

# UBC Library Friends

SUMMER 2017



Members of the class of 1932 at their 20-year reunion in 1952 (from the Library's Open Collections UBC 93.1/598).  
Image: UBC Library

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Special Collections help uncover 102-year-old murder
- 4 UBC and VSO bring rare materials to life  
*Ever Austen* exhibit
- 5 Weekly drop-in tours  
A special trip to Koerner Library
- 6 Meet Jing Liu  
Puban Collection
- 7 Harry Hawthorn Foundation meeting
- 8 How you can help UBC Library

## *A gift from the past*

“It’s wonderful that these UBC alumni, who could never have imagined e-books or open access, are helping to fund this initiative.”

**When the graduating class of 1932 established an endowment for collection enhancement at UBC Library, it’s unlikely they would have ever guessed what it would be used to purchase eighty-five years after their graduation.** Currently, the endowment is helping fund Knowledge Unlatched, a project that is having a tremendous impact on current UBC students.

Knowledge Unlatched is an initiative that brings together libraries from all over the world through a crowdfunding platform to support Open Access e-books in the humanities and social sciences. “We were looking for a way to continue our support of Knowledge Unlatched this year and the class of 1932 has come through for us,” says Ellen George, Humanities & Social Sciences Librarian at UBC Library. “It’s

wonderful that these UBC alumni, who could never have imagined e-books or open access, are helping to fund this initiative.”

UBC’s participation in Knowledge Unlatched is just one of the many ways generous donor support of UBC Library can make a powerful impact on the student learning experience. Thank you to the class of 1932!

**To learn more about the titles available through Knowledge Unlatched visit [knowledgeunlatched.org](http://knowledgeunlatched.org).**

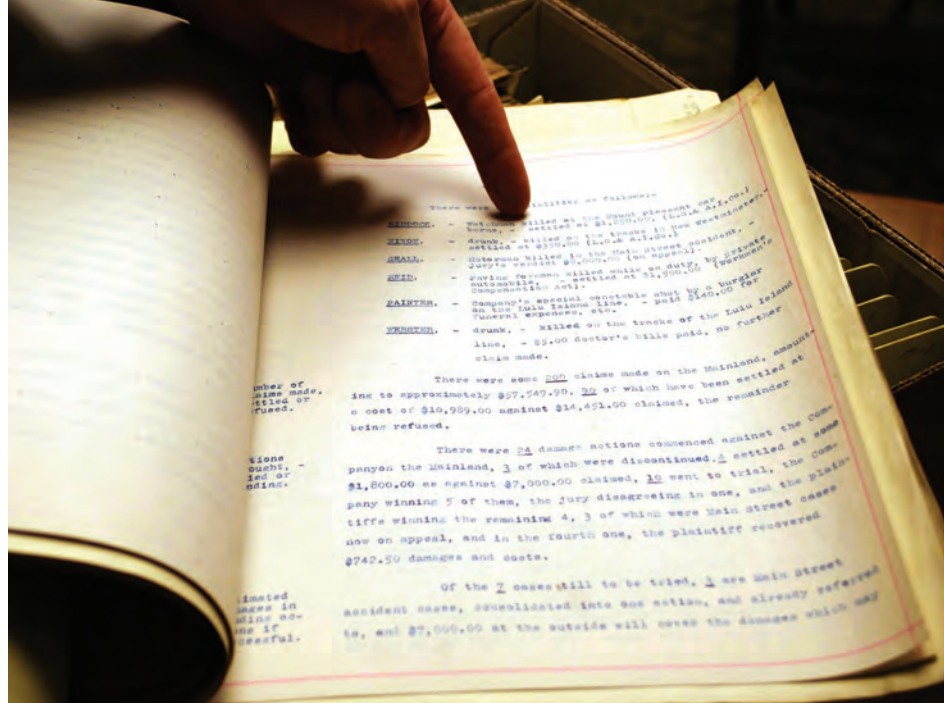
**Learn more about establishing an endowment at UBC Library or to give to the Collections Enrichment fund, visit [support.library.ubc.ca/giving](http://support.library.ubc.ca/giving).**



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Special Collections help Vancouver Transit Police constable uncover 102-year-old murder

In 2015, Constable Graham Walker of the Metro Vancouver Transit Police was asked to research the force's history for their 10-year anniversary. His research led him to the City of Vancouver Archives, BC Hydro Archives, the Vancouver Police Museum and to our very own UBC Library's Rare Books & Special Collections where he discovered that the history of the Vancouver Transit Police in fact dates back more than 100 years—to 1904. In his digging, Walker uncovered something even more intriguing, the 102-year-old unsolved murder of Charles Painter, a special constable for the BC Electric Railway. We spoke to Constable Walker about his incredible journey into the past and the research that has culminated in a provincial memorial for Charles Painter.



One of several reports in the BC Electric fonds Cst. Graham referred to in his research.

## How did you first learn about Charles Painter's murder?

I was part of the event planning team for Transit Police's 10-year anniversary in December 2015, and I was curious about our origins previous to the BC Transit Special Constables who were first appointed in 1985. My research began at BC Hydro Library and Archives, then UBC Library's Rare Books & Special Collections. Before long I had learned of a century-long history of railway constables, night watchmen and security officers on transit in British Columbia. Continuing my research, I visited the Vancouver Police Museum. There, the curator was assisting me in reviewing their archives when she discovered Painter's murder recorded in the Vancouver Police annual report from 1915.

## What made you want to learn more about his death?

This was the first anyone had heard of a line-of-duty death in our organization's history. I also knew that he was not listed on the provincial memorial for fallen officers. Recognizing him was important to me because I felt a personal connection—he did a similar job to mine and I was even the same age as him when he died. He never had a memorial, and wasn't recognized—possibly because he had no known family at the time of his death. This was a wrong I knew I could correct by collecting the appropriate evidence for a proposal that he be added to the memorial.

## Tell us a little about Charles Painter, his job and how he died.

Back in 1915, the streetcar system was operated by BC Electric Railway, which became BC Hydro in 1962. They employed constables, appointed under the Railway Act, and in S/Cst. Painter's case, assigned him to the tracks along False Creek to guard against wire theft. On March 19, 1915 he spotted a man carrying a sack on his back near to the tracks. Painter called out to him and drew his revolver, and in the resulting struggle, the gun went off. Painter was taken to Vancouver General Hospital via the Police Ambulance, but succumbed to his injuries two days later.

Senior Library Assistant, Felicia de la Parra and Vivian Yan, Public Service Library Assistant work through the BC Electric fonds with Cst. Walker.





Cst. Graham Walker at the Provincial Memorial for fallen officers where Cst. Charles Painter's name has been added.

I focused on three things that were required for him to be honoured by the provincial memorial—that he was duly appointed to office, he was acting in good faith at the time of the incident, and his death was caused by an external influence. I reached out to Vancouver PD to see if they had files on the investigation, but unfortunately, they didn't. The provincial archives did have the coroner's inquest on file, which included witness testimony from the man who found Painter wandering West 6th Avenue calling for help. With the inquest file, the UBC Library Rare Books Special Collections records showing how constables were appointed, and copies of the Railway Act of 1911, I was able to put together a proposal, including an endorsement from Chief LePard. It was accepted and his name was added to the memorial.

**Tell us about the sources that you found most helpful at UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections that helped you with your search.**

I had to refer to the BC Electric fonds. While Painter's death was one of the most important things I discovered, much of what we know about transit policing in BC resides in the RBSC collection. Early records include letters of appointment for constables, lists of locations where they were deployed, and even reports on their activities.

**Who did you work with at Rare Books and Special Collections and can you tell us a little about how you worked together?**

It was by recommendation from the librarian at BC Hydro that I first reached out to RBSC. Through the UBC website I reached librarian Chelsea Shriver, who invited me to attend in person. I had never conducted archival research, so she had to show me the ropes—and was very helpful. I started by asking for a few boxes listed in the BC Electric collection. The library staff walked me through requesting material, and protocols around reproducing information and how to reference my sources. Even when I had questions about the origins of material or was looking for more, they knew right where to look. I've returned several times in the hopes of finding more, and I'm lured there by the chance there are more amazing stories remaining hidden in those boxes.

**Tell us a little about yourself.**

I was an officer with Correctional Service Canada before joining Transit Police, and I have always had an interest in local history. This project has really piqued my interest though, as it combines my career with my hobby. It was really a pleasure to learn about things which were long forgotten.

**What's next? Any new developments in the Charles Painter story?**

Well, S/Cst. Painter's murder is still technically unsolved. While there was some evidence which surfaced in Steveston in late 1916, the prime suspect was never brought to trial and I'm still searching for a young soldier's letter which implicated a man as responsible for the murder. In the meantime, our employees have purchased Painter a gravestone which will be dedicated and consecrated at a ceremony on the 102nd anniversary of his death in March. A private gravestone dedication for Charles Painter took place on March 21, 2017.





## UBC and VSO collaborate to bring rare materials to life

**What does UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections have in common with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra?** Well, they both bring a little bit of magic to the city of Vancouver.

Since 2015, the VSO has screened a Harry Potter film at the Orpheum Theatre accompanied by live performances of the film's music. In July 2016 and April 2017, concert-goers were also treated to a special exhibition of Harry Potter books from the Arkley Collection of Early and Historical Children's Literature in UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections. The most recent exhibit included first edition copies of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, and several antiquarian books from the William C. Gibson History of Medicine and Science Collection, showcasing historical etchings of magical creatures that were used as source material by J.K. Rowling in her famous series.

UBC Library also curated an exhibition of selected items from the H. Colin Slim Stravinsky Collection to accompany the VSO's performance of *The Rite of Spring* from September 24-26, 2016. Concert-goers were not only treated to one of the 20th century's most controversial and exhilarating pieces of music, but also got a bit of an insight into the mind of the genius as they browsed through four cases of photographs, letters and personal memorabilia from Stravinsky himself.

*Ever Austen:*

*Celebrating over 200 years of Jane Austen's literary legacy*

## *Ever Austen:* literary timelessness in the regency period

**UBC undergraduate students curated an exhibit celebrating the work and literary influence of Jane Austen.**

In January 2017, UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections hosted an exhibit of newly-acquired first editions of Austen's *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, as well as thematically-diverse displays. This exhibit, curated by three UBC undergraduate students, aligned with the bicentennial of Jane Austen's death, an author who has left a literary legacy that continually influences popular culture across time.

The exhibit, *Ever Austen: Literary Timelessness in the Regency Period*, invited Austen fans old and new to experience a literary journey through the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In addition to the new acquisitions, the exhibit included two lovely period gowns, courtesy of Mr. Ivan Sayers and Vancouver-based Society for the Museum of Original Costume.





## Get to know Rare Books and Special Collections and the Chung Collection Exhibition

Have you ever been curious about what material is held at Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) at UBC Library? Come to an open house for an introduction to the unique materials in our collections!

Both tours are offered weekly and open to the public:

### Behind the scenes at RBSC

Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### Explore the Chung Collection Exhibition

Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

For more information, please contact

Rare Books and Special Collections at  
(604) 822-0645 or [rare.books@ubc.ca](mailto:rare.books@ubc.ca).

RBSC is located on the first floor of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, 1961 East Mall.



## A special trip to Koerner Library

This March, the Library Development team had a very special visit from Sanae Kimura, a UBC alumnus and Library donor from Japan. Sanae attended UBC in the 1980s, earning her Master's degree in Education and became a donor in 1994 when she generously supported the renovation of Walter C. Koerner Library. Sanae's support was recognized by a plaque mounted on a bookshelf in Koerner Library, she chose to make the donation in celebration of her daughter, Mio, who was an infant at the time and had Mio's name engraved on the plaque.

To celebrate Mio's graduation from university this year, mother and daughter traveled to Vancouver to visit UBC where they were finally able to see Mio's plaque in the Koerner Library. "It was a short but fabulous trip," says Sanae "Mom's sentimental journey and daughter's new adventure in Canada."

Sanae and Mio were able to tour Koerner Library with the Library Development team to see the impact of their generous donation.

If you have any stories to share, or questions about how you can make a gift in celebration or memory of someone, contact the development office at [library.development@ubc.ca](mailto:library.development@ubc.ca).



## Meet Jing Liu, Chinese Language Librarian

Jing Liu attended Wuhan University in China, the first Library School in China. After starting her role as the Chinese Language Librarian in 2014 at UBC's Asian Library, Liu obtained her MA in Asia Pacific Policy Studies at UBC.

UBC's Asian Library holds the largest scholarly collection in Pacific Northwest and supports the most prestigious scholars in Chinese studies and attracts top students in the world. The Asian Library is not only a specialized research library, but also an invaluable interactive entity for Asian culture and heritage. Jing believes that creating a global vision for Asian Library will help meet the challenges.

Currently, Jing is wrapping up the last stage of the Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant received through the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). For this project, the Library concentrated on the Puban collection (learn more about the Puban collection below). According to Liu, many of the previously hidden collections include items close to 1,000 years old; are made of hand-made paper and ink; and usually have no title page or copyright information. This kind of project "requires detailed research and authentication...it poses an unusual challenge to UBC Library," says Liu.

Learn more:

## Puban Collection profile

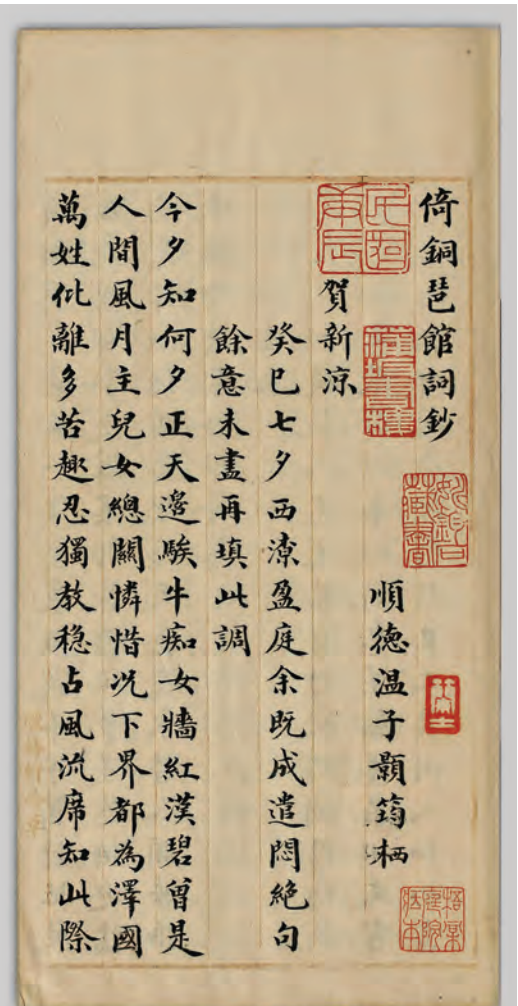
The Puban Collection was acquired by the Library in 1959 with funds from the Friends of the Library and Dr. Walter Koerner, establishing UBC Library as a top-tier research library for Chinese Studies. With numerous rare editions, and more than 45,000 items, the is one of the most distinguished Chinese collections in North America.

There's still so much to learn about the Puban Collection and other rare collections at UBC's Asian Library. Librarians and subject experts like Liu are hoping to make these materials publicly available through detailed cataloging and digitization. Currently, only 29 titles from the Puban Collection have been digitized, but with further donor support, we hope to one day have the full collection digitized.

To learn more about the Puban Collection visit: [guides.library.ubc.ca/rarechinese/puban](http://guides.library.ubc.ca/rarechinese/puban).

To see the digitized materials, visit: [open.library.ubc.ca/collections/asian](http://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/asian).

Page from the 1915 volume  
*Yi tong pa guan ci chao*,  
now available online in the  
Library's Open Collections.







# Annual Harry Hawthorn Foundation meeting

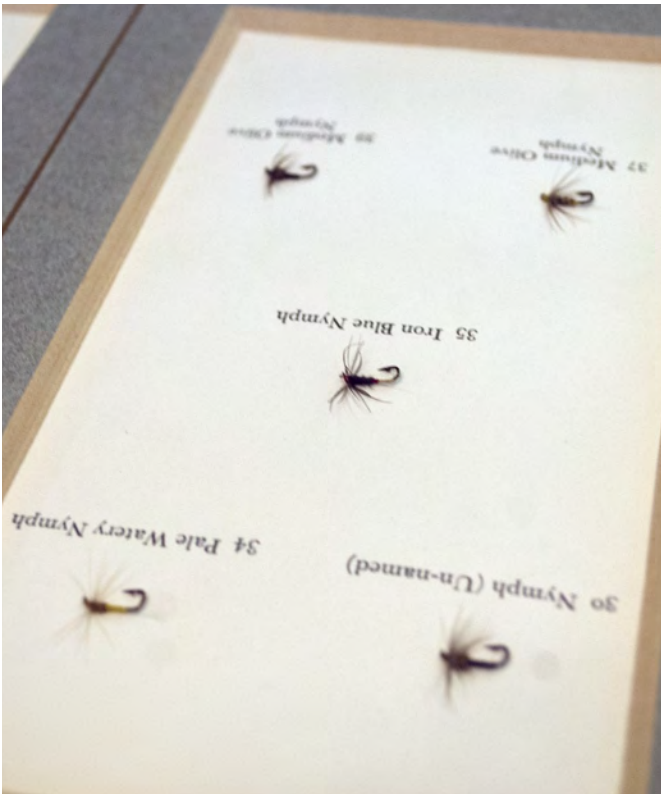
The Harry Hawthorn Foundation had their annual meeting this March at UBC's Woodward Library. The Foundation was established in 1953 by eight UBC academics and Canadian writer and conservationist, Roderick Haig-Brown. Since then, the group has funded the renovation of the Sherrington Room, some exceptional acquisitions for their collections as well as the digitization of some of the Library's key collections. A few of the recently digitized books include *My Game Book* by Haig Brown (1913), *Fishing in Eastern Canada* by Sir Henry Chitty (1920) and *Fishing in Canada*. The group hopes to contribute to the fly fishing and angling collections at the Library.

After this year's meeting, the group also took a trip to the Rare Books and Special Collections at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre to view some of the rare and special acquisitions the Library has purchased with their support.

In July, the Foundation will take their annual fishing trip to the Pennask Lake Provincial Park in the Okanagan. If you would like to learn more about the trip or about the foundation, please contact Bruce Danick at [bluedun@telus.net](mailto:bluedun@telus.net). [View the Harry Hawthorn Collection online at hawthorn.library.ubc.ca](http://hawthorn.library.ubc.ca)

To donate to the Harry Hawthorn Foundation Endowment, visit: [support.ubc.ca/hawthorn-endowment](http://support.ubc.ca/hawthorn-endowment).

Top left: Members of the Harry Hawthorn Foundation discussing fly fishing.  
 Right: This recently purchased volume for the Harry Hawthorn Collection includes fragile "flies."



# How you can help UBC Library



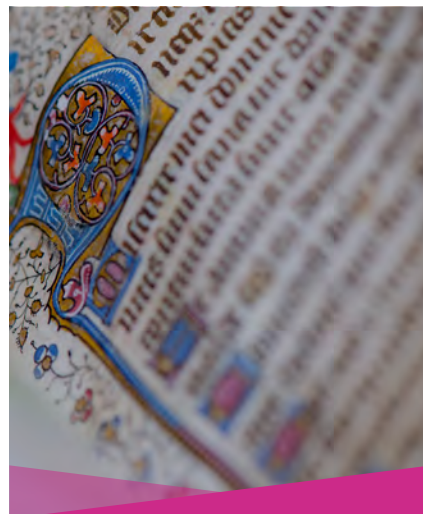
## Parents Innovation Fund

One of the most important functions of the library is to give students access to the latest equipment. Last year, we received over \$93,000 from the Parent's Innovation Fund which helps us keep pace with advances in technology. If you are a parent of UBC student or alum, we invite you to join us in growing this fund for the library.



## Collection Enrichment

We continue to focus on uncovering hidden collections, developing an innovative preservation program and acquiring rare and significant works. With donor support, we are able to offer rich collections and services required of a top-tier academic library.



## Friends of Rare Books and Special Collections

This fund is dedicated to enhancing British Columbia's legacy. It holds the largest collection of B.C. historical material in any academic library. Donations to this fund allow our library to act quickly to acquire rare and special collections that become available and also to make our collection more accessible digitally and through programs.

## note to readers

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please let us know by emailing [library.development@ubc.ca](mailto:library.development@ubc.ca) with your full name and email address. *Thank you for your readership.*

For information on how to support the Library, please contact our Library Development Team or visit [support.library.ubc.ca](http://support.library.ubc.ca).



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