

York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

Finding Aid - Cameron family fonds (F0493)

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York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

305 Scott Library, 4700 Keele Street, York University

Toronto

Ontario

Canada

M3J 1P3

Telephone: 416-736-5442

Fax: 416-650-8039

Email: archives@yorku.ca

<http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/ArchivesSpecialCollections/index.htm>

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Cameron family fonds

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Summary information

Repository: York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

Title: Cameron family fonds

ID: F0493

Date: 1865-1990, predominant 1969-1990 (date of creation)

Physical description: 0.04 metres of textual records
9 audio discs : 78 rpm

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

As Margaret Laurence prepared to leave Elm Cottage in Penn, Buckinghamshire, to begin a year as Writer in Residence at the University of Toronto's Massey College, she enlisted the aid of author Dave Godfrey to locate a young Canadian couple who could look after the cottage and provide company for her children, Jocelyn and David. Ian Cameron was a graduate student at York University studying with Professor Clara Thomas, and his wife Sandy was a don at York. They were in England while Ian completed his M.A. thesis on D.H. Laurence, as well as working on his own fiction. The Camerons moved into Elm Cottage in 1969, and developed a close friendship with Laurence that lasted until her death in 1987.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of more than 60 letters, newsletters, poems, and greeting cards written by Margaret Laurence to Ian and Sandy Cameron, as well as a copy of Laurence's will. The correspondence discusses Laurence's work as a writing instructor and speaker at the University of Toronto, her relationship with other Canadian writers and Clara Thomas, her move from Toronto to Lakefield, and her involvement with the Writers' Union of Canada conference in Ottawa in November 1973. Laurence comments extensively on her own works and her efforts to encourage other writers (including Ian Cameron), her efforts to produce a recording of songs with her lyrics and Cameron's musical score to accompany "The diviners," the film contract based on this novel, and her elation at winning the Molson Prize in 1975. The correspondence also discusses her divorce from Jack Laurence, her relationship with her children, and her views on social and generational change. The correspondence is accompanied by nine vinyl recordings given by Laurence to the Camerons that feature European classical music, African palm wine music, and Ghanaian highlife music. The fonds also contains five letters from John Ruskin, the Victorian writer and art critic, to Kate Towney and Arbuthnot Cameron, 1865-1867, regarding Towney's marriage and financial affairs, mineral collecting, and ideas from Ruskin's book, "Modern painters."

These letters are accompanied by notes and transcripts, as well as a letter written in 1907 regarding the Ruskin correspondence.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

This fonds was acquired from Angus Cameron (the brother of Ian Cameron) and his two sons, Peter and Andrew.

Restrictions on access

No restrictions on access.

Accruals

The fonds comprises the following accessions: 2005-049, 2005-050. No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Level of detail:** Full
 - **Status description:** Final
-

Access points

- Laurence, Margaret, 1926-1987 (subject)
 - Ruskin, John, 1826-1900 (subject)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - Sound recording (documentary form)
-

Collection holdings

File: F0493-2005-049/001(01) - List of correspondence from Margaret Laurence to Ian and Sandy Cameron with brief description of the contents of each letter

Title: List of correspondence from Margaret Laurence to Ian and Sandy Cameron with brief description of the contents of each letter

ID: F0493-2005-049/001(01)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F0493-2005-049/001(02) - Correspondence from Margaret Laurence to Ian and Sandy Cameron

Title: Correspondence from Margaret Laurence to Ian and Sandy Cameron

ID: F0493-2005-049/001(02)

Date: 19 July 1969-30 October 1973 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F0493-2005-049/001(03) - Correspondence from Margaret Laurence to Ian and Sandy Cameron

Title: Correspondence from Margaret Laurence to Ian and Sandy Cameron

ID: F0493-2005-049/001(03)

Date: 9 November 1969 - 22 September 1986 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F0493-2005-049/001(04) - Letter from Alan MacLean to Sandy Cameron

Title: Letter from Alan MacLean to Sandy Cameron

ID: F0493-2005-049/001(04)

Date: 29 July 1990 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F0493-2005-049/001(05) - Letter from Clara Thomas to Ian and Sandy Cameron

Title: Letter from Clara Thomas to Ian and Sandy Cameron

ID: F0493-2005-049/001(05)

Date: 28 October 1969 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F0493-2005-049/002(01) - Records given to Sandy and Ian Cameron by Margaret Laurence

Title: Records given to Sandy and Ian Cameron by Margaret Laurence

ID: F0493-2005-049/002(01)

Date: [195-] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File consists of vinyl recordings given to the Camerons when Laurence left Elm Cottage in England. They include three recordings of classical music performed by Abe Ellestein & Orchestra and Ernst Busch and produced by Banner Records Inc. and the Music Room's International Series in Barcelona, as well as one album of African palm wine music performed by Ebenezer Calender and his Maringar

Band and five albums of Ghanaian highlife music performed by E.T. Mensah and his Tempos Band that were produced by the Decca Record Co. Ltd. in England.

Physical description: 9 audio discs : 78 rpm

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Sound recording (documentary form)
-

File: F0493-2005-050/001(01) - John Ruskin correspondence : notes

Title: John Ruskin correspondence : notes

ID: F0493-2005-050/001(01)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F0493-2005-050/001(02) - Correspondence from John Ruskin to Kate [Townley] ; letter from John Ruskin to Arbuthnot [Cameron]

Title: Correspondence from John Ruskin to Kate [Townley] ; letter from John Ruskin to Arbuthnot [Cameron]

ID: F0493-2005-050/001(02)

Date: 1865-1868 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F0493-2005-050/001(03) - John Ruskin correspondence : various transcripts

Title: John Ruskin correspondence : various transcripts

ID: F0493-2005-050/001(03)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: F0493-2005-050/001(04) - Letter to Marion from unidentified correspondent

Title: Letter to Marion from unidentified correspondent

ID: F0493-2005-050/001(04)

Date: 5 October 1907 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
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