



The Shining Scroll
newsletter for the
L.M. Montgomery
Literary Society
Summer 2000
Founded in 1991
by Carolyn Strom Collins
and Christina Wyss Eriksson



L.M. Montgomery and Popular Culture The Fourth Biennial International Symposium, hosted by the L.M. Montgomery Institute, was held at the University of Prince Edward Island June 29 - July 2 2000. Among the LMM Literary Society members attending were Carolyn Collins, Mary Beth Cavert and Ann Johnson.

The conference speakers and participants explored the many interpretations and mutations of Montgomery's works -- from television, video, film and theater to a culture of collection, tourism, fan networks and artifacts. As always, the L.M. Montgomery conference brings together a wonderful mix of thought provoking, amusing and enlightening scholars, experts and dedicated life-long learners of LMM. Part of the magic of a Montgomery Symposium is fueled by its location on Prince Edward Island. Dr. Elizabeth Epperly commented that "Montgomery taught us how to see this place. She was a 'person of place.' The PEI we see is what we perceive through her words."

Kate Macdonald Butler, daughter of Stuart Macdonald, LMM's second son, was the keynote speaker. She read an imaginary letter to her grandmother -- who died almost 20 years before her birth -- in which she told stories of her father and summarized the profound influence of "Grandmother Maud" on the world today. "Writers, academics, historians, movie moguls, television executives, theatrical producers, publishers, archivists, librarians, artisans, manufacturers, intellectual property lawyers continue to ensure that the name L.M. Montgomery will likely never be forgotten."

Nearly 40 presentations were scheduled in less than three days. Some topics were: Mass Marketing, Popular Culture, and the Literary Cult; Our Beloved Lucy Maud: Mythologizing the Creator for the Sake of the Creation; How the Story Girl Lost Her Stories: A Discussion of Television Adaptations; L.M. Montgomery and British Children's Literature.

Dr. Elizabeth Epperly presented "The Visual Imagination of L.M. Montgomery" and demonstrated LMM's use of photography as a "memory picture." She noted that LMM had an eye for capturing curves like bends in roads, bridges, and fences. Many photos have "a distant keyhole of light like those of Lover's Lane."

This summer, the LMM Institute introduced its new CD-ROM:

***The Bend in the Road:
An Invitation to the World
and Work of L.M.
Montgomery***

It is an outstanding resource for scholars as well as all of those interested in LMM. A brief excursion through part of the 14+ hour long "e-encyclopedia" whetted our appetite for more; it is a beautiful and thorough exploration of the author's life and works.

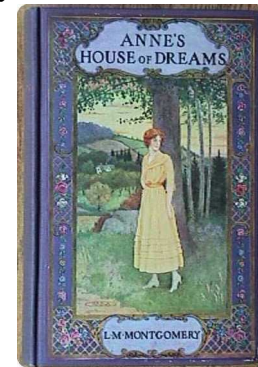
Interested LMMers can order it from the LMM Institute at UPEI,
lmminst@upe.ca
902-628-4346.

There were two sessions which were of interest to book collectors. Paul Tiessen and Hildi Froese Teissen presented "Educating Ephraim: L.M. Montgomery and Anxiety About Popular Culture." They are the editors of a new book, *L.M. Montgomery's Ephraim Weber: Letters 1916-1941* (\$45, MLR Editions Canada c/o Paul Tiessen, Dept. of English, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5 Canada. email ptiessen@wlu.ca). Weber and Montgomery corresponded for 40 years. This collection "teems with her ideas on many topics, from war to technology, from sex in modern literature to the future of Canada, from domestic chores to the problems of contemporary youth."

The conference ended with a presentation by Ron Cohen, "Collecting the Popular." He has donated over 300 books, early editions, by L.M. Montgomery to the National Library of Canada. The Ronald I. Cohen Lucy Maud Montgomery Collection, housed in the National Library's Rare Book collection, has approximately 35 editions of *Anne of Green* and many other volumes in dust jackets. His collection also includes non-North American from Great Britain, Australia, Japan, Norway and Korea.

Mr. Cohen described how his collection was started:

"It was built on variants. Because of the absence of a descriptive bibliography of the works of Lucy Maud Montgomery, any LMM collector is faced with a jigsaw puzzle in which only the edge pieces, namely, the titles of the books, are clear. No complete picture of the inside of the puzzle exists. To compensate for the missing background information, I tried to assemble as many different copies as I could in the hope that they would some day offer clues to bibliographers, scholars, collectors, those who treasure these works not only as stories but also as artifacts. Differences in the presentation of the title page, the binder's cloth, the name of the printer, the type face in which the printer's notice is set, the copyright date and so on led to the painstaking gathering of pieces of the puzzle. To an enthusiastic collector, the delight is in the hunt. I had not previously thought of any long-term goal for the collection. When I realized that the collection could also have a value to the National Library, its *raison d'être* was fixed. The hunt became more intense and more rewarding. For example, I found no fewer than five serious contenders for the title of first Canadian edition of *Anne's House of Dreams*. The collection includes not one, but three copies of the rare 1916 book of poetry, *The Watchman*, two of them in dust jackets (different jackets, of course)..."



LMM STORIES RE-DISCOVERED

Thanks to the world-wide web and eBay, two heretofore "lost" LMM short-stories have been discovered and can be added to hundreds of others LMM wrote, published, and pasted into her own scrapbooks years ago. The late Rea Wilmshurst re-discovered, catalogued, and published collections of many of those stories in recent years under such titles as "Akin to Anne" and "Along the Shore."

The titles of the recently-found stories -- "The Mirror" (#1122 in the 1986 Russell/Wilmshurst Bibliography) and "The Punishment of Billy" (#1141) -- were among over sixty "unverified" titles listed in LMM's ledger without publication information; no copies of these stories were pasted into her scrapbooks.



Thanks to a New Brunswick collector of vintage magazines who auctions them on the Internet, the two stories and their publication history were brought to light. For those who want to update their Bibliographies, "The Mirror" was published in the February 1931 issue of *Canadian Home Journal*; "The Punishment of Billy" was published in the February 1929 issue of *Ladies Home Journal*.

Carolyn noticed that copies of the magazines with the stories in them were up for auction, but did not win the bidding frenzy. But she contacted the seller and asked if he would be willing to photocopy the stories before the magazines themselves were shipped to the winning bidders. Requesting anonymity, the seller graciously agreed and sent the copies right away.

About the same time, Joanne Wood of the Kindred Spirits Society of Hamilton (Ont.) group found another story's history and sent it to Carolyn. "Brother Beware" is in a group of about forty stories that exist in collections or in the scrapbooks but are without bibliographic information (#s 1048-1087). Joanne determined that it originally appeared in *Country Home Magazine*, June 1936. LMM later edited it for inclusion in a collection she entitled, "The Blythes are Quoted" (published posthumously as *The Road to Yesterday* in 1974).

In August 2000, Carolyn donated copies of these three stories and their bibliographic information to the LMM Institute at UPEI for incorporation into the photocopied collection of LMM's scrapbooks available for study in the UPEI Robertson Library. (The Confederation Centre Archives in Charlottetown keeps the original scrapbooks.)

Carolyn will give a presentation to the LMMLS on the stories at the December.



Carolyn also added a scrapbook containing a serialization of *Anne of Green Gables* to her LMM collection. In November 24, 1909, the *Family Herald and Weekly Star* announced that it would serialize L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* word for word:

"Anne of Green Gables" is the story of one of the sweetest and most lovable children in the realm of fiction. The quaint little morsel of humanity to whom we are introduced in the opening chapters soon gains a hold on our affections, and the better we get to know her the more lovable she becomes. So life-like is the pen-picture of little Anne, so vivid is the recital of all her doings and sayings, that we seem to get on intimate terms with her, and to regard her as one of our personal friends. We are deeply interested in her dreams and ambitions, and her exploits and escapades entertain and amuse us, but the dominant feeling for dear little Anne is love tinged with a shade of pity.

Mark Twain, who ought to be a fairly good judge of fiction, said, after reading the story: "In 'Anne of Green Gables' you will find the dearest and most moving and delightful child since the immortal Alice. Bliss Carmen, the celebrated poet, is equally eulogistic. "Henceforth," he says, "Anne must always remain one of the immortal children of fiction, those characters who are as real as our flesh and blood friends, whom we cherish in the quiet places of our hearts reserved for the dearest mortals we know."

The serial began on December 8, 1909. *Anne of Avonlea* followed in 1910.



ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

BY L. M. MONTGOMERY

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CHAPTER I.

MRS. RACHEL LYNDE IS SURPRISED.

Mrs. Rachel Lynde lived just where the Avonlea main road dipped down into a little hollow, fringed with alders and ladies' eardrops and traversed by a brook that had its source away back in the woods of the old Cuthbert place; It was reputed to be an intricate, headlong brook in its earlier course through those woods, with dark secrets of pool and cascade; but by the time it reached Lynde's Hollow it was a quiet, well-conducted little stream, for not even a brook could run past Mrs. Rachel Lynde's door without due regard for decency and decorum: it probably was conscious that Mrs. Rachel was sitting at her window, keeping a sharp eye on everything that passed, from brooks and children up, and that if she noticed anything odd or out of place she would never rest until she had ferreted out the whys and wherefores thereof.

There are plenty of people, in Avonlea and out of it, who can attend closely to their neighbors' business by dint of neglecting their own; but Mrs. Rachel Lynde was one of those capable

She was sitting there one afternoon in early June. The sun was coming in at the window warm and bright; the orchard on the slope below the house was in a bridal flush of pinky-white bloom, hummed over by a myriad of bees. Thomas Lynde — a meek little man whom Avonlea people called "Rachel Lynde's husband" — was sowing his late turnip seed on the hill field beyond the barn; and Matthew Cuthbert ought to have been sowing his on the big red brook field away over by Green Gables. Mrs. Rachel knew that he ought because she had heard him tell Peter Morrison the evening before in William J. Blair's store over at Carmody that he meant to sow his turnip seed the next afternoon. Peter had asked him, of course, for Matthew Cuthbert had never been known to volunteer information about anything in his whole life.

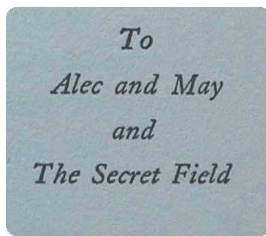
And yet here was Matthew Cuthbert, at half-past three on the afternoon of a busy day, placidly driving over the hollow and up the hill; moreover, he wore a white collar and his best suit of clothes, which was plain proof that he was going out of Avonlea; and he had the buggy and the sorrel mare, which betokened that he was going a considerable distance. Now, where was Matthew Cuthbert going and why was he going there?

Had it been any other man in Avon-

wasn't driving fast enough to be going for a doctor. Yet something must have happened since last night to start him off. I'm clean puzzled, that's what, I won't know a minute's peace of mind or conscience until I know what has taken Matthew Cuthbert out of Avonlea to-day."

Accordingly after tea Mrs. Rachel set out; she had not far to go; the big, rambling, orchard-embowered house where the Cuthberts lived was a scant quarter of a mile up the road from Lynde's Hollow. To be sure, the long lane made it a good deal further. Matthew Cuthbert's father, as shy and silent as his son after him, had got as far away as he possibly could from his fellow men without actually retreating into the woods when he founded his homestead. Green Gables was built at the furthest edge of his cleared land and there it was to this day, barely visible from the main road along which all the other Avonlea houses were so sociably situated. Mrs. Rachel Lynde did not call living in such a place living at all.

"It's just staying, that's what," she said as she stepped along the deep-rutted, grassy lane bordered with wild rose bushes. "It's no wonder Matthew and Marilla are both a little odd, living away back here by themselves. Trees aren't much company, though dear knows if they were there'd be enough of them. I'd rather look at

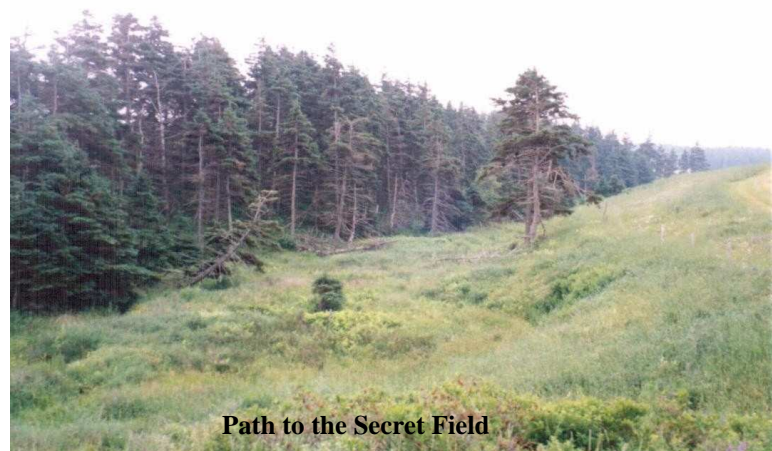


The Secret Field

© by Mary Beth Cavert

Mary Beth Cavert is continuing her research and writing about the friends of L.M. Montgomery. This summer she stayed with the relatives of Alec and May MacNeill, to whom Maud dedicated *Pat Of Silver Bush* in 1933: "To Alec and May and The Secret Field." Here are some of her impressions.

One of the most lovely things about visiting Prince Edward Island (this was my 5th trip) is meeting new people and making new friends. I brought a kindred spirit with me this year for her first visit to the Island and we stayed at the home of Alvin and Eleanor MacNeill. They run a large dairy operation called Parkview Farm near Cavendish, just a few yards away from the former location of the home of Alec and May MacNeill, which LMM called Gartmore Farm in her journals. Alvin's grandfather, Albert, was Alec MacNeill's brother.



Path to the Secret Field

Alec MacNeill, and his sister Penzie, were long time friends of Maud. The (Charles) MacNeill fields and lanes that stretched for acres from the north shore, were treasured places for Montgomery. She stayed with Alec and his wife, May, when she came back to visit after her marriage. In the evenings, she often walked with May along a cow path by a brook. In the 1930s, Alec showed them where it led to a special field tucked in among the birch and maple woodlands. She loved it -- she called it the Secret Field and put it in the story of *Pat*.

Alvin took me to the place one warm afternoon -- it was never used for crops and the grasses were long ago supplanted by tall spruce. After almost 70 years, it looks very much like the "Haunted Woods" near Green Gables.

When Maud stayed with Alec and May, they had wonderful times together laughing and telling stories. That tradition continues in the MacNeill family. They are warm, witty and kind hosts and take great pride in their family and land. We thoroughly enjoyed our times in the MacNeill kitchen, sharing our plans for the day, discussing Charles MacNeill's "diary" and enjoying a visit from the neighbors, John and Jennie Macneill. Like Maud, we loved this farm in the fields overlooking "the sweep of the sea."



Photos by Beth Cavert

More Popular -- or Not So Popular -- Culture!

by Carolyn Collins

In July, Americans were finally able to view the third part of Kevin Sullivan's version of the AGG books, "Anne of Green Gables -- The Continuing Story." The phrase "any resemblance to characters, living or dead, [or previously fictionalized] is entirely coincidental" can be applied, probably in capital letters and italics, to this version. There are so many differences between the books and the television version that to enumerate them would be a waste of ink. -- (editors' opinion)

On Prince Edward Island, "Anne of Green Gables -- the Musical" celebrated its 35th anniversary. The long-running musical version of Canada's most popular book has remained fresh and vibrant for the three and a half decades it has played on the Charlottetown stage. ☺

Actor Richard Farnsworth died October 6, 2000. He is fondly remembered as the beloved "Matthew Cuthbert" in the 1985 Canadian Television series, "Anne of Green Gables." His last performance was in 1999 in the film, "The Straight Story."

Another of LMM's popular novels, "Emily of New Moon," has found its way into musical theatre history. It debuted in 1999 in Charlottetown and was brought back again (slightly revised) for the 2000 season, alternating with "AGG" at the Confederation Centre. Reviews for the production were enthusiastic. Symposium conferees were given the opportunity to attend an evening performance. Very positive comments were heard from this group and the consensus was that the musical was far superior to the televised version of the "Emily" books. Incidentally, Prince Edward and his bride, Sophie, toured PEI this summer and attended a performance of "Emily".

Another visual interpretation of Anne of Green Gables is now being shown in Canada and is due to begin airing on PBS in the US soon -- The AGG Cartoon! The program is aimed at young viewers and seems to focus on Anne's (and her Avonlea school friends, of course) adventures and scrapes (a few taken from AGG, but mostly invented by the animation team). HarperCollins is publishing short books to accompany the program, illustrated with scenes from the cartoons themselves. We would imagine that only the most rabid Anne-fans will want to experience these rather silly versions of LMM's classic literary work.

BEDEQUE BLUEBERRY SOCIAL

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in August, the Lower Bedeque School held a blueberry social and open house. Visitors sat at tables set up under trees in the schoolyard and volunteers served delicious Island blueberries generously spooned over ice cream and cake. Jim Nichols, volunteer curator, gave tours of the school. He and his wife now live in the Leard home where LMM boarded while a teacher at the school. We were saddened to learn from Jim that the restored school was vandalized last December and many original items were stolen, namely desks and the wonderful old wood-burning stove.

BIDEFORD PARSONAGE OPENS

© by Carolyn Collins

In July 2000, the Bideford parsonage held its grand opening as a heritage museum site. LMM followers know the parsonage, west of Summerside, near Ellerslie, as the place she boarded while teaching in the Bideford School in 1894-95.



The history of the parsonage, in addition to LMM's stay there, is stressed along with the story of the restoration efforts (still underway). Among the accomplishments so far: the small but gracefully-proportioned spiral staircase in the entryway has been beautifully rebuilt; the entryway, stairwell, and upstairs hall have been freshly papered with an antique-reproduction pattern that is reminiscent of the original thistle-patterned paper admired by LMM. A small portion of that wallpaper was discovered under layers of subsequent wallpaper and paneling and has been preserved.

LMM's "great big room" is furnished with period furnishings and accessories (including a chamber pot!). The view she admired and wrote of in her journals can still be appreciated through the same window. Exquisite antique hand-hooked rugs, said to have been made by a relative of LMM who lived nearby, were donated by the family to the parsonage and are on display in the upstairs hallway. Other rooms have also been restored; the parlour and kitchen are next on the list.



photos by Carolyn Collins

The dedicated museum committee has invested financially as well as personally in the parsonage. A foundation was formed when the Bideford community heard that the parsonage might be sold and moved to the Avonlea Village site in Cavendish (opened in 1999). In order to keep the parsonage in its original location, the foundation raised funds, bought the property, and immediately began restoration. The work has proceeded quickly and confidently, with impressive results. While somewhat off the usual route for LMMers on visits to the Island, the parsonage is well worth a visit now, while its restoration continues, and in the future to see the changes and developments. Donations from the public are appreciated to help finance this project.

ANNE'S TEA PARTY

A new Anne activity on Prince Edward Island made its debut in July 2000 -- a lovely diversion billed as "Anne's Tea Party." Adjoining the Anne of Green Gables Store and the new Anne of Green Gables Chocolates boutique in Charlottetown (near the Confederation Centre) is a beautiful tearoom filled with giant palms, fresh flowers, linen-covered tables, and tea accessories. A delicious Victorian-style tea awaits those willing to spend an hour or so with Anne, Diana, Gilbert, and other Avonlea characters (it was most gratifying to learn that *The Anne of Green Gables Treasury* was used as a primary resource for "Anne's Tea Party!").

L.M. Montgomery Literary Society Meetings in 2000



Members of the Literary Society were invited to Carolyn's home in St. Paul for a planning meeting on October 29. After discussing ideas for commemorating LMM's 125th birthday, the group enjoyed conversation over tea.

On November 30 1999, the LMMLS celebrated the 125th anniversary of L. M. Montgomery's birth. Meeting in the Kerlan Collection's reading room in Walter Library at the University of Minnesota, members read selected passages from LMM's journals, books, and letters commemorating different parts of her life. A display of LMM's books (some of which were from the Kerlan Collection), models of the five homes on PEI she is associated with, and miniature replicas of her beloved green-and-white dogs, Gog and Magog, were arranged as a centerpiece on the tea table. Raspberry cordial (permission to serve currant wine could not be arranged!), tea, and chocolate caramels (Anne's favorite candy) were served.

The LMMLS is grateful to Karen Nelson Hoyle, curator of the Kerlan Collection, for letting us hold this anniversary celebration in the reading room. Our meeting was one of the last (if not THE last) meetings held in this historic room before the Kerlan Collection moved to its new home in the new Andersen library across the Mississippi River.

Our March meeting was held at the Lake Elmo home of Betty Heath. "Hooked Rugs of the Maritimes" was our topic of discussion. Betty has made an impressive study of hooked rugs, especially rugs made in the Canadian Maritimes. She has taken special tours and workshops in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and has hooked many examples of traditional, as well as her own, designs.

After an illustrated talk on the history and techniques of rug hooking, that included examples of rugs, materials, and tools, Betty answered questions from members about this beautiful craft. She reminded the group that Green Gables, Silver Bush, the LMM Birthplace, and the Montgomery Home in Park Corner have many antique hooked rugs (or "mats") on display, many of which were made by Montgomery, Campbell, and Macneill family members. She also noted that LMM stood on a hooked mat when she was married at the Campbell home and that the mat is still in the home today.

2000-2001 MEETINGS



Our first meeting this season was held at Sidney's Restaurant, 21st and Hennepin Avenue S, in Minneapolis on **November 10 (Friday)** at 4:00. Beth Cavert read an autumn selection from *The Blue Castle*.

On Friday, December 15, we will meet at Carolyn's (1603 Northrop, St. Paul) at 4:00. Program topic: Recently Discovered LMM Stories.



photo by Christine Petersen

This scene was captured by Christine Petersen on her first evening on Prince Edward Island. The photo was taken at the spot where the Lake of Shining Waters empties into the Gulf of St. Lawrence -- near the home of L.M. Montgomery's grandfather in Park Corner.

NEW BOOKS ABOUT OLD FAVOURITES

In honor of the 65th anniversary of the publication of Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie*, HarperCollins has published *Inside Laura's Little House: The Little House on the Prairie Treasury* (September 2000). It is the eighth book based on classic children's novels co-authored by Carolyn Strom Collins and Christina Wyss Eriksson (three about *Anne*, one *Little Women*, and now four *Little Houses*).

While their first Little House-related book, *The World of Little House*, included background information on all eight of Laura's Little House books, the latest one focuses exclusively on the second in the series, *Little House on the Prairie*. Chapters such as "Going West," "Pa Goes to Town," "Christmas on the Prairie," and "Indian Camp" provide more information on Laura's life on the Kansas prairie, along with detailed instructions for some of the crafts and recipes she mentions in her account, and some of the songs the family sang.

Artist Cathy Holly provided beautiful new illustrations for this volume to supplement some of the familiar artwork by Garth Williams from *Little House on the Prairie*.

PS -- C & C's next book, *Inside the Secret Garden: the Secret Garden Treasury*, is scheduled for publication in Fall 2001.

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