

FAIRLEY, MARGARET, 1885-1968

Margaret Fairley's manuscripts were donated to the University of Toronto Rare Book Library on August 25, 1972.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers consist mainly of research notes and contributions to New Frontiers. There is also material for an unpublished book: With Our Own Hands.

EXTENT: 5 boxes.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Margaret Fairley was born in Yorkshire, England in 1885. She graduated with first class honors from Oxford. Degrees were not given to women in those days and she became a tutor at St. Hilda's College, Oxford. She resigned because she "was not going to live that celibate life" and came to Canada. She went to the University of Alberta and obtained her degree. It was in Edmonton that she met her husband, Barker Fairley, who was a lecturer at the University of Alberta. The Fairleys were subsequently to settle in Toronto.

Mrs. Fairley edited the following: The Spirit of Canadian Democracy, an Anthology, 1945; The Selected Writings of William Lyon Mackenzie. 1824-37, Oxford University Press, Toronto, 1960; Highways to Peace, Toronto, 1961? She also edited a progressive quarterly magazine called New Frontiers, 1952-1956. Mrs. Fairley was an active member of the Communist Party.

In 1968 Mrs. Fairley died at the age of 82. At the time of her death, she was collecting material for a book of the writings of Canadian pioneers to be called With Our Own Hands. On June 23, 1972, the city dedicated the corner of Brunswick and Ulster street as the Margaret Fairley Park in recognition of her contribution to the life of Canada.

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CONTAINER LIST

- Box. 1 Research material for her book With Our Own Hands.
Workers' and farmers' letters on pioneer days in Canada.
Lecture notes, research notes.
- Box. 2 Labor Progressive Party Cultural Commission minutes,
bulletins, etc, 1940's & 50's. Material for New
Frontiers; illustrations, reports, clippings. Reports
on the cultural life of the country.
Wallace, Joe. Folder of left wing poetry.
- Box. 3 Canada - History - Mackenzie period, 1824-37, notes.
Reviews of The Selected Writings of William Lyon
Mackenzie.
- Box. 4 Book lists, notes on education. Research material on
minority groups. Article on colonial gov't, 1922.
- Box. 5 Printed material on China, 1963.

Jennifer Ramlochan

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