



CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES

**Inventory of the
Herbert Whittaker fonds**

Inventory #F0453

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F0453 - Herbert Whittaker fonds

Fonds/Collection Number: F0453

Title: Herbert Whittaker fonds

Dates: [192-]-2001

Extent: 4.66 m of textual records
94 photographs
7 postcards
7 prints
1 watercolour

Biographical Sketch/ Administrative History: Herbert Whittaker (1910-2006) was born on 20 September 1910 in Montreal where he gained an early interest in the theatre from his mother Eleanor Trappitt Whittaker. He studied design at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and was employed with the Montreal Gazette from 1935-1949 where he reviewed film, ballet and theatre. He moved to Toronto and from 1949-1975 was employed by the Globe and Mail as drama, film and dance critic. During this time, he also wrote reviews for the New York Times, the Herald Tribune, the Christian Science Monitor and other papers. He also continued working as a director and designer mounting productions for the Montreal Repertory Theatre, the 16-30 Club, the Shakespeare Society, the Everyman Players, Hart House, Jupiter, the Crest, University Alumnae Theatres and the Canadian Players. He devoted much time and energy to organisations such as the Canadian Theatre Critics Association, the National Arts Centre, the Dominion Drama Festival, Theatre Museums and the Toronto Drama Bench. In addition to these activities, he was instrumental in having a theatre named after Jane Mallet, a bridge after Morley Callaghan, in planning a Mary Pickford exhibition and was founder/member of the organising and implementation committee of the Harbourfront Theatre Museum. Whittaker travelled extensively to cover events in the theatre world. He was called upon to judge National Play Awards, playwright competitions, and adjudicate drama festivals and was involved in the Universities of Canada seminar at Stratford. He has been a member of the Canada Council Awards Committee and the American Council of Drama Judges. He wrote several books about various aspects of Canadian Theatre and has been the recipient of many awards and medals for distinguished service in the theatre. He received the Canada Centennial Medal in 1967, an honorary Doctor of Letters from York University in 1971, the Toronto Drama Bench Award and the first honorary membership in the Actor's Equity in 1975, Officer of the Order Canada and appointment to the Board of Trustees of the National Arts Council in 1976. He received a Canada Commemorative Medal in 1992. When he retired from the Globe and Mail in 1975, he was named Critic Emeritus and in December 1993 was named a Trustee of the Herman Voaden Fund. He died on 9 September 2006.

Scope and Content: The fonds consists of records accumulated by Herbert Whittaker which document his activities from the 1920s to 2001. The original order of the fonds has been maintained. The first three accessions are arranged into five series which reflect the activities of the creator over the years. Physical file lists exist for later accessions yet to be integrated into series. The fonds is arranged in the following series:

S00001	Personal files
S00002	Sydney Johnson correspondence
S00003	Subject files
S00004	Newspaper articles
S00005	Scripts

Restrictions on Access and Use: No restrictions on access.

Finding Aid: Series descriptions and file lists available.

URL of Finding Aid: <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000453.htm>

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Accruals: The fonds comprises the following accessions: 1994-013, 1995-011, 1996-028, 1998-031, 1999-054, 2000-049, 2001-008, 2001-057, 2002-002, 2003-046. No further accruals are expected.

Immediate source of acquisition: Donated by Herbert Whittaker on various dates between 1994 and 2003.

Subject Access Points: Whittaker, Herbert, 1910-

Provenance Access Points: Whittaker, Herbert, 1910-

Date of creation: 2002/04/12

Date of last revision: 2018/03/29