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Harry R. C. Avison Papers

FINDING AIDS 815

H.R.C. Avison Papers

The Avison papers is a private collection of correspondence, notes, and working files, 6', 4" , dating from 1915 to 1967, covering the activities of a publicly active yet not generally well known Canadian. He was a leader in both adult education activities and the Student Christian Movement, both in eastern as well as western Canada. Behind the scenes he influenced many policy decisions, planned and guided changes in old projects and new experiments, especially in the rural adult education field. He aimed to improve the quality of rural community living.

Generally, his papers, as indicated by the accompanying finding aid, cover areas for future researchers and suggest areas for future acquisitions. His collection compliments other accessions of the Public Archives; for example, the papers of the C.B.C., particularly Farm Forum materials, and the records of the Canadian Centenary Council. His correspondence included such names as Col. W.H. Brittain, Dr. E.A. Corbett, Dr. W.J. Dunlop, Mr. George Grant, Dr. Sidney Smith, Dr. Martyn Estall, Neil Morrison, Tannis Murray and many others important, either the education or radio broadcasting fields.

The majority of papers were comparatively well organized on arrival, filed chronologically by subject. In arranging the papers for research purposes, the author's habit of filing correspondence with subject materials was maintained. In some subject areas the notes and correspondence are quite good; in some others, too sparse to give much assistance.

His list of correspondents included political figures, federal and provincial, church hierarchy, businessmen, university professors, and many officials of organizations, institutions, and clubs. He was an active member of many organizations such as the United Nations' Society, the C.C.F. party, the Canadian Broadcasting League, the Centenary Council and other Expo committees, the Quebec Education Television Committee, the Canadian Association of Extension Departments and Summer Schools, Educational Research Society and many others.

His papers are an excellent addition to our still small holdings in these areas.

Introduction to Finding Aid No. 815

General Instructions:

Use volume number when requesting Avison papers. Additional Avison papers are in the McGill University Archives.

Introduction to Author:

Avison, H.R.C., papers 1915-67, 6 feet, 4 inches. Originals.

Born in New Denver, B.C., 1901, Harry Avison studied theology at Montreal Presbyterian Theological College and received B.A. and M.A. at McGill University. After serving as minister in Deloraine, Manitoba, and as coordinator of an adult education experiment in The Pas, Manitoba, Avison joined the staff of Macdonald College in 1940 as English professor and editor of the Macdonald College Journal. In 1960 he became Director of Extension at McGill University. Throughout his life he was an influential member of the Canadian Association of Adult Education and of the Student Christian Movement. His vast interests also included involvement in such other organizations as the C.C.F. party, and the Fellowship for a Christian Social Order, and such activities as radio broadcasting, educational television, leadership courses and camps, extension libraries, and cooperative enterprises. Noted editor and speaker, his interests included involvement in National Farm Forum and Citizen's Forum; the drafting of the C.A.A.E. Manifesto 1943, and contributions to C.A.A.E. publication Food for Thought.

Description of File Groupings

Student and Minister 1918-37 (Vols. 1-3, files 1-20), 1 foot.

Includes his academic notes, religious sermons, and personal observations, while attending McGill Presbyterian College, serving as an officer of the Student Christian Movement, acting as chaplain of relief camps in northern Ontario, or serving as a minister in Montreal and Deloraine, Manitoba. In files entitled "Sermons and Notes", the author occasionally records domestic and world events, certain personalities and social reform movements of interest to him. Files include any correspondence as well as other materials related to each subject.

The Pas Experiment, Manitoba, and the C.A.A.E., 1934-41 (Vol. 4, files 21-24), 4 inches.

The Pas experiment, a community project in rural adult education, supported by the C.A.A.E. and the Winton family, took place from 1938 to 1940. The files relating to this undertaking, including its

background, major supporters, affiliations, and assessment cover the years 1934 to 1941. Avison, as resident director of the project, attempted to organize community activities and co-ordinate them with a provincial and national adult education program.

Macdonald College, 1940-1960 (Vol. 5-14, files 25-74), 3 feet, 4 inches.

In the twenty years at Macdonald College as an English teacher and as editor of the Farm Journal, Avison was one of the leaders in adult education and extension work. He worked closely with Dean W.H. Brittain, head of Macdonald College, and Dr. E.A. Corbett, Director of the C.A.A.E. as well as many other less known leaders in the field of adult education. Avison promoted libraries, publications, various programmes and was host to several conferences whose aims were to improve the calibre of adult education particularly in the rural areas.

The files in this section have been classified into four subsections:

Files 25-41. Covers the author's extensive involvement with the C.A.A.E. including conferences, publications, courses, and policies.

Files 42-54. Covers broadcasting, particularly co-operation among different education groups, government, the C.A.A.E., and the C.B.C. on various programmes and projects including Citizen's and Farm Forums and related publications.

Files 55-63. Cover the extra-curricular activities of Professor Avison as well as his course materials used in his English courses.

Files 64-74. Cover Avison's activities and interest in other institutions, organizations, and movements including the United Nations Society, the Fellowship for a Christian Social Order, the C.C.F. Party, and the Student Christian Movement.

McGill University, Director of Extension, 1960-67 (Vols. 14-19, files 75-99), 1 foot, 7 inches.

This section covers the activities of the C.A.A.E. and McGill University extension department guided by or of interest to Professor Avison. Reference is also made to educational television and the Canadian Broadcasting League. A number of files cover McGill's centenary participation and Avison's participation on committees related to Expo 67.

Miscellaneous (Vol. 19, files 100-102), 1 inch.

There are three personal files containing receipts, insurance policies etc., and correspondence or reports, diverse in nature and of undefined relevance to other sections, or lacking identification and dates.

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol.</u>	<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>File</u>	<u>Description of Files</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Sermons and Notes	1919
1	2	Sermons and Notes	1920
1	3	Sermons and Notes	1921
1	4	Sermons and Notes	1922
1	5	Sermons and Notes	1923
1	6	Sermons and Notes	1924-25
1	7	Sermons and Notes	1926
1	8	Sermons and Notes	1927
1	9	Lists of Hymns and dates used	
1	10	Diary while student at Columbia University, New York	July-Aug. 1927
1	11	Miscellaneous file - personal items Contains Communion Certificate, Teachers College results, authority to solemnize marriage, some corres- pondence, and service guides.	1915, 26, 27, 30-36
2	12	Sermons and Notes	1935
2	13	Sermons and Notes	1934
2	14	Sermons and Notes	1935
3	15	Sermons and Notes	1936
3	16	Sermons and Notes	1937
3	17	Deloraine, Manitoba. United Church Minister. Relief. Correspondence relating to relief measures and general conditions of Deloraine and Winchester district during the depression.	1934
3	18	Deloraine, Manitoba. District Builder's Conference, Community Day. General correspondence and clippings from the Deloraine Times.	1934-35
3	19	Deloraine, Manitoba. United Church Young Peoples' Society. Correspondence, programmes, policy notes. Interest in C.C.F. Correspondence with J.S. Woodsworth.	1933-35
3	20	Deloraine, Manitoba. Proposals for rural experiment in adult education. Correspondence with Sidney Smith, President, University of Manitoba; Ester Thompson, Head Women's Division, Department of Agriculture, Manitoba, and E.A. Corbett, Director of the C.A.A.E.	1936-37
4	21	The Pas, Manitoba. Adult Education C.A.A.E.. Correspondence, reports, and clippings relating to general, promotional, and affiliated activities.	1935-44
4	22	The Pas; Adult Education, C.A.A.E. Correspondence, notes, and printed materials relating to background, growth and affiliations.	1934-1940

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol.</u>	<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>File</u>	<u>Description of Files</u>	<u>Dates</u>
4	22	The Pas. Adult Educ. C.A.A.E. (Cont'd.) Roles played by the Universities of Alberta and Manitoba, and the United Church.	
4	23	The Pas. Men's Study Group. Public Affairs. Correspondence, clippings, outlines of projects, and printed materials.	1938-39
4	24	The Pas and the C.A.A.E. Correspondence relating to the Pas experiment in rural education and the C.A.A.E. Third annual meeting of C.A.A.E., Winnipeg, May 1941. Correspondents include E.A. Corbett, D. Winton, W.J. Dunlop, Col. Wilfrid Bovey, Esther Thompson.	1937-41
5	25	C.A.A.E. London Conference May 19-22, 1943. <u>Manifesto</u> of the C.A.A.E. Correspondence, reports and proceedings.	1943
5	26	C.A.A.E. Correspondence, meetings and reports. Special emphasis on Citizen's Forum and publication <u>Food for Thought</u> .	1944
5	27	C.A.A.E. Joint Conference, Winnipeg, 1945. National Farm Radio Forum, National Film Board, Citizens Forum. Correspondence, reports and outlines pertaining to co-ordination of adult education agencies. Director's Report, 1945.	1945-46
5	28	American Association of Adult Education (A.A.A.E.), Detroit Conference. H.R.C. Avison representing C.A.A.E.	April 1946
5	29	C.A.A.E. National Conference, Kingston. Correspondence, reports, executive meetings, general business for 1946. 1947 - 2 documents.	May 1946
6	30	C.A.A.E. National Conference, Kingston Background correspondence, plans and general preparation. Proposed affiliation of C.A.A.E. and Canada-Newfoundland Association (C.N.E.A.)	1946 1945-46
6	31	Adult Education, Macdonald College. General reports, pamphlets, and articles.	1946-49

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol.</u>	<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>File</u>	<u>Description of Files</u>	<u>Dates</u>
6	32	Adult Education, Saskatchewan. Prairie School for Social Advance. Provincial Study-Action Programme. Correspondence (Watson Thomson, Director), circular letters, clippings.	1943-45
6	33	"Canadian Farm Problems", Co-operation Series, Agricultural Publications Committee of the C.A.A.E. Correspondence, rough drafts of articles, and typed drafts. (Dean W.H. Brittain - Editor). "C.B.C. Enquiry into Cooperation", Joint Project of C.A.A.E. and C.B.C., January-April 1940. Co-operative enterprises.	1940-41
6	34	Handicrafts Guild. Macdonald College. Aluminum Co. of Canada Homecraft Project, Saguenay River District. Rural Adult Education Service, Extension Division, Macdonald College. Correspondence, rough notes, proposals.	1941, 1943
6	35	Rural Education and Community Projects. Trip to Cooperstown, Richfield Springs, Spenser and Trumansburg, New York to see Forestry Co-operative, Wood Lot Conservation Programme and Central schools. Related correspondence, notes, circulars, printed material.	1946
6	36	Adult Education Short Courses, Macdonald College. Community Leadership Course. Correspondence, notes, lectures, lists of participants.	1941, 1952-53
7	37	C.A.A.E. Reports of Non-Credit University Extension Committee.	1957-59
7	38	C.A.A.E. Correspondence, organization charts, council meetings, committees.	1958-59
7	39	C.A.A.E. Correspondence, minutes of meetings, reports.	1959-60
7	40	Adult Education, Macdonald College Carnegie Corporation of New York. Correspondence, notes, outlines re grant for development of program in Quebec rural areas. English-speaking.	1938, 1952-54

Avison H.R.C. - File List

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<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol.</u>	<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>File</u>	<u>Description of Files</u>	<u>Dates</u>
7	41	Adult Education, Macdonald College. Public Speaking Course, C.A.A.E. Notes. Also book on Citizenship Course, Manitoba.	1940-45
8	42	C.A.A.E. and the C.B.C. Correspondence, briefs, publications relating to broad- casting controversy by C.A.A.E., Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Co-Operative Union of Canada, National Farm Forums. Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence, House of Commons, Special Committee, Broadcasting.	1940-46
8	43	Broadcasts on Post War Reconstruction. Notes, clippings, pamphlets.	1942-44
8	44	C.B.C. Citizen's Forum, National Farm Radio Forum. Correspondence and printed materials. Neil Morrison, Supervisor of Talks and Public Affairs.	1941-47
8	45	C.B.C. "Democracy and Citizenship Series", C.A.A.E. Articles, pamphlets, clippings. Guides for some National Farm Radio Forum broadcasts. Report of Student Commission, University of Manitoba, 1932-33.	1940-42
8	46	Radio Listening Groups Conference, Leadership Course, Macdonald College C.A.A.E. publications. Selections from Canadian Farm Problems, Economic Series, Crop Production Series. Notes and circulars.	1940
9	47	C.B.C., National Farm Radio Forum Series, "Education for Rural Living". Correspondence broadcast preparation.	1944-45
9	48	C.B.C., C.A.A.E., Citizen's Forum. General file, pamphlets, articles and Bulletins for Citizen's Forum.	1944-45
9	49	Broadcast on Canadian Prisons, Penal Reform. Notes and pamphlets.	1946-47
9	50	Farm Radio Forum, C.B.C., C.A.A.E., Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Variety of circulars and articles on farm problems, cooperatives, etc. Manifesto of Canadian farmer 1941. Department of Agriculture Publications 1935 and 1940.	1940-41

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol.</u>	<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>File</u>	<u>Description of Files</u>	<u>Dates</u>
10	51	Farm Radio Forum, Listening groups. Correspondence, programs, clippings, circulars.	1941-42
10	52	Farm Radio Forum. Correspondence and broadcast materials.	1942-43
10	53	National Farm Radio Forum Conference Quebec Council of Farm Forums. Circular, notes.	1942, 1944-47
10	54	Farm Radio Forum, National and Quebec. Correspondence, reports, pamphlets, clippings.	1946-48
11	55	Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Cooperation with National Farm Radio Forum. Correspondence, speeches, minutes of meetings.	1942
11	56	Maritime Trip for Wartime Information Board. Correspondence and notes.	May 6-20, 1945
11	57	Public Relations, Macdonald College. Correspondence, committees, speaking engagements.	1941-47
11	58	Quebec Department of Education. Larger School unit. Circulars and reports.	1940
11	59	Macdonald College. English Composition Examinations and comments.	1947
11	60	College of Veterinary Surgeons, Quebec. English Examination.	1960
11	61	Macdonald College. English 16 and 116. Notes, outlines, student lists.	1942-60
11	62	Macdonald College, English 14. Lecture notes and general resource material.	1942-59
12	63	Macdonald College, English 16. Lecture notes and general resource material.	1941-55
12	64	Canadian Council of Education for Citizenship (C.C.E.C.). Application for incorporation, Ottawa meeting. Correspondence, circulars, general material.	1944-45
12	65	Ontario Library Association. Regional Meeting, Toronto. Correspondence. Avison speaker on adult education.	1944
12	66	Educational Research Society. Picto-Facts, a learning game. Correspondence, circulars.	1945-47

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol.</u>	<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>File</u>	<u>Description of Files</u>	<u>Dates</u>
12	67	World Federation of Education Associations Conference, Montreal. Rural Education Section. Correspondence and outlines.	1942
12	68	United Nations Society in Canada. Macdonald College Committee. Correspondence, meetings, pamphlets, and some copies of U.N.S. publication "United Nations Society News".	1944-46
13	69	Fellowship for a Christian Social Order (F.C.S.O.). Correspondence, conferences, general materials relating to religious organization and activity. Copies of publication "Christian Social Action".	1941-45
13	70	Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Federation (C.C.F.) Correspondence, speeches, copies of "C.C.F. News", clippings. Copies of <u>News Comment</u> , 1942-48, and C.C.F. pamphlets were transferred to Archives Library. Correspondents included Donald C. MacDonald, S.M. Nicholson, M.P.	1933, 1942-48
13	71	Student Christian Movement (S.C.M.). Twenty-first anniversary, 1942. Correspondence, circulars, meetings, speeches, and some printed material.	1927, 1931-32 1941-42
13	72	S.C.M. Graduate Committee. Correspondence, policy statements, plans, appointments, meetings. Some copies of <u>The Christian Student</u> .	1942-43
14	73	S.C.M. Graduate Committee and general movement. Correspondence. <u>The Christian Student</u> .	1942
14	74	S.C.M. Correspondence, notes, circulars, printed materials, <u>The Christian Student</u> .	1943, 1944-46
14	75	C.A.A.E. National Conference on Adult Education, Ottawa. Correspondence, printed materials.	1961
14	76	C.A.A.E. Correspondence, memoranda, membership lists, donations.	1961-62
15	77	C.A.A.E. Continuation of above.	1961-62

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol.</u>	<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>File</u>	<u>Description of Files</u>	<u>Dates</u>
15	78	C.A.A.E. Correspondence, budget, reports minutes of meetings. Also C.A.D.E.S.S. activities 1962-63. (Canadian Association of Departments and Summer Schools).	1963
15	79	C.A.A.E. Continuation of above.	1963
15	80	C.A.A.E. Correspondence	1964
15	81	C.A.A.E. Correspondence, printed matter.	1965
16	82	University Extensions. The role of adult education in universities. Speeches, articles, and notes both typed and written. Some earlier documents 1952-64.	1956-64
16	83	University Extension. Future projections. Correspondence, rough notes, proposals.	1955, 1961-65
16	84	McGill University. Submission to Special Senate Committee on Extension. Future of Extension Studies. Correspondence, typed reports.	1965
16	85	Adult Education. Quebec Association of Protestant School Administrators (Q.A.P.S.A.). Rough notes, articles, clippings.	1957, 1960-62
16	86	Mc Gill Extension. McLennan Travelling Library, educational T.V., educational procedures, centennial projects. Correspondence, reports, general circulars, pamphlets.	1962-67
16	87	Canadian Association of Departments of Extension and Summer Schools (C.A.D.E.S.S.) Correspondence.	1961
17	88	U.N.E.S.C.O. World Conference on Adult Education, Montreal. Correspondence, reports, typed materials, newsletter.	1960
17	89	Canadian Broadcasting League. Avison's retirement from executive 1966. Correspondence, executive meetings, reports.	1962-63, 1965-66
17	90	Society for Television Education in Montreal. Société pour Télévison Educative à Montréal (S.T.E.M.) Correspondence, meetings, proposals, petition to Quebec government.	1961-62

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol.</u>	<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>File</u>	<u>Description of Files</u>	<u>Dates</u>
17	91	Educational Television (E.T.V.), Conference. McGill delegate. Correspondence, notes, printed matter.	1961
17	92	Provincial Education Television Committee, Quebec. Correspondence, meetings, clippings.	1963-66
17	93	C.A.A.E. Henry Marshall Tory Award. Selection of candidate.	1965
18	94	Expo 67. Advisory Committee on Future Expo 67 Implications. Disposal of theme exhibits. Correspondence, meetings, reports.	1966-67
18	95	Expo 67. Organizing Committee for Noranda Lectures, Du Pont of Canada Auditorium. Canadian Universities participation. Correspondence, circulars, schedules.	1966-67
18	96	Expo 67. Organizing Committee Canadian Universities participation. List of distinguished scientists and scholars including Nobel Laureates. Bibliographical notes on speakers, correspondence, typed circulars, notes.	1965-66
19	97	McGill Committee on the centennial of Confederation. Report to Senate. Correspondence, meetings, report.	1962-63, 1964
19	98	National Centennial Committee of the Association of Canadian Universities and Colleges (NCCUS). McGill's representative, Correspondence, projects, meetings.	1965-66
19	99	Canadian Centenary Council. Correspondence, list of members, leaflets.	1962-65
19	100	Miscellaneous. Correspondence, reports.	1964-66
19	101	Avison. Bills, receipts, stocks, insurance primarily 1960's, some earlier (1936, 46-).	1960-67
19	102	Notes, handwritten, n.d. (1 exception, 1942), religious content.	