

Model Libraries Project recommends school collection

by J.G. Reade

In 1980, Peter Kidd, then Director of the Canadian Learning Materials Centre (C.L.M.C.), Halifax, submitted a brief to the Minister's Task Force on School Libraries, drawing attention to the need for increased representation of Canadian and regional material in the school libraries of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Kidd also spoke on this matter to members of the Nova Scotia School Library Association (N.S.S.L.A.) and suggested that, to aid in the selection of Canadian material for school library collections, a bibliography be compiled of suitable Canadian and regional titles. This bibliography would be in three parts, elementary, junior high and senior high. Titles for the bibliography were to be recorded from existing school library collections in the Province and the recording would be done by members of the N.S.S.L.A.

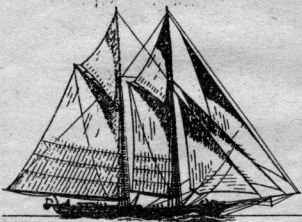
Under the auspices of the Learning Materials Centre, a committee to compile the elementary section of the bibliography was formed in 1981, and comprised school library staff from the school boards of Halifax City, Dartmouth City and Halifax County. The project, now termed the 'Model Libraries Project', was chaired by a member of N.S.S.L.A. A standard form was devised for recording titles and the committee met on a regular basis from the spring of 1981 onwards, to discuss problems and exchange information.

The task of collecting and recording titles has now been completed and the elementary bibliography (entitled *Atlantic Book Choice: Recommended Canadian and Regional Titles for an Elementary School Library Collection*), was published in the early summer of 1983.

The aim of C.L.M.C., after publication of the bibliography, is to purchase all or some of the titles listed, to form a display collection, which can be circulated around the Province, for use in school libraries and teachers' centres. It is hoped that this display collection will be of particular value in those areas where there are few library staff and teachers and principals must select books for the school library.

With the elementary committee having completed its task, work on the high school section of the bibliography is continuing with the selection of titles and material for the junior high section of the bibliography now being prepared.

The bibliography being produced for the Model Libraries Project is intended as an aid to the selection of titles for a basic collection, for upgrading existing library collections, as a buying guide, and to provide assistance in the cataloguing of material.



ATLANTIC BOOK CHOICE

Recommended Canadian and Regional Titles For An Elementary School Library Collection

A Project of the Canadian Learning Materials Centre and the Nova Scotia School Library Association

J.G. Reade is Chairperson of the Elementary Committee, Model Libraries Project, a joint effort of the Nova Scotia School Libraries Project and the Canadian Learning Materials Centre.

APLA Bulletin

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Legal Reference Service gets boost with PLEA LINE

by Terri Tomchyshyn

If a house has been bought and sold in less than one year, is it still necessary to have a title search done? Do native Indians have the power to contract? Is there such a thing as a "good Samaritan" law in Nova Scotia? Can a will be probated without a lawyer? Are bilingual labels required on tinned food imported from the United States for sale in Canada?

It's not every day that a public or school librarian gets handed this kind of a tough legal reference question. But it does happen often enough that the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, and the Libraries Committee of the province's Public Legal Education Society have developed the PLEA LINE to assist local libraries in providing better service on legal queries.

The Public Legal Education and Assistance Line, or PLEA LINE, is a collect call telephone line to the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. The cost of the service is carried by the Public Legal Education (PLE) Society, funded by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia.

The Provincial Library was chosen as the location for the PLEA LINE because one of its functions is to provide back-up reference and information service to the regional libraries in Nova Scotia.

HOW DOES PLEA LINE WORK?

Because of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library's mandate to provide support services to libraries, as opposed to direct services, the PLEA LINE is another information resource for public libraries. Members of the public cannot call the PLEA LINE directly.

If a library patron has a request for legal information, staff first check their own collections. If the appropriate information is not found, a collect call is placed by the library to the PLEA LINE. Particulars of the problem are noted by the reference librarian at the Provincial Library.

One of a number of law librarians in the local area is consulted to find the best answer to the question. Among those participating at this time are the libraries of the N.S. Attorney General's Office, the Nova Scotia Barristers Society, The Dalhousie Law School, some of the larger local law firms, and the N.S. Legislative Library.

Answers are usually given within a twenty-four hour period, either by mail or by telephone depending on the urgency of the request. Answers may involve referrals to other agencies, interlibrary loans of materials, or photocopying of material. If the question appears to be asking for advice such as in a boundary dispute or division of marital possessions, the patron will be referred to the Lawyer Referral Service. As librarians, our job is to provide legal information, not legal advice!

The PLE Society publishes the "PLEA LINE Newsletter" which is sent quarterly to regional libraries to keep staff up to date on activities of the PLE Society and the PLEA LINE.

HAS IT SUCCEEDED?

While the line cannot be used by the general public, those who have direct access, such as, librarians and support staff in regional libraries, school librarians and high school law teachers are positive in their feedback.

After a six month trial period, a survey was done to determine usage and ways to improve the service. The number of calls received in these first months was less than had been anticipated; perhaps due to the newness of the service, only 27 inquiries were handled. On the positive side, more calls than had been expected came from school libraries.

The major problems identified in the survey were:

1. The lack of anonymity for the caller—an inhibiting factor—therefore use of the line is not as high as it could be. The patron must take his/her problem to the library and therefore must take the library staffperson into his/her confidence. Patrons are often not comfortable with this approach and may thus decide not to pursue the information they require. Librarians surveyed believe that people with legal information problems usually have personal enquiries, and would prefer to remain anonymous. 7 out of 10 responding libraries indicated this is a major concern.

It was felt that if the PLEA LINE went "public" to a direct call system, this particular problem would be solved and heavier use of the line would result.

While this is a goal for the PLEA LINE, it cannot be accomplished unless the line is moved from the Provincial Library. As the library does not provide a direct service to the public, an "open" PLEA LINE would be beyond the scope of the Provincial Library.

2. Libraries felt that the PLEA LINE was not given enough publicity. Regional libraries felt that publicity should come from the PLE Society.

3. There is not enough legal information available in Nova Scotia. While material is available concerning federal law and other provincial jurisdictions (such as Ontario and British Columbia) Nova Scotia has very little in comparison.

AN EVEN BETTER SERVICE?

As a result of comments received from the regional libraries, recommendations have been made by the Libraries Committee to the Public Legal Education Society.

The survey revealed that while the library to library system was working well, a direct toll-free line would provide a better service for the public and allow individuals to remain anonymous. The PLEA LINE should be placed at the PLE Society offices with the law libraries providing the same support service to Society staff that was provided to the librarian at the Provincial Library.

Further, the PLE Society should provide a central resource collection of legal materials for the layperson. (The Society has iden-

tified this as a need, and hopes by the end of 1984 to have a substantial collection available to the public libraries).

There should be a basic public relations kit about the Society and its service for distribution to the libraries which, in turn, could be adapted to suit each region's individual public relations program. (Some of the Libraries Committee members felt that the libraries should devise their own publicity, as they know their regions best).

Finally, the PLE Society should be taking an active part in seeing that the writing and publication of legal materials concerning Nova Scotia law be promoted within the province. (Again, the Society has identified this as a priority area).

With the recent cutbacks in government funding of legal aid, it seems that there will be more and more demands on libraries to provide legal information to their clients. While libraries and librarians are not attempting to replace the lawyer, or the services provided by legal professionals, more people are interested in the law and want to know where they stand with certain legal situations.

All libraries in the province cannot hope to provide the resources necessary for complete legal information collections. The PLEA LINE is making strides in filling the gap and providing this important service to libraries in Nova Scotia.

Terry Tomchyshyn is Reference Librarian with the Nova Scotia Provincial Library.

Public Legal Education Society of Nova Scotia

A non-profit society dedicated to providing the public with information about law and legal processes in an understandable and accessible form.

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Members of the Spryfield, Nova Scotia Lions Club are shown helping Mrs. Jean Morgan, Branch Head of the new Halifax Mainland South Branch Library, unpack books prior to the branch's official opening.

Halifax Mainland South Branch Open

13,000 plus items circulate in new branch's first 20 days.

The official opening of the Mainland South Branch Library on June 10, 1983 marked the culmination of over eight years of endeavor on the part of the Halifax City Regional Library Board, Halifax City Council, and Library and City Staff.

As a first indication of the planners' success, more than 13,500 items circulated from the new location in its first 20 days.

Since making a formal commitment in 1975 to establishing branch library services in Mainland South, the Library Board had carried out an extensive review of possible locations and sought out community preferences through public meetings and other forms of citizen involvement.

The main floor (approximately 5,000 sq. ft.) of a former Nova Scotia Liquor Commission store on Herring Cove Road now houses not only the book, magazine, record, and cassette collections, but also provides study and browsing facilities, programming area, and staff work space.

The newly renovated space, planned by library staff with the professional assistance of the City Architect and his staff, will serve as the branch library for the Mainland South area until a new Community Centre complex being financed by the City of Halifax and the Province of Nova Scotia is ready for occupancy.

Over 200 people attended the opening ceremony. Following the ribbon-cutting by Halifax Mayor Ronald Wallace, the two Aldermen for the area checked out the first books.

Underfunding could be the major problem, says Committee

APLA's brief on Nova Scotia post-secondary education nears completion

The present condition and future health of the libraries of Nova Scotia's post-secondary institutions are now under scrutiny by an Atlantic Provinces Library Association committee.

The APLA brief will be presented before November 1 to a Royal Commission examining the state of the province's higher education.

Necessary delays in the formation of the committee and in the preparation of its report have made it impossible to provide APLA's members with the preview of the committee's findings recommended at May's APLA Conference, but the executive will have an opportunity to study the issues raised before the brief makes its way to the Royal Commission.

The committee convenor, Nova Scotia's APLA Vice-president Margot Schenk, told the *Bulletin*, "The committee believes that the fate of libraries will follow that of the universities. Nonetheless, it will only do us good to bring the plight of post-secondary and other libraries directly to the Royal Commission. Fundamentally, this will be an exercise in consciousness raising."

Rather than arguing for university libraries alone, the Committee's approach will be to make the case for libraries in general. "We are going to discuss public libraries and their role in post-secondary education, and school libraries and their place in preparing students for post-secondary education" says Ms. Schenk. "And we want to make sure that the Commission is aware of the degree to which businesses and governments draw on university libraries."

This broader perspective is reflected in the committee's makeup. In addition to Ms. Schenk, members are Carin Somers of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, Jerry Miner of Agriculture Canada, Norman Horrocks of the Dalhousie School of Library Service, Iain Bates of Acadia University, Joan Fage of Maritime Tel and Tel, and Peter Glenister of Mount St. Vincent University. Along with bringing a varied working background to the committee, this composition will be able to present the broader APLA viewpoint more fully than a group comprised solely of university library personnel.

To some degree, according to Ms. Schenk, individual university libraries will be represented by their parent institutions. "Though we have no idea what the universities will say, we expect that our recommendations will complement theirs. As well, APLA will have specific recommendations which pertain to libraries as a whole."

"There's no lack of issues for us to deal with. First of all, we have to emphasize the vital importance of libraries in post-secondary education. We have to make the Commission aware of the cooperative efforts we have made in the past. Naturally, we are going to mention the Nova Scotia Union Catalogue, an outstanding example of cooperation amongst various kinds of libraries, and one which has operated well for so many years.

"Even in the face of all the automated national efforts there is very much to be said for our having access to even stronger regional resources. One such possibility is an automated union catalogue; it would be an impetus for rationalizing collections, and would in the end enable more people to use

fewer copies of the libraries' materials.

"This kind of cooperation costs money, however, and the major problem we run up against right now is funding."

"The Royal Commission has invited us to address all sorts of issues, such as the direction of post-secondary education—should it be technical or classical, should it emphasize job preparation, and if so which jobs—that the committee doesn't really feel prepared to examine especially considering the time and resource available. Instead, we are going to stay focused on libraries.

"Right now we are at the stage of information gathering and analysis. We don't yet have firm recommendations, but if I had to guess a common viewpoint, it would be that

underfunding is the most serious problem we are facing. I think we will find that resources are dwindling, that inflation is being accounted for, that our collections are not building at a rate which will in the long run provide a solid scholarly foundation. Our job is to document this, if it is the case, make sure that the Commission knows the important issue is, and then press the case for having the basic resources available. We can't rely on the rest of Canada—theirs may not always be available to us.

"I'm hoping that we can come up with a document of use not only in the Commission hearings, but of value to whole of APLA membership."

Atlantic libraries and archives: a directory of special collections, compiled by Iain Bates and Ann Nevill, Atlantic Provinces Library Association, Halifax, 1983, \$5.00, ISBN 0 920844 01 4.

Send order form and payment to:
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Bibliography of recent Acadiana published

CLAUDE POTVIN

ACADIANA

1980-1982

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One measure of the present vitality in Acadian literature is the recent publication of *Acadiana 1980-1982* by Claude Potvin.

This work, an inventory of more than 200 books in the French language from or about Acadia published in 1980, 1981, and 1982, is intended by the author to be exhaustive. Each title is annotated in French and English.

One of the most promising signs demonstrated in this bibliography, according to M. Potvin, is that more than 150 of the titles originate from the Atlantic provinces.

The author, a frequent contributor to the *APLA Bulletin*, is director of the Albert Westmorland-Kent regional library in New Brunswick. Copies of *Acadiana 1980-1982* are available from the author, 358 Hennessey Rd., Moncton, N.B., E1A 4Y5, at a cost of \$21.00 each.

Bulletin Board

LT's plan improved information-sharing; 1984 conference discussed

The APLA Committee on Library Technicians met on September 9 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. The committee's purposes and plans were discussed; a preliminary discussion about the 1984 APLA Conference in Charlottetown was also on the agenda.

According to the newly-appointed committee convenor, Muriel Allen of the PEI Provincial Library, the committee feels the need to strengthen its role as an information-and-idea-sharing forum for library technicians. For this purpose, a single contact person will be selected for each province. Serving on the APLA committee, this person will serve as an information liaison person between the committee and library technicians in the province.

The committee is also concerned about the status of library technicians in the region. The CLA's help is being sought in discovering suitable correspondence courses for L.T.'s; anything learned about this, together with information on any regional workshops will be passed on to all library technicians.

The committee is particularly keen to see an improved turnout of technicians at the May, 1984 APLA Conference. Among the proposals being discussed is one which

would see library technicians from out-of-province billeted at the homes of their PEI counterparts. As well as planning a break-the-ice social event, the committee is now considering programme ideas. At this stage, according to Ms. Allen, it is expected that lectures and workshops will rely largely on local people.

Committee Examines Newspaper Collection, Preservation

by Mary Margaret Whyte

A major project to improve the collection and preservation of newspapers in Nova Scotia is underway.

The project began with an indication by the National Library that it was interested in local work on these problems, and in the creation of a national policy on newspapers. Lorraine McQueen, then of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, approached a number of provincial libraries and archives; the formation of the present Ad Hoc Committee resulted.

This committee, first convened by Ilga Leja (N.S. Legislative Library) and now chaired by Mary Margaret Whyte of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS), has as members Elizabeth Bamfield (N.S. Provincial Library), Michael Colbourne (Halifax City Regional Library), Allan Dunlop (PANS), and Wendy Duff (PANS).

As a first step, the committee distributed a survey on current Nova Scotia newspapers. Most librarians, museum curators, and archivists have by now received (and hopefully returned) a copy.

The committee's goals for the future include:

1. The identification of all Nova Scotia newspapers: dailies, weeklies, monthlies.
2. The publishing of a union list/directory of Nova Scotia newspapers, past and present, and keeping it up to date, with complete bibliographic information.
3. An organized continuous microfilming programme for Nova Scotia newspapers, current and retrospective.

At the moment the committee is concentrating on the current publications, but hopes to move quickly to include all titles back to 1752. The National Library has been approached for assistance and they in turn have requested a proposal for the pro-

duction of the directory and collection plans.

The committee would appreciate suggestions or late questionnaire returns. Anyone missed in the survey, or who would like to correspond with the committee for any other reason should write to:

Mary Margaret Whyte,
Newspaper Librarian,
Public Archives of Nova Scotia,
6016 University Ave.,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 1W4.

Thanks are due to all who have responded, including Mount Allison University, which while not in Nova Scotia, does collect N.S. newspapers, and responded promptly.

Government Documents guides made available

The Patrick Power Library at St. Mary's University has recently published a second edition of two useful government documents guides: *The Census in Canada* and *Statistics Collected by the Federal Government of Canada*.

On request one free copy will be made available to any library. Write to:

Documents Section
Patrick Power Library
Saint Mary's University
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3C3

Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope, at least 15 x 22 cm. in size. (The publications weigh 25 grams each; according to Canada Post, a 32 cent stamp is required for first-class mail for one item and 48 cents postage for two.)

Upcoming:

A one-day statistics workshop will be held in the Nan Gregg Room, Harriet Irving Library, U.N.B., Fredericton on November 18th. This workshop will be convened by Prof. Charles Hurt, McGill Graduate School of Library Science. This full day workshop will consider probability, statistical tests, sample size determination among other features along with examples and hands-on use. The cost is \$20.00 per person. For further information please contact, Eric Swanick, Legislative Library, P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1. Tel: (506) 453-2338.

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APLA Bulletin

The *APLA Bulletin* is a bi-monthly organ of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association. The Association seeks to promote library service through the provinces of Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, to serve the professional interests of librarians in the region, to serve as a focal point for all those in library services in the Atlantic Provinces, and to cooperate with library associations and other organizations on matters of mutual concern.

Individual annual membership in the Association is \$15.00, and includes a subscription to the *APLA Bulletin*.

The Executive of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, 1983-84

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All correspondence to the Association should be addressed to the appropriate officer, c/o the School of Library Service, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4H8.

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The deadline for all material to be submitted for the November issue of the *APLA Bulletin* will be November 4, 1983.

Editor's notes:

Stacks down, Royal Commission, and why editorials have larger type.

A few notes about the contents of this issue:

Although the cause of Mount Allison's stacks crash (p.11) has not been determined, this potentially dangerous event gives pause for some thought. The fact that libraries are one of the safest of all places of work is no reason for complacency. Even with our attention (and our money) drawn by hard times to a panoply of other priorities, the continuing maintenance of our physical facilities remains as crucial as ever.

APLA members will remember that the May 1983 Conference mandated not only the writing of a brief to be presented to the Nova Scotia Royal Commission on Post-Secondary Education, but also that its content, in draft form, be distributed if

possible to members for comment prior to submission. Due to understandable time constraints, this highly optimistic plan has not been realized. And now it appears that there will be an even longer delay in bringing the brief to the membership. The Commission has instructed us that the content of our submission must remain unpublished until after its formal presentation—probably not until spring.

The editors again encourage you to try your hand at the Baffle Board, found on page 12.

Continued on page 10.

Notes from the President's desk

by André Guay

Dear colleagues:

As we are moving towards the end of 1983, and preparing ourselves for the next annual conference, to be held in Charlottetown next May, it might be worthwhile for each of us, if we have not already done so, to start to formulate some of the questions we would like to have answered by our col-

leagues working in similar situations but not necessarily in the same milieu.

Some of you might like to challenge the concepts advanced by the new technologies. If so, do remember that your *Bulletin* is the best medium to reach your colleagues. Don't hesitate to use pseudonyms if you wish. Your editor, Ken Clare, will appreciate receiving your comments and will publish them, providing they are authentic.

I would like at this time to report the following: A letter urging the Federal Minister of Communications to establish a national commission on the emerging information society as proposed in the March, 1983 report of the Department of Communication's Canadian Videotext Consultative Committee Sub-Committee on the Effects of Videotext on Individuals and Society, has been dispatched.

Margot Schenk convened a committee to write a brief to be presented on behalf of the Association to the Royal Commission on Post-secondary Education in Nova Scotia.

The Programme Committee of the 1983-1984 annual APLA conference is working strenuously under the leadership of Dianne MacQuarrie. I understand that persons like Jane Thornley, of the school library system, Iain Bates from the university library system, Jerry Miner of the special library system, Norman Horrocks from the Dalhousie School of Library Service, and their secretary, Pauline Hildesheim, all members of the committee, are experiencing problems of stress. You might like to suggest the use of the best of our relaxing methods next May.

Finally, on behalf of the executive, I wish to inform you that the fall executive meeting of the Association is to be held at St. Mary's University on Saturday, Oct. 29, 1983, at 10 a.m.

Résolutions de l'Association des Bibliothèques des Provinces de l'Atlantique

44ième Assemblée générale Mai 1983

1ère résolution:

Il est résolu que l'Association des bibliothèques des Provinces de l'Atlantique écrive au Ministère fédéral des communications le sollicitant instamment d'établir une commission nationale sur la société d'information émergente, telle que proposée dans le rapport de mai 1983 du Ministère des communications, Comité consultatif du vidéotexte canadien, Sous-comité sur les effets du vidéotexte sur les individus et la société.

Proposée par: Peter Glenister
Appuyée par: Andrew Poplawski

2ième résolution:

Il est résolu que le vice-président pour la Nouvelle-Ecosse de l'Association des bibliothèques des Provinces de l'Atlantique convoque un comité spécial afin de préparer un exposé destiné à la Commission sur l'enseignement post-secondaire de la Nouvelle-Ecosse, afin d'examiner les problèmes

relatifs aux bibliothèques et;

Il est résolu qu'on distribue, dans la mesure du possible une ébauche de cet exposé aux membres de l'Association des bibliothèques des Provinces de l'Atlantique pour fin de commentaires avant la soumission de ce rapport.

Proposée par: Peter Glenister
Appuyée par: Andrew Poplawski

3ième résolution:

Il est résolu que l'Association des bibliothèques des Provinces de l'Atlantique exhorte fortement le gouvernement du Canada afin qu'il continue à pourvoir de fonds l'Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques dans sa tentative de conserver notre héritage canadien et de le rendre accessible au peuple canadien et;

Il est résolu que la provision de fonds de ce projet soit de la première priorité.

Proposée par: Gayle Garlock
Appuyée par: Arthur Smith

4ième résolution:

Il est résolu que l'Association des biblio-

thèques des Provinces de l'Atlantique exprime ses remerciements:

- à Dalhousie University pour avoir été l'hôte du Congrès annuel de 1983 et pour avoir fourni les facilités;
- à Blackwell North America, à A.G. Brown and Son, au Canadian Book Information Centre, à John Coutts, à Dalhousie University (notamment le Bureau du président, la School of Library Service et la bibliothèque), à Dalhousie University School of Library Service Associated Alumni, à Mahons Stationery, à N.S. Stationers, à R & R Bookbinding, à 3M Canada Inc., et à UTLAS Inc., pour leurs dons et autre appui;
- à Mary Dykstra, Ann Cameron et Everett Brenner pour avoir donné les discours sur le thème du Congrès;
- aux conférenciers, aux participants de la table ronde et à tous ceux qui ont contribué au programme et;
- au Comité local d'organisation du Congrès et au Comité du programme pour l'organisation d'un congrès très satisfaisant.

Proposée par: Douglas Vaisey
Appuyée par: Lloyd Melanson

The Atlantic Provinces have played a major role in the establishment of an English language children's literature in Canada. Even in the nineteenth century, with writers like James DeMille, James Macdonald Oxley and Margaret Marshall Saunders, children's books achieved a prominence and popularity that carried over into the twentieth century and intensified with writers like Lucy Maud Montgomery whose books continue to flourish the world over.

Because of the wealth of material at hand, it was necessary, for the purpose of this article, to choose to present an overview of children's literature in the Atlantic Provinces, with emphasis, for the most part, on the major trends and contributions of the past and present. Included in the text are books by Canadian authors who reside or have resided in the Atlantic Provinces and who have written books with children and young people in mind. Also included are books, such as *Red fox* by Charles G.D. Roberts, which have passed into the realm of children's literature because of their popularity with the younger set. A short paragraph on noteworthy books with an Atlantic setting written by authors living elsewhere in Canada has been added.

NINETEENTH CENTURY

In his article *Early children's books of the Atlantic Provinces: notes on the literature to 1915. Part one* (in *The Occasional*, Vol. 6, no. 2, Fall, 1980), L.S. Loomer states that 'there were more children's books available'

in these provinces through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries 'than anywhere else in Canada'. His statement is substantiated by the bookseller and stationer, C.H. Belcher, who mentions in an advertisement in *Belcher's Farmer's Almanach of 1840* that children's books were plentiful in Nova Scotia at that time. The reference, in all probability, is to material of an instructional nature and would include Bibles, psalm and prayer books as well as textbooks. The first storybook, according to Loomer, is *Little Grace; or Scenes in Nova Scotia*, written by the anonymous Miss Grove, in which she describes the history of Nova Scotia in narrative form. It was printed in Halifax in 1846 and is listed in *Bibliotheca canadensis; or, A manual of Canadian Literature* by Henry J. Morgan (Desbarats, 1867).

The dominant literary genres during the early period were the adventure and animal stories which reflected the writers' deep interest in the physical or natural environment and in which the chief protagonists in the story battle the land and learn to survive.

There were a number of authors of competent calibre who wrote specifically for children as well as for adult readers. One of these was James DeMille (his family used DeMill but the author wrote under DeMille after 1865). DeMille was born in New Brunswick, probably in 1833 (d. 1880). In his short literary career, he wrote several books, eleven of which were for children. He was a good storyteller and, as a children's author, is best remembered for his highly readable stories (although dated by today's standards) published in the B.O.W.C. (Brethren of the White Cross) series and reprinted, in some cases, several times. These

stories grew out of his experience at school and at home in the Maritimes and the titles include: *The "B.O.W.C.": a book for boys* (Lee and Shepard, 1869, 1893); *The boys of Grand Pré school* (Lee and Shepard, 1870, 1899); *Lost in the fog* (Lee and Shepard, 1870, 1875); *Fire in the woods* (Lee and Shepard, 1871, 1893); *Picked up adrift* (Lee and Shepard, 1872); and *The treasure of the seas* (Lee and Shepard, 1872, 1893). His second series of books for boys was called 'The Young Dodge Club' and, this time, DeMille drew on his experience in Italy while on a tour there in 1859 (for instance, *The seven hills*—Lee and Shepard, 1873 and *The winged lion; or, Stories of Venice*—Lee and Shepard, 1877, 1904). Although he succeeded in avoiding didacticism in his adventure stories, DeMille, interestingly, wrote a book in which he extolled the qualities of obedience, industry and piety: *A book for boys; containing stories of boys who won their way to honor or wealth by obedience, industry and piety* (Sheldon, Blakeman, 1873?).

James Macdonald Oxley (1855-1907) was born in Halifax but lived most of his adult life in Quebec and Ontario. He wrote about thirty children's books that were adventure or historical novels, with settings in the Maritimes (for instance, *Fife and drum at Louisbourg*—Little, Brown, 1899/Morang, 1899), in other regions of Canada (for instance, *Up among the ice-floes*—American Baptist Publication Society, 1890/Nelson, 1901 and *The young woodsman; or Life in the forests of Canada*—Nelson, 1901) and elsewhere (for instance, *Donalblane of Darien*—Mussion, 1903). Oxley's stories are realistic and action-filled, told in a lively style that even some young readers of today

might still enjoy.

Margaret Marshall Saunders (1861-1947) was born in Nova Scotia. She spent a good part of her life in this province but also managed to travel to Europe and the United States. Her classic animal story *Beautiful Joe* was first published in 1893 by Charles H. Banes in the Holiday Edition. It is considered to be one of the best-selling Canadian children's books of all times and the latest Canadian imprint is with McClelland and Stewart (1972). The manuscript is housed with Acadia University. A sequel *Beautiful Joe's paradise; or, The island of brotherly love* (Page/Briggs, 1902; Page, 1912) did not achieve the same popularity as its predecessor. Saunders' style has rightly been characterized as sentimental but her humanitarian approach is also evidenced in regard to the treatment of animals in her stories. She was a prolific author, having written over thirty books which include animal stories, light children's fiction (for example, *Tilda Jane, an orphan in search of a home; a story for boys and girls*—Page/Briggs, 1901 and *The story of the Gravelys; a tale for girls*—Page, 1904, 1907) and popular fiction (for example, *Rose à Charlitte; an Acadian romance*—Page, 1898).

Sir Charles G(eorge) D(ouglas) Roberts was born in New Brunswick in 1860 (d. 1943). He taught in Nova Scotia at King's College and also worked in New York. He finally settled in Toronto in 1925. He had an unusually active and varied career as a writer which began in the nineteenth century and continued into the twentieth century. During his lifetime, he produced some fifty books which were primarily intended for an adult audience. He was, in turn, a

Canadian Children's Literature in the Atlantic Provinces

by Irene E. Aubrey

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poet (for instance, *Orion and other poems*—Lippincott, 1880), an editor (for instance, *Northland lyrics* (which includes the poetry of William Carman Roberts, Theodore Roberts and Elizabeth Roberts Macdonald)—Small, Maynard, 1899), a translator (for instance, *The Canadians of old* by Philippe Aubert de Gaspé—Appleton, 1890—original title *Les anciens Canadiens*), a writer of history (for instance, *A history of Canada*—Lamson, Wolfe & Co., 1897/Page, 1918), a novelist of historical romances (for instance, *The raid from Beauséjour and How the Carter boys lifted the mortgage; two stories of Acadie*—Hunt & Eaton/Cranston & Curts, 1894), and a writer of realistic animal stories, a literary genre in which he excelled as a casual observer of nature, with touches of anthropomorphism, rather than as a true naturalist. In her critical guide to Canadian children's literature *The republic of childhood* (Oxford, 1967, 1975), Sheila Egoff describes Roberts' successful contribution to the creation and development of the animal biography. Because his style of writing is facile and smooth, Roberts is still readable today and some of his stories have been reprinted as recently as 1977 with *Seven bears; selections from Thirteen bears* (Scholastic-TAB Publications) and 1980 with *Eyes of the wilderness* (Dent). His first major collection of animal stories, set in the forests of his native New Brunswick, *The kindred of the wild; a book of animal life* was published by Page in 1896 and reprinted several times (as were his many other collections). Other noteworthy titles are: *The feet of the furtive* (Ward, Lock & Co., 1912; Ryerson, 1947), *Kings in exile* (Ward, Lock & Co., 1909; Ryerson, 1947), *Neighbours unknown* (Ward, Lock & Co., 1910; Macmillan, 1933) and the full-length animal biography *Red fox* (Page/Copp, Clark, 1905; Puffin Books, 1976) which contains the right amount of action and excitement that still makes it appealing to children today.

Hairbreadth escapes of Major Mendax (book for boys) by Francis Blake Crofton (1841-1912) was published in 1889 by Hubbard Brothers. It is more a collection of tall tales than an adventure story. The theme revolves around two young boys who beg their uncle, the Major, to tell them stories of his travels to Africa. The tales, told tongue-in-cheek are, in some instances, amusing in their outrageousness but, in other instances, unacceptable in their unfavourable depiction of Blacks and references to cannibalism. Crofton was an Irishman who emigrated to Canada in his 20s. He lived for a while in Quebec and New York before becoming Provincial Librarian of Nova Scotia in 1882.

Mary L.T. Witter and Anna Green Winslow did not write adventure or animal stories. Witter, for whom no biographical information could be located, wrote two children's books of history. In the preface of her book on the Edomites (who descended from Esau or Edom), *The Edomites: their history as gathered from the Holy Scriptures* (S. Selden, 1888), Witter stated that 'it is for the young only that I write'. Her other book of history *A Book for the young; being a history of the kings who ruled over God's ancient people* was published by Mackinlay in 1870. Winslow, 'a bright little girl ten years of age' left her home in Nova Scotia, in 1770, to go to finishing school in Boston. She wrote a diary in which she recorded her thoughts and thus provided readers with insight into the way of life of a provincial town in the eighteenth century. Alice Morse Earle edited the diary which was published in

1894 by Houghton Mifflin under the title *Diary of Anna Green Winslow; a Boston school girl of 1771*. In her foreword, Earle provides interesting background to the Winslow family and relates that Anna's parents emigrated from the States and lived in Nova Scotia and Quebec. Mrs. Winslow returned to the States after her husband's death in 1801 and it is presumed that Anna died in 1779 at Marshfield, Mass.

TWENTIETH CENTURY 1900 - 1920

The trend in adventure and animal stories, begun in the nineteenth century, extended into the twentieth century as established writers continued to publish and new writers arrived on the scene. Other genres, such as historical and realistic fiction, biography and folk tales, also developed so that, in general, children's books experienced success in the first twenty years of the twentieth century. A collection of animal tales, *Mooswa and others of the boundaries* was published by Briggs and Scribner's in 1900. The author, William Alexander Fraser (1859-1933), was born in Nova Scotia but eventually settled in Ontario. In *Mooswa*, Fraser writes about 'the furred dwellers of the Northern forests' in a style similar to Charles G.D. Roberts, although he places more emphasis on anthropomorphism. His language is lyrical and is accessible to younger readers. Fraser published two other books of animal stories, *The outcasts* (Scribner's, 1901) and *The Sa'-zada tales* (Scribner's, 1905). Fraser's literary output, however, consisted mainly of mystery and adventure tales geared to a sophisticated and mature reading audience.

Theodore Goodridge Roberts (1877-1953) was the younger brother of Charles G.D. Roberts. He has not enjoyed the same fame as a writer as his brother but his work may someday receive its due measure of recognition. Like many other authors of his generation, he wrote poetry, historical romances and adventure stories. A couple of his novels, for example, *The red feathers* (Page, 1907; McClelland and Stewart, 1976), a story of a quest set in Newfoundland in early times and *Tom Akerley: his adventures in the tall timber and on Gaspard's clearing on the Indian river* (Page, 1923) are suitable for young people. In *Flying Plover: his stories, told him by Squat-by-the-fire* (Page, 1909), an old Indian woman recounts stories of Glooscap (Gluscap) and animals to her young grandson. (The large print must have been an attractive feature for young readers). Theodore Goodridge Roberts was a descriptive writer whose stories contained enough action to make them popular with children or young people.

Frank Baird (1870-1951) was born in New Brunswick. He wrote a story, full of adventure, about a boy from a London 'Home' who is shipwrecked off the coast of Labrador and befriended by 'Parson John'. It is called *Parson John of the Labrador* and was published in 1924 by The Religious Tract Society. Baird also wrote two historical novels, set in the Maritimes, in which he attempted to be 'as faithful to the fact' as possible. In *Roger Davis, Loyalist* (The Religious Tract Society, 1907), he writes about the coming of the Loyalists to Saint John and in *Rob Macnab; a story of old Pictou* (Royal Print & Litho, 1923), he writes about the pioneer settlers in Pictou, Nova Scotia. Interestingly, he says in his preface to *Rob Macnab* that he hoped that his story 'written at home, printed at home and about people at home' would 'appeal to young Canadians of today'.

A popular name in children's literature in general is Lucy Maud Montgomery who was born in Prince Edward Island in 1874 (d. 1942). She worked as a reporter and columnist and also taught for several years. She married the Reverend Ewan Macdonald in 1911 and moved to Toronto with him. Besides her many novels for children and adults, Montgomery also wrote poetry (*The*

watchman and other poems—McClelland and Stewart, 1916; Stokes, 1917), biography—with Mary Ester Miller MacGregor, whose pseudonym was Marian Keith, and Mabel Burns McKinley—(*Courageous Women*—McClelland and Stewart, 1934) and short stories (for instance, *Chronicles of Avonlea*—Page, 1912; McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1980 and the adult collection *The Doctor's Sweetheart and other stories*—McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1979). Montgomery's best memorial will be the lasting quality of her first novel, *Anne of Green Gables* which was published by Page in 1908, had already gone into its fiftieth impression by 1920 and was recently reprinted by Gatefold Books in 1980 in the series 'Canadian Large Print Books'. Critics have said that *Anne of Green Gables* is a sentimental story, with a fairy-tale kind of heroine, written in a mediocre style. Still *Anne* continues to enjoy an ongoing popularity because of the strong, wholesome appeal of its story in which Anne, an orphan, is adopted by an elderly sister and brother. Moreover, the author portrays, with a sense of humour, a heroine who is spirited, talkative and highly imaginative, who 'improves all the time' and who exhibits interest in other people, thus providing insight into the world around her. Like several of its sequels, *Anne of Green Gables* has been reprinted many times and has also been translated into at least nine languages, including French, Dutch, Finnish, Japanese, Slovak, Swedish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Polish. Other titles in the series are: *Anne of Avonlea* (Page, 1909; Gatefold Books, 1982), *Anne of Ingleside* (McClelland and Stewart, 1939; McClelland and Stewart-Bantam, 1981), *Anne of the island* (Page, 1915; Puffin Books, 1981), *Anne of Windy Poplars* (McClelland and Stewart, 1936; McClelland and Stewart-Bantam, 1981) and *Anne's house of dreams* (McClelland and Stewart, 1917; McClelland and Stewart-Bantam, 1981). Throughout her prolific career, Montgomery wrote some twenty novels but the books in the Anne series still remain the best-known and best-loved. Over the years, they have been read by millions.

Hiram Alfred Cody (1872-1948) was born in New Brunswick. He became a minister of the Anglican Church and wrote mostly popular fiction in which his primary objective was to teach Christian principles. He wrote, on request, a narrative of the life of Bishop Bompas for girls and boys called *On trail and rapid by dog-sled & canoe; the story of Bishop Bompas's life amongst the Red Indians and Eskimo* (Lippincott, 1911; Seeley, Service & Co., 1919). In this particular version, he added some new matter not included in his earlier publication for adult readers: *An apostle of the North; memoirs of the Right Reverend William Carpenter Bompas* (Musson, 1908; Seeley, Service & Co. and Dutton, 1913).

Cyrus Macmillan, who was Professor of English and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at McGill University (Montreal) was born in Prince Edward Island (1882-1953). He successfully retold, in traditional fairy-tale fashion, a series in Canadian tales collected from oral sources and which were first published in two separate volumes as *Canadian wonder tales* (Lane/Gundy, 1918; Lane, 1938) and *Canadian fairy tales* (Lane/Gundy, 1922; Macmillan, 1928). The two volumes were combined under one title *Canadian wonder tales* and published by Bodley Head in 1974. Oxford University Press reprinted thirty-five Micmac Indian stories from the collections under the title *Glooscap's country and other Indian tales*.

1920-1950

There were no books by new authors published during this period that met with any great measure of success except perhaps the short stories by Mary Evelyn Grannan. The established types of literature such as adventure stories, historical fiction (or, in some cases, adventure stories with a historical setting) and biography, or fictionalized

biography, were still in evidence but other types also appeared in the form of verse, short stories, career stories and condensed versions of traditional tales.

In 1928, Grace Helen Mowat wrote *Funny fables of Fundy and other poems for children* (Ru-Mi-Lou Books; rpr. Print Press, 1977). Mowat was born in New Brunswick in 1876 (d. 1964) and her poetry provides the reader with examples of wise, moral tales in verse, some of which relate to actual persons and events.

Zillah Katherine Macdonald was born in Nova Scotia (1885) but has lived a good part of her life in the United States. She began to write in the 20s and her literary career extended over a period of forty years, during which time she produced about twenty books for children and young people. Several books were career stories, with American settings, published by Messner in New York in the series 'A career romance for young moderns'. One of them *A cap for Corinna* (1958, 1952) was reprinted by Bantam Books (Montreal) in 1957 under the title *Nurse Fairchild's decision*. Macdonald wrote a few books which are set in Nova Scotia; for instance, a mystery story called *Mystery of the piper's ghost* (J.C. Winston, 1956, 1954) and a historical novel for young people, co-authored with Colin Macdonald about the first siege of Louisbourg in 1744 called *Flower of the fortress* published by Westminister in 1944 and reprinted in 1964 by Macmillan under the title *Prisoner of Louisbourg*.

Lilla Stirling has spent a considerable time in the United States. She was born in Nova Scotia in 1902 and began to write for children in the 40s. Her latest modern story *Anne of St. Ann's* was published as recently as 1981 by Formac. A couple of her novels have a historical setting: in *Gretchen of Grand Pré* (Longmans, 1967; Lancelotti, 1974) she describes the early life of settlers in the Maritimes through the eyes of a little girl and in *The stowaway piper* (Nelson, 1961; Formac, 1978) she tells the adventure story of a young boy who, in the eighteenth century, flees his home in Scotland and stows away on a ship bound for Nova Scotia. Stirling also wrote brief biographies of eleven noted women from Nova Scotia which she collected in *In the vanguard: Nova Scotia women mid-twentieth century* (Lancelotti Press, 1976).

Thomas H. Raddall (b. 1903) came from England in 1918 to settle in Nova Scotia. He has had a successful career as a writer of adult books which include historical novels and short stories. His contributions to children's literature were somewhat less successful and consist of two books: a fictionalized account of the Nova Scotia privateer called *The Rover: the story of a Canadian privateer* (Macmillan, 1964, 1958) published in the series 'Great Stories of Canada' and a historical novel on the attempted revolt in Nova Scotia against the British in 1776 called *Son of the hawk* (Winston/Doubleday, 1950).

In 1941, Mary Evelyn Grannan (1901-1975) published a book of short stories based on her famous radio series. It was called *Just Mary* and was published by Gay for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Her stories were very popular and one collection *More Just Mary stories* has recently been reprinted by Allen (1981, 1955). Whether these reprinted stories will have the same appeal with children today as they did thirty or forty years ago is questionable. The fact remains that during a period of twenty years, Grannan published about twenty-five books, some of which were also distributed in England and the United States. A sampling of titles include *Happy playtime: more Just Mary stories* (Allen, 1948), *Just Mary blue stories* (Allen, 1950), *Maggie Muggins* (Allen, 1944), *Maggie Muggins tee-vee tales* (Allen, 1958), and *Kim and Katy: circus day* (Allen, 1956). Mary Grannan was born in New Brunswick. She moved to Toronto when she became in charge of children's programming for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, but still managed to spend her summers



home in Fredericton.

In the early 1950s, Brunswick Press of Fredericton, New Brunswick, published several books, in two different series, which were small in format and averaged between ten and fifteen pages each. 'The Children's Coloured Library: Beaver Books' (1952) consisted of a boxed set of six hardcover books of fairy tales written by the Brothers Grimm and illustrated, in colour, by Gerda Born (*Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel, Mother Holle, The sleeping beauty, Snow White and Rose Red* and *Snow White and the seven dwarfs*). These same titles were reprinted in 1966 in soft cover, in the series 'BeaverDime Books' which, as the name of the series indicates, sold at a cost of ten cents. Over a period of a dozen years or so there were thirty titles published in this series which included, among others, well-known and popular tales or verse such as *The owl and the pussycat* (Edward Lear, 1953), *Wynken, Blynken and Nod* (Eugene Field, 1953), *The nightingale* (Hans Christian Andersen, rpr. 1966) and *The story of Augustus who would not have any soup* (Heinrich Hoffman, 1965). Also, in the 1950s and 1960s Brunswick Press published, in the series 'Beaver Books', original verse by the writer and literary critic Desmond Pacey (1917-1975) who emigrated to Canada from England; for instance, *The cow with the musical moo and other verses for children* (1952) and *The cat, the cow and the kangaroo: the collected children's verse of Desmond Pacey* (1968). In the late 1960s, Brunswick Press published a number of books, for the beginning reader, in a series called 'Stories of Canada: A BeaverBook for Young Canadians' (1967) in which they hoped to introduce young children to Canadian history and life, to 'things that everyone should know'. Most of the stories were written and illustrated by Jack Tremblay and consisted of very brief information on a variety of subjects; for instance, *Bluenose, The mighty St. Lawrence* and *The birth of hockey*. Brunswick Press is continuing its publishing programme with emphasis on Canadiana relating to the Atlantic Provinces. A couple of recent children's titles are *Foxy Freddy and his friends* by Al and Jim Morrison (1977) and *Linger by the sea* by Frances Itani (1979).

1960-1980

During these twenty years, children's literature in the Atlantic Provinces grew substantially and came to have a prominent share in the firm establishment of certain categories like folklore with Kay Hill and Carole Spray and realistic fiction with Kevin Major. Literary genres that were popular in the past are also part of the publishing output during this period and stories in picture book format begin to take on some importance.

Kay (Kathleen Louise) Hill was born in Nova Scotia in 1917. In her books of North American Indian legends, which have become classics, she has effectively retold, in myth-like fashion and entertaining style, legends of the Micmac Indians. They are: *Glooscap and his magic, legends of the Wabanaki Indians* (McClelland and Stewart, 1973, 1963/Dodd, Mead, 1963/Gollancz, 1964), *More Glooscap stories: legends of the Wabanaki Indians* (McClelland and Stewart, 1978, 1970/Dodd, Mead, 1970) and *Badger, the mischief-maker* (McClelland and Stewart, 1977, 1965/Dodd, Mead, 1965). Hill has also written a couple of biographies of famous personalities from Eastern Canada: *And tomorrow the stars: the story of John Cabot* (Dodd, Mead, 1968/Dent, 1970) and *Joe Howe: the man*

who was Nova Scotia (McClelland and Stewart, 1980).

In *Legends of a lost tribe: folk tales of the Beothuk Indians of Newfoundland* (McClelland and Stewart, 1976) Paul O'Neill (born in Newfoundland in 1928) has written a series of original tales of the Beothuk Indians based on what is known of their beliefs and customs, as no records of traditional lore exist.

Carole Spray (b. 1942) lives in New Brunswick. She is a very successful reteller of folk tales as shown in her humorous children's book about a pioneer who tries to hatch a horse from a pumpkin (*The mare's egg: a new world folk tale*—Camden House, 1981) and in her collection of stories from Eastern Canada *Will o' the wisp: folk tales and legends from down East* (Brunswick Press, 1979). *Will o' the wisp* includes interesting notes about the stories and their informants and is primarily intended for adult readers. Most of the stories, however, are excellent for telling or reading aloud and one hopes that they will be collected in a separate edition and published for children and young people.

The well-known traditional tale of the fisherman and his wife by the Brothers Grimm has been retold and illustrated by Jenni Lunn in *The fisherman and his wife: a Grimm's fairy tale* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1982). In this particular modern version, the setting is any harbour in Nova Scotia and Lunn, who hails from Nova Scotia, tells a rollicking story, spiced with saucy expressions.

Joyce Barkhouse (b. 1913 in Nova Scotia) is a well-known figure in the Maritimes. Two of her most successful books for children are a picture book that she wrote with Margaret Atwood called *Anna's pet* (Lorimer, 1980) and a well-written, readable biography of George Dawson called *George Dawson: the little giant* (Clarke, Irwin, 1974).

In a small stunning book of photographs, Zoe Lucas (b. 1950) describes a year in the life of a young stallion on Sable Island, Nova Scotia. It is called *Wild horses of Sable Island* and was published in the series 'An Owl Book' by Greey de Pencier in 1981. Lucas lives in Nova Scotia.

Contemporary realistic fiction for children has been relatively slow to develop anywhere in Canada. Three authors share in the notable strides made by Atlantic Canada in developing this genre. They are David Walker, Kevin Major and Tom Moore. David Walker was born in Scotland in 1911 and moved to Nova Scotia. He writes convincingly about real people and situations, as in the story about two children who befriend an old, irascible man, *Dragon hill* (Houghton Mifflin, 1962/Collins, 1963) or in the animal story, *Big Ben* (Houghton Mifflin, 1969/Collins, 1970). Kevin Major (b. in Newfoundland in 1949) is a young writer of considerable talent. His novels are set in Newfoundland and he writes about teenagers with understanding, sensitivity and power in a language that is sometimes graphic. In *Hold fast* (Clarke, Irwin, 1978, Delacorte, 1980) he tells the story of Michael who, suddenly deprived of his parents, must learn to reshape his world and in *Far from shore* (Clarke, Irwin, 1980; Delacorte, 1981) he describes a year in the life of a boy whose family is torn apart by his father's unemployment. Tom Moore (b. 1950) also lives in Newfoundland. He wrote a short, poignant novel for mature teenagers called *Good-bye momma* (Breakwater, 1976) in which a young boy must face the reality of his mother's death and learn to accept his father's remarriage.

There are two adventure sea stories, set in a historical context, that provide good, exciting reading. They are *The young privateersmen* (Lancelot, 1980) by Dexter Hubbard of Nova Scotia and *Quest of the golden gannet* (Breakwater, 1978) by Dorothy P. Barnhouse (b. 1914 in Newfoundland but living in Alberta) in which the young heroes battle the seas and pirates.

One of the more popular books in the area of verse is *Down by Jim Long's stage:*

rhymes for children and young fish (Breakwater, 1976). It is a collection of very simple nonsense rhymes about Newfoundland's sea life and both the author, Al Pittman, and illustrator, Pam Hall, live in Newfoundland. Pam Hall also wrote and illustrated a modern epic in verse called *On the edge of the eastern ocean* (GLC Publishers, 1982) in which a young puffin must fight for his survival after his island home is raided. It has been translated into French by Michelle Tisseyre under the title *Sur les îles des pierres dansantes* (P. Tisseyre, 1982).

Three other collections of poetry of interest are *Landwash days: Newfoundland folklore, sketches and verse for youngsters* (Newfoundland Book Publishers, 1980) by Tom Dawe (b. 1940 in Newfoundland), *A gommil from Bumble Bee Bight and other nonsense verse*, also by Tom Dawe (Harry Cuff, 1982) and *Christmas with the rural mail: a poem* (Nimbus, 1979) by Lance Woolaver (b. 1948 in Nova Scotia) and exquisitely illustrated by the primitive artist, Maud Lewis.

There have been minor attempts, even by small presses, to fill the gap in the area of the picture book and picture storybook. Lyndon House in New Brunswick, for example, has produced several books for very young children, usually with a purpose to teach, like *How Willie became an explorer* (1979) and *Oland the unwise owl* (1980), both written by Don Brewster. In 1977, Lancelot Press published a fine picture storybook about a cat who stows away on a fishing boat and falls overboard. It is called *Kiki of Kingfisher Cove: a tale of a Nova Scotia cat* and was written and illustrated by Barbara Shaw who resides in Nova Scotia. Lindee Climo whose home is in Prince Edward Island drew magnificent pictures for her book on farm animals called *Chester's barn* (Tundra Books, 1982). Rightly labelled 'a children's book as a work of art' by the publisher, it is now also available in French under the title *La grange de Chester*, translated by Jacques de Roussan and published by Soleil Diffusion (1982). Another artist, Ken Tolmie, who was born in Nova Scotia but has lived in several parts of Canada, wrote and illustrated, in black and white, a delightful, repetitive story called *A tale of an egg* (Oberon Press, 1975) in which an egg goes in search of his true identity.

Atlantic settings by authors from elsewhere

The Atlantic Provinces has provided the setting for books by authors who were not necessarily born in the region. Anyone who has visited the region easily understands a writer's interest to capture some of its beauty and fascination. For instance, the francophone writer of Quebec, Monique Corriveau, felt compelled, after a visit to Newfoundland with her family in the 1970s, to write a children's story with an East Coast setting. Thus, in her historical tale *Les saisons de la mer* (Fides, 1975), she tells the moving story of the McGuire family who live, in the 1910s, on the small island of Oderin off the coast of Newfoundland.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Norman Duncan, who was born in Ontario, spent a few years in the outposts of Newfoundland. His experience there gave him the necessary material to write a series of novels and short stories depicting the harsh life of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Notable among these is his successful children's story *The adventures of Billy Topsail* (Fleming H. Revell Co., 1906), excerpts of which were included in readers for school children. There were several, equally popular, sequels in the Billy Topsail series. Also, at the beginning of the century, the American Dillon Wallace made several expeditions to the Labrador and subsequently wrote numerous books, using this background, which were published over a period of years. One of them, *Grenfell of Labrador: a story of his life for boys*, was reprinted by McClelland and Stewart in 1946 (original title: *The story of Grenfell of the Labrador; a boy's life of Wilfred T.*

Grenfell, Revell, 1922).

Julia Sauer, an American who lived for some time in Nova Scotia, wrote *Fog magic*, a charming, sensitive story set in this province, in which a little girl is transported to a secret village lost for a hundred years (Viking, Macmillan, 1943).

Two books published in the competent series 'Great Stories of Canada' featured a Maritime setting: in *Redcoat sailor*, Richard S. Lambert writes about Sir Howard Douglas who became Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick (Macmillan, 1956) and in *The salt-water men*, Joseph Schull describes the life of Nova Scotia sailors and their ships (Macmillan, 1960, 1957).

The noted British Columbia author Roderick Haig-Brown described, for the general reader but also of interest to children, the life cycle of a salmon in *Silver: the life story of an Atlantic salmon* (Black, 1963, 1931).

Clare Bice, a well-known author and illustrator who was Curator of the Museum in London, Ontario, also wrote and charmingly illustrated, in soft watercolours, three books with settings in Nova Scotia (*Jory's Cove; a story of Nova Scotia*—Macmillan, 1941 and *Hurricane Treasure*—Macmillan, 1965; Viking, 1965) and Newfoundland (*The great island: a story of mystery in Newfoundland*—Macmillan, 1962, 1954).

Other Ontario authors who have written adventure stories with an Atlantic setting are John F. Hayes (*The dangerous cove: a story of the early days in Newfoundland*—Copp Clark, 1957 and *A land divided*—a tale about the expulsion of the Acadians—Copp, Clark, 1951), Jack Hambleton (*Wings over Labrador*—Longmans, 1957), Bill Freeman (*First spring on the Grand Banks*—Lorimer, 1978) and Laurence Hyde (*Under the pirate flag*—Houghton, Mifflin, 1965). In *Shogomoc Sam*, Lorrie McLaughlin tells the story of the New Brunswick legendary folk hero John Main Glazier and his young helper Shogomoc Sam. A picture book written by Rosemary Allison and illustrated by Ann Powell features a non-conventional beaver who helps a waitress restore a fish plant in Nova Scotia destroyed by fire: *Ms. Beaver travels East* (Women's Educational Press, 1978). Clive Doucet, who resides in Ottawa, has chronicled with feeling and humour, a way of life in *My Grandfather's Cape Breton* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1980). Brian Doyle, also of Ottawa, has written a contemporary novel for middle readers, in which a young boy, after the breakup of his family, spends a summer with his aunt in Nova Scotia (*You can pick me up at Peggy's Cove*, Groundwood Books, 1979). It has been translated into French by Claude Aubry under the title *Je t'attends à Peggy's Cove* (Pierre Tisseyre, 1982). William Toye retold a Micmac legend in *How summer came to Canada* (Oxford, 1978, 1969), enhanced by beautiful collages in brilliant colour by Elizabeth Cleaver. The established and best-selling author Farley Mowat was born in Ontario but has lived on Cape Breton Island since the late 1970s. Among his many works are four children's books, one of which is set in Newfoundland in the 1930s. It is called *The Black Joke* and is an excellent, lively adventure story, in which two boys outwit some rum runners (McClelland and Stewart, 1980, 1962). Considered a classic, it has now been translated into French by Michel Caillol, under the title *Une goélette nommée black joke* (Pierre Tisseyre, 1982).

Joan Clark, a Nova Scotian who now resides in Alberta, has written a chilling tale of adventure set in the eighteenth century and based on a historical report of a mysterious hand found in a shaft on Oak Island in *The hand of Robin Squires* (Clarke, Irwin, 1977). Finally, Ingeborg Marshall, a non-Canadian who lived several years in Newfoundland, wrote about the Beothuk Indians in *The red ochre people: how Newfoundland's Beothuk Indians lived* (J.J. Douglas, 1977).



CONCLUSION

The present mood in the Atlantic Provinces seems to indicate an upswing trend in the development and promotion of Canadian children's literature. The production is small but in some cases, it is excellent as shown in the examples by writers like Kevin Major and illustrators like Lindee Climo. Many gaps in all genres of children's books still need to be filled and it is hoped that, in one case, the rich, vast source of maritime folklore will be tapped to produce more books for children and young people.

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CLJ

Surveys of newspaper readings commonly show that the editorial is the least-read part of any paper. Most estimates are that fewer than 5 percent of those who get a newspaper read all the editorial comments.

One way editors try to overcome this is to write really intelligent and interesting editorials. Another more common technique is to typeset editorial columns in larger letters, defying the reader to refuse to acknowledge the relatively greater value of the word writ larger—our way of trying to even the odds.

The other reason why editorials are set bigger is that larger type takes up more space; often the editorial is "written to fit"—using up the remaining columns when all the other space-fitting tricks have proven inadequate.

Though I suspect that in the future our editorials will be printed boldly, mainly for attention-getting reasons, frankly in this case we've used the larger type mainly to fill space. After two long evenings sweating over hot wax, hairline, and the other mysteries of the petty newspaper trade, two editors and a trusty hand of helpers were left with too few words to spread out over too much space.

More than the immediate problem of, "how do we fill this space?", having to resort to this sort of stretching concerns us, because our having too few words means that APLA members are contributing too few words.

Our concern is because too little useful information is getting out. In the past couple of months at least two APLA events took place without the foreknowledge of those who put together the **Bulletin**, and with no follow-up reports submitted. In these cases, the membership was not well served.

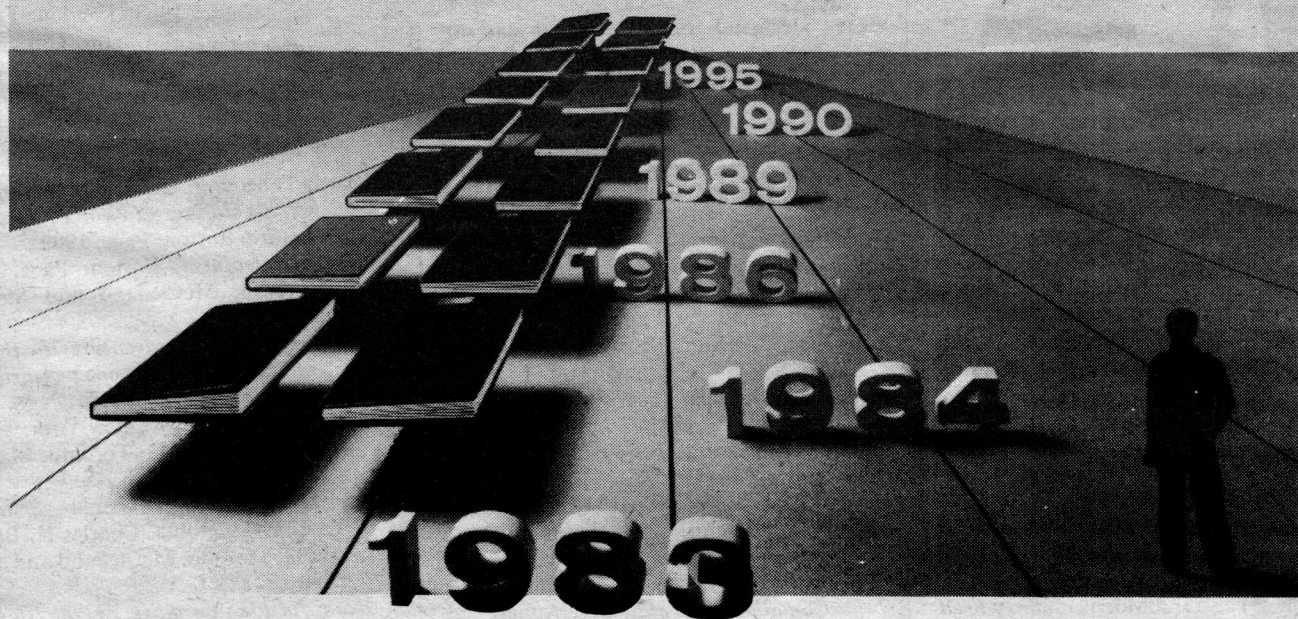
It concerns us because too few ideas are being generated and discussed. More than a few APLA members have things to say, often useful and thought-provoking. But there is a real reluctance to share these ideas in print; here again the membership is not being well served.

The lack of material we have received heightens our thanks to those who have submitted news and other articles: much of what you will read in this Number was unsolicited; all of it is very much appreciated.

We explained in the last issue that our bias is towards news. To make it easier to contribute, in the last two issues we have clearly demarcated categories—longer news articles, the shorter "Bulletin Board", and "People".

Made it this far? If the surveys are right, only 29 of your colleagues, at most, read all this way with you—a small measure of comfort to one who has had to write too long an editorial, too quickly.

Ken Clare



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JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!

Unusual disaster strikes government document collection at Mount Allison's Ralph Pickard Bell library.

Domino theory demonstrated!

by Margaret Fancy
Library Disaster!

For most the term conjures up visions of fire and smoke, of water cascading down walls or surging up from plugged drains. It could even bring to mind invasions of mould or insects. However, those of us at Mount Allison immediately think of the pile of tangled shelves, documents, journals, and books which resulted when some of the shelving gave away on our basement floor on April 28th of this year.

Over 95,000 volumes of Government Documents and journals were dumped as eight stack ranges, 33 feet long, toppled one after the other in domino fashion. If there is a good side to this story, it is that there were no student or staff on the floor at the time. A few days earlier, before the end of examinations, there had been many people working and studying in this area. Also, the disaster occurred only a few minutes after the staff members had left the floor for lunch.

Oddly enough, the noise of the crash was not extremely loud. People working upstairs

assumed that the noise had come from the machine room which is adjacent to the Government Document collection.

Investigation revealed however, a 35' x 40' pile of Government Documents and shelves—and some slowly drifting dust and plaster. A quick head-count and a few phone calls accounted for all librarians, staff, and cleaning staff. However, no one could be sure that a patron had not been trapped! Library staff immediately began to remove books from the rubble. Word was passed quickly throughout the university and soon we had a crew of over fifty people—library staff, students, professors, secretaries, administrators, grounds crew—carrying books and piling them in the far corners of the room.

As soon as enough books were moved, the last range to fall was lifted and cut apart from the others. Then the process was repeated until about an hour and fifteen minutes later when the final range was lifted, books removed, and a cheer went up as we realized no one had been hurt. It was not a

long period—in fact, moving that amount of material in such a short time is pretty astounding. But for the people on the spot it was a long, hot, noisy, and frightening hour, as we loaded trolleys, passed books hand-to-hand, dodged the shelves as they were dismantled, or passed out bandaids.

Then came the period of assessment and investigation. What permanent damage had occurred, why did it happen, and what would be done next? Aside from the shelves which were twisted and broken beyond repair, damage was limited to a broken table and atlas stand. Many books, particularly the heavy old government publications were shaken and had pages crumpled. However, as these were piled on the floor their own weight helped to straighten them out.

The question of why it happened cannot be answered with any precision. The stack ranges which were moved from the old Memorial Library in 1970 were not originally designed to be used as free-standing stacks. They had been set into base-plates on the floor and braced to each other along the top. The braces had originally been attached at one end to a cage wall, but some of the braces were removed when the cage wall was moved several years ago. Their state had not been radically changed recently.

Some shifting of material had been taking place the day the accident occurred, but

the amount shifted was not considerable. There had been no earthquake, no sudden pushes against the stacks. We can only suppose, given the direction in which the stacks fell, that one book too many was removed from the lightly loaded shelves at one end of the series of ranges, and that the heavier ones at the other end pulled all eight over.

An occurrence of this type certainly throws a monkey wrench into any plans made for the next few months! After a few days to recover, Mrs. Margaret Wheeler, Serials Librarian, her staff, and anyone who could lend a hand began to sort material. By the time the new stacks had arrived and were installed on July 9th all material was sorted, in order, and ready to be reshelved. Although the floor was closed to patrons, staff were able to locate most of the material requested by researchers over the summer months. The beginning of the fall term saw resumption of completion service.

Perhaps, in looking back at this disaster, one might say that there were, in fact, three favourable factors. No one was hurt, we have new, very stable stack ranges on this floor and we were fortunate in having Margaret Wheeler to get us organized, cleaned up, and to help us deal successfully with an unusual library disaster.

Margaret Fancy
July 20, 1983

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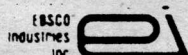
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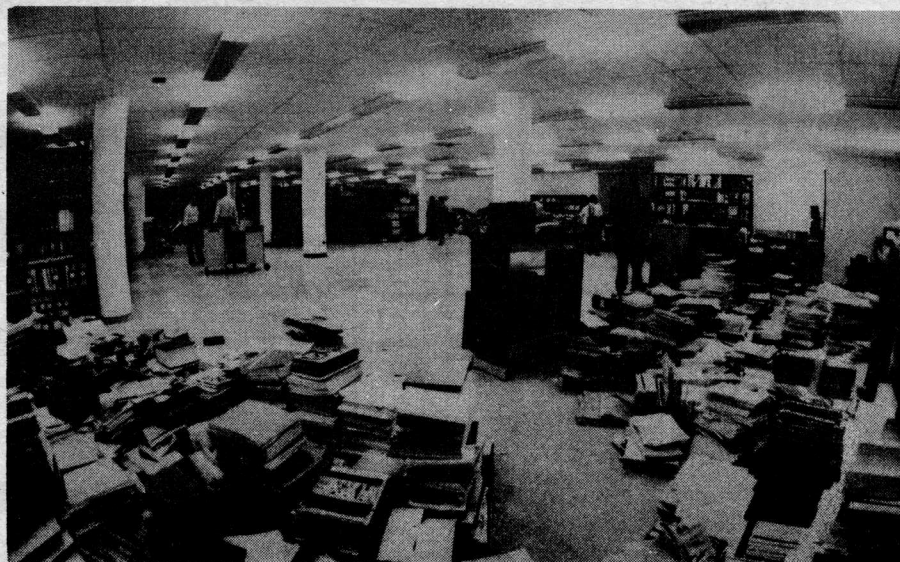
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Gwen Creelman, head of cataloguing, is assisted by members of the university community in removing documents from the scene of the disaster.



Staff review the aftermath, with documents piled in the foreground to facilitate the removal of eight crumpled stack ranges.

THE BAFFLE BOARD

This is a contest column, which will appear in each issue. Participants receive two (2) points for a correct answer and one (1) point for a near miss. Scores will be collected throughout the year and a PRIZE (to be determined) will be awarded during the APLA Conference.

Baffle No. 2: 7 and up: the list of lists of lists

Give the number of names contained in each list and then identify the names of all of the persons, places or things presented there.

1. _____ *Deadly sins.*
2. _____ *Dwarfs (friends of Snow White)*
3. _____ *Ages of Man*
4. _____ *Wonders of the World*
5. _____ *Moons of Jupiter*
6. _____ *Trivium and Quadrivium*
7. _____ *Signs of the Chinese Zodiac*
8. _____ *Seas*
9. _____ *Counties in your province*
10. _____ *Muses*

To enter, send your answers to:

BAFFLEBOARD QUIZMASTER,
APLA Bulletin,
School of Library Service,
Dalhousie University,
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4H8.

The decision of the QUIZMASTER is FINAL!

A leader has not been established after the first round of the Baffle Board. In perhaps a misguided collective attempt to keep the Quizmaster's desk clear for other duties, no answer was submitted. Like it or not, then, dear reader, you remain tied for first place in the Baffle Board contest. To remain there, you will likely have to do better with these toughies:

The answers to Baffle No. 1: My Second Career were:

1. Casanova
2. Julian P. Boyd
3. John Braine
4. Douglas Fisher
5. Philip Larkin
6. Mao Tse Tung
7. Arna Bontemps
8. Nikolay Fedorovich Fedorov
9. Elvis Presley
10. Archibald MacLeish

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