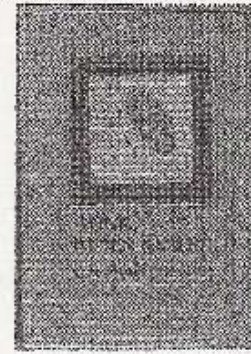




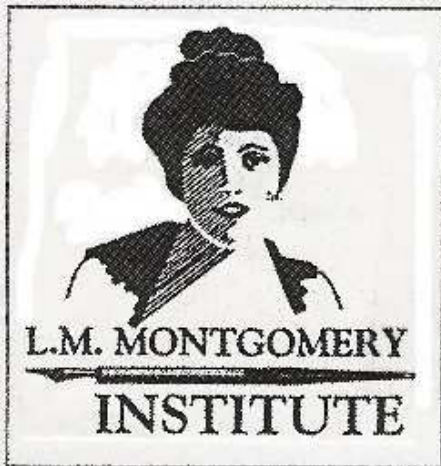
THE SHINING SCROLL
newsletter for the
L. M. Montgomery Literary Society



SUMMER 1994

founded by
Carolyn Collins and Christina Eriksson

The L.M. Montgomery Institute at the University of Prince Edward Island presented the first "L.M. Montgomery and Her Works: An International Symposium" on June 23-26, 1994. Nearly a hundred scholars, students and LMM enthusiasts from all over the world filled the lecture theatre for the opening of the symposium. **Carolyn Collins**, founder of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society, presented a paper, "Discovering Anne's World." Others attending from the LMMLS were **Mary Beth Cavert**, **Nancy Rootland** and **Rosemary Schwary**. The Institute Committee is chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Epperly and the Symposium Coordinator is Anna Macdonald.



PROGRAM

- " The Life of L.M. Montgomery " Francis W.P. Bolger
- " Marigold and the Magic of Memory " Elizabeth Waterston **
- " Discovering Anne's World " Carolyn Collins *
- " Anne's American Cousin: *The Girl of the Limberlost* " Clara Thomas **
- " The Rev. Ewan Macdonald as Father of *Anne of Green Gables* " Mary Rubio
- " Readers Reading L.M. Montgomery " Catherine Sheldrick Ross **
- " Jane Victorious: The Magical Journey to Lantern Hill " Gabriella Ahmanson
- " L.M. Montgomery and Japan: Past, Present and Future " Yuko Katsura
- " The Emily Connection: Ann Radcliffe, L.M. Montgomery and 'The Female Gothic' " Lorna Drew
- " Telling, Retelling, and Selling: Montgomery's Stories " Susan Drain

Family, staff and supporters from Montgomery sites on PEI and in Ontario represented the Macneill Homestead, Silver Bush farm, Montgomery Manor, Green Gables, the museum at Bala, Ontario and Norval, Ontario. Kate Macdonald Butler, grand-daughter of L.M. Montgomery, attended as a self-described "student of Montgomery." Other participants were Parks Canada, the L.M.M. Heritage Society and entrepreneurs and artists of "Anne" related products.

Symposium activities included a reception and a tour of Government House, known as Fanningbank, with Lt. Governor Marion Reid and an evening with Adrienne Clarkson, from Canada's highly regarded television program "Adrienne Clarkson Presents." The next symposium is scheduled for 1996.

* see page 7.

** Published in a special *Canadian Children's Literature* edition called *Harvesting Thistles*.

Society member **Patricia Santelmann** has an article, "Written As Women Write: *Anne of Green Gables* Within the Female Literary Tradition," included in *Harvesting Thistles*. Pat presented this paper for the Society on April 24, 1992. Information for ordering the book will be available at the next meeting.



Some of the Symposium presenters gather for a photo opportunity on the steps of the **Shining Waters Tea Room** at Silver Bush farm. From right to left in the front row are **Gabriella Åhmansson, Elizabeth Waterston, Yuko Katsura, Mary Rubio.**

Behind Waterston is **Betsy Epperly**, behind Rubio is **Carolyn Collins**. **Catherine Ross** is behind Carolyn and **Father Bolger** is in the hat to left.

Jennifer Litster and Beth Cavert are behind Dr. Bolger

" **EXPLORING THE ART OF L.M. MONTGOMERY** " is the exhibit at the Charlottetown Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum. It has a re-creation of Montgomery's bedroom in Cavendish, with her bookshelves, albums and pictures. Throughout the exhibit are several glass cases with her hand-written manuscripts and typed manuscripts showing her own system of editing changes. She used "an alphabet scheme of notation" and "for some novels she would go through the alphabet as many as twenty-nine times." This system, and the manuscripts, are detailed in *Harvesting Thistles* by exhibit curator, **Dr. Elizabeth Epperly**. Also displayed is the missing page from *Jane of Lantern Hill*. In Montgomery's handwritten text, she began two pages with the same word and the second page was omitted. This resulted in a missing paragraph, which Dr. Epperly discovered when reading the original manuscript. Other displays include her first edition books, the apple leaf bedspread that she was working on when she died, Montgomery's photographs and items from related works like the *Anne of Green Gables* musical, which has been performed at the Confederation Centre for almost 30 years.



L.M. Montgomery liked to keep personal scrapbooks of clippings, stories and memorabilia. Fans of Montgomery also collect "L.M. Memorabilia" in books. **Wilda Clark** has an extensive collection in Uxbridge, Ontario kept in what she calls "keepsake" books. **Carol Gaboury** of Waukesha, Wisconsin has several "albums" that contain photos of trips to PEI in 1975 and 1981 as well as a collection of images of Anne from books, films and illustrations. Both women have also established pen-pal connections for over 20 years to share their interest in L. M. Montgomery.

Another Society member who maintains keepsake records is 17 year-old **Virginia Mold**, who has won awards for her "notebook" collections. Virginia compiled information on "Anne" actress, Megan Porter Follows, into notbooks and a display and won a 1993 Grand Champion award at her County Fair and a Blue Ribbon at the Minnesota State Fair. This year, her project has been a notebook on the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society. Her presentation at the March 18, 1994 meeting, "Anne of Green Gables On Film," included a display of her notebooks. This collection was awarded a County Fair Blue Ribbon and a 4H Junior Leadership Award Top Blue Ribbon.

Virginia has traveled 60 miles to each Literary Society meeting for three years. Like Wilda and Carol, she also has an extensive Montgomery pen-pal network of nearly 20 correspondents.



During the L.M.M. Symposium, Dr. Mary Rubio presented a paper, "Ewan Macdonald as Father of *Anne of Green Gables*," and re-created this scene:

"April 18, 1914 - I remember well the very evening I wrote the opening paragraph of *Green Gables* ... I was sitting on the end of the table, in the old kitchen, my feet on the sofa, beside the west window, because I wanted to get the last gleams of daylight on my portfolio ... Just as I finished my description of Mrs. Lynde and her home Ewan walked in." (*Selected Journals, Volume II*)

Dr. Rubio suggests that Maud's circumstances and Ewan's appeal and availability in the years 1903-06 combined to put "love in the air," creating an atmosphere that enabled Montgomery to envision love and liberated her happy and positive creative talents which gave birth to the optimistic orphan, Anne.

This scenario begins in the old kitchen. Those who have visited the site of the Macneill Homestead in Cavendish know that the farmhouse where Montgomery wrote that first book has long since fallen away. But the kitchen end of the home, where the post office desk was located and where Maud's courtship and Anne Shirley began, still stands.

Montgomery's uncle, John Macneill, had moved the kitchen over to his farm to use as shed in the years following 1918. John and Jennie Macneill, who own the farm today, gave the building to Dr. Francis Bolger several years ago.

Dr. Bolger moved the kitchen to his cottage property in his home community of Stanley Bridge. It is but a few miles from the Macneill homestead in nearby Cavendish and looks out over New London Bay and the Cavendish sandspit. He has restored the small building, replacing the damaged walls and door. He has added electricity, a decision he sometimes regrets, in order to use it as a writer's room. The floor needed to be repaired, so he used boards from his grandfather's place from the same time period. He sees the old kitchen as "kind of a shrine".

Rev. Dr. Francis William Pius Bolger is well-loved and well-known as a professor of Canadian and PEI history and recently retired from the faculty of the University of Prince Edward Island. He has long been an admirer of Lucy Maud Montgomery, editing and authoring the following books related to her life: *The Years Before "Anne"*, *My Dear Mr. M: Letters to G.B. MacMillan* (with E. Epperly), *Spirit of Place* and *Memories of the Old Home Place Prince Edward Island* (both with photographers W. Barrett and A. MacKay). Society members can read more about Father Bolger in an excellent article in the Winter 1991/92 issue of *Kindred Spirits*.



Father Bolger, like many others, is a much appreciated steward of LMM places and things. And fortunately, for all admirers of the Montgomery story, he has preserved a small special Spirit of Place in his own backyard.

LITERARY SOCIETY MEMBER WINS NATIONAL POETRY AWARD



" Like all poets I love to gather words and tumble them about in my mind. I like to watch ordinary words come together in combinations I have never seen before - words we use every day, touching and bursting into small fires along the printed line."
(*Cold Stars and Fireflies*, 1984)

Barbara Juster Esbensen is a charter member of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society and lives and writes in Edina, Minnesota. When she talks about writing, she speaks from a pencil's worth of experience - " ... From a broken pencil an unbroken poem will come! There is a long story living in the shortest pencil" (*Who Shrank My Grandmother's House? Poems of Discovery*, 1992).

This fall, Barbara will be honored with a medallion naming her as the recipient of the **1994 National Council of Teachers of English Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children** (for Aggregate Body of Work). This citation is only given every three years and is a lifetime achievement award. Readers will now find her poetry books with a gold medallion sticker on the cover.

Barbara saw herself as a writer from the age of 10 and has written all her life. She was influenced at age 11 or 12 by *Anne of Green Gables*, *Emily of New Moon* (especially) and *Little Women*. "Every one had nifty tomboy characters, who I considered myself to be, and who wanted to be writers." She was "such a reader" and adored books and brought home poetry by Amy Lowell and Edna St. Vincent Millay. At age 14, a teacher told her, "Barb, you're a writer," but it wasn't until age 37 that she "first wrote a book on purpose" (*Swing Around the Sun*, 1965). She credits her husband, Tory, with the encouragement and help to begin. As an art teacher with six children, she didn't think she could take the time to write - but his response was, "you're always bleating about writing, go do it." So she did.

Barbara's background has been in teaching in elementary grades, particularly art. Although she entered watercolors in juried shows years ago, she has little to do with the art work in her books today. "No author has anything to do with the art in their books." Art is the publisher's choice. However, she has enjoyed a collaboration with artist Helen Davie (*Ladder to the Sky, How the Gift of Healing Came to the Qjtbway*, 1988). "Helen illustrates the way I would do it." When her publisher asked if there was any project she would like to do, she described one they both had in mind: "I wanted to do something with patterns. Did you know that patterns in nature are the same? That the uncurling of a fern and that of a galaxy unfolding are the same? The branching of the veins in the arm are the same as branches of lightening in the sky." The book will be called *Echoes for the Eye - Poems to Celebrate Patterns in Nature*.

This author is not reluctant to help publishers accept a new idea. When she proposed a book about the Northern Lights, she was told that it wouldn't have enough appeal. So she ordered a video from Alaska on the subject and sent it to the publishers to help them see the light. As a result, *The Night Rainbow, Myths and Legends of the Aurora Borealis* will be published.

Why does she write for children? During the years she was growing up, being a "lady children's writer was a professional kiss of death," she says. But she has always wanted to write for children since she was 17 years old. "Because I adored books, I wanted to write books for children to adore. Childhood is when you get hooked on books and you have to be a reader to be a writer."

In addition to Barbara's already published books, readers can look forward to several more over the next two years:

The Great Buffalo Race - September 1994

Dream Mouse, Lullaby Tales From Old Latvia - Spring 1995

Echoes for the Eye (poetry) - fall 1995

Dance With Me (poetry) - spring 1996

Swift As the Wind (the cheetah) - spring 1996

The Night Rainbow - fall 1996

Magog the Elder is To the Manor Born

As a child, Maud Montgomery became fascinated by her grandfather's pair of Staffordshire china spaniels when her father told her that: "whenever they heard the clock strike twelve at midnight, they bounded down on the hearth-rug and barked" (*Alpine Path*, Ch. 10). One of these dogs, **Magog**, still makes his home in Park Corner, Prince Edward Island at **Montgomery Manor**, which was built by L.M. Montgomery's grandfather, Senator Donald Montgomery in the 1870s. The second dog, Magog's mirror-image twin, Gog, was broken and discarded long ago.



The Montgomery dogs were white with green spots, green ears, a green padlock and chain, blue eyes and a black nose. LMM was inspired to place similar dogs in her books. A pair of white china dogs with green spots, nose and ears appears in *Anne of the Island* (Patty's Place) and then in *Anne's House of Dreams* and are called Gog and Magog (named after biblical "Gog, of the land of Magog" *Ezekiel 38*).

Montgomery bought a larger pair of white china dogs with gold spots for herself near the York Minster in England on her honeymoon. This pair, also named Gog and Magog, were called "God" and "My God" by her young son, Chester. They sat on the floor of her home and were broken many times by the children. They have been mended and are now housed in the L.M. Montgomery archives at the University of Guelph.

Montgomery Manor is owned by **Robert Montgomery** and was opened as a museum in 1993. Robert is the son of Heath Montgomery, LMM's first cousin. Heath was her host during her visits in the 1920s and "motored" her around the island. Mrs. Heath Montgomery operated the home as a bed and breakfast for many years. Today, Robert leads visitors through his parent's house, pointing out other family artifacts that Montgomery used in her stories like the 18th century Townsend clock and a china fruit basket from the "Blue Chest." Robert is assisted by curator Edith Smith.



Magog sits in the home he has watched over for the last 120 years, looking out toward the Lake of Shining Waters, the fields of Park Corner and the Gulf shore - waiting ... to hear the clock strike midnight.

Other News from Prince Edward Island:



In the last two years, the **Green Gables** house has been enhanced by the restoration of two pantries by the kitchen.



Sullivan Films, Inc. will be producing a miniseries from the **Rilla of Ingleside** book.



George and Maureen Campbell, editors of *Kindred Spirits* magazine plan to offer a **Kindred Spirits Camp** for girls next summer at Silver Bush, Park Corner, PEI.

**The L.M. Montgomery
Literary Society
" Sippin' and Shootin' "**
by Willie Cavert and Joel Felkey

(This paper was written by Willie and Joel for a Grade 9 Composition class in the spring of 1994. The assignment was to write about a group of people who have something in common. Their mothers were classmates too, thirty years ago in English Literature)



Anne of Green Gables and other books by Lucy Maud Montgomery have, for eighty-five years, been classics of children's literature. Most children read the books and let the stories remain as a part of their childhood, but to the members of the L.M.M. Literary Society, these stories and their interests in them never grow old. But why have these people carried their love for Montgomery's books into their adult life? Just what is it about her life and stories that these people find so interesting? We examined this society and this is what we learned:

The Society was founded by Carolyn Collins and Christina Eriksson in 1990. Both women work together to organize the Society. They have also written a book together, The Anne of Green Gables Treasury, which contains descriptions of what Anne's world would have been like, from her house to her education to recipes to instructions for making potpourri. Members find out about the Society through word of mouth, newspaper and magazine articles (mostly from Canadian magazines devoted to Montgomery and her works), and announcements of meetings in the Sunday papers.

In our observations of Christina and Carolyn, we saw that they are very interesting and outgoing people. Before we found out what the meetings were really like, we thought they would be informal, loose gatherings with only a few people. But they actually do have organized meetings, of which there are three or four per year. The meetings take place in libraries, homes or bookstores. Many of the thirty or so members come to meetings, even though some of them live outside of the metro area. The Society also maintains a correspondence with people from Iowa, Wisconsin and California.

Knowing the personalities of many of the members, we thought the meetings would be mostly social get togethers, where they spent most of their time chatting or complaining about their kids (actually, some of them bring their children or grandchildren to the meetings). We thought that they spent most of their time sippin' tea and shootin' the breeze. However, we were surprised to learn how intellectual many of their meetings are. During the meetings they talk about, discuss and critique Montgomery's books.

Because people are talking about how the books have affected them, the discussions can be very personal. Besides these discussions, meetings also include presentations by members. The presentations can be anything from writings to reports on travels to a showing of book collections; anything that has to do with Montgomery or her works. For example, one member exhibited her collection of first edition books. Other programs have included: a slide show of the actual settings of the stories, a presentation about the L.M.M. archives in Ontario and an examination of Anne of Green Gables as feminist literature.

Most of the members share more in common than their love for Montgomery's literature. Although there is a wide range of ages, most of the members are women. Most of the group's members are highly educated, with a few of them holding Ph. D.s. The Society members are usually very creative and artistic which makes for interesting presentations and conversations. Some common interests are: antiques, gardening, maintaining collections, handiwork like needlecraft, travel, reading, writing (some members are published authors) drinking tea (we were right about this one, they're not serious all the time), and supporting the arts like public radio and television.

But the one thing which the members of the Society have in common is that they all love the story Anne of Green Gables. The main character, Anne, is someone who they like and can relate to. In fact, most of Montgomery's stories feature a strong female as the main character. This is why so many girls love Montgomery's stories and why most of the Society members are women. The key to Anne's popularity is the fact that she is someone who people would have liked to have known. She also overcame great obstacles to become a successful person, which is something that everyone can admire. Anne felt plagued by her red hair when she was young, but when she grew older, it turned into a "real handsome auburn." This explains why there are so many red-heads in the Society.

Anne's life seemed to say that it is all right not to be the best or the prettiest, but if you stay optimistic and keep a good attitude, you will eventually find happiness. It is this message of hope that draws generation after generation to Montgomery's stories and keeps the members of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Literary Society interested in her unique life and work.

REVIEW OF 1993-94 LITERARY SOCIETY ACTIVITIES:

The L.M. Montgomery Literary Society began its fourth season on **October 15, 1993** at the Como Park Conservatory. There, members toured the Japanese Garden and Tea House and the Conservatory gardens. Although no program was scheduled, members met again on **November 16, 1993** at the Good Earth Restaurant for good food and good conversation. Mary Beth Cavert presented "Finding L.M. Montgomery in Ontario" for the **January 14, 1994** meeting in the St. Anthony Park Library. She shared information from the Montgomery Archives at the University of Guelph, conversations with Wilda Clark and Elsie Bushby Donaldson of Uxbridge and photos and video of Montgomery sites in Guelph, Leaskdale, Toronto and Norval, Ontario. Virginia Mold was in charge of the program on **March 18, 1994**. She brought material she has collected about the TV miniseries on Montgomery's works by Kevin Sullivan Films, Inc. and presented information about the cast and production. The "Making of Anne of Green Gables" videos were shown. A discussion followed on the topic of transforming books into visual media.

NEXT MEETINGS: at 3:00-5:00 pm, Southdale Library, York Av. S. at 70th St. (meeting room), dinner following at Pannekoeken, 3020 W. 66th St.

On **Friday, September 16**, Carolyn Collins and Beth Cavert will review the **LMM Symposium**.

On **November 11**, Carolyn Collins will present "**Discovering Anne's World**," her Symposium paper. In it, she retraces the steps she and co-author **Christina Eriksson** took to find out more about Anne's world on nineteenth-century Prince Edward Island while researching *The Anne of Green Gables Treasury*. Among the more elusive bits they uncovered were the present location of Mrs. Rachel Lynde's house and the old Hunter River (Bright River) depot, where Matthew first met Anne. They located songs mentioned in the books and many of the obscure poems Anne learned, including "The Dog at His Master's Grave," "Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight," and "The Maiden's Vow," the poem Anne recited at the White Sands concert. Their slides include Green Gables and other sites, maps of the Green Gables area, Four Winds sites and locations of Anne's college years at Kingsport.

Carolyn Collins and Beth Cavert brought back information sheets on the **L.M. Montgomery Land Trust** which society members can pick up at the next meeting. If your charitable giving includes preservation of lands, you may wish to consider this organization.

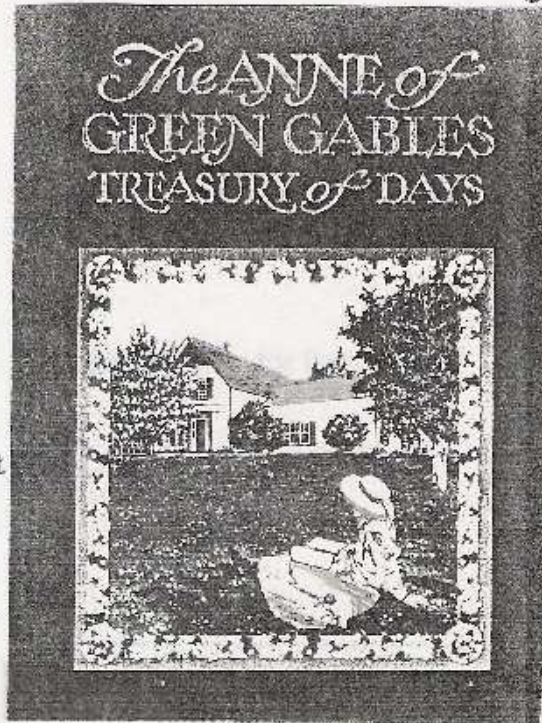
Much of the North Shore is protected as lands of the National Park, but in the area of Park Corner, this coastal property has been privately owned agricultural land - some of it is being divided up by developers. One such development has been plotted out near Cousin's Shore, where scenes from TV series ("Anne" and "Avonlea") have been filmed. This June, the subdivisions were marked with dozens and dozens of white stakes. It looked altogether like "a perfect graveyard of buried hopes."



"Three evenings ago I went to the shore ... The sunset was lovely beyond words. I drank its beauty in as I walked down the old shore lane and my soul was filled with a nameless exhilaration. I seemed borne on the wings of a rapturous ecstasy ... There is a great solitude about such a shore. The woods are never solitary - they are full of whispering, beckoning friendly life. But the sea is a mighty soul forever moaning of some great unshareable sorrow that shuts it up into itself for all eternity. You can never pierce into its great mystery - you can only wander, awed and spellbound on the outer fringes of it. The woods call to you with a hundred voices but the sea has only one - a mighty voice that drowns your soul in its majestic music. The woods are human but the sea is of the company of archangels." *The Green Gables Letters*

"*The Anne of Green Gables Treasury of Days* is a collection of especially beautiful nature quotations from the eight books that make up the Anne series ... as well as notations on some of the other authors quoted throughout the Anne books."

This book, compiled by Carolyn Collins and Christina Eriksson, is a companion book to *The Anne of Green Gables Treasury*. It was first made available this summer at the L.M.M. Symposium by *Kindred Spirits* (of Park Corner) and at the Shining Waters Gift Shop. The *Treasury of Days* will be available in U.S. bookstores this fall. ISBN 0-670-85508-1



Mary Beth Cavert, editor *Shining Scroll*, 14333 Ferris Lane, Minnetonka, MN. 55345 USA
Photos by Carolyn Collins and Beth Cavert



FIRST CLASS

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 16, 3:00 pm, SOUTHDALE LIBRARY

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