

**MS COLL**  
**211**

**ROSS, W. W. E.**  
Papers 1906-1973

Correspondence with other authors and members of his family; poem and prose drafts, notebooks, materials on psychic phenomena, biographical materials. Student diaries, 1911-1915; notebooks. Family photographs are in the University of Toronto Archives. Literary rights and copyright remain with W.W. E. Ross's heirs; contact Jim Hutton, 392 Elm Road, Stouffville, Ont., L4A 1E7

ROSS (W.W.E.) PAPERS

CHRONOLOGY

- 1894 June 14. William Wrighton Eustace Ross born in Peterborough to Ralph Ross (b. ca. 1864) and Mary Ella Louise Wrighton (d. 1926).
- 1911 Junior Matriculation from Pembroke High School. Enrolled in University College, University of Toronto.
- 1915 B.A., University of Toronto.
- 1915-18 Served with the Canadian Army overseas.
- 1918 Worked for British Admiralty Office, Dept. of Experiment and Research.
- 1919 Jan. Arrived back in Toronto.  
Applied to Physics Dept., University of Toronto, for a studentship.  
Began graduate studies under Prof. E.F. Burton.  
Met Mary Lowrey, who was a temporary stenographer in the Physics Dept.
- 1919-20 In Montreal, investing in the stock market.  
Began to write poetry seriously.
- 1922 Resigned studentship, University of Toronto.  
Began job as geophysist at Dominion Magnetic Observatory, Agincourt.
- 1924 June 3, Married Mary Lowrey.
- 1930 Published Laonics (Ottawa: Overbrook Press).
- 1932 Published Sonnets (Toronto: Heaton Pub. Co.).
- 1954 Suffered a breakdown.
- 1956 Raymond Souster published a collection of Ross's poetry: Experiment 1923-29 (Toronto: Contact Press).
- 1966 Died.
- 1968 Shapes and sounds. (London: Longmans). Edited by Raymond Souster and John Robert Colombo.

Manuscript  
Collection

W.W.E. ROSS PAPERS

211 CONTAINER LIST

Box 1 Correspondence. 1923; 1935-1966.

Correspondents include Margaret Avison, Cid Corman, Louis Dudek, Ralph Gustafson, Daryl Hine, Marianne Moore, A.J.M. Smith, Raymond Souster, John Sutherland, Gael Turnbull. In addition to separate typed and holograph copies of WWER's letters to the above, two notebooks contain holograph drafts of his letters written 1944-1955. Includes a holograph draft of letter to Mary Lowrey, 1923.

Poem drafts. 1919-1966.

Holograph and typescript. Several drafts of most poems; almost every draft dated.

Box 2 1919-1929.

Box 3 1930-1942

Box 4 1943-1966

Box 5 Poem drafts for small collections, published and unpublished. 1923-1950's.

Holograph and typescript drafts of poems for named collections, e.g. "Largo", 1938-1940; "Sutherland's selection"--a selection made for publication in Northern Review, edited by John Sutherland.

Boxes 6-8 Poem drafts for unpublished collections or for transcription into notebooks labelled "CI" and "C2" or "CII". 1920's to 1966.

Mostly typescript with some holograph. Arranged by the page number the poem appears to have occupied in the collection or notebook. Each poem dated. Some of these overlap with poem drafts previously listed.

Box 9 Translations and drafts of poems based on translations. 1926-1952.

Translations from the French, Italian, Greek and Latin. Typescript of article by WWER, "The Art of Translation".

Item 10 Galleys for Shapes and Sounds (London: Longmans, 1968) with holograph corrections.

Box 11 Prose drafts. 1921-1957.

Includes clippings of articles in the Toronto Daily Star, 1921. Typescripts and some holograph drafts of a few short stores, many prose sketches, meditations, satiric pieces, and some essays on literary topics.

Box 12 Miscellaneous notes on various topics, chiefly literary and philosophical. 1931-1957. 1 small box.

Includes some autobiographical musings; notes on books read; drafts of essays on literary, philosophical, and scientific subjects. Holograph drafts and typescripts.

Manuscript  
Collection

W.W.E. ROSS PAPERS

211 CONTAINER LIST (CONT.)

Boxes 13-14 Notes and observations made during WWER's investigation of psychic phenomena. 1932-1955.

Includes research notes, notebooks documenting observations, correspondence, records of dreams.

Box 15 Biographical and autobiographical materials. 1896-1956. 1 small box.

Includes notebook kept by WWER's mother recording his early progress; student notebook; junior matriculation results; 2 notebooks 1916-1919 containing names, addresses, expenses, and various notes kept during war experience; diaries for 1944 and 1952, with some poem and prose drafts; drafts of two autobiographical sketches; 2 logbooks recording where Ross submitted poems, 1927-1956.

## 1985 ACCESSION

- Poems and Correspondence
- Box 16 Poems and Prose  
Booklets in typescript with manuscript corrections (often extensive)
- folders 1-2 *Experiment, 1923-29; poems*. [Toronto] : Contact Press, 1956.
- folder 3 [Poems] "submitted to *Dial* 1928".
- folders 4-5 *Laconics*. Ottawa : Overbrook Press, 1930. Typescript, proofs
- folders 6-8 "Distillates" [published in *New Directions*, 1937]. Drafts of poems and 2 versions
- folder 9 "Juxtapositions", 1932.
- folders 10-11 "Sonnets", by E.R. Toronto, 1932. 2 versions
- folders 12-14 "Fresh Woods". 3 versions
- folders 15-16 "Some More Pieces". 2 typescripts
- folder 17 [Poems. "Fresh is the wind", 1<sup>st</sup> poem]. Typescript
- folder 18 [Notes]. Mainly typescript
- folder 19 "Margaret Avison's Notes". Manuscript
- item 20 Notebook, 1917-1919. Contains lecture notes on telegraphy, mathematics, hydrodynamics, and other technical subjects; booklists; ideas for stories; notes on past incidents in his life; names and addresses
- item 21 Notebook, 1926. Contains letter dictated to WWER by his mother in hospital in november, shortly before her death, and addresses to her sister, Ethel
- Box 17 Literary Correspondence, 1925-1950
- folders 1-10 Letters from WWER to editors of publications, 1925-1950
- folders 11-14 Letters from WWER to editors of anthologies, 1932-1945

Box 17

folders 15-16      Drafts and excerpts of letters from WWER to Marianne Moore and Donald Brooks, 1935-1943

folders 17-24      Letters from other writers. Includes Ralph Gustafson, F.R. Scott, A.J.M. Smith, Raymond Souster

folder 25            "Comment on Ernest Hemingway, or The Development of a Writer", by William Wright. October 1932. Typescript and carbon copy lacks author statement

folder 26            *The Editors of "The Dial"* ... a group of poems by W. W. E. Ross ... Printed announcement

folder 27            Correspondence between WWER and A.J. M. Smith, transcribed by Michael Darling. Photocopy of typescript with TLS to Mary Lowrey Ross from Darling, thanking her for permission to publish the letters enclosed

**1986 ACCESSION Poem Drafts, 1950-1966**

Box 18              Poem Drafts

folder 1            Scribbler containing holograph and annotated drafts of poems, 1950-1959

folder 2            Holograph poem drafts, 1965 in folder

folder 3            Scribbler cover containing drafts of poems, 1966, mainly holograph

folder 4            "List of first lines, begun Jan.2/32" in scribbler. Chronological listing of poems by month of composition, 1932-1938