

NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society



Photo #T1233.
Title: "Candid wedding –
Mr. and Mrs. M. Raven"
c. 1961

Love and Marriage, the Provincial Archives of Alberta's newest gallery exhibit, features archival records that illuminate many historical aspects of love, marriage, and social norms in Alberta. It opens May 2024.

The Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society (FPAAS) works with the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) to help preserve Alberta documentary history. We also provide young people with six-month intern experience opportunities in the archives environment that is a steppingstone into their professional lives. In this newsletter, our Young Canada Works (YCW) interns describe the variety of work they have done this past year.

We completed another successful casino in March. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to take a shift or two. This major fund-raising event provides funds that will be used for one of our projects to provide access to records to the public.

Contents:

| | |
|--|----|
| Archives Store: What's New | 2 |
| FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Carmen Zhang | 3 |
| FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Lorraine Butchart | 4 |
| The FOIP Reading Room | 5 |
| FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Fionnuala Hunt | 6 |
| "Untitled" – An Art Collection Mystery | 7 |
| FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Kelsey Kropiniski | 10 |
| YCW Intern Reflection: | |
| Claire Constant, Conservator | 11 |
| Jereme Wilson, TRC Archivist | 12 |
| Jonas Vasseur, Archivist | 14 |
| Membership Application | 15 |

FPAAS Board 2023/2024

President: Linda Borys

Vice-President: Vacant

Treasurer: Karen Hesson

Secretary: Margaret Shane

Directors-at-Large: Judy Kovacs

Tim Marriott

Kelley Abercrombie

Catherine Whalley

Archives Store: What's New

By Kristen Ungstad, Archives Retail Services Coordinator

The Archives Store has had an exciting year!

With the recently removed "Dried Out" exhibit came some fun souvenir/gift merchandise, the most popular of which was a custom blend of tea called "Safe Stimulant". The tea was blended by a local tea merchant and was designed to mimic the taste of a blended scotch with flavor notes of toffee, vanilla, and smoke. The name comes from a 1912 temperance poster (PR1974.0001.0400a.0010) that lists tea as a safe alternative to alcohol, which it erroneously implied is a stimulant. Other merchandise included a kitchen towel printed with another temperance poster, reprints of various temperance posters, and cardboard coasters printed with a recreation of a prescription for alcohol, which allows the user to customize their coaster to their beverage of choice.

Last summer we had an amusing event we refer to as our "run on the rat". A well-known podcast was doing a segment about Alberta being rat free, which led to discussions on social media and images of our famous "You Can't Ignore The Rat" poster (A17202) being shared and talked about in those discussions. This led to us selling out of almost all "The Rat" merchandise and having to reprint and re-order more. We still have guests bringing up the podcast when they see the posters in the store.

In early March, several staff went on a tour of a local company called Elite Lithographers. We were interested in the company, as they do high resolution scans and reproductions of paintings and documents, with the ability to do some oversized documents. It was fascinating to see their system, as it uses a vacuum surface to hold the item flat and upright then uses a specially built camera to take high resolution photos. They built their system from scratch themselves in the early 2000's, a time when scanner technology was rather rudimentary compared to today. We were also given a tour of their print shop where we were able to see a variety of mass production printers in action as well as some of the high-resolution printers used to reproduce art on a variety of surfaces, including canvas prints.



In the Conservation Lab, Client Conservator, Katherine, recently completed an extremely large and lengthy project, a series of three county maps. The largest of the maps required dozens of hours of work and a special tube to be constructed for storage. Now that the map is complete and awaiting pickup, we are looking forward to a faster turnover pace in the conservation lab. This will be welcome news to the people on our wait list!

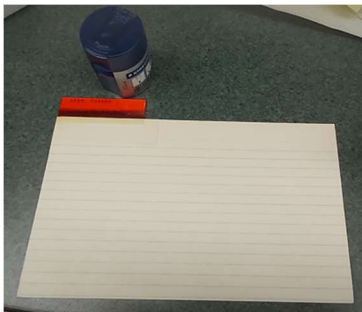
FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Carmen Zhang

I am one of the Friends Archival Technicians, sharing the position with Lorraine Butchart. As a Private Records Archival Technician, I am responsible for various tasks that include but are not limited to, assigning accession numbers to donations, creating accession files, adding donor information and the donation locations into the Access to Memory (AtoM) database, processing records, creating file lists, and going on donor pick-ups.



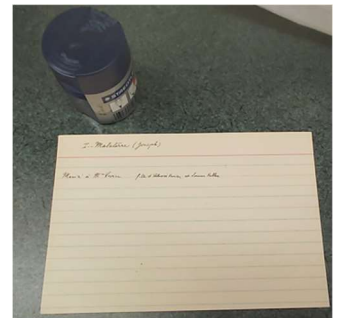
The first half of 2023, one of my projects was to scan and digitize OMI index cards in various sizes. Some are in the normal index card sizes (see image on the right).

And some are half a page in size (see image below).



The index cards are sorted in alphabetical order by last name before being scanned.

Afterwards, the files will be converted into a PDF and the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) setting will be used to ensure that the text on the index cards can be searchable. Lastly, the size of the PDF is reduced. There are times during scanning when everything goes smoothly, and it takes about 30 minutes to an hour to scan. And there are times when the Intelliscan decides to go, "Nope, not today. I am going to be a pain in the butt." This is when I sigh and try to solve the problem that is presented by the error message.



In the summertime, the OMI photo collection was moved into vault 19, new labels were attached to the boxes and then the location of this collection is updated on AtoM.

However, updating the locations on AtoM was the challenging part. As it turns out, 1 file record was listed as 1 physical storage entry in AtoM. For example, one collection had 50 files and each box has 25 files, therefore, it's a total of 2 boxes. So, instead of updating 72 physical storage entries, I linked / moved over 1000 file records on AtoM to the corresponding box number before updating the locations.



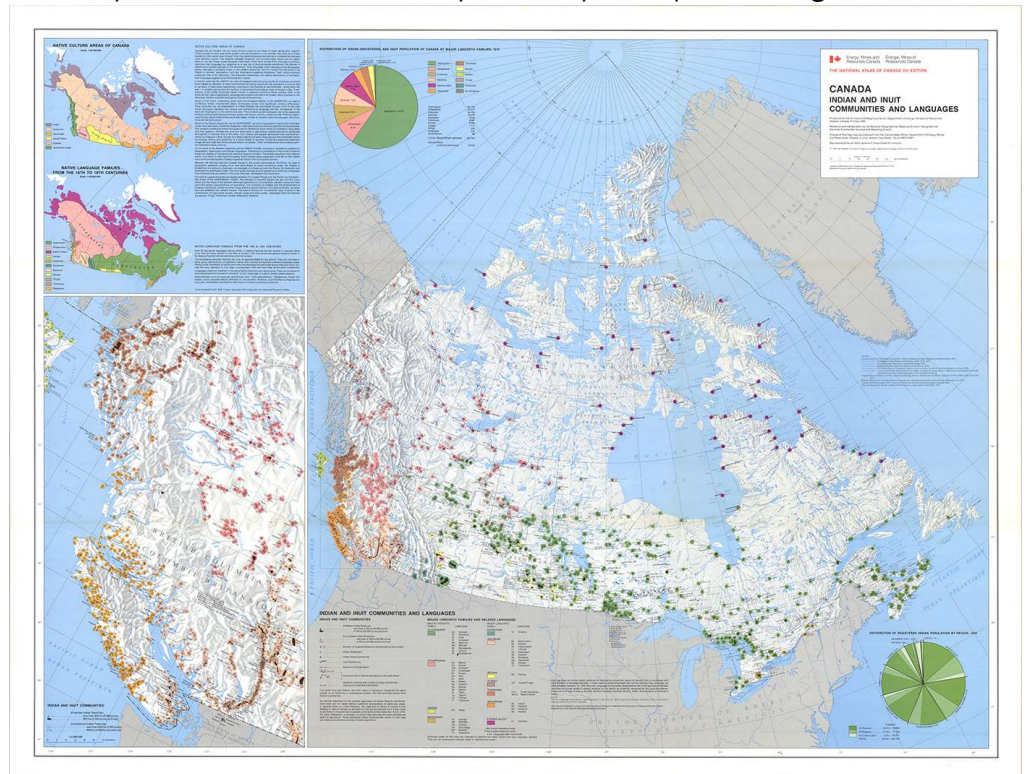
During the latter half of 2023, various file lists were uploaded onto AtoM. One of the big file lists I worked on was the G photograph collection from Nicholas W. Gavinchuk fonds. At the same time, I

processed a few Ronald Trembley fond accessions. As someone who is not fluent in the French language, the challenging part of this project was reading handwritten French and transcribing that onto a file list.

Overall, I am responsible for various tasks that include but are not limited to, uploading file lists, updating the locations of a few records on AtoM, assigning accession numbers, creating accession files for new donations, processing, and completing various digitalization projects such as scanning and digitalizing OMI records using the new book scanner and using the Intelliscan scanner to scan the vital statistics ledgers. And as always, the month of February went by in a speed of light!

And if you read the newsletter last year, I briefly mention The Indian and Inuit Communities and Languages map that was printed in 1980. Well, Yesan, the photographic technician was kind enough to scan an image of this map.

That is all I have for now. Until next time.



FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Lorraine Butchart

Lorraine Butchart is a graduate of MacEwan University's Library and Information Technology program and has been a Friends employee since September of 2015, working as an archival technician on the Private Records team. Much of the work that she does consists of accessioning or processing the donations that come into the Provincial Archives from individuals, groups, or companies in Alberta, with the aim of preserving them and making them available to the public. You may also see her covering retrievals in the reading room from time to time, and she takes her turn, along with the other archival technicians, in filling orders for vital statistics records that come in through the PAA website.



A recent highlight of her work was helping to scan copies of the monthly newsletter *La Revue du Sacré Coeur* (Kitchitwa Miteh), known in English as *The Cree Review*. These newsletters, which are mostly written in Cree syllabics and date from the first half of the 20th century, are from the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Lacombe Canada fonds. You can see a sample of these documents

at <https://searchprovincialarchives.alberta.ca/la-revue-du-sacre-coeur-kitchitwa-miteh-peres-oblats-alberta-27>.

The PAA's recent migration from HeRMIS/TMS to the Access to Memory database (AtoM) also remains a focus as Lorraine contributes to the work of reformatting old file lists so that they will appear properly in AtoM.

Lorraine enjoys her work at the Provincial Archives and is grateful to the Friends of the Provincial Archives Society for providing the opportunity.

The FOIP Reading Room

By Angie Dilts, Access Archivist

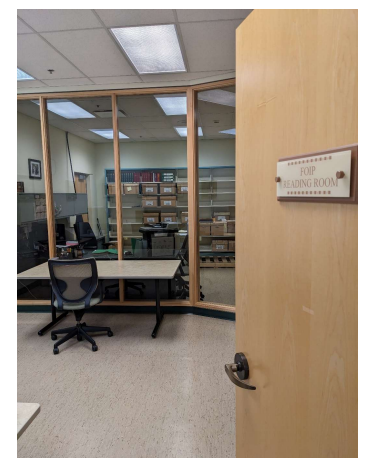
In my role as Access Archivist, I review records under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP Act) to determine what can be accessed by the public and what must remain closed. Generally, I deal with records that have been deposited by Government of Alberta (GoA) departments and ministries, since most of those records are subject to FOIP. But what happens when GoA department staff need to look at closed records we hold, as part of their job? Records aren't removed from the PAA holdings and FOIP records aren't brought out to the Reading Room in case of unauthorized access. Instead, we provide access in the FOIP Reading Room. It's separate from the public Reading Room and adjacent to my office.



If a GoA department requires only a few records, these can be located, copied, and interoffice mailed by the PAA's Government Records team. But large amounts of records, or records with unclear inventories, sometimes need to be reviewed by the person most-familiar with the project they are required for. GoA staff can work with closed FOIP records in the FOIP Reading Room without having to worry about obscuring them from other researchers. Additionally, we can ensure proper records handling and answer any questions that come up. They can scan or photograph records to a GoA device if they prefer not to order photocopies.

Typically, the FOIP Reading Room is used once or twice a month but last year we had a GoA contractor working in there a few days each week from March through August. She needed to scan closed records for GoA litigation purposes. Using a portable, single-page scanner, she scanned a little over fifteen boxes of records, which roughly translates to over 45,000 pages. The cost to photocopy would have been well over \$15,000 and would have disrupted our administrative services for some time.

This room is also used for anyone viewing records under section 42 of the Act, a FOIP Researcher Agreement. This section of the Act allows full access to records that contain personal information, but only if the researcher demonstrates the information is necessary for their approved line of research and that the data will be anonymized. It is meant for academic study, not personal or exploratory whims, and goes through an approval process before access is permitted. For two days this past November, I had a researcher viewing eugenics patient case files under a Researcher Agreement in the FOIP Reading Room.



FOIP Reading Room, off the public Reading Room and adjacent to the Access Archivist Office

Lastly, the FOIP Reading Room is used as a workspace for PAA staff accessing closed records. Church registers and other records can be retrieved to the FOIP Reading Room so staff can review them and answer reference questions. The FOIP Reading Room is an essential part of the FOIP process at the PAA.

FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Fionnuala Hunt

Since September 2023, I have participated in the digitization of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) collection, particularly the Provincial Administration records. These records focus primarily on the residential schools run by the Oblates that operated in Alberta from the late nineteenth century to the late twentieth century. In 2018, the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) gained access to these records and have been working to digitize the collection so they can be uploaded and viewed on our collections management database, Access to Memory (AtoM). As part of the Government of Canada's call to action, the Government of Alberta is collaborating with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) to "identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system" ("National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation").



Part of my role as a Private Records Archival Technician is to prepare, scan, and process the records. At the start of this project, I was given a full list of Provincial Administration records that needed to be digitized. Based on this list, I pull boxes from the vaults and go through them to ensure there is nothing that can impede the scanning process (metal paperclips, staples, etc.). I keep an eye out for any restricted records, which are less than seventy-five years old and consequently too recent to be accessed or digitized at this time ("Accessing Oblate Records"). Next, I take the box to the Intelliscan room (pictured below).

Most of the records scan without much trouble, but I found that there are many that require more care. One issue I frequently ran into at the beginning of the project was scanning the onionskin paper. This paper—much like its name suggests—resembles the fine, translucent skin of an onion. Already delicate to begin with, time has made it more brittle and less willing to cooperate with modern technology. The first onionskin documents I scanned were too dark, making the writing difficult to see. I resolved this problem by putting white paper underneath to get a clearer scan. After this, the document was easier to read and responded better to the OCR (Optical Character Recognition) post-production.



During the post-production process, I go through each file two or three times to make sure that every page is legible and whole. Occasionally, I find pages that are cut off or only half-scanned, so this is an important step in the process. Once I am satisfied with the file overall, I run it through the OCR and optimization stage. The purpose of OCR is to make a PDF searchable when viewed online. For example, if you open one of our Oblate records online, you can press Ctrl+F and search for a word or phrase. This function is helpful for those searching for specific names or locations regarding the

residential schools, though it does not work on handwriting. The optimization stage reduces the file size so that the image loads faster. Once the file has been processed, it is uploaded to AtoM for public viewing.

I hope you have enjoyed this glimpse into the OMI digitization project! Working with the Friends has been a great experience and has allowed me the opportunity to do something meaningful and interesting. To conclude, here are some statistics since I started the project as of February 7, 2024:

- Total number of pages scanned: 60,472
- Total number of files scanned: 615

Works Cited

"National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation." *Government of Canada*, 2022, <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524505153967/1557512946537>. Accessed 7 February 2024.

"Accessing Oblate Records." *Provincial Archives of Alberta*, 2024, <https://paa.accesstomemory.org/omi>. Accessed 7 February 2024.

"Untitled" – An Art Collection Mystery

By Michael Gourlie, Government Records Archivist

In July 2023, the PAA entered into an agreement with the Arts Branch / Alberta Foundation for the Arts to store a small part of its collection at the PAA. Without providing any details, Alison cryptically mentioned that I should go check out the works that had been sent out and placed in the hanging storage in Vault 8.

And what a pleasant surprise for a government records geek! Amongst the portraits of Lieutenant-Governors of Alberta and monarchs (well, George V and Mary, and Elizabeth II), there are portraits of Alberta cabinet ministers. Primarily done before 1920, the dozen or so portraits depict Ministers of Education, Municipal Affairs, Public Health as well as the Provincial Secretary and Provincial Treasurer. It's unclear as to why the portraits were commissioned originally, but the fact that they stopped around 1920 might have something to do with the change in government from the Liberal Party of Alberta to the United Farmers in 1921. Today, it's difficult to imagine commissioning paintings of ministers – they change so frequently that there would be a years-long and ever-growing backlog of portraits!

However, there is one portrait sent over that was listed as "Untitled."

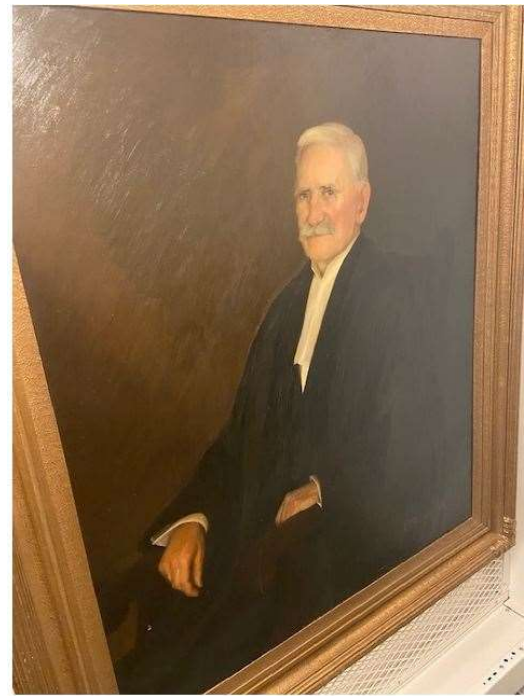


Of course, that made me wonder – if the painting is in the collection, how is it untitled? Admittedly that's probably the case with many portraits, but it seemed a shame that this work had no identification given that it appears to be a well-done painting. It depicts an older man sitting with his arms folded in his lap and gazing directly at the viewer. The artist is clearly identified as "E. Marrett Wilcocks."

After some quick newspapers.com research, I had all the details about the painting.

In 1923, prominent Calgary lawyer R.B. Bennett (who later became Canada's 11th Prime Minister) commissioned American artist Edna Marrett Wilcocks (1887-1969) to paint a portrait of Dr. James Muir (1847-1926). Originally a lawyer in Ontario, Muir came to the Northwest Territories in 1890 to establish a law practice in Calgary. He later served as the first president of the Law Society of Alberta.

At his death in 1926, his peers recalled their affection for him as well as their high regard for his long service within the legal community.



E. MARRETT WILCOCKS

OIL PAINTING OF JAMES MUIR ON EXHIBITION

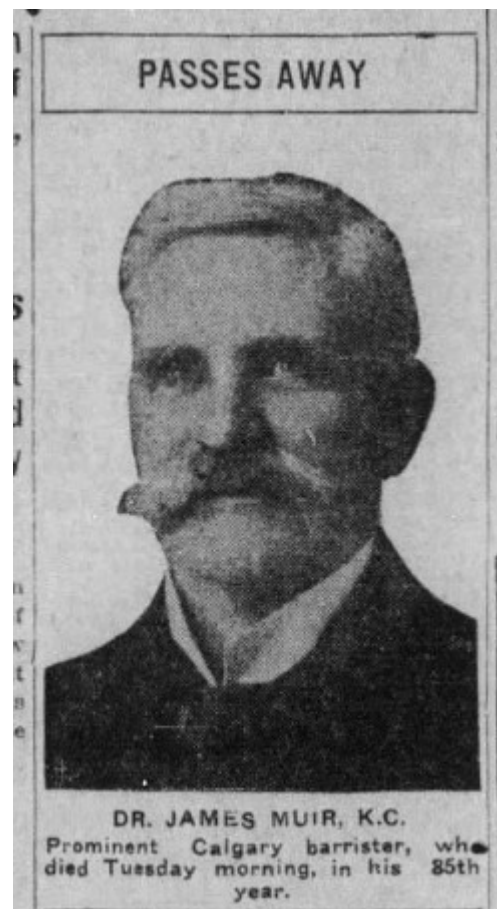
At the request of R. B. Bennett, a large portrait, measuring 40x48, of James Muir, K.C., president of the Law Society, has been painted by Mrs. Frederick James Wilcocks, of 1405 Fifteenth street west, and will be placed on exhibition in Parker's, Limited, on Friday of this week.

Later, the portrait will be presented to the Law Society by Mr. Bennett.

Mrs. Wilcocks, who has been in Calgary for the past three years, has done much of her work in Portland, Maine, and has attained a wide reputation in the east as a portrait painter. While in Calgary she has made several portraits of the children of Gibson Bailey.

The portrait of Mr. Muir will be hung in the court house after its presentation to the Law Society.

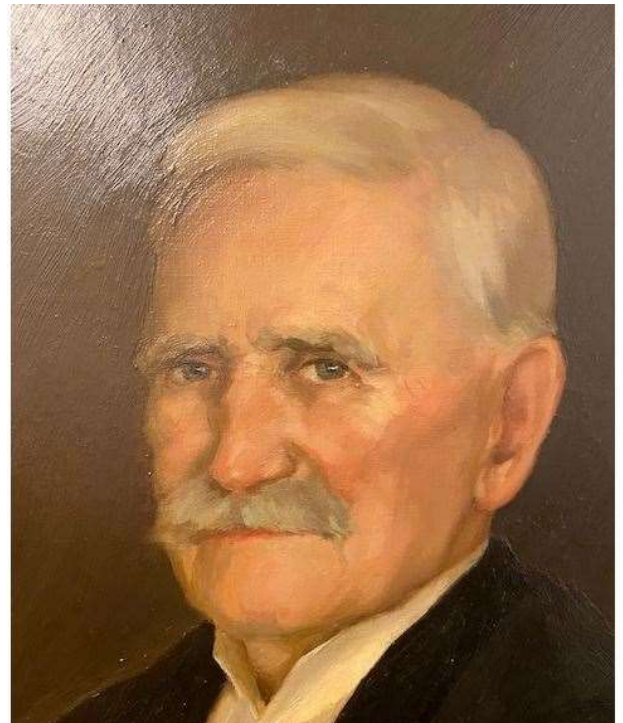
(Calgary Herald, June 10, 1923, p. 10.)



(Calgary Herald, February 23, 1926, p. 1.)

Edna Marrett Wilcocks is perhaps an even more interesting character. Born in Maine, she attended the Boston School of Fine Arts, winning several arts prizes. She completed a series of panels for the chapel of Bowdoin College in Maine, but shortly after leaving school, her eyesight became impaired to the point that she was unable to paint. She then joined the American Red Cross and went overseas to France to serve in a recreation unit. Her eyesight recovered, and she became a war artist. While overseas, she met Frederick James Wilcocks, a Canadian soldier originally from Guelph. He moved to Calgary, where they married in 1920. They soon had a daughter, Eleanor, who ultimately became a children's television show host.

Marrett Wilcocks taught art in public schools, painted landscapes, and took portrait commissions, leading to the Muir portrait. In 1926, the family moved to Vancouver but stayed only a few years before leaving for Altadena, California, where she lived for the rest of her life. She continued to paint portraits, and, according to her 1969 obituary in the Portland Press Herald, her clientele included "famous Americans and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor."



(Close up of painting)

As for the Muir portrait, it was displayed in a Calgary department store before being presented to the Law Society of Alberta, who subsequently presented it to the Calgary courthouse to be displayed. It was a well-regarded portrait in its day, described in 1926 article in the Vancouver Province as a fine portrait that "caused considerable attention among art circles in Canada."

My sources don't extend to explain how the painting made its way from the courthouse to the province's art collection, but my guess is that it was taken down during a renovation and never put back up, with any identifying plaque or description of the portrait lost in the process. It may have been placed in storage by the Department of Public Works (or one of its successors) before being transferred to the art collection.

Of course, the information has been passed along to the Arts Branch / Alberta Foundation for the Arts, so James Muir is untitled no more!

FPAAS Staff Spotlight: Kelsey Kropiniski

I have been working as the Special Projects Archivist with the FPAAS since September, where my primary focus has been on the appraisal and description of records related to nursing in Alberta. Specifically, I have been working extensively on a significant collection of records donated by the College and Association of Registered Nurses (CARNA). This particular donation (PR2017.0642) includes the complete private archives from the former Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN), which was established in 1916 to oversee nursing training and standardization of practice in Alberta. With the enactment of the Alberta Registered Nurses Act in 1917, membership in the association became mandatory for professional nurses in the province. The extensive archival records from the association provide valuable insight into the development of the nursing profession in Alberta, and they now form part of our holdings at the PAA.



When these nursing records arrived from the AARN Archives, they were organized according to their own system. Initially, we anticipated that transitioning them to the PAA's organization system would be a straightforward process. However, we soon realized that ensuring accuracy and consistency would require more time and effort. I've gone through almost all of these two rows of boxes (see photos)! I have reviewed approximately 70 fonds level descriptions to prepare them for public access. This review process has involved updating and refining descriptions, processing records, and re-formatting file lists.



It has been a valuable experience to work with records that come from a specific community of workers. I've found it particularly interesting to see how the field developed as a result of the wider community. One of the ways that this is captured is through the AARN fonds Interest Group records. Within the association, interest groups were defined as a group of individuals who shared a common interest in a specific area of nursing. For example, the Alberta Nurses for Nuclear Disarmament (ANND) was an AARN interest group established in 1983 as a response to the rising threat of nuclear war. The group was based out of Edmonton and believed that nurses had a responsibility to educate themselves and the general public on nuclear arms buildup and its effects on society. Another example is the Alberta Mental Health Nurses Society, which was another AARN interest group that worked to advocate for the importance of mental health nursing in the 1980s and 1990s.

Overall, it's been a great experience to be part of making records available to the public at the Provincial Archives of Alberta! The nursing community has generally made such positive impacts on our society, and it has been very rewarding to work on preserving this slice of Alberta's history.

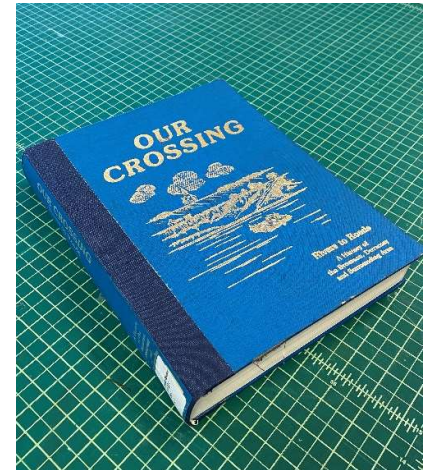
Editor's Note: *The Friends Society was bequeathed a donation from the estate of Dr. Shirley Stinson, a nursing educator in the province (<https://www.alberta.ca/aoe-shirley-stinson.aspx>). This gift initiated the project to physically process nursing records, including those of Dr. Stinson, the United Nurses of Alberta and other nursing organizations.*

Recent donations from non-governmental organizations means the PAA has fast become the repository of significant nursing and health records in the province.

YCW Intern Reflection: Claire Constant, Conservator Intern

With this internship through Young Canada Works and the Building Careers in Heritage program supported by the Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta, I was able to grow my conservation skills and abilities. Here is a glance at some of the treatments and activities I accomplished.

A highlight of my learning experience at the archives has been book binding. I have always wanted to learn how to bind books but never knew where to begin. Under the tutelage of Alison Freake, the textual conservator, I was able to bind a book from beginning to end, as seen in the photo of the blue and yellow book. I learned the proper terminology and different techniques used to create a book. Additionally, I learned the most common ways books are damaged and different techniques to treat them. Using this knowledge, I was able to repair a book in our collection. The back cover and spine had come apart. I created a new spine and reattached the back cover using new book cloth to the text block, as seen in the picture of "Our Crossings".

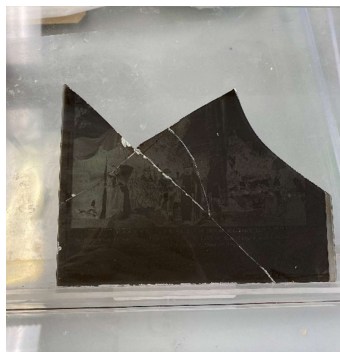


A large project I completed at the start of my internship was the assessment and treatment of OMI testimonials. I assessed 192 testimonials, identified those that needed treatment and spent a month repairing them. At the end, I had removed tape and repaired the tears of 42 testimonials, which resulted in an overflowing tray of tape as pictured.

Another large project I undertook was assessing and treating 184 architectural blueprints. I repaired 109 blueprints with tears using wheat starch paste and Japanese tissue paper. I created 13 new four-flap folders to rehouse them and ease retrieval.



My longest project I worked on was repairing glass plate negatives. As it takes two days for the adhesive to cure, it makes for a longer process. In four months, I completed repairs on 25 glass plate negatives: some with one break, others with multiple breaks.



Other duties and activities I performed during my internship includes:

- Twice weekly I would check dataloggers throughout the building to monitor the temperature and humidity levels
- As tours came through the conservation lab, I would chat about what I do in the lab, what I've learned and the importance of conservation within the archives
- I assisted and presented 3 presentations, on zoom and in person, about the preservation of family history at home for the Archives Society of Alberta and the Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association
- I had the opportunity to shadow the reference archivists for a few afternoons. I learned how the reading room and the reference archivists operate

Throughout my time here, I have learned quite a lot and honed my conservation skills. I was welcomed with open arms and I really enjoyed my time at the archives.

YCW Intern Reflection: Jereme Wilson, TRC Archivist Intern

From the outside, the wonderful world of archives can seem mysterious, and may be difficult to navigate. This issue is heightened for Indigenous communities as they are especially dispersed, and oftentimes lack the ability to frequent the PAA in Edmonton. However, there is ongoing, important work across these communities regarding missing children and unmarked burials that require access to information.

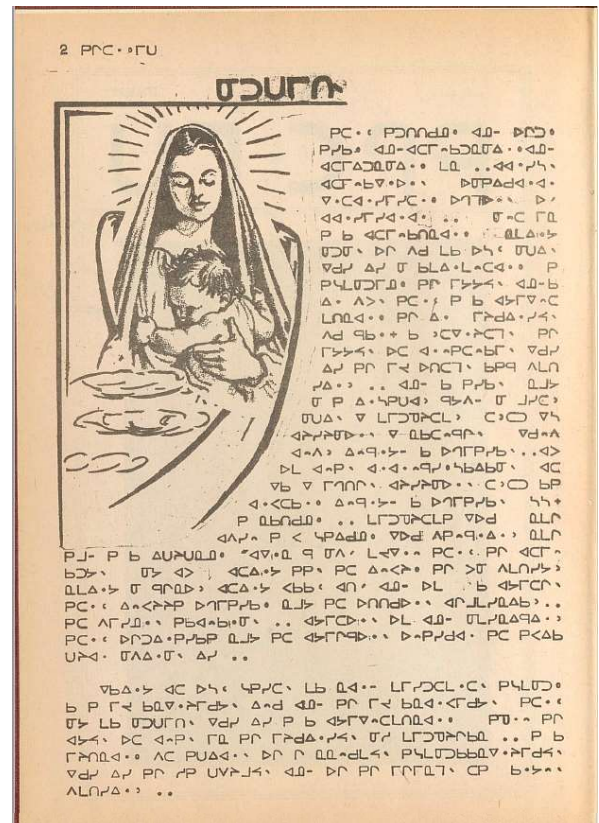


As the current Truth and Reconciliation Commission Archivist Intern, my primary task has been to help facilitate Indigenous-related research and to make the vast Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) collection at the PAA more accessible both in person and online. As such, a large part of the day-to-day of my role has been answering Indigenous related reference questions via email, phone, and in person related to genealogical, hospital, residential school, and oral history records amongst other topics. Furthermore, I have organized and supported eight visits and tours from Indigenous Nations, which has included members and representative researchers from Frog Lake, Kainai, Siksika, Piikani, Battleford Tribal Chiefs, and Fort Resolution communities. Aside from that, I have worked on four other major projects.

The first of these has been to add a "Nations and Communities" section to the Indigenous Resource Guide (IRG) page in the PAA's online database Attention to Memory (AToM). My colleague Jonas Vasseur and I researched the preferred and former names of communities and any other relevant history regarding the Indigenous Nations in the province. We then added these Nations and their descriptions to the IRG page to enable our tagging of relevant files with a total of twenty-three Nations and all eight Metis Settlements to the Guide.

The second project has been a video proposal by my colleague Jaclyn Landry. I assisted in outlining the topics of the videos the PAA could produce, including a commercial, as well as how to guides on accessing the Archives in person, Indigenous research, donations, searching the OMI page, and using AToM. I also assessed the portfolios of fifteen video production companies that have worked with the Government of Alberta and helped to narrow down the list of service providers and priority videos to three each. The project is ongoing and will spill over after my contract at the PAA concludes at the end of March.

Lastly, I have been scanning a portion of the vast collection of OMI records pertaining to missions and parishes for this to be publicly accessible through AtoM, and the National Truth and Reconciliation Archive. Making use of the book and document scanners, I have thus far scanned approximately 8,300 pages from the OMI. A couple of samples provided below.



PR1971.0220.8920: La Revue du Sacré-Coeur (Kitchitwa Miteh) Pères oblats, Alberta. Published in 1962.

Papaschase First Nation

Paul First Nation

Piikani Nation, also known as the *Piikani (Scabby Robe) People*.

Saddle Lake Cree Nation, also known as *Onihciskowapowin* (mirage on the lake).

Samson Cree Nation, also known as *Nípisihkopáhk* (at willow grove).

Siksika First Nation

Siksika First Nation holds the Siksika (No. 146) reserve. The Nation is a member of the Siksikaitsitapi - Blackfoot Confederacy, which also includes the Aamkapi Piikani, Kainai Nation, and Piikani Nation. As historical records describing the Blackfoot Confederacy were often not distinguished by specific nation, Siksika First Nation records may be found among other Siksikaitsitapi Nation records.

Screenshot of the Indigenous Nations and Communities section in the Indigenous Resource Guide

On a personal level, this work has proved to be quite rewarding, and I have appreciated being granted the responsibility to work with the staff of the PAA and Indigenous researchers on such a variety of projects. The work to fulfill the Archive's mandate to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission goes on.

YCW Intern Reflection: Jonas Vasseur, Archivist Intern

Musings on the varied records on an Archivist (intern)'s desk

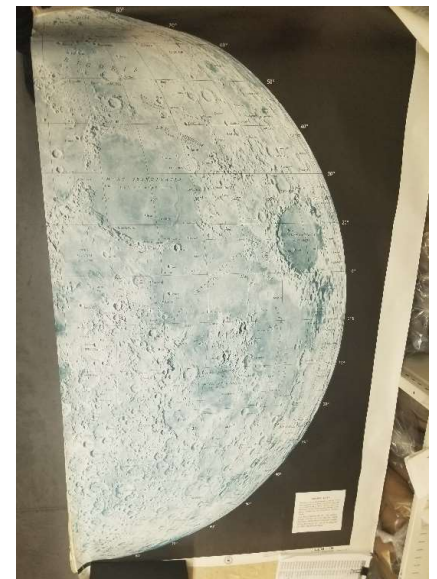
While employed by the Friends as the Young Canada Works Archivist (Intern), a quite wide variety of records has crossed my desk over the past few months. And as much as I have done my best to reduce the pile, there will always be a donations backlog! The Provincial Archives of Alberta has a lot of records to work through, and it receives more each year. On the plus side, that means that each of my days is interesting, and I often have no idea what will be in store!



Most recently, this included some records from Edmonton-area astronomers, interviews with the earliest staff of the Royal Alberta Museum, digital programs from an Alberta-based software company, and calendars and correspondence from several Alberta politicians. For many of the people and organizations represented in these records, if I had not worked through the records and described them, I would have had no idea of the impacts they had on this province.

All the records the PAA takes in are unique and contribute to a greater whole, but some have really stood out for me. I am guessing that a map of the moon in the Franklin Loehde fonds might be one of the first maps at the PAA that does not portray the earth. A "Signs Requested" notebook in the Michael Henry fonds directly records the campaigning work of a local politician. Each of the fonds I have worked with has little gems like these that have helped me (and will hopefully assist others) to better understand the story of Alberta.

I know that many of those in the Friends Society have frequently conducted research at the Archives and have seen firsthand just how useful archival records can be. I am grateful for this opportunity to work at the PAA and to have taken part in preserving part of Alberta and Albertans' history!



Moon Map, from PR2018.0231

Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society Membership Application/Renewal and Donation Form

The Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society is an incorporated, non-profit organization created in 1991 to support the ongoing work of the Provincial Archives of Alberta by

- assisting the Provincial Archives of Alberta in acquiring, preserving and making its collections accessible;
- promoting and supporting programs and services at the Provincial Archives of Alberta; and
- fostering an awareness and appreciation of the Provincial Archives of Alberta and the documentary heritage it preserves.

Our membership is an integral part of the success of our organization. Members may serve on the board of directors and are also welcome to assist with fundraising projects such as casinos or in various capacities at the Archives and in the community. Some of the other benefits of membership include

- receiving an annual newsletter
- being notified of upcoming events, exhibits, and projects at the Archives
- receiving a 10% discount on products at the Archives Store (excludes organizational members)

Become a member of the Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society and help us to preserve Alberta's history for future generations! Annual memberships run from April 1 to March 31.

Note: The Society maintains a membership list as required by the Societies Act. The list is made available to the Board of Directors and Society members only when it is necessary for Society business, or if legislation requires the disclosure of this information. The Society does not sell or make available its membership list for other distribution or marketing purposes.

Membership Categories and Rates

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual annual membership – \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (with valid ID) – \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+) annual membership – \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (2 adults & children under 18) – \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+) lifetime membership – \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization annual membership – \$50 |

- ☐ Please accept my donation to help the Society with its programmes and projects in support of the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Donation amount: _____

(All donations of \$10 or more will be acknowledged with a receipt for income tax purposes)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____ (Make cheque payable to *Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society*)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Send cheque and form to: Friends of the Provincial Archives of Alberta Society
c/o Provincial Archives of Alberta
8555 Roper Road NW, Edmonton, AB T6E 5W1

Thank you for your
generous support!

Visit us online at: www.FriendsPAA.ca and follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/Friends_PAA
Email: FriendsPAAinfo@gmail.com