

HISTORY ON THE WEB / HISTOIRE SUR LE WEB

The Canadian Wartime Experience: The Documentary Legacy of Canada at War

By Brett Lougheed

"My chum got killed saturday morning he and I have be [sic] going together sleeping together ever since coming to France. Saturday morning he got up and went down to the cook house for his breakfast and a shell came and blew him cook's house and three others killing them all Mother its terrible the things we see over here. Life is nothing but hope the Good Lord will spare me to get home. if not, we will meet in the other world where there is no war. Try and look at it that way Mother Dear."

The quotation above is from a letter dated May 27, 1918. The author is Vaughan Watt, a soldier from Birtle, Manitoba. Watt, like many of his fellow soldiers, corresponded from the front lines of the First World War with friends and family. In this case, the letter is to Watt's parents. A mere three months later, the Watt family would share in their son's horror and heartbreak as Vaughan was killed in battle too. This letter can be found in the Vaughan Watt fonds at the University of Manitoba Archives and Special Collections in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The entire fonds has been digitized and made more readily available to the public as part of Archives and Special Collections' latest on-line endeavour, "The Canadian Wartime Experience: The Documentary Legacy of Canada at War."

As the numbers of Canadian veterans continue to dwindle, it is of vital importance that archivists and historians make a concerted effort to recount the history of all Canadians during times of conflict, at home and abroad, so that stories such as those belonging to Vaughan Watt are not lost to future generations. The University of Manitoba Archives and Special Collections has attempted to do just that through the creation of the *Canadian Wartime Experience* website. Over ten thousand documents and photographs, from nineteen collections within the Archives' holdings, have been digitized and mounted on the Internet. These images detail Canada's role in a number of conflicts including the Red River Rebellion, the Boer War, the First and Second World War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

It is important to note that although a large majority of the Archives' holdings relating to Canada and war have been digitized through this project, many of the images featured on the website are a smaller component of much larger fonds. It is for this reason that the Archives have made a point of linking this digitized material to the overall descriptions of the collections in which they are found. It is hoped that the

website's users will read these descriptions before viewing the digitized material to gain an understanding of the context surrounding these collections. Once the user views the digitized material within the context of the collection, he or she will be able to more fully comprehend the content of the records.

The content of the digitized material relates the varying roles played by Canadians during times of conflict. For example, the website features diary entries of a soldier's trek to Manitoba with the Wolseley Expedition as they prepared to put down the Métis Resistance. Daily dispatches recounting the events of the Boer War have also been digitized as a part of the website. Soldiers' letters home, plus a first-hand account of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles comprise a small portion of the digitized material detailing the First World War. The work of one Canadian's involvement in the Women's Voluntary Service in England and the account of the internment of a suspected Nazi sympathizer in eastern Canada are examples of some of the material digitized relating to the Second World War. Newspaper clippings and photographs from the *Winnipeg Tribune* provide an account of Canadian involvement in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

This digitized archival material is intended to aid researchers of all ages by providing access to primary sources for a topic that is of continued interest to the history community. Archives and Special Collections has also created a complimentary educational site featuring student activities and teachers' guides for Grades Four, Six, Nine, and Eleven. The educational site is intended to introduce students to the rich resources found in archives. The activities will utilize archival material and supplement the lessons taught in history curriculums.

The Grades Four and Six educational components feature activities relating to Louis Riel and the Métis. Student modules concentrate on Riel's childhood and education, Métis culture, the river lot system, the causes, events, and repercussions of the Riel Resistance, and the Métis people today. The Grades Nine and Eleven components contain numerous activities relating to peacekeeping, human rights, and world conflict. Teachers' guides for many of these student activities are also available on the educational site. The educational site even contains audio recordings of several of Vaughan Watt's letters, thus making the website a multi-media learning experience.

The Canadian Wartime Experience website is an useful learning resource. Researchers from all over the globe will now be able to access primary records relating to some of the more pertinent events in Canadian history with considerable ease. Primary and secondary students can also access this archival material and will be able to use it in the execution of various interactive, multi-media, educational activities. *The Canadian Wartime Experience* website provides an opportunity to ensure the historical legacy of our nation during wartimes is preserved for generations to come.

To view "The Canadian Wartime Experience: The Documentary Legacy of Canada at War" website, please visit:
http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/canada_war/

Although users can link to the educational site from the above address, a separate domain has been established for the educational site as well. It is:
http://www.umanitoba.ca/canadian_wartime/

A New Forum for Canadian Media History

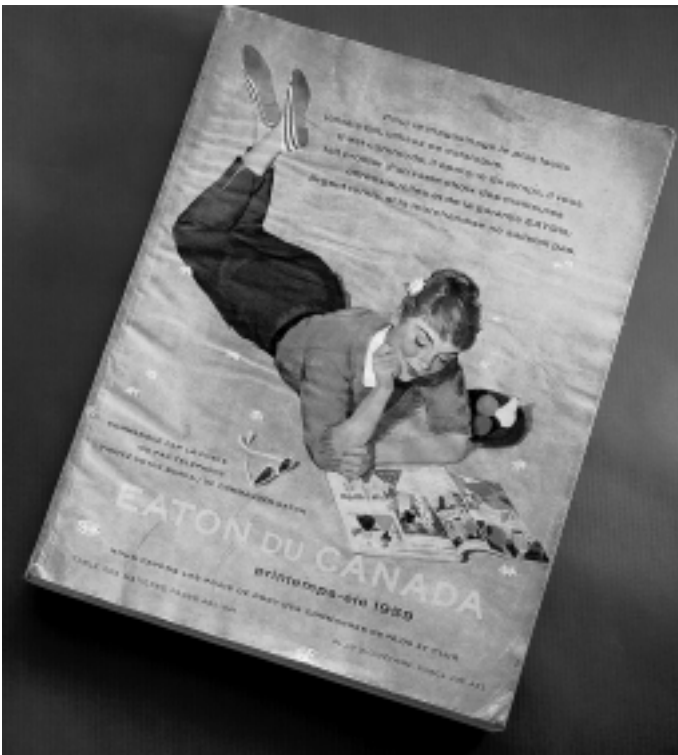
By Gene Allen

In her 2003 Presidential Address to the members of the Canadian Historical Association, Professor Mary Vipond clearly stated the importance of studying and understanding the history of media.* Building on the work of other scholars, Vipond notes that mass media play a central part in modernity and in citizens' understanding of their present and past. Given the current prominence of cultural approaches to the study of history, one might expect that the dominant cultural forms successively embodied in such vehicles as newspapers, radio, film and television would constitute a central focus of historical inquiry. Yet as Prof. Vipond also notes, Canadian historians as a group seem relatively uninterested in the subject.

An examination of the literature in my field at least – the history of journalism – bears out this conclusion. In preparing a new course this year on "The History of News", I was struck by the liveliness and breadth of different theoretical and methodological approaches in the recent work of American and British scholars particularly. In Canada, one can find numerous valuable recent and not-so-recent studies, but a sense of intellectual ferment, of a sufficiently dense literature in which different approaches and interpretations can engage directly with each other, is lacking. At a more prosaic level, and with apologies to the late Prof. Wilfred Kesterton, a suitable basic history of Canadian journalism, incorporating the fruitful approaches generated by 20 years of cultural history, has simply not been written (though Vol. 1 of the newly published *History of the Book in Canada* [Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004] holds out the promise that subsequent volumes may remedy this to some extent).

In an attempt to foster closer connections between historians and others who study the evolution of media in Canada, and thereby – one hopes – generate some of this intellectual ferment, a new listserve has been established. It is called "Canmediahist," and my institution, Ryerson University, has kindly provided the necessary facilities. So far the list has about 100 subscribers, representing scholars, archivists and others from various disciplinary backgrounds. Several of us are interested in journalism history, but the range of interests is much broader than this, including the history of sound and music, authorship, pulp magazines, design, advertising, public relations, postal communication, and so on.

Since the lists' inception in September, we have had interesting exchanges on such questions as the use of photography in journalism, problems of sources for the study of digital media, and copyright in digitized newspapers, as well as helpful notices about relevant conferences and new publications. One noteworthy initiative, led by Prof. Barbara Freeman of Carleton University, is to invite list members to propose papers for a pair of sessions on Canadian media history – one focusing on theory and methodology, the second a forum for recent research on specific topics – for the 2005 annual meeting of the Canadian Communications Association. (It had been hoped to organize these as joint sessions with the CHA, but unfortunately the two organizations' next annual meetings do not overlap.) Beyond this, the list can be used to gauge interest in, and possibly help organize, a full-fledged conference dedicated to Canadian media history, tentatively planned for the fall of 2006. A regular list of recent publications relating to Canadian media history (including significant work from outside Canada) would be a valuable



"Que sera, sera"?

Eaton printemps été 1959

(Canadian Postal Museum - Musée canadien de la poste
Photo: Claire Dufour. Used with permission of Sears Canada
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autorisée par Sears Canada Inc.)

www.civilization.ca/cpm/catalog/ ou

www.civilisations.ca/cpm/catalog/

Canadiana.Org est heureux d'annoncer une subvention de 389,250 \$ accordée par le ministère du Patrimoine canadien, par l'entremise du programme de Culture canadienne en ligne (CCE). **Canadiana.Org** est un organisme sans but lucratif qui, depuis plus de 25 ans, travaille avec les bibliothèques canadiennes pour préserver le patrimoine imprimé du Canada et le rendre accessible en ligne au XXI^e siècle. *Le Canada en devenir* est un projet de six ans axé sur l'histoire de la gouvernance du Canada et ayant pour objectif d'offrir à tous l'accès à 1,5 million de pages d'anciennes publications officielles avant le printemps 2006. Grâce au soutien du Patrimoine canadien, **Canadiana.Org** pourra ajouter 250,000 nouvelles pages cette année. Celles-ci comprendront une sélection de lois, de débats et de documents de la session depuis l'époque coloniale jusqu'à la Confédération, et de 1867 à 1900. Au cours des 18 prochains mois, des publications en

addition, as would regular reviews of new books and articles – all that's lacking are volunteers to undertake these duties.

Any CHA members or other scholars interested in media history are most welcome to join the list; also, please spread the word to anyone else who might wish to subscribe. The address is canmediahist@ryerson.ca, though I would ask new members to send me a message directly (g1allen@ryerson.ca), adding a few words about their research interests. (One of the purposes of the list is simply to give researchers across the country an idea of who is working in which area, and in this spirit the names and interests of new subscribers are regularly published.) Suggestions about new topics or other undertakings to pursue via the list are also welcome; the only caveat is that I try to maintain a historical focus, rather than making this a general list for media or communications studies. With luck, and the participation of its members, "canmediahist" will help foster an atmosphere of discussion, debate and collaboration. Whether or not this leads to media history's being seen as more central to Canadian history generally remains to be seen. But in the meantime it should at least make the lives of those who work in this field more interesting and stimulating.

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* *Reference:* Vipond, Mary, "The Mass Media in Canadian History: The Empire Day Broadcast of 1939," *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* New series Vol. 14 (2003), p. 1-21

série de première importance, telles que les Documents de la session (en anglais), les Débats du Sénat et de la Chambre des communes, ainsi que les Journaux, Les Statuts du Canada et les projets de lois fédéraux déposés en première lecture seront ajoutés à la base de données Notre mémoire en ligne offrant la recherche plein texte à www.canadiana.org.

Canadiana.Org développera aussi le site d'apprentissage complémentaire *Le Canada en devenir* afin de prêter assistance aux enseignants, aux chercheurs et au grand public qui utilisent cette collection en ligne. Le site comprend des plans de leçons, des cartes géographiques et autres documents visuels qui procurent un contact pour les sources primaires et qui mettent leur utilisation davantage en valeur. La base de données Notre mémoire en ligne et les sites Web d'interprétation sont tous accessibles en français et en anglais.

Canadiana.Org a débuté il y a 26 ans sous le nom d'Institut

canadien de microreproductions historiques grâce à une subvention du Conseil des Arts du Canada (CRSHC). Pour plus d'informations au sujet de *Notre mémoire en ligne*, consultez notre site Web bilingue à www.canadiana.org.

Canadiana.org is pleased to announce a grant of \$389,250 awarded by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Canadian Culture Online program (CCO). **Canadiana.org** is a non-profit organization which for over 25 years has worked with Canadian libraries to preserve and provide access to Canada's printed heritage — online for the 21st Century. *Canada in the Making* is a 6-year project focusing on the history of governance in Canada, with the goal of making 1.5 million pages of early official publications available to all by spring 2006. With this support from Canadian Heritage, **Canadiana.org** will be able to add a further 250,000 pages this year. These will include selected Acts, Debates and Sessional papers from the Colonial period to Confederation, and 1867 to 1900. Over the

next 18 months major serial titles such as the English Sessional Papers, the Senate and House of Commons debates and Journals, the Statutes of Canada and 1st reading federal bills will be added to the full-text searchable Early Canadiana Online database at www.canadiana.org. **Canadiana.org** will also be expanding the complementary *Canada in the Making* learning resource site to assist teachers, scholars, and the general public in their use of this online collection. The site includes lesson plans, maps and other visual materials to provide a context for the primary materials and enhance their use. Both the Early Canadiana Online database and the interpretative web sites are accessible in English and French.

Canadiana.org was started 26 years ago as the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions with a grant from the Canada Council (SSHRC). Further information about *Early Canadiana Online* is available from the bilingual web site at www.canadiana.org.

ArtVenture: A Collector's Challenge

The Peter Winkworth collection of 18th and 19th-century Canadiana is a source of rich historical art through which we can learn about life in Canada before the widespread use of the camera. To help students learn about Canada's past, Library and Archives Canada has created an online educational resource for teachers of all grades from across Canada to accompany its *Canada – A Collector's Passion: The Peter Winkworth Collection* Web site. This education site is organized into three main themes closely linked to Social Studies curricula across Canada: "Life, Work and Play in Early Canada," "European Settlements, Industry and Contact with Aboriginal Peoples," and "Portraits." In *ArtVenture: A Collector's Challenge*, students enter a virtual art shop and browse through artwork from the Winkworth collection. Through the completion of curriculum-based activities, students will come to understand how the Winkworth collection can teach them about Canada and its past. [Http://www.collectionscanada.ca/05/0506/050602/05060210_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/05/0506/050602/05060210_e.html).

Aventure à Londres : la mission d'un collectionneur d'art

La collection Peter-Winkworth de Canadiana, dont les œuvres datent du XVII^e et du XIX^e siècle, constitue une source d'art ancien d'une grande richesse; elle nous renseigne sur la vie que l'on menait au Canada avant même que l'on fasse un usage répandu de l'appareil photo. Pour faire connaître cette vie d'autrefois aux élèves, le site *Le Canada – La passion d'un collectionneur*. La collection Peter Winkworth propose une ressource pédagogique en ligne conçue pour les enseignants de toutes les années et de l'ensemble du Canada. Elle s'articule autour de trois thèmes étroitement liés aux programmes d'études en sciences humaines en vigueur au Canada : « La vie, le travail et les loisirs au Canada d'autrefois », « La colonisation européenne, les industries et les contacts avec les Autochtones » et « Les portraits ». Dans *Aventure à Londres*, les élèves entreront dans une boutique d'art virtuelle et exploreront diverses œuvres d'art de la collection. En réalisant les activités fondées sur les programmes d'études que suggère le site, les élèves en arriveront à comprendre comment les peintures et les dessins de la collection Peter-Winkworth nous éclairent sur le Canada d'antan. [Http://www.collectionscanada.ca/05/0506/050602/05060210_f.ht](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/05/0506/050602/05060210_f.ht).

Launch of RPM

In celebration of International Music Day on Friday October 1, and in partnership with the Audio-Visual Preservation Trust of Canada, Library and Archives Canada launched *RPM*, a new Web site based on the weekly trade magazine that was instrumental in putting Canadian music on the map. Introduced in 1964, the magazine *RPM* was dedicated to promoting Canada's musical talent- featuring articles, radio programming surveys, play lists and top 40 charts, it ceased publication in 2000. Under the direction of Canadian music icon Walt Grealis and his business partner Stan Klees, the publication became an indispensable guide to the music industry and to record buyers. Library and Archives Canada's *RPM* Web site has over 10 000 charts, searchable either by date, chart type or artist. The process of digitizing all of *RPM*'s charts began over a year ago, following the acquisition, in 2002, of *RPM*'s collection of magazines, photos and correspondence.
Web site: www.collectionscanada.ca/rpm.

Lancement de RPM

Pour célébrer la Journée internationale de la musique, Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, en collaboration avec le Trust pour la préservation de l'audiovisuel du Canada, a procédé au lancement de *RPM*, un nouveau site Web sur ce magazine hebdomadaire spécialisé qui a contribué à faire connaître la musique canadienne. Fondé en 1964, le magazine *RPM* visait à promouvoir le talent musical canadien au moyen d'articles, de sondages sur la programmation radio-phonique, de listes de diffusion et de palmarès des 40 premières places. Il a cessé de paraître en 2000. Publié sous la direction du vétéran de la musique canadienne Walt Grealis et de son associé en affaires Stan Klees, le magazine *RPM* est devenu un guide indispensable dans l'industrie de la musique, particulièrement pour les acheteurs de disques. Le site Web *RPM* contient plus de 10 000 palmarès qui peuvent être consultés par date, par type de palmarès et par artiste. Le processus de numérisation des palmarès de *RPM* a débuté il y a plus d'un an, après l'acquisition, en 2002, de la collection de magazines, de photographies et de correspondance de *RPM*. Pour explorer l'évolution de la musique populaire canadienne, consultez le site www.collectionscanada.ca/rpm.

