

Internship Opportunity With JARDINS DE MÉTIS / REFORD GARDENS (Elsie Project) Summer 2024

POSITION:	Summer Intern; The Elsie Project – Books are Us
LOCATION:	Montreal and Metis, QC, Canada (6-8 weeks in Montreal and /or remote work)
DESCRIPTION OF HOST ORGANIZATION:	<p>Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens (see www.refordgardens.com) is a national historic site located at the gateway to the Gaspé Peninsula. In addition to managing historic gardens and the 1887 Estevan Lodge, the Gardens create and produce virtual and travelling exhibitions and produce publications in English and French.</p> <p>This project provides material essential for exhibitions the organization is developing for its visitors. The organization is offering two internships for research in women’s studies and local history involving indigenous peoples.</p> <p>The Elsie Books Are Us The books we read define us. They educate and inform. They become our companions for a period in our lives. Sometimes they are lifetime friends. Collections of books reflect the collector who acquired and owned them. They are a portal into the past – and provide a mirror into a time and a place.</p> <p>Elsie Reford (1872-1967) had a large collection of books. Not the beneficiary of a university education, her books were her teachers. By reading and sharing them, they became her passport to navigate the intellectual currents that shaped Montreal in the 20th century.</p> <p>She had more than 1,000 books in her Montreal home (demolished in 1968, the property is today part of the McGill campus). She shared her books and exchanged thoughts and letters about their contents. On occasion, she welcomed the authors into her home. Frequently she invited him (or very occasionally her) to speak to the Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal. She shared her interest in books with her husband, R.W. Reford, an avid collector of books relating to the history of Canada. The catalogue of their books is in the special collections of McGill University. More than 200 of their books are held by Les Jardins de Métis. Each one of them has her distinct signature or his book plate, ex libris Robert Wilson Reford.</p> <p>The books owned by Elsie Reford illustrate her many interests – the role of women in society, Quebec history, the place of Quebec in Canada and the British Empire, art and artists, horses and horsemanship. Biographies form a large part of her library, mostly on “great men”, but also women of note, women authors, composers, sovereigns and mistresses. Novels and poetry in English, French and German offered light reading. She gave books to her friends, children and grandchildren, the titles chosen carefully to inspire and educate.</p> <p>The McGill intern chosen to work on <i>Books Are Us</i> will possess talents in research and writing. Research will involve delving into the contents of book in the inventory to provide a brief synopsis of its contents. The intern will be asked to discuss how the book illustrates the interests and prejudices of their owner. What does it say about the time period? What does it say about the attitudes? If it is replete with falsehoods or prejudices, we want to know. If it is inspirational, we want to know that too. if it was discussed in Montreal papers or the subject of debate that divided opinion between English and French or men and women, we want that documented. If Elsie Reford’s correspondence says something about the book we want to tease that out to provide context. The goal of the research is less about the book as an object and more about the motivations which led a Montreal woman to read them.</p> <p>The intern will author short essays (of 250 to 500 words) on as many 100 books. These descriptions will be used in our on-line catalogue and for future exhibitions. Modelled on the descriptions used in the <i>Elsie Reford 150 Objects of Passion</i>, published by Les Jardins de Métis in 2023, the short descriptions will be interesting and revealing.</p>

	<p>We are seeking a student with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an interest in social history - courses taken in history, comparative literature, women's history or the history of ideas - capacity to write texts that are descriptive and that capture the attention of readers - facility with on-line research tools - energy and enthusiasm to tackle a challenging topic - ability to self-motivate and write at a good pace <p>An interest in books is useful, but not essential.</p>
INTERN'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:	<p>Internships by McGill students involve using on-line resources, visits to archival institutions and working with historians, curators, collectors and specialists. Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a research report - transcribed documents - short texts <p>The final results are shared with the other interns and community in a public event/ presentation.</p> <p>Interns are expected to be adept at research, self-motivated and eager to accept the challenge of exploring areas of the history of Montreal, Quebec and Canada and those who played a major role in their development.</p> <p>Interns in their work are guided by historian Alexander Reford and staff from Les Amis des Jardins de M�tis.</p>
HOST ORGANIZATION'S REQUIREMENTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student in history or with knowledge and interest in Canadian history - Excellent communication skills - Ability to work independently - Good organizational and research skills - Basic French an asset - Knowledge of MS Office (Word, Outlook, Excel) - Student will be asked to have their own laptop and internet connection - Excellent interpersonal skills - Experience in working for non-profit organizations an asset - Experience in presenting to a non-academic audience useful
HOURS:	Full time 35 hours per week
DATES:	8-11 weeks between May 1 to July 31, 2024. (discussed with host organization)
REMUNERATION:	\$4,480 to \$6,160 CAD issued through a Faculty of Arts Internship Award.
HOW TO APPLY:	Students must complete the online Arts Internship Application Form available on the AIO website: https://www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/internships/postings/application
DEADLINE TO APPLY:	February 11, 2024.
CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS:	None
ELIGIBILITY:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - McGill Faculty of Arts students (B.A., B.A & Sc., BSW, B.Th., M.A, MSW) - Minimum CGPA of 2.7* - Returning to McGill in the fall semester following the internship - Students must fulfill Faculty of Arts requirements as outlined in the Handbook for Interns https://www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/resources (under General Resources -> Handbook)
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:	Interns are responsible for informing themselves of what entry requirements are required to visit and work as an intern in the internship host country. These may include a visa, work permit, passport valid for at least 6 months after entry, and proof of certain vaccinations. <u>The intern is responsible for acquiring all necessary documents in time for the beginning of their internship.</u>

Please Note:

**If you feel you have experienced barriers which have had an impact on your academic performance and wish to highlight these to the selection committee, the documents/comments will be taken into consideration.*

We will get back to you shortly after the deadline if you are selected for an interview. The Arts Internship Office will then transmit the selected applications to the host organization, which will ultimately be responsible for the selection of the candidate(s). Students who do not receive offers will be notified on a rolling basis as decisions are made.