The Shannon Library: Legend, Legacy, and Lore

Millennium Milestones
SINCE THE YEAR 2000, THE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES STAFF HAVE:

- Initiated, negotiated, implemented and launched the integrated online catalogue with the U of S
- Designed and opened the Computer Lab / Information Commons (at which Minister of Post Secondary Education, Glen Hegel presented the College with $500,000)
- Introduced course-based information literacy instruction in the classroom
- Created the Faculty Publications display case
- Expedited the acquisitions process
- Signed a contract with Scarecrow Press to publish a book on library leadership called Promethean Quest: Seeking Soul in Library Leadership
- Created a Collections Policy for the Anglin Collection, and relocated it to the Shannon Library
- Redesigned and relocated the Archives
- Built a Special Collections / Rare Book facility
- Initiated and volunteered in an author study program in the Catholic school system
- Drafted, with others, College policies for plagiarism and Records Management
- Initiated and co-hosted STM Author Readings

- Launched the Pristine Copy Collection of STM Authors
- Proactively encouraged donations such as the Hinz/Teunissen Collection
- Initiated and launched the Faculty Research Seminar Series
- Served the College as the Equity Adviser
- Served on the executive of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries
- Served on the Women’s Committee
- Served on UofS Library Committees
- Served on the Executive of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association
- Served as coordinator/editor on Roman Catholic topics for the Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan, to be published in 2005
- Assisted in the preparation of the annual Current Bibliography of Canadian Religious History
- Assisted with the planning and organization of the Father Henry Carr Symposium
- Initiated placing art within the College from the University Kenderdine Gallery
- Assisted on the Web Committee to redesign the College website

ST.THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
Lauch of the STM / U of S Joint Library Catalogue

In late 2002, the St. Thomas More College Shannon Library and the University of Saskatchewan Library entered into a Library Catalogue Integration Agreement which founded the merge of the two library catalogues. This milestone was long envisioned; the joint catalogue was created in May, 2004 and was celebrated that month. The Opening was launched by Joseph Naytowhow, an Aboriginal drummer and singer who performed “We Are One People.” The program featured STM President George Smith, CSB, and Mr. Frank Winter, the Library Director of the U of S and was hosted by Dr. Donna Brockmeyer, the Library Director for STM.

This achievement means that the STM library catalogue is now merged with that of the University of Saskatchewan main library, enabling students, faculty, researchers, and members of the community to view at a glance all combined holdings. STM’s nearly 52,000 items are clearly identified; searchers are able to limit their searches to those materials housed at STM, book renewal can be made online, and all course reserves are visible at a glance. New book acquisitions can also be more easily co-ordinated, avoiding unnecessary duplication between the library systems.

The joint catalogue reinforces our collaboration with the University and strengthens our Federation. It has already proven to be of great use to the campus community and has drawn many to STM to use its excellent library. This initiative enables the campus community to employ fully the capabilities of sophisticated technologies and to leverage governmental resources allocated to higher education; in this way we are serving as responsible stewards of those resources.

In terms of resources, this initiative comes at costs much reduced from original estimates. This idea was proposed in 1989 and again 1995; when proposed in 1995, the cost was $142,000 for one option, and $87,000 for another. Based on the method used in Alberta for a similar project, this cost has been reduced to $10,000.00 per annum, which is excellent for library automation, and greatly improves our information technologies.

Alumni/ae are encouraged to access the reading room at any time for a wide variety of journals, both academic and popular, and an extensive collection of reference works. For a nominal fee of $10, alumni/ae can also acquire a library card, giving them borrowing privileges. The STM Shannon Library collection is a unique resource in Saskatoon and in Saskatchewan, and has excellent collections in the areas of English and Victorian literature, history, philosophy, Catholic writers, and Canadian Catholic Church history.
Hinz / Teunissen Collection in Modern Literature

The Shannon Library is pleased to announce that it has received a generous literary donation of modern literature. The core of the collection consists of material written by or about Anaïs Nin, Henry Miller, and D.H. Lawrence, although the collection also ranges widely among modern and contemporary authors.

The collection was created by the late Dr. Evelyn J. Hinz and Dr. John J. Teunissen. Hinz and Teunissen met at St. Thomas More College in 1959, both studying under Father O'Donnell. They completed their academic careers at the University of Manitoba where Hinz was Distinguished Professor of English and Teunissen is now Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Hinz was an internationally recognized scholar and critic, specializing in Nin and in other areas, including critical theory, women's and feminist literature, Jungian analyses of myth, romance and fantasy, and biography and autobiography. She worked very closely with Nin and was the executor of the Nin literary estate. Hinz received her BA (magna cum laude, with High Honours in 1961) and her MA (1967) from the U of S, and her PhD from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (1973). She was the author of numerous books and scholarly essays, and the recipient of many honours, awards and research grants. At the University of Manitoba, she was for twenty years the editor of the prestigious scholarly journal, MOSAIC: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature, a landmark of which was her four-issue Interarts special. Most memorable, however, is the high regard in which she was held by her students, as noted in articles about her since her passing, and the great degree to which she was loved and cherished, especially in her passionate approach to honouring the dreamer and the dream.

Dr. John Teunissen earned his BA (cum laude, with High Honours in 1961) and MA (1962) from the University of Saskatchewan, and proceeded to the PhD at the University of Rochester (1967). Before moving to the University of Manitoba in 1972 as Head of the English Department, he taught for a number of years each at the U of S and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Most of his scholarly publications are in collaboration with Dr. Hinz, with whom he developed a unique approach to literature. He was active at scholarly conferences and in the profession, having served two terms as President of the Canadian Association for American Studies and as editor of its journal for a period of ten years. In addition to his administrative duties (he was appointed to three five-year terms as Head), he remained active as a teacher, for which he received a teaching award from the Modern Language Association. As was Dr. Hinz, he is very proud of his numerous graduate students who have gone on to careers as college and university teachers and who continue to publish in the Hinz/Teunissen tradition. Dr. Teunissen is still fondly remembered by many on the U of S campus and here at STM for his passion for teaching and the respect and care that he extended toward his students, whom he spent a great deal of time mentoring and encouraging.

The donated collection includes the entire scholarship of Hinz and Teunissen, as well as material by Nin, Miller, and their contemporaries. It is unique in that many of the volumes are inscribed to Hinz and/or Teunissen by their authors.

Anaïs Nin was a colourful and controversial author and personality who is known in the history of feminism and in literary circles for her Diaries, as well as her own scholarly research in avant-garde fiction and the work of D. H. Lawrence. The collection includes numerous publications and translations of the Diaries and other works by Nin such as Children of the Albatross, Under a Glass Bell, and A Spy in the House of Love. Related are Hinz’s three books on Nin: The Mirror and the Garden: Realism and Reality in the Writings of Anaïs Nin, The World of Anaïs Nin (collected scholarly essays edited by Hinz), and A Woman Speaks: The Lectures, Seminars and Interviews of Anaïs Nin, also edited by Hinz. In a recent review of Seduction: A Portrait of Anaïs Nin, a book by Margot Duxler, Amy Wilner characterises Nin as “one of the most famous diarists of English literature” (Tikkun: A Bimonthly Jewish and Interfaith Critique of Politics, Culture, and Society, March/April, 2004, p. 72), a thought echoed by Dr. Patrick Kelly, Head of the STM English Department, who also observed that Nin was an important woman novelist. Wilner concludes that Nin, through Duxler’s eyes, “offers readers an object lesson in valuing authenticity” and should be read with empathy, compassion and ultimately, love.

This collection is an important and fine one representing the ideal type of collection: it is unique, it is complete, it contains personal inscriptions by the author to the collectors, who were also close personal friends and colleagues, and is supplemented by related works. What it now requires is a plan to ensure it is well used and continues to contribute to literary scholarship.

STM is most privileged to have received this collection, and we are grateful to Dr. Hinz and Dr. Teunissen for their wisdom and foresight in creating it as well as their generosity in donating it to STM.

Dr. Evelyn J. Hinz and Dr. John J. Teunissen
The Library initiated and co-ordinated a Faculty Research Seminar Series which was launched on January 16, 2004. Speakers were Dr. Darrell McLaughlin, Dr. Edna Froese, and Dr. Allan MacLeod. Dr. McLaughlin gave a paper titled *Changing the Nature of Farming: The Case of the BT Potato.* During his presentation he explored some of the responses of both conventional and organic farmers in the Maritimes regarding the costs and benefits of farming methods involving genetically modified potatoes. Dr. Froese’s paper was called *The Hermeneutics of Devotion: A Conversation Between Literature and Theology* in which she addressed ways that her study of literature and the Bible have intersected in two forthcoming articles and sermons she has given over the past few years. Dr. MacLeod gave a paper entitled *The Heart and the Head and the Role of Emotions in Moral Development.* All of the papers were intriguing and insightful. The Event was followed by a wine and cheese. Future seminars are being planned.

STM and the Shannon Library in the New Millennium

As St. Thomas More College continues to grow, seek academic excellence, and move forward in the new millennium, the Shannon Library will support that growth. Dialectically, the Library also seeks support in that growth.

In the future, the Shannon Library will:

- Continue to serve the faculty and students of the College to achieve academic excellence;
- Support new faculty and programs by developing required collections, providing access to electronic resources, offering reference and reserve services, and teaching information literacy;
- Serve members of the Catholic community and alumni to meet their reading and research needs;
- Enhance the University of Saskatchewan Federation by serving their faculty and students;
- Meet our commitment and promise to the U of S Library by working with them on a continual basis to build an accurate catalogue that represents joint holdings, and model the services they offer.

While we seek College support for these goals, we assure the College that our objectives are premised upon our collective desire to move STM positively forward in the new millennium. Together we can do this.