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FINCH (Robert) Papers, 2015

Robert Finch Papers

Gift of John C. Cairns, 2015

Dates: 1947-1995

Extent: 9 Boxes, 8 cassette tapes, 1 photograph (2 metres)

Scope and Content: Includes 50 year correspondence between Robert Finch and John C. Cairns (1947-1995), as well as audio cassette recordings of Finch reading his poetry, speaking and playing the piano (recorded in the 1980s). The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library also holds Robert Finch's papers, which were accessioned in 1992, 1996 and 1997 (see MS Coll 324), which contains correspondence from John C. Cairns, as well as some carbon copies of letters written by Finch for the time period between 1947 and 1995.

Arrangement: Letters were placed in chronological order by John Cairns. If the letters are undated, Cairns has placed a suggested date in square brackets.

Shorthand notations are used throughout the finding aid and are to be translated as follows:

ALS – Autograph letter signed (signed by the author of the letter, handwritten)

ANS – Autograph note signed (shorter note, card, postcard, etc.)

TLS – Typed letter signed (typed letter signed by hand)

TNS – Typed note signed (shorter typed note or card signed by the author)

Contains series:

- Series 1: Correspondence
- Series 2: Tape recordings

| SERIES 1: CORRESPONDENCE | | |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Correspondence consists of letters, notes and postcards written from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns. Other correspondents include letters from Robert Finch to Bryce McNish and Mrs. W.G Cairns. The correspondence dates from 1947 to 1995, the language is primarily in English but some letters are in French. Some correspondence includes attached poetry, which is both published and unpublished. Topics included in the correspondence are Finch's writing and research, his travels, his tenure as a professor at the University of Toronto and personal information about friends, family and health. | | |
| BOX: FOLDER | CONTENTS | YEAR |
| Correspondence From Robert Finch to John C. Cairns | | |
| Box 1 Folder: 1-4 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 2 TLS, 2 ALS | August-November 1947 |
| 1:5-8 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 2 ALS, 2 TLS | 1948 |
| 1:9-11 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 2 ANS, 1 TLS | 1949 |
| 1:12-15 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 2 ALS, 2 TLS | 1950 |
| 1:16-17 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 1 ALS, 1 ANS | 1951 |
| 1:18-19 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 1 ALS, 1 ANS | 1952 |
| 1:20-28 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 6 ALS, 2 TLS, 1 ANS | 1953 |
| 1:29-47 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 12 ANS, 4 ALS, 3 TNS | 1954 |

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|-----------------------------|--|--------|
| 1:48-56 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 5 ALS, 1 ANS | 1955 |
| 1:57 | Correspondence between Robert Finch and an unknown recipient, 1 ANS | [1955] |
| 1:58-85 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 15 ALS, 13 ANS | 1956 |
| 1:86-96 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 7 ALS, 4 ANS | 1957 |
| 1:97-106 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 10 ALS | 1958 |
| Box 2 Folder 1-48 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 20 ALS, 17 ANS, 8 TLS, 3 TNS | 1959 |
| 2: 49-116 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 8 ALS, 33 ANS, 23 TLS, 4 TNS | 1960 |
| Box 3 Folder 1-78 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 46 ALS, 23 ANS, 5 TLS, 4 TNS | 1961 |
| 3: 79-114 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 12 ALS, 5 ANS, 20 TNS | 1962 |
| Box 4 Folder 1-12 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 11 ALS, 1 ANS | 1963 |
| 4: 13-17 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 4 ALS, 1 ANS | 1964 |
| 4: 18-28 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 5 ALS, 4 ANS, 2 TLS | 1965 |
| 4:29-53 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 11 ALS, 4 ANS, 5 TLS, 5 TNS | 1966 |

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|----------------------------|---|------|
| 4: 54-72 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 15 ALS, 4 ANS | 1967 |
| 4:73-76 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 1 ALS, 1 ANS, 1 TLS, 1 TNS | 1967 |
| 4: 77 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to Bryce McKish, 1 ANS | 1967 |
| 4:78-96 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 8 ALS, 3 ANS, 7 TLS | 1968 |
| 4:97 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 1 ALS | 1968 |
| 4:98-109 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 8 ALS, 3 ANS, 1 TLS | 1969 |
| 4:110 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to Bryce McKish, 1 ALS | 1969 |
| 4:111 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 1 ALS | 1969 |
| Box 5 Folder 1-9 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 7 ALS, 2 ANS | 1970 |
| 5:9-23 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 4 ALS, 5 ANS, 3 TLS, 2 TNS | 1971 |
| 5:24 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to Mrs. W.G Cairns, 1 ANS | 1971 |
| 5:25-40 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 8 ALS, 1 ANS, 4 TLS, 3 TNS | 1972 |
| 5:41-57 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 4 ALS, 11 ANS, 2 TLS | 1973 |

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| 5:58-69 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 6 ALS, 7 ANS | 1974 |
| 5:70-80 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 5 ALS, 6 ANS | 1975 |
| 5:81-89 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 3 ALS, 6 ANS | 1976 |
| 5: 90-91 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 1 ALS, 1 ANS | 1976 |
| 5:92-102 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 3 ALS, 6 ANS, 2 TNS | 1977 |
| 5: 103 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 1 ALS | 1977 |
| 5:104-116 Box 6 Folder 1-11 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 20 ALS, 4 ANS, 1 TNS | 1978 |
| 6: 12-33 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 8 ALS, 14 ANS | 1979 |
| 6: 34-45 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 9 ANS, 2 ALS, 1 TLS | 1980 |
| 6: 46-62 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 8 ALS, 6 ANS, 2 TLS, 1 TNS | 1981 |
| 6: 63-67 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 5 ANS | 1981 |
| 6: 68-84 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 6 ALS, 9 ANS, 2 TLS | 1982 |
| 6: 85 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 1 ANS | 1982 |

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|----------------------------|---|------|
| 6: 86-103 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 5 ALS, 11 ANS, 1 TLS, 1 TNS | 1983 |
| 6: 104-123 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 4 ALS, 9 ANS, 1 TLS, 5 TNS | 1984 |
| 6: 124 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 1 ANS | 1984 |
| Box 7 Folder 1-7 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 5 ALS, 2 ANS | 1985 |
| 7: 8 -19 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 2 ALS, 10 ANS | 1986 |
| 7: 20-25 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 1 ALS, 4 ANS, 1 TNS | 1987 |
| 7:26-44 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 4 ALS, 11 ANS, 4 TNS | 1988 |
| 7: 45 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 1 ANS | 1988 |
| 7: 46-59 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 8 ALS, 4 ANS, 2 TNS | 1989 |
| 7: 60- 65 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 4 ALS, 2 TNS | 1990 |
| 7: 66-75 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 2 ALS, 8 ANS, 2 TNS | 1991 |
| 7:76-90 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 9 ANS, 4 ALS | 1992 |
| 7: 91-97 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 7 ANS | 1993 |

| | | |
|---|---|--------|
| 7: 98 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns and Bryce McKish, 1 ANS | 1993 |
| 7: 99-108 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 8 ANS, 1 ALS, 1 TNS | 1994 |
| 7: 109-110 | Correspondence from Robert Finch to John C. Cairns, 2 ANS | 1995 |
| Materials Provided by John C. Cairns | | |
| 7: 111 | Photograph of Robert Finch – “At Belmont House, last weeks, 1995” | 1995 |
| 7:112 | Obituary for Robert Finch. Written by John C. Cairns, Colin Friesen and Willard Piepenburg. | [1995] |
| 7:113 | Correspondence from John C. Cairns to Dr. Ruth Heisey | 1995 |
| 7:114 | Note on Robert Finch’s grave. Written by John C. Cairns. | 2015 |

SERIES 2: TAPE RECORDINGS

This series includes a collection of cassette tape recordings, which feature Robert Finch reading his poems, or playing music. This series also includes some short notes and lists written by John C. Cairns.

| BOX: FOLDER | CONTENTS | YEAR |
|------------------------|--|-------------|
| Box 8: Tape 1 | Robert Finch reading his poems (1 cassette tape) | [1980s] |
| Tape 2 | Robert Finch playing Haydn on the piano (4 cassette tapes) | [unknown] |

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| Tape 3 | Kitchen Concert (1 Cassette tape) | |
| Tape 4 | West Hall College, University of Toronto (1 Cassette Tape) | 8 March 1973 |
| Tape 5 | University College, University of Toronto. Robert Finch reading "the Art of Poetry." | 10 March 1973 |
| Box 9: Folder 1 | File list for Robert Finch Reading his Poems – compiled by John C. Cairn. Contains a complete list of the poems read aloud by Robert Finch, as well as a brief introduction on the making and creation of the tape. | [2015?] |
| 9: 2 | Introduction for Robert Finch playing Haydn – written by John C. Cairn. Cairn indicates that these tapes were given to him by Prof. Clarence Parsons and that the tapes were made at Parsons' house | 13 October 2015 |
| 9: 3 | Note on Kitchen Concert– written by John C. Cairn. Tape includes harpsicord, as well as trumpet and other instruments. Musicians and dates are unknown. | |