

What's new inside? The Impact of Giving, Orange Shirt Day, a Toy Monkey, puzzles and more!  
View this message online

November 2019



**& FEATURE STORY**  
**THE IMPACT OF GIVING AT UVIC LIBRARIES**



*From left: Patrick Makokoro, Kassim Dadi, Godwin Nnko, and William Pastory*

**The academic library lies at the heart of the university.** At the University of Victoria, our Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library is a gathering place for students, faculty, staff, and the community who visit us in droves every year. With over 1.3 million visits just last year, the library is the busiest and most vibrant place on campus, while “virtual visits” to our electronic resources number in the millions as well.

The role of UVic Libraries is diverse; we provide critical academic support and services for research, study space for quiet contemplation, and social areas for collaboration. The way students write,



University Archives hosted a lecture series called *Treasures & Tea*. Our patrons may have noticed the series hasn't been publicized this academic year. What's up? The series continues now as *Collections in Conversation*: same great alliteration and same great talks followed by refreshments. We hope this new title better captures the dynamic nature of our rare and unique holdings: a resource for all, built collaboratively. The talks are free and open to the public. Join us in the conversation!

Two articles recently published in *Florilegium* highlight new research findings relating to manuscripts in Special Collections. The articles not only demonstrate the prominence of rare and unique holdings at UVic Libraries, but the potential for significant student scholarship with cultural heritage objects. *Florilegium* is an international, peer-reviewed journal concerned with the study of late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The articles are freely available through [UVicSpace](#). See below.\*\*

\*\* Boyarin, Adrienne Williams, Ravana Eagleheart, James Kendrick, Lynnea Ness, and Merridy Peters. "Medieval Manuscripts and Fragments at the [University of Victoria](#): An Early Grant of Hubert de Burgh, Constantine the African's Translation of Isaac Israeli, and a Mendicant Breviary between Italy and Croatia." *Florilegium* 33 (2016): 193-232.

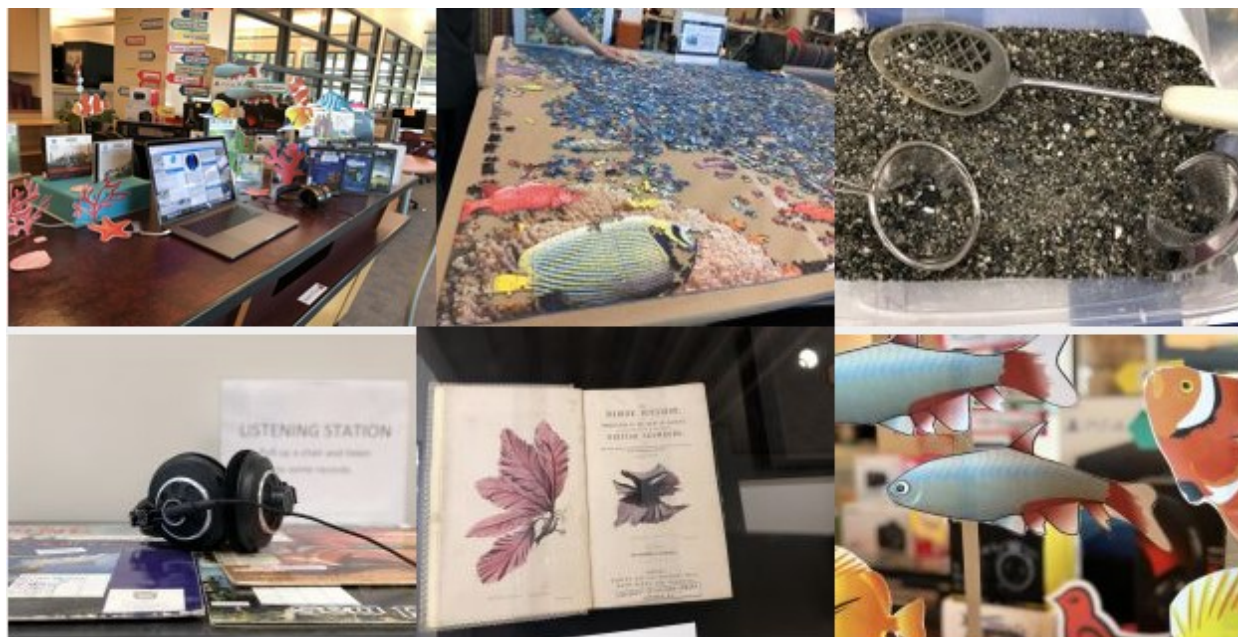
[Lahey, Stephanie J.](#) "On the Origin and Provenance of Victoria, McPherson Library, Doc.Brown.4: Sir Thomas Mowbray's Care of Newnham Priory." *Florilegium* 33 (2016): 63-91.

An exhibition opening next month at the Royal Ontario Museum, *Bloodsuckers: Legends to Leeches*, includes a Victorian journal from UVic Libraries' Special Collections. *The Dark Blue* includes an early work of vampire fiction, "Carmilla," by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu. The story features Laura, the narrator, and Carmilla, a female vampire, and a prototype of the lesbian vampire found in twentieth-century exploitation film and literature. *The Dark Blue* was edited by John Christian Freund and published in London from 1871 to 1873. The exhibition is on at the ROM from November 16, 2019 to March 22, 2020.

---

## & ACROSS THE LIBRARIES

---



## SCIENCE LITERACY WEEK WRAP-UP

With 17 events and activities this year, Science Literacy Week was a very collaborative and multi-disciplinary event held during September 17-20.

**Science Literacy Week** is a week-long celebration of science-based activities that highlight our outstanding scientists and science communicators from coast-to-coast.

In summary, we had: two panel discussions, six exhibits, reserve reading relaxation activities, two live-streamed events, one workshop for a middle school class, a grad mixer for students across the disciplines engaged in science research, three book displays, and one Café Scientifique talk. Thank you to Science Librarian Kathleen Matthews for her dedication in making it a success!

---



*Photo credit: Dani Johnson, UVic Libraries*

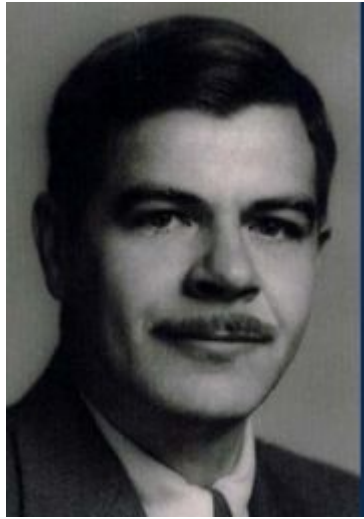
## **ORANGE SHIRT DAY**

On September 30, UVic Libraries staff showed their support for **Orange Shirt Day**, which is a national movement in Canada for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together in the spirit of hope and reconciliation, and to honour former residential school students whose families and communities have been impacted by the policies and actions of the Government of Canada and the churches that operated the schools. The design for the UVic 2019 orange shirt was contributed by artist Carey Newman (Coast Salish/Kwagiulth). Newman is the Audain Professor of Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest with the Department of Visual Arts.

---

## **& IN THE VAULT LECTURES**

---

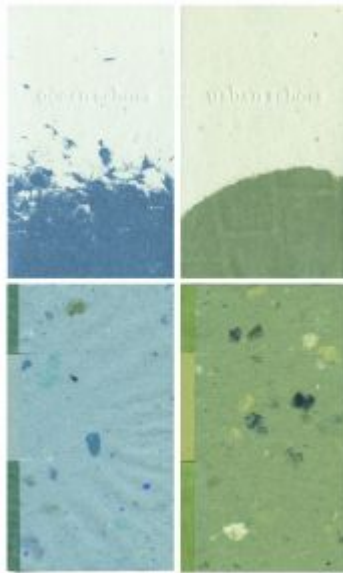


### The American Mountaineer Who Invented Canadian English

Dr. Stefan Dollinger (Associate Professor, Department of Languages and Literatures, University of British Columbia)

Monday, Nov. 4, 1 pm  
Room A003, Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library

This talk introduces Charles J. Lovell, an amateur philologist of outstanding qualities despite - or because of - his grade 8 education. Lovell, a long-forgotten mountaineer and word buff, convinced the Canadian Linguistic Association in 1957 to support the creation of Canadian dictionaries of English. This talk reconstructs the stories of Lovell and the five other pioneers, from archival material, of the codification of Canadian English, all of whom are connected to the University of Victoria, but who are long forgotten. It offers a peek into the full story recently made available as *Creating Canadian English: the Professor, the Mountaineer,*



### Poetry, Paper and Prints

Jeanne Iribarne PhD (Department of English, Camosun College)  
Frances Hunter (Red Tower Bookworks, book artist and publisher)  
Thekla Albrecht-Iribarne (visual artist, printmaker)

Saturday, Nov. 16, 3 pm  
Room A003, Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library

UVic Libraries is pleased to present a reading by poet and playwright Jeanne Iribarne from two new poetry chapbooks, *Ocean Echoes* and *Urban Echoes*, published in Victoria by Red Tower Bookworks. Following the reading, Frances Hunter will comment on the design, papermaking, printing, and binding of the special and regular editions with a hands-on display of materials and tools used in making the chapbooks. Printmaker Thekla Albrecht-Iribarne will display work made in collaboration with her daughter Jeanne, which introduces an alternative



### A Parchment Prodigal, or, The Travels of a Medieval Charter

Stephanie Lahey (PhD candidate, Department of English)

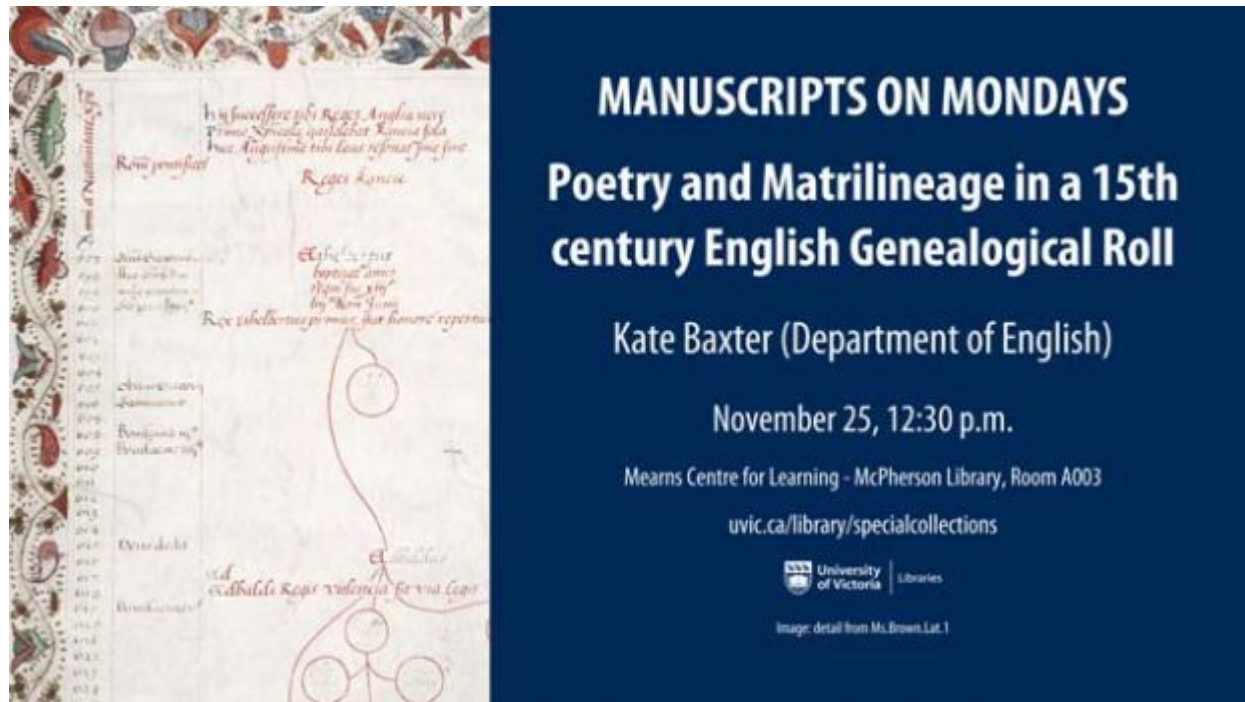
Monday, Nov. 18, 12:30 pm  
Room A003, Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library

In 1391, a charter of Earl Marshall Sir Thomas Mowbray (1366-1399) confirmed and extended a series of grants and gifts made to the Augustinian Priory of Newnham, Bedfordshire, by Sir William de Beauchamp (c. 1185-1260). Although confirmed by surviving records, researchers long believed that Mowbray's original 1391 charter had been lost long ago. This talk identifies a manuscript in Special Collections as the missing original, tracing its convoluted transmission route from 14th century Bedfordshire to 21st century British Columbia.

and a National Variety of  
English (Cambridge  
University Press, 2019).

approach to integrating  
poetry and image.

*Collections in Conversation* (formerly *Treasures and Tea*) brings together the campus and the community to explore and share highlights from Special Collections and University Archives. Refreshments follow the informal talks.



**Kate Baxter (Department of English)**  
**Monday, November 25, 12:30 pm**  
**Room A003, Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library**

This talk will cover recent work with a genealogical scroll (*Ms Brown.Lat.1*), which has led to new discoveries about the roll's origins and intended use. Information contained within the roll, as well as comparative analysis with the roll's original (Pepys Library MS 2314), suggests that the roll may have been used to further the Yorkist claim in the opening years of the Wars of the Roses. Serving a propagandistic function, the roll highlights the unique matrilineal inheritance that the House of York used to lay claim to the throne of England in the 1460s.

*Manuscripts on Mondays* provides an opportunity for the campus and the community to explore medieval and early modern manuscripts from Special Collections. These handwritten documents, including Books of Hours, a genealogical scroll, and legal documents, are a window into the past.

---

## & IN THE NEWS

---



Photo credit: Caitlin Craig, *Martlet*

### **UVic Libraries' Undergraduate Student Curator featured in the *Martlet***

by: Pia Russell, Education Librarian

Emily Stremel, Undergraduate Student Curator on the BC Historical Textbooks Digital Library Project, was featured in the September 24 issue of the *Martlet*. This term, reporter Caitlin Craig is highlighting various undergraduate research opportunities at UVic and was pleased to feature Emily in her most recent article.

Emily is a part-time History honours student and has worked on the historical textbooks project since September 2018. Funding for her position is made possible through UVic's Work Study program, a UVic Internal Research and Creative Project Grant, and the University Librarian's Office. During a typical shift, Emily works at her own station in Technical Services and transcribes textbook titles and builds digital exhibits. In addition to regular research assistant duties, Emily also utilizes the textbook collection to engage in her own research on disability history in BC.

Including exceptional student curators like Emily on library projects is a win-win: students get highly relevant, research-based work experience, and the library gets project tasks completed quickly. As a librarian, supervising students is one of my favourite responsibilities, and with their creativity, I often learn more from them than they do from me. Emily's excellent technical skills and strong historical thinking perspectives make her a wonderful addition to the project team. Funding permitted, we will be able to keep her on the project until she graduates.

The BC Historical Textbooks Digital Library is a digitization and public history project to advance the preservation and accessibility of the UVic Libraries' unique collection of textbooks used in BC schools since the province joined Confederation in 1871. Focusing on the first fifty years of education in BC, the digital library is comprised of titles on a variety of subjects. Hosted by the Internet Archive, the digital library contains nearly 400 digitally scanned textbook titles. You can browse the [collection here](#). Read the [full \*Martlet\* interview](#) with Emily.



Photo credit: UVic Photo Services

## ROGER BISHOP GIFT

On Nov 1, UVic announced a \$1.6-million donation from the estate of the late Roger J. Bishop -- local scholar, avid book collector, and lifetime supporter of the arts, humanities and library at the University of Victoria. Regarded as the "father of UVic Special Collections", Bishop frequently shipped boxes of rare books to campus from his travels overseas. [Read the Ring story.](#)



Photo credit: UVic Photo Services

## OPEN ACCESS WEEK

Matt Huculak, Digital Scholarship Librarian, was recently mentioned on the John Hopkins University Press website in his role as the content architect for the [Modernism/modernity Print Plus platform](#) - praised as a blueprint for open access in the Humanities. [Read more.](#)

---

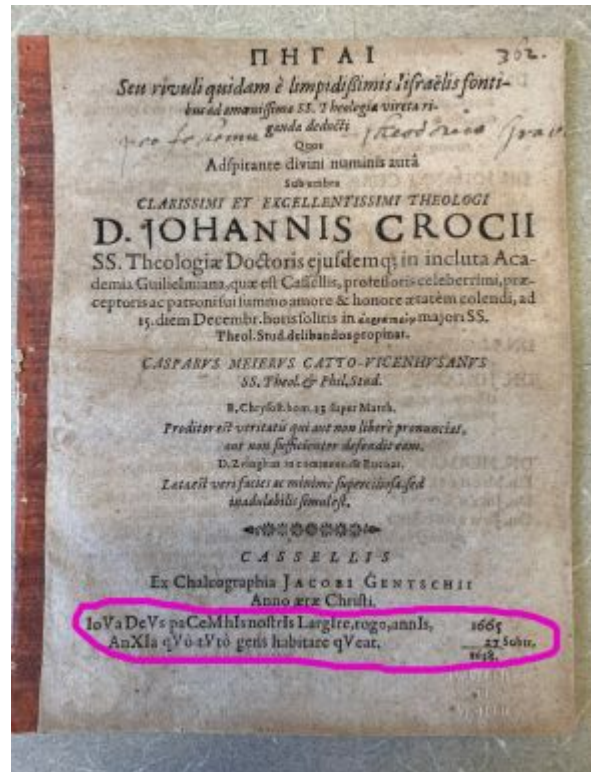
## & OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY

---



## TEAM BUILDING IN THE COMMUNITY

Team Codex Puzzlica (Tiffany Chan, Stephanie Boulogne, Sue Bengtson, and David Boudinot) participated in the Bolen Books Puzzle Competition on August 24 against 39 other teams. The goal was to finish a 1,000 piece puzzle as fast as possible. Team Codex Puzzlica did very well in their first competition. Congratulations!



## WHAT'S A CHRONOGRAM?

by: Karen Nelson, Cataloguer, Metadata Unit



Photo credit: Tiffany Chan

## RESERVE ROOM PUZZLE

Science Literacy Week is over but students and staff were committed to finishing this 5,000 piece ocean-themed puzzle in the Reserve Lounge. Well done!



Photo credit: Zehra Abrar

## LAW LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

On October 9, the Law Library held its annual open house for law students to discover all the resources available to them at UVic Libraries. Always popular and a great way to meet our friendly and helpful staff, the event was well attended in our beautiful space.

Ever wondered what 17th century theologians did for fun? Cooked up a chronogram, of course... that's an inscription or sentence in which certain letters must be read as roman numerals to yield a hidden date - and in the case of our sample, the all-important date of publication was 1638.

But wait! You don't just form a roman numeral with the uppercase letters. That would be far too simple for someone who translates his signature into Latin on a regular basis... you have to add them to get the answer. The 17th century sample, circled above, provides a clue in the form of an equation, as illustrated in the lower right-hand corner: experts say this is very unusual.

Try it: first line, (**I + V + D + V + C + M + I + I + L + I + I**) or (1 + 5 + 500 + 5 + 100 + 1000 + 1 + 1 + 50 + 1 + 1) = **1665** ... and so on. Why? Beats us. But we got the publication date anyway.



## SIGN-UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

You can [sign-up](#) for our bi-monthly newsletter. Read [archived issues](#) you missed.

---

## & THE LAST WORD

---



*Photo credit: Tessa Coutu*

### **THE TOY MONKEY**

*by: Matt Huculak, Digital Scholarship Librarian*

This past spring, UVic Libraries partnered with Dr. Charlotte Schallié in Germanic and Slavic Studies to prototype a course for the Holocaust Studies Master's degree program at UVic. "Teaching About the Holocaust" brought graduate and undergraduate students together to incorporate object-based learning and participatory research into their studies. Object-based learning is a teaching methodology that gives students hands-on access to historical items; the personal connection to items from the past gives students a more meaningful and tactile experience both inside and outside the classroom.

Dr. Schallié's students were partnered with members of the community from Victoria, New York, Zurich, and Berlin who had personal connections to the Holocaust and who to this day, carry with them items of significance to their personal family histories. For example, many of the families who were able to flee Nazi occupied Europe did so with only the clothes on their back or with a small suitcase. Families that immigrated to Canada might have only had time to carry with them a candelabra or small toy to remind them of the lives they were forced to leave behind. These items have been handed down through the generations and carry the stories of those who touch them.

Students were asked to sit down and speak with survivors and their families to listen to and learn about the stories surrounding these special objects. This is a form of "participatory research" in which, ideally, all participants (interviewers and interviewees) in the research process are a part of the learning process and are co-producers of the information and analyses generated by the discussion.

UVic Libraries was able to play an essential role in training students how to digitize objects, describe those objects using metadata, and then present those objects online through our hosted exhibition platform, Omeka-S. Students were entrusted with the objects and the stories held by these objects and were asked to create an exhibit based on what they learned in the course.

Tessa Coutu, a Masters student, worked with a toy monkey recently featured on NPR in the United States. Her exhibit highlights the incredible story of Gert Berliner, whose parents arranged his escape to Sweden on the *Kindertransport*. Gert carried with him a small suitcase that carried his favourite toy monkey, which he considered a talisman. After a long life, and after much deliberation, Gert donated his toy to the Jewish Museum in Berlin so it could bear witness to his story. One day, a visitor named Erika Pettersson visited the museum and saw the monkey on display. She had a strange feeling since her mother's maiden name had also been Berliner and she was also from Sweden. Erika wrote Gert in New York, and sure enough, the monkey proved to be a good luck charm once again—reuniting a family torn apart by war through a toy monkey in Berlin. Tessa's exhibit and the full story of Gert Berliner can be found on our [website](#).



This bi-monthly newsletter is sent to you by the UVic Libraries Communications Office: [libcomm@uvic.ca](mailto:libcomm@uvic.ca)

