

# FEATURES

## Unearthing the hidden rooms of York

Mike Guy

"Location is a fundamental problem with the Rare Books Room," says its supervisor, Ellen Hoffman, "students experience difficulty locating the room, because it's so out-of-the-way."

The Rare Book Room isn't the only facility that suffers from this unique form of invisibility — the Map Room, the Film Room, the Archives, and the Listening Room also share in a similar predicament.

Once you unearth the Rare Books Room, you will discover that it's a rather useful resource source whose only major drawback is the extreme frailty of the books themselves.

### Bookmaking

"Because the books are so frail, we keep them in a room where the temperature and the humidity are controlled," says Hoffman. "We want to preserve these books — keep them close to their original form."

The books need extra care because they are finely printed works of art. As Hoffman says, "book making is a craft". Thus, she handles them with care and respect.

It's true that bookmaking is an art, however, the Rare Books Room has more to offer than attractive books. Hoffman has on her shelves a wealth of material, ranging from Canadian Studies, British Literature, to art history.

"Our collection is quite good," she says, "we've even helped a social studies class find books on nineteenth-century cooking."

### Manuscripts

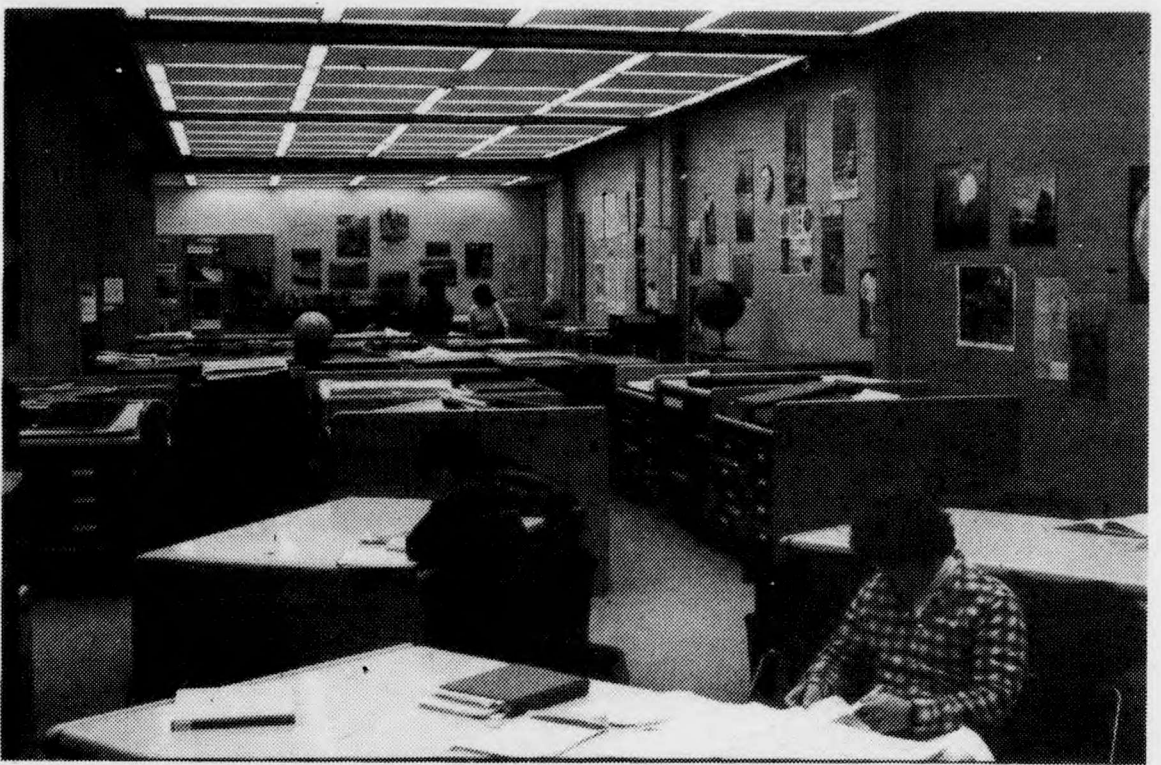
"Here in the Archives," says Hartwell Bowsfield, Archivist, "we store manuscripts. There are papers about authors, poets, politicians and movie stars. Manuscripts differ from books because they are not printed for public circulation, so there may only be one copy in print."

Since manuscripts are scarce, Bowsfield purchases them as soon as he hears that they are on sale. Usually a professor or someone who knows a public figure will inform Bowsfield of the sale. He also obtains manuscripts through donations. People who make donations to York University receive one hundred per cent tax deduction, consequently, they happily fill York's archives.

### Archives

The Archives collection includes such items as, Mackenzie King's diary, letters to Margaret Lawrence, and the diaries of the Canadian Delegates to the League of Nations.

The items concerning Canada on a whole are plentiful, and Archives keeps an enormous



Another of York's secret, hidden rooms.

collection of information on York University. For example, it preserves information on the Council of the York Student Federation, various college council, letters to the Dean and the President. It also collects copies of all the material necessary for the writing of a history of York University.

The Map Room, another resource whose "invisibility" can only be surpassed by the Rare Books Room is situated on the

first floor on the Scott Library. However, its low profile doesn't affect its usefulness. As Supervisor, Janet Allin explained, "We offer maps of anywhere in the world, although our emphasis is on Canada and Southern Ontario".

Besides the geographical maps, the Map Room stores maps on population, economics and natural resources, as well as offering maps for recreational purposes.

"Students get the impression that we assist geography and urban studies students only," claims Allin. "This is not so, for we can aid English students too. Only fifty per cent of the students who utilize our services are geography majors."

### Maps

"A map will cover in one page what an English book takes two chapters to cover", says Allin, emphasis the unique abilities a visual picture of a locale can offer. When you need to locate an unfamiliar place, check with the Map Room. It provides 3 thousand atlases, 4 thousand aerial photos of Toronto and assists students who may want to draw their own maps.

Down the hall from the Map Room is the Film Room, where films on anthropology environmental studies, and other disciplines are stored and screened.

"When you decide on the film that you will view," says Kathryn Elder, Supervisor, "give us twenty-four hours to obtain it — then come and preview it."

If the Film Room does not have the film you want Ekler will give you the necessary information needed to find it at a public library. If the public library fails to produce it, the Film Room does exchange films with other universities, and it may be located through this exchange program. The Film Room houses 1,200 film so you should find the movie that you desire.

### Music Room

The door to the Listening Room is seldom closed; for they're even open on the weekends. The best way to reach the Listening Room is via the stairs as opposed to the escalator or the elevator.

For, as Julie Stockton, Supervisor, "Our collection consist of a wide variety of musical types", says Julie Stockton, Supervisor "jazz, classical, ethnic, folk, and rock, recordfinger are on files, plus, we feature a large collection of spoken words, — things such as contemporary plays, poetry, and lectures". Unfortunately, all the aforementioned items must be used in the Listening Room.

The Scott Library offers a lot for those interested in both information and recreation. However, the problems of location and visibility will always exist.

## Chowdown: Mexi-Can delivers



E.P. Cureau

Some coincidences are enough to make you throw your sombrero in the air with joy: a moderately priced Mexican restaurant just across from the Metro Reference Library.

The Mexi-can Delicatessen Restaurant at 830 Yonge Street

just north of Bloor is a fine place to refuel after some hard slogging over a term paper.

Strictly speaking, this restaurant owes more to the American version (Texas and California divisions) of Mexican cooking than actual Mexican cooking itself, but don't let that dissuade you.

On a cold day, a steaming bowl of tortilla soup for \$1.50 would be the perfect introduction to what Mexi-Can calls its "combinations", the best of which are No. 1 — a beef taco, chicken burrito and Mexican rice, which costs \$3.75, and No. 4 consisting of a chesse

taco, bean burrito and Mexican rice, also for \$3.75.

Other equally appealing items on Mexi-Can's menu are chili con carne at \$2.25; a tostada — a corn tortilla topped with a choice of refritos, beef, chili, or chicken covered in lettuce, tomatoes, cheese and sour cream, all for \$2.50 and a "California Style" burrito made of beef, refritos, lettuce, cheese and tomatoes at \$2.25.

A good bet for dessert would be "Bunuelos De Celaya" — deep fried tortilla chips sprinkled with cinnamon sugar and melted chocolate at \$1.75. Other sweet

enticements are Banana Bread at \$1.25, Carrot Cake at \$1.75 and "Deli Ice Cream" for \$1.65.

Like its companion across the street (the Metro Library) Mexi-Can is a model of sobriety. It doesn't have a liquor licence, so diners have to content themselves with soft drinks costing 95¢ or fruit juices for a dollar. That bottomless cup of coffee will cost you 60¢.

The friendly, squeaky-clean Mexi-Can is open Monday to Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday until 11 p.m.; and Sunday from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m.

## Fine Arts may fold without funds

Paul O'Donell

York University's Faculty of Fine Arts considered Canada's best because of its philosophy of offering five disciplines is in serious jeopardy of losing this status because of inadequate provincial government funding.

According to Dean Lawrence, "the 4.3 million dollars we receive now needs to be doubled for the faculty to run effectively."

### insufficient funds

The faculty has three areas in which funding covers. These areas are teachers salaries which Lawrence describes as "insufficient, equipment and supplies funds which are almost depleted and maintenance funds which are gone." Lawrence claims the provincial government's policy of underfunding is the main component of the problem. He explained York receives its funds from two areas: tuitions and government subsidies. However, the provincial strategy over the last seven years has been to give

less money forcing student fees to be increased. This situation will continue to increase if funding does not improve. The government allocates funds according to enrollment. According to the strategy each

fine arts student entitles the faculty to two basic income units of funding, while arts students bring in 1.5 B.I.U.'s (comparatively, Nova Scotia's Fine Arts Faculty gets 3.5 BIU's).

Maximizing the amount of

funding, the Faculty of Fine Arts has increased enrollment. This cannot be done in Fine Arts as Fine Arts students' need individual attention. Thus class sizes cannot be increased and less money is put into the system. The result of this is a cut back in enrollment to make the most of present funds.

### need repairs

Because of the inadequate capital funding, phase three, a development project that included new Fine Arts facilities, is not going to be constructed.

Equipment such as pianos and lighting are not being repaired, and maintenance to the present facilities is not taking place.

There is also inappropriate space for York's dance, film, theatre, music and visual arts department.

These problems will accelerate if today's federal budget brings further cutbacks in education. These cutbacks could be the death knoll for a Fine Arts education at York.



Three faces of Dean of Fine Arts, Lionel Lawrence.