

Friends of the Archives Newsletter

Vol. 17, no. 1, May 2009.

A KNIGHT TO REMEMBER: Sir Roger Penrose, FRS, distinguished guest speaker at FOA Fundraiser.



Young Roger was used as the intermediary running back and forth with the latest ‘move’. “I thought this was perfectly normal,” he quipped. (Jonathan Penrose was later to become Britain’s chess champion ten times.)

Sir Roger Penrose, eminent mathematician and cosmologist, gave a delightful, at times whimsical reminiscence celebrating his father, Lionel Penrose, at the Fundraiser dinner held at the University of Toronto Faculty Club on Monday, March 23. The event was in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, and was chaired by Don Wasylenki, Prof. and Chair of the Dept. of Psychiatry. Proceeds from the event supported the Dr. JDM Griffin Bursary.

Lionel Penrose was a psychiatrist, research scientist and pioneer geneticist who was Director of Research for the Department of Health in Ontario, 1939-1945. His life and work were highlighted in a themed display put together by Thelma Wheatley, member of FOA, but Sir Roger brought the family to life with many amusing anecdotes. He recalled country walks with his father, whom he called “Lionel”, the three brothers working out chess moves as they went along.

Deemed one of the ten most intelligent people in the world, Sir Roger delighted guests by recounting how, when the family moved to London, Ontario, for the duration of the Second World War, young Roger was moved back a grade because, as he said: “I couldn’t do mental arithmetic fast enough”! Sir Roger described Lionel Penrose as an attentive father, especially interested in Roger’s mathematical development but somewhat lacking in emotional empathy for a boy’s more mundane needs such as putting up a tent in the garden – for that the children turned to mother, “Margaret”.

Father and son grew closer later in life, when both shared an interest in intriguing puzzles, working together on what became known as the “Penrose Triangle”, after admiring the work of artist Escher. Both are Fellows of Britain’s prestigious Royal Society, (FRS) which has inducted such illustrious scholars as Sir Isaac Newton. Sir Roger noted wryly the motto of the Society: “*Take nobody’s word for it*”.

Other highlights. . .



“Was it a rat I saw?”

Anthony Feinstein, Prof. of Psychiatry at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, delighted guests with his playing of a palindrome composed by Dr. Lionel Penrose, in a musical interlude during the evening. A palindrome is a piece of music that may be played forwards – and then backwards! Dr Feinstein was beautifully accompanied by **Benny Wong** at the piano.

“Freud’s Post-Card”!

Sir Roger Penrose was intrigued to see on the display board a facsimile of Freud’s post-card to his father, Dr. Lionel Penrose, while a student at university. Written in German, the words translate as: “*Why didn’t you ask her about her sex life?*” A copy of the post-card, acquired by Cyril Greenland from the University of London, is in CAMH Archives.



Dr. Anne Bassett introduced guest speaker Sir Roger Penrose. Appointed in 2002 as Canada Research Chair in Schizophrenia Genetics at CAMH and U of T., Dr Bassett acknowledged **Dr. Lionel Penrose** as influential in her career because he “used traditional genetic approaches with a modern twist.” His 1940-44 study as Ontario’s Director of Psychiatric Research involved 5,000 pairs of relatives with psychiatric illness. With assistance from the pre-CAMH Archives, Dr. Bassett was able to access original data from Dr Penrose’s research.



President's Message

It has certainly been an eventful winter, with both the temperature and the financial world sinking all too rapidly in the West.

As with investors everywhere, we watched in horror as our investment in the Toronto Community Foundation (the Hewton Fund) produced no revenue. Nevertheless, although retrenchment was necessary, we did award three bursaries for 2009.

Our major undertaking was the Penrose Dinner and Fundraiser in collaboration with the University of Toronto Department of Psychiatry. This was a very successful evening and I would like to thank: **Cyril Greenland**, whose brainchild it was; **John Court**, archivist, who helped organise the event (brilliantly as always); and **Thelma Wheatley**, for the superb themed display of Dr Penrose's life and work. The event raised \$4,800 for the Griffin Fund.

On May 20 at 6pm the Annual General Meeting will take place at CAMH. Everyone is welcome to attend. Have a great summer – we all deserve it!

Vivienne.

Book Review

The Age of Anxiety: A History of America's Turbulent Affair with Tranquilizers. Andrea Tone. Basic Books, New York, 2009.

Andrea Tone, Research Chair in the Social History of Medicine, McGill University, is a distinguished scholar. Her new book, *The Age of Anxiety*, is diligently researched. Pitched to the American market, its Canadian content is in danger of being overlooked. Of interest to us at CAMH is Tone's recognition of the contribution of the late Dr. Ruth Cooperstock (1928-1985) who was employed at the former A.R.F. as a medical sociologist. Her pioneer research on women and pharmaceuticals, not always welcomed by her colleagues, earned her an international reputation and a joint appointment at the Dept. of Behavioural Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Her outstanding contribution to the health and well-being of women was acknowledged by the Ruth Cooperstock memorial lectures.



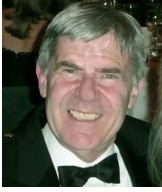
Cyril Greenland.

Hewton and Griffin Bursaries 2009

Kendra Hawke : “The collaboration between Christian temperance groups and medicine in the treatment of alcoholism/inebriety in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.” Griffin Bursary.

Fatimah Jackson - “Culturally-specific mental health-care services for ethno-cultural communities in Canada, and the potentialities of an emerging service model for Canadians of African descent.” Griffin Bursary.

Danielle Terbenche – “The professionalization of psychiatry in nineteenth-century Ontario, focussing on the medical superintendents heading the province's four major asylums at Toronto, Kingston, London, and Hamilton.” Hewton Bursary.



Archivist's Update

by John Court

The CAMH Redevelopment Project's phase 1B, now under way, will entail replacing the present Administration Building with several smaller-scale, contemporary structures.

In advance of demolition, the Archives – as well as our partner, the Health Sciences Library, and all of the building's other units and offices - have begun a phased relocation to interim quarters. By this autumn, the Library will have relocated to Queen Street's Unit Four, while the Archives will resume with climate-controlled storage in Unit One.

Please stay abreast of the Redevelopment Project's wide-ranging overall vision and current progress by linking to updates via the CAMH website www.camh.net.



More Highlights. . .



Who's the bagpiper?

None other than Cyril Greenland's grandson, Angus Benderavage, piping in the Head Table at our FOA Fundraiser.

To view more photos of the event, link to the Department of Psychiatry's web-site:
<http://www.utpsychiatry.ca/News09/apr/apr17-09.asp#Mar23-09-PenroseDinner-pics> .

Photos courtesy of photographer Tom Lackey, and our co-sponsor, the Department of Psychiatry.

Friends of the Archives

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