

Ms.
Coll.
101

Canadian Authors Association, Toronto Branch
Papers, 1921-1954
3 Boxes

Formed in 1921 as a national literary association to foster a sense of cultural and literary solidarity among Canadian writers throughout Canada.

Correspondence, poetry, membership lists, minutes of executive meetings, reports, newspaper clippings, financial statements and programs.

Source unknown, 1970's; and gift of Dr. H. Lawrence, 1992.

The Canadian Authors Association was founded in 1921 as a national literary association by Stephen Leacock, Pelham Edgar, B.K. Sandwell, and John Murray Gibbon, its first president. Its aim was to develop a sense of cultural and literary solidarity among Canadian writers. It was initially established to fight proposed copyright legislation that threatened to discriminate against Canadian writers and was composed of local branches across Canada that convened annually in the spring. The CAA's membership grew quickly in sixty years to 775 members. In the early twenties it lobbied successfully for changes in copyright legislation and kept its members informed in the pages of the Canadian Bookman, edited by Sandwell (1921-22), and in the Authors' Bulletin, (1923-33), the Canadian Author (1933-40), and the Canadian Author and Bookman 1940-). In an attempt to make Canadians more aware of the Canadian writers and their output, the CAA sponsored the first Canada Book Week in 1921, which took place annually until 1957. Other literary initiatives included the Canadian Poetry Magazine (1936) which later merged with the Canadian Author and Bookman in 1968.

SCOPE

The bulk of the collection concerns the Toronto branch of the Association and is comprised mainly of correspondence, reports of meetings and conventions, membership lists, minutes of executive meetings, newspaper clippings, poetry, bills, receipts, financial statements, and programs.

Ms. Canadian Authors Association,
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101 CONTAINER LIST

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BOX FOLDER

- 1 1-34 Correspondence, 1921-1922. Correspondents include L.J. Burpee, W.A. Deacon, H.S. Eayrs, M. MacBeth, N.S. Rankin, B.K. Sandwell.
- 35-36 Bills, receipts, membership lists.
- 2 1-18 Correspondence, poetry, newspaper clippings, programs, photographs, 1931-1954. Correspondents include Gertrude Baskine, Canadian Broadcasting Association, W.A. Deacon, Pelham Edgar, Eric Gaskell, Amabel King, A.H. O'Brien, Sir Charles G.D. Roberts, B.K. Sandwell.
- 19 Constitution. By-Laws. 1937-1944.
- 20 Annual conventions, reports, programs of recitals. 1931-1952.
- 21 Financial statements. 1934-1952.
- 22 Reports, bulletins. 1932-1952.
- 3 1 Minutes of executive meetings - Toronto branch - May 1935 - May 1938.
- 2-5 Minutes of executive meetings - Toronto branch - January 1943 - April 1952.
- 6 Minutes of executive meetings - June 1937 - May 1938.
- 7 Membership lists - 1934-1935.
- 8 Membership lists - Toronto branch - 1935-1940.
- 9 Federation of Canadian Artists - Brief - 1951.