



Art Gallery of Ontario
Musée des beaux-arts de l'Ontario

E.P. Taylor Research Library & Archives

Description & Finding Aid:
A. H. Howard Fonds
CA OTAG SC115

Prepared by Amy Marshall Furness

With Gary Fitzgibbon, 2010
Revised 2014

A. H. Howard fonds

Date(s) of creation:

1880–1914

Extent:

15 sketchbooks
 85 drawings
 2 albums
 1 portfolio
 11 bookplates
 9 die impressions
 8 photographs
 1 folder of textual records
 1 certificate
 1 diploma
 1 reel of microfilm

Biographical sketch:

Alfred Harold Howard (1854–1916) was a British Canadian graphic artist, calligrapher and decorative designer in Toronto in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born in Liverpool, England, he apprenticed as a lithographer with the Liverpool branch of the firm Maclure, Macdonald and Macgregor. In 1876 he immigrated to Canada and eventually opened an office of graphic design in the Temple Building in downtown Toronto. He received the Marquess of Lorne's Medal for Design in 1881 and was made an academician of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1883.

Howard's commercial design work took the form of illuminated addresses of welcome, certificates and diplomas and addresses of condolence. In 1891 he produced the City of Toronto address of condolence presented to Lady Macdonald on the death of the Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. Howard exhibited with the Ontario Society of Artists at their Applied Art Exhibition in 1900 and with the Canadian Society of Applied Art in 1905. He was a member of the Toronto Art Students' League and the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto. When he died in Toronto in 1916 (26 February), the Art Museum of Toronto held a memorial exhibition of his work.

Howard's artworks are in the collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, the Toronto Reference Library, the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto and the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa.

Scope and content:

Fonds consists of drawings, watercolours and designs of A. H. Howard produced in Toronto between 1880 and 1914, especially in the sketchbooks in which Howard drew Ontario landscapes and towns, flowers, trees, human figures, factory interiors and other subjects. Similar drawings and watercolours are contained in two albums and a portfolio. Also included are examples of his decorative and calligraphic work from illuminated presentation addresses, certificates, bookplates and other materials.

Contains series:

1. Portfolio and albums
2. Sketchbooks
3. Decorative designs and drawings
4. Art Student League calendars

Custodial history:

The materials now constituting the A. H. Howard fonds, apart from the sketchbooks, were left unclaimed with the Art Museum of Toronto following its memorial exhibition for A. H. Howard in 1916. In 1921 they were given to the Museum, along with the sketchbooks, by the artist's son, C.S. Howard. For several

decades the materials were in the Canadian Historical Study Collection of the Art Gallery of Ontario. They were transferred to the AGO Research Library and Archives in 2007.

Notes:

Source of title proper:

Title based on the provenance of the fonds.

Physical condition:

Some materials are brittle and fragile as noted below.

Immediate source of acquisition:

Gift of C.S (Clifford) Howard, the artist's son, in 1921. — Miscellaneous items in series 3: Decorative designs and drawings were added to the fonds in 2010. — Microfilm reel (series 2 & 4) was deaccessioned from the Archives of Ontario in 2014 and transferred to the AGO.

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:

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Associated material:

Presentation books designed by A. H. Howard are in the United Church Archives at the University of Toronto and in the City of Toronto Archives.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Related material:

Bookplates by A. H. Howard are in the Canadian Bookplate Collection (SC020). — Presentation books designed by Howard are in the Grange collection. — Books (2) from the library of A. H. Howard are in the main collection of the AGO Research Library and Archives.

General note:

A drawing, construed as one side of a sheet, may contain several sketches.

Provenance access points:

Howard, Alfred Harold, 1854–1916

SERIES 1: PORTFOLIO AND ALBUMS

Date(s) of creation:

1889–1908

Extent:

1 portfolio
2 albums

Scope and content:

Series comprises a portfolio and two albums of landscapes and other drawings done by A. H. Howard in Toronto and surrounding area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Notes:

Series title based on contents. — Canadian Historical Study Collection book numbers for items in this series were assigned by the Art Gallery of Toronto (now the Art Gallery of Ontario) after 1921.

Location: box 1

FILE OR ITEM TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	DESCRIPTION	BOX-FOLDER
Farm and house drawings	1889	1908	1 portfolio (46 drawings : pencil, pen and black ink, watercolour ; 26 x 37 cm or smaller. — 1 watercolour ; 18 x 26 cm) Item is a portfolio of drawings of Ontario landscapes, farm buildings and houses in the country and other subjects. Locations include Port Sidney, Lambton, Weston, Port Credit, Long Branch Wharf, Mimico Creek, Fort Erie, Pinegrove, and Conestoga. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 1. — Most drawings are loose, with some pasted onto journal pages.	1–1
Landscape and interiors	1896	1901	1 album (ca. 74 drawings : pencil, pen and black ink, watercolour ; 12 x 19 cm or smaller) Item is a journal used as an album containing drawings of Toronto area landscapes and interiors, human figures and other subjects. Item title from cover. — Study collection book no. 2, with the artist's signature on p. [1]. — Most drawings are pasted onto the pages of the book, with some loose.	1–2
Landscapes	1899	1903	1 album (ca. 134 drawings : pencil, coloured pencil ; 20 x 13 cm or smaller) Item is a scribbling book into which drawings of Ontario landscapes, bridges, churches and other buildings were pasted. Locations include Conestoga, St Jacobs, Montrose, Winterbourne, Breslau, Waterloo and others. Item title from cover. — Paper binding and pages of the book are brittle and fragile. — Study collection book no. 3.	1–3

SERIES 2: SKETCHBOOKS

Date(s) of creation:
1880–1910

Extent:

15 sketchbooks
 ½ reel of microfilm

Scope and content:

Series comprises leather-bound sketchbooks in which A. H. Howard made more than 1200 drawings of flowers and plants, country scenes and townscapes near Toronto, human figures, decorations and other subjects over thirty years, ending around 1910.

Notes:

Series title based on contents. — Canadian Historical Study Collection book numbers for items in this series were assigned by the Art Gallery of Toronto (now the Art Gallery of Ontario) after 1921. Microfilm material in this series was deaccessioned by the Archives of Ontario in 2014 and transferred to the AGO.

Location: boxes 2, 3, 4; microfilm reel 84

FILE OR ITEM TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	DESCRIPTION	BOX-FOLDER
Plant drawings	1880	1887	1 sketchbook (ca. 143 drawings : pencil, watercolour ; 45 x 29 cm or smaller) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of flowering plants and trees. Subjects include lupin, sweet pea, pitcher plant, columbine, wild raspberry, sunflower and others, with drawings of trees at the back of the book. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 4, with the artist's signature on front flyleaf.	2-1
Plant and flower drawings	1898	1900	1 sketchbook (58 drawings : pencil ; 19 x 28 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings chiefly of plants and flowers, with Ontario houses and townscapes of St Davids, Port Dalhousie and St Catharines and other subjects. Item title from cover. — Study collection book no. 5, with artist's name inscribed on front endpaper. — 2 drawings are on loose tracing paper sheets.	2-2
Sketches	1898	1901	1 sketchbook (28 drawings : pencil, watercolour ; 18 x 26 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of plants and flowers, landscapes, Ontario country houses, a Cooksville storefront and other subjects. Item title from cover. — Study collection book no. 6, with artist's signature on front endpaper.	2-3

FILE OR ITEM TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	DESCRIPTION	BOX-FOLDER
Flower and other drawings	1882	1910	1 sketchbook (ca. 154 drawings : pencil, watercolour ; 22 x 14 cm or smaller) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of flowering plants, sailboats, human figures and other subjects. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 7, with artist's name inscribed on front flyleaf. — Some drawings are pasted onto the pages of the sketchbook; others are loose.	3-1
Decorative and other drawings	1890	1891	1 sketchbook (ca. 116 drawings : pencil, pen and black ink ; 15 x 20 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of decorations, machinery, Toronto streetcars, plants, horses, human figures and other subjects. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 8, with artist's signature on front endpaper.	3-2
Figure drawings	1883	1883	1 sketchbook (49 drawings : pencil ; 14 x 22 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of human figures and a pipe organ. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 9, with artist's signature on front endpaper.	3-3
Human figures and other drawings	1884	1890	1 sketchbook (ca. 70 drawings : pencil, watercolour, pen and black ink ; 14 x 22 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of flowers, factory interiors, human figures and other subjects. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 10, stamped "A. H. Howard" on back endpaper.	3-4
Sketches	1889	1889	1 sketchbook (14 drawings : pencil ; 14 x 23 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of human figures and other subjects. Item title from cover. — Study collection book no. 11, with artist's name inscribed on front flyleaf.	3-5
Baby drawings	1903	1903	1 sketchbook (ca. 87 drawings : pencil, coloured pencil ; 20 x 12 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of babies, scrollwork and decorations, flowers and landscapes of Kleinburg and Fort Erie in Ontario and Buffalo, N.Y. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 12, with artist's signature on front endpaper.	4-1

FILE OR ITEM TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	DESCRIPTION	BOX-FOLDER
Bermuda sketches	1904	1904	1 sketchbook (70 drawings : pencil, coloured pencil, watercolour ; 20 x 12 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of scenes in Bermuda, ship details, church furniture and other subjects. Item title from first page (front cover missing). — Study collection book no. 13.	4-2
Book plate designs	1902	1902	1 sketchbook (ca. 104 drawings : pencil, pen and black ink ; 20 x 12 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of book plate designs and other subjects. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 14, with artist's name inscribed on front endpaper.— Some drawings are loose.	4-3
Book cover designs	[190-]	[190-]	1 sketchbook (ca. 90 drawings : pencil, pen and black ink ; 20 x 12 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of book cover designs and other subjects. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 15.	4-4
Decorative designs	1910	1910	1 sketchbook (ca. 90 drawings : pencil, pen and black ink ; 20 x 12 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of decorative designs, scrollwork, figures and other subjects. Item title supplied from content. — Study collection book no. 16, with the artist's signature on front endpaper.	4-5
Flowers	1900	1901	1 sketchbook (ca. 30 drawings : pencil ; 19 x 11 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of flowering plants. Item title from cover. — Study collection book no. 17, with the artist's signature on front endpaper.	4-6
Figures	1900	1903	1 sketchbook (ca. 103 drawings : pencil, coloured pencil, pen and black ink ; 19 x 11 cm) Item is a sketchbook of drawings of human figures and other subjects. Item title from cover. — Study collection book no. 18, with the artist's signature on front endpaper. — Some drawings are loose.	4-7

SERIES 3: DECORATIVE DESIGNS AND DRAWINGS

Date(s) of creation:

1890–1914

Extent:

85 drawings
 11 bookplates
 9 die impressions
 8 photographs
 1 folder of textual records
 1 certificate
 1 diploma

Scope and content:

Series comprises drawings by A. H. Howard of designs for illuminated addresses to dignitaries; designs of book covers and bookplates; heraldic designs and insignia; photos of a book presented to the Governor General of Canada, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, in 1914; and drawings of flowers and trees. Also included are a certificate and a diploma designed by Howard, his business card, business letterhead and other materials added to the fonds from related AGO Library and Archives files in 2010.

Notes:

Series title based on contents. — Most items in the files of this series are mounted on sheets of paper or cardboard.

Location: boxes 4, 5

FILE OR ITEM TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	DESCRIPTION	BOX-FOLDER
Presentation designs	[190-?]	[191-?]	10 drawings : pencil on tracing paper mounted on bond paper ; 26 x 10 cm or smaller on sheet 61 x 46 cm File contains heraldic designs for presentation inscriptions to King George V, Earl Grey and the Countess of Minto, and similar subjects. File title supplied from contents.	5–1
Rough sketches and tracings	[ca. 1909]	[ca. 1909]	25 drawings : pencil, watercolour ; 16 x 8 cm or smaller on sheet 51 x 42 cm File contains drawings of historiated initials. File title from mount.	5–2
Die impressions	[190-]	[190-]	9 die impressions : leather stamped with gold leaf ; 16 x 13 cm or smaller on sheet 61 x 46 cm File contains impressions of crests and other insignia apparently intended as examples of the artist's work in die design. File title supplied from contents.	5–3
Bookplates	[190-?]	[190-?]	11 bookplates : b&w ; 23 x 15 cm or smaller on sheet 51 x 42 cm File contains bookplates and bookplate designs. File title supplied from contents.	5–4

FILE OR ITEM TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	DESCRIPTION	BOX-FOLDER
Designs for dies for covers of illuminated addresses	[191-]	[191-]	11 drawings : pen and black ink ; 16 x 11 cm or smaller on sheet 53 x 41 cm File contains designs for dies of coats of arms and insignia to be "stamped in gold on leather" according to a notation on the mount. File title from mount. — Verso of mount is a charter of the Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association designed by the artist.	5-5
Bookcover designs	[191-]	[191-]	12 drawings : pen and black ink ; 15 x 11 cm or smaller on sheet 54 x 41 cm File contains drawings of designs for book covers. File title from mount.	5-6
Trees	1899	1900	7 drawings : pencil ; 18 x 24 cm or smaller on sheet 61 x 46 cm File contains drawings of trees and other subjects. File title supplied from contents.	5-7
Apple blossom and other flowers	1890	1893	9 drawings : pencil ; 21 x 15 cm or smaller on sheet 61 x 46 cm File contains drawings of flowers, including apple blossom and bloodroot. File title supplied from contents.	5-8
Hepatica and other flowers	1890	1891	10 drawings : pencil ; 18 x 14 cm or smaller on sheet 61 x 46 cm File contains drawings of flowers, including hepatica and peony. File title supplied from contents.	5-9
Tinted photographs	1914	1914	8 photographs : col., tinted ; 17 x 23 cm or smaller on sheet 66 x 59 cm File contains photographs of an illuminated book of address to the Duke of Connaught for the opening of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, in 1914. File title from mount.	5-10
Woman's Auxiliary certificate	[190-?]	[190-?]	1 certificate : col. ; 39 x 34 cm Item is a certificate of membership in the Woman's Auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (established in 1902) with decorative borders in dark blue and gold, and the inscription "A. H. Howard, R.C.A." Item title supplied from content. — Issued 23 Jan. 1935. — Item added to the fonds in 2010.	5-11

FILE OR ITEM TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	DESCRIPTION	BOX-FOLDER
Toronto Conservatory of Music diploma	[188-?]	[188-?]	1 diploma : b&w ; 35 x 49 cm Item is a diploma from the Toronto Conservatory of Music (founded 1886) with decorative borders in musical designs and the inscription "A. H. Howard Inv et Del." Item title supplied from content. — Issued 3 June 1910 and signed by the founder of the Conservatory, Edward Fisher. — Exhibited in <i>Ontario Society of Artists: 100 Years</i> at the Art Gallery of Ontario, 1972. — Item added to the fonds in 2010.	5–12
Miscellaneous printed and other items	[189-?]	1908	1 folder of textual records. — 1 drawing : col. ; 10 x 18 cm File contains a business card for Howard's design firm, a drawing of a dragon, a receipt with the letterhead of Howard's firm for work done on the University of Toronto yearbook for 1906, and a souvenir program attributed to Howard from a "conversazione" at the University of Toronto (1899). File title based on contents. — Items added to the fonds in 2010.	4–8

SERIES 4: TORONTO ART STUDENTS' LEAGUE CALENDARS

Date(s) of creation:

1893-1904

Extent:

½ reel microfilm

Scope and content:

Series comprises microfilm copies of Toronto Art Students' League calendars designed by A.H. Howard.

Notes:

Series title based on contents.

Material in this series was deaccessioned by the Archives of Ontario in 2014 and transferred to the AGO.

Location: microfilm reel 84