

YORKVILLE BRANCH



100

1907 – 2007



THE YORKVILLE CENTENARY PROJECT

A History of Philanthropy

MADE POSSIBLE through a generous grant by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the Yorkville Branch, Toronto Public Library's oldest building, opened its doors on June 13, 1907.

Designed by City Architect, Robert McCallum in the Beaux-Arts style, Yorkville Branch was and remains today an excellent example of city architecture.

The interior of the branch retains much of the original plasterwork, including some quarter-sawn oak trim and skylights from 100 years ago. Inevitably, however, some architectural details have been lost or buried over the course of the past 100 years.

Treasuring the Past

DURING A RETROFIT of the branch in May 2003, a tile floor was revealed in the vestibule of the building. The floor was comprised of small, white hexagon tiles in the centre with a border of green-and-white rectangular tiles arranged in a keystone pattern, almost identical to the floor in the Carnegie Library in Galena, Illinois with the exception of the flower pattern in the middle, shown below right.



The Yorkville tile floor as uncovered during the May 2003 Retrofit.

As the Yorkville branch moves into a new century of service, the Library strives to continue to preserve the past while creating a strong future. In this effort, the Library is looking for your support with the *Yorkville Centenary Project*.

The Yorkville Centenary Project

THE GOAL of the *Yorkville Centenary Project* is to raise sufficient funds to restore the entry vestibule to its original grandeur. \$15,000 is needed to recreate the original tile floor in the vestibule. With another \$15,000, the Library can also restore the six large oak main entry doors to their former splendour. Your support with a gift to the *Yorkville Centenary Project* will help restore 100 years of history and architecture and truly preserve Yorkville as a treasure in the community and the City.

You can make a donation to the *Yorkville Centenary Project* by contacting the Toronto Public Library Foundation at 416-393-7123 or by filling out the attached form and mailing it in.



Floor in the Carnegie Library in Galena, Illinois.