

The papers of Alan Hepburn Jarvis, Director of the National Gallery of Canada from 1955-1959, were willed to University of Toronto. Alan Jarvis died on December 3, 1972, and the papers came to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library early in January 1973. In September 1976, Elspeth Chisholm donated to the collection her tapes and other research notes used in the preparation of her C.B.C. radio documentary on Alan Jarvis, "The Things We See", which was broadcast in September 1975.

Scope and Content

The papers cover the personal and professional life of Alan Jarvis from 1933 until shortly before his death in 1972. The 65 boxes contain general and business correspondence, typescripts, magazine articles, minutes of meetings, newspaper clippings and photographs. Much of the early general correspondence consists of letters Jarvis wrote home to his family while he was at Oxford (1938-1939) and while he was working in Britain (1942-1955) describing his life there in great detail. The boxes containing the papers of his professional life have been arranged chronologically as far as it is possible, following the path of his career, at least until his resignation from the National Gallery in September 1959. The newspaper clippings and photograph collection are indexed. There is also some material concerning Jarvis' family - his mother, Janet Stewart McKay, his older brother, Colin McKay Jarvis, and his father, Charles Arthur Jarvis.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Alan Hepburn Jarvis was born in Brantford, Ontario on July 26, 1915, the second son of Charles Arthur Jarvis, an optometrist, and Janet Stewart McKay. When Jarvis was three years old, his father died and Mrs. Jarvis moved the family to Toronto. Some years later she married Edward Charles Bee, a Toronto businessman. In Toronto, Jarvis attended Parkdale Collegiate and the University of Toronto (1934-1938) from which he graduated with a combined degree in Philosophy and Psychology. His older brother Colin McKay Jarvis died in March 1932 at age 21 after a long illness. Jarvis never fully recovered from this loss, and the memory of Colin haunted him all his life.

During his high school years, Jarvis began to study sculpture under Elizabeth Wyn Wood Hahn, an art form he particularly enjoyed and continued to study for the rest of his life. While at University he came under the special notice of Douglas Duncan, founder of the Picture Loan Gallery and the great friend of David Milne. Together, Jarvis and Duncan toured France, Italy and Britain in the summer of 1938.

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Alan Jarvis
Papers

After his graduation from the University of Toronto, Jarvis went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, specializing in aesthetics. His stay there lasted from the Fall of 1938 until shortly after the outbreak of World War II when he, along with other Commonwealth and foreign students, was sent home. He never acquired his Oxford degree. When he was refused admittance in the Canadian military, he applied for and won a Fellowship in the Graduate School of Fine Arts, New York University (1940-1941)*^{not in copy} By January 1942, he was back in England again. His new position was as an advisor in Industrial Relations in the Personnel Department of Parnall Aircraft Industries (Bristol) for the Ministry of Aircraft Production under Sir Stafford Cripps.

As a result of his work with Parnall Industries, Jarvis moved on to become first of all Special Assistant and then Private Secretary to Sir Stafford Cripps. In this capacity, Jarvis edited both the British and American editions of Cripps' speeches which were published in 1946 under the title Democracy Alive. After Cripps' death in 1953, Jarvis created for the Cripps family a posthumous portrait in bronze which Jacob Epstein acknowledged as having influenced his own, now in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Jarvis left the direct employ of Cripps in September 1945 to become the first Director of Public Relations for the newly created Council of Industrial Design. The brain-child of Cripps, now President of the Board of Trade, this Council was set up to try to improve the post-war design of all British consumer products, particularly products for export. As Director of Public Relations, Jarvis was prominently involved in Britain's first great post-war exhibition, Britain Can Make It. He also wrote the introductory volume to the best-selling Penguin series, The Things We See; and he helped produce the well-known film on design, Designing Women, with Joyce Grenfell and Stephen Potter.

The production of this film led Jarvis in 1947 into the feature film business as the Executive Director of Pilgrim Pictures Limited headed by Filippo Del Giudice, formerly with J. Arthur Rank. While in this position, he assumed production responsibility for films like Peter Ustinov's Private Angelo and Bernard Miles' Chance of a Lifetime. Through his association with Miles, Jarvis became one of the founder-directors of the Mermaid Theatre.

In June 1950, Jarvis left film production and assumed the Headship of Oxford House, Bethnal Green, the old University Settlement House in East London. Headship of this traditionally led to a bishopric in the Church of England. During the five years he acted in this capacity, Jarvis also co-ordinated the National Voluntary Youth Organizations' contributions to the Festival of Britain in 1951; produced the record-breaking exhibition of low-cost furnishings and design called Bill and Betty: or Setting up Home; and acted as Chairman of the Governors of the Group Theatre, whose directors included T.S. Eliot, Sir Herbert Read, Graham Green and Nevill Coghill.

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Alan Jarvis
Papers

Jarvis returned to Canada in the spring of 1955 to become the Director of the National Gallery in Ottawa. He resigned this position in September 1959 and shortly afterwards became the editor of Canadian Art Magazine, later Artscanada. In 1961, he became National Director of the Canadian Conference of the Arts.

For the last ten years of his life, Jarvis free-lanced as a writer, sculptor and art consultant. He organized three exhibitions at the Rothman's Gallery for the Stratford Shakesperian Festival in 1963, 1964 and 1965 and was heavily involved in national preparations for Expo '67. He wrote a book on David Milne, Volume 3 in Gallery of Canadian Art series, and he edited a book on Douglas Duncan. Alan Jarvis died after a long illness, having earlier in the day been present at ^{the} an opening of his new work.

INVENTORY OF THE ALAN JARVIS PAPERS

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| BOX | 1 | Correspondence IN - 1933-1950 |
| | 2 | Correspondence IN - 1951-1955 |
| | 3 | Correspondence IN - 1956-1958 |
| | 4 | Correspondence IN - 1959-1960 |
| | 5 | Correspondence IN - 1961-1962 |
| | 6 | Correspondence IN - 1963 |
| | 7 | Correspondence IN - 1964-1965 |
| | 8 | Correspondence IN - 1966-1972 |
| | 9 | Correspondence OUT - 1941-1962 |
| | 10 | Correspondence OUT - 1963-1971 |
| | 11 | Family letters to and from Jarvis, 1938-1955 |
| | 12 | Correspondence: identified but not dated; special correspondants; undated, unidentified correspondence |
| | 13 | School and research notes, chiefly on art history |
| | 14 | Concerning the years at the University of Toronto (1934-1938) and at New York University (1940-1941)
Also, C.B.C. Interview - 1938 |
| | 15 | Card files, notes, addresses, etc. |
| | 16 | Photograph album of trip with Douglas Duncan, 1938.
Correspondence to Jarvis from Duncan, 1938-1939
Maps of France showing the route taken, 1938 |
| | 17 | Scrapbook of 1938 trip and about winning the Rhodes scholarship, 1938 |
| | 18 | Oxford years, 1938-1939 |
| | 19 | The Rhodes Scholarships - Annual academic statements
Rhodes House, Oxford - Christmas greetings
University College, Oxford - Annual reports
Miscellaneous publications |

- BOX 20 Parnall Aircraft Industries
Industrial Discussion Clubs Experiment
Adult Education
- 21 Sir Stafford Cripps (1889-1953)
Jarvis' confirmation into the Church of England, 1945
- 22 Council of Industrial Design
Festival of Britain
- 23 Pilgrim Pictures Limited and other film interests in
Britain
Theatre - Group Theatre and the Mermaid Theatre
- 24 Oxford House, Bethnal Green (University Settlement House)
Other related social work and community interests
and activities
- 25 Concerning Jarvis' publications while in Britain and
other aspects of his British career
- 26 The National Gallery of Canada years, 1955-1959
Box I
- 27 The National Gallery of Canada years, 1955-1959
Box II
- 28 Carleton University [1950]-1959 - Correspondence,
Committee minutes, brochures, etc.
- 29 Scrapbook of his career - September 1959-March 1960
- 30 Society for Arts Publications (Artscanada)
- 31 Stratford Shakespearian Festival Exhibitions, 1963, 1964,
1965
Rothman's and Rothman's Art Gallery
- 32 Sculptor's Society of Canada, Regional Sculptor's Societies
Exhibition of 12 Canadian painters
Other group activities, art exhibitions, etc.
- 33 Canadian Conference of the Arts
Canada Council
Alan Jarvis Associates
- 34 Fifeshire Films
Crawly Films
Dominion Drama Festival

- BOX 35 Material relating to Expo '67 and other preparations
for Canada's Centennial (1967)
- 36 Material for a book on David Milne and for a book
on Donald Buchanan
- 37 Material for a book on Douglas Duncan
- 38 Articles, scripts, typescripts of tapes, etc.
- 39 Yearly diaries, notebooks, address books
- 40 Yearly calendars
- 41 Playscripts, miscellaneous research notes
- 42 Miscellaneous material
- 43 Magazines and periodicals containing articles written
by Alan Jarvis
- 44 Newspaper clippings, Box I
Index follows
- 45 Newspaper clippings, Box II
Index follows
- 46 Newspaper clippings, Box III
Index follows
- 47 Photographs, Box I
Index follows
- 48 Photographs, Box II
Index follows
- 49 Photographs, Box III
Index follows
- 50 Photographs, Box IV
Index follows
- 51 Photographs, Box V
Index follows
- 52 Photographs (2) of the interior of the National Gallery
of Canada, ca. 1900

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Alan Jarvis papers	BOX	53	Postcards, mostly from Jarvis' trip with Douglas Duncan (1938) through Britain, France and Italy
		54	Large photographs of art works mounted on heavy board, probably used to illustrate lectures, etc.
		55	Material about the Jarvis-Bee family
		56	McKay-Jarvis-Bee family photographs
		57	3 family photograph albums (in box)
		58	McKay family Bible
		59	Alan Jarvis Associates - Accounts, bills, receipts, etc.
		60	Miscellaneous accounts, bills, receipts, etc. Box I
		61	Miscellaneous accounts, bills, receipts, etc. Box II
		62	Notes made by Elspeth Chisholm for her C.B.C. radio documentary on Alan Jarvis, "The Things We See", broadcast on September 18, 1975
		63	Tapes of interviews conducted by Elspeth Chisholm and others concerning Alan Jarvis [not to be used]
		64	Cassette tapes of interviews conducted by Elspeth Chisholm and others concerning Alan Jarvis <i>* Not to be copied unless Elspeth Chisholm gives permission</i>
		65	Art exhibition catalogues from Alan Jarvis's estate - mainly non-Canadian
		66	Magazines mainly containing articles by or about Jarvis.
		67	Photos of Alan Jarvis, Noel Coward, Vincent Massey, Douglas Duncan. Some original works of art. Index follows.
Item		68	Photographs of two photos of sculptures by Elizabeth Wynwood. In portfolio.
Mapcase			Theatre and art exhibition posters. 3 original drawings. Index follows.

PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

b-y 47

BOX 1

General Art

Mostly Canadian - File of single works of art plus files of individual artists, many containing photographs of the artists and their work. General photographs of landscapes, buildings and nature. Several reproductions of sculpture and architecture. (more detailed list following)

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BOX 2

JARVIS - Public Life

Career in England - Photographs pertaining to Festival of Britain, Industrial Bureau of Current Affairs, Pilgrim Pictures, Penguin Books etc.
Career in Canada - Beaverbrook Gallery (opening ceremonies,) National Gallery of Canada, art exhibitions in Stratford, Ont., Radio and television appearances etc.

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BOX 3

JARVIS - Art

Photographs of sculpture by Alan Jarvis, his models, Jarvis at work. Several photos of famous people posing beside their portraits. (eg. Peter Ustinov, Kirsten Flagstad) Some photos of work done by Alan Jarvis Associates.

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BOX 4

JARVIS - Private life

Informal portraits of Jarvis, pictures of family and friends. Marriage to Elizabeth Devlin Kingsmill and pictures of Mrs. Jarvis' family. File of miscellaneous photos.

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BOX 5

Miscellaneous - unusually sized items

Series of mounted photos entitled 'Theme and Variations' portraying the relationship of design in art and nature. Photos of sculpture mounted on heavy board. Several negatives and small prints - mostly of travels and some of Festival of Britain. Screened photos of Jarvis for press.

JARVIS, Alan

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PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION CONT'D

Box 47 List of single works of art BOX 1

Alleyn, Edmund - Shoreline
Bault, Archam - Oiseau de Fer
Binning, B.C. - Ships in Classical Calm
Bloore, Ronald (large negative) 8x10"
Carmichael, Franklin - Upper Canada Near Mattawa
Constable, John - Hadleigh Castle
De Tonnancour, Jacques - Girl with Black Cat
Harman, Jack - Figure #2
Heward, Prudence - Sisters of Rural Quebec
Holbrook, Elizabeth B. - Ellen Fairclough posing for portrait
Holmsten, Olle - artist posing with sculpture of Fuck
Kahane, Anne - Figure and Distant Figures
Kemp, James - Reclining Figure
Mayhew, Elsa - Bronze relief for Bank of Canada, Vancouver, B.C.
Moore, Henry - Reclining Woman (postcard presented to A. Jarvis by Moore)
Nicols, Jack - The Orange Cloak
Plaskett, Joe - Le Peintre Emerveillé devant le Monde
Price, Authur - Collecting the Cosmic Rays - for Bell Telephone
Rousseau - Landscape
Shadbolt, J. - large negative 8x10"
Smith, John Ivor - Smiling Head #2
Thompson, Tom - The Jack Pine - negative 4x5"
Winter, William - Music and the Dance

Box 47 Artists with individual files in BOX 1

Baird, Ron	McEwan, Jean
Borduas, Paul Emile	Milne, David (historical plaque)
Bush, Jack	Onley, Toni
Colville, Alex	Pellan, Alfred
Coughtry, Graham	Perry, Frank
Drope, M.H.	Pine, Michael
Etrog, Sorel	Riopelle, Jean-Paul
Gladstone, Gerald	Ronald, William
Lemieux, Jean-Paul	Town, Harold B.
Loring, Frances	Wyle, Florence
McKay, Arthur	Wyn Wood, Elizabeth

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More detailed list in
Notes on Manuscripts

CLIPPING FILE

bot 44 ~~BOX 1~~

Articles on architecture and urban development, mostly Canadian in content.
Canadian Art - files of clippings on individual artists
- general articles on Canadian art - collectors, funding
publications etc. Articles on Canadian art according to region.
Material concerning Jarvis' administration of National Gallery
filed under Art - Canadian - Ottawa - National Gallery
Miscellaneous material

45 ~~BOX 2~~

International Art - art criticism, conservation and restoration, applied
arts, photography, art schools
Several reproductions of sculpture and architecture
Files of clippings on various artists of international repute

The Arts - material on Canadian cultural institutions and Canadian
Conference on the Arts

Fairs and exhibitions including the Festival of Britain

Film - British - Jarvis' involvement with film in Britain during late
forties and early fifties. Pilgrim Pictures, J. Arthur
Rank, Filippo del Guidice

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Film industry in Canada

ALAN JARVIS - Art, education, publications, television shows
Copies of syndicated column 'The Things We See' from Montreal
Star, Ottawa Journal, Toronto Telegram, Victoria Daily Times

Articles on literature, music, theatre (including Mermaid Theatre), radio
and television. Social and political thought, youth development - Oxford
House.

Alan
Jarvis
papers

BOX 67

Diploma and correspondence relating to Jarvis's honorary degree at Waterloo-Lutheran University, 1962.

Alan Jarvis's Middle School (Grade XII) diploma, Parkdale C.I. Toronto, 1931.

London. Covent Garden Royal Opera House.

Programme for first performance of B. Britten's Gloriana, written on occasion of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. June 8, 1953.

Photo of Malinès, Belgium, copyright Bert Binning.

Photo of Noël Coward, inscribed to Jarvis.

Photo of Douglas Duncan of H. Cassidy.

Unidentified photo.

Photos of Alan Jarvis. (2) by Denis Davenyi, Victoria, B.C.

Photo of Alan Jarvis by Herb Nett(?) and Co., Toronto.

Photos of Alan Jarvis (2) by Nancy Sandys Walker.

Photo of Mestrovic's bas-relief, The Canadian Phalanx, for the Canadian War Memorials.

Framed photo of Vincent Massey.

Original works of art:

Maronis, M. Year of the moon, 1969

Browne, Kenneth G. St. Paul's Cathedral. [V.E. Day, 1945?] India ink and wash drawing.

Caricature from McLean's magazine of Jarvis's dismissal from Directorship of the National Gallery, 1959. Original drawing.

Muscant, June. 2 slates of etching.

Jackson, Ronald. 5 slates of etching.

Mapcase material:

National Research Council of Canada. Two Christmas lectures for children, one of which is by Alan Jarvis, Director of the National Gallery. Poster.

University of Toronto. Alan Jarvis's graduation diploma, 1938.

London. Whitechapel Art Gallery. Exhibition of furniture for the newly married. Poster. 2 copies.

London. The Mermaid Theatre. The Royal Exchange. London's Elizabethan Theatre. Poster and flyer.

Wm. Denny and Brothers Ltd. Drawing office, Dumbarton, Scotland.

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Mapcase material (cont'd)

Original water-colour drawing of fore-end profile of ship
the Margaret Bowater, 1954. (Jarvis did a medallion of
Margaret Bowater at this time)

2 original drawings of sculptures by Archimbault. 1958 and 1960.