

*Friends of UVic Libraries  
Newsletter* appears twice  
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Coming Events	pp. 1 & 2
Friends Membership Committee	p. 2
Talking to a Friend:	
Jenny Waelti-Walters	p. 3
Farewell to our Friend	
George Kidd	p. 4
The Art of Music: Symphonies of	
Colour in Media Services	p. 4
Seen Any Interesting	
Cockroaches Lately?	p. 6
Preservation Issues at	
McPherson Library	p. 6
Artistic Friends	p. 7
Romance in the Library?	p. 7
More Coming Events	p. 8

Terry Sherwood

It is my great pleasure to announce that Deirdre Roberts and Gayle Garlock have agreed to serve as Co-Chairs of the Friends of UVic Libraries Membership Committee. In these roles, they also become members of the Executive Committee.

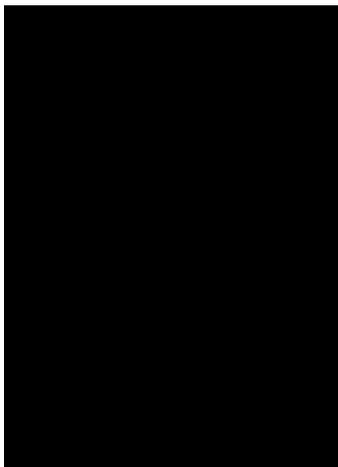
Both persons bring valuable experience and special gifts to their involvement with the Friends. Prior to residence in Victoria, Deirdre Roberts was a CBC producer in Vancouver involved in an impressively broad variety of projects. In Victoria she is becoming increasingly well-known as an accomplished artist with shows of her works in the Winchester Gallery.

Gayle Garlock is a recent Victoria resident after retiring from the University of Toronto Library, where he distinguished himself as the Director of Development and Public Affairs. In Greater Victoria he

Ann Saddlemyer

A conversation with Jenny Waelti-Walters in her home-cum-studio ranges widely through various lives, including her student days at the University of London where she first became acquainted with the work of the French novelist, poet and critic Michel Butor, her teaching at the University of Victoria where from 1968 to 1997 she was variously a Professor of French Literature and of Women's Studies with a distinguished list of publications to her name, a brief love affair with the act of singing, a serious career as a photographer, and finally the plunge into painting and print-making (including three years at the Victoria College of Art), activities on which she now spends all her time and energy. But the one enthusiasm blends into the others, apparent in her remarkable award-winning prints as it is in the fine collection of works by Michel Butor that she donated to UVic in the mid-1990's. Selections from that collection are now on display in Special Collections coinciding with the Art of the Book exhibition sponsored by the Friends of UVic Libraries. Themselves works of art, many of these books by Butor are handmade, including the paper, most of them in limited editions, produced in close collaboration with the artist. Given her own journey into the art of the print, Waelti-Walters wonders now whether Butor himself would have preferred to be an artist: his father was an amateur artist, most of his friends were artists, his first critical works were art criticism, and his own stories are about museums and artists. He then moved on to play with typography, forcing the reader to be as much aware of the visual aspects as of the stories they told. The American artist Gregory Masurovsky produced a series of drawings with Butor – who had to learn to write backwards for the lithography process – writing poems on the plate by

Victor A. Neufeldt



It is with much sorrow that we note the passing of Dr. George Kidd on July 22, Victoria College '37 and charter member of the Friends of UVic Libraries. After serving with distinction with the Canadian Army in World War II, he embarked on a distinguished diplomatic career spanning 31 years and 9 countries. In 1977 George Kidd retired to Victoria to begin a new career of service to the community, greatly benefiting such organizations as the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, St. Mary's Anglican Church, the UVic Board of Governors, the UVic Alumni Association, and the UVic Libraries. In 1992 he was awarded an honorary LL.D. by the University. Keenly interested in books and libraries to the very end, on November 12, 2003 he gave a talk, *Collecting Illuminated*, as part of the Friends lecture series *Adventures in Book Collecting*.

A true scholar and gentleman, he will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Caroline Riedel, Curator of Collections  
Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery

*When colours work together, they have an amazing sound, like a good chorus in harmony.*

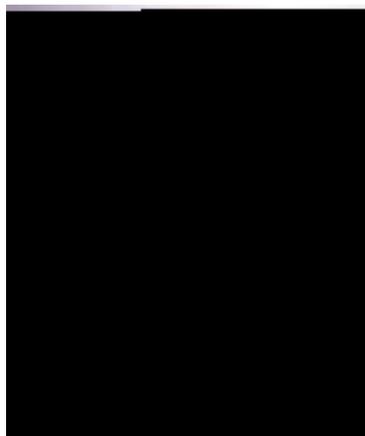
*(Aleksander Titovets, artist)*

*Great art is as irrational as great music. It is mad with its own loveliness.*

*(George Jean Nathan, author)*

Music and art *aficionados*, be sure to visit Media Services on the lower level of the McPherson Library. Here you will have the opportunity to browse both the University's LP and CD collections and to view some of the University Collection's finest examples of art by Myfanwy Pavelic, Noah Becker, Eric Metcalfe, Herbert Siebner and Gwen Curry.

The faces of Glenn Gould, Yehudi Menuhin and Katherine Hepburn gaze from the walls of the central entrance. Native Victorian, Myfanwy Spencer Pavelic, who has become one of the world's greatest portrait artists, created these in the 1980s. She herself was originally interested in pursuing a career as a concert pianist, but when a problem with her wrists prevented further pursuit in music, she turned her talents to drawing and painting. In addition to her artistic skill, Pavelic clearly developed a unique ability to establish a warm and personal rapport with her subjects. The late Yehudi Menuhin and Katherine Hepburn, both of whose portraits hang at the film desk, were close life-long friends of hers.



**Man Playing a Saxophone**  
**Eric Metcalfe (BFA, UVic) 1991**  
**Photo by Robbyn Gordon**

Eric Metcalfe's whimsical paintings and photographs of performance art events intersperse Pavelic's more traditional subject matter. One silkscreen print shows Metcalfe in his persona of Dr. Brute playing the saxophone with guests at an F. Scott Fitzgerald tea party. Another shows Dr. Brute and the character Mr. Peanut (Victor Trasov), who actually ran for mayor of Vancouver in 1974, with a platform that posed questions about the role of art in society. Metcalfe attended the University of Victoria in the 1960s and has developed a long-standing career in performance, video, installation, ceramics, and sculpture. He is a co-founder of the Western Front Artists' Centre in Vancouver.

Next to the loan desk is an imposing two metre high portrait of Pytor Ilych Tchaikovsky by Noah Becker. This piece was featured in last year's *Williams Legacy* exhibit at the Fran Willis Gallery, which showcased Michael Collard Williams' significant art donation to the University. The imposing canvas size and vigorous brushstrokes are typical of Becker's work, of which he says, "You have to crawl inside ...

by that I mean you have to understand the subject, empathize... then breathe life into the canvas."

Tucked away at the back of the music book stacks, are two of Herbert Siebner's *scrafitto* works from 1972 with the obscure titles *Man Kissing His Belly Button Goodbye* and *Die Löcherin*, (literally, "The Hole-maker" or "Woman Making Holes"). These images are typical motifs from Siebner's oeuvre. According to his friend the late Robin Skelton, Siebner's figures are monumental and symbolic. Skelton writes of Siebner's "archetypal figures of bewildering power and simplicity. They may dance, recline, make love, or simply stand and watch, but they are all, ... inescapable presences in our spiritual and psychological lives." (Skelton, *Herbert Siebner, A Celebration*, 1993, p. 45) A retrospective of Siebner's work is on display at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Siebner passed away just last year.

Finally, I suggest a visit to the listening lab of the music and audio department. Pick out a suitable soundtrack, be seated at one of the listening booths, don your headphones and gaze upon Gwen Curry's "Bird Portraits:" (oil stick on paper, 1997-1998) the Northern Shrike, Varied Thrush and Harris' Sparrow. This series is a part of Curry's work from the late 1990s when she became interested in the process of listing, enumerating and categorizing different bird and plant forms encountered on her wooded property in Brentwood Bay, BC. Her bird portraits depict tiny creatures hundreds of times larger than life size in rich gold, green and red tones. Art critic Sherry Killam notes, "Curry has her bird turning his beady eyes on us, the viewers. Frail

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You may have been fortunate enough to catch the display in lobby of McPherson Library throughout September. Staff member and artist Sandra Wiles created a swarm of insects, sewn by machine and hand. *Kafka*, the large cockroach (*pictured below*) was fashioned out of the lining material from some clothes, fabric samples from wallpaper books and hollow plastic tubing from a set of defunct Christmas lights, while the surrounding smaller "critters" had office supplies for their bodies (markers, pens, clips, white-out), with legs of pipe cleaners and wire left behind from the last renovations. Sandra sewed *Sam the Silverfish* from fabric samples, embellished by

In addition to binding and the construction of special cases, other non-durable protective measures are available. These include digital scanning of brittle books and replacement of materials with copies purchased on the

*I know not whether Laws be right,  
Or whether Laws be wrong;  
All that we know who lie in gaol  
Is that the wall is strong;  
And that each day is like a year  
A year whose days are long.*

This year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of witty Irish poet, playwright and raconteur Oscar Fingall O'Flahertie Wills Wilde.

We are privileged to begin this season's series of Friends' talks with a lecture by Cecil O.D. Branson, Q.C. on Oscar Wilde's legal trials and tribulations.

Mr. Branson, who was born in Victoria, holds both Canadian and Irish citizenships. He was called to the bar of British Columbia in 1963 and has practiced as a barrister since then. He was made a Queen's Counsel in 1984 and has appeared in provincial and federal courts in Canada, including the Supreme Court of Canada. Since 1993 his professional practice has been limited to arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution, primarily in a conciliatory or adjudicative role, most of this being international. He has numerous publications on legal subjects and has lectured in many parts of the world.

Over the years Mr. Branson developed a scholarly interest in Oscar Wilde and has accumulated a substantial library of works by and about him. His researches have taken him to libraries in England, Ireland and the U.S.A. and he has addressed many groups on the involvement of Wilde and his parents with the law and lawyers.

As a Friend, we are pleased to give you advance notice of the annual book sale to raise funds for the United Way through the UVic Campus Campaign.

The sale includes more than books. The Libraries receive donations of books, records, CDs, and even DVDs. All items sell for \$2.00 each and all the money raised goes to the United Way. Tm /F3.0 1 Tf (each9 0