



**Description & Finding Aid:
J.S. McLean Fonds
CA OTAG SC048**

Prepared by Amy Marshall
With assistance from Gary Fitzgibbon, 2003

J.S. McLean fonds

Dates of creation:

1936-1956

Extent:

27 cm of textual records

12 photographs

Biographical sketch:

James Stanley McLean (1876-1954), Toronto business executive and art collector, was president of Canada Packers and founder of the J.S. McLean Collection of Canadian art. He was born in Clarke Township, Durham County, Ontario. Having graduated from the University of Toronto in 1896, McLean became an employee of the Harris Abattoir Company in Toronto in 1901, rising to become president in the 1920s. He achieved a merger of his firm with three others in 1927, forming Canada Packers Limited—of which he was president until his death.

J.S. McLean was a founder-member of the Art Gallery of Toronto and a member of its executive from 1934 until his death. He was a patron of Canadian art himself and started collecting in 1934. In 1939 he began to buy Canadian artworks of art to hang in the offices and other areas of Canada Packers' plants across the country. The result was a significant collection amassed at a time when such art was not widely sought after. Among the creators of modern art in Canada, he focused especially on the work of A.Y. Jackson, Carl Schaefer, Paraskeva Clark and David Milne. In 1952 the collection was the subject of an exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada, *Paintings and Drawings from the Collection of J.S. McLean*. Many of the works lent for this exhibition were subsequently donated to the Art Gallery of Ontario. J.S. McLean died in Toronto in 1954.

Scope and content:

Fonds consists of correspondence, photographs and other material related to the J.S. McLean Collection (including the Canada Packers collection) and to J.S. McLean's position as a vice-president of the Art Gallery of Toronto.

Contains series:

1. J.S. McLean Collection documentation
2. Photographs
3. Tom Thomson sketches correspondence
4. Art Gallery of Toronto papers

Custodial history:

Most of the material now constituting the J.S. McLean fonds was donated by his son W. F. McLean in 1992. W.F. McLean had previously (1991) donated the files that now constitute series 4 of this fonds: Art Gallery of Toronto papers.

Notes:

Variations in title:

Previously known as the J.S. McLean Papers.

Immediate source of acquisition:

Most of the material now constituting the J.S. McLean fonds was donated by his son W. F. McLean in 1992. W.F. McLean had previously (1991) donated the files that now constitute series 4 of this fonds: Art Gallery of Toronto papers.

Restrictions on access:

Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

Terms governing use and reproduction / publication:

Copyright is held by the creator or his heirs. Copyright belonging to other parties, such as that of photographs, may still rest with the creator of these items. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds.

Finding aids:

Inventory with file list available.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Provenance access point:

McLean, James Stanley, 1876-1954
Canada Packers Inc.

SERIES 1: J.S. MCLEAN COLLECTION DOCUMENTATION**Dates of creation:**

1943-1956

Extent:

20 cm of textual records
5 photographs

Scope and content:

Series comprises correspondence, receipts, invoices, floor plans, photographs and lists of artworks related to acquiring, exhibiting, maintaining and lending works from the J.S. McLean Collection (at the McLean residence and the offices of Canada Packers), along with art gallery notices, exhibition catalogues, booklets on art subjects and newspaper clippings. Correspondents include Lawren Harris, A.J. Casson, A.Y. Jackson, Paraskeva Clark, Carl Schaefer, Leonard Brooks, Joe Plaskett and Ada Carmichael (wife of Franklin Carmichael).

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX- FILE #
[Picture files, 1943-46]	1943	1946		1-1
[Picture files, 1945-47]	1945	1947		1-2
Pictures JSM	1945	1947		1-3
Pictures JSM	1948	1949		1-4

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX- FILE #
Pictures JSM	1949	1950		1-5
Pictures JSM	1951	1952	[part 1]	1-6
Pictures JSM	1951	1952	[part 2]	1-7
Pictures JSM	1952	1953		2-1
Pictures JSM	1953	1954		2-2
Pictures JSM	1954	1955		2-3
Pictures JSM	1955	1956		2-4

SERIES 2: PHOTOGRAPHS**Dates of creation:**

1953-1954

Extent:7 photographs
0.5 cm of textual material**Scope and content:**

Series comprises photographs of artworks by Hundertwasser, Emily Carr and Raymond Mason, with a booklet on Hundertwasser and an envelope (sender: J. Plaskett).

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX- FILE #
[Photographs]				2-5

SERIES 3: TOM THOMSON SKETCHES CORRESPONDENCE**Dates of creation:**

1936

Extent:

0.5 cm of textual records

Scope and content:

Series comprises photocopies of correspondence between Mrs Frank Cooper and the Art Gallery of Toronto regarding the purchase by J.S. McLean of the painting *Round Lake, Mud Bay* (1915) by Tom Thomson.

Notes:

Round Lake, Mud Bay was donated by the J.S. McLean Collection, Toronto, to the Art Gallery of Ontario in 1969.

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX- FILE #
J.S. McLean – Tom Thomson sketches	1936	1936	Correspondence from Art Gallery files	2-6

SERIES 4: ART GALLERY OF TORONTO PAPERS**Dates of creation:**

1947-1953

Extent:

6 cm of textual records

Scope and content:

Series comprises committee reports and minutes, correspondence, monthly bulletins of the gallery, exhibition notices, lists of donors, and accessions lists.

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX- FILE #
JSM - Personal	1953	1953		3-1
Circulars, minutes, etc.				3-2
Correspondence				3-3
