The Library Director: On Sabbatical

Given that I am perhaps the first librarian at St. Thomas More College to take a sabbatical, I thought I would share with the community the work I undertook during this leave.

First and foremost, I undertook a Comparative Analysis of Canadian Catholic College Libraries which was designed to survey and report upon critical aspects of library services offered by Catholic libraries in Canada.

This information will be useful to all of these libraries as a point of comparison in order to set benchmarks for development and planning in the areas of services, resources, facilities, staffing and inter-organizational cooperation, so that we all might make more informed recommendations and decisions regarding our libraries.

The research will enable libraries to recognize each other’s areas of excellence which may then lead to resource sharing. Jennifer Younger, of the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, is also hopeful that my Canadian research will assist her team in Indiana and other members of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) to build a website with portals for open searching and meta-data harvesting of Catholic resources within North America. I will serve as a liaison between their undertaking and Canadian Catholic libraries.

(Continued, pg. 2.)

Sophia, Greek goddess of wisdom at the Celsus scroll Library at Ephesus, Turkey

Oblate Donation from Mazenod House

Approximately 77 boxes of books were donated from the residence of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, St Mary’s Province, located at 1111 Saskatchewan Cres. West, Saskatoon.

This donation was made in November, 2005, and processing was completed this past year, with 300 items being placed in our collection, and other items being sent to the University of Saskatchewan libraries, Saskatoon Public Library, Regent and St. Mark’s College, located in Vancouver, St. Mary’s College in Calgary, York University, McGill, Campion College in Regina and the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon. Remaining items were donated to the University of Saskatchewan Women’s Book Sale.

Highlights:

- More Students Served over previous years
- Library Director published “On Sibyl’s Shoulders: Seeking Soul in Library Leadership” and went on Sabbatical
- Library Assistant contributed to “Wondrous Print” Renaissance Books Exhibition
- Library Technicians prepare Procedures Manual
- Archivist contributes to the Congress, 2007

Bodleian Library, Oxford University
On Sabbatical: The Academic Plan, with Faith and Reason

This research contributes to the Academic Plan by following the Ordinances Issued by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in view of the Correct Application of the Apostolic Constitution Ex Corde Ecclesiae. Specifically, under Article 7, Cooperation: Part 1: “Catholic institutions should strive to cooperate among themselves through the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada” (ACCUC). Also, from Ex Corde Ecclesiae, Part 3: “Catholic universities should commit themselves to cooperate in a special way with other universities, institutions, and professional associations in Canada and abroad to build up the entire Catholic academic community.” My research will enable STM library, and through it, members of the ACCUC to work with the ACCU in their plan to create a global Catholic sources portal for worldwide information. This research also supports the most recent STM Vision in Part IV, Objective 2-C, in which STM will foster relationships with Catholic Colleges in Canada and abroad.

On Sabbatical: Libraries and Churches of Europe

In addition to this research, I have been very blessed in traveling to great libraries, churches, historic and artistic sites in 14 countries of Western Europe, covering over 10,000 km in six weeks. I visited the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, the National libraries of Britain, Austria and Spain, the ancient scroll library at Ephesus (about which I intend to write an article) and the older Vatican library in Rome. I visited the Canadian Embassy Library in Paris, which has as its director someone who used to work in the library at STM -- Louise Dowling. I had the great fortune of visiting many of the great Catholic sites and attending Masses in Western Europe, including St. Peter’s at Rome, where I saw the many Sibyls on the Sistine Chapel. I may extend my book On Sibyl’s Shoulders with a paper on these other Sibyl’s, particularly after being inspired by Sibyl’s Rock at Delphi. I saw many of the churches and basilicas of Great Britain, Cologne, Innsbruck, Barcelona, Vienna, Venice, and Paris, all on a tour directed by a historical scholar well versed in the role of the Catholic Church in history. We visited the religious sites of Lourdes, Montserrat, and Patmos, where St. John wrote the book of Revelations in the Cave of the Apocalypse, and Ephesus, where Mary of Nazareth lived with St. John after he left Patmos.

On Sabbatical: Archaeological Sites

Finally, I visited the great archaeological sites of Athens, Rome, Delphi, and Pompeii. It has been the trip of a lifetime which has offered me an unprecedented opportunity to enhance my understanding of both Catholicism and librarianship. This will assist me in my work for the College, as well as my research regarding Catholic scholarship.

Left: The Celsius scroll library at Ephesus, Turkey, was built at the centre of the city on the city square. It was built on top of the tomb of the Roman Senator T. Iulius Celsus Polemaeaus in the 2nd century.

I am most grateful to the College for this sabbatical opportunity.

Dr. Donna Brockmeyer
The Library Assistant: Wondrous Print Renaissance Books

The University of Saskatchewan hosted the “Sixteenth-Century Commentary” Conference, May 23 to 25.

For this 2007 Congress related event, several of the Shannon Library’s rare materials from Special Collections were placed in the display “Wondrous Print: Renaissance Books in Saskatchewan Collections” prepared by the Museum of Antiquities, University of Saskatchewan.

Dorothy Abernethy, Library Assistant, serving as the Library Administrator for the 2006-2007 academic year, worked with Dr. Michael Swan, Dr. Peter Bietenholz, and Cathy Gunderson to select the books. Dorothy also provided editorial assistance for the Exhibition Catalogue. STM Associate Professor of History, Alan Reese, also worked on the project providing research and materials.

Of particular note are the materials loaned from the Shannon Library. These include:

- Adagiorum: Erasmus. Donated by Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- Concordantiae Bibliorum utriusque Testament: Veteris & Novi, novae & integrae
- Reims New Testament: Part of a Douai/Rheims set
- PLISTRATIO SANCHI BONTAVENUTURE ...LIBRUM SENTENTIARUM: Peter Lombard
- Utopia: Thomas More
- Works of of Sir Thomas More
- Knught: Thomas More

The Archivist: Congress, 2007

Organized by the Canadian Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences, the Congress is the largest annual academic gathering in Canada; its multidisciplinary character marks it as unique in the world.

In 2007, approximately 5,600 delegates representing over 68 learned societies came to the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon from all over North America, Europe, Africa and Asia to present their research and to debate some of the most important social and cultural questions of the day.

Margaret Sanche, Archivist at STM, served as Local Arrangements Chair for the Canadian Catholic Historical Association at Congress. Sixty delegates from across Canada met for two days.

Margaret was instrumental in all arrangements, and design of the program, including inviting special guests, and organizing publicity, accommodations, and a Banquet and Mass held at the College. Bishop LeGatt presided at the Mass with five concelebrants. STM sponsored a reception and invited local guests.

Library Technicians: Library Procedures Manual

Anticipating the possibility that one of us in the library might one day win the lottery, we have prepared a Library Procedures Manual.

The Manual outlines all of the steps for many library functions related to circulation, book processing, opening and closing the library, finding books, articles, videos and CDs, library policies, the classification system, the computer lab, printers, photocopiers and scanners, passwords and user names, ordering new books, etc. Many of these were already in place, and were updated by Kaedra Kirelenko. Some procedures were newly outlined, such as that of book repair and Interlibrary loan, which were prepared by Christine Cuggy and Laura Fortier.
The Library Director would like to acquire an old world globe for the Shannon Library. If you would like to make a donation to this acquisition, please contact Rod Antonichuk at 966-2955, or Donna Brockmeyer at 966-8962. Donors will be recognized with a plaque.

Note: The approximate cost of the globe we would like is $7,000—$10,000.00. While we would like one in the style of the globe pictured above, that particular globe is worth over $75,000.00.

Library Mission:

The Mission of the Shannon Library at STM is based upon the Library Policy as articulated in the Faculty Information Handbook and Collective Agreement.

St. Thomas More College must maintain a strong library with clearly defined goals in accordance with its status as a Catholic liberal arts college federated with the University of Saskatchewan. The Shannon Library is one of the most important intellectual resources of the College.

The primary aim of the Library is to support the instructional program of the College in conjunction with the University Library and other associated libraries. Such support includes reference services and a basic core of reference works for faculty, staff and students.

More Students Served: Between the last week of October, 2000 and the same week in October, 2007, the library has served an increase of 700 students. 1,874 students were served October 22-28, 2007.

On Sibyl's Shoulders: Seeking Soul in Library Leadership

The work examines the many facets of library leadership from a variety of perspectives — ancient, contemporary, and feminist — and is interwoven with candid insights from library leaders.

Leadership discussions investigate mentorship, motivation, energy, passion, creativity, and vision. Leadership is acknowledged and explored at all levels of the organization including senior administration, middle management, and discussions about leading yourself and others.

Ultimately, Brockmeyer agrees with Warren Bennis, "the goal is not to become the leader; the goal is to become yourself" and drawing upon Frederick Buechner (1975), becoming yourself is the delight in finding the intersection between "the world's great hunger and our own deep gladness."

Then, may we know joy.