



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Debby Shoctor, President

On yet another frigid, snowy, January day, Michael Gourlie and I headed to the Legislature to meet with the new Minister of Culture and Community Relations, the Hon. Heather Klimchuck, MLA for Edmonton Glenora. When we got there, we were warmly greeted by her assistant, Joanna, and invited into the Minister's large, bright and airy office, which she has decorated with the works of Alberta artists and craftspeople, as well as a few Archival photographs from the Provincial and City of Edmonton Archives. We spent a very pleasant 45 minutes with the Minister and her assistant, Nathan, discussing the important work of the ASA.



Minister Klimchuck was very enthusiastic when we told her how many institutional and individual members we have (45 and 90 respectively), and how we are constantly getting inquiries about new institutional membership. We explained to her how our granting process works with both the National Archives Development Program and Alberta Historical Resources Foundation funds, and how we are just in the middle of that process this January, having received oversubscriptions to both granting streams. We told her of the important work these monies allow us to fund for our member institutions, and how their individual work contributes to the National Catalogue. She was

intrigued to find out that we had so many member institutions across the Province. She and her assistant had visited the Provincial Archives, and had attended the Alberta Women's Memory Project launch, sponsored by Athabasca University at the Telus Foundation this fall, and how impressed she was with that. However, she has not visited a lot of the other archives across the Province yet, and we encouraged her to do so.

Michael and I told her about our upcoming Conference in Calgary this May, "The Archives of Memory," with keynote speaker Verne Harris, Archivist for the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and she seemed very interested. She mentioned

that Premier Alison Redford used to do legal work for Nelson Mandela. As the Premier has a personal connection to Nelson Mandela, she may be interested in attending the opening of the Conference and in hearing Verne speak. She suggested we invite both Premier Redford and herself, and that they would try to come. She also reminded us that this Fall will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Legislature Building. We asked if there was any way in which we could help with the celebrations, and she told us to contact the Speaker of the House to offer our assistance, which we will do.

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Minister Klimchuck seemed very intrigued by our Calendar, and by our Website, with its Archives Tutorial, databases and on-line learning tools and exhibits, and promised to explore them further when she had a chance. We told her about our Archives Institute and Professional Development Courses for practicing Archivists. She seems to understand the importance of Archives to Secondary, Post-secondary and Post-graduate University education. In her role as Minister of Culture and Community Relations, she promised to support and promote Archives.

The ASA will, of course, follow up on this meeting, and will continue to meet with Provincial and local government officials in an effort to inform, educate and lobby for Archival Awareness throughout the Province.

MEMORY IN ARCHIVE, ARCHIVE OF MEMORY – 2012 CONFERENCE UPDATE

Before you know it, the ASA 2012 conference will be here! Taking place at the University of Calgary from May 23-26, 2012, the conference features keynote speaker Verne Harris of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. In addition to Mr. Harris and other presenters, Terry Cook, the keynote speaker from the 2010 conference, will return to the ASA to present the closing plenary on what is destined to be one of ASA's most memorable conferences.

The Secretariat and the Program Committee have been busy behind the scenes to pull all the elements together. At its December teleconference, the Program Committee (Timothy Atherton, Braden Cannon, Rene Georgopolis, Susan Kooyman, Debby Shoctor, and Bonnie Woelk) sorted through a record 28 proposals that represented over 40 speakers hailing from Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, South Africa, and England. With some tough decisions and reorganizations, the Program Committee crafted a tight program featuring the best of Alberta but welcoming the infusion of new perspectives from outside the province. Mandi Wisheu has been hard at work sorting out venues, menus and other local arrangement issues, while Carrie Herrick-Fitzgerald has provided her level-headed logistic and administrative support.

The conference brochure, with session descriptions, fees and registration dates, will be mailed to all ASA members shortly and added to the website under the AGM / Conference link.



FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR - NITRATE TREASURES

Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor

It was a chilly afternoon in Edmonton on Saturday, January 21, but that did not deter a crowd of approximately 75 people who attended Nitrate Treasures, a special screening of archival Hudson's Bay Company films, at the Garneau Theatre. The screening included a half-hour selection of footage from two HBC films, *The Romance of the Far Fur Country* (1919) and *Hudson's Bay Company Pageant* (1920), followed by a question and answer period with documentary filmmaker Kevin Nikkel and visual historian Peter Geller. The films had not been seen in Edmonton since their premiere in 1920 and had remained in obscurity in the British Film Institute until relatively recently.



The films depict the operations of the HBC across Canada, primarily in the north, as well as the celebrations of the company's 250th anniversary in 1920. While the preservation quality of the film varies, as one would expect for ninety year old nitrate film, the images captured are breathtaking. From the busy docks of Montreal to small Inuit communities, the footage provides rarely-seen glimpses of Canadian life. Available in several of the online film clips, the most stunning image is an HBC ship, the HMS *Nascopie*, travelling through ice floes on its way to Labrador. What is more compelling are the shots seen later of the cameraman standing on an ice floe to film the ship, as well as another cameraman filming him! For the hometown crowd, there was possibly the earliest footage of Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan captured on film, including the log cabin housing the Fort McMurray Board of Trade and an aboriginal leader in Fort Chipewyan protesting his people's treatment by the federal government.



local footage for those screenings, which were standing room only and necessitated the addition of a second showing in Fort McMurray. Media coverage about the film and its tour through Alberta included stories on the CBC National News, notices on the CBC website, a mention as George Stroumbouloupoulos' video of the day, and articles in the Vancouver Sun and the BBC News Magazine. It is safe to say that this film is no longer forgotten.

Future plans for the films include a restoration of the complete two-hour version of *The Romance of the Far Fur Country*, which currently exists only in fragments that require additional research to reassemble into the film that was originally seen in 1920. Once the restoration is complete, the filmmakers intend to have a national tour to bring one of Canada's earliest documentaries to audiences around the country. A documentary about the film, the communities it depicts, and the filmmaker's journey to bring the film back to Canada is also in the works.

For further information about the history of the film and this project, visit www.returnfarfurcountry.ca, and check the blog at <http://blog.returnfarfurcountry.ca> for the latest news.



After the Edmonton showing, the producers travelled to Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan to exhibit the films, which had never been seen there before. The filmmakers showed additional

HULL-RAILTON FONDS DOCUMENTS THE ACTIVITIES OF FEMALE PIONEER EVANGELISTS AND PASTORS

H. D. Sandy Ayer, Ambrose Archives

Thanks to a grant from the Archives Society of Alberta, the Ambrose Archives was recently able to process the Marion S. Hull and Marguerite Railton fonds

Marion Sinclair Hull (1901-1994) grew up in Edmonton and played for the Edmonton Commercial Graduates (known as "The Grads") women's basketball team for one year while in high school. After working as a secretary, she enrolled at Prairie Bible Institute (PBI) in the early 1930's.

Marguerite Evelyn Railton (1904-1998), a native of Smithville, Ontario, trained as a teacher and a nurse before pursuing studies at PBI. She became Marion Hull's roommate, and the two developed a deep friendship.

Both women felt a call to the ministry during their senior year. They attracted the attention of J. D. Williams, district superintendent of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and he agreed to send them out as a team to minister in the Prairies.

Although the Christian and Missionary Alliance never ordained them, Hull and Railton served as pastors and evangelists throughout their 36 years of ministry. They preached, led home missions, conducted church services and prayer meetings, did home visitations, and ran Bible camps in Denzil, Saskatchewan (1935-1941); Hythe, Alberta (1941-1949); Daysland, Alberta (1950-1960); Lamont, Alberta (1960-1967); and Mirror, Alberta (1967-1971). They were well-liked in their communities, highly regarded by the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and very successful in nurturing the growth of their churches.

The collection was donated by Barbara Howe, author of *Forgotten Voices: Women in Ministry in the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada* (2010), which includes a chapter on these two remarkable women. The fonds consists largely of sermons, lessons, correspondence, and photographs.



Marguerite Evelyn Railton (left) and Marion Sinclair Hull during their pastorate at Denzil, SK, 1939.

OPENING THE VAULT - PAUL D. FLECK LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, THE BANFF CENTRE

Jane Parkinson, Archivist

Here at the Paul D. Fleck Library & Archives at The Banff Centre, there's a treasure hunt underway. That is, if you regard little chicken-scratch-like markings to be treasure, the way we do.



Annotated score, Zoltán Székely fonds, Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives, The Banff Centre.

The hunt is part of an Archives Society of Alberta-funded grant project to arrange and describe the records of Hungarian musician and composer Zoltán Székely, who came to The Banff Centre as artist-in-residence in the 1970's and stayed through his retirement, passing away here in 2001 at the age of 97.

In Hungary, Székely was a friend and collaborator of one of the most significant composers of the twentieth century, Béla Bartók. He was also lead violinist of the famed Hungarian String Quartet.

The records in the archives include a few boxes of archival manuscripts and photographs. He also left 63 boxes of published scores and books, which may be added to the library's collection.

But in each box a few of the items have markings that make them unique and therefore archival: inscriptions to Székely by the composer or author, or little annotations that represent his notes to himself on how to play a piece of music - known as fingerings. While a score lays out the outline of the work, musicians have a key role in interpreting it. Székely's interpretations, especially of Bartók's music, are highly significant, since he worked with Bartók himself.

The Archives is fortunate to have Buffy Knill, a librarian and former musician, to work on this project. She understands the little chicken-scratches and is very good at spotting the significant ones. Because of her expertise, she has the privilege of working in our basement storage room, spending a week or so going through the 63 boxes looking for treasure.



Buffy Hill examining scores in the Zoltán Székely fonds.

This article was originally submitted as a post in the ASA's new blog, located at <http://archivesalberta.wordpress.com> Check it out!

BREAKING NEWS - PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP!

For those archivists interested in the impact of social justice issues on archival institutions, this year's pre-conference workshop will provide a unique opportunity to explore this subject with a

On May 24, Terry Cook and Verne Harris will present "Archives for Social Justice: Implications for Archival Functions." Through readings, discussion, and case studies, attendees will explore the possibilities of a social justice imperative for archives generally, and, practically, for all the major archival functions: appraisal, acquisition, arrangement, description, reference, public programming, preservation, advocacy, and management.

Taking place on the University of Calgary campus, the workshop is limited to 20 participants. The registration fee is \$125 for registrations received prior to March 30 and \$150 for registrations received after this date.



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ARCHIVALISTS ASSOCIATION

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Eloi DeGrace, Archivist of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, retired in December 2011. The ASA wishes him well in his retirement. Shamin Malas is the new Archdiocesan archivist. Welcome Shamin!

ASA honorary member Michael Dawe, formerly of the Red Deer and District Archives, will be running in the next provincial election as the Alberta Liberal Party for the Red Deer North constituency.

Michael Gourlie, the ASA's Archives Advisor, officially took up his duties as the Vice-President of the Association of Canadian Archivists on January 1.

Meghan Power has left the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum & Archives to take a position in the archives at the Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives at The Banff Centre.

Moving truck at the High River CPR station, January 2012.



Devastated by fire in 2010, the Museum of the Highwood began to move back into the restored High River CPR station on January 13, 2012. According to the *High River Times*, the Museum won't be opening any new exhibits until May 19, but they are open to having visitors. Good luck with the new space!

The ASA now has a blog! Located at <http://archivesalberta.wordpress.com/>, the blog features news of interest to Alberta's archival community, including not only the usual announcements from the ASA but also articles from members that "open the vault" to highlight archival holdings and notices about events of any kind that have an archival connection. If you want to send in something to the blog about an event at your institution or a particularly interesting find among your fonds, please email it to mgourlie@shaw.ca. Pictures and media clips are encouraged!

Heritage Awards Program

The **ALBERTA HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION** is soliciting nominations for its 2012 Heritage Awards Program. These heritage awards recognize and celebrate outstanding accomplishments and projects by individuals, organizations, corporations and municipalities in the protection, preservation and promotion of heritage in the province.

AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Heritage Conservation Award, for excellence in the preservation/ restoration/rehabilitation of a historic structure or site having local, regional or provincial significance.

Heritage Awareness Award, for outstanding contributions to local, regional or provincial history through:

- innovative projects which educate, interpret and promote public awareness of Alberta history
- excellence in research, writing or publishing

Municipal Heritage Preservation Award, recognizes a municipal government for exemplary commitment to heritage conservation through identification, protection and promotion of municipal historic resources.

Outstanding Achievement Award, for an individual whose long-term leadership and contribution to the preservation and presentation of Alberta history has been exemplary.

The Nomination must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2012.

The Nomination Form and detailed guidelines can be obtained at:
Heritage Awards
Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
8820-112 Street, Edmonton, AB
T6G 2P8
ph: 780-431-2305
or online at:
www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf



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SUBMISSIONS,
QUESTIONS AND
SUGGESTIONS

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Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the editor to the **Archives Society of Alberta News**, Issues #1, 2, and 3. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG and PDF files for graphic submissions.

Please note:

Issue #4 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees.

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