

Historic Televisions & Memorabilia

THE MOSES ZNAIMER COLLECTION

FROM THE CINÉMATHEQUE QUÉBÉCOISE

The Martin Howard Collection of Antique Typewriters www.antiquetypewriters.com

For more than a quarter of a century, Torontonion Martin Howard has been building this major collection of the world's earliest typewriters. It has been exhibited at Canada's Royal Ontario Museum, shown on television and will be featured in a forthcoming documentary. The film directed by Doug Nichol will explore the role of the typewriter in popular culture and the creative relationships which people like Sam Shepard, John Mayer, and Tom Hanks still have with their typewriters.

The collection contains many rare and historically important typewriters from the 1880s and 1890s that demonstrate the astonishing inventiveness of the early typewriter pioneers and the remarkable diversity in the beginning designs of this machine that would revolutionize writing and printing for the next one hundred years.

Part of the magic of these early typewriters is that we can still relate to them. In the midst of all the breathtaking 21st century technology around us, we harbour deep nostalgia for the typewriter based on a strong collective experience for those who have used typewriters to those who use modern keyboards.

The story of the typewriter touches everyone, from youngsters who have never seen a typewriter and are unaware that J K Rowling typed the first Harry Potter book on one, to those who will never use a computer. Today's keyboard in its various forms is a tool that represents our means of personal communication in this technological age.