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Epilogue

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Editor's note

After a hopeful opening in early January, the community spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 compelled the University to close buildings and move to online courses in mid-January; and continue with obligatory masks and vaccination certificates on campus. Consequently, activities by our association early this year were still very limited; nevertheless, several of our interest groups have been able to carry on by means of Zoom, and their reports are presented in this issue. The monthly Lunch With ... events have also continued on schedule with Zoom, and I have summarized the presentations made in January and February. Sadly the issue ends with a large In Memoriam box. Hopefully happier days are to come: the collective bargaining dispute between the AASUA and the Board of Governors may be resolved in the mediation process now underway, the University is to lift most COVID restrictions on March 1, and Spring is not far away.

As mentioned in the December *Epilogue*, the University is moving us out of Emeritus House. The Association will now be housed at University Terrace in Suite 6-30, located at 8303 -112 Street NW, adjacent to College Plaza, starting in early March.

Ruth Gruhn

Notices

Upcoming Lunch With... event

On 23 March there will be a presentation by the highly respected Arctic specialist Dr. John England, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, on changes in the Arctic regions since the last Ice Age up to the present situation of climate change. The Zoom code will be announced in an upcoming weekly ARAS electronic newsletter.

Reports

Lunch With... events by Zoom

On 26 January, local street photographer Professor Emeritus James Gaa spoke of his endeavor to record pictures of people on Whyte Avenue during the pandemic. He roamed the sidewalk with a concealed camera set to automatically snap a picture at predetermined intervals. The result of each excursion was a very large corpus of photos to be sorted, searching for the most interesting pictures. In the course of the talk, Dr. Gaa showed the attending ARAS members a selection of the best photos.

Ruth Gruhn

On 23 February, David Barnet, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Drama, reviewed the history of the GeriActors, a seniors' theatre group founded over twenty years ago; and now increasingly active in our community. The company started out with very short new plays, with an emphasis on storytelling. The actors had no previous experience, and there was no outside funding. In recent years, however, the company has become intergenerational, with younger students participating. The plays have become more complex. An example was shown of a You Tube version of *King Lear*, with participants reminiscing in an Edmonton context. Throughout the history of this theatrical group, the basic concept maintained has been *creative aging*.

Ruth Gruhn

Reports of Interest Groups

Book Club News, Winter 2022

In December we discussed a non-fiction book, *The Spy and the Traitor*, by Ben McIntyre. The British author describes the career of Oleg Gordievsky, a KGB operative who became disenchanted with Soviet policies and was successfully turned by British MI6 in 1973. Gordievsky became a very successful spy for them, until a CIA analyst learned that he was spying for the British and outed him to the KGB. Gordievsky was called back to Russia under suspicion, and soon he realized that his cover was at least partially blown. An escape plan was activated in 1985; and with the daring assistance of MI6 he escaped to Finland and thence to England where he lived as a hero, but with a secret identity. Presumably Gordievsky is the spy and the CIA turncoat was the traitor; but in reality, both of them were both. As one in our group opined, one probably has to read fiction to get a relatively objective account of spy-dom. Indeed, this book reads much like a Le Carre novel, with a lot of detail on how the spy game works and the constant pressure that spies work under.

To start the new year, we tackled *Rules of Civility*, a first novel by Amor Towles. The book relates the social lives of an ambitious young woman who is the narrator (Katey Kontent'), her roommate Eve, and a series of young men during the year 1938. The book is primarily about people's relationships with one another, set in the well-described ambience

of New York City. Towles does pretty well with the difficult task, for a male, to narrate the book from a woman's perspective. The writing is elegant; even "gorgeous," as one reviewer put it. Another said she felt smarter just reading it. So despite not much of substance happening during the novel, I thought it was an enjoyable read, though I liked Towles' second book, *A Gentleman in Moscow*, even better.

In February we read *The Navigator of New York* by the Newfoundland author Wayne Johnston, a tale about Robert Peary's and Frederick Cook's race to reach the North Pole. It is narrated by Devlin, a young man from St. John's who moves to New York and becomes a protégé of Cook's, and joins his expedition. A fair bit of the book is Devlin's back story and that of his explorer father, who left for adventure when Devlin was young. The book engendered a lot of discussion, and it was a complex story line. The reaction of most members was mixed, liking some aspects but disliking others.

Two more books to read and discuss this spring (he says hopefully, despite it being still February), and soon nominations are due for our books for next fall/winter, followed by a vote by participants in the club. As always, all ARAS members are welcome to participate.

Jan Murie

Summary of the events held by the Current Affairs Salon since the start of the 2021-2022 academic year

As was the case in the past, the Current Affairs Salon was held on the first Thursday of every month. This year it was again held via Zoom.

The first meeting of the Salon was held on October 7; and, not surprisingly, focused on **the results of the recent Federal election**.

At the time of the November 4 meeting of the Salon, the issue of **sexual misconduct in the Canadian Armed Forces** was top of mind, and had extensive media coverage. Gordon Rostoker summarized the state of affairs, listing the litany of complaints that had come to light regarding many senior members of the military who had leadership positions. There followed a wide-ranging discussion of what one could do about the problem.

Given the recent COP 26 conference on **climate change**, this was a logical topic for consideration in the December 2 meeting of the group. Gordon Rostoker provided the introductory material for this meeting and the session went on well after the hour allotted to it.

The topic of discussion on January 6 centered on the **Alberta budget**; and, in particular, on how to develop new sources of revenue. The merits of a sales tax was front row center in this discussion, led by Bob Ascah, who is the author of the recent book *A Sales Tax for Alberta: Why and How*, to be published in April by Athabasca University Press.

The last Current Affairs Salon was held on February 3; and was a reprise of a 2010 meeting which provided a brief introduction to the results of the Club of Rome study on *Limits to Growth*, originally published in the early 1970s and brought up to date in 1999. Gordon Rostoker led the discussion of two lists of topics – those in 2010 contrasted with those in 2022, set against the backdrop of the Club of Rome study. The more things change, the more they stay the same!

Gordon Rostoker

Dining Out activities in 2021

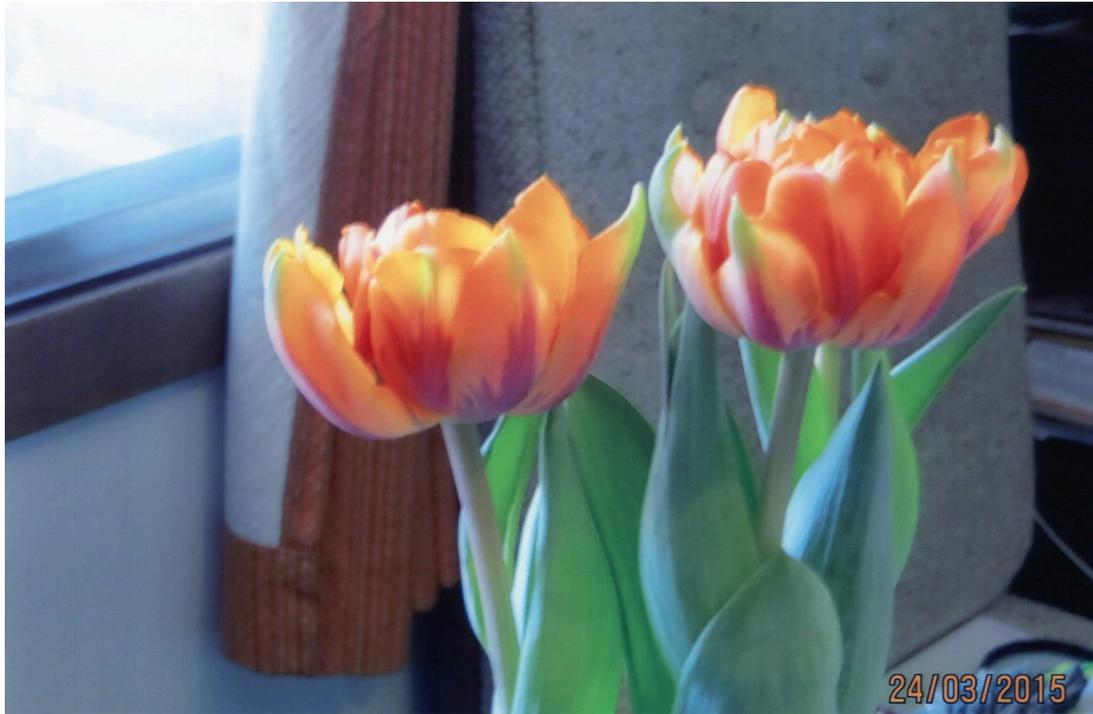
Like all activities, our evenings together in 2021 were curtailed severely; however, we did take advantage of the few times that gatherings were permitted. It was with great enthusiasm that seventeen diners gathered together in August at the Glass Monkey. In October, fish and chips were the most popular item on the menu at the Three Vikings. In November, we met for the special buffet in the Winspear Room at the University Club. Our special event for December, dinner at Normand's, unfortunately had to be postponed because of the Omicron variant. Now, as things have opened up, we were able to hold the dinner on February 24.

Peggy Allegretto

In Memoriam

Neil Fraser Duncan	Pediatrics
George Foxcroft	Agriculture
Dale Gibson	Law
Ken Gough	Rehab Medicine
F. George Hulmes	Political Science
Richard Lundeen	Medicine
Doug MacDougall	Dentistry
Walter Mis	Law
Nick Nakai	Medicine
Terry Nearey	Linguistics
Rod Wilson*	Anthropology
Kin Wong	Dentistry

Also notable: Leona Peter, widow of Dick Peter, former Dean of Science. The Editor deeply regrets missing notice of good colleague Rod Wilson's passing in February 2021.



If Spring is late, we can always buy some.