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FEDERATION OF CANADIAN ARTISTS

MG 28, I 499

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Prepared in 1997 by Robert Fisher of the Social and Cultural Archives based upon the finding aid prepared by Queen's University Archives in 1994.

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INTRODUCTION

The inventory was prepared by the National Archives of Canada. The finding aid which follows was prepared by Queen's University Archives and converted to electronic format at the National Archives.

INVENTORY

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN ARTISTS FONDS

A.ARCH 2049

**1970
(UPDATE IN 1994)**

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid was re-written in January of 1994. The information that it contains is basically the same as that in the earlier 1970 version. But, some of the folder titles have been changed to better reflect their contents and a new series, "Additions", was added to describe acquisitions received after that date.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Federation of Canadian Artists was formed as the result of a conference held at Queen's University, Kingston in June, 1941. The conference was organized by André Biéler with the assistance of a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the support of Queen's University. A continuing committee was established which recommended the formation of a Federation of Canadian Artists which grew into a nation wide organization. André Biéler was the first president. An article by Donald Buchanan in Saturday Night, 56 (August 2, 1941) gives additional information on the Conference.

The Federation was not a society of artists alone, but was made up of professional artists, amateurs and interested laymen. Its principal objective was to unite Canadian to further the function of art and to make creative life an inseparable part of the community.

To further these general aims the Federation supported a petition to the Prime Minister in 1942 asking that the work of artists be an integral part of the war effort. The Federation was also largely responsible for briefs being submitted to the Special Committee for Reconstruction and Re-establishment in 1944. What the FCA wanted as memorials of the war were community centres which would serve the cultural needs of communities. These were to be established not only in the big cities but in smaller sized cities across the land.

The membership of the Federation was organized on a regional basis, each province or branch had its regional executive with its chairman a member of the National Council. The National Council was the authority in matters of policy and finance.

Lawren Harris was the second president of the Federation. H.G. Kettle was for some time the Executive Secretary. Elizabeth Wyn Wood the sculptor, was deeply involved in the briefs concerning community centres.

Other people connected with the Federation were Walter Abell, John Coulter, Betty Hahn, Harry McCurry, at one time director of the National Gallery of Canada, Harry Mayerovitch, Harry Southam, W.L. Sommerville, Herman Voaden, Arthur Lismer, A.Y. Jackson, Frances Loring, Fred Haines, at one time president of the Academy, and Elizabeth Harrison of Kingston.

PROVENANCE

Deposited in Queen's University Archives by Mr. Frederick B. Taylor, at one time vice-president of the Federation. This was arranged through Mr. André Biéler and Mrs. Frances Smith.

Federation of Canadian Artists

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Vol.	File	File Title	Date
CORRESPONDENCE			
1	1	General	July 1941- July 1943
1	2	General	Jan. 1944 - Apr. 1945
1	3	General	Mar. 1947 - Jan. 1950
1	4	Harris/Taylor	Mar. 1944 - Sept. 1944
1	5	Harris/Taylor	Aug. 1944 - Oct. 1945
1	6	Harris/Taylor	Oct. 1945 - June 1946
1	7	Kettle/Taylor	Sept. 1942 - Oct. 1943
1	8	Kettle/Taylor	Sept. 1943 - Apr. 1944
1	9	Kettle/Taylor	Apr. 1944 - Aug. 1944

1	10	Kettle/Taylor	Aug. 1944 - Jan. 1945
1	11	Kettle/Taylor	July 1944 - Mar. 1945
1	12	Kettle/Taylor	Mar. 1945 - Sept. 1945
1	13	Kettle/Taylor	Sept. 1945 - June 1946
2	1	WynWood/Taylor	Mar. 1944 - May 1944
2	2	WynWood/Taylor	June 1944 - June 1945
2	3	WynWood/Taylor	June 1944 - Nov. 1944
2	4	Proposed Programme for the Arts in Canada	
2	5	Correspondence re: Community Centre	Jan. - Nov. 1945
2	6	Correspondence re: Community Centre	1945
2	7	Correspondence re: Constitution	May 1942 - May 1943
2	8	Correspondence re: Quebec Region	Dec. 1944 - Aug. 1947
2	9	Correspondence re: Special National Committee	Dec. 1941 - May 1943

GENERAL RECORDS

Vol.	File	File Title	Date
2	10	Art in Action	
2	11	Brief on Program for the Arts in Canada	1944
2	12	Bulletins and Reports	1942-1948
2	13	Community Centres	1944
2	14	Community Centres	1944-1945
2	15	Community Centres	1944-1945
2	16	Competitions	1944-1946
3	1	Constitution	1942-1943
3	2	Invoices	1944, 1945, 1948
3	3	Kingston Conference	June 1941
3	4	Kingston Conference	June 1941
3	5	Membership Lists	1942-1943
3	6	Mimeographical Material	1943-1946
3	7	Miscellaneous	1942-1949
3	8	Newspaper Clippings	1942-1945
3	9	Petition re: War Effort	1942

REGIONAL RECORDS

3	10	Branch material	1944-1946
3	11	Quebec Region	1942-19434

3	12	Quebec Region	1944
3	13	Quebec Region	1945-1946
3	14	Quebec Region	1947-1950
3	15	Quebec Region	[n.d.]

ADDITIONS

3	16	Brief submitted to the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences (1949)	[1951 reprint]
3	17	Letter sent to all members of Parliament with reprinted brief to the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences	1951
3	18	Correspondence - Jean Richards	1955
3	19	Letter to André Biéler re: Canada Council	March 9, 1953