



# National Library News

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The June 2000 issue of the *National Library News* will continue the reflections on the history of the services offered by the National Library of Canada.

Guest Editor Ingrid Parent,  
Director General,  
Acquisitions and Bibliographic  
Services

## The Canadian Bibliographic Centre: The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

*Ingrid Parent, Director General,  
Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services*

**I** am very pleased to be the guest editor for this special issue of the *National Library News*. This and the next issue celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, the precursor of the National Library of Canada.



I know that you will find the articles a joy to read, for their information, memories, humour and professionalism. The Canadian Bibliographic Centre began its life on May 1, 1950, under the direction of Martha Shepard, with no building of its own, no collection and no equipment. What it had, though, was a very small group of devoted individuals with an infectious

enthusiasm and determination to build a national institution dedicated to the Canadian published heritage. The Centre was also fortunate in having a Canadian library community that greatly supported its establishment and a leader, Dominion Archivist W. Kaye Lamb, who was outstanding in all respects.

This issue includes accounts from some of those pioneers who describe their activities, such as microfilming card files in various libraries in Ottawa and other cities and preparing cards for the Union Catalogue, beginning to approach publishers to deposit their books at the Centre, and listing these books in the national bibliography. Martha Shepard, H el ene Beaudry, Ian Wees, Clarisse Cardin, and Paul Kitchen, from Victoria, Gatineau and Ottawa, have all contributed their memories and stories. In the next issue



of the *National Library News*, several National Library staff members will provide updates on these same services.

In reading the background material for this issue, I was struck by the continuity that exists between what was envisaged so many years ago and

produced. It is a tribute to the pioneers of the Centre that their vision for a national institution dedicated to describing and making known the Canadian published heritage and bibliographic holdings in Canadian libraries continues to thrive.



Verification of bibliographic records.

the services that still exist today. The Union Catalogue, the national bibliography, reference and ILL services, listings of Canadian theses, and more, were all meticulously planned and put in place by a few people in the early '50s. I can personally vouch for some of the work processes that existed. When I started at the National Library in 1971, it was one of my jobs to ensure that all those cards that were pasted on brown sheets of paper to be filmed for the national bibliography were straight and in the proper alphabetical order; once they were filmed, they really were carefully removed from the paper and refiled. The whole process was then repeated to produce the annual cumulation. Today, the methods have changed, but the national bibliography as a listing of Canadiana publications is still being

But it was not all hard work at the Centre, even though the staff worked five and a half days per week. As you will see from the articles, there were also many lighter moments. While I confess that we have not done any tap-dancing at our Christmas parties of late, we have been known to perform in some other "memorable" activities. One cannot help but be struck by how well the Centre's staff made do with the few tools they had to achieve their goals and by how good a time they had, despite the constraints under which they worked.

I hope that you will find this issue to be informative, while presenting a human portrait of life as it was at the beginning of our Library.

Enjoy! ♦

National Library

News



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The National Library of Canada's logo is based on a detail from the mural "La Connaissance/Knowledge" created by Alfred Pellan for the Reference Room of the National Library.

# The Call for a National Library

Paul Kitchen,  
former National Library staff member, and Executive Director of the Canadian Library Association (1975-1985)

**H**e may have been only kidding, but when John Charlton rose from his seat in the Commons just before midnight on April 20, 1883, he was the first to suggest an actual location for the national library that Sir John A. Macdonald thought we ought to have.

It was the House itself, “this dark chamber”, as Charlton called it. If a wing could be built out from it, one with windows that would let in fresh air, then the members could debate there, leaving plenty of room in the chamber for the library’s books, especially if “a lot of the old rubbish” were to be banished to make way for “works of some value”.

Facetious though the remark seems, it indicated the Member’s belief in the value of a library and in the idea of one to serve the public. It was a concept the Prime Minister was having trouble getting members to accept. A few days earlier, in considering the report of the Library of Parliament Committee, Sir John had suggested having a national library quite separate from that meeting a legislative function. He asked the Committee to look into it, but opposition leader Edward Blake, speaking for the Committee, thought it was not “their province to propose the creation of a national library”.

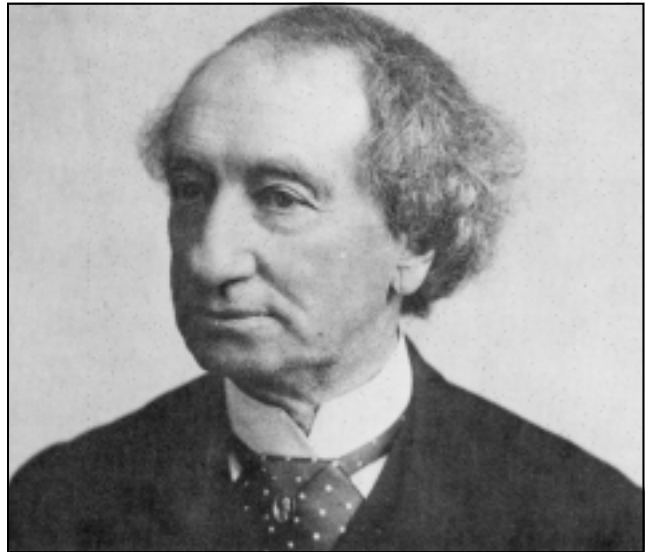
Two years later, in considering the appointment of a new parliamentary librarian, Sir John returned to the theme, pointing out that, unlike England which had the British Museum, the Dominion had no “general library”. He went on to explain that the parliamentary library’s collection had grown to the point where it ought to assume the role of a national library. To facilitate the

concept, he introduced a resolution creating two library positions: general librarian, to look after the library as a whole, as a scientific and literary institution; and parliamentary librarian, to oversee legislative needs (constitutional law, history and political subjects).

Opposition members ridiculed the idea. They saw no sense in having two librarians in charge of one library and in thinking there were two collections, when there was really only one. Nevertheless, the resolution was approved, and the two appointments were made. It was a good start in having the notion of a national library understood. And Sir John’s actions are surely underestimated by those saying that by creating two librarians instead of two separate institutions, he succeeded only in delaying the start of a real national library.

It was a wonder the Prime Minister had any time at all to consider book matters. Finding relief for the nearly bankrupt Canadian Pacific Railway was the primary issue throughout the library debate period.

And then, just as he was creating the dual library positions, the small matter of the Northwest Rebellion had to be attended to. Moreover, he had no champion for the cause. Government logic dictated that arts matters should be in the hands of the Department of Agriculture, which, annual reports show, was mightily concerned with the cattle trade, sheep scab and hog cholera. It would have had little time



Sir John A. Macdonald. Courtesy of the National Archives of Canada.

for national library planning. As well, the government’s budgetary deficits were escalating alarmingly. Public Works Minister Hector Langevin, who would have had to build any new library, was pleased with the Prime Minister’s action, but allowed that at some future date “when we see our revenues very large”, the construction of a separate library would be the proper thing to do.

A quarter century passed before the idea was, at least in library and academic circles, forcefully revived. It was at the annual meeting of the Ontario Library Association in 1910 when Lawrence Burpee began his “crusade”, as Dolores Donnelly aptly called it in her historical analysis *The National Library of Canada*. Burpee was



the chief of the Carnegie Library of Ottawa and incoming president of the Association. His speech to the

Burpee kept up the pressure. Another, though unfortunate, opportunity arose in 1916 when fire

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**He borrowed his model of what a national library should be like from Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam. It should have a collection universal in scope; it should have specialists to answer inquiries; and it should have an index of the collections of other libraries.**

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delegates, later published in *The University Magazine*, lamented that Canada, like Abyssinia and Siam, had no national library. He proceeded to enumerate countries around the world that did. He borrowed his model of what a national library should be like from Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam. It should have a collection universal in scope; it should have specialists to answer inquiries; and it should have an index of the collections of other libraries. "Let the government adopt a policy of a national library", he said. He wanted it to be in a central location and have turned over to it books from the Library of Parliament that "serve no very useful purpose in a pureful legislative library".

Visionary that he was, Burpee saw the national library being linked to the Public Archives, the Library of Parliament and government departments by a system of pneumatic tubes through which books and messages would be sent whizzing. Sixty years later, the Federal Government Library Survey returned to the matter, recommending not tubes but a delivery van.

The Ontario Library Association took up the cause, passing a resolution calling for "the speedy establishment of a national library" and sending it to Prime Minister Laurier. His government was getting ready for an election and did nothing about it.

guttled the centre block of the Parliament Buildings. Only the library survived. Burpee wrote to Prime Minister Borden urging that in re-designing the building, suitable accommodations for a national library



Lawrence J. Burpee. Courtesy of the National Archives of Canada.

be taken into account. He enclosed an offprint of his article in *The University Magazine*. Dolores Donnelly relates that Borden forwarded the letter to Parliamentary Librarian Martin Griffin for his comments. Griffin denounced the proposal, saying it was the work of "agitators". A national library would be too expensive and was unnecessary

because there were many other libraries already in existence.

More interventions followed. An inquiry into the state of Canadian libraries, known as the Ridington Commission, recommended in its 1933 report that a national library be created, "one worthy of Canada's place among nations". It reflected Burpee's general concept: construction of a building, appointment of a Dominion librarian, coordination of federal libraries and development of a combined catalogue of their holdings, appointment of subject specialists, and the transfer of books not needed for law-making from the Library of Parliament. The 1940 Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations took little note of briefs from the British Columbia and Ontario Library Associations, its only comment being that if the Dominion Government so thought, the creation of a library would be appropriate.

In 1944, Opposition Leader Gordon Graydon supported the idea of creating a library "at the appropriate time", adding that he had no intention of pressing the point immediately. "After all", he said, "we are in a war." Short weeks later, the recently formed Canadian Library Council (forerunner of the Canadian Library Association) submitted a brief to a House of Commons committee considering reconstruction measures to follow the war. The brief contained all the main points of consensus on what a national library should do but also reflected the library profession's interest in applying the latest technology. It spoke of microfilm and photostat copying, and the coordination of book information with audio-visual aids.

Immediately after its formation in 1946, the Canadian Library Association took a strategic decision which would soon result in a breakthrough. A service, rather than an institutional,





approach should be taken in persuading the government to proceed. Instead of calling for, as in previous representations, the immediate construction of a building, the Association emphasized the basic services that a bibliographical centre

recommendation “that as a first step towards the creation of a National Library, the planning of a bibliographic centre be commenced by the selection of a competent bibliographer and secretary”.

The Canadian Library

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What he and the Prime Minister found out was that their candidate held a Ph.D. in history and economics from the London School of Economics, had been provincial librarian and archivist of British Columbia, and was currently librarian at the University of British Columbia. The appointment of Dominion archivist was shortly offered and accepted, with one proviso. Dr. Lamb said he would come to Ottawa only if there was a definite

could offer. Freda Waldon, Chief of the Hamilton Public Library, Margaret Gill, Head of the National Research Council Library, and W. Kaye Lamb were the early proponents of the idea. The centre, they visualized, would operate in temporary quarters until a full library in a building of its own was approved and erected.

The Association joined forces with the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Historical Association, the Canadian Political Science Association and the Social Science Research Council of Canada to present a brief in December 1946. Shortly after, a delegation met with Secretary of State Colin Gibson, who reacted favourably. This was the beginning of the single most effective lobbying campaign in the history of Canadian library service. Under the shrewd leadership of its executive director, Elizabeth Morton, the CLA sent copies of its briefs and other pertinent information to members of Parliament, newspaper editors and scholarly organizations. It arranged for editorials, news reports and radio broadcasts in support of the cause.

Finally, on June 11, 1948, after reference to the Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament, the House approved the Committee's

Association had just begun microfilming Canadian newspapers of historical importance. Executive Director Morton had the idea of presenting to Prime Minister King a copy of the newspaper published by his grandfather, William Lyon Mackenzie. This would be a good way of promoting the national library cause. She arranged for Dr. Lamb, as CLA president, and Elizabeth Dafoe, incoming president, to perform the ceremony. There followed a conversation on the possibilities of microfilm collections in libraries and archives. “Mr. King”, as Dr. Lamb later recalled, “was enchanted with the idea.” Mr. King's special assistant, Jack Pickersgill, who, according to Dr. Lamb, “was flitting about in the background”, later told Dr. Lamb that when the meeting ended, Mr. King turned to him and said: “That man should become head of the Archives right away. Find out more about him.”



Dr. W. Kaye Lamb. Courtesy of the National Archives of Canada

commitment to the National Library in the terms of his appointment. The commitment was made. Dr. Lamb's assignment, effective January 1, 1949, included “preparing the way for the organization of a national library”. ◆

# The Canadian Bibliographic Centre

*Paul Kitchen,  
former National Library staff member, and  
Executive Director of the Canadian Library Association (1975-1985)*

Just as Sir John A. Macdonald had overseen the first parliamentary discussions on a national library, so too did his bust stare out over the first activities of the library's predecessor, the Canadian Bibliographic Centre. The quarters may have been a "dark chamber", but they were no House of Commons. The few souls hired in early

the Committee saw as the core of the centre a union catalogue of the holdings of Ottawa's government libraries, to which would later be added special collections of other libraries across the country. Subsequently, the Committee recommended that the proposed centre be given the task of compiling a current bibliography of



The Canadian Bibliographic Centre's corner of the Exhibits Room in the Public Archives building.

1950 to get the Centre started sat behind filing cabinets at one end of the museum room in the Public Archives on Sussex Drive. Visitors would ask where General Wolfe's baby shoes were.

At its first meeting, in March 1949, the National Library Advisory Committee, approved by Cabinet months earlier, had recommended the immediate establishment of a bibliographic centre. The centre would be the first step in the creation of a national library for Canada. Chaired by Dominion Archivist W. Kaye Lamb,

Canadian publications. Secretary of State Gordon Bradley approved the plan and, in February 1950, appointed Dr. Lamb to administer the new Canadian Bibliographic Centre.

Though, for the sake of simplicity, funding for the Centre was included in the Public Archives estimates, the Centre, with an initial budget of \$41 000, was organizationally separate from the Archives from its inception. Dr. Lamb moved quickly to make three key appointments. The first was of Martha Shepard, who assumed

her duties as director on May 1, the day the Centre came officially into being. Miss Shepard was eminently qualified for the position, having had 10 years' experience as a reference librarian at the Toronto Public Library and possessing specialized photographic training, a critical attribute for the job. Miss Shepard's assignment was to start a reference service and begin the compilation of a national union catalogue.

The second appointment, two months later, was of Jean Lunn, who held a doctorate in Canadian history from McGill University and was librarian at the Fraser Institute. As bibliographer, Dr. Lunn was to create a national bibliography and to be in charge of the production of other listings. Dr. Lamb then recruited Adèle Languedoc, primarily to work on French publications and French bibliographies. A professional librarian, Miss Languedoc came to the Centre after four years of service with American Relief for France, where she assisted with the rehabilitation of libraries following the war. Soon, Mlle Clarisse Cardin joined the team to work on the national bibliography, followed by Dr. Ian Wees to help with the union catalogue.

Work on the National Union Catalogue began immediately upon Miss Shepard's arrival. The idea was to microfilm the main entry catalogue cards of selected libraries (starting with Ottawa's government libraries), produce five-inch-wide roles of prints, cut them into facsimiles of the original cards, stamp them with a library location symbol, and interfile them into an alphabetical arrangement which would become the Union Catalogue. By the end of 1950, the catalogues of four government libraries, the Toronto Public Library Reference Division and the University of New Brunswick Library had been completed. Libraries taken into the



fold in this manner were asked to keep the record up to date by sending in cards for new acquisitions and discards. By the end of 1952, the Union Catalogue represented over one million volumes held by 37 libraries.

At the same time, the Centre began assembling what was to become a massive collection of bibliographic and other reference works. These were used to reconcile Union Catalogue entries from different libraries for what were thought to be the same work and edition, to identify and verify publications improperly cited by libraries requesting locations for interlibrary loans, and to respond to conventional reference questions.

The Centre was anxious to make a quick impression on the Canadian library community. The opportunity presented itself almost immediately. Dr. Lamb had become aware that two members of the Toronto Public Library staff, Dorothea Todd and Audrey Cordingley, had been compiling a check-list of Canadian imprints for the period 1900-1925. He secured their agreement to have the Bibliographic Centre publish the list. With the cooperation of Canadian Library Association's executive director, Elizabeth Morton, the Centre arranged to have sample copies ready for display at the Association's June 1950 conference.

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### Dr. Lamb had always felt very strongly that preservation was one of the most important tasks of a national library.

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The main publishing project, though, was the national bibliography – the listing of all current materials published in Canada as well as those about Canada or written by Canadians but published elsewhere. The Toronto Public Library had been issuing an annual *Canadian Catalogue of Books* since 1923, but in 1950 arranged for

the catalogue to be published as instalments in the Canadian Library Association's *Bulletin*. With the advent of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, the Toronto Public Library was only too happy to hand the responsibility for the bibliography's production over to the Centre. The first issue of *Canadiana*, as the Centre renamed the catalogue, appeared as an independent publication in January 1951. *Canadiana* continued and expanded the previous catalogue;



Public Archives building, Sussex Drive. Courtesy of the National Archives of Canada.

and it added publications of the Canadian government. French titles were listed in French and English titles in English. After the first six semi-monthly issues, *Canadiana* became a monthly. By May of 1951, some

420 Canadian libraries were receiving the publication free of charge.

Adèle Languedoc had the key job of finding out about Canadian publications, contacting publishers and persuading them to send copies to the Centre for cataloguing and listing. Many, but not all, publishers were happy to cooperate. Those that did

realized the advantage of having their titles brought to the attention of hundreds of prospective purchasing libraries. Unlike some other countries, Canada had no legal deposit requirement at the time. That would have to wait until the National Library Act came into being. Miss Languedoc and Dr. Lamb, himself, scoured foreign journals and publishers' listings for items having a Canadian connection. The Centre purchased these. At the

same time, Dr. Lunn scanned publications sent to the Library of Parliament under the completely separate regime of copyright deposit. Most of these titles were American, but only by looking at them could she determine whether any qualified for *Canadiana*. She did this by going right to the parliamentary library shelves, picking out the wanted titles and cataloguing them on the spot, often having to climb ladders to do so.

Production of *Canadiana* was labour intensive. Staff typed cataloguing entries on strips of lined card stock, cut them, and pasted them onto brown paper sheets. These sheets became the camera-ready copy, which then went to the Government Printing Bureau. When the sheets came back, the individual cards were removed from their paper backing with a letter



opener, interfiled with those from previous issues, and then re-assembled at the end of the year for the annual cumulation.

Dr. Lamb had always felt very strongly that preservation was one of the most important tasks of a national library. In the first days of the Bibliographic Centre, he discovered that hundreds of titles listed in Marie

the *Canadian Index to Periodicals and Documentary Films* (1952).

So proceeded the work of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre. But the ultimate goal of a national library was not forgotten. In taped conversations several years ago, Dr. Lamb recalled the steps leading to the passage of the National Library Act. Shortly after Dr. Lamb came to Ottawa as Dominion

concerned, the Commission suggested little that was not already conventional wisdom, it did keep the promise of a national library in the government's mind.

The February 1952 Speech from the Throne announced that Parliament would be asked to consider legislation for the establishment of a national library and to provide for the construction of a building in which to house it. In May 1952, Dr. Lamb sat in the gallery when Prime Minister St. Laurent gave his speech sponsoring the bill. It proceeded quickly, receiving Royal Assent within two months. The National Library Act took effect January 1, 1953.

## The February 1952 Speech from the Throne announced that Parliament would be asked to consider legislation for the establishment of a national library and to provide for the construction of a building in which to house it.

Tremaine's *Bibliography of Canadian Imprints to 1800* existed in only one or two copies. Using a grant from the Americana Corporation in New York and a portable Recordak E camera borrowed from the Library of Congress, he spent family vacations and business trips tracking down and microfilming the rare items in libraries across the country. Copies were then made available for loan or purchase.

Other early projects included the publication of a guide to *Canadian Graduate Theses in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (1951) and, in cooperation with the Canadian Library Association, the annual cumulation of

archivist in 1949, prime ministerial aide Jack Pickersgill confided in him that a royal commission on the arts, letters and sciences (the Massey Commission) was about to be established, and that the matter of a national library was to be referred to it. Dr. Lamb was uneasy about the possibility of the commissioners being asked to recommend whether there should be a library, since he felt the question had already been decided by the terms of his own appointment. He advised that they be asked to recommend the character and extent of the library instead. This the Commission did in its 1951 report. Though, so far as Dr. Lamb was

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- Transcript of oral history interview with W. Kaye Lamb, conducted by Basil Stuart-Stubbs, 1988. ♦

### Then and Now

#### Canadian Bibliographic Centre

##### 1950/1951

Total budget	\$41 240
Staff	5
<i>Canadian Catalogue</i>	
1950	360 entries
1951	approx. 2140 entries
Union Catalogue (holdings)	263 000

#### National Library of Canada

##### 2000/2001

Total budget	\$32 070 000
Staff	425
<i>Canadiana</i>	
Bibliographic records	60 000
Authorities records	17 000
Union Catalogue (holdings)	35 500 000

N.B. Year 2000/2001 figures are projections.



## Early Days at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre

*Martha Shepard, former Director, Canadian Bibliographic Centre, and former Director, Reference Branch, National Library of Canada*

**W**hen the Canadian Bibliographic Centre started in May 1950, it was long before the computer would profoundly change the library world, so many of the things we did and how we did them will seem strange.

Microfilm and microcards were the latest in technology and card catalogues across the country were maintained by multitudes of cataloguers and filers.

Dr. William Kaye Lamb was appointed by Prime Minister King to the dual positions of Dominion archivist and national librarian and was given the mandate to start a national library. Wisely, since the National Library had no legal existence, book collection or building in which to house it, he began the Canadian Bibliographic Centre. Located in one end of the Exhibit Room in the old Archives building on Sussex Drive, the Centre was started to do two things:

To compile and publish a monthly list of all the new Canadian books, whether published in Canada, written by Canadians, or written about Canada but published elsewhere. These would form the nucleus of the Canadiana collection of the National Library.

To compile a union catalogue listing the holdings of all the major libraries in the country, thereby enabling a library or an individual to find out where a needed publication was held and to borrow it through an interlibrary loan.

Related to these objectives was the task of building up a collection of bibliographies and reference tools.



Hélène (Alie) Baudry microfilming the card catalogues of Ottawa-area libraries.

Microfilm was the obvious way to copy the card catalogues in the other libraries. Enlargements, back to the original three-by-five-inch cards, could then be made and filed in the Union Catalogue.

Having been a keen photographer for most of my life, I was involved with microphotography from the start and had helped to carry out the Canadian newspaper microfilming that had been undertaken by the

Canadian Library Association. When Dr. Lamb was making his plans for the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, I had been working in the Reference Division of the Toronto Public Library for over 10 years, so I suppose I should not have been surprised when he asked Bert Hamilton, the English librarian at the Library of Parliament, who was in Toronto for a meeting, to ask me if I was interested in applying for the

position of director of the Bibliographic Centre. The position would involve compiling the Union Catalogue and starting the Reference Service of the future National Library. I was surprised because I had no thought of leaving the Toronto Public Library, but I was delighted with the challenge presented. Bert reported to Dr. Lamb that I was definitely interested.



Weeks went by and I heard nothing. Then, in November 1949, Dr. Lamb wrote that he would be in Toronto and would like to meet me for lunch and a talk. I still remember how nervous I was as I travelled by streetcar to the Royal York Hotel, where we were to have lunch. Unfortunately, it was the day of the Santa Claus Parade, and we made very slow progress along Yonge Street. I was half an hour late, which did nothing to steady my nerves.

Because the catalogue of the Reference Division of the Toronto Public Library was a well made one and also because I was at home there, it was decided that the first filming venture outside Ottawa would be in Toronto.

In the meantime, Dr. Jean Lunn, formerly of the Fraser Institute Library in Montreal, arrived to begin the Cataloguing Division of the future National Library and to compile and publish *Canadiana*, the Canadian

packages of cards which awaited filing into the cabinets.

We began to hire Grade 1 clerks, mostly girls just old enough to leave school, and they undertook the task of filing the cards. Also, as the filming of the cards in Ottawa libraries progressed, they cut up and filed the enlargements of the cards into the infant Union Catalogue. Filing cards in alphabetical order all day long can be a soul destroying task, but somehow the girls made it fun and did a superb job.

Clarisse Cardin had now been appointed as a cataloguer, and she joined our triumvirate. Soon after this, we initiated a program of speaking English on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and French on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. (We worked a half day on Saturday in those prehistoric days.) This helped the English-speaking staff to overcome any embarrassment at speaking French, fractured as it might be. By the time I went to Laval University in Quebec City to microfilm their catalogue, I was able to make myself understood and could understand most of what was said to me.

Every Christmas, the staff of the Archives and the Bibliographic Centre had a Christmas party at which a draw was held. To finance this (the top prize was \$50), one dollar was collected from each employee on paydays. Before our first party, I told the staff that if I won the top prize, I would buy an electric kettle so that we could have tea in the afternoons. I felt safe making this promise because I had never won anything in my life. Naturally I won the \$50, and afternoon tea became a cherished part of our routine.

I had begun selecting reference books for our collection and lived with Winchell's *Guide to Reference Books* for months. By the time we moved into the National Library and Archives building in 1967, we had a good collection of

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## This was the beginning of what I thought of as my missionary work – spreading the gospel of the National Library and explaining what it could do for each library.

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We had a pleasant lunch, while Dr. Lamb outlined his plans. Halfway through, he suddenly said, "By the way, this is your official civil service examination." Thus, I was spared the ordeal of going before a civil service board, for which I was profoundly grateful because, when under pressure, I tend to forget who and what I am.

On May 1, 1950, I reported for work at the Public Archives building on Sussex Drive and was shown my "office", which was one end of the Exhibit Room. There was a desk and chair, a typewriter and an assortment of stationery supplies. There was also a set of the Library of Congress's printed catalogue, which was still in boxes since there were no bookcases. With Dr. Lamb's help, I began making plans for microfilming the catalogues of the many departmental libraries in Ottawa, visiting them to make friends with the librarians and to estimate how long it would take to do the necessary filming. This was the beginning of what I thought of as my missionary work – spreading the gospel of the National Library and explaining what it could do for each library.

national bibliography. We were also given our own typist. Now we had three people at three desks and were very visible to the visitors to the Archives. The most frequent questions we were asked were "Where is Wolfe's chair?" and "Where is the washroom?" I grew to hate Wolfe's chair.

Dr. Lunn was extremely busy with the development of *Canadiana*, and, before long, Adèle Languedoc was appointed to work with her in publicizing the need for publishers to send two copies of each book they published to the National Library. Once the legislation regarding legal deposit was passed, her task was made easier. Thus began the Acquisition Division of the National Library, and it was not long before we amassed a considerable collection of books – but we had no place to put them.

The next thing to happen was the arrival of dozens of metal filing cabinets filled with Library of Congress cards, which the University of Toronto Library was delighted to unload on us. They were accompanied by what seemed like hundreds of unopened

bibliographies, which were needed in the work we did.

With a number of library catalogues added to the Union Catalogue, our location service began. At first there were a few requests a week, but this soon swelled to several thousand a month. By 1967, we were receiving location requests by phone, mail and Telex. There was a Telex operator who did nothing but receive requests and send out the reports of our searches of the Union Catalogue. All this was far in the future when we were still on Sussex Drive.

As the Canadian Bibliographic Centre developed, the staff grew to

cope with the increasing workload and services. Early pioneers were Ian Wees, H el ene (Alie) Beaudry, Ruth-Ann (McGrath) Ladas, Suzanne (Monette) Beauchamp and Edith Bracey. Soon after the Canadian Bibliographic Centre became the National Library, more staff members were hired; among those there were Pamela Hardisty (who later went to the Library of Parliament), Eleanor (Belyea) Wees, Jean-Paul Bourque and Philip Chaplin. I always felt great fondness and affection for the staff who stayed with us through the years. Our reward was the move to the new building, allowing us to become a functioning library.

A final tribute must be made to Dr. Lamb. His vision and dedication, combined with his being known and respected in high places, made it possible for him to carry out his objectives. When I was considering whether or not to leave the security of the Toronto Public Library and to take the gamble of going to the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, I went to Dr. William Wallace, then the librarian at the University of Toronto, for his advice. He told me that I would not make a mistake in going to work with Dr. Lamb, who was "a fine historian, a gentleman and a scholar". This turned out to be true. ◆

## The National Bibliography 50 Years Ago

Clarisse Cardin,  
former Librarian at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, and  
Chief of the Subject Analysis Division, National Library of Canada

**A**s you no doubt know by now, *Canadiana* began in a corner of the Public Archives Museum, in an old building on Sussex Drive in Ottawa.

A few screens separated the Canadian Bibliographic Centre from items displayed in the Museum. The voices of visitors to the Museum did not reach the Centre, aside from a few exclamations at the sight of Wolfe's chair.

The Bibliographic Centre staff was very limited; towards the end of 1951, it was composed of only eight people, four of whom would later worked on the national bibliography under the enlightened leadership of Dr. Jean Lunn.

Legal deposit did not become mandatory until 1953, the year in which the National Library absorbed the Bibliographic Centre. The Centre, therefore, had to find other means of

acquiring the publications listed in *Canadiana*. Although the largest publishers generally sent a copy of their publications, literary sections of many newspapers and specialized journals had to be scanned in order to locate and request other publications. Research was also conducted in bookstores. Some staff members, even while on vacation abroad, found translations of Canadian or Canadian-born authors' works in bookstores. I remember, in particular, a Turkish translation of Arthur Hailey's *Airport* being found in an Istanbul bookstore. Canadian government publications, however, were easier to obtain than those of commercial or private publishers.

The catalogers of the Bibliographic Centre compiled entries according to the *A.L.A. Cataloging Rules for Author and Title Entries*, 2nd ed., 1949, and the *Rules for Descriptive Cataloging in the Library of Congress*, 1949. The data elements were typed on small pieces of paper and, after verification, they were transferred onto strips of heavy paper, which were then cut to make cards for each individual entry. The entries and their cross-references were then arranged in alphabetical order and glued to a large rectangle of packing paper which was fastened to a drawing board. Thus, a page was created. A running head and pagination were added and, once reduced, the pages were reproduced by photolithography. On January 15, 1951, using this method, the Centre produced the first of what would be many issues of *Canadiana*.

The modest but promising early history of *Canadiana* paved the way for today's national bibliography, a bibliography which has been, and continues to be, enhanced through the use of new information and computer technologies. ◆

# The Germ of the National Library

Ian C. Wees, former Assistant and Acting Director, Reference Branch

**I** joined the staff of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre at the beginning of November 1952. A young, inexperienced librarian, I had graduated from the McGill University Library School that same year. Early in 1952, I had been fortunate enough to visit the Canadian Bibliographic Centre with my library school class.

While in Ottawa, I applied for work with the federal government and was interviewed by an large, intimidating board of government librarians (there must have been about a dozen of them), including Adèle Languedoc, the Canadiana acquisitions librarian at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre. The

When I arrived, the staff of the Bibliographic Centre consisted of four clerks and four librarians. The Centre was located on the ground floor of the old Public Archives building (now the Canadian War Museum); at the time, the National Gallery of Canada was similarly situated in part of the

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**The staff of the Bibliographic Centre resembled a small family, with Dr. Lamb as its father; he was even referred to as “Father” by some of the librarians.**

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experience reminded me of a post-graduate student submitting to an oral examination before earning his or her degree. I also took the opportunity, while in the nation’s capital, to meet W. Kaye Lamb, the Dominion Archivist and soon-to-become first national librarian, in his spacious office; it was a Saturday morning, as I recall, and Dr. Lamb chatted affably with me for perhaps half an hour.

After gaining my library science degree, I worked for several months as a reference librarian at the Winnipeg Public Library before unexpectedly receiving a letter from Martha Shepard, Director of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, inviting me to work at the Centre. I was the first man and last librarian to join the staff before the Bibliographic Centre was promoted to the National Library of Canada in January 1953.

National Museum building in Ottawa. The Bibliographic Centre staff was crowded into one end of the Archives museum, which contained busts, flags, paintings and an assortment of other artifacts relating to Canadian history. The area being open to the public, the Bibliographic Centre employees were on display along with the various historical objects (such as a large model of Quebec City). The commodious museum was occasionally used for staff parties, and I remember a Christmas dance for the Public Archives and Canadian Bibliographic Centre employees being held there in 1952.

The staff of the Bibliographic Centre resembled a small family, with Dr. Lamb as its father; he was even referred to as “Father” by some of the librarians. He was our figurative father and that of the soon-to-be-born National Library.

Our little family was part of a larger one, the staff of the Public Archives; and a friendly closeness or neighbourliness existed between the two staffs. The Public Archives staff was itself still on the small side in those far-off days, and we came to know the clerks and archivists who shared the building with us (one of them being Wilfred Smith, later to succeed W. Kaye Lamb as Dominion archivist).

At the beginning, I worked half days for Jean Lunn, cataloguing publications for *Canadiana*, and half days for Martha Shepard, editing Union Catalogue cards. My job was humble and my salary small (I started at a yearly salary of about \$2 800); and we had to work five-and-a-half-day weeks at that time, with only two weeks of annual leave. Nevertheless, I felt privileged to be one of the pioneers at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre and to be able to contribute to the development of services unique in Canada.

In my book on the first 25 years of the National Library, published in 1978, I included the following anecdote. Jean Lunn and Adèle Languedoc once attended a reception at which Vincent Massey was present. Dr. Lunn was introduced to Mr. Massey, who, after being told that she worked at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, exclaimed, “Ah, yes – the germ of the National Library.” Whereupon, Miss Languedoc impulsively said to Mr. Massey, “And I’m the assistant germ.”

We were preparing the way for the National Library, but hard would it have been for me to imagine, in those pre-1953 days, that so tiny a germ would grow into the large, complex institution that now exists – nor did I ever imagine that I would someday be the first editor of the *National Library News*. ♦





# Some Recollections from the 1950s

Hélène (Alie) Beaudry,  
former Library Clerk at the Canadian Bibliographic Centre

**I** was looking for a transfer. The name “Bibliographic Centre” meant absolutely nothing to me, but curiosity having gotten the better of me, I decided to pay it a visit. To my great surprise, the Centre was located in the Public Archives building on Sussex Drive. It was there that I met Dr. Jean Lunn.

After a long conversation, she told me that if I accepted the position that she was offering me, I would have to join Martha Shepard, the librarian who was in charge of the Union Catalogue of Books and who, at that time, was in the process of microfilming the catalogue cards of the University of Toronto. The next day, I called to tell her that I wished to accept the position of library clerk.

place for me to stay on Sherbourne Street, not far from the bus stop.

The microfilming in Toronto lasted several months. Once finished, we returned to Ottawa, where, upon my arrival, I was asked to continue microfilming the cards of all the libraries in Ottawa. After the catalogue cards were microfilmed, the microfilms were developed and the cards were printed on large rolls. We received many enlargement rolls of microfilmed cards during the development of the Union Catalogue. These enlargement rolls accumulated daily. Since I was still



Dr. Jean Lunn.



Martha Shepard and Hélène (Alie) Beaudry on a break from microfilming the Toronto Public Library’s catalogue.

The preparations completed, I left... When I arrived in Toronto, Ms. Shepard was waiting for me at the train station. We recognized each other right away. She had found an attractive



Ruth-Ann (McGrath) Ladas and Hélène (Alie) Beaudry at the Centre’s Christmas party, 1950.



working alone, it was time to hire new staff. Ruth-Ann (McGrath) Ladas, the second employee assigned to the Union Catalogue, joined us. Some time later, Edith Bracey and a fourth employee, Suzanne (Monette) Beauchamp (for whom it would be her first job), joined us. After the integration of the Centre into the National Library, Irene

Library of Congress cards had provided the starting point for the Catalogue.

The production of the *Canadiana* bibliography was another of the tasks assigned to the Bibliographic Centre. When delivered from the printer, copies of the bibliography were put in



Edith Bracey, Ruth-Ann (McGrath) Ladas and H el ene (Alie) Beaudry working on the Union Catalogue.

Haymann and several others joined our team.

The process of adding new library cards to the Union Catalogue was as follows. Three employees were seated at a large worktable. The first person unwound the card enlargement roll and stamped each card with the logo bearing the name of the new library. The logos contained letters representing the province, the city and the university in which each library was located. The second person, using a manual paper-cutter, cut each card one by one and arranged them in drawers, making sure to keep them in alphabetical order.

Eventually, these new cards were incorporated into the Union Catalogue of Books, which already contained cards from the Library of Congress. The

large brown envelopes and sent to their recipients.

In our spare time, staff of the Bibliographic Centre organized social activities. For our first Christmas party, Edith Bracey showed Ruth-Ann (McGrath) Ladas and me how to tap dance. We made our own costumes and practised during our lunch and coffee breaks. We were ready on time; and the day of the show, everything went well!

These are a few of my recollections of the Bibliographic Centre and the early days of the National Library. I left my job in 1954 to devote myself to my family, but returned to the National Library in 1966. ◆

### Staff Members of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre

Under the leadership of Dominion Archivist W. Kaye Lamb, the staff of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, though few in number, accomplished small miracles. Their pioneer work in mounting the bibliographic services that Canada and Canadians had been waiting so long for provided the foundation for today's National Library.

- Martha Shepard, Director (1950)
- Dr. Jean Lunn, Bibliographer (1950)
- Joan Beatty, Stenographer (1950, stayed only a short time)
- H el ene (Alie) Beaudry, Clerk (1950)
- Ruth-Ann (McGrath) Ladas, Typist (1950)
- Ad ele Languedoc, Cataloguer (1951)
- Clarisse Cardin, Librarian (1951)
- Suzanne (Monette) Beauchamp, Clerk (1951)
- Edith Bracey, Clerk (1951)
- Dr. Ian Wees, Librarian (1952)

Source: This article is based on research documented in *The Canadian Bibliographic Centre: Preparing the Way for the National Library of Canada*, prepared by Carolyn Robertson. Ottawa: National Library of Canada. August, 1999.



# Chronology of the Call for a National Library

The following provides an overview of the major initiatives undertaken and the statements made over the course of some 70 years, each asserting the benefits and value of, and the need for, a national library in Canada. Prominent individuals and organizations presented the merits of a Canadian institution to parallel those already in existence in other parts of the world. The chronology demonstrates that there is, at times, a very long delay between an idea's inception and its realization.

1883 Sir John A. Macdonald makes a statement in the House of Commons:

"We ought really to have – the Dominion of Canada really ought to have – a national library, containing every book worthy of being kept on the shelves of a Library."

*House of Commons Debates*, 5th Parliament, 1st session, vol. 13 (16 April 1883), p. 631.

1911 Lawrence J. Burpee, Librarian of Ottawa Carnegie Library, publishes his "plea":

"Canada enjoys the dubious distinction of ranking with Siam and Abyssinia in at least one respect – none of the three possesses a national library."

Lawrence J. Burpee, "A Plea For a National Library", *University Magazine*, vol. 10 (February 1911), p. 152 (Speech given at the annual conference of the Ontario Library Association in the spring of 1910).

1911 The Ontario Library Association presents a resolution to the government requesting the appointment of a royal commission on the need for a national library:

It called for the "speedy establishment of a national library in Canada ... [which] would be of incalculable benefit to students all over the Dominion, but also a source of stimulus and inspiration to the library movement in every quarter of the country."

Ontario Library Association, "Resolution of Ontario Library Association re Canadian National Library (1911)", Wilfrid Laurier Fonds, MG 26, G. vol. 681, p. 186218 (National Archives of Canada).

1933 The Ridington Commission of Enquiry publishes its report and recommends:

"If the Dominion Government chose to embrace it, a glorious opportunity to-day presents itself to create in Canada a National Library, comparable to those already established in other countries – one worthy of Canada's place among the nations."

John Ridington, *Libraries in Canada: A Study of Library Conditions and Needs* (Toronto: Ryerson Press; Chicago: American Library Association, 1933), p. 142.

1938 The British Columbia Library Association and the Ontario Library Association submit briefs to the Rowell-Sirois Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations:

The Commission acknowledged that "attention had been called to the great need for a national library in Canada".

Canada. Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations, *Report of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations. Book II: Recommendations* (Ottawa: [s.n.], 1940), p. 52.

1943 The Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament recommends to Parliament:

that "the Government adopt the policy of a National Library".

*Journals of the Senate of Canada*, vol. 83 (1943-44), p. 333.

1944 The Canadian Library Council submits a brief to the Special Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment of the House of Commons:

It recommend the "establishment of a national library as an important part of national library services".

"Library Service for Canada: A Brief Prepared by the Canadian Library Council to the House of Commons Special Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment" (1944), p. 9.

1945 The Canadian Social Science Research Council publishes a report by John Bartlet Brebner:



“It is astonishing that she should be one of the few countries of the world without one, particularly when the examples of the British Museum and the Library of Congress are so striking.”

John Bartlet Brebner, *Scholarship for Canada: The Function of Graduate Studies* (Ottawa: Canadian Social Science Research Council, 1945), p. 77.

**1946** The newly formed Canadian Library Association mounts a campaign for a national library as per the resolution adopted:

That the Association “petition the Government of Canada to set up, in the near future, a Committee to consider the advisability of creating a National Library and to study the scope and function of such a Library, and that this Association and other interested organizations be asked to serve on that Committee”.

“Report of the Resolutions Committee, Canadian Library Association Conference (1st: 1946: Hamilton), Proceedings of the Organizational Conference, June 14-16, 1946, Hamilton, Ontario”, p. 5.

**1947** The Canadian Library Association and four learned societies present a joint brief to the Secretary of State:

“To sum up, the National Library would be a centre of intellectual life of Canada, and a guarantee that the sources of its history will be preserved, and a symbol of our national concern with the things of the mind and the spirit.”

“A National Library for Canada: A Brief Presented to the Government

of Canada by the Canadian Library Association = Association canadienne des bibliothèques, the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Historical Association, the Canadian Political Science Association and the Social Science Research Council of Canada” (December 1946), p. 2.

**1947** The Humanities Research Council publishes a report and makes recommendations to the Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament pointing at the weaknesses of the Canadian library situation:

“The pressing needs of the moment are (a) the immediate appointment of a national librarian, with a working nucleus of personnel to set up a bibliographic centre and library information bureau, including photostat and microfilm service, and (b) the appointment of a board or committee... to investigate thoroughly the practical details of the proposed library, its organization, its book stocks, its major functions, the type of building best suited to its performance, and the legislation needed to implement this master plan.”

Watson Kirkconnell and A.S.P. Woodhouse, *The Humanities in Canada* (Ottawa: Humanities Research Council of Canada, 1947), p. 165-166.

**1948 June** – The Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament addresses recommendations to the House of Commons:

“That as a first step towards the creation of a National Library, the planning of a Bibliographic Centre be commenced by the selection of a competent bibliographer and

secretary; and that this matter be referred to the Secretary of State, with the recommendations that a special committee be set up to supervise such work; and that sufficient funds be supplied to meet necessary expenses”.

Canada. Parliament. House of Commons, *Votes and Proceedings*, 20th Parliament, 4th session, no. 104 (11 June 1948), p. 564.

**1948 September** – The government appoints Dr. W.K. Lamb as Dominion archivist and authorizes him to prepare the way for the establishment of a national library.

**1948 November 24** – The Cabinet approves the appointment of a National Library Advisory Committee to consider the formation of a bibliographic centre. Members are appointed within the next few weeks.

**1949** The government sets up the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences to examine and make recommendations regarding the eventual character and scope of the national library. Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey is the Chair.

**1949 August** – The Canadian Library Association submits a brief on the “eventual character and scope” of the national library to the Massey Royal Commission.

**1950 May 1** – The government establishes the Canadian Bibliographic Centre under Dr. W.K. Lamb and the National Library Advisory Committee.





**1951** The Massey report (Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters, and Sciences) recommends the government take action without delay:

It noted “that a national library finds no place among the federal institutions which we have been required to examine is a remarkable fact which has been the occasion of much sharp comments during our sessions. Over ninety organizations have discussed this matter, some in great detail, urging that what has been called a ‘national disgrace’ be remedied.”

Canada. Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, *Report* (Ottawa: King’s Printer, 1951), p. 101.

**1952 May 20** – Prime Minister St. Laurent introduces Bill No. 245 regarding the establishment of a National Library.

He stated that “one basic objective of any national library, I think, is to become the most comprehensive library in the world on its own country. It is proposed that Canada’s national library should try to reach that objective.”

*House of Commons Debates: Official Report*, 21st Parliament, 6th session, vol. 1 (20 May 1952), p. 2373.

**May 27** – The bill receives its second and third readings.

**June 18** – The National Library Act receives Royal Assent.

**December 22** – The National Library Act is proclaimed.

**1953 January 1** – The National Library Act comes into effect and Dominion Archivist W. Kaye Lamb adds National Librarian of Canada to his title. The Canadian Bibliographic Centre is absorbed by the new National Library of Canada.

Source: This article is based on research documented in *The Canadian Bibliographic Centre: Preparing the Way for the National Library of Canada*, prepared by Carolynn Robertson. Ottawa: National Library of Canada. August, 1999. ♦

### Publications Issued by the Canadian Bibliographic Centre

During its short lifespan, May 1, 1950, to December 1952, the Canadian Bibliographic Centre issued a number of publications. It is interesting to note that in those early days the staff was very much aware of the need for bilingual presentation and content. The Centre’s publications included both current and retrospective bibliographies and were produced in collaboration with organizations that had already been providing some bibliographic coverage of material published in Canada. As the Centre grew and developed, it began assuming an increasingly important role in the bibliographic control of what is now called the Canadian published heritage.

“The Canadian catalogue, 1950”. – *Bulletin* – Ottawa : Canadian Library Association. – Vol. 6, no. 6 (May 1950) – vol. 7, no. 5 (March/mars 1951).

This 1950 catalogue was published in six parts.

*Canadian graduate theses in the humanities and social sciences 1921-1946* = *Thèses des gradués canadiens dans les humanités et les sciences sociales 1921-1946*. – Ottawa : Government of Canada, 1951. – 194 p.

This compilation was a joint enterprise of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Canadian Bibliographic Centre.

*Canadian index to periodicals and documentary*. – Edited by Dorothy B. Chatwin. – Vol. 4. – Ottawa : Canadian Library Association, in cooperation with the Canadian Bibliographic Centre, 1952. – 216 p.

*Canadiana*. – Ottawa : Canadian Bibliographic Centre, 1951-1952. – v.

Published semi-monthly from January to November 1951 and then monthly. First issue dated January 15, 1951.

*A check list of Canadian imprints 1900-1925 = Catalogue d’ouvrages imprimés au Canada, 1900-1925*. – Compiled by Dorothea D. Tod and Audrey Cordingley. – Preliminary checking ed. Ottawa : Canadian Bibliographic Centre, Public Archives of Canada, 1950. – 370 leaves.

Source: This article is based on research documented in *The Canadian Bibliographic Centre: Preparing the Way for the National Library of Canada*, prepared by Carolynn Robertson. Ottawa: National Library of Canada. August, 1999.



Whether in Reference, Cataloguing or the Union Catalogue, every task undertaken was a team effort.

### The National Library Advisory Committee

The National Library Advisory Committee was approved in November 1948, and most of its members were appointed within the following weeks. The Advisory Committee held its first meeting in March 1949. Under the strong leadership of Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, the Committee met at regular intervals, issued progress reports and formulated numerous recommendations to ensure progress towards the creation of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre and a national library.

The following were the members of the Committee:

- The Honourable Thane A. Campbell, Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island (representative of Prince Edward Island)
- Dr. C. Lindsay Bennet, Dalhousie University (representative of Nova Scotia)
- Dean Alfred G. Bailey, University of New Brunswick (representative of New Brunswick)
- L'Abbé Arthur Maheux, Université Laval (representative of Quebec)
- Paul Houde, Montreal (additional representative of French Canada)
- The Reverend A.-M. Morisset, Ottawa (additional representative of French Canada)
- Dr. W. Stewart Wallace, University of Toronto (representative of Ontario)
- Elizabeth Dafoe, University of Manitoba (representative of Manitoba)
- Samuel R. Stephens, Moose Jaw (representative of Saskatchewan)
- Mrs. Frank J. Conroy, Edmonton (representative of Alberta)
- Edgar S. Robinson, Vancouver (representative of British Columbia)
- F.A. Hardy, Parliamentary Librarian, Secretary
- Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, Chairman

All but two of the members, Dr. C. Lindsay Bennet and Samuel R. Stephens, continued to serve when the Advisory Committee was replaced by the National Library Advisory Council. The Advisory Council was established on December 22, 1952, at the time of the proclamation of the National Library Act.

## CONGRATULATIONS

# The Bibliographic Centre and the Public Archives: Two Branches under Dr. Lamb's Leadership

The Canadian Bibliographic Centre had very modest beginnings 50 years ago. In these extracts from his unpublished memoirs (MG 31, D8, vol. 18, file 8, p. 247-251), Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, newly appointed Dominion archivist and chair of the National Advisory Committee, recounts his struggles to institute the Library and have it taken as seriously as its more established sister institution, the then Public Archives of Canada.

"As soon as I arrived in Ottawa the Minister appointed a National Library Advisory Committee to assist me with the preliminary planning. It included ten members from all across the country, as well as Francis Hardy, Librarian of Parliament, and myself. The backbone of the committee, from my point of view, was the three working librarians – Edgar Robinson, of Vancouver Public Library, Elizabeth Dafoe, Librarian of the University of Manitoba, and Peter Grossman, of the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries.

"The Committee met first on March 4, 1949, and I proposed that as a first step toward a National Library we should establish a Bibliographic Centre which, with a minimum of books and staff, could begin work on two projects that were obvious functions of a National Library – a Union catalogue, to provide a key to the book resources of the country, and a catalogue of current publications of Canadian origin, authorship or interest, which I hoped might soon begin to appear in the form of a periodical

distributed free to all Canadian libraries.

"For the next year we could do little except plan, until funds became available in the estimates for 1950-51, but in February 1950, in anticipation, the Minister had given me written authority to go ahead with the organization of a Bibliographic Centre. Martha Shepard, formerly in the Reference Division of the Toronto Public Library, became Director of the Centre on May 1, 1950. Dr. Jean Lunn, formerly Librarian of the Fraser Institute of Montreal, joined the staff on July 1 as Bibliographer, and at once took over responsibility for the current list, which we had decided should be entitled *Canadiana*. It appeared as a separate publication in January 1951, and thereafter the never-ending struggle began (1) to publish the monthly issues on time (which we were often unable to do), and (2) to secure copies of the new publications that should be included in it. This latter was a sleuthing assignment of major proportions, and it was performed superbly for years by Adèle Languedoc, who joined the staff in January 1951. The Shepard - Lunn - Languedoc combination was a quite extraordinary aggregation of varied talents, and the National Library project profited enormously from their devoted work over the next twenty years, much of the time under physical conditions that were far from ideal.

"As early as 1951 I had taken to trudging around Ottawa, looking for a possible site for a National Library

building. The other point I had in mind as a requirement for the site right from the beginning, was that the building should house both the National Library and the Public Archives. And there was, to my mind, sound strategy behind this view. I could sense that there was some sentiment in favor of building a library building quite soon, but this had not been accompanied by any generous financial provision for the library itself. In 1952, when all this came to head, the Bibliographic Centre was still accommodated, fairly comfortably, in one of the larger museum rooms in the Old Archives Building. To contend that an institution of that minuscule size could justify the construction of a large building erected with an eye to the future was simply not realistic. If a separate structure were built, it would be somewhat on the scale of the Ottawa Public Library. My solution to this dilemma was to assume (as proved to be the case) that when building time came no objection would be raised if I set out to accommodate both the branches under my jurisdiction, and just not the one that happened to be more talked about."

In this piece, Dr. Lamb reveals himself again as a personable and generous leader, citing the contributions of the people who aided him in his life's adventure, to found one institution while maintaining another. As his approach to his duties included a certain amount of dry humour, he would understand that I urge you to hang on to those candles from the celebration of the Bibliographic Centre for the 50th anniversary of the National Library itself in 2003.

Ian E. Wilson,  
National Archivist



# Congratulations



The Library of Parliament is pleased to join others from the Canadian library community in marking the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre. The long-standing co-operation between the Library of Parliament and the National Library has evolved over the years and will continue in the years to come.

*Richard Paré,  
Parliamentary Librarian*



The Ontario Library Association takes pride in the advocacy efforts of the early Association and of its presidents such as Lawrence Burpee, Fred Landon and Mary J.L. Black to establish a national library in Canada. The significant contributions of these people and of their pioneering cohorts across Canada remain an inspiration. Our congratulations on this meaningful anniversary to the people responsible for it, past and present.

*Larry Moore,  
Executive Director, OLA*



The founding of the Bibliographic Centre in 1950 marked the beginning of a long and rewarding partnership between Canada's national library and Canada's national library association. In the early years, the bond was particularly strong. The Canadian Library Association's Ottawa staff worked closely to support Director Martha Shepard and the staff of the Bibliographic Centre as they faced the extraordinary challenges of creating the first national union catalogue and laid the foundation for the fine standard of bibliographic services provided to Canadian libraries, scholars and researchers over these last 50 years.

*Leacy O'Callaghan-O'Brien,  
Associate Executive Director, CLA*



The British Columbia Library Association is pleased to offer its congratulations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Canadian Bibliographic Centre. As libraries throughout the country continue to provide excellent service and develop innovative ways of serving their communities, it is important to reflect on the significant contributions of those early advocates of library service and how their groundwork makes possible the work that continues today.

*Michael Burris,  
Executive Director, BCLA*

The full text of articles prepared by Richard Paré, Parliamentary Librarian, and Leacy O'Callaghan-O'Brien, Associate Executive Director, Canadian Library Association, will appear in the June issue of the *National Library News*.

## Thank You to Our Read Up On It Partner

### Read Up On It

- 1999 Theme: Humour
  - 1998 Theme: Mystery and Adventure
  - 1997 Theme: Sports
  - 1996 Theme: History
  - 1995 Theme: Science Fiction and Fantasy
  - 1994 Theme: The Family
  - 1993 Theme: Aboriginal Legends
- Available on the National Library Web site at  
<<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/pubs/ruoi/>>

Over the past 10 years, Canada Post has worked to support many literacy programs and initiatives. It's support of the Read Up On It program makes it possible for the publication to reach readers across Canada.



Roch Carrier met recently with the Honourable André Ouellet, President and Chief Executive Officer of Canada Post. Discussions focussed on the library book rate and literacy. Mr. Ouellet reaffirmed Canada Post's interest in the book rate and their commitment to work with partners to promote literacy in Canada.





### Training Schedule

Access AMICUS is available to Canadian libraries, other institutions and individual researchers. It provides access to the AMICUS database via the Web, Z39.50, Telnet, Datapac and iNet. Training is offered across Canada and is recommended for efficient and effective use of the Access AMICUS service. Each user must sign an agreement concerning the use of Access AMICUS.

To register for a session, please contact Information Technology Services by telephone at (819) 997-7227, fax (819) 994-6835, TTY (613) 992-6969, X.400 [cic-its]gc+nlc.bnc@govmt.canada/ca, or e-mail [cic@nlc-bnc.ca](mailto:cic@nlc-bnc.ca). Registrations must be received by the deadline date for the session, as indicated in the training schedule. Sessions will be held only if the number of registrants is sufficient. For more information, please consult our Web site at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/amicus/access/eamiform.htm>.

For new clients, the cost of training is \$165.00\* per participant for a one-day training session or \$290.00 for a two-day session (both include technical setup). For current clients, the cost of training is \$225.00\* per participant for a two-day training session or \$125.00\* for a one-day session. Training fees are payable upon receipt of an invoice following the training. Registered participants who cancel one week or less prior to a session will be billed the training charges.

The National Library also offers on-site Access AMICUS training for groups, subject to the availability of trainers. Contact the Access AMICUS coordinator regarding costs of specialized sessions.

Charges for the use of Access AMICUS following training are moderate. A minimum of \$40.00 is charged every three months if the system has been used during that period.

Registration Deadline	Location	Session Date
May 1	Dalhousie University Room 3615, Computer Lab Killam Library, 3rd floor School of Library and Information Studies Halifax, Nova Scotia	<b>May 23:</b> Access AMICUS on the Web (in English) <b>May 24:</b> Access AMICUS via Telnet/Datapac (in English)
May 8	Information Technology Services Training Room, 9th floor National Library of Canada 25 Eddy Street Hull, Quebec	<b>May 23:</b> Access AMICUS on the Web (in French) <b>May 24:</b> Access AMICUS via Telnet/Datapac (in French)
May 15	Université Laval Room 1353 Library, Bonenfant Pavilion Sainte Foy, Quebec	<b>June 6:</b> Access AMICUS on the Web (in French) <b>June 7:</b> Access AMICUS via Telnet/Datapac (in French)
May 23	University of British Columbia Room B214, 2nd floor Arts Computing Centre Buchanan Building 1866 Mall Street Vancouver, British Columbia	<b>June 13:</b> Access AMICUS on the Web (in English) <b>June 14:</b> Access AMICUS via Telnet/Datapac (in English)
May 29	Alberta Research Council Multipurpose Room Main Floor 250 Karl Clark Road Edmonton, Alberta	<b>June 20:</b> Access AMICUS on the Web (in English)
May 29	Laurentian University Computer Classroom C-305 J.N. Desmarais Library Sudbury, Ontario	<b>June 20:</b> Access AMICUS on the Web (in English) <b>June 21:</b> Access AMICUS via Telnet/Datapac (in English)
June 5	Université de Moncton Bibliothèque Champlain Local #133 Moncton, Nouveau Brunswick	<b>June 27:</b> Access AMICUS on the Web (in French) <b>June 28:</b> Access AMICUS via Telnet/Datapac (in French)
June 27	Information Technology Services Branch Training Room, 9th floor Les Terrasses de la Chaudière 25 Eddy Street Hull, Quebec	<b>July 11:</b> Access AMICUS on the Web (in English) <b>July 12:</b> Access AMICUS via Telnet/Datapac (in English)
July 10	Information Technology Services Branch Training Room, 9th floor Les Terrasses de la Chaudière 25 Eddy Street Hull, Quebec	<b>July 25:</b> Access AMICUS on the Web (in French) <b>July 26:</b> Access AMICUS via Telnet/Datapac (in French)

\* Taxes not included.  
Note: Prices may be subject to change.