



Polonica, Canadiana, and Much More

Some time ago a gentleman pointed out to me that I had never highlighted in any of my articles anything to do with Polish gifts-in-kind to the Fisher Library. The defense offered was that we would have had to have received something Polish in order to write about it. This year, that gentleman should be very pleased.

The Fisher Library received a Christmas present in December 2001, and in January 2002 I was privileged to be able to unwrap and list a donation from Karol Godlewski and family, which consisted of an extraordinary collection of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and images related to Poland. This collection, assembled over several decades chiefly by Mr. Godlewski's uncle, Count Emeryk Hutten Czapski, a long time resident in Rome, is very special. (For more information on Czapski, see article by Leszek Czubik elsewhere in this issue.) Not only did Count Czapski collect works written by Polish authors – that would have been easy – but he also bought editions and translations of major works by non-Polish authors, if the editors or translators were Polish. Naturally works on matters Polish are also included. The earliest dated item is from 1505: Erazm Ciolek's *Oratio in praestia obedientia Soleni Sanctissimo nostro Julio II, Pape, in nomine serenissimi principis Alexandri Regi Polonia*; the most recent a catalogue from a 1976 art exhibition. Because he lived in Italy for a long period, many of the books are in Italian or have Italian imprints and although the Fisher Library is

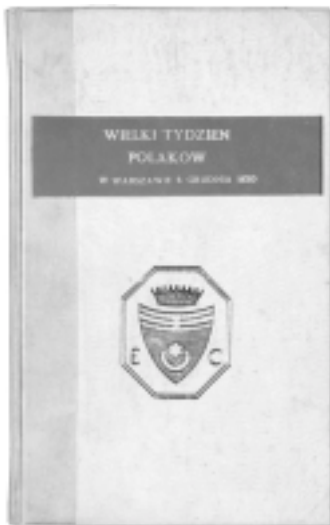
rich in its Italian resources, there would appear to be little duplication with our holdings. The main focus is on the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries and the subject matters ranges from texts written by Terence and Plutarch, to biographies of Polish kings, details of famous battles, poetry books, etc. There are images of Polish personages, palaces, landscapes or battle scenes, many of artistic importance, and an annotated listing done by art dealer Jan Johnson of Montreal details the significance of the various etchings. This is a very substantial gift, one that will considerably enhance the Central European holdings of the Fisher Library.

For a while it seemed to be the year of the Poles. Scarcely had we finished dealing with the Godlewski gift, when thirty-five cartons arrived from Henryk Wojcik. Opened and sorted, they proved to contain a very rich collection of periodicals, books, pamphlets, and broadsides either issued by various branches of the Polish Solidarity movement or material on the movement itself, much of it published 'unofficially'. Mr. Wojcik's gift will be added to the already extensive collection of Solidarity materials held here.

Our English and French language donations continue to flow in. Professor Simon Langlois made valuable additions to our Rousseau and Voltaire Collection, while Mr. Ralph Stanton continues to amaze us with the range of his interests. This year's gift was chiefly a collection of French literature from the fifteenth through

to the eighteenth centuries, including an incunabula of Jacobus Brutus's *Corona aurea* (1496), a lovely illustrated edition of Nericault Destouches' *Oeuvres* from 1755, diarist and writer John Evelyn's copy of Aubignac's *La Pratique du theatre* (1577) and an important early French edition of the works of Henry Fielding. My particular favourite was two volumes of handwritten parish records from Odon, Spain. The 1652-1712 volume begins with two sets of theological questions, possibly asked of confirmands, and then goes into descriptions of the annual Episcopal visit. The second volume has entries from 1729 to 1763 and includes detailed records of tithes received, the baptisms and marriages that took place in the church, and the deaths of local people, with many of the entries signed by Don Francisco Zebrian. Odon is a remote hamlet on the Teruel-La Mancha border. Once an important market town for the area, it faded over the years, and the church was closed some time ago. In 1996 it had a population of 271. One wonders how these volumes ended up in Canada.

A splendid two-volume German translation of a French classic was donated by Mrs. Sheila Pope. The history of François de Salignac Fénélon's *Aventures de Télémaque, fils d'Ulysse* is a curious one. Fénélon claimed that he had nothing to do with its first appearance in 1699, and that it was issued without his knowledge "par l'infidélité d'un copiste" and in a form that did not please him. Translations into English and German appeared almost



Far left: One of the specially bound items from the gift of Karol Godlewski and family.

Left: Title page and frontispiece portrait to Nericault Destouches' *Oeuvres* (Amsterdam, 1755). Gift of Ralph Stanton.



A plate illustrating one of the passages in the German translation of *Les Aventures de Télémaque*. Gift of Sheila Pope.



Portrait of William Wycherley from his *Miscellany Poems* (London, 1704) engraved by J. Smith after a painting by Sir Peter Lely. Gift of David Beatty.

immediately, but it was not until after the author's death, that an authorized and substantially different version of the text appeared. Critics cannot agree why he left it in a form that did not please him for so long. Our edition was issued in 1727-1739 and so is of the authorized version.

Important donations in English included a 1704 edition of William Wycherley's *Miscellany poems*, donated by David Beatty. This item is especially valuable as it contains a portrait of the author, which is so often wanting. We also received a 1752 edition of John Milton's *Paradise regained* from Lee Lorch. These two eighteenth-century imprints will be added to the growing collection of English eighteenth-century imprints held by the Fisher Library. William Joyce allowed us to select items from his collection. As a result, this Library has gained several volumes of works by T. E. Lawrence, including the Golden Cockerel Press edition of Lawrence's letters to H.S. Ede, limited to 500 numbered copies and bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe. From our Director, we received an extensive collection of works by and about Samuel Butler. In the words of the appraiser: "[this] is a very important collection ... built over a thirty year period and is the best Butler collection I have seen. I do not

hesitate to say that it will be the best collection of Butler in Canada, either in private or institutional hands. The large number of special issues and presentation copies to and from significant people in Butler's life make this collection even more invaluable." The collection contains fifteen editions of *Erewhon* and thirty-two of *The Way of all Flesh!* Another indefatigable collector, Professor John Slater, added more than four hundred and fifty volumes to the already extensive Bertrand Russell Collection first donated by him to the Fisher Library in 1985. This cumulative effort has resulted in creating one of the largest and most important collections of its kind in existence.

As reported in the last issue of *The Halcyon*, the Fisher Library is in the process of receiving a significant monetary endowment from the Collard estate for the acquisition of Canadiana. This past year we received two very large donations of books and other print materials as part of the Collard estate. Edward Collard's collection consists chiefly of Canadiana, and is especially rich in printed ephemera. Betty Collard's collection is focussed on the history of ceramics.

A box of newspapers that were about to be sent for recycling proved to contain several dozen issues of seven nineteenth-

century Toronto newspapers, chiefly from 1855. Many were still in their original folds and had names of subscribers pencilled in. Evidently relatives of the donor had kept a general store in the Thornhill area, where newspapers could be picked up. When the store was closed, the unsold issues were packed away and forgotten until a general cleanup took place. Our thanks to Mrs. K.L. Keith for keeping them safe for so many years and to Mr. E. Pamerter for rescuing them and for thinking of us.

John Tuzo Wilson, the noted Canadian geologist and geophysicist, gave his collection of books to his daughter, Patricia Proctor, some time ago. They were assembled over a period of forty years and include a number of inscribed copies. It is of outstanding significance and national importance because of its range and its concentration on the West and North. One of the appraisers, Jerry Sherlock, the doyen of the Canadian book trade, was amazed by how many titles he had never seen offered for sale. This donation represents a very important addition to our Canadiana collection and we are very thankful that Ms. Proctor decided that the Fisher Library should be the beneficiary of her father's research resources.

Each week during 2001, members of the League of Canadian Poets presented



A laissez-passer for a potential deserter from the Red Army. Gift of the Estate of Mischa Allen.

each Senator and Member of Parliament with a poem on peace. At the end of the year, the poems were gathered together and issued in a special box, under the title: *Convergence: Poems for Peace*. Thanks to the generosity of Connie Gardner, this item will become part of our Canadian Literature Collection.

A curious item was donated by George Fetherling. It is an annotated copy of Maria Tippet's *Emily Carr* (Toronto, 1979), once owned by Edythe Hembroff, a very close friend of Carr's. Her copy has extensive and often fascinating manuscript emendations. Needless to say, she did not often agree with the author and was most emphatic when pointing out various perceived errors. She must have been a most formidable woman!

Over the years, this library has received small donations of Nazi materials, chiefly in the form of the photo albums of Hitler's life issued by Cigaretten Bilderdienst, a tobacco company. Smokers accumulated coupons and sent them in for images of Der Fuehrer and his admiring followers, to be pasted in on the appropriate page. This year, thanks to the generosity of Neil Allen and Marsha Skolnik, the children of Mischa Allen, items written during this era are now part of the Fisher Library's collections. Many of the items are stamped

“Nur fuer den Gebrauch innerhalb der Wehrmacht” (Only to be used by members of the armed forces). Some of the topics dealt with in this collection are: the German soldier and women of alien races (etiquette); the Blitzkrieg over Britain (the might of the German Air Force); the Jews of the United States and of the Soviet Union (antisemitism); Heinrich Himmler's thoughts on the SS as an anti-Bolshevik force (anti-Communism); books suitable to be read by the German soldier (self-help); and a picture book showing how all of Europe was labouring to help the Nazi cause and the excellent conditions under which they were living and working (fiction). Of special interest is the scrapbook assembled by Mr. Allen which contains political cartoons, health warnings, German and Russian army propaganda, news clippings, personal identification papers for an Anna Vogt, safe conduct passes for German officers (in German and English) probably dropped by aircraft; a German soldier's paybook and a cloth armband for a Nazi supporter. One of the most interesting pamphlets is a laissez-passer for a potential Red Army deserter. It reads: “The person showing this does not wish a senseless bloodbath in the name of Jews and Commissars. He is leaving the defeated Red Army and is going to join the German Army. German officers and men will look after him, treat him well and get him an occupation.” It is a chilling and fascinating reminder of dark days in our history and will build upon a small collection donated many years ago by Mrs. Richard Meyer.

On a much lighter note, Ronald and Luana Peters have once again sought out items of special interest to this library, those dealing with book history and print

culture. This is now a major academic discipline and the University of Toronto has become a leader in its development. Every item in their two donations of books can contribute to research in this field. From Mrs. Peters we received, among many others, the Torch Press's *Anne Royale*, the Imprint Society's *The Wood and the Graver: the Work of Fritz Eichenberg* and the Golden Cockerel's *Clothing without Cloth*, illustrated by Eric Gill. Mr. Peters gave us Ellen Tracy's copy of Edward Gordon Craig's *The Page* (a very evocative copy as she was his mother as well as being the foremost stage actress of her time); the Grabhorn Press's edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, the Kelmscott Press's *Recuyell of the Histories of Troye*; Bruce Rogers' rendition of *Fra Luca de Pacioli*, and the De La More Press's *The Mirroure of Virtue in Worldly Greatnes, or The Life of Sir Thomas More*. This last donation was specially commended by the Canadian Cultural Properties Export Review Board.

As you can tell, it has been an interesting year, with a great variety of materials donated. Space does not permit me to list all the gifts received, but needless to say, they were all very much appreciated and we continue to be grateful for the interest shown in our collections by our friends.

Jennifer and I would like to thank our graduate student assistants, without whom we could not possibly process the quantities of materials received. Many thanks to Lara Aase and Michael Lines (2001-2002) and Dugald MacLean and David Tortell (2002-2003)

*Luba Frastacky
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library*

When I was growing up, “Why wait for spring, do it now” was a much-heard jingle used to promote hiring workers during the winter months. Jennifer and I would like to change it a little. “Why wait for fall, do it now.” With our reduced staff, donations received after October 31st often cannot be processed until after the new year begins and therefore we cannot guarantee that tax receipts will be issued in time for the April deadline. If you are thinking of donating gifts-in-kind to the Fisher Library in 2003, why wait for fall? LF