RECENT ACQUISITIONS BY THE CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

FEATURED FONDS

Aubrey Golden and civil liberties	2
Marilou McPhedran and constitutional reform	2
Morgan Family and midwifery	2
Lee Lorch and human rights	3
Obsidian Theatre and the Black voice	3
Prigent & Greene Family and Royalist France	3
New Additions to Digital Collections	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 including an international network of antiquarian book dealers, retiring faculty and staff, and individuals and organizations across the country. 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 for the expansion of acquisition activities.

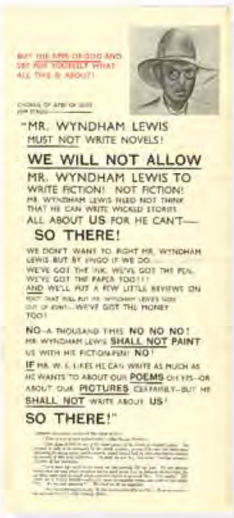


Focus is concentrated on six areas :

- 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!



WYNDHAM LEWIS COLLECTION

York University Libraries recently purchased from antiquarian bookseller, Hugh Anson-Cartwright the collection of Wyndham Lewis books and related material The Canadian-born English painter and writer was a seminal figure in Modernist literature and founder of the Vorticist movement. Always a controversial and extreme character, Lewis represents an important, but often overlooked, figure in English Modernism. The Lewis collection will be a rich resource for students studying the literary and art movements of the early twentieth century.



Aubrey Golden and Civil Liberties

This recent accession consists of client files from the law practice of Aubrey Golden.

Best known for his involvement in civil liberties cases, Golden's work also focused on constitutional, labour, environmental, and administrative law. He took a lead role in the development of collective bargaining for professionals working in education, science, and engineering and he also represented Native groups in their disputes with government agencies, commissions, and private parties. The fonds also documents his defense of the sex shop Lovecraft for obscenity in the 1970s, as well as his defense of figures such as David DePoe during a period of conflict between the hippy community of Yorkville and local authorities in the 1960s.





An online finding aid can be accessed at : http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/submissions/fonds/ON00370-f0000510.pdf

Morgan Family and Midwifery

Researchers can often find supplementary sources for archival material in our special collections. York University Libraries have in recent years acquired rare books relating to the history of nursing to complement archival holdings like the Morgan Family fonds and the School of Nursing Program at the university. One of the most recent additions has been this early 18th century treatise on midwifery.



The Morgan Family has recently donated nursing and medical textbooks as well as medical documents including a medical register kept by midwife Helen James of London between 1942 and 1946. This donation provides rich insight into medical practices in England during WWII. Items are searchable in the York Library Catalogue.



Marilou McPhedran and Constitutional Reform

Marilou McPhedran is a Canadian feminist lawyer, consultant and activist. Her archival records reveal her activities and illustrate her work in the areas of constitutional reform, women's international and national rights, women's health, and violence against women and children. Included in the fonds are materials relating to McPhedran's seminal work to ensure that women were included in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as well as materials relating to her activities on the Women's Legal Education Action Fund (LEAF), the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence against Women and Children, and the Ad Hoc Committee of Canadian Women on the Constitution.



An online finding aid can be found at : http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000514.pdf

Obsidian Theatre and The Black Voice



Founded in February 2000, Obsidian Theatre Company is a leading black theatre company in Canada, endeavouring to produce local plays, develop playwrights and train emerging theatre professionals.

Obsidian has encouraged Canada's local black playwrights and actors, mounting local works such as *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God*, *Born Ready*, *The Monument* and *Consecrated Ground*, as well as the first international collaboration (Canada and Barbados) of Austin Clarke's Giller Award-winning novel *The Polished Hoe*.

The theatre holdings include operational records, correspondence, production notes, critic reviews, costume and set designs as well as playbills, posters and other promotional

An online finding aid can be found at : http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000555.pdf

Lee Lorch And Human rights



During the 1950s and 1960s, mathematician Lee Lorch and his wife, Grace Lonergan Lorch, a former school teacher, were involved in the civil rights movement in the United States. They fought for the desegregation of the Stuyvesant Housing community in New York City and later participated in the desegregation of schooling in Tennessee and Arkansas.

Both were brought before the UnAmerican Activities Committee, and following harassment, the family emigrated to Canada.

The Lee Lorch fonds contains his professorial and personal papers as a mathematician, academic, civil rights activist and humanitarian.

An online finding aid can be found at : http:// archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000524.pdf

Prigent and Greene Family and Royalist France



This collection of material was recently donated by York Professor Ian Greene. Consisting of correspondence, genealogical charts, birth and marriage certificates regarding the Prigent family, the majority of the material relates to the activities of Francois Noel, le Comte de Prigent. Prigent was a soldier and aide de camp to kings Louis XVI and Louis XVIII, and as an agent, conveyed correspondence from Royalist leaders in France to the British government between 1790 and 1808. In fact, Prigent is often cited as one of the historical inspirations for The Scarlet Pimpernel.



New additions to Digital Collections

The Archives & Special Collections has in the past year made selections from four of its special collections and digitized them with the Internet Archive (http://www.archive.org/details/YorkUniversity).

Selections include items from :

The **Yolton Collection.** This collection was the gift of John W. Yolton, professor of Philosophy. The collection focuses on early editions by or about Scottish philosopher John Locke.

The Gibson Collection was established in 1994 when Robert Chalmers Gibson, after almost fifty years of collecting rare books and manuscripts, donated his Canadiana collection to York University. It is particularly strong in early Canadian travel narratives and geographic treatises.

The Canadian Pamphlet Collection is an eclectic assortment of printed Canadian ephemera, broadsheets and pamphlets. Dating from the 18th century to the present, the collection covers a wide variety of subjects that include social and political issues, religion, fine arts, women and immigration.

The Lambrinos Collection is a recent acquisition of historical Canadian school textbooks and children's literature collected by Sheila Thibodeau Lambrinos.







Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections

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

Telephone: 416-736- 5442

Email: archives@yorku.ca

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

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:
p.1 : Students in the Archives Reading Room, 31 March 1989. (Brian Pichell) York University photograph collection, F0091. ASC05083. Selections from Wyndham Lewis Collection.
p. 2:
David DePoe speaking at a sit-in and a press conference in Toronto, 1967. Toronto Telegram F0433. ASC00621, ASC00623, ASC00624. | Selections from the Morgan Family fonds, F0540. | Title page of *Culpepper's compleat and experienc'd midwife*, (1718), call number 11221.
p. 3:
Selections from the Obsidian Theatre Company fonds, F0555. | Selections from the Lee Lorch fonds, including a photograph of the Lorch family at a press conference in 1949. ASC05122. | Selections from the Prigent & Green Family fonds, F548.
p.4 :
Portrait of Clara Thomas, York University Libraries fonds, F0066. ASC0502. | Selections of digitized holdings from the Internet Archives.