

The Gryphon



The Newsletter of the Friends of the
Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections

Spring 2020

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra,
The Hon. Lady Ogilvy



FROM THE CHAIR

Our fall season launched with two events in one week of September.

First, we celebrated Jane Dobell at the “unveiling” of the plaque and art installed to thank her for her myriad contributions to the Osborne. Accompanied by a framed facsimile of the E. H. Shepard drawings purchased to honour Jane, the plaque reads: “In recognition of the lifetime contributions of C. Jane Dobell, Champion of the Osborne Collection of Early Children’s books, generous collection builder, exceptional donor, founder of the Sybille Pantazzi Memorial Lecture and long-term fundraising chair of the Friends of the Osborne.”

It was a joy to be able to celebrate Jane this way. It was also not surprising that Jane responded with a short but eloquent look at the Osborne and at the questions to ask oneself about any kind of work, paid or volunteer. The four questions she posed were: Do I like to get up in the morning, i.e., am I having fun? Am I learning something? If not, I shall soon be bored. Am I making a contribution or a difference? And is that contribution being suitably recognized? As a volunteer and chair of two volunteer organizations, I found Jane’s



Photo: Maggie Knauts.

Jane and others took home packs of specially produced Gryphon-logo cookies.

questions thought-provoking and inspiring.

A few days later, our panel “CUT, SEW, SCULPT, PLAY: Picture Book Illustration Without Drawing” featured five illustrators who work in paper sculpture, fabric, Plasticine, and other media. The panellists’ work was engaging and fun. The panel was well promoted among university and college art

Welcome to the Osborne Collection!

The Osborne Collection of Early Children’s Books has four main areas of concentration. The Osborne Collection itself contains literature published before 1910. The Lillian H. Smith Collection comprises books of literary and artistic merit published in English from 1910 onward. The Canadiana Collection is a selection of 19th- and 20th-century children’s books in English, related to Canada, or whose authors, illustrators, or publishers are associated with Canada. The Jean Thomson Collection of Original Art has over 5,000 original illustrations for children’s books in watercolour, pen-and-ink, woodcut, multimedia, and many other media.

As part of the Toronto Public Library system, the Collection is open and available to all.

facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Osborne-Collection-of-Early-Childrens-Books-177552168943174/ * osbornecollection.ca
www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/osborne/

E-mail the Friends at: FriendsOsborne@gmail.com.

Lillian H. Smith Branch/ Toronto Public Library, 239 College Street, Toronto, ON, M5T 1R5, 416-393-7753. Hours are on the website. Membership and donation details are on page 12 of this newsletter.



Jane Dobell.

(Continued)

programs and it was great to see so many young faces in the audience and to introduce them to the Osborne. Thank you to Serah-Marie McMahon and her team for pulling this together.

At the 13th Annual Sybille Pantazzi Memorial Lecture in October, we had the pleasure of hearing author and illustrator Marie-Louise Gay. Her talk was

complemented by the exhibit *All Join In!: Children's Books and Art About Families* so audience members could explore, among other Osborne treasures, marvellous Stella and Sam illustrations.

Our events wrapped up with the 32nd Helen E. Stubbs Memorial Lecture in November—a fascinating, thought-provoking talk by author Gregory Maguire. For this lecture, we tried the TPL's ticketing system. We don't anticipate using it again in the near future but it was useful to have tried it.

At the end of the year, we said goodbye to Liz Derbecker who is retiring after thirty-five years at the Osborne. We will miss her wonderful exhibits and her vast store of knowledge, energy, and curiosity. We thank her for all her work at the Osborne and for her assistance to the Friends over the years.

We also bade farewell to Gianna Babando, Manager of Rare Books and Archives at TPL, who is going to a new position as Archives Director at the Stratford Festival. Gianna has been a great help to the

Friends during her time at TPL. We thank her and wish her well.

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of longtime Osborne librarian Lori McLeod, at the age of 60. A gentle soul and cataloguer extraordinaire, Lori contributed much to the Osborne before her retirement in the fall of 2018. Leslie McGrath has penned a lovely tribute (see page 11).

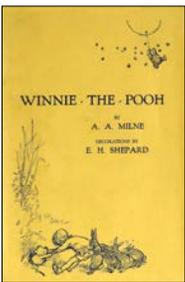
There is no membership renewal form with this issue. We are working with the Toronto Public Library Foundation on some small system changes, which should provide easier bookkeeping for us and you. A separate membership mailing will take place later this year.

We look forward to seeing you at the Lahmer Lecture on April 16. Thank you for all your support of the Osborne Collection and the work of the Friends over the past year. Enjoy this issue of *The Gryphon*.

—Gillian O'Reilly

SPRING/SUMMER EXHIBITIONS AND LECTURE

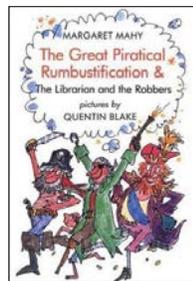
Sing Ho' for the Life of a Bear! An Exhibit March 14 to May 23



Visit the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books to view this exhibit of stories and illustrations featuring Winnie-the-Pooh and other beloved bear characters through the years.

Visit the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books to view this exhibit of stories and illustrations featuring Winnie-the-Pooh and other beloved bear characters through the years.

Pirate Adventures and Mermaid Tales An Exhibit June 6 to August 15



mythical sea creatures, silly pirates, and their wild adventures.

Come on board at the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books to view this exhibit of stories and illustrations of life at sea, featuring

Exhibits are shown on the 4th floor of the Lillian H. Smith branch. Lectures are held in the Community Room on the lower level.

**17th Annual Albert & Clara
Lahmer Memorial Lecture**
Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.
(Preceded by the AGM)

Lindsay Mattick:
Finding Winnie

The remarkable true story of Winnie-the-Pooh and one great-granddaughter's journey to discover that story.

Lindsay Mattick is the great-granddaughter of Captain Harry Colebourn, the Canadian soldier who purchased the black bear cub that inspired A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh. The author of *Finding Winnie* (2015; the Caldecott winner that year) and of middle-grade novel *Winnie's Great War* (2018), Lindsay will share the adventure she's had exploring her family history as well as the challenges and rewards of bringing it to life.

FALL 2020 LECTURES

Mark your calendar for these dates...

Thursday, October 1: Illustrator and author **Jillian Tamaki** gives the 14th Annual Sybille Pantazzi Memorial Lecture.

Thursday, November 12: Author **Kathy Stinson** gives the 33rd Helen E. Stubbs Memorial Lecture.

Watch our website, Facebook page, and the fall issue of *The Gryphon* for more details.

PAST EVENTS

**32nd Helen E. Stubbs
Memorial Lecture**
November 14, 2019

Gregory Maguire:
*The World at Hand, the World
Next Door*



Photo: Maggie Knaus.

Gregory Maguire.

Gregory Maguire gave the 32nd annual Helen E. Stubbs Memorial Lecture to an audience of over a hundred, charming us with a thoughtful and thought-provoking look at his own creative life, including his encounters with Maurice Sendak and P. L. Travers.

Gregory has written over fifty children's and adult novels, has lectured around the world, and was the co-founder, in 1987, of the organization Children's Literature New England (C.L.N.E.).

C.L.N.E. was a non-profit scholarly institute devoted to the study of children's literature, which was held for one week each summer in locations including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Trinity in Dublin, and Victoria University at the U. of T. C.L.N.E. ended in 2008 although it continued for a few weekend symposiums in Vermont until 2016. Authors, publishers, teachers, librarians, and anyone interested in children's literature read books on themes like *Worlds Apart*, *Swords and Ploughshares*,

and *Considering Borders*. Everyone who attended will never forget the books that were read and discussed, the friends made, and all we learned from the lecturers.

Gregory Maguire has always been a strong proponent of the importance of children's reading and children's literature. We are pleased that so many Osborne Friends were there to enjoy his talk.

—Sylvia Murray

**13th Annual Sybille Pantazzi
Memorial Lecture**
October 3, 2019

Marie-Louise Gay:
*From Sketch to Story: Musings
from My Drawing Table*



Photo: Maggie Knaus.

Marie-Louise Gay.

Author and illustrator Marie-Louise Gay gave us an enchanting look at her creative process and the development of her characters Stella and Sam, who first appeared in book form twenty years ago. From initial doodles to emerging characters and stories, she took us through the sometimes lengthy period of development (as long as five years) of a final text and pictures. Marie-Louise's slides revealed the depth of colour and line that go into her playful creations. She also showed how she brings to her work a deep understanding of how children think and the questions they ask.

HONOURING JANE DOBELL



Staff of the TPL and the TPL Foundation joined us in celebrating Jane Dobell.



Jane Dobell, Margaret Maloney, Leslie McGrath, Sylvia Murray.



Jane Dobell and former Friends treasurer Peter Lewis.



Betty Anne and Hugh Anson-Cartwright share a laugh with Jane Dobell.



Facsimiles of E. H. Shepard drawings at the Osborne.



Plaque at the Osborne.

All photos on this spread by Maggie Knaus.

PANTAZZI LECTURE



Marie-Louise Gay chats with friends.



Sephora Henderson.



Patsy Aldana, founder of Greenwood Books, introduces Marie-Louise Gay.



Enjoying the exhibit *All Join In!*

STUBBS LECTURE



Gregory Maguire and friends.



Sylvia Murray introducing Gregory Maguire.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Theresa Goldie, circa 1910.



“Tib” Chamberlin tending the campfire, 1921.



John and Theresa Falkner with their sons, James Chamberlin (back) and William Falkner, circa 1938.



The first Chair of the Friends of the Osborne Collection, Theresa Goldie Falkner.

Meet Theresa Goldie Falkner, First Chair of the Friends

In the summer of 2019, I was organizing the Friends’ archival materials and came across a photograph from 1949 with the caption “Theresa Falkner receives first book from Dr. Osborne.” What was the title of the first book of the 2,000 given by Edgar Osborne to the Toronto Public Library? And, who was Theresa Falkner?

It was relatively easy to answer the first question: records for the Toronto Public Library Board revealed that a token book, unnamed, was used for the “photo-op” during Dr. Osborne’s visit to Toronto in Children’s Book Week that November. Discovering who Theresa Falkner was became a wonderful adventure filled with surprises and delights.

Theresa Louise Goldie was born October 1, 1889, at “The Gore,” a yellow-brick Italianate mansion built by her father, David, alongside the River Nith in Ayr, Ontario, near present-day Kitchener. She was the granddaughter of John Goldie, who immigrated to Canada from Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1844. The family owned and operated the Goldie Milling Company, in the nearby village of Greenfield, Ontario. John Goldie had made an earlier trip to North America in 1819, and his *Diary of a Journey Through Upper Canada and Some of the New England States* was privately published and later donated to the Toronto Public Library by Theresa, known as “Tib” to her family and friends.

The death of David Goldie in 1894 left his widow, Isabella, with ten children, the youngest four, including Tib, under twelve years old. Mrs. Goldie’s strength of

character and resolve served her and her children well in the following years. Tib was educated at Branksome Hall, an independent school for girls in Toronto. There, she was the first editor of the school yearbook, *The Slogan*. She graduated in 1906, and then studied for a while at the University of Toronto.

She visited a brother who was an on-site partner of Rainbow Ranche, an apple orchard company in Okanagan Centre, B.C. One of Tib’s granddaughters recalls her speaking about travelling for months (before 1910) in Hudson Bay lands with her brother Bill, a doctor who treated the area’s Indigenous peoples: “She was one of the first white women to make that trip and had to have special pants made to wear as women then only wore long skirts. When they portaged, Bill carried the canoe and Granny used a headband to carry their supplies on her back.”

In 1913, Theresa married (Walter) Arthur Chamberlin, an English-born architect living in Calgary, Alberta. They moved to Kamloops, B.C., where their son James (Jim) was born in May 1915. Six months later, Arthur enlisted to serve in the Canadian Field Artillery as a gunner in the First World War. Theresa and her baby went to England to be near her husband; however, by 1917, mother and child were in Toronto. It was there that Tib learned Arthur had died in France on May 6, 1917, of wounds received during the Battle of Arras.

A young widow, as her mother had been, Theresa carried on and raised Jim. In time, she met surveyor John William Falkner. He, too, had experienced great loss; his first wife died of influenza complications in 1918, less than a year after their marriage. John and

Theresa married in October 1921 in Vernon, B.C., and in 1926 welcomed their son William.

Her family soon well settled into Toronto life, Theresa began to be vigorously engaged with the city's various committees. In 1938, she became a civic observer at Toronto City Council and committee meetings. There, she represented the Association of Women Electors, a group she had founded that same year. Through the 1940s, Toronto Public Library projects received her dedicated attention, and in 1949 she became the first woman chair of the Toronto Public Library Board. (She served as the chair again in 1957 and 1963.) In 1950, Chair Falkner successfully requested that the Library Board be granted permission to erect an addition to the overcrowded Boys and Girls (House) Library on St. George Street. In 1955, Theresa became a member of the Metro Housing Authority.

John Falkner passed away in 1959 and Theresa's volunteer civic duties continued. She received Toronto's Civic Award for Merit in 1962. By the mid-1960s she was the chair of the National Fluoridation Committee (her campaign for fluoridation of city water began when she was the chair of the Health Division of the former Welfare Council of Toronto). In June 1966, she was the chair at the first executive meeting of the Friends of the Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections. Dr. Osborne's initial gift to the Collection of 2,000 items, signified by the "token book," has grown to more than 90,000 items.

It is impossible to adequately relate in this short article all facets of Theresa Goldie Falkner's public service. While she chronicled her Goldie family history in *The Goldie Saga*, her own life is indeed "worth a book." On the occasion of her ninetieth birthday (1979) she received greetings from Toronto's mayor John Sewell, and from Canada's prime minister Joe Clark. Five years later, Tib passed away, remembered by her son William as a "strong-willed woman who fought for women's rights long before it was fashionable."

Coincidentally, in 2019, as I began learning about Theresa Falkner, her son James A. Chamberlin (1915–1981) was in the news. The little boy whose mother had taken him to see some of the earliest airplanes grew up to become the chief designer of the famed Avro Arrow project. He was recruited by NASA to work with their space program. Jim was the head of engineering for Project Mercury, designed the Gemini spacecraft, and, with fellow Canadian Owen Maynard, worked on the Apollo 11 program. Canada Post honoured both men

when they unveiled a stamp commemorating Canada's contribution to the Apollo 11 moon landing fifty years before. Jim's half-brother, William Falkner (1926–2007), was a successful radio broadcaster for twenty-five years and a long-time Chrysler employee.

Some of those who knew Tib Falkner have graciously shared their memories of her, glimpses that show her dedication and her humour.

- Margaret Crawford Maloney, during her employment as a part-time librarian at the Osborne Collection in the 1970s, met Mrs. Falkner and vividly recalls her as "an imposing woman with a twinkle in her eye and a hat always on her head. ... She was a cultured and forceful speaker," says Maloney, "and worked closely with her friend Mrs. Margaret Walker." (Margaret Maloney went on to become Head of the Osborne Collection: Margaret Walker became Chair of the Friends when Mrs. Falkner stepped down.)
- David Kilgour, a great-nephew of Theresa Falkner, shares that "she once stated her occupation in an application form as 'busybody!'" "Aunt Tib" was also "funny, practical, a voracious reader, and, perhaps surprisingly given all her other talents, a very good cook." While most people recalled Mrs. Falkner's ever-present hats, Kilgour adds that she collected "distinctive earrings," as evident in the many family photographs.
- Megan Williams, a great-niece, says, "Tib was a very political person. If it had been legal for her to run for office, I'm convinced she would have done so." Williams also retells a version of what has become known as "the vacuum cleaner story": "Tib knew that a certain city councillor was due to speak at a meeting and she had no respect for his opinion. She dressed as a cleaner, showed up in the council chamber with a vacuum cleaner, and turned it on when he began to speak."
- Shirley Dittloff, granddaughter of Tib, notes that her favourite "Blythwood [Road, Toronto] remembrance was of Granny shooting at squirrels. She had a bird-feeder in the middle of her yard. When she saw a squirrel climbing up the feeder post, she would open the window and shoot out with her BB gun. I thought, 'Do you think most grannys do this?'" Tib is also

(Continued on p. 9.)

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

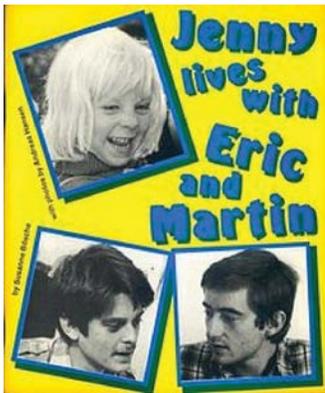
Historical Amusement: A New Card Game

This is an entertaining game (1840) that educates players in the history of England by providing them with fact cards and asking the players to connect their fact cards with the cards showing images of England's former kings and queens. This game is in excellent condition, and includes each illustrated card finished with hand-painted watercolours, 35.6 x 57 mm, the original rule book along with all the answers for each king or queen, and a wooden storage box measuring 89 mm wide x 63.5 mm deep x 119 mm tall. This is a great example of the Golden Age of children's literature: incorporating both instruction and delight.



A New Card Game.

Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin



Susanne Bosche's *Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin* (London: The Gay Men's Press, 1987) is an important copy of possibly the first English-language children's book to cover same-sex parenthood. The book uses black-and-white photographs to simply illustrate the story

without causing confusion. The author was inspired to write this story to illustrate the different forms a family can take after noticing a gap in children's books upon observing the awkward interaction of a child feeling ostracized when their family makeup didn't match that of another child's family. The child clearly felt the need to explain why there was a difference in their family, and how things worked in their home, but had no stories to help support the explanation. The book illustrates the family's charming day-to-day activities, as well as

an unfortunate experience of homophobia that mirrors the experiences of some same-sex parents; this can open a dialogue to address experiences without upsetting or alarming young readers. This book was also featured in our previous exhibit *All Join In! Children's Books and Art about Families*, celebrating the many forms a family may take.

A to Z: Marvels in Paper Engineering

To celebrate the Movable Book Society's twenty-fifth anniversary, this pop-up book was created in a limited edition of 2,000 copies. *A to Z: Marvels in Paper Engineering* (Salt Lake City, Utah: The Movable Book Society, 2018) is a special collection of twenty-six 152-x-203-mm pop-up cards in a custom box 229 mm wide x 175 mm deep x 119 mm tall. This pop-up book showcases the work of some of the best paper engineers around the world, focusing the talents of each on one letter of the alphabet. This is an excellent addition to the Collection's holdings of pop-up and movable books.

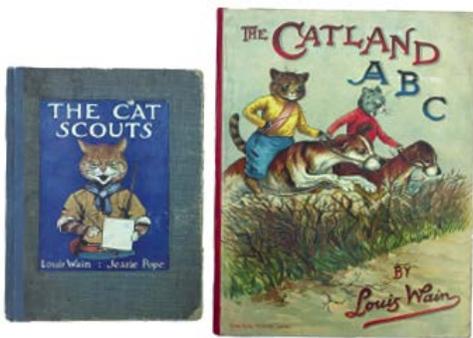


A to Z: Marvels in Paper Engineering (at left and below).



Louis Wain: Illustrated Books

Two fine examples of books illustrated by **Louis Wain** exemplifying his well-known portrayal of anthropomorphic cats. Wain's cat illustrations had a large following. H. G. Wells said of Wain's creations: "He has made the cat his own. He invented a cat style, a cat society, a whole cat world. English cats that do not look and live like Louis Wain cats are ashamed of themselves." In this first edition of Jessie Pope's *The Cat Scouts, A Picture-Book for Little Folk* (London: Blackie & Son Limited, 1912), Wain's illustrations are beautifully represented in nine full-page, full-colour illustrations with thirty-nine smaller full-colour illustrations. This item has its original blue-cloth-over-green-wove-paper boards. It is one of Louis Wain's most colourful books, and measures 246 x 176 mm. *The Catland ABC: Father Tucks "Holiday" Series No. 6569* (London: Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., 1903) is the second Louis Wain example, with eighteen unnumbered pages including paste-downs. Six full-page detailed colour lithographs invite readers into the lives of these characters, with numerous drawings in orange, black, and white on the other ten leaves. It measures 333 x 245 mm.



Art by Sydney Smith

Four pieces of art by **Sydney Smith**: two are from *The White Cat and the Monk: A Retelling of the Poem "Pangur Bán,"* written by Jo Ellen Bogart (Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2016); one is from *Town Is by the Sea*, written by Joanne Schwartz (Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2017); and one is from *Smoot: A Rebellious Shadow*, written by Michelle Cuevas (Toronto: Tundra Books, 2017). We regret that, due to copyright considerations, we are unable to print images of these artworks in *The Gryphon*; however, you're welcome to visit us to view the artworks in person.

—Jennifer Y.

(Continued from p. 7, Theresa Falkner.)

remembered for borrowing an Elvis Presley record from Shirley, dressing as "the King," and giving a performance, her hips swaying in time to the music.

- Theresa Falkner's grandson Arthur Chamberlin of Houston, Texas, wrote: "My grandmother took a great interest in [the Osborne Collection] and always encouraged people to read. ... Tib felt very strongly that one should try to make a contribution in life that might make a difference to people's lives."

And that is *exactly* what Theresa Falkner did throughout her years, with intelligence, compassion, savvy, and plenty of brio.

—Linda Granfield

Readers are encouraged to read *The Goldie Saga* online. (Begin with www.lakecountrymuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/The-Goldie-Saga.pdf.) John Goldie's diary is available at the Baillie Special Collections/Baldwin Room at the Toronto Reference Library.

Thanks go to the following individuals who shared personal memories about Theresa Falkner: Arthur Chamberlin, Texas; Shirley Chamberlin Dittloff, Louisiana; David Kilgour, Ontario; Margaret Crawford Maloney, Ontario; and Megan Williams, Ontario. Resources were located in the Friends of the Osborne Collection Archives and in the Special Collections Department at the Toronto Reference Library.

Photographs courtesy of Theresa Falkner's family.

It's a Mystery!

Friends Chair Gillian O'Reilly's favourite mystery series in childhood was: The Secret Circle Mysteries (only available at the Osborne!) from the 1960s, written by Canadian journalists such as Scott Young and Robert Thomas Allen. *The Mystery of the Missing Emerald* was her favourite. Also Enid Blyton's Adventure series. *Gryphon* editor Chandra Wohleber read the Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, and Enid Blyton mysteries, but especially loved Trixie Belden.

In the Fall 2020 *Gryphon*, we'd like to feature readers' childhood mystery favourites. To contribute, e-mail us your favourites and we'll do a compilation. (See page 12 for the e-mail address.) Deadline is May 29. Thank you!

TALES OF INSPIRATION

Hijinks with Joan Bodger

Sitting in the meeting room of the Lillian H. Smith Library brings back so many memories. As the first Children's and Youth Advocate for Library Services for the Toronto Public Library (beginning in June 1999), I spent a lot of time in that library celebrating authors and illustrators, and at meetings.

One day in October 1999 I even escorted J. K. Rowling up the stairs of the library to the Osborne Collection during her *Goblet of Fire* tour. It was a Saturday: Who knew the elevators would be shut down at five. No one was to know she was coming, so she wouldn't be mobbed, but this also meant that on a Saturday evening no special measures had been taken at the building: the garbage was stacked in front and the internal electricity was shut down. Well, we walked up the stairs to the fourth floor, to the Osborne for a private tour with the marvellous Leslie McGrath.

On two recent visits to the library, one to hear the glorious Marie-Louise Gay give the Sybille Pantazzi lecture, and the other to hear the Helen E. Stubbs lecture with the inspirational Gregory Maguire, I sat listening to the speakers while letting my mind wander to my earlier connection to the library.

I cannot walk into the Lillian H. Smith branch without thinking of my dear old friend Joan Bodger, a writer, storyteller, and educator, who was also a cryptographer in World War II. Joan was a force in the storytelling community, in the writing community, and in my life. I really can't say how or why we became such close and fast friends—but we did. I studied storytelling with her, later taught with her, and eventually led storytelling tours with her in Britain. I loved Joan, and when she asked me to help her scatter her husband's ashes in the building site for the new Toronto Public Library branch I simply couldn't say no. So on a cold March day, I was the one who “did the deed”: I climbed the hoarding and scattered Alan Nelson Mercer's ashes into the building site for the Lillian H. Smith library, and future home to the Osborne Collection.

I didn't work for the Toronto Public Library when I assisted Joan in her “scattering” but when the story broke five years later in *Saturday Night* magazine I was the newly anointed Children and Youth Advocate. It was not an auspicious beginning for my career. Thank goodness the board chair thought it was a wonderful story.

As I sat listening to Marie-Louise, I was aware of her magic, her ability to understand and celebrate children, and I was reminded of Joan, a woman who always celebrated the curiosity of childhood: I was so grateful for her knowledge and passion for children's books.

I also thought of how I finally scattered Joan's own ashes years after her death. I had been left with the task by Joan as she pondered her death in Tofino (Joan died in 2002). There had been many plans, but she settled on requesting scatterings in a number of the King Arthur sites we had visited on our tours of King Arthur's Britain. It was a task I put off for some time, but one day in September 2017, I realized that I had to deal with her ashes. Dutifully I carried them to England—in my backpack, knowing that I would encounter challenges. The Canadian security at Pearson did delay me, but I assured them that Joan would have delighted in knowing that she was an object of scrutiny. Eventually I boarded the plane. Once in England I did scatter Joan's ashes in many of the places that she had requested. Ashes were thrown into the air in Glastonbury, a few were scattered in Merlin's cave in Tintagel, and some were sent on an adventure from a canal boat. It was only in Tintagel that a few tears were shed. It seemed to be the closest place to Joan's belief in story and in new beginnings.

This past fall, while I sat listening to these Osborne speakers whom I admired—even adored—I thought too of the one and only Joan Bodger. I felt so lucky to be at the Osborne's lectures in the Lillian H. Smith branch, where I could still feel her presence. I knew so many people in the room and had known them for years through work and friendship, but every once in a while you get lucky and meet a true friend. For me that was Joan Bodger.

—Ken Setterington

P.S. I encourage everyone to sign the guest book in the Osborne Collection. It is sitting on a stand with a brass plaque engraved with: “Alan Nelson Mercer: He could write a good sentence.” There isn't a plaque for Joan, but I know her six-foot hazel walking stick is part of the Osborne Collection. You can visit and ask to see it. Joan Bodger is perhaps best known for, among her many works, the books *How the Heather Looks* (a captivating memoir of Joan's family's visit to England to discover many of the places they'd read about in favourite children's books) and *Clever-Lazy: The Girl Who Invented Herself*. Alan Nelson Mercer was a writer and photographer.

ON TO NEW ADVENTURES: LIZ DERBECKER

Elizabeth Derbecker, who studied at Trinity College, University of Toronto, began working at Osborne on January 21, 1985—a fortunate event for the Collection. Over her years at Osborne, through handling acquisitions and gifts—some of which were donated in recognition of her own work—Liz gained knowledge of the holdings in every sense: their historical importance, contents, and above all, where everything was. As time passed and the collection grew, Liz became more involved with the preparation of beautiful and informative exhibits, producing some of the most noteworthy in recent years: *We're All Mad Here: Lewis Carroll*; *Gorey Tales: Edward Gorey*; *Lest We Forget: War in Books for Young Readers* (with a published catalogue, sponsored by the Friends); and *Let the Wild Rumpus Start!: Maurice Sendak*, to name but a few. Liz's editorial skills and knowledge were not only useful in writing her own exhibit notes, but were called upon for every Osborne project.

Liz provided reference assistance to scholars and patrons, earning accolades for her help and expertise. One of Liz's notable attributes is the breadth of her knowledge: when Philip Pullman visited, all the staff knew his work, but Liz alone knew *he had a pug named Hogarth*. Fine art classes asked for Liz's art presentations knowing they would be treated to historical background and evaluative commentary accompanied by a wickedly lively look at the eccentricities of the various artists. The same spirited humour enlivened and cheered Liz's colleagues, who relished her ready wit as much as they appreciated her kind and supportive company.

Liz was literally a decoration to Osborne. No one could match her unique style, and she represented Osborne in various media presentations with a poise that matched her elegant delivery, spoken and written. In the inevitable moments of crisis that occur in any public institution, Liz could be counted on to rise to any occasion. More than once Liz was called upon, on short notice, to provide a formal introduction to an important speaker, and each time Liz did full justice to her subject. Her impromptu talks about Osborne treasures were a joy to hear, and we all admired the distinguished impression Liz made, and also reflected, on the staff of our library system, and of Osborne in particular: knowledgeable, warmly welcoming, and helpful. This is the legacy Liz is leaving, and is carrying on to her new

adventure at David Mason Books. Thank you, Liz, from all of us who had the pleasure and privilege of working with you, and on behalf of the patrons you served so well!

—Leslie McGrath

IN MEMORIAM: LORI McLEOD



We are grieved to learn of the death of our dear friend and colleague Lori McLeod, who passed away in early December from cancer. Lori and I began at Osborne just a short time apart, not long after the Collection opened in its new location. Lori chose Osborne after being redeployed from Deer Park, and how fortunate we were when she arrived and began at once to study the cataloguing of rare books. Often having to chart her own instruction and to seek out knowledge, Lori was delighted to be sent, largely through the generosity of the Friends, to Rare Book School in Virginia for a specialized, intensive course. The cataloguing of the Osborne Collection was Lori's priority, and the support given to this important project by the library and especially by the Friends gave her great encouragement.

Lori told me she liked to think about how patrons would use the catalogue records, and would carefully include the terms and references that would be most helpful to them. Though a warm, engaging, and knowledgeable lecturer, willing to assist colleagues by taking classes and groups, Lori was happiest doing reference work and cataloguing. Modest and self-effacing, Lori put everyone else's needs first, from desk schedules to holiday weeks, and she took a personal interest in the families of her colleagues. Above all, we will remember Lori's beautiful smile and generous outlook, her habits of always seeing the best in everyone and of making difficult situations better. Years of ill health took a toll on her strength, but never affected her caring and compassionate nature. Lori was a shining example to us all, and will always be missed by those fortunate enough to have known her.

—Leslie McGrath

FARTHER AFIELD

Museum of Miniature Books

This museum, in Baku, Azerbaijan, is made up of a once-private collection of tiny books: 8,500 books published in 80 countries. The collection includes miniature editions of fairy tales: at the link below scroll down to the section that begins with “Your collection is visited and admired by many different people ...”

<http://www.visions.az/en/news/1007/04f8ab50/>

There’s also a Wikipedia entry and an Atlas Obscura essay on the collection.

Beatrix Potter at the Victoria & Albert Museum London

Beatrix Potter’s Fairyland Until November 15, 2020

This may be a very small show; see <https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/18lld78n/beatrix-potter-s-fairyland> for more information.

Alice at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London

Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser

Opens June 27, 2020

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/alice-curiouser-and-curiouser>

Myth & Reality: Don’t Wear Gloves to Handle Rare Books!

Visit <https://blog.library.si.edu/blog/2019/11/21/no-love-for-white-gloves-or-the-cotton-menace/#.Xf688RdKjUI> to get the facts on this.



If you have ideas for newsletter articles or Farther Afield features, as well as comments or questions, write to:

FriendsOsborne@gmail.com
(Put "Gryphon" in the subject line.)

Our Friends website is under construction.
For membership renewals and donations, please visit:
www.tplfoundation.ca

Be sure to write “Friends of the Osborne Collection” in the Comments space when making a donation or signing up for membership.

CONTRIBUTORS

Linda Granfield, the Friends’ archivist, is a historian and the author of more than thirty non-fiction books.

Maggie Knaus is a photographer who moved to Toronto four years ago. She is a member of the board of the Friends of the Osborne.

Leslie McGrath, M.L.S. (1984) and Ph.D. (2005), University of Toronto, was head of TPL’s Osborne Collection of Early Children’s Books 1995–2018 and currently teaches Rare Books and Manuscripts at the iSchool.

Sylvia Murray has a degree from Queen’s and an MLS. She has worked with the North York Public Library and the City of York Library. She has been a member of the Friends since 1986.

Gillian O’Reilly is an award-winning non-fiction author and the former editor of *Canadian Children’s Book News*.

Ken Settington is an author, storyteller, reviewer, librarian, and the first Children and Youth Advocate for the Toronto Public Library.

Jennifer Y. is a librarian at the Osborne Collection.

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