

# York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

## Finding Aid - David Coombs fonds (F0169)

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Language of description: English

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# David Coombs fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)
<b>Title:</b>	David Coombs fonds
<b>Reference code:</b>	F0169
<b>Date:</b>	1900-2002 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	0.235 m of textual records and other material 0.05 m of photographs : b&w 8 audio cassettes
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	2002/04/09 Marie-Josée Levesque: WordPerfect (Creation) 2002/04/09 Awaiting review by the Data Collection Archivist 2002/10/24 Shannon MacDonald. Revised and updated custodial history, immediate source of acquisition, accruals, access restrictions and other notes. 2003/01/29 Shannon MacDonald. Corrections to dates of creation, access points. 2003/04/09 Shannon MacDonald. Added URL for online finding aid. 2008/01/31 Dubeau. Added links to accessions. Updated restrictions on access. 2014/07/22 Migrated to AtoM. 2020/03/26 KCP, N. Somerset. Added subject access points. 2020/04/15 E. Corbett-Nicholson. Post-migration metadata clean-up. Addition of GMD and accession numbers. Published description and generated finding aid. 2025/06/26 J. Grant. Addition of accession 2024-032.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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David Coombs was a student at McLaughlin College from 1968 to 1977. He served on the first two college councils and the first presidential search committee to select a successor to Murray Ross, the first president of York University. In 1970, he prepared a history of the early years of the university and interviewed the founding members of the original McLaughlin College council.

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## Scope and content

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The fonds consists of audio recordings of, and notes relating to, interviews conducted by David Coombs with founding members of York University, particularly relating to McLaughlin College, and with K.H.M. (Michael) Creal and Harold I. Schiff regarding their roles on the Search Committee for a President of York

University in 1969-1970; correspondence between Coombs and Prof. George Tatham, Master of McLaughlin College; and letters, photographs, ephemera, and a vaudeville script entitled "Inbad the Sailor" performed by Arthur Huston, Coombs's step-grandfather.

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## Notes

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### Restrictions on access

Access is open, except for one sealed letter in file 2002-048(01) which is closed until January 1, 2060.

### Related material

See the Board of Governors fonds (F0035), Search Committee for a new President of York University, and the George Tatham fonds (F0423) for related records.

### Accruals

The fonds comprises the following accessions: 1978-006, 1978-014, 1998-035, 1999-064, 2002-048, 2024-032. Further accruals may be expected.

### Note [General]

Accession 1978-006 was formerly known as the K.H.M. Creal fonds (F0296). Accession 1978-014 was formerly known as the Harold I. Schiff fonds (F0403).

### Other notes

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

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## Access points

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- McLaughlin College
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)
- Interviews and oral history (subject)
- Education (subject)
- York University history (subject)

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## Series descriptions

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Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
<b>Accession 1998-035: Accession 1998-035</b>			

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
<u>Date:</u> 1965-1977 (creation)			
<u>Scope and content:</u> The accession consists of correspondence, notes and speeches, publications and ephemera relating to the founding of York University, particularly relating to McLaughlin College. Also consists of 5 audio cassette tapes of interviews with the founding members of McLaughlin College.			
<u>Physical description:</u> 0.13 m of textual records 5 audio cassettes			
<u>Language of the material:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English</li> </ul>			
<u>Access points:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Textual record (documentary form)</li> <li>Sound recording (documentary form)</li> </ul>			
<u>Publication status:</u>			
Published			
<b>File / item list</b>			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
1998-035/001(01)	<b>File - Destiny Canada conference</b>	Jun-77	1 folder of textual records
1998-035/001(02)	<b>File - York and McLaughlin : general info.</b>	1965-1968	1 folder of textual records
1998-035/001(03)	<b>File - York and McLaughlin : general info.</b>	1969-1976	1 folder of textual records
1998-035/001(04)	<b>File - York ephemera</b>		1 folder of textual records
1998-035/001(05)	<b>File - York President Search : general info.</b>	Feb. 1969 - July 1969	1 folder of textual records
1998-035/001(06)	<b>File - York President Search : general info.</b>	Sept. 1969 - Dec. 1969	1 folder of textual records
1998-035/001(07)	<b>File - York President Search : general info.</b>	Jan. 1970 - Oct. 1970	1 folder of textual records
1998-035/001(08)	<b>File - York President Search : proposal letters and lists</b>		1 folder of textual records
1998-035/001(09)	<b>File - York President Search : CVs</b>		1 folder of textual records
1998-035/001(10)	<b>File - York interviews about McLaughlin College</b>	1970	5 audio cassettes
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Tape 1 (Jan. 1970) : side A - introduction to project, residence students; side B - residence students and 1 day student; Tape 2 : side A - day students (Jan. 1970); side B - interim council (Feb. 1970); Tape 3 (Feb. 1970) : side A - interim council; side B - Coombs's own views and 1 council interview; Tape 4 (Feb. 18th 1970) : side A - Senior tutor, John Becker; side B - cont'd.; Tape 5 (April 28th 1970) : side A - Master, Dr. Tatham; no side B		
<b>Accession 1999-064: Accession 1999-064</b>			
<u>Date:</u> 1900-1974 (creation)			

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
<p><b>Scope and content:</b> The accession consists of photographs, ephemera, and a vaudeville script entitled "Inbad the Sailor" performed by Arthur Huston.</p> <p><b>Physical description:</b> 0.13 m of graphic records and other material</p> <p><b>Language of the material:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English</li> </ul> <p><b>Note [General]:</b> Attached biography of Arthur J. Huston was provided by researcher Geoff Clarke.</p> <p><b>Access points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Textual record (documentary form)</li> <li>Graphic material (documentary form)</li> </ul> <p><b>Publication status:</b></p> <p>Published</p>			
<b>File / item list</b>			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
1999-064/001(01)	<b>File - Script : Inbad the Sailor</b>	1929	1 folder of textual records
1999-064/001(02)	<b>File - Newspaper clippings</b>	1935	1 folder of textual records
1999-064/001(03)	<b>File - Photographs : Riverholme</b>	1932	1 folder of photographs
1999-064/001(04)	<b>File - Scrapbook</b>	1906, 1920-1921, 1929	1 folder of textual records
1999-064/001(05)	<b>File - Photographs : Arthur Huston and others; engraved plates</b>	1944	1 folder of photographs
1999-064/001(06)	<b>File - Golf course description</b>	1974	1 folder of textual records
1999-064/001(07)	<b>File - Photographs : Vaudeville actors</b>	1900-1903	1 folder of photographs
1999-064/001(08)	<b>File - Photographs : Vaudeville</b>	1900-1920	1 folder of photographs
<p><b>Accession 2002-048: Accession 2002-048</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> 1968, 2002 (creation)</p> <p><b>Scope and content:</b> The accession consists of a letter to John Warkentin, school song lyrics, and correspondence between David Coombs and George Tatham.</p> <p><b>Physical description:</b> 0.005 m of textual records</p> <p><b>Language of the material:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English</li> </ul> <p><b>Access points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Textual record (documentary form)</li> </ul> <p><b>Publication status:</b></p>			

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
Published			
<b>File / item list</b>			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
2002-048/001(01)	<b>File - Correspondence and School song lyrics</b> <i>Restrictions on access:</i> Includes one restricted letter, which is closed until January 1, 2060.	1968, 2002	1 folder of textual records
<b>Accession 2024-032: Accession 2024-032</b>			
<u>Date:</u> 1968-1976, 1993 (creation)			
<u>Scope and content:</u> Accession consists of ephemera, correspondence and publications accumulated or created by David Coombs during his time as a student and resident don at McLaughlin College in the late 1960s and early 1970s.			
<u>Physical description:</u> 0.025 m of textual records			
<u>Access points:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textual record (documentary form)</li> </ul>			
<u>Restrictions on access:</u> No restrictions on access.			
<u>Publication status:</u>			
Published			
<b>File / item list</b>			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
2024-032/001(01)	<b>File - McLaughlin College : correspondence and ephemera</b> <i>Scope and content:</i> File consists of records pertaining to McLaughlin College and David Coombs. Included are correspondence, a postcard of the college, a variety show programme, song lyrics and a performance script, residence memos and contact lists, invitations, a copy of Mac 70 (volume two, number one, 3 Sept. 1969), Book Four: a guide to McLaughlin College (1971-72), a July 1993 issue of York University Profiles, and a program for the 30th anniversary of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (12 May 1993).	1968-1976, 1993	1 folder of textual records