

Super librarian retires . . . Commemoration

by Cheryl Parsons

Head of the Medical Science Library, Phyllis Russell, retired after 30 years with the University of Alberta library system.

The Rare Book Room, which is to be established in the J.W. Scott Library in the Walter McKenzie Health Sciences Centre, is to be named after Russell.

Said Acting Area Supervisor of the Health Sciences Library, Sylvia Chetner, "In the last few years, Phyllis put a lot of her time and energy into the new library. It was a project very close to her heart."

Russell received her B.A. from the University of Alberta in 1949 and went on to the University of Toronto to complete a B. L. S. in 1950. In 1960, Russell obtained certification of the Medical Library Association from Columbia University.

She worked as a cataloger for U of A from 1950-53 and as a reference librarian from 1953-54.

At that point in her career, Russell moved to Vancouver where she worked as a reference librarian at UBC for one year. In 1956-57, she was a cataloger with Seattle Public Library.

In 1957, Russell returned to the University of Alberta and became acting head of the Medical Science Library. She became head of the library in 1959 and worked in this capacity until her recent retirement.

"She was a very good librarian," said Chetner, "she placed great emphasis on developing the highest calibre possible for health science in the community. Phyllis was highly respected within not only the medical faculties but as well, with

the practitioners in the medical field."

As a member of several associations, Russell took an active interest in the administration of the college oriented areas.

From 1973-76, she was director of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries and in 1978 was vice-president.

As a member of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges, Russell was chairperson of the Special Resource Committee on Medical School Libraries from 1973-74.

Her other involvements included the Medical Library Association and the Canadian Health Library Association.

In 1974, Russell edited "Guide to Canadian Health Science Information Services and Sources" which was published by the Canadian Library Association in 1974. It was the first of its kind to be devoted to the Canadian "SCENE".

"She provided great support

for the Hospital Libraries and the larger medical community with northern Alberta," commented Chetner.

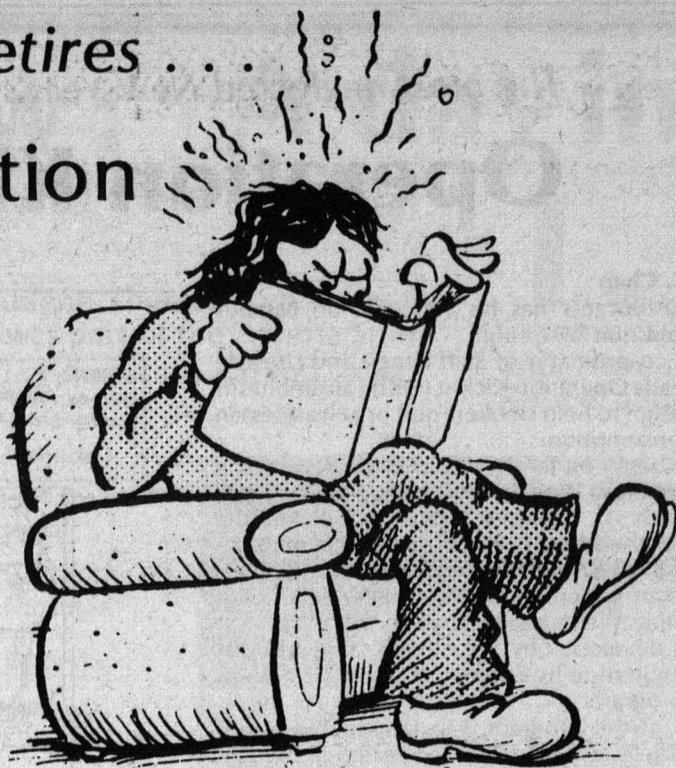
"She added, "at the library she'll be remembered for her very nice sense of humor that so often came through just when we needed it."

The "Rare Book Room" will house approximately 600 volumes, the nucleus of which was formed by the original collection of the late Dr. H. E. Rawlinson.

Dealing with the historical aspects of medicine, surgery, obstetrics, gynecology and pediatrics, several of the rare books date back as far as the early 1600's.

The majority of the books, however, most of which originated in Europe, were written in the middle to late 1700's.

At present, the "rare books" are in the University's special collections room. The new room will tentatively be opened in July or August 1984.



U of L feeling funding squeeze

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. (CUP) — Massive enrolment increases and funding cutbacks are wreaking havoc at the University of Lethbridge.

The campus experienced enrolment increases of 25 and 13 per cent over the past two years, causing a serious strain on the university's dwindling resources.

According to registrar Jack Oviatt, many classes were filled completely this fall and some were enlarged to accommodate the influx of students.

Oviatt said the university tried to schedule classes between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. but the shortage of faculty and increase in students made him schedule early morning and evening classes.

The space shortage was compounded last summer when many classrooms were taken up by the new Performing Arts Centre, said Oviatt.

The registrar's office is feeling

the crunch too, he said. Due to the increased pressures of dealing with more students, the office has a very high staff turnover rate.

Lethbridge is not the only campus where funding shortages have led to space shortages. Across Canada, post secondary students are cramming into crowded classrooms and standing in long lines for use of library and computer facilities.

At the University of Manitoba, students face a squeeze in studying space as exams fast approach.

Tina Helmuth, student union vice president at U of M, says studying areas are disappearing.

"In the past there was a lot of non-traditional study space," Helmuth said. "However, these have been taken over for computer space. Students now have virtually only library space, which will be very cramped when exam time comes."

Negative 'red' image

HALIFAX (CUP) — Roger Lewis is interested in propaganda.

Lewis, student union president at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, decided to experiment with the whole idea of propaganda as an academic project.

Lewis printed up a dozen red and yellow T-shirts reading "NSCAD teaches communism." He sees his T-shirt as a "celebration of a kind of left heritage" at NSCAD.

But the college administration is not celebrating with Lewis. He says the administration is

worried about the public response and specifically the response of the Nova Scotia Royal Commission on post secondary education.

"They are afraid the T-shirt will reinforce some negative misconceptions about the school," Lewis said. "I can't really say NSCAD teaches communism, but it provides an atmosphere for left politics."

"I was thinking about posters and propaganda and it was originally a poster idea," said Lewis. "I wasn't thinking of what propaganda said but the motives behind it."

