increased study space, including Learning Commons work areas. As a result of the rearrangement of our collections, we can now convert a major portion of the second floor into much needed quiet study space.

We Hear You! The 2007 LibQUAL+ Library Survey

In March 2007 the Dalhousie Libraries ran LibQUAL+, a major survey of our resources and services. This was the second time we officially asked our users to tell us what they think of us—we also ran the LibQUAL+ survey in 2005. Both times we were thrilled at the quantity and quality of the responses we received. We depend on your comments and opinions to guide the decisions we make, and take them very seriously!



This year the LibQUAL+ survey was completed by 879 members of the Dal community: 605 undergraduate students, 179 graduate students, 75 faculty members and 20 Dalhousie staff. They answered questions about all four of the Dalhousie Libraries in three areas: Affect of Service, Information Control, and Library as Place. Many people took the time to write thoughtful comments as well, something we particularly appreciate as it gives us the opportunity to respond to concrete criticisms and suggestions.

The Libraries began a “We Hear You” publicity campaign last year to let our users know exactly what we’ve been doing in response to issues they raised in the survey. For example, an overwhelming majority of students complained about the Killam being noisy, so we designated the entire fourth and fifth floors as “quiet study” floors, and replaced the large study tables with single-use ones. This year, we’ll be expanding the Learning Commons quiet study space with a new area on the second floor of the library. We hear you! 🐾

Kellogg Health Sciences Library News Blog

Keep up to date effortlessly with the latest health news, medical resources, and library announcements by subscribing to the Kellogg’s news blog. Just link directly to it from their homepage at www.library.dal.ca/Kellogg/, and if you’re not sure what news feeds are or how to use them, go to www.library.dal.ca/Kellogg/rss/instructions/ for some quick tips.



**Thank you, *The Coast* readers,
for choosing the Killam Library
as Halifax’s “Best Place to Study”
for the second year in a row!**

Image courtesy The Coast newspaper

Raddall Prize Winner Reads



**Friday October 19, 2007
Special Collections Reading Rm.
5th floor, Killam Library**

Linda Little, Nova Scotia writer and author of the award-winning novels *Strong Hollow* (Goose Lane Editions, 2001) and *Scotch River* (Penguin, 2006), will give a special reading at Dalhousie Open House

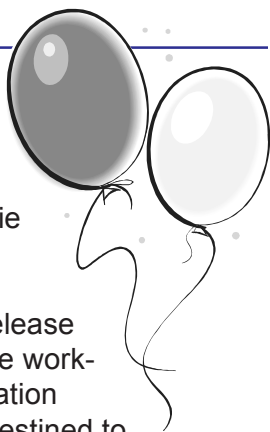
2007 as part of the CLCP Public Reading Series.

Scotch River, Little’s story about a former rodeo rider rediscovering his past in the Maritimes, won the \$1,500 Dartmouth Book Award for fiction and the \$10,000 Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize, the richest prize in Atlantic Canadian literature. It also made the Globe & Mail Best Book list for 2006.

This reading is hosted by the Dalhousie University Archives & Special Collections, holders of the Raddall Collection, and sponsored by the Canadian Literary Collections Project.

Happy 5th Birthday, Learning Commons!

On October 24, 2002, the Dalhousie Learning Commons opened at the Killam Library, with President Tom Traves in attendance. Our press release stated: "Boasting 160 multi-purpose workstations, 9 meeting rooms, a 13-station learning centre, the Commons is destined to become a hub of academic and social activity." Little did we know how prescient this was—five years later, the Learning Commons is one of the hottest spots on campus, with students lining up to use the workstations and seats filled from opening til closing time. There are now Learning Commons at the Kellogg, Sexton and Law Libraries, and plans are underway for further expansion to accommodate the demand for more workstations—stay tuned!



Liz Foy Wins Teaching Award

The Dalhousie Libraries are pleased to announce that Elizabeth "Liz" Foy, Professional Information Officer, Kellogg Library/Pharmacy, was selected by the graduating students of the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy as the recipient of the 2007 Dr. Jessie I. MacKnight Award for Excellence in Pharmaceutical Teaching. This award, sponsored annually by Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, is based on knowledge, preparation, enthusiasm, motivation, accessibility and communication.

Liz joined the Kellogg Health Sciences Library in July 1968, and since that time has been responsible for the day-to-day running of the Pharmacy Library, the only branch of the Kellogg Library. She has instructed students, faculty and practitioners in drug- and pharmacy-related information topics through oral and written presentations. She is the co-author, along with Pharmacy Associate Professor Mary MacCara, of two College of Pharmacy websites: *Drug Information Resources: A Guide for Pharmacists* and *Internet Tutorial for Pharmacists: Finding Drug Information on the Web*. Liz currently is working with Pharmacy student Colin Enman and Pharmacy Coordinator of Clinical Education Harriet Davies to design self-directed learning modules to instruct new Pharmacy adjunct faculty on how to access and use the Dalhousie Libraries' electronic resources.

Outthere

FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com

If you don't know about FaceBook, you must be living on Pluto.

Created in 2004 for students at Harvard by then-undergraduate Mark Zuckerberg, FaceBook has become the hottest social networking site on the Internet, outranking even MySpace and Friendster. Since May 2007 its membership has skyrocketed to over 29 million users, with more than 150,000 signing up daily.

Facebook allows users to create profiles that include their personal interests, affiliations, pictures, and virtually anything else they want to post. Information entered in your profile links you to others who have posted similar information.

So popular has FaceBook become that thousands of software makers are now designing programs that can run within the site, providing easy ways to enhance profiles with a growing menu of 1,400 applications, from virtual horoscopes to music video players.

FaceBook's core membership is still high school and university students, but now teachers, parents, and employers are also signing on, leading to protests from the students that their privacy (they post their cellphone numbers, political affiliations, even dating status) has been compromised. FaceBook has responded by providing privacy controls which can be used to exclude other users from your personal site.

Whether or not you're a fan of FaceBook, you can't deny either its popularity or its social significance. *Educause Connect* (<http://connect.educause.edu/>) points out the relevance of FaceBook for information literacy: "Any technology that is able to captivate so many students for so much time not only carries implications for how those students view the world, but also offers an opportunity for educators to understand the elements of social networking that students find so compelling and to incorporate those elements into teaching and learning."

PEOPLE

Mary Lou Caissie

Conservation Clerk, Killam Library



Mary Lou chats with interpreter Chris Racine

The Dalhousie Libraries have many remarkable staff members, but perhaps the most remarkable of all is Mary Lou Caissie. Mary Lou works mornings in the Conservation Unit at the Killam Library opening serials mail and repairing damaged books, processing an average of 50 per week with painstaking care. She's been at the Killam since 1985 and is a familiar sight, walking the hallways and enjoying her morning coffee in the atrium with her colleagues. So what makes her remarkable? Mary Lou is deaf, blind and unable to speak.

She arrives at work at 7:30 a.m. in a taxi, and is brought into the Conservation Unit by her regular cab driver. Once inside the *Staff Only* area of the library, she can make her own way through the halls to various departments and back and forth to her desk (it took her about a month to mentally map out these routes). At her desk, she pulls over the booktruck of damaged materials which has been set up for her, and gets to work attaching book covers, reconstructing book spines and working on a variety of other repair tasks. As 10 a.m. approaches, she pops open her Braille watch and sure enough, it's breaktime. Staff members from various departments in the library take turns escorting Mary Lou out to the atrium, where she sits with her coffee, chatting—through her ultra sensitive hands—with her friends. Most of those who take Mary Lou for coffee have learned either the English two-handed sign language or American Sign Language, in order to converse more freely with her. At 12:15, after another work stint, it's time to quit for the day. Her driver picks her up from

the Conservation Unit and takes her home to the apartment she shares with her husband Kenneth in Northwood Manor. The rest of her day will be spent reading and answering emails from family and friends (via an Intervener), housecleaning, cooking (every Christmas she bakes a batch of cookies for her Killam “coffee buddies”), or out walking in the neighbourhood with an Intervenor or friend.

Mary Lou's intelligence, wonderful sense of humour, and highly developed responsiveness make one appreciate the art of communication in an entirely new way.

You don't have to know sign language to “talk” to Mary Lou, just write on the palm of her hand.

So literally “in touch” is she with people she knows well that she can identify them by their unique touch alone. Once she encountered someone on a train whom she hadn't “seen” in years, and recognized her instantly.



Mary Lou absolutely loves her job—so much so that she has to be nagged into taking a vacation. Of course there are problems. Even her superb sense of orientation won't work if someone absentmindedly leaves a booktruck in her path, and she can't know when there's a power failure or other emergency in the library until someone comes to get her. But “The staff never forget about me,” she says and grins as she tells the story of how during one blackout she announced, “Don't worry—I can lead you all out!”

Mary Lou originally came to the Killam as part of a work placement program for the physically challenged, after jobs in a flower shop and the School for the Blind. The Dalhousie Libraries have welcomed a number of staff members through this life-enhancing program over the years. But watch Mary Lou at work and the concept of physical challenge takes on a whole new meaning—in this case, “triumph.” 