



UBC PURCHASES "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL PRINTED BOOKS"

A new chapter in teaching is about to begin for the UBC Library with the acquisition of one of the world's most extraordinary books.

Printed in a limited edition of only 438 copies, the *Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* was published by William Morris's Kelmscott Press in 1896. Morris, a pivotal figure in the arts and crafts movement, spent four years designing what he believed to be the ideal book. Celebrated for its unique type, lavish decorative borders and remarkable illustrations, the poet William Butler Yeats later described it as the "most beautiful of all printed books."

"The acquisition of this copy of the Kelmscott *Chaucer* is a significant coup for UBC," says Gregory Mackie, assistant professor in UBC's department of English. "Books like this one almost never come onto the international market, and only 48 copies exist in the world with this particular binding."

Purchased for \$202,000 USD, the book is one of the most valuable at UBC's Rare Books and Special Collections. It joins other famous books at UBC, such as the Second Folio of Shakespeare, donated by Walter Koerner in 1960, strengthening the library's world-renowned Colbeck Collection of 19th-century literature, which includes several extremely rare Kelmscott Press books.

Despite being published in 19th-century England, the Kelmscott *Chaucer* has many unexpected connections to Vancouver history, said Katherine Kalsbeek, head of UBC's Rare Books and Special Collections.

"Many architects and designers in early Vancouver looked to William Morris for inspiration," she says. "From the Morris & Co. stained glass windows to Morris-designed textiles that were imported for houses and churches here, his legacy and impact still endure in this city."

Siân Echard, head of the English department, said faculty members recognized the value of the book as a teaching tool.

"The *Chaucer* will not only help our students better understand the English-speaking world's book culture at the end of the 19th century," she says, "but it will also help illuminate that period's profound engagement with the even more distant past of the Middle Ages."

The Kelmscott *Chaucer* is available for viewing at the Rare Books and Special Collections Reading Room in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC.

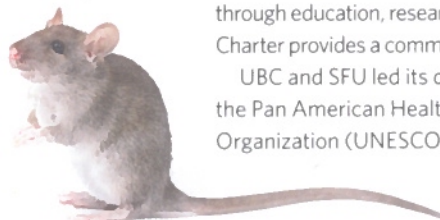
For the study, researchers looked at the effects of both THC and cannabidiol (CBD) on rats' willingness to exert cognitive effort. They trained 29 rats to perform a behavioural experiment in which the animals had to choose whether they wanted an easy or difficult challenge to earn sugary treats.

Under normal circumstances, most rats preferred the harder challenge to earn a bigger reward. But when the rats were given THC, the animals switched to the easier option, despite earning a smaller reward. When they looked at the effect of CBD, an ingredient in marijuana that does not result in a high, researchers found the chemical did not have any effect on rats' decision-making or attention. CBD, which is believed to be beneficial in treating pain, epilepsy and even cancer, also didn't block the negative effects of THC.

"This was surprising, as it had been suggested that high concentrations of CBD could modulate or reduce the negative effects of THC," says Catharine Winstanley, senior author of the study and an associate professor in UBC's Department of Psychology. "Unfortunately, that did not appear to be the case."

Given how essential willingness to exert cognitive effort is for people to achieve success, Winstanley says the findings underscore the importance of realizing the possible effect of cannabis use on impairing willingness to engage in harder tasks.

While some people view marijuana as a panacea that can cure all ailments, the findings also highlight a need for more research to determine what THC does to the human brain to alter decision-making. That could eventually allow scientists to block these effects, allowing those who use medical marijuana to enjoy the possible benefits of cannabis without the less desirable cognitive effects.



CANADA LEADS HEALTH PROMOTION ON CAMPUSES

Canadian universities are leading an international effort to create campuses that will improve the health and well-being of students, faculty and staff.

UBC, SFU, Memorial University, Mount Royal University, the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge are the first universities to formally adopt the *Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges*, which calls on post-secondary institutions to make a commitment to health and well-being in all policies and practices.

The six Canadian universities adopted the charter to inspire other institutions to follow suit, recognizing that universities and colleges can set an example as communities that promote health.

Each institution has made individual commitments to enacting the Okanagan Charter in different ways – from campus-wide mental health strategies, to developing campus spaces that support connection and community.

As part of its commitment to the charter, UBC will invest an additional \$1 million to strengthen a number of efforts already underway, including increasing mental health literacy through regular mental health first aid courses for faculty and staff members. It will also enhance initiatives to support well-being in classrooms and workspaces, and promote active lifestyles with a stationary bike study space at UBC's Okanagan campus library and movement breaks during lectures.

Research shows that health and well-being are essential to learning, retention, productivity, satisfaction and building a sense of community. Universities and colleges are in a unique position to promote well-being through education, research, policies and practices that can be developed on campuses. The Okanagan Charter provides a common framework for universities and colleges to lead this important charge.

UBC and SFU led its development with international partners from post-secondary institutions, the Pan American Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).