

# Library Matters @ McGill

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January 2006

## FROM THE TRENHOLME DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES



Janine Schmidt, Fran Groen and Joyce Garnett at Fran's reception

The first month of the calendar year has passed extremely quickly. I do wish you all somewhat belatedly a Happy New Year and trust that the rest of the year will pass in a more measured fashion. I do hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break. The Library continues to underpin the teaching, learning and research interests of the University. McGill concluded the year extremely successfully, gaining first place in the *Maclean's* list as their top medical-doctoral university.

*Graced with history and imbued with a sense of renewal, this Montreal powerhouse is attracting bright students and faculty from around the globe.*

McGill was also named Canada's Research University of the Year by *Research Infosource* and Canada's top university by the *Times Higher Education Supplement*. It is our pleasure and privilege to provide information resources and information services of excellence to our staff and students.

The **Ask a Librarian** live chat is our newest service and was launched this week. Many people have contributed to this initiative, through purchase of the software, organizing and training the staff and of course now by providing the services. **Erica Burnham** from our Macdonald campus has headed up the latest implementation team. Congratulations to her and all involved for the careful planning. We shall no doubt learn along the way and look forward to this extension of our in-person services. We provide help in the library, on-line and over the phone.

January has also seen the celebration of the achievements of the previous Trenholme Director of Libraries, **Frances Groen**, who has recently retired. Attendees to a reception in her honour hosted by the Provost, **Professor Anthony Masi**, and myself included former library and university staff, as well as her family and friends, and of course present university and library staff. A presentation, *Hommage en Images*, showcased some of Fran's achievements and recorded some of the people she worked with and her professional involvements. **Justice John Gomery**, Chair, Friends of the Library, reflected on Fran's work with the Friends and the external community. **Joyce Garnett**, University Librarian at the University of Western Ontario, spoke of Fran's work with CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries), ARL (Association of Research Libraries), as a fellow library director and as a former member of the library staff at McGill. **Peter McNally**, professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, and resident university historian as well as long-time friend, addressed Fran's personal and professional qualities and Tony Masi, outlined Fran's university involvements. We wish Fran our sincerest best wishes and *bonne chance* for the next stage of her life.

**Janine Schmidt,**  
Trenholme Director of Libraries

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### E AND E - TO EXCHANGE AND ENCOURAGE

The *Library Matters @ McGill* newsletter, brought to you by the *you never heard it from us* editors, seeks to exchange and encourage ideas, innovations and information from McGill Library staff at all levels.

The newsletter is published monthly. The latest issue, as well as an archive of past issues, can be found at [www.mcgill.ca/library/about/pubs/newsletter/](http://www.mcgill.ca/library/about/pubs/newsletter/).

We welcome your contributions. Send your input to the *you never heard it from us* editorial team:

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## WHAT'S NEW

### Western Encounters with China



On December 1, a new library exhibition was launched, in the McLennan Library lobby entitled, "Western Encounters with China." The exhibition explores perspectives on three hundred years (1600-1900) of western perceptions of China and the cultural interlacing that emerges over time, through a combination of contemporary books, maps and posters selected from the Rare Books and Special Collections Division's collections. Mary Mason, the curator of the exhibition will be known to some of the staff, as the former head of McLennan Reference. An anthropologist by training, Mary has had a long standing interest in China and her knowledge and expertise are reflected in the items that she has selected for display. The exhibition will run through to the end of February, 2006.

### Staff Café grand opening

The McLennan-Redpath Staff Café was launched with a grand opening celebration on December 13. The Staff Café, located on the 2nd floor of the Redpath Library Building in LTS is open to all library staff. Come by and have a coffee with your colleagues! Congrats to the Staff Café Committee: Barbara Craig, Jennifer Innes, Nola Julien, Kathy Teng and Diane Koen.

### 75 Books from the Osler Library

Elizabeth Fee of the National Library of Medicine reviewed the Osler Library 75th anniversary publication *75 Books from the Osler Library* in the December 7 issue of JAMA. She writes, "In many ways, this is an ideal coffee table book, full of elegant little essays that can be absorbed in a few

minutes each, wonderful illustrations, and historical insights both familiar and strange. It is a volume that will delight anyone who loves books and libraries. Besides enjoying it for themselves, I hope that many physicians will add to the sum of human pleasure by putting this volume in their waiting rooms to serve as an engaging alternative to the usual fare of *People*, *Time*, and *Fortune* magazines."

2004 marked the 75th anniversary of the Osler Library at McGill University. *75 Books From the Osler Library* was published to honour this occasion.



Edited by History of Medicine Professor Faith Wallis, and Mrs. Pamela J. Miller, History of Medicine Librarian, this beautifully designed, fully illustrated 182 page book showcases 75 books from Osler Library's collection with texts by invited scholars.

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### Portrait of Prof. Vermes unveiled

An intimate gathering of members of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics was held in the Department on December 15 at 3 p.m. to honour Professor Robert Vermes for his many years of dedication to the Edward Rosenthal Mathematics and Statistics Library. The occasion was marked by the unveiling of a portrait of Professor Vermes. As Professor Jal Choksi, former Chair of the Department, re-



marked, Robert Vermes was "Mr. Library".

The math Library began as a departmental library with books being purchased by the professors. In 1971 the Library moved to its current location on the 11th floor of Burnside Hall. The Library was dedicated in honour of the late Professor and Chairman, Edward Rosenthal in 1987. Rosenthal Library is used by students, faculty and many visiting scholars. The University's journal collection in mathematics (with one title going back to the French Revolution) is housed in Rosenthal Library.

## CLIENT SERVICE TIPS

by Joseph Hafner, Music Cataloguer (Library Technical Services)

### Give them a chance to change their minds.

It sometimes seems like the customers change their minds more often than their addresses. Good service representatives use this to their advantage by asking about preferences and offering options. They know that an initial request can be changed into something different, often something that is easier to satisfy. Good service reps know that the customer with a problem may turn into a customer with a big smile after five minutes of conversation.

*If you don't find it  
in the index, look very  
carefully through  
the entire catalogue.*

- Sears, Roebuck, and Co.,  
Consumer's Guide, 1897

# REPORT ON THE QUEBEC MUSIC LIBRARIES MEETING

by Joseph Hafner and Brian McMillan, Marvin Duchow Music Library

The Quebec Music Libraries Meeting, organized under the auspices of the Canadian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (CAML), was held on Friday, October 21, 2005. The meeting provided an opportunity for 72 participants to meet, to visit two new Montreal libraries with significant music collections, and to consider the formation of a Quebec music library association.

Registration began at 8:45 a.m. in the Strathcona Music Building of McGill University's Schulich School of Music (formerly known as McGill's Faculty of Music). The meeting proper was launched at 9:30 a.m. in the Clara Lichtenstein Recital Hall with a fanfare entitled "See Also" and commissioned specifically for the event from composer Andrew Senior. Erika Kirsch, bassoon; James Box, trombone; and Anne-Marie Leblanc, violoncello, premiered the work. Andrew and Erika both work at the Marvin Duchow Music Library, and James, who is married to Erika, is a member of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

The fanfare was followed by greetings from Diane Koen, Associate Director of McGill Library; Bruce Minorgan, Associate Dean of the Schulich School of Music; and Lucinda Walls, President of CAML. Brian McMillan, Music Liaison Librarian at McGill's Marvin Duchow Music Library, acted as MC for this part of the program. He also presented an overview of the history of the construction project for the Music Library at McGill University, located in the newly inaugurated Music Building. This presentation was followed by three tours of the new library. John Black, Head of the Audio/Video department, led a tour in English, and Brian McMillan and Andrew Senior led tours in French.

The three groups then moved to the Library Seminar Rooms for refreshments and roundtable discussions about the creation of a Quebec music library association. The discussion groups were led in English by Joseph Hafner (McGill University), and in French by Daniel Paradis (Université de Montreal) and H  l  ne Boucher (Biblioth  que nationale du Qu  bec).

The conversation spilled over into lunch, which was held in a private dining room at Le Parchemin, a French restaurant near McGill. Guitarist Olivier Martin provided entertainment.

The sessions resumed around 3 p.m. at the new Grande Biblioth  que du Qu  bec of the Biblioth  que nationale du Qu  bec in Room M-450 on the rez-de-jardin. Isabelle S  guin



welcomed the participants, and M  lanie Dumas and Catherine Jolic  ur introduced the Music and Film Collection. The participants then rejoined their morning groups to tour this collection, located on the fourth floor. G  rald Forget led a group in English, and M  lanie Dumas and Catherine Jolic  ur led groups in French.

At 4:30 p.m. the organizing committee hosted a short wrap-up session. Several door prizes were also given away, including a catalogue of the first exhibition presented at the GBQ, a book bag with a mouse pad and paper all from the BNQ, and two twenty-five dollar gift certificates courtesy of Archambault Music and Books. A wine and cheese reception ended the day with musical accompaniment by violinists Gillian Fraine and Nancy Ricard.

The members of the Quebec Music Libraries Meeting organizing committee were Joseph Hafner and Daniel Paradis, Co-Chairs; Brian McMillan, Treasurer; and H  l  ne Boucher, Secretary.

The conference hosts and volunteers included John Black, Megan Chellew, David Curtis, M  lanie Dumas, G  rald Forget, Catherine Jolic  ur, Cynthia Leive, Isabelle S  guin, and Andrew Senior.

The sponsoring organizations were the Biblioth  que nationale du Qu  bec, CAML, McGill University, and Universit   de Montr  al. The meeting also enjoyed the generosity of several corporate sponsors: Alexander Street Press, Archambault Music and Books, Harrassowitz, Naxos, and YBP Library Services.

With a total of 72 participants, the attendance for this meeting was triple what the organizing committee originally expected. Most participants came from Quebec; however, librarians traveled from Ontario (Ottawa, Toronto, and London); Stony Brook, N.Y.; and even Belgium. The evaluations praised the organizing committee for a successful conference, and there are expectations of future meetings of this type. Several people volunteered to help steer this new group into the future. Kathleen McMorro of the University of Toronto Music Library pointed out that in the 1970s there was a Quebec Branch of CAML, and many people felt there was support to have a new Quebec branch/association to meet the needs of people working with music in libraries.

The organizing committee is planning to move forward with another planning meeting in early 2006 to discuss the future directions of the group and develop ideas for future meetings.

## PHOTO GALLERY



Machu Picchu



Palacio Torre Togle in Lima



Joseph in the Sacred Valley

Joseph Hafner was in Peru the first week of November, travelling from Lima to Cusco and the Sacred Valley and then to Machu Picchu. After Machu Picchu he traveled back to Cusco and then Lima before returning to Montreal. Here are a few fascinating photos from his trip.



Library in San Francisco Monastery



Spanish Colonial architecture in Lima



Festival in Cusco

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ❖ Tuesday, February 7, 10:30 a.m. to noon – QuestionPoint Professional Development Training Session: *Government Information, EDRS, and Maps*, M3-37
- ❖ Friday, February 10, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. – *Sorry, Glad, Sure*, Marvin Duchow Music Library, Room LSR-A510 (5th floor), contact Susan Fabrizi to register, tel: 4681, email: susan.fabrizi@mcgill.ca
- ❖ Monday, February 20, noon to 2 p.m. – *L-Council monthly meeting*, MUNACA office, 3483 Peel

For more McGill events, consult the  
Community Calendar:  
[www.mcgill.ca/calendar/](http://www.mcgill.ca/calendar/)