Library Associates Lunch/Lecture

Vivienne Poy Speaks of her Family History

Senator Vivienne Poy, author of Profit, Victory, and Sharpness: the Loss of Hong Kong (Toronto, 2006), talked about how and why she took up the enterprise of writing her family history, and her rigorous research methodology. The story of Poy’s family is of particular significance and interest given the historical context in which it developed. She spoke of tales from the search of her roots, her various encounters while gathering information all over the world, as well as what she has found to be the most effective tools in writing a biography. She uncovered mysteries of the past found in old books, antique documents, and dusty rooms.

The Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Centre (PJRC) recently relocated from the 8th to the 3rd floor of Robarts Library thanks to generous support from the University’s Stepping Up Academic Initiative Fund. The Library held an opening on 16 April 2009 to celebrate the move, and to reacquaint students, faculty, library staff, donors, and members of the community with the Centre’s programs and services.

Opened nearly 15 years ago, the Centre is named after the late Petro Jacyk, a Toronto businessman and philanthropist, who donated the necessary start-up funds. The Centre supports the activities, teaching, and research of the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and the five research chairs connected with Estonian, Finnish, Hungarian, Polish history, and Ukrainian studies.

The opening was well attended and included a number of distinguished guests, among them the Consul Generals of Bulgaria, Guenka Beleva; the Republic of Serbia, Dragan Grikovic; Ukraine, Oleksandra Danyliiko; and the Vice-Consul of the Czech Republic, Jiří Slais. Also in attendance were some of the Library’s many donors of Slavic and East European books and book funds, among them Joseph Medwecki, John Stanley, Gintautas Procuta, and Olga Kowal. Speakers included Carole Moore, University Chief Librarian; professor Peter Solomon, Department of Political Science; professor Christina Kramer, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Nadia Jacyk, President of the Petro Jacyk Education Foundation; and Ksenya Kiebzinski, Head of the PJRC and Coordinator of Slavic Resources at the Library.

Among the benefits of the PJRC’s new location that were highlighted by the speakers were its greater accessibility and visibility, extended hours, and larger physical space, a “splendid location, right in the heart of

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Libraries Welcome

New Information Professionals

Michelle Baratta joined the Engineering and Computer Science Library as a Reference and Instruction Librarian. Michelle holds an Honours Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science and Anthropology, and a Master of Information Studies from the University of Toronto.

While completing her MIST, she worked at the Engineering and Computer Science Library providing reference services. Her prior work experience includes Information Analyst at the Toronto Stock Exchange, and Adult Services Librarian at Vaughan Public Libraries.

Margaret Wall joined the Reference & Research Services Department of Robarts Library as a reference librarian. Margaret obtained her Master of Information Studies at the University of Toronto in 2008 and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Waterloo in 2001. Prior to joining the department, she worked as a Graduate Assistant Library Technician in the Data, Map and Government Information Services Department of Robarts Library and as an Assistant Library Technician at the University of Toronto's Dentistry Library.

Allison Bell joined the Gerstein Science Information Centre as Coordinator, Reference & Research Unit. She received her graduate degree in library and information science from the University of Western Ontario and her undergraduate degree from McMaster University. Allison was previously Electronic Resources Librarian at McMaster’s Health Sciences Library. Prior to that, she held reference and research positions at the UTM Library and at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Library.

Edward White joined the OISE Library under a short-term contract. During his time at OISE he has contributed to several key areas: a significant amount of work on the reference desk, cataloguing (in Dewey) and some information literacy instruction. His ability to contribute to a variety of functions has been appreciated.

Michael Meth has been appointed as director of the recently opened Li Koon Chun Finance Learning Centre at the University of Toronto Mississauga Library. Meth holds a bachelor of administration from the Schulich School of Business at York University, certification from the Canadian Securities Institute and a master of information studies from the University of Toronto. His previous experience includes positions as senior research associate at Korn Ferry International, and research portfolios with Standard & Poor's and the National Bank of Canada.

New Location

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Robarts Library* that has made a "huge difference" in raising the Centre’s profile. Both faculty speakers stressed the importance of the Centre’s latest work in developing its virtual space and creating a user-friendly online portal to world wide Slavic and East European library and documentary resources. It was also emphasized how the PJRC staff supports the needs of faculty and students working in Slavic and East European studies by their understanding of what it means to work in other languages, other alphabets, other systems, and knowing how to discover and access material in all of its physical and virtual manifestations.

Petro Jacyk's charitable contributions to the Library and those of the foundation in his name include funds received in 1983 to microfilm a collection of serials published in Western Ukraine during the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, and an endowment created in 1994 to support annual subscriptions to Ukrainian periodicals. In 2006, the Petro Jacyk Education Foundation provided funds for
Friends of Fisher Events

WERNER PFEIFFER

Book Objects & Artists Books

This exhibition ran from January 29 to May 1, 2009 in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. In the accompanying catalogue, the Curator of Rare Books at Smith College, Martin Antonetti, says that Pfeiffer's "book-objects speak loudly of machines and their myriad components, of assembly and prefabrication; it's hard to look at these artworks without imagining a man with tools in his hands behind them. ... throughout this exhibition the viewer will be lured into Pfeiffer's distinctive topographies, for as much as his work is about constructing new architectures, it is also about mapping new landscapes, new terrains."

ANNUAL DAVID NICHOLLS MEMORIAL LECTURE

The History of the Book in the Kitchen

Elizabeth Driver, author of Culinary Landmarks: A Bibliography of Canadian Cookbooks, delivered the 2009 Nicholls Lecture on February 4, 2009. Driver's book contains detailed descriptions of 2,276 individual titles from 1825 to 1949 from all parts of Canada, written by Canadians or Canadian editions of works by other authors. Traditionally rare because of the ways in which they have been used and their many different modes of publication, cookbooks reveal the customs of the country and the rich backgrounds of the many different peoples who have inhabited this land and each one has its own story to tell.

INAUGURAL LEON KATZ MEMORIAL LECTURE

Going Native? Canadian Missionary to Korea,
James Scarth Gale

The inaugural Leon Katz Lecture was delivered on March 4, 2009 by Professor Ross King, Head of the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia and professor of Korean. In 1888, James Scarth Gale, a graduate in Modern Languages from the University of Toronto, arrived in Korea as a missionary. He, however, went far beyond the normal duties of his calling, quickly learning Korean and also studying Classical Chinese. His Korean-English Dictionary is still considered a standard reference source. He became a Korean bibliophile, collecting books and compiling and annotating bibliographies of the old Korean literature. By the 1920s he was actively engaged in collecting books for several institutions, including the Library of Congress.

Mr. Jacyl's donations to the Library were meant to be a challenge to members of Toronto's East European communities to broaden the scope of giving to the University. Several have risen to this call. The Slavic collections at the Library have benefited from the philanthropy of Vlasta Scheybal who endowed The Josef Scheybal Czech Collection in 1996; and John and Anne Zdunich who since 2003 have provided generously for the acquisition of Croatian library materials. In 2008 the Library received a donation from the John and Mary Yaremko Foundation for special projects to preserve and improve access to Ukrainian materials held by Robarts and Fisher Libraries.

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