Dr. Dorothy Lampard

Dr. Dorothy Lampard started her career as a one-room school teacher in the 1930s. After training in Winnipeg, Chicago and Birmingham, she became recognized as an expert in remedial education, with a lifelong focus on reading problems. An avid reader herself, she became the first Canadian director of the prestigious International Reading Association. Following completion of her Ed.D., she transferred to the newly established University of Lethbridge as a founding faculty member and senator.

A superb diagnostician, Dr. Lampard was noted for her generosity of time, knowledge and books, her lifelong dedication and pioneering work in reading, her dry humour and a lack of extravagance in her choice of words. After completing 51 years of teaching excellence and 36 years in her reading subspecialty with numerous publications, guide books, curriculum changes and courses to her credit, she returned to Edmonton and was honoured with the Queen’s Jubilee Award and Alberta Award of Excellence.

Enabled by a gift from her nephew, Dr. Robert Lampard, the Dr. Dorothy Lampard Reading Room at the University of Lethbridge honours this incredible woman and the passion for reading and knowledge she instilled in generations of students.

For more information or to access pieces from the Dr. Robert Lampard Collection, please contact the University of Lethbridge.

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The Dr. Dorothy Lampard Reading Room
ENABLED BY A GIFT FROM THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF DR. ROBERT LAMPARD

Dr. Dorothy Lampard made history as a founding member of the Faculty of Education. Fifty years later, her legacy continues with a donation in her memory to the University of Lethbridge Library.

The gift of more than 6,700 volumes from the private collection of her nephew, Dr. Robert Lampard, encompasses an eclectic array of Canadiana and provides the foundation for the establishment of the Dorothy Lampard Reading Room, a rare-book reading room within the University Library.
The provenance of my collection
By Dr. Robert Lampard

Like many collections, the origin of this one can be traced to familial roots and the stimulus that comes from being surrounded by book-lined shelves at home.

With a grandfather who was a Presbyterian minister, an aunt whose specialty was reading, and a mother who read to you at bedtime, the foundation was laid. Having a naturalist writer – Kerry Wood – as a neighbour and a grandmother whose closest friend was the local librarian, meant reading became an integral part of growing up. Membership in the local library as a youth, and having a teacher who required reading a book per week, all contributed. Unfortunately, satisfactory marks in English didn’t follow.

Sustained interest was postponed while studying medicine, and not resurrected until a knee injury threatened my ambulatory future in 1971. Fortuitously, spending one evening a week with the medical scholar, Dr. Earle Scarlett, redirected me back to that forgotten interest – books and reading.

The collection began with the Rocky Mountains. “If you can’t climb, you can read about those who did,” Dr. Scarlett said. Then a friend introduced me to the Champlain Society and I became one of only five members in Alberta. It wasn’t long before the medical scholar, Dr. Earle Scarlett, redirected me back to that forgotten interest – books and reading.

The breakthrough came in 1979 when my University of Alberta medical research companion, Dr. James Goodwin, called with the message, “collectors are born not made, and there are none in medical research.” My University of Alberta mountain pass (8 vols), to Grant MacEwan’s 49 books. The breakthrough came in 1979 when my University of Alberta medical research companion, Dr. James Goodwin, called with the message, “collectors are born not made, and there are none in medical research.” My University of Alberta mountain pass (8 vols), to Grant MacEwan’s 49 books.

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As time passed and the library reached 4,000 volumes plus journals; it took over the indoor swimming pool. The question of what do you do with it arose. In 1981, I joined the AMA Archives committee and secured the support of Dr. Hugh Arnold to incorporate their history arm, the AMF. A decade later the president asked me to write a column for the provincial doctors’ magazine. When the local author produced the first one, every line had to be corrected. That catapulted me into the writing field and relying on my own library.

To date, I have written three family, three Rotary and Medical books, coauthored two more and have four in process. A copy of each one is included in the collection, including the Occasional Publication on southern Alberta Doctors by the Lethbridge Historical Society under Carly Stewart – #43.

The real question of what to do with the collection has confronted me since 1992. The godsend came two years ago with a call to Mike Perry, archivist at the University of Lethbridge. He was immediately interested in improving the vestments of his office in the rare-book room. Later, I would learn how perfect a fit it was – 2017 was the University’s 50th anniversary and also marked 50 years since my Aunt Dorothy Lampard became a member of the Alberta Historical Record Society, Alberta History and the Canadian Alpine Journal eventually appeared on the shelves. The opportunity to secure the business book collection of Jake Moore the President of Labatt’s provided another side theme.

I am pleased and honoured that now other researchers will have access to the key historical prairie books dating back to the first one by the British Parliament in 1749. The chase is now over and my avocation now has a new and welcoming home.