

## **Speaking Notes for a Presentation to the LM Montgomery Literary Society**

### ***“Making Maud feel at home : collecting LM Montgomery at the University of Prince Edward Island”***

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***Delivered at the Crooked Lake Library, Coon Rapids, MN -- April 25, 2009***

1.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING ME; I AM TRULY HONOURED TO BE HERE, AND VERY PLEASED TO BRING GREETINGS FROM THE ROBERTSON LIBRARY AND THE LM MONTGOMERY INSTITUTE. BETSY ESPECIALLY ASKED ME TO SAY HELLO; SHE'S TRAVELING IN THE SOUTH JUST NOW, BUT WOULD HAVE LOVED TO BE HERE.

BEFORE I BEGIN, I WANTED TO SAY AN EXTRA THANK YOU TO CHRISTY, MARY BETH, AND CAROLYN FOR ALL THEIR HOSPITALITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RETURNING YOUR KINDNESS THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE ON PEI; AND WE HOPE TO BE SEEING AS MANY OF YOU AS CAN MAKE AT UPEI FOR THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL LMM CONFERENCE IN 2010 WHEN WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT LMM AND THE MATTER OF NATURE ...

2.

I'M GOING TO TALK A BIT TODAY ABOUT THE MONTGOMERY COLLECTIONS AT UPEI, BUT I'M GOING TO SAY A FEW WORDS FIRST ABOUT WHY UPEI IS A GOOD HOME FOR THOSE COLLECTIONS. I'LL CONCLUDE WITH SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT SOME WAYS WE COULD MAKE THIS HOME AN EVEN BETTER ONE ...

I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT WHILE I DO HAVE SOME PREPARED POINTS TO COVER, I'D LIKE THIS TO BE A CONVERSATION, RATHER THAN ME JUST STANDING HERE YAPPING -- SO, ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO STOP AND ASK, AND OF COURSE THERE'LL BE TIME FOR Q&A AFTERWARDS, EITHER HERE OR OVER DINNER; I BELIEVE SOME OF YOU MAY ALSO HAVE BROUGHT SOME MATERIALS FOR US TO DISCUSS. I CAUTION YOU I'M NO APPRAISER, BUT I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO LOOK AT MONTGOMERIANA

3.

SO, TO START, I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONAL SETTING AT UPEI, AND THREE ELEMENTS IN PARTICULAR ...

THERE IS A TRUE LINEAGE CONNECTING UPEI AND LMM'S BELOVED ALMA MATER, CHARLOTTETOWN'S PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE. OUR CURRENT PRESIDENT, WADE MACLAUHLAN, HAS DONE AMAZING WORK REACHING OUT TO PWC ALUMNI, FORMER FACULTY, AND OTHER FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE, THOUGH MANY OF THESE TIES GO BACK TO UPEI'S FIRST DAYS. HALF OF UPEI'S FACULTY AND COURSES WERE INHERITED FROM PWC IN 1969, AND THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST NEW BUILDING, OUR LIBRARY, PROUDLY BEARS THE NAME OF SAMUEL NAPIER ROBERTSON, ONE OF MONTGOMERY'S TEACHERS AT PWC, LATER A PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE.

MORE IMPORTANTLY FOR TODAY'S DISCUSSION, OUR LIBRARY'S UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE IS ALSO THE MAIN REPOSITORY FOR PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION RELATING BOTH TO UPEI AND ITS TWO FOREBEARS, ST. DUNSTAN'S UNIVERSITY AND PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE. I'LL TALK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THAT IN A MOMENT ...

ANOTHER IMPORTANT COMMITMENT OUR LIBRARY HAS MADE OVER THE YEARS IS TO BECOME THE DEPOSITORY LIBRARY FOR PEI. IN OTHER WORDS, WE TRY TO ACQUIRE ALL PEI-RELATED PUBLICATIONS: WHAT BEGAN AS A SINGLE SHELF OF BOOKS IN THE EARLY 1970S IS NOW 14,000 TITLES AND COUNTING. THE PEI COLLECTION IS A BIT OF A FUNNY BEAST: IT'S A SPECIAL COLLECTION, BUT ITS FOCUS FOR MANY YEARS WAS ON CONTENT -- BUILDING A WORKING RESEARCH COLLECTION -- NOT ON PUBLICATIONS AS ARTIFACTS; CERTAINLY SOME RARE, VALUABLE, BEAUTIFUL WORKS WERE ACQUIRED, BUT THIS WAS IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT, NOT AN END IN ITSELF -- ONCE A TITLE WAS CHECKED OFF THE "WANT LIST" IT WAS ON TO THE NEXT, WITH LITTLE TIME TO LOOK FOR SPECIAL, VARIANT, OR FIRST EDITIONS.

FOR A LOT OF PEI BOOKS, THAT WASN'T AN ISSUE: WE WERE USUALLY DEALING WITH LOCAL AUTHORS WITH A LIMITED OUTPUT, INEXPENSIVELY-PRODUCED BOOKS, AND SMALL PRINT-RUNS, BUT MONTGOMERY COMES FROM A DIFFERENT BREED OF CATS -- HERE IS AN AUTHOR SO STAGGERINGLY PROLIFIC, SO WIDELY PUBLISHED, AND -- ESPECIALLY SINCE THE 1980S -- SO WIDELY PUBLISHED *ABOUT* THAT SHE REALLY DEMANDS A LEVEL OF ATTENTION THAT TRADITIONAL PEI COLLECTION ACTIVITY COULD NOT ACCOMMODATE.

NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS:

- FIRSTLY -- THE LIBRARY HAS FOUND WONDERFUL PARTNERS AND FRIENDS -- MOST ESPECIALLY THE LMMI -- WILLING TO HELP DEVELOP MONTGOMERY COLLECTIONS AT UPEI ;

- SECONDLY, IT BEARS NOTING THAT THE PEI COLLECTION IS A VERY VALUABLE RESOURCE IN ITS OWN RIGHT FOR ANYONE RESEARCHING MONTGOMERY AND HER ISLAND MILIEU; I'LL GIVE SOME EXAMPLES IN A MOMENT OF HOW MONTGOMERY KEEPS POPPING UP IN THE PEI COLLECTION ...

JUST A MENTION BEFORE I MOVE ON OF THE LMMI: I'M SURE EVERYONE HERE IS FAMILIAR WITH IT, AND THE GREAT WORK IT'S DONE OVER THE YEARS, ESPECIALLY, OF COURSE, THE INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BETSY EPPERLY -- SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT THE LMMI HAS GREATLY INCREASED THE MONTGOMERY PRESENCE ON-CAMPUS, AND THE LIBRARY HAS BEEN NO EXCEPTION.

4.

LOOKING FIRST AT THE UPEI ARCHIVES, AND THE PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE CONNECTION, WHICH DOES ALLOW US TO CLAIM LMM -- AT LEAST INDIRECTLY -- AS AN ALUMNAE.

MAUD'S TIME AT PWC, STUDYING TOWARDS HER TEACHER'S LICENSE IN 1893-1894, WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HER: DECADES LATER SHE STILL REFERRED TO IT FONDLY AS THE HAPPIEST YEAR OF HER LIFE ...

OUR PWC ARCHIVE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE LATE 1800S, IS BY NO MEANS HUGE, BUT WE DO FIND INTRIGUING TRACES OF MONTGOMERY CONNECTIONS THERE:

5.

WE SEE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES HERE: THE B&W PHOTO WAS TAKEN JUST A FEW YEARS AFTER MAUD'S TIME AT PWC, AND SHOWS HER FAVOURITE TEACHER -- ALEXANDER ANDERSON -- SEATED IN THE MIDDLE; BEHIND HIM IS HER ROGUISH ENGLISH TEACHER , JOHN CAVEN, AND IN FRONT WE SEE OUR LIBRARY'S NAMESAKE, DR. SAMUEL NAPIER ROBERTSON ...

NEXT TO THE PORTRAIT IS A PAGE DETAIL FROM THE DREADED "ENTRANCE EXAM"; DRAWN FROM THE COLLEGE'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893/94, IT SHOWS THE VERY QUESTIONS MAUD FACED IN JULY 1893. AS WE'LL SEE IN A MOMENT, SHE ACQUITED HERSELF WELL.

BESIDE THAT, AT THE RIGHT OF THE SLIDE, WE SEE TWO ARTIFACTS THAT SHOW HOW MONTGOMERY'S LEGACY WAS VALUED AT PWC DECADES LATER; THE BUST BY ROUSSEL, WHICH MANY OF YOU WILL HAVE SEEN BEFORE, NOW HAS PRIDE OF PLACE IN THE LIBRARY, BUT ONCE ADORNED MONTGOMERY HALL, PWC'S LONG HOPED-FOR STUDENT RESIDENCE, WHICH FINALLY OPENED IN THE EARLY 1960S, AND IN FRONT OF IT -- AHEM -- A GOLDEN SHOVEL, USED FOR THE MONTGOMERY HALL SOD-TURNING. I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE MONTGOMERY HALL NAME WAS AN ESPECIALLY FITTING TRIBUTE, GIVEN MAUD'S PRIVATIONS AT AN UNSATISFACTORY ROOMING HOUSE DURING HER OWN STUDENT DAYS.

IN FRONT IS A PERSONAL FAVOURITE OF MINE, AN ARTICLE OF REMINISCENCES MONTGOMERY CONTRIBUTED TO THE PWC STUDENT MAGAZINE, THE COLLEGE TIMES, IN 1927. IT IS DELIGHTFUL AND BEAUTIFULLY-WRITTEN (OF COURSE), AND MONTGOMERY'S HUMOUR AND GENUINE AFFECTION FOR "OLD PRINCE OF WALES" REALLY SHINE THROUGH ...

6.

TURNING NEXT TO THE REAL CORE OF OUR LIBRARY'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND COLLECTION: I'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOU SOME BACKGROUND ON IT, AND I ASSURE YOU IT'S STILL GOING -- AND GROWING -- STRONG, WITH NEW TITLES ADDED ON AN ALMOST DAILY BASES.

ONE OF MY FAVOURITE ASPECTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE AREA STUDIES COLLECTION LIKE THIS IS THE WAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS POP OUT OF IT, INCLUDING MONTGOMERY-RELATED THINGS. NOT TO PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT, I THINK WE ALL AGREE THAT A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF PEI IS ESSENTIAL FOR A FULL APPRECIATION OF MONTGOMERY AND HER WORK, AND THERE ARE FEW BETTER PLACES TO ENRICH YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF PEI THAN THE PEI COLLECTION.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, WHILE MONTGOMERY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AN EXPLICIT FOCUS WHEN THE PEI COLLECTION WAS FIRST A-BUILDING, SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF IT, AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS OF INTEREST TO KINDRED SPIRITS THERE ...

7.

JUST A FEW EXAMPLES HERE, BEGINNING WITH A COUPLE OF FAVOURITES FROM OUR ISLAND NEWSPAPERS COLLECTION (A COLLECTION WE WILL SOON BEGIN DIGITIZING, BY THE WAY)

AT THE TOP LEFT OF THE SCREEN, WE SEE THE RESULTS LIST FOR THE PWC ENTRANCE EXAM, PUBLISHED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE PAPER BACK IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS BEFORE PRIVACY WAS INVENTED: AND THERE IN THE TOP FIVE (JUST) IS LM MONTGOMERY OF CAVENDISH -- I TOLD YOU SHE DID WELL ... NEXT TO THAT ARE TWO CLIPPINGS SHOWING WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE -- AND I MAY STAND TO BE CORRECTED HERE -- YOUNG MAUD'S FIRST PUBLICATION, A LONG POEM ON THE LEGEND OF CAPE LEFORCE, PEI: WHICH SHE SEND OFF TO THE PATRIOT IN CHARLOTTETOWN WHILE LIVING IN PRINCE ALBERT -- WHEN THE PAPER

ARRIVED IN PRINCE ALBERT WITH HER FATHER'S MAIL A WEEK LATER, MONTGOMERY PROCLAIMED IT THE HAPPIEST DAY OF HER LIFE, AND RECORDED HOW PROUD HER FATHER WAS OF HER.

JUST TWO SMALL THINGS, BUT INDICATIVE OF THE SORTS OF FINDS WAITING TO BE MADE IN THE PEI COLLECTION ...

8.

HERE WE SEE SOME FURTHER EXAMPLES, DRAWN FROM OUR PEI MAP COLLECTION, OUR VERTICAL FILE, AND OUR EXTENSIVE HOLDINGS OF PEI GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS:

- THE TWO SEPIA-TONED IMAGES ARE FROM THE 1863 "LAKE" MAP -- NAMED FOR ITS CARTOGRAPHER -- A VAST WALL MAP, MEASURING CA. 8 X 4, SHOWING -- OR AT LEAST ATTEMPTING TO -- PRACTICALLY EVERY HOUSE ON PEI. HERE WE SEE A SHOT OF THE CAVENDISH AREA, AND A DETAIL PLAN OF NEW LONDON, SHOWING HOW IT LOOKED JUST A FEW YEARS BEFORE MONTGOMERY'S BIRTH ... (NONE WAS DONE FOR CAVENDISH, SADLY). BEHIND NEW LONDON IS A DETAIL FROM THE CA. 1880 MEACHAM'S ATLAS, SHOWING THE CAVENDISH CROSSROADS WE KNOW SO WELL AS IT WAS WHEN MONTGOMERY WAS A SMALL GIRL.

AT FRONT LEFT IS A DETAIL FROM THE PEI SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION'S REPORT FOR 1895, SHOWING LM MONTGOMERY LISTED AS THE TEACHER FOR BIDEFORD SCHOOL, HER FIRST TEACHING POSITION: WE SEE SHE WAS PAID THE HANDSOME SUM OF 139 DOLLARS AND FIFTY-EIGHT CENTS.

NEXT TO THAT IS AN EARLY PRINTING OF "THE ISLAND HYMN", FOR WHICH MONTGOMERY WROTE THE WORDS, DRAWN FROM THAT GLORIOUS CORNUCOPIA OF ODDMENTS KNOWN AS THE PEI COLLECTION VERTICAL FILE ...

9.

WE SEE ANOTHER ITEM PLUCKED FROM OUR VERTICAL FILE ON THE NEXT SLIDE, AT TOP LEFT: A LITTLE BOOKLET, OF 1950S VINTAGE, ON THE HISTORY OF THE CAVENDISH CHURCH (BY THEN UNITED, HAVING STRAYED FROM THE TRUE PRESBYTERIAN FAITH OF MONTGOMERY'S DAY). THE NAME OF THE FIFTH MINISTER LISTED WILL NO DOUBT SEEM FAMILIAR ... INSIDE, HIS WIFE'S VALIANT WORK AS ORGANIST IS RECORDED; WITH GOOD PRESBYTERIAN PRACTICALITY, IT IS NOTED THAT WHILE THE ORGAN IS THE VERY ONE PLAYED BY MONTGOMERY, AND AS SUCH OF GREAT "SENTIMENTAL VALUE", IT NEEDS REPLACING ...

NEXT TO THAT, WITH THE RATHER UNFORTUNATE GREEN COVER, WE SEE HAROLD H. SIMPSON'S 1973 HISTORY OF CAVENDISH, PART OF OUR SIZABLE COLLECTION OF PEI COMMUNITY HISTORIES (ALSO NOW IN THE PROCESS OF DIGITIZATION).

I INCLUDED THE TWO BOOKS IN FRONT BECAUSE I THINK THEY ARE NICELY INDICATIVE OF HOW WE SOMETIMES FIND MONTGOMERY UNEXPECTEDLY IN THE COURSE OF BUILDING THE PEI COLLECTION, EVEN WHEN WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR HER ... WE KNEW WE'D BE GETTING THE LEFT-HAND BOOK, ALAN MACEACHERN'S NATURAL SELECTIONS, BECAUSE OF IT'S PEI NATIONAL PARK COLLECTION, BUT OF COURSE, AS A SIDE BENEFIT, IT HAS ALL KINDS OF GREAT INFORMATION ABOUT THE EARLY DAYS OF GREEN GABLES AS TOURIST MAGNET. AS FOR THE RIGHT-HAND TITLE, WE ARE IN THE HABIT OF REVIEWING ALMOST CANADIAN NON-FICTION TITLES WE RECEIVE FOR POSSIBLE PEI CONTENT, AND WHAT SHOULD WE FIND IN IT BUT THE MATTHEW'S AND MARILLAS ESSAY ...

10.

NOW, OF COURSE, WE TURN TO THE THIRD -- AND MOST IMPORTANT -- ELEMENT IN MAKING THE UPEI CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT A GOOD HOME FOR MAUD: THE LM MONTGOMERY INSTITUTE.

I'M NOT GOING TO DO A DETAILED HISTORY OF THE LMMI, PARTLY BECAUSE I DON'T FEEL I COULD DO SUCH A GREAT STORY JUSTICE WITHOUT MAKING THIS A MUCH, MUCH LONGER PRESENTATION, AND ALSO BECAUSE I EXPECT MANY ELEMENTS OF THE STORY -- AND THE PEOPLE INVOLVED -- ARE WELL-KNOWN TO MANY OF YOU. I DO WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE TO ACKNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SPECIALIZED MONTGOMERY COLLECTIONS WITHOUT THE WORK OF THE LMMI'S FOUNDERS, FATHER BOLGER AND BETSY EPPERLY, AND MANY OTHER SCHOLARS AND PROFESSIONALS AFFILIATED WITH THE INSTITUTE OVER THE YEARS, INCLUDING THE LIKES OF BETH PERCIVAL, DIANNE MORROW, IRENE GAMMEL, AND ELIZABETH DEBLOIS. AS I'VE EXPLAINED, WE HAVE MUCH INTERESTING MONTGOMERY MATERIAL ACQUIRED IN THE COURSE OF THE LIBRARY'S WORK WITH THE UPEI/PRINCE OF WALES ARCHIVE AND THE PEI COLLECTION, BUT THESE ARE COMPLEMENTS FOR OUR MONTGOMERY COLLECTIONS, NOT SUBSTITUTES FOR THEM.

THIS IMPORTANCE IS NOT JUST FROM DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS SUCH INDIVIDUALS -- INCLUDING, TO CITE PERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING EXAMPLE OF MANY, FATHER BOLGER' DONATION OF THE PENZIE MACNEILL LETTERS TO THE LIBRARY IN THE 1980S -- OR EVEN FROM THE GIFTS OF OTHERS WHICH THEY HELPED FACILITATE -- MANY OF YOU WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH BETSY'S ADVOCACY IN THIS AREA, FOR EXAMPLE. AS VITAL AS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN, IT IS THE OVERALL ENERGY CREATED BY THEIR TEACHING AND SCHOLARSHIP THAT IS MOST IMPORTANT. UNIVERSITIES -- ESPECIALLY SMALL UNDERGRADUATE ONES -- DO NOT SUPPORT THE BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE FUN OF IT: SUCH COLLECTIONS SPRING ORGANICALLY FROM THE TEACHING AND RESEARCH OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ...

WITH THE LMMI'S PRIMARY INITIAL FOCUS BEING ON THE CONFERENCES AND ITS ESL SUMMER LANGUAGE PROGRAMME, IT IS PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING THAT ITS RESEARCH COLLECTIONS GREW SLOWLY AT FIRST. AS THIS ACTIVITY GREW MORE SUCCESSFUL IN REALIZING THE INSTITUTE'S FOUNDING DREAM OF FOSTERING AN ACTIVE RESEARCH COMMUNITY AROUND MONTGOMERY'S LIFE AND WORK, HOWEVER, MORE MATERIAL BY AND ABOUT HER CAME THE LMMI'S WAY:

11.

INITIALLY, MANY OF THESE EARLY GIFTS WERE "STAND-ALONE" TREASURES: INDIVIDUAL ARTIFACTS, AND A FEW RARE/EARLY EDITIONS. THE LMMI ITSELF ALSO ACQUIRED A WORKING COLLECTION FOR OFFICE REFERENCE, GATHERING NEWER EDITIONS OF MONTGOMERY'S WORKS, INCLUDING NEW TRANSLATIONS, AND REFERENCE MATERIALS ABOUT HER.

THEN IN THE EARLY 2000S CAME SEVERAL SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS, FOLLOWED IN 2005/2006 BY THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN, DONNA CAMPBELL'S RYRIE-CAMPBELL COLLECTION. EVEN AS THESE COLLECTIONS DEVELOPED, HOWEVER, THE LMMI CONTINUED TO RECEIVE INDIVIDUAL TREASURES, TOO, MOST FREQUENTLY COURTESY OF THE HEIRS.

I'M GOING TO TAKE A FEW MOMENTS NOW TO TALK ABOUT SOME OF THESE COLLECTION ELEMENTS IN A BIT MORE DETAIL ...

12.

IN THIS SLIDE WE SEE A SAMPLING OF THE INDIVIDUAL TREASURES I WAS TALKING ABOUT, AND IT BEARS NOTING THAT MOST OF THESE ARE QUITE RECENT ACQUISITIONS, FROM THE LAST 5 - 6 YEARS ...

AT BACK LEFT, WE SEE A LOVELY POCKET WATCH OF MONTGOMERY'S (AND BETSY \*SWEARS\* WE HAVE A PHOTO OF MAUD WEARING THIS SOMEWHERE, THOUGH I HAVEN'T FOUND IT). IN THE CENTRE IS A DETAIL OF THE GORGEOUS KIMONO, WHICH I'M SURE MANY OF YOU WILL RECOGNIZE. NEXT TO THAT, ON THE RIGHT OF THE SLIDE, WE SEE TWO IMAGES FROM AN ESPECIALLY WONDERFUL EDITION OF THE WATCHMEN: NOT ONLY IS IT AN EARLY IMPRESSION, WITH THE DOUBLE-STAMP PRINTERS ERROR ON THE COVER, BUT IT IS DEDICATED -- TWICE -- BY MONTGOMERY, FIRST TO HER BELOVED FREDA CAMPBELL IN 1916, THEN RE-DEDICATED TO FRIENDS OF HERS AFTER FREDA WENT -- AS THE DEDICATION SO TOUCHINGLY PUTS IT -- ON THE "GREAT ADVENTURE" IN EARLY 1919. AN INTERESTING SIDE-STORY IS THE ACQUISITION OF THIS ITEM: THE OTHER ITEMS ARE DIRECT DONATIONS, BUT IN THIS CASE, A BOOK-DEALER FRIEND OF THE LMMI GOT ENOUGH NOTICE OF IT COMING FOR AUCTION TO ALLOW THE INSTITUTE TO PURSUE A CASH DONATION TO UNDERWRITE THE PURCHASE (EVEN THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT GOT INVOLVED -- HE WAS REMINISCING TO ME ABOUT THAT JUST YESTERDAY) OBVIOUSLY THIS ISN'T SOMETHING WE CAN DO TOO OFTEN, BUT IT'S A USEFUL OPTION TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN YOUR REGULAR ACQUISITION BUDGET IS \$0 ...

AT CENTRE BOTTOM IS THE MEDALLION (SMALL VERSION) THAT MONTGOMERY WAS AWARDED WHEN NAMED TO THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN 1935

NEXT TO THAT, BELOW THE WATCH, WE SEE TWO DETAILS FROM THE MACNEILL FAMILY BIBLE WHICH MONTGOMERY INHERITED AND -- AS THE HANDWRITING SUGGESTS -- KEPT FAMILY RECORDS IN FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL DECADES, INCLUDING, AS WE SEE HERE, THAT OF HER OWN WEDDING.

13.

HERE WE SEE A FEW SAMPLES FROM TWO SMALL COLLECTIONS OF EARLY MONTGOMERY EDITIONS, INSCRIBED TO HER SONS -- LOTS OF BEAUTIFUL SAMPLES OF HER FAMOUS SIGNATURE HERE, AND INTERESTING TO NOTE THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF HER NAME SHE USED ...

ALSO OF NOTE IN THE COLLECTION PASSED DOWN FROM STUART MACDONALD WERE A FEW BOOKS FROM HER OWN LIBRARY: HERE WE SEE A PRESBYTERIAN BOOK OF PRAISE, AN ANTHOLOGY OF CDN PROSE AND POETRY (REFLECTING MONTGOMERY'S ONGOING ADVOCACY FOR CANLIT), AND A WEIGHTY TOME FROM THE 1930S ENTITLED "INSIDE EUROPE": SLIGHTLY CHILLING TO SEE MAUD'S SIGNATURE, DATED 1939, ON A MAP OF EUROPE ...

14.

THE NEXT OF THE SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT BOOK COLLECTIONS I MENTIONED CAME CARE OF THE WEBB FAMILY, RIGHTLY HAILED IN MARY BETH'S WONDERFUL PRESENTATION AT THE LMM CONFERENCE LAST YEAR AS PIONEER COLLECTORS OF MONTGOMERY. WHILE THE WEBB CONNECTION WAS INTERSTING, THIS COLLECTION DIDN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH AT FIRST: AS YOU CAN SEE, MOST OF THE BOOKS WERE IN POOR REPAIR, AND THERE WERE NO ESPECIALLY RARE OR WONDERFUL EDITIONS. BUT INSIDE KILMENY WE FIND A 1910 INSRIPTION FROM MONTGOMERY TO EARL GREY, CANADA'S GOVERNOR-GENERAL, WHOSE GRAND DAY OUT WITH MAUD AT THE MACPHAIL ESTATE WAS SO NICELY DESCRIBED IN A RECENT SHINING SCROLL ... IT'S ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT MOST OF THE BOOKS IN THE COLLECTION ARE NEATLY SIGNED BY ANITA WEBB, AND DATED: JUNE 1942 ...

15.

LAST, BUT MOST EMPHATICALLY NOT LEAST, WE HAVE DONNA CAMPBELL'S RYRIE-CAMPBELL COLLECTION: THE APPRAISER DECLARED IT TO BE THE STRONGEST ASSEMBLAGE OF MONTGOMERY-RELATED PUBLICATIONS ANYWHERE, AND, WELL, WE BELIEVE HIM ... NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE ARE EXTRAORDINARILY GRATEFUL TO

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S QUITE LARGE: APPROXIMATELY 700 TITLES AND COUNTING. THERE ARE THREE MAIN ELEMENTS TO IT:

- FIRSTLY, VERY LARGE HOLDINGS OF FIRST OR EARLY EDITIONS OF MONTGOMERY NOVELS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD; SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER THIS DISPLAY FROM LAST YEAR, SHOWING A SELECTION OF ANNES -- INCLUDING SOME VERY ODD DEPICTIONS OF HER -- FROM THE US, CANADA, AND BRITAIN;

- SECONDLY, THERE ARE THE WORKS INSPIRED BY MONTGOMERY'S WRITING, INCLUDING THIS LOVELY SELECTION OF TITLES FROM JAPAN, CONSISTING OF CRAFT AND ACTIVITY BOOKS, TRAVEL BOOKS, BOOKS ON ISLAND HISTORY, ETC

I ALSO NOTE IN PASSING THAT THE RYRIE-CAMPBELL COLLECTION DOES INCLUDE SOME INTERESTING NON-BOOK ITEMS, SUCH AS THE BEAUTIFULLY-DETAILED MODELS OF MONTGOMERY'S CAVENDISH AND LEASKDALE HOMES ...

16.

CONTINUING WITH THE THEME OF MONTGOMERY-INSPIRED WORKS, THERE ARE ITEMS FROM VARIOUS STAGE AND SCREEN ADAPTATIONS OF ANNE, INCLUDING THE JAPANESE ANIME VERSION AND, OF COURSE, THE HUGELY POPULAR SULLIVAN FILMS TV PRODUCTION

THOUGH MUCH OF THE STRENGTH OF THE COLLECTION LIES IN ITS OVERALL SWEEP AND SCOPE, THERE ARE CERTAINLY INDIVIDUAL DELIGHTS IN THERE, MOST NOTABLY OUR BELOVED THREE ANNE FIRSTS -- INCLUDING A FIRST EDITION/FIRST IMPRESSION, AND THE RARE DARK BROWN BINDING; WE ARE QUITE CONFIDENT WE'RE THE FIRST AND ONLY LIBRARY TO HAVE ALL THREE VARIANTS

WE ALSO SEE HERE A FULL RUN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FIRSTS, FROM PAGE, STOKES, AND MCCLELLAND AND STEWART ...

WE ALSO HAVE MORE PLEASURES TO LOOK FORWARD TO, AS DONNA IS NOW PREPARING FOR DELIVERY THE THIRD ELEMENT OF HER COLLECTION, A VERY LARGE ARCHIVE OF ORIGINAL PERIODICAL ISSUES CONTAINING MONTGOMERY'S VAST OUTPUT FOR THE MAGAZINE MARKET. WE SEE HER JUST A SAMPLE, FROM A SERIALIZED KILMENY IN MONTREAL'S FAMILY HERALD AND WEEKLY STAR.

SO, THAT'S HOPEFULLY GIVEN YOU SOME SENSE OF WHAT WE HAVE -- SO SINCE WE'VE GOT IT, WHAT WE DO WITH IT ...?

17.

AS THE COLLECTORS HERE WELL KNOW, THERE ARE THREE MAIN THINGS YOU WANT TO DO WITH ANY GOOD COLLECTION

- CARE FOR IT
- SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE AND BEAUTY IT CONTAINS
- AND GROW IT

18.

LOOKING AT THE CARING PIECE -- I SEEM TO BE THINKING IN THREES, ALL OF A SUDDEN -- THERE IS, OF COURSE THE HOUSING OF THE COLLECTION: HAVING SOME PLACE TO KEEP IT AND LOOK AT IT.

THERE IS ALSO THE NEED TO LOOK AFTER THE ITEMS, OBVIOUSLY: KEEPING THEM SAFE AND HANDLING THEM CAREFULL, AND NO MORE THAN NECESSARY.

THIRDLY, THERE IS THE ARRANGEMENT AND CATALOGUING OF THE MATERIAL -- THIS ARGUABLY FALLS UNDER THE "SHARING" PIECE I MENTIONED A MOMENT AGO, BUT FUNDAMENTALLY, OF COURSE, WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT WE HAVE BEFORE WE CAN TALK TO ANYONE ELSE ABOUT IT.

19.

A FEW MORE WORDS ON HOUSING/FACILITY: RIGHT NOW, THE LMMI COLLECTIONS ARE STORED IN THE LIBRARY'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS STACKS, WHICH ARE SECURE AND CLIMATE CONTROL -- WE HAVE A DEDICATED SYSTEM FOR THAT STACKS ROOM THAT MAINTAINS A STABLE TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY 24/7/365

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, THOUGH, WE WANT TO OFFER A SETTING FOR THE STORAGE AND APPRECIATION OF THE LMMI COLLECTIONS THAT BALANCES FUNCTION AND AESTHETICS A LITTLE BETTER. ONE INSPIRATION FOR THIS IS THE CONAN DOYLE ROOM AT THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY -- A WARM COMFORTABLE SPACE WITH PERIOD-APPROPRIATE FURNITURE ...

AS A FIRST STEP, MY OLD OFFICE, SEEN HERE, IS BEING CONVERTED INTO AN OFFICE FOR THE LMMI SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE; NEXT TO THAT, WE'VE MADE AN ENCLOSED STUDY ROOM, AND ARE GETTING SPECS NOW TO RENOVATE THAT SPACE UP WITH DISPLAY SHELVING AND CASES AND FURNISHING AND FITTINGS MORE EVOCATIVE OF THE MONTGOMERY AREA THAT THE FAIRLY AUSTERE STUFF NOW ON OFFER IN THE MAIN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS READING AREA. I WAS READING RECENTLY IN MAGIC ISLAND THAT MONTGOMERY DID NOT ASPIRE TO A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN -- A LA VIRGINIA WOOLF -- BUT SHE'S GETTING ONE -- TWO, ACTUALLY -- AT THE LIBRARY.

20.

22.

CATALOGUING -- GREEN GABLES '44; FIRES OF DRIFTWOOD

EXPENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING, BUT SO IMPORTANT IN SHARING VALUE -- DIGITIZE COVERS, FRONT AND BACK MATTER, ETC ...

27.

GREAT POSSIBILITIES FOR INDEXING: SHINING SCROLL, BEN LEFEBVRE'S PLANS FOR THE PERIODICAL STORIES AND POEMS, HEATHER LUDLOW'S BIBLIOGRAPHY