

people. One of the intentions of the looting operations was to establish research centres that would in due course provide evidence of a much-imagined Jewish-Communist conspiracy that was an obsession of the Nazi leadership. Hence archives of both groups were avidly sought out.

In succeeding chapters Rydell undertakes a study of the looting of libraries on a city-by-city basis: Amsterdam, The Hague, Paris, Rome, Thessaloniki, Vilnius, Prague and others. The stories vary from place to place according to local circumstance and personalities, and in each case Rydell supplies enough background to provide excellent context. He shows how local librarians or scholars were forced to participate in the destruction of their own collections, and also how they succeeded in resisting by hiding or spiriting away valuable archives or books. Also shown is how the transported libraries and collections were in some cases gathered up, and in some cases disbursed, in Germany. But for the most part millions of books were not catalogued at their new intended locations, or even unpacked until the war's end. Books of lesser value were sometimes sold by the German state to public or academic libraries whose administrators were aware that the monies paid would go toward "the solution of the Jewish question" (p. 287).

At the end of the war, some of the book collections and archives were found in safe locations. Some of these were "confiscated" by the Western Allies. Rydell notes: "Almost a million books were sent to the Library of Congress in Washington. Several large American

libraries sent delegations to Europe to top up their collections" (p. 274). Larger quantities were subject to "plundering" by Soviet forces and arrived in Stalin's archive or in Soviet libraries large and small. Other collections had been entirely lost, some to fire, neglect or bombs, or had been scattered to German institutions.

The author could have provided more background at the outset to show that the looting and theft of cultural artifacts is as old a human practice as it is a regrettable one. It is of course not limited to the Nazi or even fascist regimes. The looting or destruction of libraries and other cultural institutions goes back at least as far as 213 BC and has been undertaken by emperors (to wit, Xianyang Palace), religious fanatics (the libraries of Alexandria and Ephesus, as well as in the wars of religion in early Reformation Europe), and armies (British forces at the Summer Palace in Beijing during the Boxer Rebellion). It continues to the modern era with the shelling and destruction of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Serbian forces in 1992 and the looting of the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad when U.S. forces failed to protect the building in 2003.

The book is indexed and footnoted but has no bibliography. It is not an easy read, but it is a compelling one.

~ REVIEWED BY RALPH STANTON

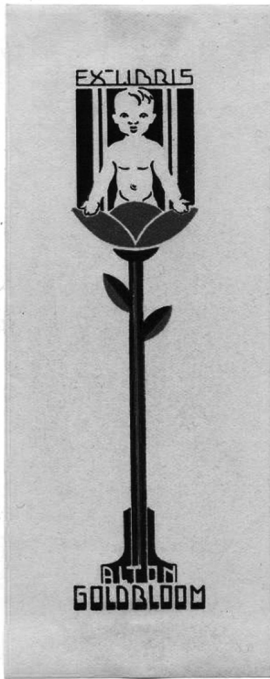
EX LIBRIS

Golden Boy

AS A DIGITIZATION volunteer working with bookplates in Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of British Columbia, I've seen my fair share of bookplate designs. However, while flipping through the collection recently, something caught my eye. Between the pages, I saw a splash of gold and a baby. Intrigued, I

paused and took a closer look at the bookplate of Alton Goldbloom.

Though the collection is heavily centred on 19th-century bookplates, Goldbloom's bookplate is clearly more modern. Printed in the 20th century, the bookplate features a stylized vertical print of a baby extending from a flower with an



art deco feel. The bookplate is tall and narrow at a slim 5.0 × 12.7 cm. Printed in black and gold, the bookplate is both stunning and unique. The baby extends from its torso upwards out of a gold, three-petaled flower. The stem of the flower is black, its centre gold, and two black and gold leaves extend to each side. The stem expands in width at the base and is stylized, with Goldbloom's first name appearing at the base and his surname printed in black below.

My first question, and perhaps yours as well, is, why the baby? This question is easily answered by a quick look at Goldbloom's biography. In addition to being an educator and author, Goldbloom is most famous for being a pioneer of modern pediatrics in eastern Canada.

Born in Montreal on September 23, 1890, Goldbloom studied medicine at McGill University, graduating in 1916. After interning in Boston and New York, Goldbloom returned to Montreal to practise medicine. He had a substantial career at McGill. He joined the medical faculty in 1922 as an assistant demonstrator in pediatrics. By 1944 he was chair of the pediatrics department and in 1947 became a professor. He was a popular lecturer known for his excellent public speaking skills, sense of humour and extensive knowledge.

Throughout his career, Goldbloom strongly advocated for the establishment of pediatrics as a unique branch of medicine. His success in this area is undeniable. In addition to developing McGill's Department of Pediatrics, Goldbloom was also heavily involved with the Children's Memorial Hospital. The hospital, known since 1956 as the Montreal Children's Hospital, became a teaching hospital affiliated with McGill University in 1920. Goldbloom retired as its physician-in-chief in 1953.

Goldbloom was highly respected in his field. His colleagues in the Quebec Division of the Canadian Medical Association elected him as a senior member, and many other medical associations in Canada, Britain and the United States honoured him. He also received an honorary degree from Bishop's University in 1962. Goldbloom's passion for pediatrics was clear, as partially evidenced by his co-founding of the Canadian Paediatric Society.

Alton Goldbloom was also an accomplished author. In 1928 he published *The Care of the Child*, which was later translated into French and Dutch. In 1959 he published *The Autobiography of a Children's Doctor*, which at the time of his death ranked among the most important autobiographies in medicine.

Goldbloom married Annie E. Ballon and had two sons, Victor C. and Richard B. Goldbloom, both of whom became pediatricians. Goldbloom Sr. passed away in Montreal on February 3, 1968, having left an indelible mark on Canadian medicine. Through his enthusiasm for pediatrics he left a legacy in people's lives and in the things he left behind. His fonds now reside in the Osler Library Archive Collection at McGill, but one sliver of his life is seen in this bookplate with its illustrated baby and flash of gold.

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 ~ Emily Larson is a Dual Master of Library and Information Studies and Master of Archival Studies student in the iSchool at the University of British Columbia.

The Rare Books and Special Collections Bookplate Collection can be accessed from the UBC Library Digital Collections and Services site, <http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca>.