

Nomination of Yves Tessier for Honorary Membership in ACMLA/ACACC 2014

It is with great pleasure that we nominate **Yves Tessier**, for Honorary Membership in the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives /Association des cartotheques et archives cartographiques du Canada. Yves was one of the great pioneer map librarians in Canada, and one of the four founding members of ACML/ACC in 1967. He had a profound effect on the shaping of the profession in Canada throughout his long career. It was Yves, at the very first conference who proposed proper French terminology for map librarianship coining the new terms “Cartothécaire”, and “Cartothéconomie” to complement the then recently established term “Cartothèque”.

From that first meeting, Yves was actively involved in all aspects of the Association. In 1969, he organized the third conference of the new association at Laval and arranged for the first joint session between ACML/ACC and the Special Libraries Association, Geography and Map Division. This meeting established a long tradition of joint sessions with related associations. In that same year, Yves, with Joan Winearls, compiled the first directory of Canadian map collections, an important initiative that promoted sharing of knowledge and expertise among map librarians across Canada. In 1973, Yves compiled the first directory of map libraries in Quebec (1973).

One of Yves particular interests was the evolving field of computer cataloguing for maps and the development of a National Union Catalogue for Maps (NUC). Yves became the NUC committee Chair in 1970. It was Yves' vision that the project include: the standardization of cataloguing rules; be automated from the beginning; and be administered by a national archival or library institution. This vision was realized when the rules were codified under the National Archives of Canada, and later, in cooperation with the National Library, the National Union Catalogue itself was finally achieved. In 1970-71, Yves developed a system of automated cataloguing of maps in the Laval collection, called CARTESS. CARTESS was one of the very earliest automated map cataloguing systems in Canada. In 1986 at a meeting of Quebec map libraries, Yves spoke about the use of microcomputers for the bibliographic control of collections, this at a time when few map libraries even had computers.

In addition to his NUC activities, Yves was also involved in other Association initiatives. He was a member of Directory Committee and the Map Microreproduction Committee; he functioned as the francophone coordinator for the Association and in the early 90's acted as Chair of the ACMLA-NAC Liaison Committee (1992). He was a contributing editor to the Bulletin for several years and the regional editor for Quebec in the late 1980s. Yves' extensive contributions to the Association were recognized when he received the ACMLA Honours Award for Outstanding Achievement in 1991.

Collaboration and cooperation were themes that defined Yves' career. His 1974 paper on cartographers and their organizations called for increasing cooperation between the cartographic community and map librarians. In a 1978 Bulletin article he called for cooperation between map librarians and map archives and identified some areas of potential collaboration such as working toward a better understanding of historical sources. As Chair of the ACMLA-NAC Liaison

Committee he organized several meetings with senior management of the NAC to explore ways in which the two organizations could work together to benefit the Canadian map user community, especially through enhanced access to Canadian maps and atlases.

This interest in collaboration is best illustrated by his work with Quebec map libraries. Yves was the doyen of map librarianship in Quebec, organizing Quebec map librarians so they had a forum for regularly meeting and sharing knowledge. He assisted colleagues in finding out what local maps were available and put pressure on provincial and local governments to distribute their mapping to Quebec map libraries. He even produced a map showing the size of Quebec university map collections, possibly the first visualization of map collections in Canada. He regularly reported on the state of government cartography in Quebec and also the state of Quebec university map collections. For many years he edited and published *Cartologica*, a useful aid for the Laval cartographic community and beyond.

Yves graduated with a B.A. in history from Laval in 1962, and in 1964 was hired as the first map librarian at Laval University. In 1969 he obtained a BLS from the University of Ottawa followed two years later by an M.A. in History (Laval). He also holds a Masters in Public Administration (1982).

Throughout his career, Yves willingly shared his knowledge and expertise through teaching (he lectured at Laval in education technology, geography and computer science), and presentations at conferences, meetings and workshops. Yves published extensively – besides papers in the ACMLA *Bulletin*, he also published in many cartographic and geographical journals (*The Cartographer*, *Cahiers de géographie de Québec*, *Revue de carto-Québec*, *Documentation et bibliothèques*). His range of topics is impressive: computer cataloguing, microreproduction for maps, (Laval's CARTESS, Cartomatique cataloguing systems, and the use of MIRACODE to reproduce the maps on microfilm), recommendations for selecting basic cartographic collections, access to government mapping, the cartographic community, early maps (acquisition, conservation, cataloguing, bibliography, microreproduction and facsimile publishing) and library orientation for maps. He compiled several bibliographies of maps and atlases including a union list of atlases in Quebec university libraries. One of his finest endeavours was the production in 1992 of a full-scale reproduction, meticulously printed on acid-free paper, of Champlain's magnum opus *Carte de la Nouvelle-France* (1632).

The Association owes much to Yves Tessier. His career was defined by vision, leadership and collaboration with his colleagues across Canada and within Quebec which greatly helped to develop Canadian map librarianship.

Nominated by
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