

Ms. Langdon (John Emerson), 1902-1981
Coll. Papers, 1914-1981
182 62 boxes and items

Businessman and collector of, and writer on North American silver. Includes research notes on silver, chiefly compiled for his four books on North American silver and silversmiths, together with related correspondence, typescripts, flimseys, and galleys; secondary materials, used for lectures and articles; photographs and slides used as illustrative matter in the books and articles; correspondence, notes, invoices, photographs and awards.

Related collection of books and pamphlets on silver listed in special file near Reference Desk.

Presented to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library through the Ontario Heritage Foundation by J.E. Langdon; and gift of the estate of Stella Langdon, 1990.

Located at Downsview Offsite Storage.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Emerson Langdon was born in Ottawa, April 13, 1902. In 1928 he was appointed Editor for eastern Canada for the Financial Post, based in Montreal. He began visiting antique stores while buying items for his new home and started to notice that a silver hallmark attributed to a Channel Islands silversmith had been used extensively in Canada. This led him to do research on the topic, and he eventually became a leading authority in the field. He left the Financial Post in 1945 to accept a position with McLeod, Young and Weir, investment dealers in Toronto. At the time of his retirement in 1967, he was a vice-president and director, and head of the firm's underwriting activities.

His books are: Clock and watchmakers and allied workers in Canada, 1700-1900, Toronto: 1976; Loyalist silversmiths in British North America, 1776-1800, Toronto: 1970; Guide to marks on early Canadian silver: 18th and 19th centuries, Toronto: 1968; Canadian silversmiths, 1700-1900, Toronto: 1966; and Early Canadian silversmiths and their marks, Lunenburg, Vt: [1960].

BOX FOLDER

- 1 General correspondence.
- 2 1-3 Articles on silver, untitled.
4-8 Articles on Colonial American silversmiths.
9 Guide to marks on early Canadian silver.
10 List of maritime silversmiths.
11 Winterthur conference, 1968.
12 Guelph symposium, 1975.
13 Lectures.
14 Victorian silver, 1978, lecture.
15 Report on the Angus Cowan collection of Indian trade silver.
16 Silver Society outing to North America, 1979.
- 3-5 Early Canadian silversmiths and their marks:
drafts, typescripts, flimseys, invoices,
correspondence.
- 6-7 Canadian silversmiths, 1700-1900: drafts,
typescripts, flimseys, invoices, correspondence.
- 8-9 American silversmiths in British North America:
drafts, typescripts, flimseys, invoices,
correspondence.
- 10-13 "Sources" - notes and correspondence on Canadian
silver, arranged by province.
- 14 1-10 Kinds of silver - brief notes, correspondence,
newspaper clippings.
- 15 1-13 Dun and Bradstreet Listings for silversmiths.
14 E.A.L. Jones manuscripts.

ITEM

- 16 American silversmiths in British North America:
galleys.

Ms. Langdon, (John Emerson) Papers
Coll.
182 CONTAINER LIST

4

ITEM

- 17 Early Canadian silversmiths: galleys.
18 Canadian silversmiths, 1700-1900: galleys.
19 Scrapbook of news clippings and photographs.
20-26 Research notes on Canadian silversmiths.
27-36 Photographs of silver arranged by type.

BOX

- 37 Photographs.
38A Slides.
38B *Punch mark and Tools Used by Francois Sasseville, Québec Silversmith*
Fragile mounted and framed.
1986 Accession

ITEM

- 39-45 Photographs of silver used in Canadian silversmiths, 1700-1900.

BOX

- 46 Introduction to list of silversmiths, jewellers, watch and clockmakers and silverplaters working in Canada from 1650 to 1900.
1-8 Master list.
9-15 Revised draft.
16-22 Fair copy.
23-27 Miscellaneous research notes and photographs.
28 Evaluation of Langdon's silver collection by Waddington's.
29 Book review by J.E. Langdon on silversmithing in Canadian history.
47-49 Miscellaneous photographs.

1987 Accession

BOX FOLDER

- 50 1 Inventory concerning Langdon silver gift to Royal Ontario Museum, 1981, correspondence.
- 2-3 Correspondence regarding Florence Nightingale communion set in Elora, Ontario.
- 4-6 Articles, reports, correspondence regarding Shawinigan Water & Power Company.

1990 Accession

Typescript correspondence, photocopies of articles, notes, book reviews, photographs of silver, invoices, and awards.

- 51 1-18 Correspondence - A-L arranged alphabetically, 1942-1980.
- 52 1-14 Correspondence, lectures, notes - L-R arranged alphabetically, 1953-1980.
- 53 1-12 Correspondence - S-W arranged alphabetically, 1959-1981.
- 54 1-9 Book orders - A-Z arranged alphabetically.
- 10-24 Photographs of silver, notes.
- 55 Item 1 Boxed seal - Provincial Secretary and Minister of Citizenship.
- Item 2 Cookbook - manuscript.
- Items 56-62 Awards to John and Stella Langdon for contributions in herbal knowledge and horticulture, encouragement of the arts. Life membership in the John Howard Society, membership in the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, and the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation. Photographs.