accounts of the circumstances accompanying the publication of John Seeley’s *Crestwood Heights* and Marshall McLuhan’s *The Gutenberg Galaxy*.

*God and Mammon* addresses issues that are as important today as they were forty years ago – the indispensable role of first-class editing and the need to be able to pay well for it, the academic and financial relationship between the university press and its parent institution, the necessity [however slow the process may prove] of peer assessment, and the troublesome issue of copyright and the modern phenomenon of mass, cheap reprography. His explanation of the labyrinthine complications of Canadian and U.S. copyright law is written with a clarity that stems from long acquaintance with this problem. Jeanneret has an appreciation of university politics and finance, and readily acknowledges the fundamental role played by federal granting agencies in scholarly research and publication. He also, however, warns of the risks involved in recurrent attempts to alter policy with respect to aid to scholarly publications, citing the Park Report of 1982 as an example. What remains astonishing in light of UTP’s sustained success and vastly increased list and revenues is the extent to which this was done without expense to the University of Toronto. Jeanneret makes note of recent support from the university in the establishment of a Press endowment fund and the university’s purchase of the Press building, but the basic question of ongoing university support for the publishing department remains. University administrators contemplating the establishment of a university press should be required to read the last two chapters of Jeanneret’s book.

Jeanneret has constructed his narrative, in large part, around his own education as a scholarly publisher. In 1953 when he was interviewed as a prospective general editor / manager of the Press (Jeanneret was successful in changing the title to director) he told Colonel W. Eric Phillips, Chair of Toronto’s Board of Governors, that the costs of scholarly publication could be supported by profits generated by a ‘parallel semi-commercial publishing program ... [which would be] kept separate from the publishing of scholarly books and journals’ [p. 44]. In his twenty-four years as Director, Marsh Jeanneret came to renounce that idea – in spite of UTP’s notable successes with several semi-commercial publications – and to argue for scholarly publication as its own *raison d’être*. Although he would have missed a lot of fun if that had been his position when he began at the Press, our constantly market-oriented culture makes us aware of the need to read and mark his words in this handsomely presented and absorbing memoir of a publishing life.

JOHN LENNOX

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*Fontanus* (from the Collections of McGill University). Vols. 1 (1988) and 2 (1989); yearly subscriptions are $25.00 for institutions, $15.00 for individuals [paper]. *ISSN 0838-2026.*

A number of Canadian universities have been developing research collections for
many years. The depth and richness of the resulting collections are difficult to communicate to the academic community and the general public. With its annual publication, *Fontanus*, McGill University has embarked on an ambitious and laudable venture to publish 'scholarly articles in English and French based on the collections in [its] libraries, museums and archives.' The primary objective of the new journal, as stated in the Editorial of Vol. 1, is to 'draw attention to, encourage study of, expose and exploit the collections in order to stimulate new discoveries within the University and beyond.' To that end, two volumes have been published to date and the third is in preparation.

In total, eighteen articles have been published on topics as diverse as French civil law, Moravian missions in Labrador, and the life and influence of the twelfth-century Jewish philosopher and physician, Moses Maimonides. A balance between Canadian and non-Canadian topics has been achieved, as eight of the eighteen articles are on either British, French, Arabic, or European subjects. The time periods covered are as diverse as the topics. A carefully researched article on a remnant of a Gislenian anthology dating from 929 follows an article on the British Government's Clarendon Commission of 1864. The most current topic dealt with is the description of F.R. Scott's literature collection which contains works of fiction published as recently as the early 1980s. The majority of the papers deal with events and people influential in a variety of disciplines between 1850 and 1950.

The articles fall into four general categories. First, a number are traditional scholarly articles based on in-depth research of material from a specific collection. The research is either related to a single item or to one subject. A.J. Hobbins's article on the authorship of the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights falls into the traditional scholarly article category. Hobbins convincingly argues his theory that the Canadian lawyer, John Humphrey, should be given more credit than he has for his role in the initial drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Much of the argument is based on a meticulous examination of the handwritten manuscript of the original draft of the Declaration which is held by the McGill University Law Library. The article is concerned with an interpretation of the evidence in the document rather than a reproduction and description of the draft and related documentation. The well-written article is fully documented and illustrated with interesting photographs and reproductions of the original draft. Articles on the career of medical librarian Margaret Ridley Charlton, the architecture of the Redpath Museum, the findings of the British Clarendon Commission of 1864, and the careers of three scholar librarians at McGill all present interpretations or analyses of the source material without detailed descriptions of the collections consulted.

The second type of article featured in *Fontanus* is one in which the source collection is the subject of the article. The provenance of the collection, its contents and the background of the collector are reported in some detail. The article by Bruce Whiteman on the F.R. Scott Library is the most succinct example of this type. In five pages the author has provided the reader with a clear idea of what one can expect to find in the collection, essential details of Scott's life, and a reproduction of a charcoal drawing of a very young and intense Scott. Other articles of this type deal with a unit of the Lande Collection [entitled 'The Moravian Missions to the Eskimos of Labrador'], the Molson family collection, the Wainwright Collection of French civil
law, the works of Moses Maimonides, the William Clarke papers as a source for Tudor and Stuart history, and the Lighthall family papers. An article on the Burney Editing Project is somewhat similar as it outlines in detail how and why the papers of Dr. Charles Burney (1726-1814) and his daughter Fanny (1752-1840) are being edited. The process of editing rather than the content of the papers is the focus of the article. A long, rambling article on the hidden treasures at McGill highlights the variety and significance of manuscripts and historical documents held in the McGill repositories. Again the collections are the subject of the article.

Several articles provide in-depth bibliographical analysis of individual works. An illustrated article by Adam Gacek surveys the Arabic manuscripts at McGill and then focuses on one illustrated codex, the ‘Kitab fi al-adwiyah almufradah’ [Book of Simple Drugs], compiled by al-Ghafiqi [d. 560/1165]. After providing a brief biography of the author of the codex, an explanation of how the volume was acquired by McGill, and an overview of the history surrounding the work, a detailed bibliographical description of the codex is presented. Two beautiful colour illustrations of pages from the herbal of al-Ghafiqi accompany the text. A second article which closely examines an individual work deals with a remnant of a Gislenian anthology. The two authors, Leszek Wysocki and Richard Virr, provide a detailed page by page bibliographical description of the codex, and they also identify and reconstruct the history of the copy in the McGill collection.

A two-part article by Montague Cohen on the correspondence of renowned physicist Ernest Rutherford to Arthur Eve of McGill constitutes the fourth type of article published in Fontanus. Faithful transcriptions of fifteen previously unpublished Rutherford letters are presented. Each letter is carefully annotated with clear notes that make very complicated physics almost comprehensible to a lay person. Full and concise introductions to both parts of this article supply all the necessary context. Reproductions of two Rutherford letters and one Eve letter are provided and allow one to appreciate fully Dr. Cohen’s detective abilities. It is interesting to note that Dr. Cohen’s research was the lead-off article in Vol. 1. It is with the presentation of original research of this calibre that Fontanus makes a very real contribution to scholarship in Canada.

The concluding section of each volume is a chronicle of recent additions to the McGill collections. The random list is of limited use because the information provided is much too sketchy. The random list would be much easier to use if it were in subject order. The ‘Chronicle’ section does serve as a useful vehicle for publicly thanking donors for their donations to McGill and as a discreet way to urge continued tangible support.

McGill University has major collections which have the potential to be of research interest to a wide academic community. Fontanus serves as a very effective way to inform the academic community of the richness and depth of the McGill collections. The journal editors have carefully selected a variety of subjects that cover a diverse range of disciplines, geographical areas, and time periods. Interpretative articles are intermingled with meticulous bibliographical examinations, excellent collection descriptions, and carefully annotated transcriptions. The quality of writing is a little uneven, but it is generally of a high standard. All the work is well documented. The production quality of Vol. 1 is excellent, but it is surpassed by that of
Vol. 2. The switch to double columns and the inclusion of colour illustrations have added to the overall attractiveness of the journal. A few minor spelling errors slipped by in Vol. 1 (p. 8 ‘cermony,’ p. 69 ‘Nottman’), but Vol. 2 appears to be error free. A few additional features would make Fontanus an even more useful journal, especially for those who intend to follow up on an interest sparked by the articles published. A brief description of the collection policies, facilities, and addresses of the McGill libraries, museums, and archives would be useful. From the list of contributors it is obvious that there are many talented and knowledgeable individuals on staff at the McGill repositories. A list of contact people would be a useful feature. Since the primary goal of the journal is to draw attention to the collections it would also be useful to have quantitative and access information about each collection summarized in a standard way at the conclusion of each article. As it stands now, Fontanus is a very readable and interesting guide to research collections at McGill University.

KAREN SMITH
(Karen Smith is the Special Collections Librarian at Dalhousie University Library.)


There is a need for a clear, well-organized and accurate guide to rare book collecting in Canada to be used by collectors at all levels of expertise. Daniel Gauvin, rare book librarian at the Université du Québec à Montréal, has recognized this need and has prepared a bilingual guide to the field, including information on basic book collecting, reference works, evaluations and preventive conservation, as well as directories of antiquarian and specialized book dealers, both in Canada and abroad, auction houses, conservators and conservation suppliers. Regrettably, Gauvin has not included a section on rare book libraries.

Divided into two parts, La Bibliophilie / The Bibliophilism and Annuaire des adresses utiles / Directory of Useful Addresses, the book is in the style of Alice D. Schreyer's Rare Books 1983-84: Trends, Collections, Sources (New York & London: R.R. Bowker, 1984) and Albert Labarre's Annuaire du livre de collection 1985-1986 (Paris: Éditions Promodis, 1986). Unlike Schreyer and Labarre, however, Gauvin has not invited authorities in the rare book field to contribute; he has written all of the brief introductory essays himself. While the framework of the book has merit, the work is seriously marred by information which is too often incomplete, inaccurate, or even misleading. There is, among other errors, one dangerous mistake which must be corrected. Saddle soap should never be used on leather bindings, nor should potassium lactate, which was discredited some years ago. Other errors and omissions seriously affect the value of this work. For example, several Canadian dealers have been omitted from the directory, while no fewer than three of those listed are dead. For some of those included, the addresses or telephone numbers given are incorrect, and, inexplicably, Gauvin has chosen not to identify all dealers who