

**Ms  
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367A**

**Grimson, Sheldon  
Photographic Portraits**

**Dates:**

Shot between 1966-2015, mostly in 1970. Printed by Sheldon Grimson primarily between 2002-2003, with some additions in 2021.

**Extent:**

105 photographic portraits (1 box)

**Biographical Note:**

Sheldon Grimson is a photographer based in Toronto, Ontario.

In 1970, Grimson was hired by Oxford University to photograph portraits of leading Canadian poets and writers for the book *15 Canadian Poets*. This book came to be a standard textbook in Canadian schools and is still in print. In 1980, Grimson had the chance to photograph additional Canadian writers for Anansi Press.

**Description:**

Black and white photographs taken by Sheldon Grimson in the early 1970s of various Canadian writers, primarily to be featured in the book *15 Canadian Poets*.

Titles and descriptions based on photographer's notes on the back of the photographs.

This collection includes portraits of the following writers and figures (alphabetically): Milton Acorn, Martin Ahvenus, Margaret Atwood, Margaret Avison, Earle Birney, George Bowering, Leonard Cohen, Victor Coleman, Howard Engel, Leon Fleisher, Gary Geddes, Doug G. Jones, Irving Layton, Patrick Lane, Dennis Lee, Gwendolyn MacEwen, Eli Mandel, Judith Merril, John Newlove, bp Nichol, Michael Ondaatje, Al Purdy, Joe Rosenblatt, Raymond Souster, Charles Taylor and Adele Wiseman. This collection also includes a print of a self-portrait of the photographer, Sheldon Grimson, shot around 1968-1970.

**Custodial history:** Donated by creator, Sheldon Grimson, to the Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library in 2021.

**Notes:**

*Restrictions on access:*

Open for research purposes. Copyright of Sheldon Grimson. Permission of the artist required for reprint or reuse.

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| IMAGE # | SITTER/SUBJECT          | TITLE/DESCRIPTION                                   | DATE | DETAILS                                 |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1       | Al Purdy                | <i>Untitled</i>                                     | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 2       | Al Purdy                | <i>Al Purdy close up</i>                            | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 3       | Al Purdy                | <i>Untitled</i>                                     | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print          |
| 4       | Al Purdy                | <i>Untitled</i>                                     | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 5       | Al Purdy                | <i>Untitled</i>                                     | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |
| 6       | Al Purdy                | <i>Untitled</i>                                     | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |
| 7       | Al Purdy                | <i>Untitled</i>                                     | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 8       | Al Purdy and<br>unknown | <i>At the Pilot Tavern with unknown man</i>         | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 9       | Charles Taylor          | <i>University of Toronto, Toronto</i>               | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 10      | Charles Taylor          | <i>At University College, University of Toronto</i> | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |

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|    |                                |                                                                         |      |                                         |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| 11 | Doug G. Jones                  | <i>In Ondaatje's Volvo</i>                                              | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 12 | Doug G. Jones                  | <i>In Ondaatje's Volvo</i> (exterior view)                              | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 13 | Doug G. Jones                  | <i>Untitled</i>                                                         | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 14 | Doug G. Jones                  | <i>Untitled</i>                                                         | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 15 | Doug G. Jones                  | <i>Untitled</i>                                                         | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 16 | Earl Birney and<br>Gary Geddes | <i>Toronto</i>                                                          | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print          |
| 17 | Earle Birney                   | <i>At the Toronto Archive Library, Charles Street East,<br/>Toronto</i> | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>4/36 |
| 18 | Earle Birney                   | <i>Untitled</i>                                                         | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print          |
| 19 | Earle Birney                   | <i>On Charles Street East</i>                                           | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print          |
| 20 | Eli Mandel                     | <i>Untitled</i>                                                         | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 21 | Eli Mandel                     | <i>Untitled</i>                                                         | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |

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|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| 22 | Eli Mandel and bp<br>Nichol | <i>Toronto</i>                | 1980 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 23 | Gary Geddes                 | <i>Toronto</i>                | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 24 | George Bowering             | <i>In the Annex</i>           | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 25 | George Bowering             | <i>Toronto Annex</i>          | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |
| 26 | George B/owering            | <i>Toronto (Borden Bldg.)</i> | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 27 | George Bowering             | <i>Untitled</i>               | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print          |
| 28 | George Bowering             | <i>In the Annex</i>           | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |
| 29 | George Bowering             | <i>Toronto</i>                | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/11 |
| 30 | George Bowering             | <i>Untitled</i>               | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 31 | George Bowering             | <i>At York University</i>     | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |

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|    |                                                              |                                              |      |                                      |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 32 | Gwendolyn MacEwen                                            | <i>In High Park</i>                          | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 5/36 |
| 33 | Gwendolyn MacEwen                                            | <i>Toronto Waterfront</i>                    | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 4/36 |
| 34 | Gwendolyn MacEwen                                            | <i>The C.N.E.</i>                            | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 3/36 |
| 35 | Gwendolyn MacEwen                                            | <i>At C.N.E.</i>                             | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 2/36 |
| 36 | Gwendolyn MacEwen                                            | <i>Outside Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto</i> | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 3/36 |
| 37 | Gwendolyn MacEwen                                            | <i>At C.N.E.</i>                             | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 3/36 |
| 38 | Gwendolyn MacEwen                                            | <i>Toronto C.N.E.</i>                        | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 4/36 |
| 39 | Gwendolyn MacEwen with Adele Wiseman                         | <i>Toronto Anansi Party</i>                  | 1980 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 2/36 |
| 40 | Gwendolyn MacEwen with Eli Mandel (left), Dennis Lee (right) | <i>Anansi House Party, Toronto</i>           | 1980 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 2/36 |

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|----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------|
|    | and Joe Rosenblatt<br>(middle)   |                                     |      |                                          |
| 41 | Howard Engel                     | <i>Toronto</i>                      | 2015 | 10.6 x 12.5"; silver gelatin print, 2/11 |
| 42 | Howard Engel                     | <i>Toronto</i>                      | 2003 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 1/11     |
| 43 | Howard Engel                     | <i>Toronto</i>                      | 2003 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 1/11     |
| 44 | Howard Engel                     | <i>Toronto</i>                      | 2003 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 1/36     |
| 45 | Irving Layton                    | <i>York University</i>              | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 3/36     |
| 46 | Irving Layton                    | <i>At the University of Toronto</i> | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 4/36     |
| 47 | Irving Layton                    | <i>Untitled</i>                     | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 3/11     |
| 48 | Irving Layton                    | <i>Untitled</i>                     | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 4/36     |
| 49 | Irving Layton and<br>Gary Geddes | <i>At York University</i>           | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print           |

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|----|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| 50 | John Newlove                               | <i>Toronto</i>                                                          | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 51 | John Newlove                               | <i>Toronto</i>                                                          | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 52 | John Newlove                               | <i>In Toronto</i>                                                       | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 53 | John Newlove                               | <i>Toronto</i>                                                          | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>4/36 |
| 54 | John Newlove                               | <i>In Toronto</i>                                                       | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>4/36 |
| 55 | Judith Merrill and<br>Gwendolyn<br>MacEwen | <i>Judith Merrill facing Gwendolyn MacEwen at<br/>Grossman's Tavern</i> | 1980 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/10 |
| 56 | Judith Merrill with<br>unknown man         | <i>Untitled</i>                                                         | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 57 | Leon Fleisher                              | <i>At the Royal Conservatory of Music</i>                               | 2015 | 8 x 10", silver gelatin print,<br>1/11  |
| 58 | Leonard Cohen                              | <i>Queen's Park</i>                                                     | 1966 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>5/11 |
| 59 | Margaret Atwood                            | <i>Toronto Island</i>                                                   | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print          |

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| 60 | Margaret Atwood | <i>Toronto Island</i>          | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 61 | Margaret Atwood | <i>Toronto</i>                 | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>4/36 |
| 62 | Margaret Atwood | <i>Untitled</i>                | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>4/36 |
| 63 | Margaret Atwood | <i>On Toronto Island Ferry</i> | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>4/36 |
| 64 | Margaret Atwood | <i>Toronto</i>                 | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 65 | Margaret Atwood | <i>Toronto Islands</i>         | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 66 | Margaret Atwood | <i>Toronto</i>                 | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |
| 67 | Margaret Atwood | <i>Untitled</i>                | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |
| 68 | Margaret Atwood | <i>Toronto</i>                 | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |
| 69 | Margaret Atwood | <i>At Toronto Islands</i>      | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |

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|----|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------|
| 70 | Margaret Atwood<br>and Gary Geddes<br>and his wife | <i>On Toronto Island Ferry</i>                | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36  |
| 26 | Margaret Avison                                    | <i>At Evangel Hall, Queen Street, Toronto</i> | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36  |
| 72 | Margaret Avison                                    | <i>At Evangel Hall, Queen Street, Toronto</i> | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36  |
| 73 | Martin Ahvenus                                     | <i>House of Anansi Party</i>                  | 1980 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/11  |
| 74 | Michael Ondaatje                                   | <i>At the University of Toronto</i>           | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>10/36 |
| 75 | Michael Ondaatje                                   | <i>Toronto</i>                                | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36  |
| 76 | Michael Ondaatje                                   | <i>Untitled</i>                               | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36  |
| 77 | Michael Ondaatje                                   | <i>Toronto</i>                                | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36  |
| 78 | Michael Ondaatje                                   | <i>Untitled</i>                               | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36  |
| 79 | Michael Ondaatje                                   | <i>Toronto, at the University of Toronto</i>  | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36  |

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|----|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| 80 | Michael Ondaatje,<br>bp Nichol and<br>unknown man     | <i>Untitled</i>                                                                | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 81 | Michael Ondaatje,<br>Doug G. Jones and<br>Gary Geddes | <i>Untitled</i> ;<br>seated together, looking at a page on Doug G. Jones' lap. | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 82 | Milton Acorn                                          | <i>In Rosedale Valley Ravine</i>                                               | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |
| 83 | Milton Acorn                                          | <i>Untitled</i>                                                                | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print          |
| 84 | Milton Acorn                                          | <i>Spadina at College Street, Toronto</i>                                      | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 85 | Milton Acorn                                          | <i>On Spadina and College Street</i>                                           | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>4/36 |
| 86 | Milton Acorn                                          | <i>Grossman's Tavern</i>                                                       | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 87 | Milton Acorn                                          | <i>At Waverly Hotel</i>                                                        | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 88 | Milton Acorn                                          | <i>Outside his Room at the Waverly Hotel on Spadina Avenue</i>                 | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>2/36 |
| 89 | Milton Acorn                                          | <i>Rosedale Valley Ravine</i>                                                  | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |

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|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------|
| 90  | Milton Acorn                    | <i>Rosedale Valley Ravine</i>                                        | 1970 | 10.75 x 9.75", silver gelatin print, 2/36 |
| 91  | Milton Acorn                    | <i>His room at the Waverly Hotel on Spadina Avenue</i>               | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print            |
| 92  | Milton Acorn                    | <i>At the Waverly Hotel</i>                                          | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 2/36      |
| 93  | Milton Acorn                    | <i>At the Waverly Hotel; close up.</i>                               | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print            |
| 94  | Milton Acorn                    | <i>Milton Acorn on Queen Street, Toronto, with his cigar, 1970s.</i> | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 1/11      |
| 95  | Milton Acorn and Joe Rosenblatt | <i>At the Pilot Tavern</i>                                           | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 1/36      |
| 96  | Patrick Lane                    | <i>In the back of Gary Geddes' VW Bug, Toronto</i>                   | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 2/36      |
| 97  | Patrick Lane                    | <i>In front of Toronto Old City Hall</i>                             | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 3/36      |
| 98  | Patrick Lane                    | <i>At Old City Hall Toronto</i>                                      | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 3/36      |
| 99  | Patrick Lane                    | <i>At Toronto Old City Hall</i>                                      | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 3/36      |
| 100 | Raymond Souster                 | <i>Toronto</i>                                                       | 1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print, 2/36      |

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|-----|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 101 | Raymond Souster | <i>Toronto</i>                  | 1970          | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 102 | Sheldon Grimson | <i>Self-portrait, in mirror</i> | 1968-<br>1970 | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print          |
| 103 | Victor Coleman  | <i>Behind Coach House Press</i> | 1970          | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |
| 104 | Victor Coleman  | <i>At Coach House Press</i>     | 1970          | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>3/36 |
| 105 | Victor Coleman  | <i>Coach House Press</i>        | 1970          | 11 x 14", silver gelatin print,<br>1/36 |