

RECENT ACQUISITIONS BY THE CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



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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, and a community of international scholars.

New materials are acquired from a wide variety of sources, including antiquarian book dealers, researchers working in the field and the general public.

While York University has always specialized in research collections relating to Canadian literature, politics, fine

arts and social reform, generational change in faculty has opened new horizons in our acquisition activities.

Recent acquisitions pertain to a wide diversity of disciplines and topics, including: broadcast communications, environmental history, sexual diversity, social and constitutional reform, film and theatre production, and the multicultural experience.

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.

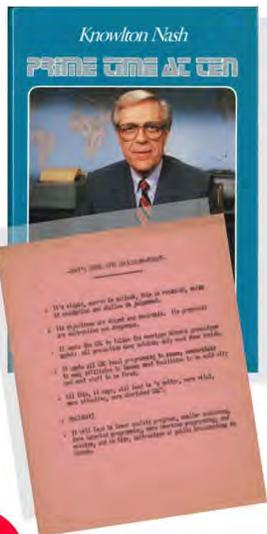
As a reporter in Washington, D.C., in the 1960s, Nash reported on such events such as the Kennedy Assassinations, the Bay of Pigs Crisis, as well as interviewing world figures such as Che Guevera.

Nash returned to Canada in 1969, when 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 with Canadians, 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.



PORTUGUESE CANADIAN HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

The Portuguese Canadian History Project continues to build momentum, with new oral histories and archival donations generated by graduate students working in the Portuguese community in Toronto.

In recent months, the Clara Thomas Archives has acquired the records of CAW

Local 40, a downtown Toronto union which absorbed a number of smaller radical unions made up predominantly of recent immigrants and visible minorities, including Portuguese men and women working in the cleaning and textile industries.

As a result of the success of this initiative, a similar project is be-

ing developed by York faculty and graduate students focusing on the Greek community in Toronto and Montreal.

For more information, see the project's website at: <http://archives.library.yorku.ca/pchp>



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>

COMING SOON: FRANCES DAFOE

A former Olympic figure skater, Frances Dafoe won a silver medal in the 1956 Winter Olympics. Since her retirement, Dafoe has worked as a costume designer, although she continues to contribute to the sport as an international judge and costume design consultant.

Dafoe received the Order of Canada in 1991 in recognition to her contributions to Canadian sport. Dafoe graduated from Central

Technical School, where one of her teachers was artist Doris McCarthy. She would later attend Parsons School of Design in New York.

A long-time collaborator with choreographer Alan Lund, Dafoe worked on musicals at the Charlottetown Festival as well as various television films and theatre productions for the CBC, including 18 seasons of *The Wayne and Shuster Show*. She also designed costumes for Stars on Ice tours,

various figure skating television specials and, most notably, for the closing ceremonies of the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Her archives and collection of books and magazines may interest researchers studying period costumes, fashion, theatre arts, and Canadian sports, in particular figure skating.



COMING SOON: GERALD ARCHAMBEAU

Gerald Augustus Archambeau was born in Jamaica in 1933. Raised in Kingston by his three aunts, he was sent to Canada in the winter of 1947 to join his mother and stepfather in Montreal. He trained in the plumbing and steam-fitting trades, but at age eighteen, decided to

join the railway as a passenger car porter. He worked for CP and CN until the 1960s, when declining passenger rail traffic and the rise of air travel caused him to switch to a career with a major Canadian airline in Toronto.

Archambeau's archives will be of interest to scholars studying the immigrant experience in Canada, labour relations, union history, race relations and social reform movements.



COMING SOON: ANNE GOLDEN

Anne Golden, Ph.D., C.M., has long been recognized for her leadership in public policy.

Since 2001, she has been President and CEO of The Conference Board of Canada, the country's foremost independent not-for-profit applied research organization. Previously, she was President of the United

Way of Greater Toronto for fourteen years. She has also served as a researcher for the City of Toronto, Chair of the Homelessness Action Task Force (1998) and of the Greater Toronto Area Task Force (1996). Also noteworthy is her work on The Canada Project, authoring *Mission Possible: Successful Canadian Cities*.

Golden's speeches and reports will be of interest to scholars studying public policy, city planning and social issues.





NEW ADDITIONS TO DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

In addition to our ongoing digitization of historical sheet music and photographs from the Toronto Telegram, the Clara Thomas Archives is pursuing digitization projects involving content that may be of interest to environmental historians, geographers and scholars studying land development throughout Canada.

These materials will be available through YorkSpace for research and scholarly use in the coming months. See:

<http://pl.library.yorku.ca/dspace>.

John Warkentin slide collection

In collaboration with environmental historians at York University, we have been digitizing the field notes and photographic slides generated by York University professor emeritus, geographer John Warkentin. These images will be useful to instructors and researchers investigating environmental change and settlement patterns in Manitoba, Ontario and Greenland.

These photographs were taken by Prof. Warkentin from the early 1950s to 2009.

Aerial photos of Ontario wetlands

Lou Wise is a pilot and environmental activist who has taken low-level oblique aerial photographs of endangered wetlands and watersheds of Ontario since the 1980s. These images will be of interest to researchers and activists working on water rights, development issues, urban planning and agricultural development in Ontario.

These sites are located in southwestern Ontario and, in particular, the Oak Ridges Moraine.



CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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

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Email: archives@yorku.ca

Homepage :
<http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/archivesspecialcollections/>

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York 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:

p.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.

p. 2: Photograph of members of 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.

p. 3: Portrait of Frances Dafoe, available at: http://www.tkmg.ca/Figure_skating_and_the_arts/About_The_Author.html. | Portrait of Gerald Archambeau, cover of his autobiography and copy of his passport from 1947. | Portrait of Anne Golden, available at: <http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorialopinion/article/1025136--goar-activist-coming-home-to-a-straitened-city>.

p.4 : Portrait of Clara Thomas, York University Libraries fonds, F0066. ASC00502. | Selection of digitized photographs from the Lou Wise fonds, ASC20214, and the John Warkentin fonds, ASC15024.