

## Introduction to W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections, Douglas Library



Douglas Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (93 University Avenue)  
<https://library.queensu.ca/locations/wd-jordan-rare-books-special-collections>



The screenshot shows the website's header with navigation links: Home, Locations & Hours, Locations, W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections. The main heading is "W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections". Below this is a large photograph of the library interior with people working at tables. To the right of the photo is a yellow box with "Today's Hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm" and a "More Hours" button. Below the photo is a paragraph of text describing the library's location and collections. At the bottom right, there is a "Chat With Us" button and a "Next >" button.

Home / Locations & Hours / Locations / W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections

## W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections

Today's Hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm [More Hours](#)

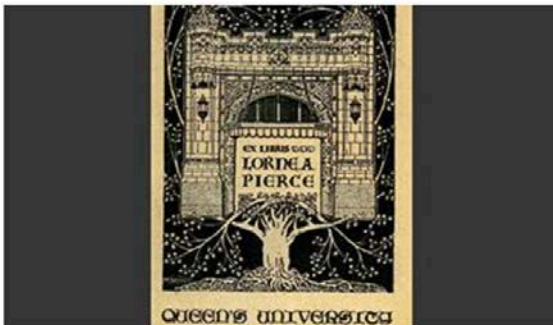
W.D. Jordan Rare Books and Special Collections is located in the historic Douglas Library and operates as a research and teaching resource for students, faculty, and the larger community. We preserve and provide access to a variety of materials, including rare books, maps, posters, and our impressive Edith and Lorne Pierce Canadiana collection. Our collections cover all subjects, including: astronomy, natural history, classics, modern languages, literature, politics and history.

Follow us on Instagram / Call: 613-533-2839 / Email: [Jordan.library@queensu.ca](mailto:Jordan.library@queensu.ca)

[Chat With Us](#) [Next >](#)

A repository of Canadian Studies books, journals, and pamphlets

## Edith and Lorne Pierce Collection of Canadiana



**Collection Type:**

■ Canadiana

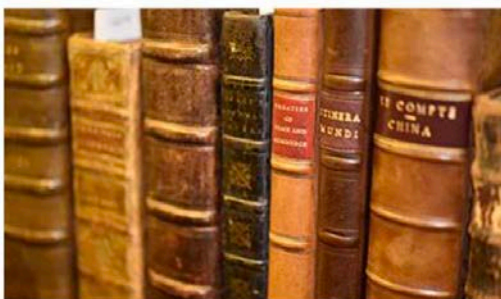
**Location:**

W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections

**Special Collection:** Yes

The Edith and Lorne Pierce Collection of Canadiana was established at Queen's by Dr. Lorne Pierce (1890-1961) and his wife, Edith Chown. Lorne Pierce devoted his life to the promotion of Canadian literature.

## Schulich-Woolf Rare Book Collection



**Collection Type:**

■ Rare Books

**Location:**

W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections

**Special Collection:** Yes

[View the Collection](#)

Distinguished Canadian philanthropist and entrepreneur Seymour Schulich and Queen's University Principal, Daniel Woolf have partnered to gift their personal collections of rare books to Queen's. In recognition of their generosity and vision, the university has established the Schulich-Woolf Rare Book Collection, which resides in Douglas Library, and combines more than 400 volumes from the personal collections of Mr. Schulich and Principal Woolf. Mr. Schulich has also made an additional \$1-million gift towards the establishment, growth, and preservation of the collection. The strength of the Schulich-Woolf Rare Book Collection is history and culture of the 16th through 18th centuries. There are also fine examples of books on other topics including Canadiana, travel and exploration.

## Book History, or books as historical evidence

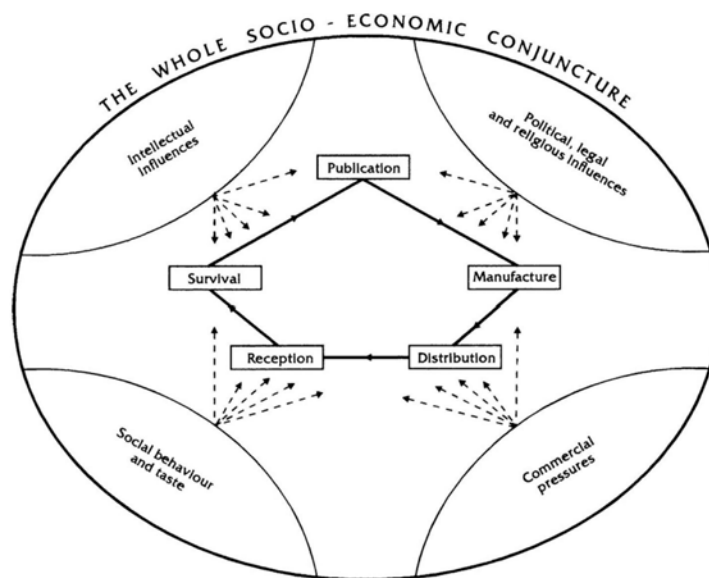
**“Books do not merely recount history; they make it”**

R. Darnton, “What is the history of books?” *Daedalus* 111.3 (1982) 81

**“The ways in which books are made, owned, written in, mutilated, and bound all add something to the documentary heritage which is central to the record of human civilization.”**

D. Pearson, *Books as History: the importance of books beyond their texts* (2012) 4-5

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T. R. Adams and N. Barker, “A New Model for the Study of the Book” in: *A Potencie of Life: books in society* (1993)

## What are Rare Books and Special Collections?

- Age alone does not make a book special or rare
- Rarity depends on the importance of the text, physical characteristics, condition of the book, demand, provenance, signatures, inscriptions, marginal annotations



## How do rare and special books come to reside at Queen's?

- **Gifts-in-kind**; donation offers are considered first by a librarian/curator for suitability/relevance
- **Endowed funds**; monetary investable assets which can be spent consistent with the wishes of the donor
- **Increased scarcity and monetary value over time**; some books become rare over time and are transferred out of circulating collections



## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections



## Robertson Davies Collection

Born and raised in Ontario, Davies was educated at Upper Canada College, Queen's University at Kingston and Balliol College, Oxford. During his time in Kingston, he cultivated his interest in journalism as an active contributor to *The Journal*, the Queen's University student newspaper. Robertson Davies had three successive careers: as an actor with the Old Vic Company in England; as publisher of the *Peterborough Examiner*; and as a university

professor and founding Master of Massey College at the University of Toronto. As a novelist, he gained worldwide fame for *The Salterton Trilogy*, *The Deptford Trilogy*, *The Cornish Trilogy*, *Murder & Walking Spirits* and *The Cunning Man*.

Comprised of more than 5000 volumes, theatre prints and ephemera, this remarkable collection reflects Davies' interests in literature, literary criticism, art, music, theatre, theatre criticism, theatre biography and autobiography, film, drama, history and psychology. Many of the volumes are annotated with handwritten notes inserted. Particular strengths are in 18th, 19th and 20th century theatre books and prompt copies. Items in this collection are either signed or first editions. The items will be shelved according to room order in which they were kept at Windhover, Davies' country home in Caledon Hills.

All items can be located in the [finding aid](#).

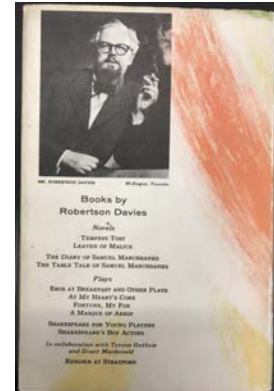
The Robertson Davies collection has been preserved in its entirety and made available to the public through the generosity of Hugh Anson-Cartwright in memory of Reginald Anson-Cartwright (Queen's School of Mining, 1904), and through the support of the Chancellor Richardson Memorial Fund.

## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections



## The Many Lives of Robertson Davies



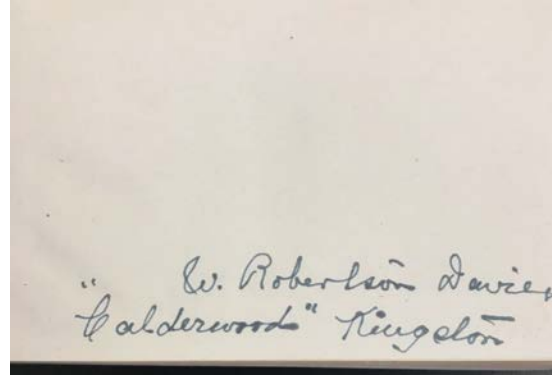
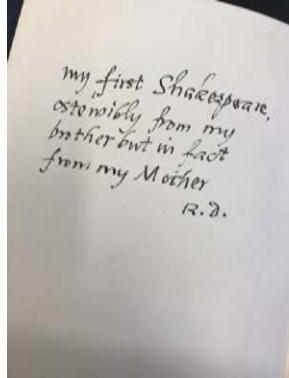
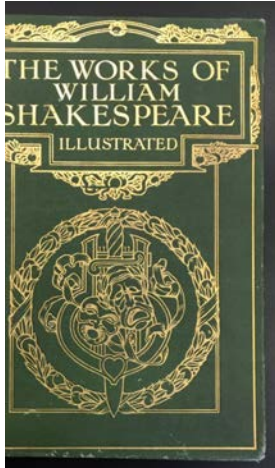
nily, Student at Queen's University and Oxford, Theatre-goer, Music-lover, Critic, Wordsmith, Actor, wright, Director, Journalist, Editor, Reviewer, Novelist, Essayist, Founding Master of Massey College, Book Collector...

**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections



**The Many Lives of Robertson Davies**



nily, Student at Queen's University and Oxford, Theatre-goer, Music-lover, Critic, Wordsmith, Actor, wright, Director, Journalist, Editor, Reviewer, Novelist, Essayist, Founding Master of Massey College, Book Collector...

**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections



**Robertson Davies Collection**



ate, with motto in Welsh ("Listen-Man-and-Heart")



First editions, the Salterton trilogy

## Identifying material related to Robertson Davies at Queen's



### Robertson Davies Collection

Born and raised in Ontario, Davies was educated at Upper Canada College, Queen's University at Kingston and Balliol College, Oxford. During his time in Kingston, he cultivated his interest in journalism as an active contributor to *The Journal*, the Queen's University student newspaper. Robertson Davies had three successive careers: as an actor with the Old Vic Company in England; as publisher of the *Peterborough Examiner*; and as a university

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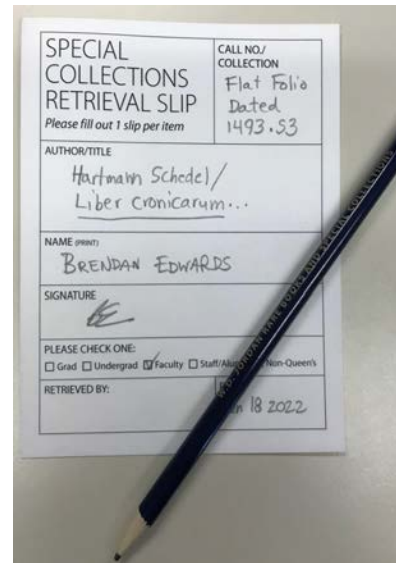
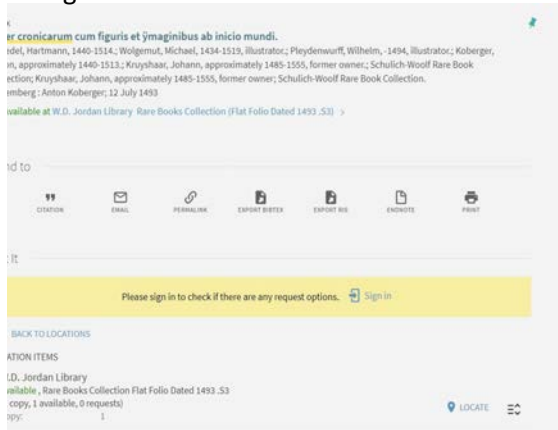
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- [Finding aid](#) on QUL website
- [Library catalogue](#) (Omni): search "Robertson Davies" limit location to 'W.D. Jordan Library'
- "Harlequinades" [online exhibition](#) on QUL website
- Davies' writing in the *Queen's Journal* is searchable via the [QUL collection on Internet Archive](#)

## Robertson Davies material elsewhere

- Robertson Davies papers – Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto
- Robertson Davies fonds – Library and Archives Canada
- Robertson Davies collection – McMaster University Archives

atalogue record



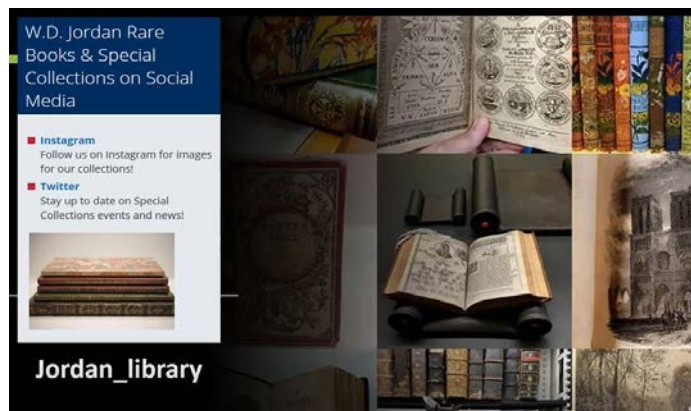
Retrieval slip

- Note the call number or take an image
- Finding aids
- Request online
- <https://library.queensu.ca/>

[jordan.library@queensu.ca](mailto:jordan.library@queensu.ca)

1, dry hands  
gloves only  
the pages mindfully

- Leave the books on the table
- Be curious
- Take photos!





## Can a book and/or printed material be a primary source?

**Primary source:** a first-hand record of an event or topic created by a participant in or a witness to that event or topic. Records created or written closest to the time of the actual event are the most useful sources.

**Secondary source:** second-hand information written or created after an event by people who were not at the original event.

## Books as primary source materials, the book as artifact, books as history

### Consider:

- *Substance* (size; parchment vs. paper; binding materials)
- *Content* (the text – is it readable?; illustrations – relation to subject matter?; evidence of readership – marginalia, inscriptions?)
- *Form* (condition; columns of text; size of margins, stylistic choices)

### Also consider:

- *Sense* (how do sensory observations affect your experience?)
- *Think* (how do the book's features relate to how it conveys information?)
- *Feel* (your subjective response; what can you infer from the book?)

## Asking Questions

**Guiding Question:** simple, often with a yes/no answer. It often starts from the stem of who, what, when, where, or why. It always ends with an answer. We can usually answer a guiding question by looking at one source. Sometimes called “closed” or “thin” question.

**Sentential Question:** makes us think more. We will have to search for the answer and may have to analyze several sources to craft a response. The answer will require at least one full sentence and often more to fully explain. A yes/no answer will not suffice. Sometimes called “open” or “thick” question.