



A NOTE AMONG FRIENDS

WINTER 2014 – 2015

Librarian and Archivist of Canada



PHOTO CREDIT - MICHEL GAGNÉ

For all to see: a note to the Friends

When staff at the Randall House Museum in Wolfville spotted our Flickr album about a fascinating journal created by Emily Carr, they felt compelled to comment: "It is wonderful that this has ended up in LAC's hands for us all to see." How wonderful indeed.

As the new Librarian and Archivist of Canada, I am delighted to come across this kind of recognition for our work. Thanks to the Friends we have added numerous rare items to our collection, everything from the Carr acquisition to the first Bible ever printed in Canada, and thanks to our staff, most of it has already been digitized.

One of my first priorities is to work with employees, with stakeholders, and with the Friends to connect the dots for a public which may have forgotten who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Since a key aim of the Friends is to promote and encourage public awareness of, interest in, and support for the work of LAC, I place a special value on our collaboration.

The work of the Friends supports the four key commitments I have set out for the organization.

These commitments are that LAC:

- is an institution dedicated to serving its clients, all its clients, including government, donors, universities, researchers, students, genealogists and the general public;
- is an institution at the leading edge of archival and library science and new technologies, drawing on the strength of all its staff;
- is proactively engaged with national and international networks in an open and inclusive way; and
- is an institution with greater public visibility, highlighting the value of its collection and services.

Working together, LAC and the Friends can contribute both to our national pride and a sense of shared heritage. I very much look forward to embarking on this journey with you.

Dr. Guy Berthiaume

Librarian and Archivist of Canada





President's Message



It is a great pleasure to be writing a few words for this latest incarnation of *A Note Among Friends*, as I believe it can be a very useful means for us to keep in touch. In our last issue of Winter 2009, we indicated that we hoped our website would provide much of the news to our members but that we would continue *A Note* for more in-depth coverage and to track the development and major activities of the Friends over the years. Unfortunately our time and attention went into web activities so *A Note* languished, but hopefully we are now back on track with this Winter 2014 issue, where it is our pleasure to welcome the new Librarian and Archivist of Canada.

Board members are looking forward to working with Library and Archives Canada as they move into this new phase of their development. We are counting on all our great volunteers for support with some new activities and perhaps a revival of some previous successful ones.

The past couple of years have been full of changes—large and small—including two moves for the book sale organizers and our office administration. Now both activities are located at 395 Wellington Street, so if you are nearby, do drop in—we have a nice new coffee machine and Georgia and Roseanne would be delighted to have Friends join them for a cup.

As for future issues of *A Note*, it is our hope that the majority of our Friends who have email will receive the electronic version. This will help us to reduce costs, particularly the ever-increasing postage charges. For those who do not have email, please let us know by returning the enclosed form and you will continue to receive a paper copy.

With the holiday season fast approaching, the board members join me in wishing you all a very happy holiday season and the best of health and happiness in 2015.

Marianne Scott



Web News



www.friendsoflibraryandarchivescanada.ca

We're looking for your ideas to make the website better! Please email (friends.amis@lac-bac.gc.ca) your suggestions for improvement—anything from “stories from Friends” to “let’s include more video.” We’re also going to start using Twitter (@FriendsLAC) to promote our organization, events and acquisitions. Do you tweet? Let us know!



AGM – 2014 highlights



At the annual general meeting, the committees reported on their accomplishments during the year. Acquisitions reported a \$50,000 contribution toward the purchase at auction of the Lord Sherbrooke collection; the Book Sale group described the amazing amount of work that the team accomplished at Tunney's Pasture—over 1,000 hours processing some 30,000 books in preparation for the book sale in September, which cleared over \$11,000; The Lowy Council reported on another year in which great interest was shown in the Lowy Collection from a number of different countries; last but not least, the Nominating Committee presented its slate for election, which included two new members for the Board.

On the administrative side, the new MOU was signed in December covering the next three years, which ensures a period of stability for us. The Acting Librarian and Archivist, Mr. Hervé Déry, attended the meeting and was generous in his appreciation of the Friends' activities in support of LAC and presented the Friends with a specially prepared poster of two of the drawings from the Emily Carr sketchbook, which was acquired recently with financial support from the Friends.

As always, it was a great pleasure to recognize one of our wonderful volunteers. This year the Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Daphne McCree who became a volunteer in 1994 and has been hard at work ever since. For the past number of years, she has taken on the project of pricing special books for the annual book sale.

As usual following the meeting, there was time for enjoying a glass of wine, a piece of cheese and a look at some items from the Sherbrooke collection as well as the Emily Carr sketchbook.

The loss of a good friend – Clara Lowy

The Jacob M. Lowy Collection is one of Canada's few public collections of incunabula and Hebraica. January 2, 2014 marked the passing of the donor's second wife, Clara Lowy (née Kroh). She was born in Kisvarda, Hungary in 1925. With her parents and adopted sister, Rifi, she was deported to Auschwitz in May 1944. She alone survived.

Both having been widowed, Clara and Jacob were married in 1968. Jacob, by then a Jewish community leader in Montreal, had found a sympathetic partner to his causes in Clara, one of them being the Lowy Collection. Even after Jacob's death in 1990, she would make the effort to travel to Ottawa to attend lectures or exhibits of the collection.

Clara also donated 15 more books on her own initiative. Her devotion to books is evident, as she once exchanged food for a Book of Psalms when she was a prisoner at Auschwitz.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Hélène Cayer



Born in Ottawa, Hélène Cayer has French ancestors who arrived in Canada in 1667. She also has Algonquin heritage. She worked at the National Arts Centre and then at the Canadian Space Agency, where she did public relations work for the Astronauts Program. She has greatly enjoyed her association with astronauts—she was with Marc Garneau when his film from space was shown at the IMAX theatre at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and Steve MacLean invited her to attend his launch from Cape Canaveral. After that, she worked for Bell Canada, as a team member starting the internet company, Bell Canada Enterprises. She describes herself as “passionate for history and culture.”

Monique Dupré

Monique Dupré, former Head of the International Gifts and Exchange Program, has worked for LAC and the former National Library for more than 35 years. She has been an inspirational leader and mentor to many employees over the years, and also displays a strong commitment to the public. She is well-respected in the library community nationally and internationally.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Marianne Scott

Vice President – Kathleen Shaw

Treasurer – Michael Gnarowski

Secretary – Georgia Ellis

Past President – Ron Cohen

Ex-officio Board Members

Chair, Lowy Council – Norman Barwin

Librarian and Archivist of Canada – Dr. Guy Berthiaume

Board Members

Hélène Cayer

Monique Dupré

Derek Ellis

Barbara Hicks

Grace Hyam

Bob Lamoureux

Carrol Lunau

Donald Meakin

Wanda Noel