



A Tribute to Guy Sylvestre and Jean-Pierre Wallot

On the evening of November 23, 2011, the Friends of Library and Archives Canada held a celebration to remember the contributions of Guy Sylvestre and Jean-Pierre Wallot (both of whom died in the latter part of 2010) to the development and preservation of the collection of Library and Archives Canada.

Marianne Scott, National Librarian (1984-1999), and President, Friends of Library and Archives Canada, welcomed attendees, including many former staff members, and introduced the evening's speakers.

Paul McCormick spoke about Dr. Sylvestre, who as Canada's second National Librarian did outstanding work in the development of the collection of the National Library during the 1970s and early 1980s. Mr. McCormick noted that Dr. Sylvestre was President of the Royal Society of Canada, the founding President of the Canadian Association for Information Science, and the recipient of multiple honorary degrees (Ottawa, Mount Allison, Toronto, Prince Edward Island, Memorial and Concordia) and awards. Throughout Dr. Sylvestre's 15 years as National Librarian, he injected new vitality and life into the National Library of Canada and contributed significantly to making it a symbol of pride for Canadians as well as an example for other institutions to follow. He achieved his vision of a decentralized network of Canadian libraries supported by the National Library through the creation of bibliographic standards for the union catalogue and for library systems across the country and by strengthening major national services such as the national bibliography, national union catalogue and inter-institution lending. He also greatly expanded the collections so that by the end of his tenure, the National Library was a major national cultural institution with rich and diverse Canadiana and social sciences and humanities collections.

Terry Cook spoke about Dr. Jean-Pierre Wallot, who was appointed Dominion Archivist of Canada in 1985 following a distinguished academic career at universities in Quebec, British Columbia, Paris and at the University of Toronto. Mr. Cook referred to Dr. Wallot as "an archival giant" who over 12 years made significant contributions to the National Archives of Canada and to Canadian and international archival activity. Some of his many accomplishments, which were achieved during a period of austerity and fiscal constraint, included renewal of the legislation governing the Canada's archives, establishment of the Gatineau Preservation Centre, and implementation of a planned approach to records disposition. He also developed a new theory, strategy and methodology for determining archival value, called macroappraisal, which has since become a world standard, and a more effective and consistent methodology for describing and cataloguing collections. Dr. Wallot maintained a strong focus on building and preserving the collections which meant including both private sector and government

records: he believed that both were needed to complement each other and create a “total archive.” Dr. Wallot’s profound commitment to the ideals of public memory, citizen rights, and national heritage will long resonate.

The first Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Ian Wilson, provided closing remarks. He thanked the speakers, noting that their words had “served to renew our memories of Dr. Sylvestre and Dr. Wallot and to rekindle our own commitment to Library and Archives Canada.” He observed that a common thread linking the work of both leaders was the need to find the appropriate balance between continuity and tradition on one hand and the imperative to change to serve an evolving society. Both leaders brought significant international attention and credibility to the Canadian approach to collection, preservation and service to citizens. Their legacies continue both at home and abroad.

Dr. Wilson thanked the Friends of Library and Archives Canada for their continuing commitment to the institution and to maintaining the traditions and values of the professions.

Paul McCormick (BIO)

A graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Paul spent his professional career at the National Library and more latterly at Library and Archives Canada. A recipient of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee medal in 2002, he was Director General of Information Resource Management and then Strategic Policy and Planning at the National Library where he worked closely with National Librarians Marianne Scott and Roch Carrier. When Library and Archives Canada was created in 2004, he became Director General of the Published Heritage Branch. Since 2007 he has been a consultant and writer in broad areas of information and library management through his company Partners in Access Inc. In 2008 he was asked by Library and Archives Canada to begin a history of the National Library and in that capacity interviewed Guy Sylvestre extensively in 2008 and 2009.

Terry Cook (BIO)

Terry Cook worked at the National Archives of Canada throughout Dr. Wallot’s tenure as National Archivist of Canada. He interacted closely with Dr. Wallot in appraising and disposing of the records of the Government of Canada; in revitalizing a merit promotion system for recognizing professional excellence; and in planning the 13th quadrennial congress of the International Council on Archives held in Beijing. Terry is now working with two colleagues on a book-length history of the Public Archives of Canada, where he is writing the chapters for the years 1949 to 2004, and thus studying Dr. Wallot’s period in detail.

Terry has been affiliated with the graduate-level Archival Studies program at the University of Manitoba since 1998, which followed on his 23 years at the National Archives of Canada. In addition to publishing scores of articles, and editing archival and historical scholarly journals, Terry has written or edited five books, and is half way through the sixth. Across six continents, he has lectured widely, and conducted multi-day institutes.

Terry has been honoured for his contributions to archives by election as a Fellow in several associations and has won prestigious prizes for his publications including winning the Kaye Lamb Prize (twice). Not satisfied with that in 2010, he was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the national academy of highest recognition for scholars and scientists in all academic fields in Canada. He is the first to be elected for archival scholarship as a recognized academic discipline.

Dr. Guy Sylvestre – Prime mover: Building collections at the National Library of Canada

By Paul McCormick

I am very pleased to have been asked by the Friends of Library and Archives Canada to talk about Dr. Guy Sylvestre, Canada's second National Librarian, and to celebrate his legacy of acquisitions during his time as National Librarian from June 1, 1968 to November 17, 1983. Acquisitions, particularly major acquisitions, were a traditional area of interest and involvement for Canada's four National Librarians and Dr. Sylvestre was no exception. As Marianne Scott indicated, I was honoured to have interviewed him several times as part of my work on a history of the National Library.

I have called my presentation Prime mover: Building collections at the National Library. Why prime mover? It is because Dr. Sylvestre gave a speech in June 1970 to the Canadian Library Association's annual conference entitled Prime Mover: The role of the National Library. He was very proud of this speech and came back to it several times during the course of our discussions. The theme of his speech was drawn from a paper that had recently been published by K.W. Humphreys on the functions of national libraries that said that "The National Library should be the prime mover in library matters and should be expected to be the leading library in all fields"¹. Dr. Sylvestre certainly saw the National Library's role throughout his career as being the prime mover in Canada. And I would suggest that he himself was a prime mover throughout his fifteen years as National Librarian. So I will be exploring this role as it applied to the development of collections in two major areas: strengthening collections of Canadiana materials as well as building a national collection in the humanities and social sciences. Strengthening Canadiana collections was a natural extension of the work already well underway at the National Library when Dr. Sylvestre started in 1968. Building a national collection in the humanities and social sciences had its roots in the work of Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, the first National Librarian, but as we are going to see there was a dramatic investment and growth in these materials.

His leadership, vision, determination and many accomplishments have been noted in publications such as the festschrift that was published in 1996, *The National Library of Canada and Canadian Libraries: Essays in honour of Guy Sylvestre*² and as well in the special issue of the *National Library News* for November 1983 when he retired. He was President of the Royal Society of Canada, the founding President of the Canadian Association for Information Science and the recipient of multiple honorary degrees (Ottawa, Mount Allison, Toronto, Prince Edward Island, Memorial and Concordia) and awards. In retirement, he was asked by UNESCO to literally write the book on national libraries and in 1987, UNESCO published his Guidelines for National Libraries. The Sylvestre years were marked by major achievements in building a decentralized network of Canadian libraries supported by the National

¹ Sylvestre, Guy. The Prime Mover: The Role of the National Library. Canadian Library Association 25th annual conference Hamilton Ontario, June 23, 1970. p 1

² The National Library of Canada and Canadian Libraries: Essays in Honour of Guy Sylvestre = La Bibliothèque nationale du Canada et les bibliothèques canadiennes: Essais en l'honneur de Guy Sylvestre. Ottawa, CLA /ASTED, 1996. ISBN 0-88802-277-8

Library. This task was sustained by DOBIS, the automated system modified for Canadian use and implemented at the National Library and federal libraries, by the development of national bibliographic standards essential to sharing bibliographic data for the union catalogue and for library systems across the country and by the strengthening of major national services such as the national bibliography, national union catalogue and interlending. When asked about his accomplishments, Dr. Sylvestre highlighted a number of areas starting with the human and financial resourcing needed to address what he saw as an underfunded organization, the reshaping of the National Library which included special collections and services such as music, rare books, library documentation, multilingual and children's literature, the development and implementation of bibliographic standards, and the harmonization of activities with the Library of Congress as well as with the national libraries of the United Kingdom and Australia.

Dr. Sylvestre was also extremely proud of his accomplishments in the area of acquisitions and collection building at the National Library of Canada and tonight I am putting the spotlight on collection building. I am going to briefly give some context for this collection development, outline some of the ways in which collections at the Library were built and then highlight a small selection of the many acquisitions that marked this extremely rich era of significant collection building.

So some context for this work: While there were many forces that shaped collections, I want to focus on four major factors. The first was Dr. Sylvestre himself, his background and experience and what he brought to the position as National Librarian. Another piece of this context underlying collection building was the state of the National Library at the time of his appointment in 1968. A third element was the state of Canadian libraries and their expectations for their National Library. Lastly, there were a number of developments within the National Library and the federal government that had a significant impact on collection building.

First, the man. Joseph Jean Guy Sylvestre came to the position as National Librarian from the Library of Parliament where he had been the Associate Parliamentary Librarian and earlier the Assistant Parliamentary Librarian. He had entered the federal government service in 1942 and served in a number of positions including that of Private Secretary to Louis St. Laurent when he was Secretary of State for External Affairs and later Prime Minister. During his time at the Library of Parliament, he had also been a lecturer at the University of Ottawa's library school. At the invitation of Dr. Lamb, he had attended meetings of the National Library Advisory Council and thus was well informed of developments and challenges at the National Library.

The Library of Parliament had amassed a large collection of materials that had been acquired for purposes beyond those of parliamentarians. This was a collection that dated from the 1880s when Sir John A. Macdonald had mused about establishing a National Library and in partial compensation for not moving ahead with one, had created a senior position of General Librarian. The General Librarian, a position that existed at the Library of Parliament into the 1950s, was charged with building a general collection of materials to respond to the need for a national institution to build library collections. In this role as a quasi-national library in terms of collections, the Library of Parliament also served at different periods as the recipient of Canadian and foreign books being registered for copyright purposes. All of

this is to say that Dr. Sylvestre, while at the Library of Parliament, was directly involved in the selection of thousands of books to be eventually transferred to the National Library.

Dr. Sylvestre brought another wealth of experience and that was from the world of Canadian and Quebec literature as literary critic, historian, scholar and author. He was the literary critic for Ottawa's *Le Droit* newspaper from 1940 to 1948. His first book was published in 1941 while he was still a student at the University of Ottawa. He founded the important literary review, *Gants du ciel*, he wrote essays and books and he edited a number of classics including *L'Anthologie de la poésie canadienne d'expression française*, *Canadian writers: a biographical dictionary* and *Un siècle de littérature canadienne / A Century of Canadian Literature*. In 1967, he organized a major international conference on poetry in Montreal in conjunction with Expo 67. His extensive literary archives are held by Library and Archives Canada (see <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/literaryarchives/o27011-200.130-f.html>)

In short, he brought his experience as a senior bureaucrat, his work in the Library of Parliament as well as his deep knowledge of and involvement in Canadian literature to the National Library.

At the time of Dr. Sylvestre's appointment, this building, 395 Wellington Street, whose construction had been long delayed, had been formally open for a year. There were some 130 km of shelving with a capacity for 2,500,000 volumes. It was estimated that there were 400,000 volumes in the National Library's collections and with the collections of the Public Archives only 50% of the building's collection storage space was occupied. This empty collection space was a major part of the infrastructure needed to build collections. At the time of the opening of the building, some 300,000 volumes had been transferred from the Library of Parliament of which 100,000 were accessible through a temporary catalogue. The lack of collections storage space, the meagre collections budget, some \$127,000 in 1969-70 and the lack of staff had all served as constraints to collection building. In a presentation to the Association of Research Libraries meeting in Toronto in 1974, Dr. Sylvestre gave his assessment of the National Library: "Until it moved into the new National Library and Archives building in Ottawa in 1967, it was more of a bibliographic centre than a true library. ... The Library had no collection worthy of the name and offered limited lending and reference services. ... The limited funds available for acquisitions were accordingly used at the outset to begin to establish strong collections only in Canadian subjects, bibliography and general reference works."³

Another important contextual piece was the evolving role that Canadian librarians and policy makers saw for their national library. The 1960s and 1970s were an extremely rich period for nation-wide studies and reports which examined among other things the state of Canadian libraries. These included Edwin Williams' *Resources of Canadian University Libraries for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences* which envisaged a National Library with "increasingly significant responsibilities for the nation's total resources for research."⁴ , Robert Downs' *Resources of Canadian Academic and Research Libraries* "declared" in the words of one commentator, "that the role of the National Library should be one of

³ Sylvestre, Guy. "The National Library of Canada" in *Library Services Cross Borders Minutes of the Eighty-Fourth Meeting*, May 9-10, 1974, Toronto, Canada. Washington, Association of Research Libraries, 1974. pp 3-4

⁴ Donnelly, F. Dolores "Canada's National Library Services" in *Canadian Libraries in their Changing Environments*. Toronto, York University, 1977. p 287

vigorous leadership; its collecting responsibilities should be more specifically defined and its budget dramatically increased commensurate with Canada's need and its place in the world."⁵ "To Know Ourselves", the report of the Commission on Canadian Studies, led by Dr. Tom Symons, played a key role in recommending ways to improve teaching and research about Canada and examined the types of collections needed in areas such as Canadian literature, economics, geography, Canadian history, and political science. *Interlibrary Loan in Canada. A report of a survey*, a major study undertaken by Basil Stuart-Stubbs and others, outlined a key role for the National Library as the centre of a national resource sharing network. A National Conference on the State of Canadian Bibliography was held. There were several relevant themes that were repeated in these: Canada was a book poor country; academic library collections were insufficient to support research; there was a need for collaborative measures to avoid duplicating scarce resources; the federal government should be addressing libraries' needs for investment in collections and buildings. The National Library figured prominently in many of these reports from non-government organizations such as the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). They included recommendations that the collection budget of the National Library needed to be substantially increased, that the field of Canadiana be collected comprehensively and as well that an Office of Library Resources be established to survey and assess Canada's research collections.

On the international front, while Canada had been an active participant in UNESCO, there were increasing contacts with other national libraries and the international library community through organizations such as IFLA and the Conference of Directors of National Libraries which Dr. Sylvestre helped to found in 1974 and chaired from 1974 to 1978. Dr. Sylvestre himself visited European national libraries and the Library of Congress early and throughout his time as National Librarian and retained close links with many of them. (He told me that he had visited 26 countries during his time as National Librarian.) The national libraries of most other countries had collections and collecting ambitions which far exceeded those of Canada's.

Also on the international front, the National Library was invited to join the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) made up of the Library of Congress and the largest academic libraries in the North America. ARL was an important group to be part of with a dynamic membership sharing many of the same challenges as the National Library. There was an International Congress on National Bibliographies in 1977. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) built on earlier work from UNESCO which had developed a program called Universal Bibliographic Control or UBC which was intended to be a worldwide system for the control and exchange of bibliographic information which assumed that countries like Canada had comprehensive collections and bibliographic descriptions of all materials published in their country. IFLA built on this and adopted a major program called Universal Availability of Publications or UAP which was to play out over the 1980s.

At the same time, the National Library itself and other parts of the federal government played increasing roles in policy development with their own studies and reports. In 1969, the Science Council of Canada published its *Role of the Federal Government in Support of Research in Canadian Universities*. Dr.

⁵ Ibid.

Sylvestre used the recommendations of this report to advance the need for an increased investment in collections among other things. The National Library Advisory Board which had been reconstituted in 1972 with the revised National Library legislation established a number of committees (such as the Resources Network Committee, the Bibliography and Communications Network Committee and the Committee on Bibliography and Information Services for the Social Sciences and Humanities), subcommittees and task forces (such as the Task Group on Cataloguing Standards, Canadian Union Catalogue Task Force, the Canadian National Bibliographic Data Base Study and the Task Group on Computer / Communication Protocols for Bibliographic Data Interchange) which involved members from across the country. There were many recommendations that emanated from these groups. There was also a Federal Government Library Survey and a study done of the national bibliography, *Canadiana*, in 1976 which recommended enhanced coverage and therefore enhanced acquisitions in a number of areas. The Cultural Property Export Review Board was established in 1977 and among other things gave financial support for the repatriation of important Canadiana publications.

The Canada Council's report entitled *University Research Libraries* set out three major problems "1) providing complete periodicals resources economically and rapidly; 2) coping with the information explosion with limited funds; 3) making up for a very widespread deficiency in Canadian materials in Canadian libraries."⁶ The Consultative Group recommended "that the federal government fund the development of a national lending library of first resort, with particular priority given to provision of a periodicals lending service, such as [was] available for the natural sciences through the ... Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information."⁷

As well, the Consultative Group recommended a Canada Council programme that "would provide for the maintenance and development of specialized collections of national significance located in Canadian university libraries"⁸ and lastly, the implementation of the Canadiana Microreproduction Project which saw fruition with a one time grant from the Canada Council for the creation in 1978 of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions or CIHM, later called *Canadiana.org*. CIHM was charged with addressing three areas of national concern: the incomplete nature of collections of retrospective *Canadiana*; the physical deterioration of these collections; and the difficulties faced by researchers in accessing collections scattered across the country.

In 1979, the National Library published its own *The Future of the National Library of Canada* after conducting a multi-year external and internal review of the role of the Library. The report made recommendations in a number of areas including research collections, Canadian Studies, National Library and Public Archives mandates, and a national lending service. The Government did not approve the recommendations relating to the provision of financial assistance to designated libraries for the maintenance of "strong research collections in specified subjects"⁹ and for the establishment of "a national lending service consisting initially of periodicals and government documents and eventually of

⁶ Canada Council. Consultative Group on University Research Libraries. *University Research Libraries: Report of the Consultative Group on University Research Libraries*. Ottawa, The Canada Council, c 1978 p 16

⁷ *Ibid* p 18

⁸ *Ibid* p 20

⁹ National Library of Canada. *The future of the National Library of Canada = L'avenir de la Bibliothèque nationale du Canada*. Ottawa, National Library of Canada, 1979. ISBN 0-662-50628-6 p 21

little-used materials in areas not assigned to other research libraries”¹⁰, nor did they approve the transfer of responsibilities from the Public Archives and the National Research Council. However the concept of Canadian Studies was firmly entrenched as evidenced in the Report and some collection recommendations such as one to begin a Decentralized Program for Canadian newspapers moved forward. Lastly, the federal government had a review of its cultural policies led by Louis Applebaum and Jacques Hébert who published their report in 1982. They characterized the National Library as the “linch-pin of the national [library] system”¹¹ and stated in their Report that the “leadership of the National Library in the network approach to the sharing of resources is uncontested.”¹²

So the context for collection building throughout Dr. Sylvestre’s tenure was complex. There was a determined National Librarian with an ambitious agenda and a deep knowledge and appreciation of Canadian literature, an institution that had been poised in 1968 for some dramatic collections growth, and a policy environment that saw an enhanced role for the National Library.

The collections of the National Library were built in four principal ways:

- Legal deposit is the requirement for Canadian publications to be deposited at the Library. A revised and strengthened regime for deposit was a key part of the National Library legislation which took effect in 1969. Legal deposit is one of those things that set national libraries apart from other libraries – it is a profoundly democratic method of collection building, attempting to acquire all of those materials regardless of subject or place of publication within the country that publishers of all types have chosen to make available for public distribution or sale.
- Gifts, as well, were an important feature of collection building. The donations and bequests of individuals and organizations for this period were important sources of acquisitions. There were also transfers from other federal departments and agencies like the Library of Parliament which as an example (amongst thousands of items) transferred a complete set of League of Nations publications to the National Library.
- Another critical tool was Purchase. When he began, Dr. Sylvestre was very concerned about the lack of funds for acquisitions and took steps almost immediately to add to the collections budget and to the staff required to support an enhanced acquisitions program. It is worth noting that during this period of the 1970s and early 1980s, the term ‘information explosion’ began to be used reflecting the huge increase in the number of published materials in Canada and throughout the world. At the same time, currency fluctuations and inflation made for some major price increases.
- Lastly, there were Exchanges. Normally national libraries are the institutions where the official publications of other countries and international organizations such as the United Nations and the OECD are housed and made available.

¹⁰ Ibid. p 37

¹¹ Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee. *Summary of briefs and hearings*. [Ottawa], Department of Communications, 1982. ISBN 0-662-11794-8 p 48

¹² Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee. *Report of the Federal Cultural Policy Review Committee*. [Ottawa], Department of Communications, 1982. ISBN 0-660-11228-0 p 134

I now want to turn to some of the collection milestones that marked Dr. Sylvestre's fifteen years as National Librarian. This is a somewhat eclectic, selective, roughly chronological listing intended to convey the range and depth of collection building in the Sylvestre years as follows:

- Parliament had reaffirmed the value of legal deposit with a revised Act which took effect in September 1969 and a revised set of Legal Deposit Regulations. Part of these changes required the deposit of only one copy of publications priced above \$50. For the first time, deposit required sound recordings and a second copy of periodicals and magazines published in Canada to be deposited. There was also a provision that deposit had to take place within a week of publication (it was formerly 3 months). "Book" was defined as "library matter of every kind, nature and description and includes any document, paper, record, tape or other thing published by a publisher, on or in which information is written, recorded, stored or reproduced"¹³. This definition was very broad and permitted the expansion of legal deposit to other formats of publishing including sound recordings and later educational kits of non-book materials
- The bequest of poet Arthur Stanley Bourinot in 1969 included his manuscripts but also letters and manuscripts from Canadian authors such as Archibald Lampman and Duncan Campbell Scott, some 27 linear feet of materials
- Exchange agreements with Germany and Belgium for the exchange of official publications. Agreements with a number of countries and organizations were reviewed by a high level committee with the Library of Parliament which prior to the establishment of the National Library had been the institution with traditional links to foreign governments for exchange purposes. Dr. Sylvestre in a February 1969 article justified these agreements "in order that a greater number of foreign documents may be available in Canada and greater number of Canadian documents can be made available to researchers in all parts of the world."¹⁴ The *National Library News* of January-February 1972 reported that there were exchange agreements now in place with Commonwealth countries Australia, Nigeria, Ghana, Antigua, British Honduras, Gibraltar and Ceylon as well as New York State and Alaska. Exchanges would later be in place with countries such as Rumania, Bulgaria, Cuba and Poland
- The gifts of publications from international agencies such as UNESCO
- The issuing of a Directive from the Treasury Board requiring two copies of publications of federal departments and agencies to be sent to the Library
- The purchase of early Canadiana such as the first edition of Thomas Haliburton's *The Clockmaker* published by Joseph Howe in 1836
- In January 1970 the *Ottawa Citizen* reported that the "chief librarian Guy Sylvestre had acquired"¹⁵ some 20,000 French songs published between 1825 and 1914 at an international auction in The Hague

¹³ Canada. House of Commons. 28th Parliament, 1st Session, 17-18 Elizabeth II 1968-69. Bill C-171 An Act respecting the National Library as passed by the House of Commons 31st March 1969. Ottawa, Queen's Printer, 1969 p 1

¹⁴ Sylvestre, Guy. "The National Library of Canada" in *Canadian Library Journal*, vol 26, no 1, January-February 1969. p 29

¹⁵ Swimmings, Betty. "National Library extends music collection: Popular music, art form 20,000 piece acquisition" in the *Ottawa Citizen*, January 24, 1970.

- The purchase of 80 issues of the *Dawson Daily News*, an important addition to Canada's largest collection of print and microform newspapers, an indication of the herculean task of identifying and filling in early Canadian imprints
- The purchase of manuscripts and published versions of the compositions, library and archives of Canadian composer Healey Willan, one of Canada's leading composers and musicians. There is a sample on display tonight taken from this collection together with a catalogue from a major exhibit held in 1972 entitled *Healey Willan, the Man and his Music* based on this collection
- The donation of 1,000 volumes of Lithuanian literature, art and history to form the foundation of a Lithuanian book collection in 1970. This was one of several gifts from different ethnic communities
- The gift of manuscripts and papers from novelist and poet Philip Child
- The gift from the Boston Public Library of the 1760 Sir John Pringle's *The Life of General James Wolfe*, one of four known copies of this edition in Canada at the time
- The acquisition of one of two copies in Canada of Frances Moore Brooke's *Histoire d'Emilie Montague*, a French translation of what is regarded as the first work in fiction on Canada
- The purchase of a microfiche set of United States Congressional Hearings 1839-1934 followed by the purchase of the 1935 to 1954 series. This acquisition illustrates the growing importance of securing copies of important foreign official publications for research and resource sharing purposes
- The purchase of the Georges-Alphonse Daviault collection of *Canadiana* including some 4,000 books, pamphlets, brochures, serials and newspapers. There were some 17 *Rélations des Jésuites* published between 1638 and 1669 that were part of this collection. The earliest Canadian imprint was the *Catéchisme du Diocèse de Sens* printed in Quebec by William Brown and Thomas Gilmore in 1766
- The purchase of the manuscripts and papers of composer Claude Champagne who had died in 1965 including such works as *Suite Canadienne*, *Danse villageoise* and *Symphonie gaspésienne*. The *Montreal Gazette* at the time of the acquisition called Champagne "one of the most significant figures in Canadian music for half a century"¹⁶.
- The launch of the Multilingual Biblioservice in 1975 with collections in Chinese, Dutch, German, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Portuguese and Ukrainian in areas such as fiction, biography and children's literature for extended loan to public libraries
- The purchase of a Ukrainian book collection from a Winnipeg collector mostly published in Canada but also books published abroad with a Canadian author or subject
- The acquisition of the *Canadian Moving Picture Digest* published from 1917 to 1920, at that time the only Canadian library holding these years
- The purchase of the papers of composer Alexis Contant
- The acquisition of microfilms of Hebrew manuscripts from state library collections in Moscow and Leningrad. A 1974 press release about the Saul Hayes Hebraic Microfilm Collection noted that this represented approximately 500,000 pages of text. An earlier account of these materials

¹⁶ Siskind, Jacob. "Cataloguing a composer" in the *Montreal Gazette*, November 18, 1972

stated that the collection would include “some 25,000 to 50,000 manuscripts covering religious, literary, historical and scientific fields, most never before seen by Western scholars”.¹⁷

- The National Library’s participation in the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute – the National Library’s shared responsibility included acquiring post independence Indian federal and state publications while other current Indian publications were acquired by partner libraries of the University of Toronto, University of British Columbia and McGill University.
- An expansion of the collecting of Canadian and international library and information science which had begun in 1971 including speeches, pre-prints of articles, research studies and reports, annual reports, reports of meetings, seminars and workshops as well as the archives of Canadian librarians such as Elizabeth Homer Morton and Gerhard Lomer
- History of the book including printing, binding, papermaking, restoration and preservation, publishing and bookselling, copyright and censorship
- Performing arts materials in support of the National Arts Centre
- The addition of a Children’s Literature Librarian / Consultant in 1975
- The gift of the papers and manuscripts of composer Murray Adaskin
- Following the government’s multicultural policy, the Library began to subscribe to Canadian newspapers in languages other than English and French to ensure the “acquisition and preservation of all serial publications of all Canadian cultural groups”.
- Taking legal action against the Maritime Law Book Company to ensure compliance with legal deposit which eventually confirmed the constitutionality of legal deposit and obliged the publisher to supply copies of his publications
- Creation of the Collections Development Branch which consolidated various organizational units in the Library devoted to acquisitions
- Extensive acquisition of major microfilm research collections such as the *Goldwin Smith papers at Cornell University 1844-1915*, microfilm versions of Pollard and Redgrave’s *Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland and Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475-1604* and the Goldsmiths’-Kress *Library of Economic Literature: A Consolidated Guide*
- *Collecting Guidelines for the National Library of Canada* published and widely distributed
- Donation of the Jacob M. Lowy Collection of Hebraica and Judaica in 1977, consisting at that time of 2,000 Hebraic and Judaic rare books with a then estimated value of \$2,000,000. It included some 40 incunabula in Hebrew and in Latin, very rare Bibles and editions of the Talmud and its Codices. “At the time of its acquisition ... the Lowy Collection was considered one of the three foremost private collections of rare Hebraica and Judaica in the western hemisphere”¹⁸. “In making this gift, Mr. Lowy stressed his gratitude to the country in which he had found refuge and freedom, and underscored his conviction that “those who welcome the stranger to the gate” are in fact enriching Canada through the heritage of their fellow Canadians from other lands.”¹⁹ On display this evening we have a copy of the exhibition catalogue from a major exhibit held in 1981 as well as a book presented by Mr. Lowy to Dr. Sylvestre.

¹⁷ “Microfilms of Hebrew Manuscripts” in *National Library News*, vol 3, no 4, October-December 1971. p 5

¹⁸ “Incunabula, Hebraica and Judaica: Five centuries of Hebraica and Judaica, Rare Bibles, and Hebrew Incunables from the Jacob M. Lowy Collection” in the *National Library News*, vol 13, no 9-10, October-November 1981. p 1

¹⁹ Citation for Jacob Max Lowy’s Order of Canada?

- Extension of legal deposit to include educational kits of non-book materials in 1978
- The purchase of 1,200 rare Canadiana items from Lawrence M. Lande, noted Canadian bibliographer and collector, including “early voyages and travels, the fur trade and fisheries, immigration, agriculture, ... political pamphlets and broadsides, school and juvenile books, music, some medical and scientific works, and missionary and other society publications. ...The publication dates range from the 16th to the early 20th century.”²⁰ It included 8 Jesuit Relations. While we don’t have any Jesuit Relations on display tonight, we do have a copy of the catalogue for the exhibit that was mounted for this important collection.
- The acquisition of 1895 issues of *Wee Willie Winkie*, a rare juvenile magazine written and published by Lady Aberdeen, wife of Canada’s then Governor General
- On July 28, 1980 the National Library received its 200,000th publication on legal deposit – entitled *Guide d’Archives du centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française à l’Université d’Ottawa*. A copy of this is on display tonight, a fitting example of the range of materials received on legal deposit. Also in the same year, the Library marked the reception of the 20,000th sound recording on legal deposit. In March 1982, the Newspaper Division noted the addition of the 50,000th reel to the collection of microfilmed newspapers which was already the largest collection of Canadian print and microfilm newspapers. These were very large important collections
- The legal deposit of Alex Colville’s *A Book of Hours – Labours of the Months* published jointly by the Mira Godard Gallery in Toronto and Fischer Fine Art in London. The portfolio consists of 12 photo lithographs and one signed serigraph. The album was made by Pierre Ouvrard. This acquisition represents an important segment of Canadian publishing – the publication of limited edition books. Books with fine bindings, livres objets and livres d’artistes a kind of publishing that began in the 1960s in Canada but which took off in the 1970s
- The purchase for Canada of *Bank’s Florilegium*. This major work was published in some 34 parts and consisted of some 738 copperplate engravings of plants collected on Captain James Cook’s First Voyage of 1768-1771. It was acquired over a period of several years with the financial support of a number of Canadian institutions including the libraries of the universities of Alberta, Calgary, Carleton, Dalhousie, Guelph, and Waterloo as well as Agriculture Canada. While this was not perhaps a priority for the National Library, it was important for a copy to be in Canada
- The acquisition of an *Indian Hymn Book* published in 1856, printed on a small printing press in Fort Moose on James Bay with some 50 hymns translated into Cree
- The purchase of Gabrielle Roy’s manuscripts and correspondence as well as those of Roger Lemelin, the Quebec author of the Plouffe Family and newspaper editor
- And last but far from least, the purchase of the Glenn Gould archives finalized by Dr. Sylvestre in Toronto on the day before his retirement, another jewel in the collections at the National Library

²⁰ “Rare Canadiana acquired from Lawrence Lande” in the *National Library News*, vol 11, no 2, March-April 1979. p 1

And all of this in place in only 15 years – let’s briefly recap: a strengthened regime for legal deposit; a major increase in the number of gifts and bequests and transfers; substantial investments made in the collections budget for the purchase of older Canadiana items as well as social science and humanities materials to support resource sharing as well as Canadian Studies; a reinforcement of the obligation for federal publications to be deposited; the creation of special collection areas very much in the research library model for music, rare books, manuscripts, children’s literature, library documentation, foreign and international official publications and newspapers with major collections and specialized services and staff; the creation of the Collections Development Branch; the establishment of the Canadian Book Exchange Centre which made available valuable materials to the National Library and to other Canadian libraries; the publication of multiple resource reports assessing the strengths and weaknesses of research collections in Canadian libraries; and the gift of heritage materials from many ethnic communities.

Dr. Sylvestre told me that starting very late as an institution in the 1950s that the Library couldn’t really expect to duplicate the kind of encyclopedic and dare I say it, archival collections, that they had at the British Library or the Library of Congress or the Bibliothèque nationale de France. In his words: “you had to be empirical and take account of the situation you were in. ... Building collections was a pragmatic process. There were some things that would not fit. You had to be practical and make decisions. It had to make sense”.²¹

Significant collection building at the National Library occurred throughout this period. Canadiana collections moved beyond building as “complete a record as possible of Canada’s publishing and cultural achievement”²² which is how they were being described in 1977 to another level of Canadian Studies which were intended to put the research materials needed for the study of Canada into a larger context. As well, large numbers of non-Canadian materials were being acquired by the National Library for national research and resource sharing purposes.

In Dr. Sylvestre’s last Semi-Annual Report²³ as National Librarian, it was reported that the Library’s collections were made up of over one million monograph volumes, 45,000 non-government serial titles, 11,000 Canadian government serial titles, almost 2 million government publications and 1,100,000 government documents in microform and 2 million other microform titles. This is a far cry from the estimated 400,000 volumes that were moved into this building in 1967. The collections budget had been \$127,000 in 1969-70. In 1983-84, there was an expenditure for collections of almost \$2 million. In 1968-69, the staff of the National Library had numbered about 225 and the budget in total was \$1.6 million. In 1983-84, there were 549 person-years with 79 of those staff engaged in collection building and a total budget of almost \$30 million. And while Dr. Sylvestre would probably have said at the time of his retirement that the National Library didn’t have the collections and resources it should have had, for librarians, archivists and bureaucrats past and present in the room tonight, these are amazing numbers and amazing collections that were built.

²¹ Partners in Access Inc. *Interviews with Dr. Guy Sylvestre, National Librarian from June 1, 1968 to November 23, 1983* Notes from discussions on October 28, November 11, November 20 and December 1, 2008 p. 8

²² Preibish, André. *Collecting for the future: Some reflections on the role of the National Library of Canada as a resource library*. March 1977 p 4

²³ “National Library Semi-annual Report: April 1 – September 30, 1983” in *National Library News*, vol 15, no 12, December 1983. pp 1-2

When Dr. Sylvestre retired, Communications Minister Francis Fox said “It is with considerable regret that we are marking the departure of Dr. Sylvestre. As National Librarian he injected new vitality and life into the National Library of Canada and contributed significantly to making it a symbol of pride for Canadians as well as an example for other institutions to follow.”²⁴

In conclusion, even in putting this somewhat restrictive lens of collection building on Dr. Sylvestre’s time as National Librarian, it is difficult to encompass and condense all of his substantial achievements. A consummate civil servant, he was called “a statesman among librarians”²⁵. He was a man of ideas, determination, and energy. He was a leader with a vision. The National Library had gone from what he called an under resourced institution to a major national cultural institution with rich and diverse Canadiana and social sciences and humanities collections. He was definitely a prime mover!

²⁴ Department of Communications Press Release *Mr. Fox praises Guy Sylvestre for his contribution to the National Library of Canada*. [Ottawa] Department of Communications, November 16, 1983.

²⁵ Piternick, Anne B. “A Period of Development at the National Library” in *National Library News*, vol 15, no 11, November 1983. p 4

“Remembering and Celebrating Jean-Pierre Wallot”

By Terry Cook

Good evening et bonsoir! I am delighted to be here, with so many colleagues and friends, to celebrate the life of Dr. Jean-Pierre Wallot, and to remember his very distinguished contributions to the National Archives of Canada and to Canadian and international archival activity.

I'm honoured, in fact, to be here, to pay tribute to a man I admire very much as an archival giant, and to join with Paul [McCormick, speaking about Dr. Guy Sylvestre] in this dual celebration of two special Canadians. I want to thank, very sincerely, Dr. Marianne Scott and Peter Rochon of the Friends of Library and Archives Canada for inviting me, and especially Marianne for her kind introductory remarks. I want also to recognize personally special guests here tonight: Denyse Caron Wallot, for so long Dr. Wallot's partner and closest friend and such an essential element, so he told me in interviews, of his success. I recognize as well, also here tonight, the two right hands of Dr. Wallot as his Assistant National Archivists, Mike Swift and Lee McDonald; and Dr. Wallot's two successors in the position of being Canada's national archivist, Ian Wilson and Daniel Caron.

There is one more archival presence that I would like to evoke tonight. Elizabeth Hawkins wrote a lovely and quite unsolicited message to Paul and me from her home in Vancouver, when she saw the notice of tonight's event. And this is what she said: "I cannot think of two people who cared more for what they were trying to do than Dr. Sylvestre and Dr. Wallot.... They were both people of great vision, who passionately believed in what they were doing. I was so very lucky to have worked with both of them and to have known them on a somewhat personal basis as well." Elizabeth is, as many of you know, not only a long-time professional librarian and policy officer for the National Library and then for the National Archives, but also the daughter of W. Kaye Lamb, the fourth Dominion Archivist of Canada and the first National Librarian of Canada. And so I rather like to muse that Dr. Lamb's spirit – which was itself in his dual positions so animated by that vision and passion of which Elizabeth speaks – is joining us tonight, through her, as we honour two of his successors as national librarian and national archivist. There is a further connection, for the tenure is very long of national archivists in this country: from 1872 to 2011, for over 139 years, we have only had eight, and Dr. Caron as the eighth is still very much in office. When Dr. Lamb died in 1999, Ian Wilson, then incoming as the seventh national archivist, sent Dr. Wallot, the sixth national archivist, as his emissary to deliver a eulogy at memorial service for Dr. Lamb, the fourth national archivist.

And now, alas, it is Dr. Wallot's turn for such a memorial service and such a eulogy. But although we mourn his passing still, I am not going to speak of loss tonight, but rather celebrate his accomplishments in building, caring for, and making available the collections, which is our theme tonight. But first, I want

to give you some measure of the man's life and public character before looking at the highlights of his tenure as National Archivist of Canada, and in building and enhancing its collections.

When he was appointed Dominion Archivist of Canada, Jean-Pierre Wallot was 49 years old. Born in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield in Quebec in 1935, he was a brilliant student, graduating at age nineteen from the University of Montreal. Working as a journalist for the next six years, he also earned his Master's degree, while twice winning the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association's award for best feature article of the year. Deciding in 1961 to pursue an academic career, Dr. Wallot completed his doctorate by 1965, also in History, also at the University of Montreal. His thesis explored Lower Canada in the early nineteenth century during Governor Craig's administration. From that doctoral work, and much additional research, a long series of books and articles would flow in the next twenty years, and well beyond – in the hundreds! In many of them, Dr. Wallot fashioned a highly controversial neo-nationaliste interpretation of French-Canadian history that explained Quebec's stagnant economy after 1760 not, as usually perceived, on the backward inertia of the French-Canadian bourgeoisie, but on British imperial thwarting of indigenous middle-class aspirations. Dr. Wallot never shied away from engaging in vigorous historiographical debates, in print and on the platform. That combativeness, scholarly rigour, and passion for ideas he brought from academic life to internal discussions within the National Archives. For some traditional public servants who did not expect a deputy minister to act that way, they shrunk away from the intellectual whirlwind that was Dr. Wallot; for those who engaged him as a man of ideas eager to explore many possibilities and push the boundaries to improve archives, he was a breath of fresh air.

While completing his doctoral studies, Dr. Wallot acquired his first taste of working in Ottawa's cultural institutions, spending a full year and many summers at the Archives researching his thesis, and subsequent books. Also in Ottawa, he work for three years as a research historian for the National Museum of Man (now the Canadian Museum of Civilization), while continuing to give weekend lectures at the University of Montreal. An man of intense energy, Dr. Wallot seemed forever restless, always looking for the next challenge. He left the Museum in 1969 for an appointment at the University of Toronto, where he stayed till 1971, then went to Sir George Williams University (now Concordia), and, in 1973, back to his first love, the University of Montreal, as Chair of its History Department. He accepted shorter appointments at Sherbrooke, University of Quebec at Montreal, Laval, and British Columbia, and he was an Associate Director of Studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris no less than ten times between 1975 and 1994.

There are amazing stories – all the moreso because they are true! -- of Dr. Wallot racing his high-powered Dodge Charger along the 401 freeway after giving a lecture in the morning in Montreal, in order to deliver another in Toronto the same evening, and then roaring back in the middle of the night for another the next day in Montreal, and doing that for a full term! And when he was not in his hot-rod car or behind his university lectern, Dr. Wallot would often be found behind his drum set as a member of a jazz combo in Montreal, as indeed later he memorably played drums for the annual singalongs at the Archives' Christmas parties. He also energetically torn up the dance floor at the annual banquet dance of the Association of Canadian Archivists. His energy and vitality were palpable!

Even with all this travel, intense teaching, university administration, and a truly remarkable outpouring of historical writing and conference presentations, plus raising a family, and playing in a band, still Dr. Wallot desired more challenges. By his very nature, he seemed a man driven to achieve more and more in life. And so he was accepted a series of progressively more senior positions at Montreal as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; and Vice President (Academic) for the entire University. External professional commitments were also embraced, as a member of key panels of the Canada Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, all of which exposed him to important aspects of national cultural policy. Not surprisingly, in light of these many accomplishments all before he became Dominion Archivist, he was chosen by his peers as Presidents of L'Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française, the Canadian Historical Association, and La Fondation Lionel-Groulx. He was elected to the Royal Society of Canada (and later served as its president) and to L'Académie des lettres du Québec; and he was made an Officer in L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de la République française.

Early in 1985, Dr. Wallot was invited to become the Dominion Archivist of Canada. This call came as a complete surprise, and he struggled a little with the decision, for it meant leaving behind the cosmopolitan and francophone Montreal and his own stellar academic career. But he was counselled at the time that, while there were plenty of university presidents, which was the next logical step in his academic career, there is only one Dominion Archivist of Canada. He reflected too that, in this position, he would have the chance to make a really distinctive mark on the country and its culture, to shape its history in a fundamental way. And so he accepted, and, by June 1985, was in Ottawa in his new position on a full-time basis.

Dr. Wallot had long undertaken research in the Archives' own collections. To the problems of building and enhancing those collections, and especially managing their host institution, this restless dynamo of energy and enthusiasm, this passionate advocate of ideas and history, now turned his attention, determined that change was necessary and that he was its ideal agent.

Dr. Wallot's first impression of the Archives, as he prepared to take over, was of an institution lacking a corporate vision, that the sum of its parts did not add up. Its many branches and their internal divisions seemed like little worlds unto their own, with different approaches to almost all the core archival functions, to automation of their activities, and to serving researchers. He felt that, while the Archives was filled with wonderfully creative people, and had amazing collections and valued traditions and so much cumulative knowledge, its management was chaotic. Indeed, the organizational culture was one most comfortable with not being managed centrally at all, or only very lightly. No few of his senior managers have since told me that they welcomed his strong leadership to give more coherent direction to the institution's ever-more complex activities within an ever-more complex policy and accountability environment in the government. If change was highly desirable, turning around a large government department and its long-standing organizational culture was no easy thing, all while respecting the best of the past. Doubtless some of these changes caused dislocations, some serious, many unintended, but still with some false steps taken, which is the usual price of massive changes that otherwise brought much good.

It must also be remembered that Dr. Wallot arrived to the very opposite of the expansive times of the 1950s to early 1980s. In his first full month on the job, he was stung with steep budget cuts imposed by Eric Nielsen's review across all departments, with much worse to come, under Paul Martin's Program Review in the mid-1990s. To put the matter starkly, under his predecessors, Dr. Lamb and Dr. Smith, both the budget and the staff of the Public Archives of Canada grew exponentially, from 57 people and \$160,000 in 1949 to a peak of over 800 staff and \$80 Million, whereas Dr. Wallot suffered cuts of 25% – losing 200 staff and about \$20 million in budget. As a result, established programs had to be abolished or deeply curtailed, and real people with real families lost their jobs by his hand. Being forced to make these difficult downsizing decisions was personally painful for Dr. Wallot. But he was not discouraged nor did he shy away from the task. Rather, he was driven to look for duplication in technologies that could be eliminated; consolidation of similar research or work processes carried on in isolation in separate divisions that could be centralized; or operational efficiency gains that could be achieved through automation or consolidated processes.

All these he saw as means to two broad ends: first, to provide better, less fragmented services to Canadians; and secondly, to free funds to reduce the impact of these severe budget cuts on his institution and thus on his employees and to deploy to support new, necessary programmes. He believed that a more centrally managed Public Archives could realize these economies by grouping together and centralizing similar functions and their complementary activities, by a combination of structural reorganization, revised mandates, new policies, consolidated programs, and increased computerization. And he set about to do just that. Acting vigorously to fulfil this vision became the animating motif in the dozen years of Dr. Wallot's direction of the Public Archives of Canada.

To highlight the significant accomplishments by Dr. Wallot in realizing this vision during his years at the helm of the Public Archives of Canada, renamed in 1987 the National Archives of Canada, I have, quite arbitrarily, decided to highlight ten, with apologies to David Letterman's nightly Top Ten list, these of course being painted here but very briefly with a very broad brush; for many supportive examples and many more details, you will have to await our book on the history of the Public/National Archives of Canada!

1. **New Legislation:** Dr. Wallot as a first priority fought very hard, including internal and external lobbying, to replace the 1912 Public Archives of Canada Act, which he achieved with the new National Archives of Canada Act of 1987, that renamed the institution and his own position. The new act at a stroke doubled the number of government agencies subject to the control of the Archivist for authority for the destruction of their records, opened opportunities to facilitate better information management in the Government of Canada and to support the archival community in Canada, and recognized new recording media, especially film and digital records.

2. **New Accommodation:** The archival collections by 1985 were stored in at least 14 buildings in the national capital region, almost all substandard in terms of climate controls to preserve these precious artifacts, some subject to water leaks and roaming mice, and all highly inefficient for operations and

public reference services. Dr. Wallot envisioned, had built, and brought to full fruition the magnificent Gatineau Preservation Centre (GPC) to consolidate all the holdings in one place, in what is still the best equipped and second largest such facility in the world. And he did it right in the middle of the downsizing mania of Program Review, where only his forceful character and good insider connections allowed the GPC to be the only capital building project to go ahead and not be cancelled by Program Review – and when Program Review started, the GPC was just a hole in the ground that could easily have been filled in.

3. Managing the Records of the Government of Canada: With a doubling of the agencies subject to the new National Archives Act, with the advent of pervasive office automation by the late 1980s adding transient digital records to the already huge paper burden, and the government's records management systems imploding under the pressure, a new planned approach to records disposition was put in place, which was strategic and government-wide rather than ad hoc, covered all media rather than mainly paper files, and began important steps to manage contemporary digital information, which includes the archival records of tomorrow.

4. Building the Collections – Government Records: Dr. Wallot was adamant that building the collections was central to his mandate. He took the non-discretionary powers assigned him, in legislation, to control all destruction of government records, very seriously, and personally; he refused to delegate them. As Denyse tells me, Dr. Wallot often stayed up half the night reading carefully very long archival appraisal reports and filling them with comments and questions, and afterwards quizzing me as the responsible manager. He cared, and we appreciated it. He also endorsed a new theory, strategy, and methodology for determining archival value, called macroappraisal, which has since become a world standard for finding the archival wheat amid an avalanche of digital and paper chaff. Four of his five major scholarly articles as Archivist, about archives, address macroappraisal, of which he was very proud. He insisted that the government archival collections must reflect the broad spectrum of the lives of Canadian citizens interacting with the state, not just the policies of the state, and not just in headquarters' records as before, but throughout the country, with new regional archival offices established too in his time to support that broader perspective.

5. Building the Collections – Private Records: Dr. Wallot did not neglect private-sector records in favour of government records; he strongly supported the ideal of "total archives" that he had inherited from his predecessors. Whether getting cabinet approval for acquiring prestigious collections like the Yousuf Karsh photographs, fighting the early battles for the astonishing Peter Winkworth Collection brought to fruition after his time, negotiating the difficult acquisition of the Pierre Trudeau prime ministerial fonds, or launching a major preservation effort for audio-visual records, he believed that government and private archives must complement each other to create a total archive. And when some suggested – not me! – cutting back private-sector archiving drastically, under Program Review, and transforming the National Archives in a government-record archives only, as is the case in many other nations, he was having none of it.

6. Describing the Collections: Dr. Wallot authorized the implementation of Rules for Archival Description at the National Archives, thus accepting the incipient national standard for describing or cataloguing all archival media, and thereby not only giving its national adoption a huge boost, but also internally replacing many different and inconsistent descriptive systems that in the past focused on medium or by time period or geographical context, or mixed or overlooked one of bottom-up item-level vs top-down fonds-level contextual architectures. Now researchers would see, ideally anyway, a consolidated and consistent picture of all the holdings in all media. Staff expertise and money was readily devoted to the professional associations that were developing and rolling out the national standard, and of course major efforts were required for its implementation internally to 120 years of the Archives' own vast holdings all needing to be re-described to conform to the new national (and, soon, with slight modifications, international) standard.

7. Automating the Work Processes: In place of over 60 separate database systems across the various archival divisions and branches used to describe or control the collections, Dr. Wallot insisted on one system, and having all data standardized and migrated to it. This was an enormous undertaking of data conversion, programming, migration, and error-checking. From that consolidated database, however, not only was a unified view of the collections possible to staff and researchers, but a web site could be layered on top, drawing from the database, and indeed that web site was built and launched during Dr. Wallot's period. And the typewriters and pens on everyone's desk in 1985 had, by the early 90s, all been replaced – with all the attendant costs and training and new process – by desktop computers and the fully automated office (printers, scanners, modems, etc).

8. Public Programming: Dr. Wallot believed in sharing the richness of the holdings beyond those who could come personally to Ottawa. He launched Distant Access Sites before the age of the internet where finding aids and microfilm holdings were available in locations across Canada. He opened the Museum of Caricature in the Byward Market in the heart of Ottawa's busiest tourist area to showcase exhibitions, and those exhibitions in turn now travelled across Canada. Exhibitions and publications galore were done, and extensive guides to holdings produced, including the magnificent, full-colour, coffee-table book, *Treasures of the National Archives of Canada*. Consolidated reference services were also introduced, so researchers could deal with one office, rather than many, for orientation, registration, research passes, lockers, circulation and copying of material, and so on, as well as a generalist introduction to the reference tools and collections.

9. External Relations – The Canadian Archival System and the International Council on Archives: Dr. Wallot strongly supported the idea of a network for archives across Canada, funded to undertake common projects and address operational issues, such as conservation and description, and ultimately to create a national documentary heritage community. Others initiated this idea outside the National Archives, and the Canadian Council of Archives, and provincial and territorial councils and associations emerged, but without Dr. Wallot's personal drive, his successful quest for millions annually in funding to share across the new Canadian Archival System (none was kept for the National Archives), his offer of space, web-site hosting, and encouragement of National Archives' staff participation, it would not have happened. And beyond our own borders, Dr. Wallot put Canada on the international archival map in a

major way, by hosting the International Congress on Archives in Montreal in 1992, and several week-long colloquia in the lead-up years to it, and then as President of the ICA himself for four years from 1992 to its next Congress in Beijing in 1996, where he dynamically stimulated the international archival world on a whole range of issues, including extensive Canadian participation on numerous ICA committees and as speakers internationally.

10. Promoting Staff Excellence: Dr. Wallot recognized and very energetically promoted professional excellence among archivists. He took a merit promotion process that was in place for historians in government, but only benefitting archivists relatively rarely, and he used it to push hard for promotion of archivists, based on their having achieved through scholarly publications, editorial work, conference papers, and professional service to associations, a level recognized by their peers for having earned and demonstrated a regional, national, or international expertise. He achieved this not by watering down the standards, but by very strongly encouraging scholarly excellence amongst archivists. They were experts in their specialization by medium, function, or subject areas, he was fiercely proud of them, and he rewarded them for being so, just as professors are promoted within universities.

To have done all this in a dozen years, and so much more I've left out, amid the pressures of severe downsizing, new cross-government information policies, and new computer technologies, is a remarkable achievement by any standard. But all these changes, important as they were, remained for Dr. Wallot only means to a much larger end. I want to conclude, appropriately, with his own words, by addressing those ends, the larger archival ideals that he pursued. These tells us why (not the what and how on my Top Ten List, but why) he did what he did, and why, in so doing, despite all these major changes I've outlined, he remained true to the ideals of the Dominion Archivists Brymner, Doughty, Lanctot, Lamb, and Smith before him. Here is Dr. Wallot, from his very first annual report as Dominion Archivist of Canada:

A nation without archives is a nation without a history and ... a nation without a history is a nation without a culture; it is a nation without a memory, unable to relate to the events, undertakings and achievements that make up its collective personality; a nation lacking both the identity it needs to understand itself and others and the perspective necessary to guide its future. Without a past, without knowing what has gone on before, a nation is incapable of taking full advantage of its institutions, of justifying them, of defending its collective and individual rights, and of providing a solid base for those rights that reflects their meaning and scope. ...These [archival] documents are exciting not only because of their age, but also because they reveal our roots, without which we could not develop a coherent view of the future. Preparations for tomorrow's past must be made today by gathering together contemporary documents of historical significance. The present quickly becomes the past, so we must preserve each link in the chain of time so that the chain will not break and lose all meaning. ...Just as nature cannot abide a vacuum, the present cannot abide an ill-defined past.

Dr. Wallot did much to fill an archival vacuum here, at the National Archives, with panache and energy, with ideas and imagination, with extraordinary personal commitment and forceful leadership, through hard work and incredible hours of it, by his concrete decisions and by his inspiring example, and by his inspiring words, as you've just heard. Of course, he had enormous help from his fellow senior and middle managers and from archivists and all staff, as he readily acknowledged, but he set the tone, the direction, and the pace!

His profound commitment to the ideals of public memory, citizen rights, and national heritage will long resonate, and Canada's past and Canadian archivy are much the better for it. We rightly celebrate tonight a great Canadian, and we reflect that generations of Canadians to come will enjoy his rich legacy, that golden "chain of time" so well polished during his period as National Archivist, a chain of meaning linking past, present, and future that was the dream and the life work of Jean-Pierre Wallot.

Thank you very much – merci beaucoup.

** This manuscript draws on the author's early draft of the chapter on Jean-Pierre Wallot, that will be part of a book on the History of the Public / National Archives of Canada, 1872 to 2004, which he is co-authoring with Glenn T. Wright, with assistance from Ian E. Wilson.*