

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS BY THE CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



## FEATURED FONDS

<i>PCHP : (it's not what you think)</i>	2
<i>Sheet music</i>	2
Toronto Telegram	2
<i>Available soon : Barbara Godard</i>	3
<i>Available soon : John Arpin</i>	3
<i>Available soon : George E.A. Reid</i>	3
<i>Archival advice</i>	4

The Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections of York University Libraries collects primary source material to support research and learning by the university's faculty and students.

New materials are acquired from a wide variety of sources.

While York University has always specialized in research collections relating to Canadian literature, politics, fine arts and social reform, a generational change in faculty has opened new horizons in our acquisition activities.



Focus is concentrated on six areas :

- Literature & Communications
- Culture
- Social Reform
- Jewish Studies
- Finance
- The Environment

These six areas share intersecting content in the disciplines of Canadian studies, women's studies, multiculturalism and sexual diversity.

Visit our website, email us or drop by during our research hours to explore our rich collections!

## KNOWLTON NASH

Knowlton Nash was the face and voice of Canadian news from 1978 to 1988 as host of CBC's evening news, *The National*. Officially retiring in 1992, Nash continued to host periodic news items on CBC News-world until 2004.

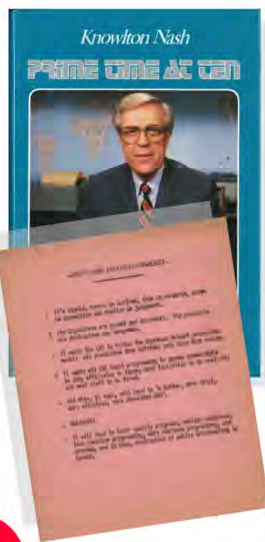
As a reporter in Washington, D.C., in the 1960s, Nash reported on such events such as the Kennedy Assassinations, the Bay of Pigs Crisis, as well as interviewing world figures such as Che Guevara.

Nash returned to Canada in 1969 where he became Director of Information

Programming at the CBC and later chief anchor of the evening news.

Nash donated extensive records, including his research notes for news stories, voluminous correspondence and manuscripts of his published works of non-fiction.

Researchers studying journalism, communication, and broadcasting in Canada, the development of the CBC, Canadian culture, arts and North American politics and the economy from the 1940s to the new millennium will find the papers of Knowlton Nash to be a goldmine of information and insight.





## THE PORTUGUESE CANADIAN HISTORY PROJECT

A new digitization project underway at the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections (CTASC) involves collaborative efforts with past and current graduate students from the Department of History conducting fieldwork.

The Portuguese Canadian History Project is gathering archival material from the local Portuguese community in Toronto for deposit

at York. Digitizing a selection of these records will provide better access to research communities locally and in Portugal.

To date, the archives has acquired the records of historians and community activists (including David Higgs, Domingos Marques and Ilda Januário), photographer Gilberto Prioste, and community organizations including the Portu-

guese Interagency Network (PIN) and the Portuguese Canadian Democratic Association/Associação Democrática Portuguesa.



An online exhibit can be accessed at : <http://archives.library.yorku.ca/exhibits/show/pchp>

## SHEET MUSIC DIGITIZATION PROJECT

### What is Vinegar Syndrome?

The majority of modern photographic film is cellulose diacetate, which is an inherently unstable material. Over time, fluctuations in humidity and temperature can lead to spontaneous decay, with the photographic image detaching from the chemical base and eventually becoming illegible (see below).



Funded through a 2011 Young Canada Works grant, the CTASC began digitizing selected published music that was out-of-copyright to be made available on the university's trusted digital repository, YorkSpace. Drawn from the archive's general

collection and the newly acquired donation of over 150,000 items from pianist John Arpin, these items often include intricate illustrations and advertisements.

These publications of popular music from North

America and Europe are a valuable primary source to musicians, musicologists and cultural historians.



Digitized sheet music can be browsed at : <http://pi.library.yorku.ca/dspace/handle/10315/8004>

## TORONTO TELEGRAM PHOTOGRAPHS

The CTASC has been adding to its online collection of images digitized from the Toronto Telegram fonds.

Available through YorkSpace, these photographs from Toronto's historic newspaper (which published from 1876 to 1971), can be browsed by subject.

In 2011, the archives embarked on a preservation strategy to systematically scan boxes of Telegram photographic negatives that are suffering from vinegar syndrome, in order to capture images before they deteriorate beyond recognition.

Working in collaboration with York's Digital Initiatives Librarian, these 6,000 images are but a small percentage of the 1.4 million available in the fonds. A print finding aid can be used on-site at the CTASC to browse specific files arranged by subject.

Toronto Telegram images can be browsed at : <http://pi.library.yorku.ca/dspace/handle/10315/580>



## IN MEMORIAM: BARBARA GODARD

Barbara Thompson Godard (1941-2010) was Professor of English, French, Social and Political Thought, and Women's Studies at York University, where she also held the Avi Bennett Historical Chair in Canadian Literature.

A prolific and collaborative scholar, she published eight books, 80 book chapters and 115 articles and catalogue entries. She translated the major writers of Québec femi-

nism, including Nicole Brossard, Yolande Villemaire and Louky Bersianik. She also served as editor or on the editorial board of 22 journals, including the feminist literary periodical *Tessera*, which she co-founded.

The final accrual of Professor Godard's archives will be available to researchers in the coming months, while selections from her personal research library will be catalogued as part of the Libraries'

Special Collections. *Tessera* is also available through York's Open Journals.



Information about more online materials about Barbara Godard, including a tribute site and finding aid can be found at: <http://bit.ly/joqvXh>

## COMING SOON: JOHN ARPIN

In 2011, the CTASC received the generous donation of the archives and sheet music collection of pianist, composer, arranger and teacher John Arpin from his widow, Dr. Mary Jane Espen.

Dubbed "The Chopin of Ragtime," Arpin's collection of roughly 150,000 vintage original

sheets of Canadian, Broadway, American standard and popular music, jazz and ragtime which will be digitized as part of the sheet music digitization project (see left).

This is a substantial donation which will take time to process, list and gradually add to YorkSpace but will be a rich resource to ethno-

musicologists, cultural historians and musicians at York University.



## COMING SOON: GEORGE E. A. REID

George E. A. Reid (1921-1977) was a graphic designer, artist, illustrator and musician. Working during WWII as a cameraman with the Royal Canadian Air Force, Reid later settled in Scarborough where he raised a family and worked as a salesman and designer for a number of printing firms, including Rous and Mann, C.F. Houghton, and Bridgens Ltd.

Reid's archives includes correspondence, design drawings and professional material relating to his working life as a graphic designer, including original animation cells for a short film Reid animated called, "Life with Cecil."

The George E. Reid fonds will be available in September 2011.







## ARCHIVAL RESEARCH ADVICE (IN 140 CHARACTERS OR LESS)

- Archival research will always take longer than you expect. Start early, call ahead and do preparatory research. You won't regret it!
- Archival research starts with record creators, not subjects. Start with a list of not only *what* you're looking for but also *who*.
- Be aware that access to some materials will be restricted for a period of time because of legislation, donor request, or to protect privacy.
- There may be restrictions on how you can use archival material. Always ask about potential restrictions on copying and publication.
- Archivists can help guide you in your research, but cannot conduct it on your behalf. Besides, the thrill of discovery is half the fun!
- It may be efficient to photograph a document, rather than copy it. Ask first! You may be able to see something but not be able to copy it.
- It may be faster to transcribe a passage rather than wait for a photocopy. Copies are \$0.30/page and are dependent on staff availability.
- Every archive is unique and will collect different stuff. If you're not finding what you want, ask us! We can recommend other repositories.
- Citation is extra important when conducting archival research. Your reader (and you!) should be able to retrace your steps back to an item.



Want more advice? Check out our **Archival Research Tutorial** at: <http://bit.ly/roqKod>



### CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Hours : Monday–Friday,  
10:00 am – 4:30 pm.

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Homepage :

[www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/ArchivesSpecialCollections/index.htm](http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/ArchivesSpecialCollections/index.htm)

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<http://deantiquate.blog.yorku.ca/>

York's University Archives was named in honour of Dr. Clara Thomas, Professor of English at York University from 1961 to 1984. The Clara Thomas Archives has been a beneficiary of Dr. Thomas' extensive literary connections, moral and financial support, and good will for many years.

#### Image credits:

Page 1 : Photograph of student assistants at Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections | ASC06841. | Dust jacket of Knowlton Nash's book *Prime Time at Ten* and his review of the Applebaum-Hebert Report on the CBC. Knowlton Nash fonds, F0520.

Page 2: Photograph of Kingston Soccer Club, October 19, 1973, David Higgs fonds. | Photograph of members Montreal's Portuguese Folklore Club, ca. 196-? | Selected cover illustrations of sheet music from the John Arpin Collection. | Photographic negative suffering from advanced vinegar syndrome, Toronto Telegram fonds, ASC10384.

Page 3: Julie Murray, Barbara Godard and Jennifer Henderson posing with issues of *Tessera* at the LeftWord Book Fair, October 2001. From Tessera fonds, ASC07028. | Portrait of John Arpin and scanned image of *Maple Leaf Rag*. | Selected designs by George E.A. Reid. George E.A. Reid fonds, F0566, Accession 2009-057.

Page 4 : Illustrations from *Fauna boreali-americana, or, The zoology of the northern parts of British America by John Richardson et. al.* call number 13040. | Portrait of Clara Thomas, York University Libraries fonds, ASC0502.