



*The Shining Scroll*  
*Newsletter for*  
*the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society*  
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## Storm and Dissonance: L.M. Montgomery and Conflict

The L.M. Montgomery Institute, housed at the University of Prince Edward Island, hosted its 7<sup>th</sup> international conference on Montgomery titled "Storm and Dissonance: L.M. Montgomery and Conflict." Several members of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society attended: Mary Beth Cavert, Carolyn Collins, Sarah and Pat Reidel, Emily, Christy, and Anne Woster. Carolyn presented her very well received paper, "'Bound for Quebec' or 'Journey's End'? – Conflicting Stories of the Montgomery Family's Arrival in Prince Edward Island."



Elizabeth deBlois is the director of the Institute and wrote this [edited] summary:



... on behalf of the Conference Committee and the Conference Co-chairs, Dr. Elizabeth Epperly and Mary McDonald-Rissanen, I am delighted to report that this year's conference was a wonderful success! ... We had two keynote addresses this year: Dr. Margaret Doody of Notre Dame University in Indiana, USA and two Finnish journalists from Helsinki, Suvi Ahola and Satu Koskimies. Dr. Doody delivered a fascinating address about the darker side of Montgomery's stories. Suvi Ahola and Satu Koskimies, editors of a collection of Finnish women's responses to Montgomery's Anne and Emily books, discussed their findings and provided a view into Montgomery's popularity in their country.

... This year, we decided to offer a special version of a UPEI English course on Montgomery, The Literature of L.M. Montgomery, in connection with the conference. We were honoured to have two talented researchers to teach the course for us: Dr. Elizabeth Waterston, co-editor of *The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery*, and Dr. Jennifer Litster, a star researcher and popular conference speaker. The course had a unique format with part of the material delivered in special classes that took place on campus at UPEI over five days before the conference and then the rest was delivered as part of the conference itself. Their final assignment, submitted by email after the closing, was based on the keynote addresses and plenary session presentations. ... They examined the journals in detail, discussed the novels, and had stimulating discussions about all kinds of related topics. The students were treated to a special lecture by Dr. Mary Rubio and they met regularly throughout the conference to discuss the things that they learned. ...

Another pilot project this year was the addition of a workshop to the conference schedule. With a theme like conflict, the inclusion of a workshop on *Rilla of Ingleside* was a natural one. Dr. Andrea McKenzie from New York University, also a presenter at the symposium, presented a special 3-hour workshop entitled "*Rilla of Ingleside: Canada's War?*" which focused on the experiences of teenagers and their families on the Canadian Home Front. Participants were encouraged to bring along any family stories and/or memorabilia related to WWI to share with the group and a number of fascinating pieces were produced. [Ed. Note: Christy and Emily Woster attended this workshop] ...

We were pleased to be able to offer our conference participants the chance to take part in a number of extra activities and events: *Anne of Green Gables - the Musical* as well as the other Confederation Centre mainstage production, *Canada Rocks!*. There was a launching of the new book by Hildi Froese Tiessen and Paul Tiessen (*After Green Gables: L.M. Montgomery's Letters to Ephraim Weber, 1916-1941*), a visit to the Preserve Co. in New Glasgow and the beautiful New Glasgow Country Gardens; an international poetry evening featuring local Island poets and four Finnish poets; and even a Market Day sale with books of all kinds (including the CREArTA publication based on the 2004 conference edited by Dr. Rosemary Johnston)

and a selection of Island-made handcrafts. The icing on the cake for many was a specially organized tour of the Montgomery heritage sites that took place just after the closing on Sunday evening. The tour, called "A Taste of L.M. Montgomery", visited the Anne of Green Gables Museum, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Birthplace, Green Gables House and the Site of L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish Home before stopping at Dayboat Restaurant in Oyster Bed Bridge for a delicious Montgomery-themed meal prepared by Chef Gordon Bailey ... while sipping coffee and tea on the deck overlooking Wheatley River and Rustico Bay - what a lovely conclusion to a wonderful conference! ... 2008 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of *Anne of Green Gables* and we are anticipating greater numbers than normal at our conference as a result. The theme for 2008's symposium is "L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*, and the Idea of 'Classic'" and the dates are set for June 25-29. The Call for Proposals deadline is June 30, 2007.

At the end of the conference, a Montgomery enthusiast and collector from Ontario, Donna Campbell, donated a painting by James Lumber that she and her husband commissioned called "Twilight Sorceries." It "features the 'ghosted' images of the Macneill Homestead and of L.M. Montgomery as they were in 1905 surrounded by the grounds as they exist today." She also donated some international editions of Montgomery's books from Britain, America and Australia to the Institute. This is an appropriate transition into the focus of this year's *Shining Scroll*, "The Collectors of L.M. Montgomery," which highlights the books and Montgomery memorabilia that members from our own Literary Society have acquired and enjoy sharing!

## COLLECTING L.M. MONTGOMERY

At almost every meeting of our Literary Society, someone brings a wonderful treasure related to L.M. Montgomery. We share beautiful books by Montgomery, poetry collections, brochures, postcards, old movie theater glass slides, magazines, movie posters, sheet music, and "discoveries." Among our members, we must have almost a thousand early copies of Montgomery books as well as magazine stories, poetry collections and related favorite literature from her own era. The collectors of the L.M. Montgomery Society could probably help provide some helpful information for a Montgomery bibliography!

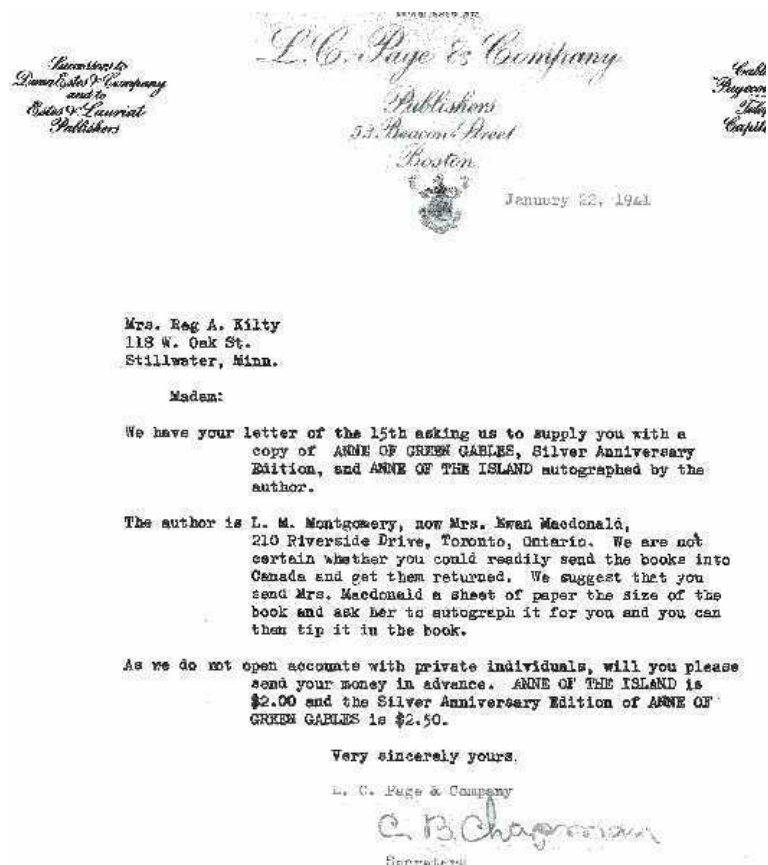
We have been particularly lucky to be the guests of Christy Woster, who has assembled an amazing private collection of Montgomery material. Her father built several bookshelves for her Montgomery collection and she needs a few more! Christy is a retired nurse and began collecting many years ago. She is an expert historical researcher and enjoys detailed genealogy work on her own family and Canadian connections. We are grateful for her generosity and that of all our members in sharing their enthusiasm, expertise, and delight in Montgomery's words and "artifacts." Here are a few contributions from our members that describe the "collectibles" that keep them connected to the tangible world of L.M. Montgomery.

### Joan O'Brien

I was originally introduced to the Anne series by my mother who read it to me while I was "resting" during the hot, dry summers days of the 1930s. I didn't even know there were Emily and other books until I joined the LMMLS!

In August 2006, I was looking through an old account ledger of my mother's and found that she had devoted a page to listing all the characters, villages and special places, like Birch Path, in *Anne of Green Gables*.

I also found this letter to her from The L.C. Page Company (January 1941)! She had requested an autographed Silver Anniversary Edition of *Anne of Green Gables* and the secretary provided her with Montgomery's home address in Toronto so she could send her own request directly to the author.



## Ann Johnson

When I was 11 or 12 years old my father and other men on the township board decided they would clean out their old one room schoolhouse, to use it as a place to vote. The door had been locked one spring day in the 1920s and everything had been left in the building. My father brought home a box of books that they found because my sisters and I were readers. As soon as I saw *Anne of Green Gables* I started reading the book. The box also contained a copy of *Anne of Avonlea*. *Anne of Green Gables* is dated 38th impression, May 1914, and *Anne of Avonlea* is dated 26th impression, March 1917. Both books were well-used school library books and my Avonlea book later had the spine chewed by a puppy.

I loved both of the books and was excited to see more of the series for sale in the Sears, Roebuck catalog. I remember the day the mailman delivered the package and I couldn't start reading immediately because I had to go into town for piano lessons. The six books I received were *Anne of the Island*, *Anne of Windy Poplars*, *Anne's House of Dreams*, *Anne of Ingleside*, *Chronicles of Avonlea* and *Further Chronicles of Avonlea*. The dust covers show Anne in clothing of the 1950's. I wrote "November 1955" in the books as the date when I received them.

As I read the books I knew that someday I would visit Prince Edward Island. It took almost thirty years until my first trip but I have since been there many times. On my trips I have collected over fifty books by and about LMM.

## Mary Beth Cavert

My own interest in collecting early Montgomery editions started much later than most of the serious collectors I know. In the mid-1980s, I was visiting my parents and found an old A.L. Burt copy of *Anne's House of Dreams* inscribed to my grandmother, about the time she was married in 1920. This beautiful book inspired me to begin looking for other early editions, because I love to hold the old books in my hands when I read them -- the look, the weight and texture of original editions enhances the reading for me!

I have only about 120 early-edition Montgomery books of all her fiction, a few firsts, early impressions, and many beautiful later editions. The only unique book I have is probably the "Emily in a Box." It is a like-new 1<sup>st</sup> edition presentation copy of *Emily's Quest* in a beautiful box with the paste down cover.

As a child, and up to adolescence, I attended a summer camp and an icon of our summer night vesper services was a statue of the Good Fairy, a popular figure from 1916. I was surprised and delighted to see a photo of the same Good Fairy statue in Montgomery's home in Leaskdale, a remembrance from her dearest friend, Frede Campbell. I began to collect these joyful statues from the era of the First World War and I enjoy working at my desk with lamps, bookends and statues in her likeness.

## Carolyn Collins

Like many of our members, I have been collecting LMM-related materials for years. I enjoy finding first editions (especially with dust-jackets) of any of her books as well as periodicals that have her short stories and poems. I have found quite a few previously undocumented and unread stories and enjoy making note of those others have found. Perhaps a bibliography will come of this someday! Some of my favorites "finds" include a Page *Anne of Green Gables* with photographs from the 1919 Mary Miles Minter silent Anne film; early Australian editions of all the books; and Harrap "orange cover" editions, along with a few rarities such as *The Watchman*, *Courageous Women*, *Verse and Reverse*, *Up Came the Moon* (with intro by LMM), the Page brochure *Something About L.M. Montgomery*, etc.

I was very fortunate to buy LMM's own copy of Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*, signed by her. I found a watercolour of Lover's Lane that she had inscribed and given to one of the Webb girls in Cavendish.

Living on PEI in the summer gives me some great opportunities to find a few "gems" from time to time. When the Webb home in Cavendish had an auction sale a few years ago, I not only got the watercolour, but a painted pine table that they told me had once been in the kitchen at Green Gables, along with a pair of chairs that belonged to legendary





Island minister Geddie -- LMM had a pair of these, also, and left them to her son Chester in her will. You can imagine how much I treasure these items that I now have in my cottage on "The Hill of the Mist."

Beth Cavert got me started collecting the "Good Fairy" statues that LMM had as a souvenir from Frede Campbell (see *The Shining Scroll* issue for 2003 or *Kindred Spirits* magazine, winter 2002). And, of course, "Gog and Magog" are among my favourites. About ten years ago, I worked with Robert Montgomery of the LMM Heritage Museum to have the miniature versions of the original china dogs there made up for the gift shop. Visitors to the Museum love to take home their own Gog and Magog to put with their Anne collections!

One thing I would really love to find is a copy of the little booklet of self-published poems LMM gave for Christmas gifts in Cavendish one year for friends. Miracles do happen!

I also love to collect primitives and unusual items for the cottage that make me feel closer to the Island and its remarkable history.

## **Sarah Reidel**

My interest with the world of Montgomery was sparked by the Kevin Sullivan films. Soon after, I acquired my first copy of *Anne of Green Gables*, a present from my Mom. I had always been fond of antiques and history, so after being captivated by the charm of Maud's books, I set out to find an early edition of any LMM book for myself. My first acquisition was on the way home from a friend's wedding. I stopped in an antique store and there before me was an early edition of *Anne of Avonlea*. From there on I was hooked. As I continued to read anything I could find on the life of LMM, I discovered that there was a lot of information and memorabilia still waiting to be uncovered. The search for books led to an interest in all things to do with Anne, LMM and her writings, and PEI itself.

Most of my treasures come from eBay or antique stores. I have also had many friends help me add to my collection. There is a great thrill in finding another piece of Montgomery material and sharing the treasure and information with other devotees. I have learned so much from generous *Kindred Spirits* willing to share their knowledge and collections.

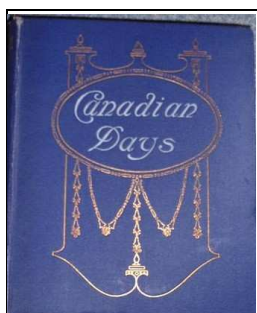

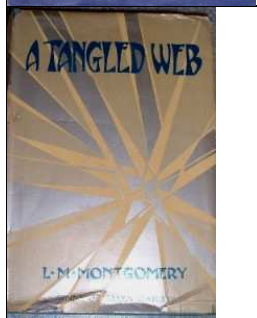
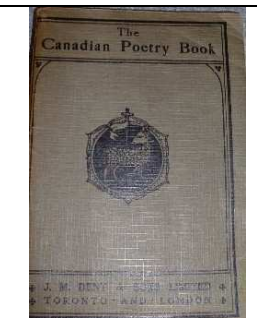
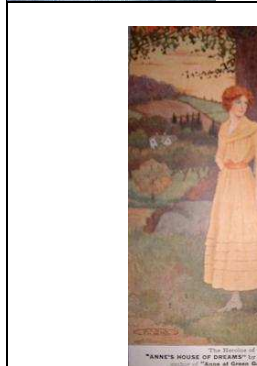

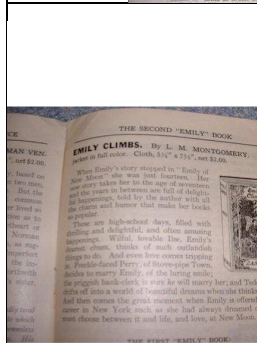
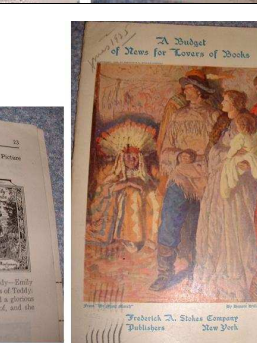
My collection has expanded from the first edition copies of books to collecting books from different eras. Some of the covers are beautifully done, and it is fun to see how the heroines are depicted over time. Some of my favorite things to collect are the magazines that contain many of Montgomery's poems and short stories. One can page through these wonderful records of yesterday and imagine the ladies of that time enjoying the latest fiction. I like to imagine Maud herself looking at the way they illustrated her stories and poems.

Another favorite passion of my collecting has become the items related to the various movies made depicting Maud's books. I think this has drawn my interest because if it weren't for a movie version I may never have discovered Montgomery. In the case of the 1919 silent film, bits of memorabilia are the only link we have. The things I have acquired from that film I consider to be some of the most rare items in my collection.

When it comes to collecting Montgomery, I enjoy finding her in unexpected places, where you can see her influence in the world at that time, like in the *People's Home Journal* premium list. This is one of the favorite things in my collection. I consider most paper items to be in the somewhat rare category. For instance, the *Anne's House of Dreams* postcard and the Stokes book list were usually discarded after being used, so having them survive all these years is remarkable.

Thankfully there have been generations of collectors who thought something was interesting or too pretty to throw away. We may now add these items to our collections and preserve them for future generations of LMM researchers and devotees.



		<p>"Canadian Days" Selections compiled by the Toronto Women's Press Club with quotes for every day of the year including several from Maud's books.</p> <p>"Pictures Of Memory" Samuel Francis Woolard. June 1908. This is the 101st Thousand printing. Poem by LMM</p> <p>"The Little Gable Window"</p>
		<p>"A Tangled Web" silver, cream and blue dustcover. Grosset and Dunlap publishers.</p> <p>"The Canadian Poetry Book" J.M. Dent and Sons, poem by LMM</p> <p>"September"</p>
		<p>"Anne's House Of Dreams" Order postcard sent to reserve copies of the new book. Front and Back pictured.</p>
		<p>Frederick Stokes Company catalog 1925 with advertisement for "Emily Climbs" and picture of first edition book cover. Front cover and advertisement pictured.</p>

	<p>"Anne of Green Gables" theatre bookmark promoting the movie and LMM's books.</p> <p>"Anne of Green Gables" 1935 theatre program weekly listing.</p> <p>"Anne of Windy Poplars" theatre program weekly listing.</p>
	<p>"The People's Home Journal" premium list 1916 with portrait of LMM under an advertisement for "authors to entertain you in the coming year." Front cover and advertisement pictured.</p>
	<p>"Bucilla Waffle Weaving" 1949 with directions for an Anne of Green Gables set of luncheon placemats. Front cover and place mats pictured.</p>
	<p>1919 sheet music from silent film "Anne of Green Gables."</p>



## Christy Woster

For me, collecting Lucy Maud Montgomery began as a necessity and progressed into a passion. When I was nine years old, my Grandma Cora came to visit and she wanted me to read *Anne of Green Gables*, insisting that I check it out from my school library. She had been a teacher for many years, had often read LMM's books out loud to her students, and felt that it was time for me to read them too. Grandma Cora had always been a very avid reader, so she had loaned out all of her LMM books -- most had not been returned.

I brought *Anne of Green Gables* home from the library, but had no interest in reading it. Grandma Cora had other ideas. She sat me down and read the first few chapters out loud. I, of course, wanted to know if Anne was to stay at Green Gables, but she said I would have to finish the book myself. And so began a love of all things L.M. Montgomery which has lasted for more than forty years.

At that time, my school library had only a copy of *Anne of Green Gables* and *Anne of Avonlea*. The rest of LMM's books were out of print and not available to purchase. My family always went on a summer vacation and we usually went to Canada, so my mother and I began to search old bookstores for any copy of LMM that we could find. As each summer went by, we would pick up a few more titles. I remember paying 25 cents all the way to two dollars for some of the titles!

We were unable to find any copy of *Rilla of Ingleside* but Grandma Cora came to the rescue. She was in California visiting my aunt and found a copy of the book at their local library. She checked it out, mailed it to us and we read it quickly, so Grandma could return it before the due date.

Our family vacation was to Prince Edward Island in 1970, 1971 and 1972, -- a dream come true for me, to see the Land of Anne for myself. We found some paperback copies from the Canadian Favorite editions at a drug store in downtown Charlottetown and my mother corresponded with the owner for several years. He would mail us copies of titles that we did not have when they were reprinted in Canada.

Collecting out of necessity led to collecting to improve my collection. After my two daughters were born (Emily and Anne -- one guess who they are named after), I decided that they should each have a set of old copies of LMM. There is something so wonderful in reading an old hardcover that has a beautiful picture cover versus reading a new paperback. So, I searched old bookstores, book fairs and wrote to booksellers all over the U.S. and Canada. This was before the internet and you really had to search to find the books you wanted.

The internet has changed antiquarian book buying dramatically and eBay has opened up the whole world to collectors. Now you can find books, magazines and other related LMM collectibles without ever leaving home, and buy from places that you would never have been able to visit before.

In the beginning of my search, the condition of the book, the publisher or the lack of a dust jacket did not matter -- any copy of a title that I did not have was a treasure. Over the years I have learned the importance of a real 1st edition, dust jackets and pristine condition. One very special bookseller, who I corresponded with for years, impressed upon me the importance of "condition." He always said it was better to spend a little extra to get a fine copy, than to buy several fair-condition books.

To date, I have 460 old copies of LMM titles. I have close to 50 copies of *Anne of Green Gables* alone! I have been fortunate to find five copies published in 1908, two 3rd printings, a 6th, a 7th printing, and my most prized, a 1st edition from April, 1908. As my collection of books grew, I decided to branch out into old magazines and other items. I have 107 old magazines that have LMM stories in them.

As my collecting lead me to look for anything LMM related, I have come across some very interesting items. I was



April 1908 AGG, LMM signed book



fortunate to get a book that had been in Maud's own collection -- it is a book about the Brontës and has Maud's signature in the front with a drawing of a cat. She mentions reading this book in her journal, and it just gives me goose bumps to hold a book that she once held, read and enjoyed.

True collectors are always searching and learning. Maud wrote the poem "The Wreck of the Marco Polo," so collecting books and items related to this ship became a necessity.

Some scholars feel that Maud's Barney Snaith character in *The Blue Castle* is based on Maud's enjoyment of Charles G. D. Roberts writings, so I have collected many of his wonderful books. It has also been suggested that Maud may have chosen the name Valancy for her heroine in *The Blue Castle* after reading some of the Canadian poet/author Isabella Valancy Crawford. This prompted me to learn more about this very interesting lady and get some of her books and poems.

In *Jane of Lantern Hill*, Bernard Freeman Trotter is mentioned, a soldier poet in World War I who was killed in the war. I found a wonderful copy of his book of poems that his family had published after his death.

The various movies that have been made based on Montgomery's works also have opened up areas of collecting. Mary Miles Minter starred in the silent version of *Anne of Green Gables*, and, although the film has been lost, some movie stills (pictures) can still be found, along with sheet music that was used to accompany the silent film. Interest in Mary Miles Minter leads one to find books about her life, early Hollywood, and an unsolved murder that ended her career. In 1936 another version of *Anne of Green Gables* was filmed with the movie star Dawn O'Day playing Anne. She loved the character so much that she changed her name to Anne Shirley and credits the film with advancing her career. I have collected movie stills, lobby cards, lobby posters and magazine articles about the actress and the film, along with the same items from *Anne of Windy Poplars* that the actress Anne Shirley starred in a few years after making *Anne of Green Gables*.





I have been back to Prince Edward Island five more times since my family trips in the 1970's. I wanted my daughters to get to experience the beauty of PEI first hand, and they have fallen in love with it, too. On one trip, I was buying old post cards of PEI (and the other Maritime Provinces) and didn't realize until I got home that one of them had been written by Maud herself. I recognized Maud's writing when I read the back of the card. She had sent the card to Edith Russell -- they had worked together at *The Echo* newspaper in Halifax. Maud mentions Edith in her journals, and Edith even visited Maud once. What a find! And to think that I didn't even know I had such a treasure until months after returning home.



As I was indexing my collection so I could contribute to our Literary Society Newsletter, I realized how many Montgomery items I have. I had never before inventoried my collection and it was fun to go through it all, looking at some of the wonderful items that I have collected. When I totaled all the LMM books and related items up, I found that I have over 1,000 items. And to think that it all started with a few 25-cent tattered copies of the Anne books.

The love of Lucy Maud Montgomery leads one down many, many paths. It introduces you to other authors and poets, to history long-forgotten, and to other collectors of LMM, who I have found to be true Kindred Spirits. What better legacy can one leave to their children than that?

### **Historic recognition for old Montgomery home: The L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada is a place of national historic significance to Canada.**

Taken from:

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/>  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/credit.html>

"The national historic site at Cavendish was expanded August 11, 2006 to include the Macneill homestead where Lucy Maud Montgomery wrote *Anne of Green Gables*. The new designation also includes land surrounding the home where Montgomery lived: Lover's Lane and the Haunted Woods. Senator Don Oliver presided over a formal ceremony in Cavendish.

The Macneills will retire this year, and pass the job of caring for the homestead to their son, the latest of a long line of Macneills to care for this land, a care now recognized as having national historic importance. Now it is the surroundings Montgomery celebrated in her writings of the perky, pig-tailed Anne, the landscape, the house now known as Green Gables, and the remains of her home on the Macneill farmstead that have been elevated to new heights."



Jennie and John Macneill with Beth Cavert at the 2006 LMMI conference banquet

The plaque is located on the old path from the Homestead toward Green Gables and reads:

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"Bringing together the real and imaginary worlds of Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942), this landscape is intimately associated with her formative years and prolific career as a writer. To the northeast are the ruins of the author's home from 1876-1911, the Cavendish farmhouse where she lived with her maternal grandparents, Lucy and Alexander Macneill, following her mother's illness and death. It was here that Montgomery wrote her most famous novel, *Anne of Green Gables* (1908), and her beloved *The Story Girl* (1911), as well as numerous other stories and poems. She drew inspiration for much of her writing from these surroundings, including the house to the west, now known as Green Gables, and places such as the Haunted Wood and Lover's Lane, which are cherished by her fictional character Anne Shirley. This landscape of rolling farm fields, woodlands, and winding paths provided Montgomery with great joy in her early years, and remained dear to her throughout her life. This setting has also held special meaning for generations of her admirers, who continue to visit and reflect upon the life and work of this well-loved, internationally renowned author."



Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

## 2005 - 2006 Meetings of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society

Our society began its fifteenth year of meetings with a November meeting at Betty Heath's home in Lake Elmo. Betty's many collections (oyster plates, Hitty dolls, antique toys and accessories, hooked rugs -- most made by Betty herself) were the objects of much discussion and admiration. Betty treated the group to a delicious supper of wild-rice soup, raspberry cordial and chocolate tart.

Carolyn showed copies of the two newest LMM-related books, *The Way to Slumbertown* (first published in *Holland's Magazine* in 1916) and *A Writer's Garden*, published this summer. The latter is a book of brilliant photographs by Wayne Barrett and Anne MacKay (PEI photographers) that vividly illustrate quotations from LMM's books (selected by *Kindred Spirits* editor Sandy Wagner). This book will be treasured by Montgomery fans, gardening fans, and Island fans. Carolyn brought signed copies of the book to those who had ordered them this summer.

Several members brought "treasures" to show to the group: Christy Woster showed a copy of the catalogue from last summer's exhibition of LMM's first editions at the Nicols Museum in Calgary. Carolyn brought several versions of *To My Mother*, an anthology of poems published in 1912, in which one of LMM's poems ("Dear Beacon of My Childhood's Day") appears. The poems were compiled by Wallace and Frances Rice and "decorated" by Elizabeth Ivins Jones. The book was published with several different covers: an illustration of apple trees in bloom, a reproduction of James M. Whistler's "Study in Black and White" (commonly known as "Whistler's Mother"), and a suede cover with the title of the book.

For our spring meeting, we were invited to Pati Kachel's home in Shoreview for lunch and a program led by Christy Woster. Christy brought a collection of items related to the *Marco Polo*, subject of both a poem and essay written by LMM in her mid-teens. There was a short film about the ship and Christy had brought several items of interest to increase our knowledge and understanding of the "fastest sailing ship in the world." Next we viewed part of a silent film starring Mary Miles Minter who played "Anne of Green Gables" in a 1919 film that has been lost. Pati's buffet lunch was as delicious as it was beautiful and she even served popcorn while we watched the movies!

On January 14, LMMLS members were treated to lunch at Penny Shreck's home in St. Francis and a show of the fabulous quilts she has made through the years. In addition to the quilts, Penny also has a beautiful collection of Christmas Village houses, churches, schools, etc., that she keeps set up in her lower level. All sorts of antiques and collectibles were admired by the group. After a lunch of three soups, homemade rolls, and salads, we made our way to the nearby home of Penny's daughter, Christy Woster, for dessert (homemade cookies and toffee pudding) and a program by Christy's daughter Emily on LMM's book covers as published over the last one hundred years. Emily had prepared this program in connection with her McNair scholarship at St. Scholastica. Christy's impressive collection of LMM materials was also on display.

## News from PEI 2006

### "Anne" Musical Continues

"Anne and Gilbert," a new musical about Anne and Gilbert's romance, was premiered last summer at the Victoria Playhouse in Victoria-by-the-Sea. It was so enthusiastically received that it was re-mounted at the (larger) Summerside Harbourfront Jubilee Theatre for this summer season. A CD of the music has been released and is available for purchase.

### L. M. Montgomery Festival

Events at this year's L. M. Montgomery Festival included: the formal ceremonies dedicating the Site of LMM's Cavendish Home as a National Heritage Site; Victorian games and an ice cream social at the home site; buggy rides and a writers' workshop at "Silver Bush;" open house at the LMM Birthplace; "A Cordial Welcome" open house at "Ingleside," the LMM Heritage Museum in Park Corner (photo at right --notice the "town crier" who was there to heartily announce the event); enactment of "My Native Land Good-Bye" (short play about the beginning of LMM's trip to Prince Albert with her Grandfather Montgomery) in Kensington; and various activities at Green Gables.



Opening ceremonies were held at Avonlea Village in Cavendish and events were scheduled throughout the weekend, ending with the traditional memorial service on Sunday morning at the United Church in Cavendish and a torchlight walk from the church to the home site that evening.

### LMMLS Founder Gives Invited Address at LMM Festival

Each year at the LMM Festival, a memorial service for the Island's revered author is held at the Cavendish United Church. This year, Carolyn Strom Collins was invited to speak at the service. In consideration of the theme of the festival -- "family" -- Carolyn's talk was entitled "The Ties That Bind."

Using Montgomery's original family ties (parents and grandparents) as a starting point, Carolyn widened the circle of family to include LMM's husband and children and her closest friends; and widened it even further to include the books and authors, even the special places that influenced and shaped her character and personality. Short quotations from Montgomery's journals, novels, and essays, as well as a few lines from favourite authors were chosen to highlight different points.

### New Books and Publications

- ❖ A new, expanded edition of the *French River-Park Corner History* was published this summer. A launch for the book, illustrated with black-and-white photographs, was held in late July at the French River harbour with many Prince Edward Island officials attending. The committee for the History included Calvin Burt, Robert Montgomery (of the L. M. Montgomery Heritage Museum), Enid Mackay, Ruby Cousins, and Grace Macleod. Family histories were updated and many stories of early French River-Park Corner days were compiled for this edition. Of special interest to LMM fans are entries for the Campbell, Montgomery, and Townsend families. Copies of the book (\$25) are available from members of the committee.
- ❖ A special issue of *CREArTA: L. M. Montgomery's Interior and Exterior Landscapes* (Journal of the Centre for Research and Education in the Arts from the University of Technology, Sydney) features a selection of seventeen papers from the 2004 LMM International Conference, including "The Readings of a Writer: The Literary Landscapes Created by L. M. Montgomery's Love of Literature," by our own Emily Woster. Emily was still an undergraduate at St. Scholastica, Duluth, when she presented a shorter version of this paper at the symposium. Congratulations, Emily!
- ❖ *After Green Gables: L.M. Montgomery's Letters to Ephraim Weber, 1916-1941*

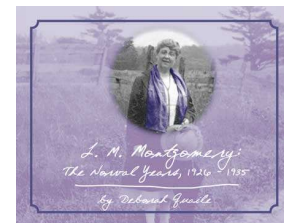
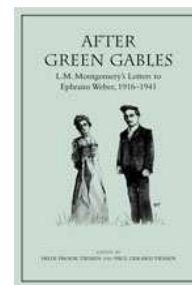


Read more of the letters from LMM to her pen friend, Ephraim Weber, which continue the correspondence published up until 1911 in *The Green Gables Letters*.

- ❖ L.M. Montgomery: The Norval Years, 1925-1935  
© 2006 Deborah Quaille, ISBN 0-9733911-1

Quaille gives us a very full account of LMM's years in Norval along with lots of pictures, clippings, and anecdotes in scrapbook form. [contact@wordbirdpress.ca](mailto:contact@wordbirdpress.ca)  
Wordbird Press, PO Box 245, Ayton, ON, Canada, N0G1C0

- ❖ *Trouble with Faces: Short Stories* by Trinna S. Frever.  
A frequent and favourite presenter at the LMM International Symposium, Trinna Frever has published a collection of four short stories -- *Trouble with Faces* -- with the Michigan Writers Cooperative Press (2006). "These stories combine the perceptual acuity of the visual artist with the probing curiosity about human nature of the fiction writer," according to Stephen Lewis, author of *Murder on Old Mission*. Trinna is a lecturer at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- ❖ *Penguin Group (Canada)* will publish a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of *Anne of Green Gables* with the original illustrations as well as a prequel, *Before Green Gables*, written by Governor General's Literary Award finalist Budge Wilson. In addition, they are publishing *Imagining Anne: The Scrapbooks of L.M. Montgomery* (from the years 1893 to 1908) in March 2008.



#### And watch for:

*Through Lover's Lane: L. M. Montgomery's Photography and Visual Imagination* by Elizabeth Epperly. Available in softcover January 29 (\$30) and in hardcover February 16 (\$65), according to the University of Toronto Press website.



#### Plagiarism or Deadly Parallel? © Christy Woster

As I was re-reading Montgomery's journals, I came across an entry that piqued my interest. In *The Selected Journals of L. M. Montgomery*, edited by Rubio and Waterston, Vol. 3 (1921-1929), page 160, Maud wrote:

The Manse, Leaskdale,

Lately I have been corresponding with Mrs. Hotaling, editor of a N. Y. magazine regarding a curious case of parallelism. She wrote me a distracted letter several weeks ago, saying that the editor of *Modern Priscilla* had recently written her, that one of his readers had written him, that her story "Avis Lindsay" published in the January *Priscilla*, was simply the plot of *Anne's House of Dreams*. Mrs. Hotaling was in a bad way, and assured me she had never even read *Anne's House of Dreams* and had taken the idea of her story from a news clipping regarding a shell shocked soldier. I knew quite well that there could be no plagiarism for Mrs. Hotaling is quite incapable of that and besides, morality apart, has too much sense to steal a story from so recent and well-known a book.

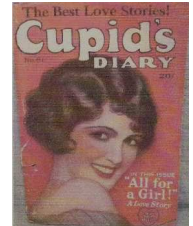


I wrote her and assured her that I believed in her entire innocence. And I do still. Yet, when I read the story - she sent it to me - I was almost "dumfounded." It was a deadly parallel sure enough, and I do not wonder that the unknown reader who protested thought it must have been stolen. Not only was the central idea the same but setting and characters had a marked resemblance. Perhaps Mrs. Hotaling's subconscious mind fished my ideas out of the pool of world subconsciousness

I wondered what the story was about, and set out to find it. Maud mentioned the title of the magazine and that it had been published in January, so onto the internet I went and located an issue. When it arrived, I quickly paged through it and found the story titled "Avis Lindsay." by Amita Fairgrieve. The story did bear a striking resemblance to the story line of Leslie Moore and her disabled husband, Dick, in Maud's *Anne's House of Dreams*.

I did some research on Amita Fairgrieve. In her professional life she used this name, but in the early 1920's she married Russell E. Hotaling. She worked for several different magazine publishers. In the March and June 1924 issues of *Cupid's Diary*, she is listed as the editor. *Cupid's Diary* advertised itself as containing "clean love stories." In 1921 she was working for Street and Smith and created the pulp magazine *Love Story* which began as a quarterly but ended up as a weekly publication. By 1938 *Love Story* had produced many imitators, including *True Love Stories*, *Pocket Love*, *Romantic Range* and *Real Love*.

I searched old newspapers for a mention of Amita Fairgrieve and found several articles. In the Oct. 13th, 1934 issue of *The Mansfield News*, Mansfield, Ohio the following column appeared:



"NotThat it Matters" (Not in the Least) First Love is Back  
By Jane Williams

First love is staging a comeback. And by that I mean that short stories dealing with "first love" are becoming more popular every day, with even the blasé weekly magazines giving them serious consideration. The kind of short stories that might have been written by Charles Garvice, Bertha M. Clay, Laura Jean Libby, Mary J. Holmes and Agnes May Fleming, had they lived to write in the Flaming Thirties.

My authority for this statement is Amita Fairgrieve, editor-in-chief of the *Munsey All-Story Magazine*, which has a tremendous following. It is one of the more popular "pulp" magazines, which is published in New York on lower Broadway, and read by school girls, romance-starved girl workers and housewives whose lives might be pretty drab without a sight of someone else's romance.

"Our stories must all have a heroine who is young, sweet, pure, and fairly innocent." Miss Fairgrieve told me. "The hero must be thoroughly decent, and their romance must be of the first-love variety. Our heroines must feel rather than think, in other words, revert to the type of the Sentimental Seventies when girls were emotional rather than intelligent. What kind of men do our readers demand? That's easy - cave men, of course. Men must be strong and women sweet - they don't like their men sweet any more than they want their women strong.

Which is along the line of something I wrote here several months ago: That fiction readers are so surfeited with heroines who are Fair, Forty and Frisky that the pendulum is bound to swing the other way before long and we'll be having our heroines with "love brimmed eyes" and "dewy, un-kissed lips." Writers may even go so far as to turn out virtuous heroines for a change.

In the April 10th, 1938 issue of the Hammond, Indiana paper, an article discusses the double role of woman, at home and in the work place:

Amita Fairgrieve, in private life, Mrs. Russell Hotaling, has 2 sons. She has more pleasure in her boys, she believes, than home-women do, because the time they have together does not permit her to get on their nerves, nor they on hers. "But any woman who says she runs 2 jobs," Ms. Fairgrieve explains, "an office and a home, is either fooling herself or trying to fool you. I have a jewel of a housekeeper and I don't pretend we could get along without her. A very high type of woman is available today for positions that were once thought menial. But, I don't for a minute consider that I run two jobs-she runs hers and I run mine."

A reading of Fairgrieve's story and *Anne's House of Dreams* does show similarities. In *Anne's House of Dreams*, Owen Ford is a writer and the hero in *Avis Lindsay* is also in an artistic profession -- an artist. Both men "gasped" at the sight of the beautiful heroine. Neither of the men can believe that the beautiful woman can be married. *Anne's House of Dreams* takes place in Four Winds Harbor, PEI. *Avis Lindsay* takes place in Hidden Harbor, Maine.

In both stories the heroine was forced to marry by her family, Leslie to Dick and Avis to Dan. Both of these men were thought to be lost at sea, but Dick is found in Havana with a letter in his pocket addressed to Leslie and Dan is

found on the other side of the world with a wallet in his pocket that identifies him as Avis's husband, Dan. Both men have had their "heads bashed in."

Both men are returned to their wives. Dick was just like a child, and Dan was like a three year old. In both stories Dick/Dan were abusive and mean before their accidents, but Leslie and Avis have a strong sense of duty and will not leave their husbands even though they feel their lives are tortured and loveless.

Both men are given a chance to have surgery that could return them to normal, and in both cases the heroine feels that her husband deserves the chance, even though her life could be made even more difficult if the surgery is a success.

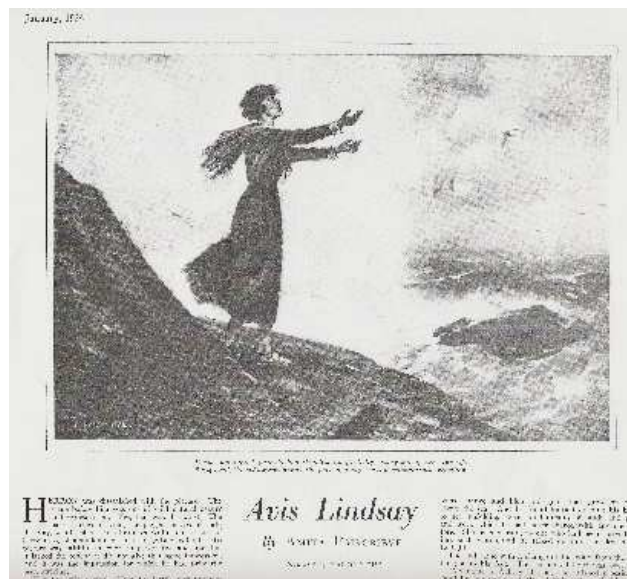
Of course, in the end Dick turns out to be his cousin George and Dan turns out to be someone else, who just happened to have the real Dan's coat and wallet. In both stories the heroine's real husband is, in fact, dead and the ladies are set free from the terrible burden they have endured for so long.

In Maud's journal entry, Maud seems quite sure that Mrs. Hotaling was incapable of plagiarism and had too much sense to steal so recent and well known a story. After reading some of Amita's quotes from the newspaper articles, it does seem that her writing was on a very different level than Montgomery's, but one does wonder why no more was made of this issue. It certainly seems apparent that the Avis Lindsay story was taken from Montgomery's *Anne's House of Dreams*.

Part of the reason that Montgomery just let this issue go was perhaps due to all the other stressors going on at the time. She and Ewan were involved in a lawsuit brought about by Ewan's car accident involving Marshall Pickering. Maud also was dealing with legal issues with the Page Publishing Company and continued to worry about Ewan's fragile mental condition and bouts of melancholia. Maud, herself, was having health issues and suffering from a "nervous condition."

Montgomery may also have felt she had little to worry about from a writer of Amita Fairgrieve Hotaling's caliber, and that there was no use making a fuss over this by bringing it out into the public view. Even though Maud must have felt great confidence in her writing and her ability to sell books by 1924, she was still not sure of her place as an author in the public's eye. In an entry in her journal dated January 20th, 1924, she states, "I can't afford to damn the public - I must cater to them for awhile yet."

So, it is up to the reader to decide. Was it plagiarism or Mrs. Hotaling's subconscious mind that created "Avis Lindsay"? Or perhaps it is true that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.



The L.M. Montgomery Literary Society was started by Carolyn Strom Collins and Christina Wyss Eriksson in 1991. *The Shining Scroll* is edited by Mary Beth Cavert and Carolyn Collins. Distribution is by request only, contact [Bcavert@aol.com](mailto:Bcavert@aol.com).



