



Early Edition

Newsletter of the Early Canadian Literature Society

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2008

Worth Noting

- Brock University introduces re-organization of Canadian literature courses into tripartite model: Early, Modern, and Contemporary.
- Early Canadian Literature Society Meeting to be held Saturday, May 31st at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan D217.
- 18 submissions were received for the "New Directions in Early Canadian Literary Studies" panel and as a result, two panels have been secured at Congress.

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Welcome

Since it's the first one, I suppose I should say something about this newsletter!

Overall, I think you'll find it nice, light reading after the usual grueling end-of-term chaos.

Inside you will find Member News, information about Upcoming Calls for Papers, Member Publications in 2007, and what will become a regular Q&A column with Early Canadian Literature scholars.

There has been a flurry of scholarly activity over the past year. Thanks to everyone who sent in their updates as well as their publications.

Our current member list stands at 50 scholars across the country, which I

anticipate will grow as word gets out.

I also want to mention an exciting development at Brock University. The English department has recently accepted the re-organization of Canadian literature courses into a tripartite model: Early, Modern, and Contemporary. It is a long overdue change that hopefully other departments will adopt in the near future.

Now, a few words about what's happening at Congress next month at UBC. The response to the panel that Janice Fiamengo and I organized for "New Directions in Early Canadian Literary Studies" was remarkable, to say the least. We received 18 submissions! And with the blessing of ACCUTE, we have secured two

panels: the first one is on Sunday, June 1st: 10:30 a.m. in Buchanan D221; the second panel is at 3:30 p.m. in Buchanan D214.

Be sure to attend the inaugural Early Canadian Literature Society Meeting on Saturday, May 31st, at 12:15 p.m. in Buchanan D217. Apart from it being a chance for us to meet (perhaps for the first time!), I want to begin discussions about short-and long-term goals and projects for the society. If there is something specific you want to talk about at the meeting, feel free to email me in advance (thodd@cogeco.ca).

See you all in Vancouver!

Thomas Hodd

Member News



Cheryl Cundell (Queen's) is presently working on her dissertation, *Mapping the Nation: The Explorer and the English-Canadian Imagination*, under the supervision of Dr. Tracy Ware.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Henderson** (Carleton) and **Albert Braz** (Alberta) who were awarded tenure.

Linda Morra, hired last year at Bishop's University, was recently promoted to Associate Professor.

Benjamin Lefebvre was awarded a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship to work on a project called "Branding a Life: The Case of L.M. Montgomery(TM)" and is currently affiliated with the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta. He has also been made a Research Associate at the Modern Literature and Culture Research Centre at Ryerson University.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Blair**, who was recently hired at the University of Ottawa.

Niigonwedom (James Sinclair) was recently awarded a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship. He is currently

working on nineteenth-century Ojibwe writers.

Tobi Kozakewich (Ottawa U) has been awarded a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship for her research project entitled "Bad Blood: Eugenics in English-Canadian Literature." She will be supervised by Dr. Tracy Ware at Queen's University.

Candida Rifkind's (Winnipeg) *Comrades and Critics: Women, Literature, and the Left in 1930s Canada* is forthcoming with University of Toronto Press.

Dr. Robert May (Queen's) is currently completing a critical edition of D. C. Scott's *In the Village of Viger* for Tecumseh.

D.M.R. Bentley's (Western) "Canadian Architexts: Essays on Literature and Architecture in Canada, 1759-2005" is now nearing completion in its electronic form at www.canadianpoetry.ca. Within a framework that draws upon phenomenology, architectural theory, and the Cognitive Sciences, it includes extensive discussions of such works as Thomas Cary's *Abram's Plains*, Oliver Goldsmith's *The Rising Village*, Catharine Parr Traill's *Canadian Crusoes*, Anna

Jameson's *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada*, Sara Jeannette Duncan's *The Imperialist*, and L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*, as well as essays on the role of bridges, monuments, and civic squares in Canadian literature and culture.

Daniel Coleman's (McMaster) book *White Civility: The Literary Project of English Canada* (UTP, 2006) won the Raymond Klibansky Prize for the best English-language book in the Humanities published with the support of the Aid to Scholarly Publications Program. The book was also the subject of an Author Meets the Critics panel at the triennial Association of Commonwealth Languages and Literature Studies Association conference in Vancouver, where George Elliott Clarke, Margery Fee, and Robert Young presented papers on the book. The papers from this panel are to be printed in a special dossier of the International Journal of Canadian Studies this year. *White Civility* is due for re-release in paperback in time for this year's Congress.



Publications Appearing in 2007

Betts, Gregory. "Afterword: Addressing the Vaster Union." *The Aureole: A Poem*. By Albert Durrant Watson. Toronto: BookThug, 2007. 23-28.

Blair, Jennifer. "Surface Interiorities: Representing the Convent." Special Issue: Interiors. Ed. Peter Schwenger. *English Studies in Canada* 31.1 (2005): 69-95.

Chambers, Jennifer. "'You Woman-Hearted, Poet-Brained Wonder Worker!': The Poetic Dialogue of Love between Ethelwyn Wetherald and Helena Coleman." *Queer Desire in Canadian Literature*. Spec. issue of *Canadian Poetry* 57.1 (Fall/Winter 2005): 64-84.

Fiamengo, Janice, ed. *Other Selves: Animals in the Canadian Literary Imagination*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2007.

Gerson, Carole and **Jacques Michon**, eds. *History of the Book in Canada*. Vol. 3 (1918-80). Toronto: UTP; Montreal: PUM, 2007.

Gerson, Carole. "Author, Publisher, and Fictional Character," from "Dragged at Anne's Chariot Wheels." *Anne of Green Gables*. Eds. Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston. New York: Norton, 2007. 309-16.

---. "Nobler Savages: Representations of Native Women in the Writings of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill." *Roughing It in the Bush*. Ed. Michael Peterman. New York: Norton, 2007. 522-38.

---. "Gone & Well-Forgotten" [on Alex Philip]. *BC Bookworld* 21.3 (Autumn 2007) 37. Posted on <http://www.abcbookworld.com/>

Hodd, Thomas. "Introduction." Charles G.D. Roberts's *The Heart of the Ancient Wood*. Halifax: Formac Press, 2007. vii-xvi.

Holmgren, Michele. "United Irishmen in Canada: Adam Kidd's The Huron Chief Reconsidered." *Canadian Poetry* 60 (2007): 46-67.

Lynch, Gerald. "The Attractive-Repulsive American: Thomas Chandler Haliburton's Sam Slick." *Short Story* 13 (Spring 2005): 61-72.

MacLaren, I.S. "'Caledonian Sutte?': An Anatomy of Carrier Cremation Cruelty in the Historical Record." *BC Studies* 149 (Spring 2006): 3-37.

---. "Herbert Spencer, Paul Kane, and the Making of 'The Chinook.'" In *Myth & Memory: Stories of Indigenous-European Contact*. Ed. John Lutz. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2007. 90-102 and 188-95.

Peterman, Michael, ed. *Susanna Moodie's Roughing It in the Bush*. New York: Norton, 2007.

Peterman, Michael and **Len Early**, eds. *Winona; or, the Foster Sisters* by Isabelle Valancy Crawford. Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2007.

Peterman, Michael. *Sisters in Two Worlds: A Visual Biography of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2007.

Vincent, Thomas. *J. MacDonald Oxley: A Bibliography of the Fiction*. Kingston: Loyal Colonies Press, 2007.

---. *C.G.D. Roberts: A Bibliography of the Fiction, Volume 4, (Titles R-Y)*. Kingston: Loyal Colonies Press, 2007

Interview: Carole Gerson



Dr. Carole Gerson is a Professor of English at Simon Fraser University. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, her work on Early Canadian Literature and Canadian book history spans more than 20 years. Her books include A Purer Taste: The Writing and Reading of Fiction in English in Nineteenth-Century Canada (1989); Canada's Early Women Writers: Texts in English to 1859 (1994); and with Veronica Strong-Boag, E. Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwake: Collected Poems and Selected Prose (2002). She also served as co-editor to Volume 3 of The History of the Book in Canada, 1918-80 (2007). Her current project is "Canadian Women in Print, 1750-1918".

This interview was conducted as an email exchange in April 2008.

Q: You did your Ph.D. dissertation on the

nineteenth-century English Canadian novel, under the supervision of Bill New. Was this the beginning of your interest in Early Canadian Literature or had you been attracted to the field beforehand?

A: I wasn't much interested in Canadian literature as an undergraduate or while doing my MA in 17th century British Literature. Victorian fiction was very appealing, but it seemed to be a pretty busy field that was already well mapped.

"It is heartening to see a recent increase in the numbers of graduate students and younger scholars working on an expanding range of earlier Canadian writing."

When I began my doctoral studies in 1972, I looked for a neglected patch of nineteenth-century literature and quickly found that the new surge of interest in CanLit hadn't yet inspired serious attention to the early fiction.

I had always wanted to do primary archival research and learned there was much to be

discovered in archives and libraries across Canada. As well, I was fortunate to be studying at UBC, whose library holds a strong selection of early Canadian books and periodicals; this was before CIHM had really begun to make early texts available, and in any case, I much preferred to read real books and periodicals than to spend hours hunched over the clumsy machines then in use for reading microforms.

Q: What is your impression of the state of Early Canadian literature in 2008? Why do you think there has been such a recent explosion of interest in the field?

A: It is heartening to see a recent increase in the numbers of graduate students and younger scholars working on an expanding range of earlier Canadian writing. When I'm feeling cynical, I think that many may have landed there for the same reason I did - in search of untapped areas for doctoral research. Because the overall focus in literary studies has shifted so dramatically from seeking "the best" (whatever that may be) to examining the much larger field of cultural and print activity, there is still a tremendous amount of Canadian literary history to be examined, along with new



Interview: Carole Gerson

ways of looking at canonical authors and texts.

I think that another reason for current interest has to do with the rapid cultural and technological changes of the last two decades; when we feel that we are in the midst of major cultural shifts (ideological, demographic, technological) we are more inclined to look backward in order to re-examine things we had taken for granted, whether conceptual (e.g. notions of nationhood) or material (e.g. the survival of the book).

Q: You have called yourself a “literary archaeologist.” Do you think most scholars of Early Canadian literature view themselves this way? Does the field offer special challenges to critics doing research in this area?

A: I think that the field now offers more opportunities than challenges, especially with increasing access to earlier materials through digitization. For example, my university library subscribes to APS (American Periodical Series) On-line, which includes more than 1000 American periodicals that began before 1900, such as the *Youth's Companion* (but not yet *Smart Set*).

We all know that American periodicals were extremely important venues for Canadian writers, and whenever I search a Canadian name, I'm astounded at what pops up. While answering this

“When we feel that we are in the midst of major cultural shifts (ideological, demographic, technological) we are more inclined to look backward in order to re-examine things we had taken for granted.”

questionnaire, I searched APS for Isabella Crawford and got 10 hits, including 8 stories that appeared in *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly* from 1880 to 1886 that few scholar know about. What might we find in a similar database of Canadian texts, periodicals and newspapers? For a start, all the texts microfilmed for CIHM should be digitized.

Q: What do you see is the future of Early Canadian literature? What do you think needs more attention and critical focus?

A: The new critical work, as represented by *ReCalling Canada*, for example, is exciting and provocative. If Early Canadian literature is going to continue to expand, it shouldn't forget the need for firm foundations.

One thing that troubles me is our dearth of authoritative editions. The painstaking scholarship that gave us Desmond Pacey's edition of Roberts' collected poetry and Laurel Boone's edition of his collected letters has not yet been applied to Lampman, Crawford, or Duncan Campbell Scott. We have excellent versions of specific texts, such as the CEECT editions of prose works, the long poems brought out under David Bentley's supervision, and the different volumes relating to Moodie and Traill prepared individually and collectively by the team of Ballstadt, Hopkins, and Peterman. But we need closer editorial attention to our major lyric poets, in whose work small typesetting accidentals can create significant changes in meaning.

Call for Papers



"Archives and the Canadian Narrative - Re: Telling Canada's Stories" and "Regional Archives in the Digital Universe." Archives in Canada Conference Series (ACCS), 3rd Biennial Conference, Mount Allison University, 10 - 12 June 2009

Proposals for papers or panels in English or in French are invited on the organizational theme "Archives and the Canadian Narrative - Re: Telling Canada's Stories," or the sub-theme "Regional Archives in the Digital Universe." Following are some questions that might be considered.

How do archives enable researchers to shape and reshape narratives about Canada? What is the nature of archival "truth" and how can it best be discovered and disseminated? What responsibility does the researcher have to the archival artefact? To what extent do archives allow a role for the literary or historical imagination? What responsibility do editors have to the integrity of archival evidence? How is the nature of the Canadian narrative evolving?

Regional, local, or community archives exist across Canada and in all parts of the country. What resources and new potential do they offer researchers? What is their relationship to the archives of academic and national institutions? Can this relationship be enhanced or revitalized, better coordinated or managed? How is the role of local, regional, or community archives changing? What has been the impact of digitization initiatives? Is a visit to a virtual archive just as good as "being there" for users of archival materials?

Please send a 250 word abstract and 100 word biographical note by email to the Programme Committee: Dr. Kathleen Garay (McMaster), Dr. Christl Verduyn (Mount Allison) Catherine Hobbs (LAC-BAC) Isabelle Cormier (Centre d'études acadiennes et du Musée acadien, Université de Moncton) by **July 1 2008**. Submissions should be sent simultaneously to the following email addresses: garay@mcmaster.ca, cverduyn@mta.ca, catherine.hobbs@lac-bac.gc.ca, isabelle.cormier@umoncton.ca.

Anne of Green Gables: New Directions at 100

Since its first publication in 1908, L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* has been a remarkable success with a worldwide following of readers and an energetic scholarly engagement over the past two decades. As the novel enters the second centennial of its publication, the University of Toronto Press is interested in publishing a collection of scholarly essays dedicated to the topic *Anne of Green Gables: New Directions*. The editor is interested in papers related to any aspect of L.M. Montgomery's *Anne*, including its inspirations, its sequels, and its remarkable cultural impact. Innovative approaches including interdisciplinary perspectives that make us see *Anne* and the world of Avonlea in new ways are particularly encouraged. Papers should engage with relevant scholarship and be written in lively and accessible prose. Illustrations and formerly unpublished material are particularly welcomed. Twenty-five-page papers, including endnotes and bibliography, should be accompanied by a bio-sketch and abstract. All essays are subject to blind peer review.

Please submit your paper to:
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Deadline: **15 August 2008**. Early submissions are encouraged.