

Doreen Walker fonds

Compiled by Alan Doyle (2002)

University of British Columbia Archives



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Fonds Description

Doreen Walker fonds. – 1660-1990 [predominant 1920-1985].

1.2 m of textual records.

90 photographs.

Biographical Sketch

Doreen Elizabeth Walker was born in Vancouver in 1920. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of British Columbia in 1942, and, upon returning to school, was awarded a Master of Arts degree by the University in 1969. The title of her Graduate thesis was "The Treatment of Nature in Canadian Art Since the Time of the Group of Seven". She subsequently became a senior instructor in the Fine Arts Department at U.B.C. and worked there until her retirement in 1985. Walker compiled and edited over 200 letters between the triumvirate of Nan Cheney, Humphrey Toms, and the noted Canadian artist Emily Carr, producing the book *Dear Nan: Letters to Emily Carr, Nan Cheney, and Humphrey Toms* in 1990. Her relationship with Cheney, dating back to at least 1980, was certainly more than professional, and correspondence and photographs illustrate the shared friendship.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of hand-written notes as well as published articles relating to artists in Canada between the early 17th century and the late 20th century. The fonds also consists of copies of correspondence between artists, as well as Walkers own correspondence with artists and the artistic world in general, both inside and outside Canada. The fonds consists of the following series and is largely arranged in its original order. 1) Canadian Artists 2) Records relating to *Dear Nan: Letters to Emily Carr, Nan Cheney, and Humphrey Toms* 3) Photographs.

Note

File list available.

Series Descriptions

Canadian Artist series. – 1609-1985.

78 cm of textual records.

Series consists of hand-written notes, photocopied and other articles, newspaper clippings, and advertising of art exhibitors of Canadian art. Although covering nearly four hundred years of Canadian art history, the bulk of the series is concerned with the early 20th century and the Group of Seven artistic school.

Series arrangement based on Walker's filing system.

Boxes 1, 3 (1-20, 23, 24).

Records Relating to *Dear Nan: Letters to Emily Carr, Nan Cheney, and Humphrey Toms series.* – 1913-1990.

37 cm of textual records.

Series consists of correspondence between Carr, Cheney, and Humphrey, as well as their correspondence with others. The series also consists of research materials that provide biographical and other information. Included within this latter group of materials are the diaries of Humphrey Toms.

Series arrangement based on Walker's filing system.

Box 2 (1-18, 21-29).

Photograph series. – 1892-1989.

90 Photographs.

Series consists of 90 photographs, most of which are reproductions from various archives, museums, and galleries within Canada. Most of the photographs depict artists and their works, although a few are of a more personal nature. The small number of Walker and Cheney photographs, in 1980 and 1985, show the personal relationship between the two, as do undated photographs of Carr and Cheney.

Series arrangement based on Walker's filing system.

Boxes 2 (19, 20), 3 (21, 22).

File List

Canadian Artists

Box 1

- 1-1 Articles concerning artist Emily Carr, including press releases from the Vancouver Art Gallery (n.d.)
- 1-2 Newspaper clippings and articles concerning Emily Carr (n.d.)
- 1-3 Manuscript by Doreen Walker for publication in Woman's Art Journal. Correspondence confirming receipt and acceptance of the article (1982)
- 1-4 Articles and correspondence concerning Emily Carr (1921-1991)
- 1-5 Bibliographic notes and articles concerning the study of Emily Carr's work (n.d.)
- 1-6 Newspaper articles concerning the career of A. J. Casson (1971-1992)
- 1-7 Articles concerning the artist Lionel LeMoine (L.L.) Fitzgerald. Included is a copy of a letter, in which Fitzgerald acknowledges his inclusion in the Group of Seven (1932-1958)
- 1-8 Hand-written notes regarding the Algonquin and Algoma Park areas, and the artists who frequented the areas. (n.d.)
- 1-9 Photocopied articles and obituary concerning the artist Sir (Edmund) Wyly Grier (1913-1937)
- 1-10 Newspaper clippings concerning the artist Edwin Headley Holgate (1977)
- 1-11 Articles, clippings, and reviews concerning Lawren S. Harris. Included is a speech by Doreen Walker, given at the Vancouver Art Gallery (1986)
- 1-12 Copies of essays, articles, and notes about both Lawren Harris' art, as well as his interest in Theosophy. (1921-1994)
- 1-13 Copies of articles written by Lawren Harris on art, Canadian history, and Theosophy. (1921-1978)
- 1-14 Hand written notes concerning the Group of Seven and Lawren Harris in particular. (n.d.)
- 1-15 Notes concerning Lawren Harris, including a speech about him. (1942-1992)
- 1-16 Newspaper clippings and articles concerning artist Alexander Young (A.Y.) Jackson. (1958-1985)
- 1-17 Newspaper clippings and articles concerning the artist Paul Kane (1850-1985)
- 1-18 Newspaper clippings and articles concerning the artist Cornelius Krieghoff (1856-1979)
- 1-19 Small collection of photocopied articles concerning the artist Joseph Legare (1833-1974)

- 1-20 Newspaper clippings, articles, and correspondence concerning the artist Arthur Lismer (1914-1972)
- 1-21 Newspaper clippings, articles, and correspondence both written by and about John Edward Hervey (J.E.H.) MacDonald. Within this file is correspondence between Walker and the artist's son Mr. Thoreau MacDonald. (1919-1972)
- 1-22 Newspaper clippings, articles, and exhibit guides concerning the artist David Milne (1912-1984)
- 1-23 Newspaper clippings and articles concerning the artist Tom Thomson (1918-1979)
- 1-24 Newspaper clippings, articles, correspondence, and notes concerning the artist Frederick Horsman Varley (1922-1996)
- 1-25 Newspaper clippings, articles, and notes concerning criticism of the Group of Seven (1913-1991)
- 1-26 Notes detailing the evolution of the Group of Seven, by artist and by date. Part 1 (See also 1-27) (1913-1991)
- 1-27 Notes detailing the evolution of the Group of Seven, by artist and by date. Part 2 (See also 1-26)(1913-1988)

(cont.)

Records related to "Dear Nan: Letters to Emily Carr, Nan Cheney, and Humphrey Toms"

Box 2

- 2-1 Diaries of Humphrey Toms, with notes by Doreen Walker. (1933-1946)
- 2-2 Biographical information regarding Nan Lawson Cheney, with some correspondence and notes.(1991)
- 2-3 Letters of permission regarding sources for Dear Nan: Letters to Emily Carr, Nan Cheney, and Humphrey Toms (1990).
- 2-4 Correspondence between Jane Toms and Doreen Walker. (1934-1987)
- 2-5 Copies of correspondence between Jack (?) Macdonald and Emily Carr [1938-1940]
- 2-6 Typed copies of letters from Emily Carr to Humphrey Toms, with Toms' notes (1933-1941)
- 2-7 Copies of letters from Emily Carr to Ira Dilworth [1943-1944]
- 2-8 Correspondence between Emily Carr and the National gallery of Canada (1930-1945)
- 2-9 Inventories of Emily Carr related correspondence (n.d.)

- 2-10 Copies of letters from Nan Cheney to Emily Carr [1938]
- 2-11 Copies of correspondence between Kathleen Daly and Emily Carr (n.d.)
- 2-12 Copies of correspondence between Miffanny (?) Pavelic and Emily Carr (n.d.)
- 2-13 Correspondence concerning letters between Marius Barbeau and Emily Carr (n.d.)
- 2-14 Copies of correspondence between Nan Cheney and Marius Barbeau (1941-1951)
- 2-15 Copy of a letter from Emily Carr to a Mrs. Ackhurst (1939)
- 2-16 Copies of letters from Lawren Harris to Emily Carr (192?-1937)
- 2-17 Reviews and correspondence concerning Dear Nan: Letters to Emily Carr, Nan Cheney, and Humphrey Toms (n.d.)
- 2-18 Photocopied articles and reviews concerning the career of Nan Cheney (1937-1989)

(cont.)

Photographs

- 2-19 Copies of photographs from various archives and collections. Subjects include Emily Carr, Lawren Harris, and Nan Cheney (n.d.)
- 2-20 Photographs of Nan Cheney and Doreen Walker, as well as correspondence and notes concerning Cheney. (1907-1989)

(cont.)

Records related to "Dear Nan: Letters to Emily Carr, Nan Cheney, and Humphrey Toms" (continued)

- 2-21 Letters and cards to Doreen Walker, including both photocopied letters and originals, from students, colleagues, and artists. The correspondence is primarily from people involved with Canadian art and art history, including Jack and Doris Shadbolt, Thoreau MacDonald, and Jessie Binning. (1951-1998)
- 2-21a Letters to Doreen Walker from various Canadian artists, including Ken Lum, Jean Paul Lemieux, and Doris Shadbolt. (1972-1985)
- 2-22 Personal correspondence, primarily with Carol E. Birtch. (1986-1995)
- 2-23 Photocopied letters concerning Emily Carr, Nan Cheney, and Humphrey Toms(1932-1983)
- 2-24 Correspondence between Nan Cheney and Dorothy Livesay (1942-1979)
- 2-25 Copies of letters from Jack (?) Macdonald to Nan Cheney, with some notes. (1939,1946)

- 2-26 Transcript of an interview with Mrs. Kate Mather concerning Emily Carr. (n.d.)
- 2-27 Correspondence concerning Nan Cheney's portrait of Emily Carr, as well as some correspondence with the National Gallery regarding Emily Carr's work (1930-1960)
- 2-28 Assorted correspondence between the National Gallery and Nan Cheney. (1937-1939)
- 2-29 Personal records of Humphrey Nicholas Wolferstan Toms (191?-1983)

Canadian Artists (continued)

Box 3

- 3-1 Doreen Walker's notes regarding the Group of Seven and their experiences in World War I (n.d.)
- 3-2 Notes concerning artists, such as Bertram Brooker, Paraskeva Clark, and others. (n.d.)
- 3-3 Notes regarding "Modernism" in Canada (n.d.)
- 3-4 Notes, essays, and assorted commentary concerning the Group of Seven (n.d.)
- 3-5 Articles concerning 19th century art in Canada. Some annotations and notes. (1883-1979)
- 3-6 Articles concerning 17th century art in Quebec. Some annotations and notes. (1923-1977)
- 3-7 Articles concerning early Quebec woodcarving. (1886-1979)
- 3-8 Notes and articles concerning embroidery artist Jeanne Le Ber (1722)
- 3-9 Photocopied text from Les Relations des Jesuites in French. (n.d.)
- 3-10 Notes, articles, and photocopied text concerning Charles Garnier missionary to the Huron, canonized 1930. (1930-1973)
- 3-11 Articles and photocopied text concerning Jean Pierron, missionary to the Huron. (n.d.)
- 3-12 Newspaper clippings concerning the McMichael art collection. (1980-1987)
- 3-13 Photocopied articles concerning art in Canada. (1919-1979)
- 3-14 Notes concerning art in Quebec in the 1930's and 1940's (n.d.)
- 3-15 Notes concerning European influence on Canadian art. (n.d.)
- 3-16 Photocopied articles concerning master wood carver Pierre-Noel Levasseur (n.d.)
- 3-17 Articles and correspondence concerning the life of Marguerite Bourgeoys (1620-1700) canonized 1982. (n.d.)

- 3-18 Articles and newspaper clippings concerning the art of coastal First Nations artists, in particular Robert Davidson and Bill Reid. (1967-1986)
- 3-19 Articles, newspaper clippings, and exhibition guides concerning coastal First Nations artists. (1967-1985)
- 3-20 Newspaper clippings, articles, and biographical information concerning artist Bill Reid (1974-1987)

(cont.)

Photographs (continued)

- 3-21 10 photographs and black and white negatives of Lawren Harris and his work. As well there are 6 archival reproductions. (n.d.)
- 3-22 Archival photographic reproductions, newspaper clippings, articles, and biographical information concerning George Agnew Reid Part 1 (See also 3-23, 3-24) (1849-1975)

Canadian Artists (continued)

- 3-23 Newspaper clippings, articles, and biographical information concerning George Agnew Reid. Part 2 (see also 3-22, 3-24) (1886-1991)
- 3-24 Correspondence concerning research into the life and work of artist George Agnew Reid, as well as the copies of correspondence between Reid and others. (1899-1984)
- 3-25 Miscellaneous correspondence (1957-1976)