



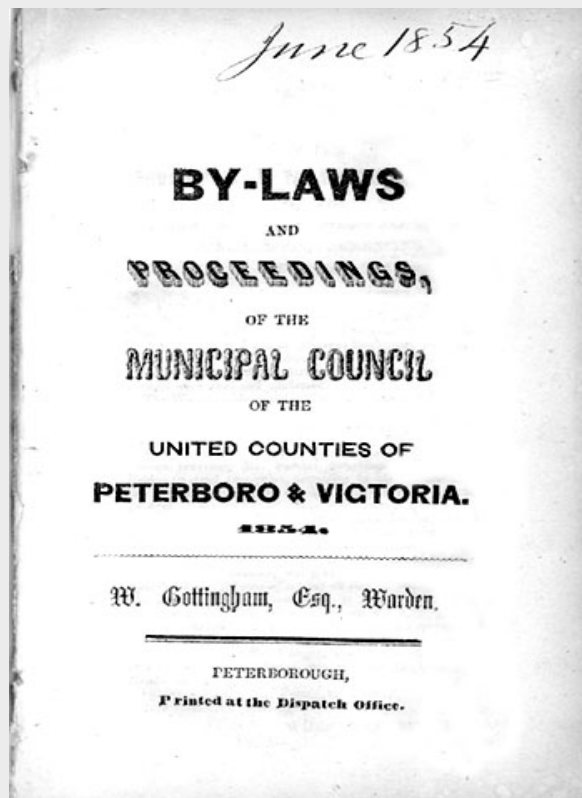
# TRENT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES NEWS

Number 9, March 2004

## ***“Friends of the Bata Library”***

The Friends of the Bata Library has provided support for the Library including the Archives for many years. An organization of Trent University, the Friends includes volunteers from the University and from the Peterborough and area community who are dedicated to supporting the Thomas J. Bata Library. Founded in 1978, the Friends' inaugural meeting was hosted by the University's Board of Governors in the Library's A.J.M. Smith Room. Earlier that year, Professor Graham Cogley of the Geography Department had put forth the idea that the needs of the Library could be furthered by enlisting the help of the many people who were interested in it. The newly established organization set forth to “promote the welfare of the Library (a) by providing through their fees a fund for the development of its collections; (b) by making and encouraging gifts and bequests of book, manuscripts, etc., to the Library; (c) by fostering interest in the life and work of the Library and in its collections through their meetings and through the publication of a Bulletin.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Friends of the Bata Library*, [Bulletin] No. 3 May 1981



An item purchased for the Archives by the Friends

Amongst the many maps and rare books that the Friends has purchased for the Library and the Archives are: *A Map of the Province of Upper Canada and the Adjacent Territories in North America*, James G. Chewett, 1862; *Lost in the Backwoods*, Catharine Parr Traill, 1884; *The Canadian Horticulturalist and Beekeeper*, Peterborough, 1913-1921; and the papers of Flavelle Ltd., a general store that opened in Lindsay, Ontario in 1860. The Friends has provided funds for items that the University otherwise would not have been able to afford. For example, funding from the Friends has allowed the Archives to make prints of the glass negatives in our heavily used Boyd collection. The Friends, too, has hosted several guest speakers on a wide range of topics, usually with a book theme, and even helped the Library organize a huge book sale. This issue pays tribute to the Friends' encouragement, support, donations of time and of important historical collections.

# And speaking of friends...

We have three special Friends who have given a great deal to the Archives over the decades. We rely on their friendship and support to this day.

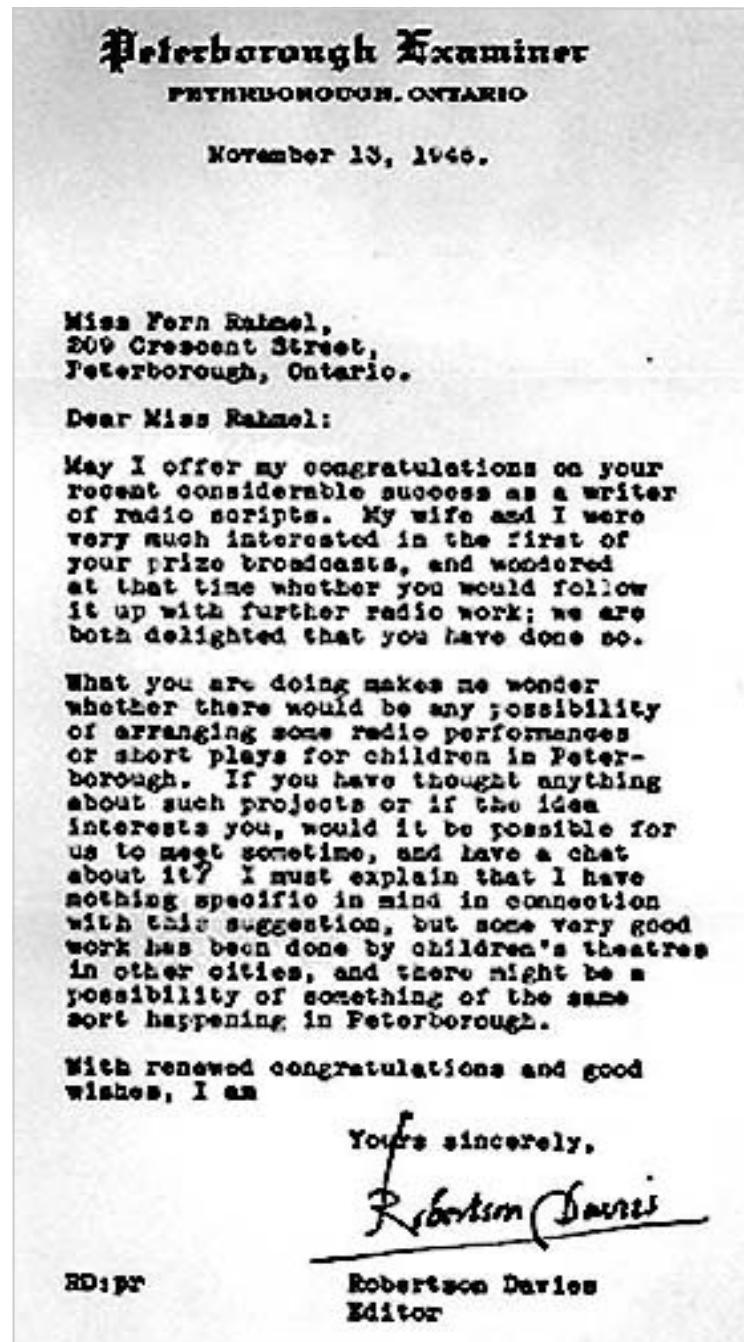
## Fern Rahmel



Fern Rahmel, Summer 2003  
Photograph by Bernadine Dodge

Dr. Fern Rahmel, educator, playwright, and journalist, was born in Peterborough and was a teacher and administrator in the Peterborough school system for a number of years. She wrote children's educational radio plays for CBC, book reviews for the Peterborough *Examiner*, was an active participant in theatre, and published an occasional paper on F.M. de la Fosse, Peterborough's first librarian. Dr. Rahmel is perhaps less famous for her prize-winning roses and peonies.

In 1970, Dr. Rahmel was awarded a honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Trent University, and has been a member of the Friends of the Bata Library since its inception in 1978.



## Quentin Brown

Mr. Quentin Brown, researcher and writer, was born in Toronto and received his B.A. from McGill University and M.A. in dramatic arts from the University of North Carolina. He worked at the Fairchild Aircraft Company, Crawley Films in Ottawa, the Educational Development Centre in Boston, and the University of Manitoba as Director of Instructional Media. More recently, he was the editor of “*This Green and Pleasant Land: Chronicles of Cavan Township*,” produced by the Millbrook and Cavan Historical Society. Mr. Brown has also been an active member of the Friends of the Bata Library since its inception in 1978.

Further to his work with the Friends, Mr. Brown was a volunteer at Trent University Archives from 1987 to 1999, processing an unbelievable 107 collections during those years! One of the collections he processed was the Hall, Gillespie law firm *fonds*, a massive 8.5 meters in shelf-length; this he did to the item level, a process that could never have been accomplished by Archives staff. Mr. Brown has also donated a number of items to the Archives, most notably, a photograph collection that includes a daguerreotype, a very rare photographic format to be found today.



**Quentin Brown, Winter 1992**  
Photograph by Trent University Archives



Quentin Brown at work in the Archives  
on the Hall, Gillespie papers

### ***Special Notice: Congratulations Jean!***

A longstanding and dedicated member of the Friends of the Bata Library and special friend to us in the Archives, Jean Murray Cole, recently became President of the Ontario Historical Society. We are also very pleased to learn that she will receive an honorary degree at Trent University in May, in recognition of her contribution to the historical knowledge of Peterborough County, the Kawartha region, and Canada.

## *Gordon Roper*

Professor Gordon Roper was born in Brantford, Ontario and taught English at Yale University, University of Chicago, University of Toronto, and at Trent University from 1969 to 1975. A renowned scholar, Professor Roper has written extensively on Herman Melville, Mark Twain, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Robertson Davies. He was a founding member of the Melville Society, and an advisor to the Centre for the Editing of Early Canadian Texts. In March, 1976, a symposium on Canadian Writing was held at Trent University in honour of Professor Roper's retirement. Noted speakers, such as Margaret Laurence, Robertson Davies, and Milton Wilson, expressed their good wishes and reminisced about their time spent with Professor Roper.

Professor Roper is a honorary member of the Friends of the Bata Library, and has donated a number of valuable collections to the Archives, most notably correspondence with Robertson Davies, and, together with Mrs. Helen Roper, the art



**Gordon Roper, 1987**



A pen and ink drawing of the Court House and St. John's Church, Peterborough, 1839, by land surveyor, Edward C. Caddy. Donated to Trent University Archives by Professor Roper and Mrs. Helen Roper, granddaughter of the artist.

Newsletter Editor: Jodi Aoki

**Hours of Operation:**

Monday to Friday - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please make an appointment to ensure access. We are located on the first floor of Bata Library.

TRENT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES THOMAS J. BATA LIBRARY PETERBOROUGH, ON CANADA K9J 7B8

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