

APROPOS

vol. 6 no. 3

(WINTER 1985)

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EDITORIAL ELOQUENCE(?)

Ah, February - that short month which precedes the final throes of winter. When our New Year's resolutions are dead or dying (except for you few lucky ones with stamina and perseverance to have those resolutions well under way). It's the month of the blues, with frustration and depression running rampant, when you simply can't handle one more demand on your time or emotions.

And just look at what has been placed in the month of February to encourage continued depression for us Northerners - Groundhog Day, the one day of the year we can count on being sunny just to verify what we already knew! Even Valentine's Day, later on in the month, doesn't provide quite enough warmth to ward off the -40°C chill.

So what is there to cheer us till spring? To make February bearable and place longer-lasting smiles on our faces?

Well, it's a short month. That means 2-3 days less time to wait between pay cheques, less time to accumulate on the hydro meter.

It's a great month (usually) for outdoor activities. The cold, crisp air contrasts nicely to the heat built up in our warm clothing. But the nicest part of the whole scene is coming back indoors to a roaring fire in the grate, a cup of specially laced, minty hot chocolate, and a hot luxurious bath.

And for those of us not inclined to brave the elements, indoors is the best place for handcrafts, planning your garden, socializing or simply recouping the lost energy from Christmas and the cold, dark days.

Whatever your interests may be, February is a great month for planning, preparing and often doing. I hope you all enjoy the rest of it.

Bette Heard
Editor

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Our year as your Executive ends at the end of Feb. 1985. I have found that the time has slipped by at a fast pace and that it is now time to hand the reins of OALT/ABO - SRB on to new individuals.

During the past few years a number of good OALT/ABO members have come forward to work for your organization. These people have helped make OALT/ABO a strong, professional group, one, all are proud to belong to. I would like to personally thank the Executive members who helped out this year - Director, Millie Cayen; Secretary-Treasurer, Monique Fuchs; Membership, Linda Davis; Workshops and P.R., Maysel Dagg; and Newsletter Editor, Bette Heard. Of course, we must all thank our members who contributed to our meetings and our newsletter.

I will remain a member of OALT/ABO but will not necessarily be an Executive member. I will however be willing to help with OALT/ABO activities in our region.

APROPOS is published four times a year by OALT/ABO, Sudbury Region. Letters and enquiries should be directed to Box 2351, Station A, Sudbury, Ontario, P3A 4S8.

Sudbury Regional Branch

OALT/ABO

I would like to "Congratulate" Paulette (née Thibault) and Brent Burton on the arrival of their baby girl in mid-October, and Monique (née Plante) and Jim Fuchs who also had a baby girl at the end of December, 1984.

Hope to see you at our General Membership Meeting on February 28, 1985 and at our next workshop scheduled for March 30, 1985.

Judy Laplante
President
Sudbury Region

DIRECTORLY YOURS

Three Provincial Executive/Board of Directors' meetings have taken place since the last newsletter came out. They were on Sept. 29/84 in Toronto, Nov. 10/84 and Jan. 26/85 in Oakville. What follows is a summary report.

1. Essay Contest - the deadline has been extended to April 30/85 due to the Community Colleges' strike. Send submissions to Judy Koenig, 13 Leslie Dr., Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 4E1. She is Chairperson of the Essay Contest Committee.

2. Conference in Toronto

a) Some workshop cancellations have delayed the completion of registration kits. They will be sent out in English only, but French translations will be available in the final conference kits.

b) Bring your copy of Vol. 9, No. 1 of Newsletter/Nouvelles as that issue contains the Constitution. Duplicate copies will not be provided at the ABM (Annual Business Meeting).

c) Not as much time will be allowed for discussion within the regions. We should settle all known issues before the conference. If you want a say, attend meetings or contact your executive.

d) There is a proposed change to the Provincial Constitution (see #3). We will discuss it at our next general membership meeting (Feb. 28). It will be presented at the ABM for voting. Those out-of-towners who can't attend the meeting might want to write in to either our Regional President or myself so we'll have your input.

3. Constitutional Amendment to By-Law 1. iv. "Associate membership will be given to an individual interested in the objectives of the organization. At the end of five (5) consecutive years, if he/she wishes to pay graduate fees, he/she will be granted full membership."

This would eliminate the confusing status of Associate Members (especially at the Provincial ABM), and add to the Association people who care and want to be involved.

As for the seating arrangement of Associate members, it has been realized that the only place segregation is suggested is in the Conference Proceedings Manual. This manual was intended to provide guidelines for those hosting a conference, and not as law. If Associate members do sit with their region, however, they still won't be able to vote this time round.

4. Watch for a brief outline of Robert's Rules of Order to be published in an upcoming issue of Newsletter/Nouvelles. This will be before the Conference in May so we can all become familiar with some rules that should simplify our Annual Business Meeting.

5. Audio Visual Presentation: Based on the proposals submitted, John Fowler, a professional in Ottawa, has been chosen to prepare our A-V presentation on library technicians. We will use this slide show for display purposes, public relations, etc. to heighten our profile. It's possible that a script will be ready for approval at the next Provincial Executive/Board of Directors' meeting (March 2/85).

6. Newsletter/Nouvelles - Vol. 9, No. 1 cost \$3000 for printing alone. The Provincial Newsletter Editors have been asked to submit suggestions for cutting our production costs.

7. Our Provincial President has met with representatives from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture to find out if OALT/ABO qualifies for some financial assistance.

Millie Cayen
Director

PLENTY OF PRAISE

At the request of OALT/ABO, Sudbury Region, Cambrian College is presently working on setting up mini-courses (9 - 15 hours) for people in the library field. The courses being offered were selected from the survey results mentioned in APROPOS Vol. 6, No. 2.

The CSLA recently completed and published "Qualifications for Library Technicians Working in School Libraries". This paper makes informative reading for long-graduated techs who wish to remain aware of or improve their marketable skills. Photocopies of this CLJ article are available from Linda Davis at the Ministry of Education Library, Sudbury.

Cambrian College's Alumni Association is hard at work maintaining contact with the grads for whom they have addresses. The alumni newsletter, Connexion, is published four times a year, and is packed full of information about the college today, past employees, and the alumni members. For your free membership, phone the alumni office at 566-8101, ext. 666, or write to Linda S. Wilson, Director of Public Affairs, Collège Cambrian College, 1400 Barrydowne Road, Sudbury, Ontario P3A 3V8.

B. Heard

FREE...FOR THE ASKING

- Write to: Metric Commission
Box 4000
Ottawa, Ont. K1S 5G8
- Ask for: Metric (monthly newsletter)
- Write to: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
National Office
6000 Executive Blvd.
Rockville, Maryland
U.S.A. 20852
- Ask for: Questions & Facts about Cystic Fibrosis
The Genetics of Cystic Fibrosis
A Teacher's Guide to Cystic Fibrosis
(brochures)
- Write to: Ontario Women's Directorate
Office of the Deputy Premier
4th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay St.
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1G2
- Ask for: Ontario Labour Legislation of Interest to Women
Your Rights as a Worker
Pregnancy Leave
Affirmative Action Bibliography
The Ontario Women's Directorate Pamphlet

L. Davis

GOING PLACESISTANBUL : A PRODUCT OF HISTORY AND NATURE

by Maysel Dagg

Maysel was born and Educated in Turkey, then she came to Canada as an exchange student in 1976 and graduated from Cambrian's Secretarial and Library Technician programs. Maysel proceeded to fall in love with the country and the man in her life, with whom she has had two children, Although Maysel loves everything old (wines, friends, books), her special passions are for politics and travel.

Cities flourish to the degree that their geographical situation and conditions allow. They are attractive for their natural beauty, and interesting for their historical monuments. From this point of view, Istanbul is one of the lucky cities around the world, for it possesses beauty and history.

This largest city in Turkey was a centre of civilization on which humankind have lavished much attention and effort throughout history. Today this city owes its unique atmosphere to nature as well as to the contribution of history.

Istanbul is the only city of the world astride two continents - Asia and Europe - and it is located in the Marmara region south of Bosphorus with the major part of the city, including the Golden Horn, on the European side, the Black Sea to the North and the Marmara Sea to the South. Like Ancient Rome, Istanbul is built on seven hills.

As Istanbul is a very ancient city, it is not known for sure who were the first settlers. The most recent excavations conducted at Fikirtepe by the well-known German archeologist Professor Bittel, unearthed human skeletons, stone tools, earthenware, and foundations of buildings dating back five thousand years. It is known that the Thracians later settled south of the Golden Horn, and on its shores, while the Phoenicians settled on the Asian shore. In the year 658 B.C. King Byzas of Megara in Greece consulted the oracle about finding a new city. The oracle said: "Found your new city opposite the land of the blind", whereupon the citizens of Megara left the Corinthian lands and sailed as far as Istanbul. The view from this side of the Bosphorus (where Topkapi Palace is located today) was so beautiful that they considered the Phoenicians blind for not settling there. They called the settlement Byzantium. When the Roman Emperor Constantinus moved his capital there the name of the city became Constantinopolis.

Istanbul has been given various names in the course of its history, perhaps as many as 36 according to some historians. To cite but only a few: Constantinopolis, Constantinople, Constantinia, Istambol, Dersaadet and Istanbul. Istanbul was the object of several sieges during the middle ages. Attila, Emperor of the Huns in 447; the Muslim Arabs in the 7th Century; the Bulgarians in the 9th Century; the Seljuks in the 11th Century; all laid siege to the city but failed to take it. Early in the 13th Century, the Crusaders attacked Istanbul, burned the city and founded the Latin Empire in 1204. However, 57 years later, the Byzantine Empire was reinstated.

The conquest of Istanbul, left as a legacy to be fulfilled by the successors of Osman Ghazi, founder of the Ottoman Empire, was achieved by Sultan Mehmet II, the great ruler who thus opened up a new era on May 29, 1453. The city continued to be called Constantinia for a while after the conquest and was later changed to Istanbul, the name it has today.

What makes Istanbul of particular interest to us is the considerable number of centuries-old libraries which contain valuable collections of equally old manuscripts and books.

During the Ottoman Empire, the theological schools called "Medreses" are almost always found built as additions to mosques. In 1920 Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic and a keen westernizer, converted these "medreses" to libraries. Today these libraries contain rare collections of manuscripts, books, and book-making tools which have retained centuries and provide a vital link with the past, and of course make Istanbul the world's richest depository of Islamic manuscripts and books.

Let's have a closer look at just one of these libraries..

Perhaps the most interesting and important one is "The Suleyman the Magnificent Complex". It was built in 1550 by the great architect Mimar Sinan. This architecturally outstanding building contains not only one but several thousand series of centuries-old manuscripts and rare books.

Upon entering the library, one immediately sees the main reading room. It is impossible not to be struck by the past and present, side by side and beautifully integrated. Stained glass-topped reading tables, deep red Ottoman velvet chairs, modern reading lamps, microfiche and microfilm readers contrast sharply with the architectural look of the building as well as its contents. However, one can see one piece of furniture scattered around the complex which is more in keeping with the content and the age of the building - the ancient book stand type of equipment to aid the hand copyists. You may very well wonder why this piece of furniture (or equipment) has been retained in this age of

Xerography. The answer is very simple: the rapidity with which Arabic script can be written, allows a skilled Arabic script copyist to match the rate of a fast typist with no problem.

The Reference section of this complex is dominated by bibliographies of Turkish-Arabic-Ottoman and Turkish-Persian manuscripts, but also includes sets of International Encyclopedias, dictionaries, biographies of English, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Greek personages. In this section, perhaps the most interesting items are the catalogs of manuscript collections belonging to various "medreses". Compiled in 1700 in the Ottoman Turkish language, most of them are hand-written, only a few having been printed.

The arrangement of these catalogs, which provided the starting point of bibliographic work, is by subject. There are about thirty headings including law, astronomy, geography, Muhammed the Prophet, theology, history, mathematics, medicine, literature, rhetoric, grammar, Quran, dictionaries, and Books of mixed content. Each of these subject areas contains title entries. Each title entry includes (where applicable) the name of the author, and/or copyist, the language, style of the script, date of the book, dimensions of the book, number of pages, number of the lines in one page, and in most cases added annotations. The numerical order in which entries are made in these book catalogs are the classification number to locate items on the shelf. This number appears in the upper right hand corner of the card in the main card catalog. These numbers are derived from the older system of classification. The main card catalog is divided into three sections, author-title-subject, but are filed separately. Looking into the card catalog one can see a familiar friend of ours - the DDC (Dewey Decimal Classification) - in the upper left corner of the card. However, to locate the item the DDC plays no role except aiding a patron who is not familiar with the surroundings and the particular technical aspects about the subject area.

This "Suleyman the Magnificent Complex" has closed stacks, as one would expect. The patron must rely on paging services available from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday (12 noon to 1:30 p.m. is siesta time).

The complex has many services to offer its patrons including microfilm copying, automated inter-library loan and reference services which link all libraries across the country. All libraries including schools and public libraries are under the Ministry of Education's jurisdiction, administered centrally by the Ministry and all services are provided free of charge.

These types of libraries housing such rare materials attract Oriental and Islamic Studies specialists, historians, and researchers from all over the world. The language barrier of these highly specialized rare materials make them inaccessible to all but a few. Patrons interested in bookmaking as an art, regardless of content, visit the "Topkapı Saray Museum" complex where an entire book-manuscript-and calligraphy tools are displayed, and on-hand demonstrations are made available for patrons.

Despite an important collection of rare manuscripts, books and trade tools, the formalities for entrance to these complexes are minimal. In fact, these are the only libraries around Europe where patrons can have a first-hand look at the centuries-old rare books and sift away back into the 16th-17th centuries.

For one who loves old books, old friends, and old wines like myself, it is certainly enjoyable being with history in this type of library.

Two things instruct man about his whole nature;
instinct and experience.

Blaise Pascal

DID YOU KNOW...

- ...in 1981, 25% of people reporting jobs in management and administration were women, but of that percentage, only 6.4% were of upper management and administrative positions
(Stats Can 99-940, Women in the Work World)
- ...by 2031, it is estimated that one-fifth of the population may well be elderly, that is, sixty-five years of age and older
- ...today, an estimated one in 10 Canadians is sixty or older
- ...the average life span for a man in Canada is 71.5 years while life expectancy for women is 78.7 years
- ...the average income for Canada's senior citizens in 1980 was \$11,500 for men and \$7,000 for women
(Stats Can 11-007, Survey News Vol. 1, No. 2)
- ...Most banks are interconnected through a computer network
- ...schools are turning to extensive use of computer-aided learning
- ...by the year 2000 microelectronic implants will restore sight, hearing, and speech
(Science Council of Canada Report, No. 33)

D. Denomme
M. Dagg

WHAT'S NEW?

- O'Huigan, Sean - 1983 Winner of English Language text for "Ghost Horse of the Mounties" now has two new titles
BLINK - (PB) gr. K-3
DINNER PARTY - (PB) gr. 1-3
Remember his "Scary poems for rotten kids"
- Kovalski, Marynn - BRENDA & EDWARD - (PB) gr. K-3
two dogs who live together behind a French Restaurant. One day Edward forgets his lunch and Brenda gets into trouble when she tries to run after him.
- Doyle, Brian - ANGEL SQUARE - (PB) gr. 5-8
poignant message of tolerance and love

- Morgan, Allan - MATTHEW & MIDNIGHT TOW TRUCK
(PB) gr. 2-4
story of a boy with a love of two things: cars and red licorice
- Munsch, Robert - MILLICENT AND THE WIND
(FN) gr. K-4
story of a lonely girl who lives on a mountain top and has only the wind for a friend. Beautifully illustrated.
- Wallace, Ian - CHIN CHIANG AND THE DRAGON'S DANCE
with this book winner of Toronto IODE Book Award of \$1000 prize for best illustrator or author of best children's book by a Canadian publisher
- Lorimer Tot Books - i love my babysitter
 - little bear can't sleep
 - don't cut my hair
 - peepee in the potty
 for small people, from ages 1-4, laminated board books ready to teach and delight at the same time

Lena Hennessy
Children's Book Shop
1544 Regent St. S.
Sudbury

NEXUS '85

The twelfth annual conference of OALT/ABO is being hosted by TALTA Region, and will be held at the Carlton Inn, Toronto from May 1-4, 1985. Estimated cost of the conference package is \$125-150, not including hotel accommodation. (Members are responsible for their own arrangements, with the opportunity to take advantage of guaranteed rates at the Carlton Inn of \$55 per night for double or single rooms.)

Among the proposed workshops are:

- Partners in Action/Censorship - schools
- Writing skills - report writing, structure
- Art of negotiating - negotiating skills, theories of management
- Programs for the public/Problem patrons
- Marketing yourself
- Is your library closing? - rights of staff, budget, preventive measures
- Records management
- Presentation skills - Timing, aids, how to
- Planning for automation
- Indexing and abstracting
- Communication
- Panel discussion on various libraries

The Conference package includes:

- Wine and Cheese reception
- Brunch
- Workshops
- Annual Business Meeting
- Guest speakers
- Tour
- Banquet

CLA KIT AVAILABLE

The Library Technician Today

Prepared by: CLA Committee on
Library Technicians
(Role and Education)
1984 \$9.00

This committee has gathered together several articles and documents on library technicians and is making them available in a glossy folder at a cost of \$9.00.

While many of the papers will be thoroughly familiar to you (reprints from Canadian Library Journal and Feliciter), there is also a bibliography of 14 abstracted articles about library technicians in Canada. The articles span the period 1973-1983 and cover topics such as the history, education and role of library technicians. Other contents include CLA's Guidelines for the Education of Library Technicians; So You Want to Hire a Librarian?, a pamphlet from the Library Association of Alberta; and the Directory of Associations of Library Technicians in Canada.

It is a useful compilation of existing materials on library technicians, but at \$9.00... If you would like to borrow a copy of the kit, please contact the library at the Ministry of Education where it is available for loan. Phone 675-4427 or for long-distance calls in the 705 area, call free at 1-800-461-0183.

L. Davis

God grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

As library technicians, we are a primarily female group, many of us working night hours, therefore increasing our susceptibility as possible victims of a rapist. If such a traumatic and terrifying event should occur, there hopefully is at least some comfort in the prior knowledge that Rape Crisis Centres exist in many of our areas (e.g. Sudbury, Timmins, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie).

Even though we all try to believe rape could never happen to us, some of the statistics tend to shake our confidence - one in every 4 Canadian females has been sexually assaulted by age 18. Counselling is often necessary to overcome psychological scars, while medical attention is usually required to correct physical damage. If the victim so chooses, a visit to the police and appearances in court follow the attack.

The Rape Crisis Centre not only provides assistance and accompaniment for the above steps, but is also a wealth of information to women on the avoidance, treatment, understanding and legal aspects of rape. Their phone line is available 24 hours a day.

Since the Centres are all funded from government sources, their expenditures are considerably restricted. Counsellors are all volunteers who have undergone thorough training in one of the sessions offered 3 to 4 times per year.

To offer your services to the Rape Crisis Centre, or simply to gather more information on rape or the Centres themselves, call the number listed under 'Rape Crisis Centre' in the white pages of your telephone directory (in Sudbury, call 673-1916).

B. Heard

Begin the day with friendliness.
Keep friendly all day long.
Keep in your soul a friendly thought -
In your heart a friendly song.
Have in your mind a word of cheer
For all who come your way,
And they will greet you too, in turn -
And wish you a happy day.

DOMINION TAPES PROGRAM

The idea of our Association assisting the handicapped who use the facilities of libraries has been brought forward by a Halton-Peel member.

The initial idea was to investigate the Dominion Tapes Program with the possible purchase of a Kurtzweil Reading Machine which would be presented to a library of our choice. However, the idea of purchasing this particular type of machine is made somewhat restrictive because of its cost of between \$30,000 and \$35,000. Based on the present formula of \$475.00 worth of Dominion tapes being equal to \$1.00, this would be a tremendous undertaking. This is not to say that we should abandon this idea for there are other items that could be purchased through this program whether they be talking books, large print books, or whatever.

I have volunteered to head this project but will require the assistance of at least two more volunteers. Anyone willing to assist me with the project can contact me at: 403 - 78 Braemar Drive

Bramalea, Ontario L6T 2M2
Phone: (416) 793-7240 (H)
(416) 675-3111, x4262 (W)

I feel the Dominion Tapes Program is worth investigating and encourage people to take part in this worthwhile project.

Doug Willford

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BABIES!**

Paulette Burton gave birth to a daughter Julie, on October 16/84.

Monique Fuchs also had a daughter, named Renée, and born December 26/84.

Congratulations to all!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sudbury Regional Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 28/85
7:00 p.m.

Room C13, A & B
Civic Square

Topic: School Libraries: Technology and change

Coffee & juice will be provided.

WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 30/85

approx. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Northern College, Porcupine
Campus (near Timmins)

Topic: Stats Canada - the acquisition, organization, reference use, and weeding of Stats Canada Documents
By Ruth Parsons

Exact costs and times will be announced in a separate mailing. Car pools from Sudbury are possible - call Bette Heard at 897-4020 (home) or 858-3501 (work) if interested in driving or riding.

This workshop is largely funded by the Provincial Association of OALT/ABO.

TIPS FOR TECHS

In libraries with little display space, posters and signs can often be hung from the ceiling. Use light fishing line for wire and bend paper clips to form hooks for suspended ceilings.

Pens and pencils always disappearing? Sometimes lose them under desk clutter? Make a chain of rubber bands, attaching one end around the pen, the other end around a desk drawer handle. Always just at the end!

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**Change of Address:**

Sudbury Board of Education Media Centre
296 VanHorne St.
Sudbury, Ont. (phone 675-3008)

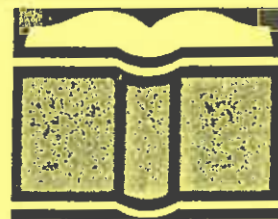
Suzanne Ruel St. Amour
3503 Dundonald Drive
Petawawa, Ontario K8H 2V4

Additions:

Lorna Devlin
110 Rayside
Box 788
Azilda, Ontario POM 1B0

May Gray
109 Rockview
Levack, Ontario POM 2L0
(phone 966-3400)

Ontario Association of Library Technicians/
Association des Bibliotechniciens de l'Ontario
P.O. Box 682
Oakville, Ontario
L6J 5C1



NOMINATION FOR THE OALT/ABO PRESIDENTIAL AWARD///NOMINATION POUR LE PRIX DU PRÉSIDENT OALT/ABO

This completed form should be handled as a CONFIDENTIAL document. Do not publicize your nomination before the Awards Committee's official announcement////Cette formule complétée devra être traitée CONFIDENTIELLEMENT. Ne pas rendre publique votre nomination avant l'annonce officielle du Comité des Prix.

I submit the name of _____ in nomination for the OALT/ABO Presidential Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to or major achievements in the Association////Je soumet le nom de _____ en nomination pour le Prix du Président OALT/ABO, en reconnaissance des contributions remarquables à, ou d'accomplissements majeurs dans l'Association.

Biographical sketch of nominee including current mailing address:
Résumé biographique du candidat, ainsi que son adresse courante:

Description of the major achievements in or major contributions to the Association:
Description des accomplissements majeurs dans, ou des contributions majeures à l'Association:

Submitted by/Soumis par _____
(Print/En majuscule) (Signature)

Seconded by/Appuyé par _____
(Print/En majuscule) (Signature)

Dated/Datée: _____

FORWARD IN CONFIDENCE TO////ENVOYER CONFIDENTIELLEMENT A:

Nancy Carlucci,
Committee Chairperson/Président du comité
41 Robert Street,
WESTON, Ontario,
M9N 2J6

N.B. Nominations must be postmarked no later than FEBRUARY 23rd, 1985 to be considered.
Les nominations doivent être reçues avant le 23 FEVRIER 1985 pour être acceptée. Le cachet de poste devra en faire foi.