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Buckler, (Ernest) Papers
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

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BUCKLER (ERNEST) PAPERS

Includes drafts and final typescripts of most of Buckler's literary works (novels, short stories, essays, plays, verse); a small amount of juvenilia; correspondence.

Extent: 46 boxes, 10 of which are restricted at the request of Ernest Buckler and correspondents

**Acquired from the author in two accessions, 1969 and 1978.
Additional accessions in 1989 and 1990.**

Ernest Buckler's estate retains the copyright. Queries about restrictions should be directed to the Director of the Library or the Manuscripts Librarian.

Margaret Bickley Farmer material is no longer restricted.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Ernest Buckler was born in Dalhousie West, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia, July 19, 1908, son of Appleton Buckler and Mary (Swift) Buckler. He was educated at the Dalhousie West Common School, at Bridgetown High School, and at Dalhousie University, Halifax, where he obtained the degree of B.A. with Great Distinction in 1929. While attending University, he found summer employment at Kent House, Greenwich, Conn.

Buckler enrolled at the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto in the fall of 1929, living at Trinity House, the men's residence for Trinity College. Under Professor G.S. Brett he obtained an M.A. in philosophy in 1930. After graduation he did actuarial work at the Manufacturer's Life Insurance Company on Bloor St. for five years. In 1936 he was forced by ill health to return to the Annapolis Valley, and in 1939 he established himself on a family farm not far from where he was born. It was during these years that he became interested in writing, often snatching moments from his busy life as a farmer.

In 1938 he wrote a prize-winning article in *Coronet Magazine*, and was encouraged to pursue his avocation seriously. His short stories and articles appeared in *Esquire*, 1939-42; in *Saturday Night*, 1940-48, in *Maclean's Magazine*, 1948-51; and his radio plays were produced on the CBC, 1940-45.

His first novel, *The Mountain and the Valley*, was published in New York by Henry Holt in 1952. It received critical acclaim in the United States, but despite some excellent reviews in Canada, it made little impact. Buckler's second novel, *The Cruellest Month*, did not appear until 1963. During this decade he was contributing to *Colliers*, *The Ladies Home Journal*, *Chatelaine*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and other journals, as well as giving radio talks and contributing more plays to the CBC. In 1967 he wrote the libretto for a cantata, with music by Keith Bissell, *Christmas in Canada*. This was performed in the Confederation Centre, Charlottetown, in December, 1967.

In 1968, *Ox Bells and Fireflies: a memoir* was published by McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, and Knopf, New York. This was followed in 1973 by *Nova Scotia: Window on the Sea*, with the photographs of Hans Weber, published by McClelland and Stewart.

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In 1975 a selection of Buckler's short stories edited by Robert Chambers was published by McClelland and Stewart under the title: *The Rebellion of Young David and Other Stories*.

In 1977 *Whirligig*, a collection of Buckler's satiric poetry and prose, was published by McClelland and Stewart. It subsequently won the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour.

Besides winning many awards for his writing, Ernest Buckler received honorary degrees from the University of New Brunswick, 1969, and from Dalhousie University in 1971. In 1967 he was a recipient of the Centennial Medal, and in 1974 of the Order of Canada.

Ernest Buckler died in Bridgetown in 1984. While much of his work has been anthologized and all his novels reprinted, *The Mountain and the Valley* is recognized as a Canadian classic. As long ago as 1972, 28,000 paperback copies had been sold.

There are a number of articles and unpublished theses on Buckler, and there are also several published books:

Chambers, Robert D. *Sinclair Ross and Ernest Buckler*. Vancouver: Copp Clark, 1975.

Cook, Gregory M., ed. *Ernest Buckler*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1972.

Young, Alan. *Ernest Buckler*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1976.

Orange, John. *Ernest Buckler: an annotated bibliography*. In *The Annotated Bibliography of Canada's Major Authors* edited by Robert Lecker and Jack David. Toronto: E.C.W. Press, 1981.

Scope:

The bulk of the collection consists of drafts and typescripts of Buckler's published works. With almost each of the main works there are accompanying page proofs, correspondence with publishers and book reviews. There is a small amount of biographical and personal material. Copies of all Buckler's published books are in the main Fisher collections. A copy of the finding aid for the Ernest Buckler Collection in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia is in the Notes on Manuscripts file. To consult this, please ask at the Reference Desk.

“Ernest Buckler: an annotated bibliography” by John Orange in Robert Lecker’s *The Annotated Bibliography of Canada’s major authors. V. 3.*

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Series:

Boxes 1-3	Series A	Personal and biographical: Undergraduate notebooks. Papers submitted for M.A. degree, 1929-1930. Letters and notes of a biographical nature. Photos.
Boxes 4-11	Series B	Correspondence: Correspondence relating to Buckler’s professional career. (The correspondence Which applies directly to the publication of a book is filed with the manuscripts of the book). Other business correspondence, fan mail.
Box 12	Series C	Early material, mainly unpublished.
Boxes 13-20 And mapcase	Series D	Novels: Drafts, typescripts. Some galleys and page proofs. Correspondence with publishers. Book reviews.
Box 21	Series E	Prose poem.
Box 22-23 And mapcase	Series F	Short stories
Box 24	Series G	Plays, including the libretto of the cantata, <i>Christmas in Canada.</i>

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99

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Box 25-27	Series H	Articles. Essays and verses of a satirical nature including the manuscripts relating to <i>Whirligig</i>. Book reviews by Ernest Buckler.
Box 28	Series I	Theses and students' papers on Buckler's work
Boxes 29-34		Restricted material

Container Listing:

A Personal and Biographical

Box 1	Notebooks from undergraduate years at Dalhousie University, Halifax, 1925-29. 18v.
Box 2	Essays submitted for M.A. in Philosophy, under Professor Brett at the University of Toronto, 1929-30
Box 3	Biographical material: a few letters, notes, photographs, clippings.
B Correspondence	
Boxes 4-9	Correspondence relating to Ernest Buckler's professional career, 1937-77, arranged chronologically. (Correspondence relating to the publication of his books is filed with the material on the individual books).
Box 10	Business correspondence not connected with his writing career. Correspondence relating to the Ajax Hospitality Club, a war-time organization in Halifax
Box 11	Fan mail
C Early Writing, Mainly Unpublished	
Box 12	Early prose and verse
D Novels	
Boxes 13-15 and mapcase	<i>The Mountain and the Valley</i>, published by Holt in 1952. Typed notes. Typed first and second drafts heavily revised in holograph. Publisher's typescript with instructions to the printer. Two sets of galleys, one with author's revisions (in

	mapcase). Correspondence relating to the publication of the novel. Reviews.
Boxes 16-17	<i>The Cruellest Month</i>, published by McClelland and Stewart in 1963. Character outlines. Drafts. Typescripts. Correspondence with the editor and publisher. Corrections to the text. Proof copy of the book. Reviews.
Boxes 18-20 and mapcase	<i>Ox Bells and Fireflies: a memoir</i>, published in 1968 by McClelland and Stewart in Toronto and Knopf in New York. Manuscript notes. Drafts. Typescripts. Two sets of galley proofs, one set with holograph corrections, one set “revised proofs” (in mapcase). Two sets of page proofs (one set for Canadian edition). Correspondence relating to publication. Reviews.
E Prose Poem	
Box 21	<i>Nova Scotia, Window on the Sea</i>, with photographs of Hans Weber, published in 1973 by McClelland and Stewart. Notes. Typescript. Correspondence. Reviews.
F Short Stories	
Boxes 22-23 and mapcase	Stories arranged alphabetically by title. Mainly typescripts, some with holograph emendations (Eight stories in published form in mapcase). A contents list is in Box 22. Correspondence relating to the publication of the collection of short stories: <i>The Rebellion of Young David</i>, 1975 is in Box 23.
G Plays For Radio and Television	
Box 24	Arranged alphabetically by title. Includes <i>Christmas in Canada</i>, a cantata performed at the Confederation Centre

	Theatre, Charlottetown in 1967, with the music of Keith Bissell.
H Articles. Satirical Writing. Book Reviews	
Box 25 and mapcase	Articles by Ernest Buckler arranged alphabetically. <i>Maritimes Letter</i> – a series of articles by Buckler for <i>Saturday Night</i>, 1947-48, typescripts, 5 folders. (For published version, see mapcase). Buckler's contributions to <i>The Sound and the Fury</i>, the correspondence section of <i>Esquire</i>. Typescripts and published versions. Also Buckler's letters to Arnold Gingrich and Gingrich's allusions to Buckler in pages of <i>Esquire</i>. The Graduate University of Toronto, sesquicentennial issue, March 1977, containing Buckler's <i>The Best Place to Be</i>. 2 copies. In mapcase.
Box 26	<i>Whirligig</i>. Drafts, many holograph. Typescript of Introduction to <i>Whirligig</i> by Claude Bissell. Correspondence with publishers.
Box 27	Book reviews by Ernest Buckler. Typescripts. Published versions of many reviews.
I Theses and Students' Papers about Ernest Buckler	
Box 28	Two M.A. theses and several term papers. Typescripts, mainly xeroxed.
RESTRICTED Boxes 29-36	Restricted material

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1990 ACCESSION

This collection contains background material, extensive notes, manuscript drafts (both holograph and typescript) for Claude Bissell's book, *Ernest Buckler Remembered*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1989), as well as Bissell's manuscripts for his other writings about Buckler, and photocopies of some Buckler manuscripts not in the Buckler Papers.

Extent: 10 Boxes (1.24 metres)

Gift of Claude Bissell

Box 37	Correspondence. Restricted.
Box 38	Correspondence. Restricted.
Box 39	Buckler related materials: “Christmas in Canada”. Typescript, carbon copy and printed programme. “Prichard’s Criticism of Kant’s Theory of Knowledge.” Manuscript, photocopy. Short stories, poems. Typescripts, photocopies, from Buckler Collection in Nova Scotia Archives. 18 folders. Printed Appearances: clippings mainly from <i>The Globe and Mail</i>, 1976-1980. 3 folders.
Box 40	“Background material”. Notes by Bissell and Margaret Farmer. “Ernest Buckler Papers, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.” Typescript, photocopy. “Scarborough Public School Centennial Concert”, and “Christmas in Canada” programmes. Buckler wrote the narrative and libretto. Tom Forrestall. “Shapes of the Paintings Interest Me As An Integral Part of the Work”, 1971. Inscribed to Ernie.
Mapcase	Clippings about Buckler, and clippings about writers whom he admired.
Box 41	Critical and biographical materials about Buckler and his writings. Bissell’s reviews of Buckler’s works: <i>The Cruellest Month</i>. Typescript, 2

	<p>photocopies. <i>Oxbells and Fireflies.</i> Typescript, carbon copy; printed appearance, <i>The Globe Magazine</i>, November 9, 1978, p. 16. 2 copies</p> <p>“Introduction to Ernest Buckler’s <i>Whirligig</i>”. Holograph manuscript and typescript, draft with revisions; typescript, carbon copy; typescript with two photocopies.</p> <p><i>The Mountain and the Valley.</i> “CBC Dramatization. These are rough drafts of introduction to a radio dramatization of <i>The Mountain and the Valley</i>.</p> <p>“Ernest Buckler Presentation – Mountainlea Lodge, Bridgetown.” 1982, typescript, photocopy</p> <p>“Ernest Buckler”, manuscript and typescript carbon copy for <i>The Globe and Mail</i>.</p> <p>“Ernest Buckler: Rural Intellectual”, Carleton Lecture, 1989. Manuscript and typescript. 3 folders.</p> <p>Notebook and notes about Buckler.</p> <p>Other critical articles and papers about Buckler’s writings. 5 folders.</p> <p>Correspondence to Bissell about Buckler, and about presentation to him from William French, Jack McClelland, Roy McIsaac, and photocopies of their tributes to Buckler as well as those from Margaret Atwood, Max Ferguson, Margaret Laurence, 1982. 5 folders</p> <p>Correspondence to Roy McIsaac about Buckler presentation from Bill, Fred Cogswell, Anne Cotterden, Helen Creighton, Henry Hicks, Kay Hill, Alden</p>
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	<p>Nowlan, H.R. Percy, Tom Raddall, photocopies.</p> <p>Research materials for <i>Ernest Buckler Remembered</i>.</p>
Box 42	<p>“Primary material”.</p> <p>“Toronto Days”. TLS, 1975 from Buckler.</p> <p>“Buckler in <i>Esquire</i>”. Photocopies of printed appearances. Buckler’s correspondence with publisher re: <i>Oxbells and Fireflies</i>. Carbon copies of Buckler’s TLS.</p> <p>“Secondary Correspondence”. 3 folders Photocopies of Buckler’s letters, some of which are in the collection. “Quotes for Book”. 2 folders.</p> <p>Notes about Elizabeth Bowen. Notes about “Margaret-Ernest correspondence”. 4 folders.</p>
Box 43	<p>“Primary I”. Correspondence between Buckler, and Mary and John Kennedy, Arnold Gingrich, Al and Joan McGuire, Rachel Grover, Donald Cameron. Photocopies and notes.</p> <p>“Primary II”. Financial statements: Notes Journal, Diary and correspondence. Photocopies of papers, and notes about them.</p> <p>“Primary III”. Correspondence between Buckler, and Harry Brown, Pamela Fry, Margaret Laurence, Jack McClelland (McClelland and Stewart) and the Crown Questionnaire. Photocopies of letters with notes. “About Bridgetown and Annapolis</p>

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	Valley”. Printed brochures, clippings. 2 folders.
Box 44	Notes on text and for book.
Box 45	“Ernest Buckler: A Memoir”. Manuscript draft and word processed drafts, called “2d copy (unrevised)” and “3d copy (unrevised)”.
Box 46	Word processed drafts called, “Rough final mss” and “Final copy”. The “Rough final mss” has holograph additions and corrections.