

**MS
Coll.
165**

Spanish Civil War Collection
25 boxes (3.5 metres)

Manuscripts from various sources relating to the Spanish Civil War and to various anti-Franco organizations in Canada and the United States to support the Republican cause.

Gift of Canadian Committee for a Democratic Spain, Thomas T. Tattam, Velma Russell Elley and Susan Meurer (Ross Russell Collection) and others, 1975-1990.

No restrictions.

Related collection of books and other printed materials. File for uncatalogued items near Reference Desk.

Biographical Note

Ross Russell (1911-1990) was born in Toronto to James John Greenberg and Rose Wermes. After attending Fern Avenue Public School, and Parkdale Collegiate Institute, Russell (Greenberg) began working in 1929 at F.W. Woolworth's store, Yonge and Queen Streets where he stayed until 1931 when he was transferred to the McGill and St, Catherines Streets store in Montreal. In 1937 he volunteered at the Communist Headquarters there to join the International Brigades in Spain. He arrived in Abacete, Spain, that summer where he fought until he was wounded; he returned to Montreal in 1939. He was hired as manager of the Federal store on condition that he change his surname, which he did, to Russell. In 1941 he moved to Toronto. During the 1970's he became interested in and active in the association of Mackenzie Papineau Battalion veterans. He was a member of the Executive Council and secretary until 1990.

Container List

- Box 1 Miscellaneous manuscripts relating to the Spanish Civil War: ALS from Pablo Casals, 1938; TLS from B. Ewen, 1938, on stationery with letterhead of Rehabilitation Fund, Friends of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain
- Box 2 Collection of papers relating to the Oregon Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy. Collection made by Thomas T. Tattam, Treasurer of the Oregon Committee. 1937-39. (Catalogued in manuscript file).
- Box 3 A collection of 49 photos taken during action in the Spanish Civil War, 1936.
- Box 4 Scrapbooks of material relating to the Canadian Conference for Amnesty in Spain, held in Toronto, Oct. 1971, and to a cross Canada tour of wives of Political Prisoners in Spain, 1972.
- Box 5 Original banner or poster design: Solidarity with the Spanish people. Hamilton, Mar. 13, 1975.

1990 ACCESSION

Ross Russell Collection of Spanish Civil War Materials. 1936-1990 (bulk 1979-1990)

16 boxes (1.5 metres)

Gift of Susan Meurer and Velma Russell Elley, 1990.

Container List

Box 6 Accounts by twenty-six prisoners of war (mainly Canadian), of their imprisonment in San Pedro de Cardena, 1938-1939.

Office Correspondence, 1979-1990.

Written to and from Russell, Secretary of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion Veterans, concerning their efforts to obtain legal recognition from the Canadian government, the fiftieth anniversary reunion in Spain, executive meeting, and other activities. Includes letters from Ted Allen, Tommy Douglas, Joe Clark, George Hees, Mordecai Richler. With some correspondence are reports, photocopies of pertinent government documents, clippings. The two sequences alphabetical and chronological, complement one another.

Box 7 1979-1986/87

Box 8 1987-1990

Box 9 A - L

Box 10 M - Z

Box 11 List of Canadians Who Fought in Spain 1936-39. Typescripts, multilith copy.

Scrapbooks

Box 12 "Scrapbook 1937 to 1939 saved by Bill Matthews Family". Photocopies of clippings.

Documents, correspondence 1937 to 1939 saved by Bill Matthews Family." Photocopies of clippings.

Documents, correspondence 1937 to 1939. Photocopies.

Mac-Pap. Brigade Clippings, 1936-39. 1 volume. Photocopies.

Prints of posters [from portfolio?]

Item 13 Scrapbook 1979 to 1986
Mainly 1979 clippings and colour prints.

Box 14 Clippings. 1975 to 1989.

Fiftieth Anniversary - Spanish Civil War.

Box 15 Mimeographed sheets with manuscript notes, broadsides, signs.

Box 16 Coloured photographs of reunion in Spain.

Ovs

Box 17 Memorabilia

1 Canadian flag

5 Canadian flags, autographed on stands (used at place settings)

1 Israeli flag (used at place setting)

Box 18 Ross Russell Awards, Honours.

República Española ... Brigadas Internacionales Carnet Militar Para ...

Greenberg ... Russell, 1937.

With: Base de las Brigadas Internacionales Administración Central ... Al Comité de Ayuda al Pueblo Español de Montreal ... Greenberg Roseil ... retirada ... 1938/39.

Laid in.

Hans-Beimler-Medaille. Citation and Medal to Ross Russell, 1966.

Citation in Case; medal in box.

Ministerio de Defensa Nacional. Subsecretaria del Ejército de Tierra, como premio ... la Segunda Guerra de la Independencia Española ... Barcelona 24 de Enero de 1939 ...

Russell Greenberg. Printed broadside completed in manuscript. Another copy printed only.

El Excmo, Sr. Dn. Juan Negrin Lopez ... certifica. que Dn. Ross Russell ha combatido en España en las Brigadas Internacionales ... Mackenzie-Papineau ...

Antonio Cordon. Printed broadside completed in manuscript.

Ross Russell Interview [interviewed by] Charles G. Roland, December 14, 1979. 34 leaves. typescript.

Photographs

- Box 19 Includes 25 black and white prints of International Brigadists [1938], some identified by Russell, colour prints of reunions in Spain; polaroid prints of representatives from Mac Pap with NDP caucus, 1980 and 1982.

Memorabilia

- Box 20 Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion

Friends of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion.
Embossing stamp.

Sound Recordings

- Box 21 Cassettes

La Internacional.

International Brigade songs. Side 2.

The 50th Anniversary of the Spanish Civil War; a Tribute to the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, Berkeley Community Theater, Sunday. April 27, 1986.
- Item 22 Songs of the Lincoln and International Brigades (Collector's series) 33 1/3 rpm
- Item 23 Songs of the Spanish Civil War. Vol. 2. (Folkways) 33 1/3 rpm
- Item 24 Songs of Work and Freedom. 33 1/3 rpm.
- Box 25 Ephemera