

Friends of UVic Libraries

Volume 6 · Number 2 · Summer 2009

News of the Friends

Joan Coldwell's Hedgerow press recently published P.K. Page's *You are Here*, a collection of story-like meditations on the subject of identity. At a ceremony in New York in May, the Hedgerow book *Loving the Difficult* by Jane Rule was posthumously awarded the Lambda Literary Award for excellence in non-fiction.

Congratulations to **Frances Hunter**, the winner of one of two third prizes in the 2008 Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada in the Limited Editions category for *Between Brush Strokes*, published by JackPine Press.

Ann Saddlemyer recently published articles on Irish playwright and poet John Millington Synge and Irish dramatist and folklorist Lady Gregory, and wrote the programme essay for *The Devil's Disciple* for this year's production at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Concordia University has established an annual Irish Studies lecture series named after Ann, for which she gave the inaugural lecture last fall, and she just returned from giving the keynote address at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies.

Look for **Jennifer Waelti-Waters'** paintings at The Arts & Music fundraiser at Glendale Gardens on August 8th and 9th. Also of interest to the Friends is that when J.M.G. Le Clézio was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature last year, it turned out that Jennifer was the only person to have written about him in English. She was hunted down in London and interviewed on Washington, D.C., public radio and for the official video, and now some of her critical writing is being republished.



**University
of Victoria**
Libraries



C.J. Fox

The Lion and The Fox

Moira Dann

A daylong symposium on April 2 sparked as the opening event of the two-month exhibition *The Lion and The Fox*. The show featured art and literary works by Wyndham Lewis (1882-1957) from the collection of C.J. Fox.

The symposium included topics such as "Canadian Modernism and Lewis" and "Man Ray, Vorticist." Speakers included Allan Antliff (holder of UVic's Canada Research Chair in Modern Art), Mark Antliff of Duke University, Stephen Ross of UVic's Department of English (and editor of *Modernism and Theory: A Critical Debate*), retired UVic Associate Professor of English Mike Doyle, and Gregory Betts of Brock University.

Retired journalist and one-time Lewis anthology editor C.J. Fox was himself a speaker at the symposium that was part of the celebrations acknowledging the donation of his Lewis collection to the University of Victoria.

Lewis, along with Ezra Pound and others, was central

to Vorticism (apparently so named by Pound). It was a short-lived Edwardian-era artistic movement whose bold, sharp, linear style has been called similar to Cubism. Beyond the art, the collection of titles by Lewis (and his contemporaries) presented to the library made this show unique in the study of modernism, a fine limning of what Fox calls, "exuberant non-conformity."

C.J. Fox collected arts, books and ephemera for more than 50 years and created a deep resource for scholars. As outlined in the essay by co-curator Danielle Russell (library.uvic.ca/site/spcoll/exhibitions/fox/collection.html), this unique collection also offers links to other library holdings, such as its collection of British authors from the 20th century.

The exhibition was displayed at two venues in the Mearns Centre for Learning: the McPherson Gallery and the Special Collections reading room. The opening reception was held in the McPherson Library staff lounge where symposium attendees, library staff and Friends mingled over tasty refreshments and beverages.

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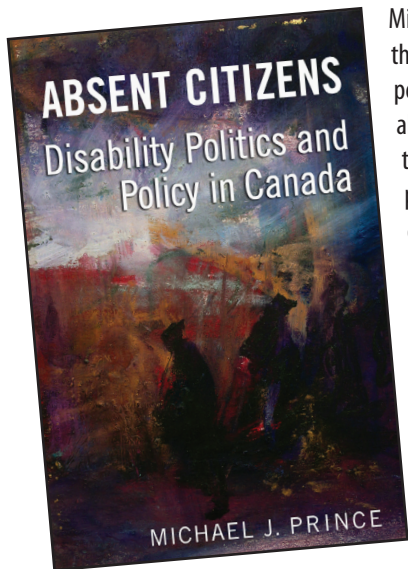
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**Friends of
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Message from Marnie Swanson, University Librarian

This issue of the Friends newsletter is the first produced with a template that incorporates the new brand for UVic Libraries. The opening of the expanded library within the William C. Mearns Centre for Learning was an appropriate milestone to redefine the image of the UVic Libraries through a unique icon and use of a tagline, "Open your mind." The library addition has been described as "a space to look into from the outside" with its transparent envelope elevating UVic Libraries from a book repository to an accessible knowledge hub.

In this issue, we welcome our newest colleague, Scott Johnston, who joined us as our Graduate Studies Librarian on June 1st. And, no issue of the newsletter would be complete without news of the Friends and your active support of UVic Libraries.

I hope you enjoy the benefits of membership, and I look forward to meeting you at the Friends events.

Marnie Swanson

Upcoming Friends Events

October

We are very pleased to be presenting a book launch and talk by Michael J. Prince whose new book, *Absent Citizens: Disability Politics and Policy in Canada*, was published by the University of Toronto Press in April. Michael is Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy in the Faculty of Human and Social Development.

Michael describes how disability exists in the shadows of public awareness and at the periphery of policy making. People with disabilities are, in many respects, missing from the theories and practices of social rights, political participation, employment, and civic membership.

Absent Citizens also considers social activism and civic engagements by people with disabilities and disability community organizations to ameliorate the marginalization of an often overlooked segment of the Canadian population.

Join us on **Thursday, October 22nd** at 4:00 pm in the staff lounge of the McPherson Library. Refreshments will follow Michael's talk.

Also coming in October is the Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada exhibit in the McPherson Library Special Collections reading room **October 5th–November 14th**. On display will be the 32 winning titles, as selected from the 243 entries submitted by 89 publishers and representing eight provinces. In February 2010, these books will compete in the annual Stiftung Buchkunst competition, the largest book-design competition in the world, in Leipzig, Germany.

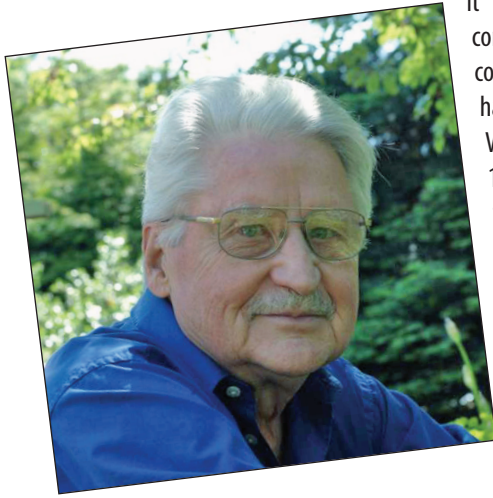


Book lovers and treasure hunters alert! UVic Libraries 15th annual Book Sale for the United Way returns to the McPherson Gallery this year from **October 7th–9th** from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

A silent auction of collectable books contributed to the record-breaking success of the sale last year, with \$9,100 raised for the United Way. This year's goal is \$10,000 – one book at a time! Among the generous donations for this year's sale is a 1946 copy of Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, and limited edition, numbered, Canadian historical maps.

Friends' support for the book sale is greatly appreciated. To volunteer for sorting or selling, please contact Jean Macgregor at 250-472-4977. Donations can be delivered to the Library Help Desk on the main floor of the McPherson Library.

Phil Robbie talks to Victor Neufeldt



It seems only appropriate that these conversations with Friends have finally come around to Victor Neufeldt for he has been a Friend since the beginning. Victor joined the UVic community in 1968, arriving from Kitimat (with a four-year interval of graduate studies at the University of Illinois) where he had taught high school History and English. He finished his career at UVic with the title Professor Emeritus after 28 years but wasn't prepared to leave the community he had grown to enjoy so much.

When asked why he became a Friend the answer was simple. "I'm an instructor of English. I enjoy books and libraries, doing research, and looking in manuscript collections. I like 'mucking about in libraries' so why wouldn't I want to continue that after retirement?"

Through his friend, Terry Sherwood, the chair of the English department, he was encouraged to become involved with a new organization on campus. It was to be called the Friends of the UVic Libraries and he knew it would be a perfect fit for him. "I had the time, I wanted to be a part of it, and I was being given an opportunity to do something practical. Things come along when we need opportunities."

At the Friends first formal event in 2003, Victor said he

was willing to help out in any way he could. Anyone who volunteers is like manna from Heaven. His task was to help retired English Professor Ann Saddlemeyer create a newsletter to inform the Friends. It was to be the main connection between the UVic Libraries and the newly formed group of supporters.

"We started with nothing. It was a blank slate," recalls Victor. "We took a look at other library newsletters to see what they were doing and went from there. A theme simply evolved by chance."

Victor has had a close eye on the changes at the UVic Libraries over the last couple of years with the addition of the new Mearns Centre for Learning. "I'm excited by the new directions that libraries in general, and our Library in particular, are taking. The tools and resources that are available to students are a fabulous addition to the university community. These changes assure the continued importance of libraries in universities."

Victor has left his co-editing position with the Friends Newsletter—following Ann who left about 18 months ago—but continues as an active Friend. The new co-editors and library staff wish him the very best in his quest for an interesting and involved retirement.

Thank you, Victor. You've been a good Friend.

In the Stacks

Welcoming Scott Johnston, Graduate Studies Librarian

Scott Johnston began work as UVic's first Graduate Studies Librarian on June 1st. Scott was previously a librarian at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York where he worked extensively with doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences. In this new position, he will plan and implement services that respond to the needs of UVic's graduate students and faculty.

Scott grew up in Southwestern Manitoba and earned his BA in English from the University of Winnipeg. He went on to do his MA in English and his MLIS at the University of Western Ontario before moving to New York in 1993. Scott is working



toward a PhD in Information Science at Rutgers University with a specialization in information policy. In addition to working in various research libraries, Scott also taught at library and information science programs in the New York area.

Donor Profile

Jim & Doreen Rainer - Fond memories and a special gift

Katherine Blake

Jim and Doreen Rainer's love of books and the book arts, along with fond memories of Victoria College, are the foundation of their endowed fund for Special Collections. Established in 1994, this fund supports the acquisition of unique and special items that complement our rare book collection.

Jim graduated from UVic's predecessor, Victoria College, in 1953 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Commerce degree from UBC and an MBA from the University of Washington. He says it was his start at Victoria College that led him to a successful 37-year career in the forest products industry.

Doreen's 20-year career as an elementary school teacher supported them in the earliest years of their marriage while Jim completed his degrees, and was interrupted for a few years while their four children were young.

A classic volume of native plants, *Wildflowers of British Columbia*, authored by former UVic chemistry department chair Lewis Clark in 1973, is the seed that germinated an appreciation for fine books and an avocation of book collecting. "I bought the limited-edition signed leather-bound copy for the then-huge sum of \$75," recalls Jim.

Since 1989, Jim has served as a board member of the Vancouver-based Alcuin



Society, an association of bibliophiles interested in the book arts. "It was with the Alcuin Society that I learned of the rich arts that go into fine and hand-made books." Over the decades, Jim built personal collections of private press and hand-made books, as well as collections on gardening, horticulture, botany, BC forestry and logging—some of which he is now donating to UVic's Special Collections.

Of the decision to support the library, Jim says, "It squares with my interest in books, libraries and the university. Having gone to Vic College, I have a good, strong feeling for the university and the people I've worked with there over the years. A library is an integral part of a student's life. I'm proud to support it."



Leave your mark for future generations.

A planned gift to the library can create many bright futures.

A gift to the UVic Libraries benefits students in each and every discipline. Your generosity will help us provide a comprehensive and current resource that includes new books, online resources and journals, specialized reference material, and rare and unique documents.

With a legacy gift, you will help ensure that future generations of students receive a quality education. You can establish a library fund in your name, or the name of a loved one, to support any type of library resource that you wish. Planned gifts are forever.



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Find out how you can create a lasting legacy in your will or estate plan by contacting Natasha Benn, Planned Giving Development Officer at 250-721-6001 or by e-mail at nbenn@uvic.ca

