



## **CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES**

**Inventory of the  
Robert Owen Foundation fonds**

**Inventory #F0395**

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## F0395 - Robert Owen Foundation fonds

**Fonds/Collection Number:** F0395

**Title:** Robert Owen Foundation fonds

**Dates:** 1919-1976, predominant 1927-1948

**Extent:** 4.7 m of textual records  
69 photographs

**Biographical Sketch/  
Administrative History:** The Robert Owen Foundation was begun in 1932 by Henri Lasserre, with the goal of promoting cooperative enterprises in Canada. Taken from the name of the eighteenth-century English social reformer, the Foundation was modeled on a similar body that Lasserre had established in his native Switzerland in 1928. The Foundation offered financial support to co-operative ventures in Canada and the United States, including the Llano Colony of California, the Columbia Conserve Company, Work Togs, the Fellowship for a Christian Order, the Co-operative Rural Community, and other groups and businesses. In addition, Lasserre established the Canadian Fellowship for Cooperative Community, a study group which investigated the manner of operating co-operatives in modern society. Lasserre died in 1945, but the Foundation remains active in the 1990s.

**Scope and Content:** The fonds documents the establishment, functioning and activities of the Robert Owen Foundation for the period 1931-1976 and Henri Lasserre's involvement with the foundation. It also partially documents the activities of the Canadian Fellowship Cooperative Community for the period of 1939-1947. The fonds documents the cooperative movement from the end of World War I to the early 1970s, and contains files on the free speech movement in the 1930s; the beginnings of the socialist movement in Canada; the pacifist movement in the 1930s; the social gospel movement and the creation of the state of Israel. Records have been organized into eleven series: Minutes, 1931-1974; legal documents, 1931-1940; annual reports, 1933-1952; financial records, 1931-1975; correspondence and subject files, 1925-1975; membership records, 1932-1945; manuscripts, typescripts and drafts; pamphlets and serials; Canadian Fellowship for Cooperative Community documents, 1933-1946; The Swiss Foundation documents, 1926-1942; scrapbooks; photographs, ca. 1925-1964; and ROF library catalogues.

**Language of material note:** Materials are in English, French and German.

**Restrictions on  
Access and Use:** No restrictions on access.

**Finding Aid:** File list available.

**URL of Finding Aid:** <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000395.htm>

**Accruals:** The fonds comprises the following accession: 1989-027. Further accruals are expected.

**Immediate source of  
acquisition:** Donated by the Robert Owen Foundation in 1989.

**Provenance Access Points:** Robert Owen Foundation  
Lasserre, Henri (d. 1945)  
Canadian Fellowship Cooperative Community