

S00344 - New Play Society files

Series Number: S00344

Series Title: New Play Society files

Dates: 1947-1970

Extent: 3.35 m of textual records
271 photographs
6 audio reels
6 drawings
56 posters

**Biographical Sketch/
Administrative History:** The New Play Society (NPS) was founded by Dora Mavor Moore in 1946. It staged its first season at the Royal Ontario Museum where it included works by August Strindberg and J.M Synge. By 1949-1950, the company incorporated many works by Canadian playwrights into its productions including John Coulter's 'Riel.' Its longest standing production was 'Spring Thaw,' an annual comedy revue that was intended to fill the gaps between major performances of the NPS. Over the course of its history, NPS featured performances by Robert Goulet, Jane Mallett, Dave Broadfoot, Lorne Green and many others. The NPS ceased its activities in 1971.

Scope and Content: Series consists of correspondence, scripts, music scores, reviews, posters, programmes, newspaper clippings, sketches and photographs relating to 'The optimist,' 'Who's who,' and other productions of the New Play Society. In particular, it contains correspondence related to contracts, Actors' Equity, royalty payments, the Crest Theatre Foundation, press, publicity and other material related to 'Spring Thaw.' It includes financial records such as invoices, receipts, bank statements, payroll and cash disbursements. There is a collection of general scripts for the show as well as scripts for individual skits arranged alphabetically. There are prompt books, music scores, newspaper clippings, programmes, posters and scrapbooks as well as sound recordings of many of the productions.