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CAMERON, Elspeth Papers
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Gift of Elspeth Cameron, 2011

Dates of creation:

1987-2011 (predominantly: 2005-10)

Extent:

4 boxes, 3 books (47 cm)

Biographical Sketch:

Elspeth Cameron (1943-) is a Canadian writer known primarily for her biographies on notable Canadian literary figures such as Irving Layton, Earle Birney, Robertson Davies, and Hugh MacLennan, which was nominated for a Governor-General's Award. Aside from biographies, she has also published volumes of poetry and a memoir.

She has taught Canadian Literature and Canadian Studies at Concordia University, York University, University of Toronto, and Brock University where she is currently an Adjunct Professor of English.

Cameron has published eight works which include: *Hugh MacLennan: A Writer's Life* (1981), *A Spider Danced A Cosy Jig* (1984), *Irving Layton: A Portrait* (1985), *Robertson Davies: An Appreciation* (1991), *Earle Birney: A Life* (1994), *Great Dames* (1997), *No Previous Experience: A Memoir of Love and Change* (1997), *And Beauty Answers: The Life of Frances Loring and Florence Wyle* (2007).

Scope and Content:

This accession for Elspeth Cameron's Papers includes archival material related to her life and work predominantly between the years of 2005-10. Featured within this accession are her speech for the Margaret Laurence Lecture (apart of the Writers' Trust of Canada's annual lecture series), as well as research materials and photographs for her book, *And Beauty Answers: The Life of Frances Loring and Florence Wyle* (2007).

Contains series:

1. Materials relating to the work of Elspeth Cameron
 - Including: Margaret Laurence Lecture (Writers' Trust of Canada), 2009
 - Teaching – Course Materials: Canadian Studies (at Brock University)
2. Research Materials
 - Sculptors and sculpting – Research for *And Beauty Answers: The Life of Frances Loring and Florence Wyle*
3. Correspondence
4. Personal Files and Miscellaneous Items
5. Books

Custodial History:

Papers were donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library by Elspeth Cameron in 2011. Previous accessions were donated in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2006 and 2008.

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Notes:

Folder descriptions, where necessary, are taken directly from titles given by Cameron to her own folders. Shorthand notations are used throughout the finding aid and are to be translated as follows:

WP: word-processed text (from a computer)

HR: holograph revision (written in the hand of the author)

BOX/FOLDER #	CONTENTS
BOX: 1, 2, 4	<u>SERIES 1:</u> Materials relating to the work of Elspeth Cameron Contains materials pertaining to the life and work of Elspeth Cameron. Arranged chronologically.
1:1	Ideas: <i>Niagara Current</i> [publication] 2003 re: Freelance work for <i>Niagara Current</i> . Article written by EC on pg. 50; correspondence; contract agreement; and pay statements.
2:3	Toronto Star 2003 Includes correspondence, requests for photograph and some images.
1:2	Notes for the Two Days of Canada Conference (Brock University) 2007 Includes correspondence.
1:3	Research notes for article on Kevin Strooband [ca. March 2008]
1:4	St. Anne's Church April – May 2008 Includes: correspondence w/ Jeryn McKeown, and information re: celebrating the Centenary of St. Anne's Anglican Church.
1:5	Kevin Strooband article [written by EC] in <i>Niagara Magazine</i> : "The Animal Whisperer" (page 78). October/November, 2008
1:6	Readings: St. Catharine's Public Library May – November 2008 Includes correspondence.
2:1	General work

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	2008-09 Includes printed ephemera related to readings, events like Poetry in the Spring, Women's Art Association events, Life by Proxy, and the Ontario Library Associations Conference of 2008.
2:2	News clippings related to work of Cameron 2008-10 Includes articles and readings.
1:7	Margaret Laurence Lecture 2008-09 re: Contract, correspondence [w/ James Davies], and research for speech (a copy of a Noyes poem, The Highwayman).
1:8	Writers' Den/Margaret Laurence Lecture 2009 Includes speech draft [w/ HR + holograph notes].
1:9	Writers' Den/Margaret Laurence Lecture 2009 Includes draft of speech [w/ highlighting].
1:10-11	Writers' Den/Margaret Laurence Lecture 2009 Includes draft [w/ HR].
1:12	Writers' Den/Margaret Laurence Lecture 2009 Includes draft with title, "Life by Proxy".
1:13	Writers' Den/Margaret Laurence Lecture 2009 (May) Includes copy of "Life by Proxy" and a list that describes past speakers that delivered the Margaret Laurence Lecture.
4:1	Writers' Trust of Canada – Correspondence 2011 re: Sending E.C. contributor's copy of <i>A Writer's Life</i> – The Margaret Laurence Lectures
4:2	Newspaper article 2011 re: The Book, <i>A Writer's Life</i> [Writers' Trust of Canada]
1:14	Talk on 'Biography and The Arts' at the Arts and Letters Club, Toronto

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	May 2009 Includes notes, draft of speech, correspondence, and directions.
1:15	Michigan State University visit 2009 Includes correspondence; reimbursement vouchers; and other personal information.
1:16	Library acceptances [E.C.'s donations] July – November, 2009 Includes correspondence with various libraries.
1:17	36 th Annual Canadian Federation of University Women House Tour [printed ephemera] 2010
	Teaching – Course Materials: Canadian Studies (at Brock University) Contains course material pertaining to a Canadian Studies class taught by Cameron at Brock University [ca. 2010?].
4:4	Topic sign-up sheet Contains eight project topics.
4:5	Articles [photocopies of newspaper clippings] that correspond to topics [numbered 1-8].
4:6	Course materials – academic journal articles from Brock University Library course reserves. 2010 Also contains correspondence, re: usage of course materials.
4:7-10	Course materials – academic journal articles [that pertain to both Canadian Studies and English].
BOX: 1, 3	<u>SERIES 2: Research Materials</u> Contains research materials pertaining to subject matter in her books, particularly for <i>And Beauty Answers: The Life of Frances Loring and Florence Wyle</i> (re: sculptors and sculpting). Arranged alphabetically by type of research, or location/place in which the research was extracted from. Contains photos.
1:18	Art Gallery of Ontario [AGO]

	[ca. 1987-2005?] Includes research for <i>And Beauty Answers</i> : correspondence, catalogue of images, notes, reproduction rights, printed images, and 1 photograph.
1:19	Art Institute of Chicago Includes research for <i>And Beauty Answers</i> : printed images and photographs of various sculptures and sculpture studios.
1:20	A.Y. Jackson: research on his paintings 2009 Includes correspondence with Kim Svendsen/Vancouver Art Gallery, and images and notes.
1:21	Canadian War Museum 2006 Includes correspondence and copies of images of sculptures requested by E.C.
1:22	Metro Toronto Library [notes]
1:23	<i>Montreal Gazette</i> 2006 re: Photographic rights for images.
1:24	National Gallery of Canada 2006 Includes research for <i>And Beauty Answers</i> : correspondence, images, and 1 photograph.
3:1	Two Photographs [general]
3:2	“Review Photos” [folder title] Includes lists of photos used for reviews.
3:3	St. Stephen (Brock University) Includes 8 photographs and negatives.
3:4	Research article: ‘The Stone Carvers’ by Jane Urquhart [ca. 2005?] Includes notes and newspaper clippings as research for <i>And Beauty Answers</i> .
3:5	Toronto Sculpture Tour 2009 General information
3:6	Toronto Sculpture Tour

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	2009 re: The Boulevard Cafe
3:7	Toronto Sculpture Tour 2009 re: Canadian National Exhibition [2008 Grounds Map]
3:8	Toronto Sculpture Tour 2009 re: The Guild Sculpture Gardens [multiple copies w/ annotations]
3:9	Toronto Sculpture Tour 2009 re: Massey College
3:10	Toronto Sculpture Tour 2009 re: Osgoode Hall
BOX: 3, 4	<u>SERIES 3: Correspondence</u> Contains correspondence with Elspeth Cameron and various people. Arranged alphabetically by surname.
3:11	Gomme, Marilyn 2009
3:12	Howsam, Meryl [Cormorant Books] 2010
3:13	Keenan, Mike 2010
3:14	Kovacevich, Milica 2011 re: Talk given to Rotary Club on 5 Jan 2011 at St. Catharine's Golf and Country Club. Includes program.
3:15	McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC) 2008-09 Includes MISC Annual Report.
3:16	McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC) 2009-10 Includes MISC Annual Report.

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3:17	McKillop, Brian 2010
3:18	Spears, Heather 2005 Includes illustrations of E.C. at the Writers' Union Annual General Meeting.
3:19	Wilson, Phyllis (Oxford University Press, Canada) 1989-90
4:3	Writers' Union of Canada [2 TLS from Nancy MacLeod] 2011 re: The Postcard Story competition and E.C.'s involvement.
3:20	Other – Greeting cards.
BOX: 3	<u>Series 4: Personal Files and Miscellaneous Items</u> Contains items that pertain to the personal life of Cameron, as well as other miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by type.
3:21	Article in <i>More Magazine</i> : "Love Actually," by Cheryl Hawkes. 2009 re: Article that mentions E.C.'s life and book, <i>No Previous Experience: A Memoir of Love and Change</i> .
3:22	Broadview Press [Publisher Material] 2000-10 Includes correspondence, agreements, reports, memorandum, royalty notice, meeting minutes.
3:23	Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) + Information about the Governor General's Literary Awards – Prizes [E.C. – a part of jury] 2009 Includes correspondence and guidelines/endowments for prizes.
3:24	General Interest/Miscellaneous 2009-10
3:25	News Clippings 1993, 2009 re: E.C.'s life and work.
3:26	News Clippings/Media Coverage 2009

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	Includes <i>The Gazette</i> and <i>The Writers' Union of Canada</i> magazine.
3:27	Sergio Villani's SSHRC Grant Application 2009-2010 re: An application reviewed by E.C. for a SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) grant.
3:28	Taxes 2008
	<u>Series 5: Books</u> Arranged alphabetically by author.
	Cameron, Elspeth. <i>Canadian culture: an introductory reader</i> . Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 1997. Pertains to the course material for E.C.'s Canadian Studies class in box 4. Contains lots of annotation from pp. 353-393.
	Knowles, Valerie. <i>Strangers at our gates: Canadian immigration and immigration policy, 1540-1997</i> . Toronto, Oxford: Dundurn Press, 1997.
	Writers' Trust of Canada. <i>A writer's life: the Margaret Laurence lectures / presented by the Writers Trust of Canada</i> . Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2011. E.C.'s personal copy for presenting at the Margaret Laurence lectures in 2009. E.C. is featured in the book on pp. 353-357, and in the "About the Contributors" section.