

Media Support	Vol.	File Dossier	Title Titre	Scope and content Portée et contenu	Dates
Maria Elisabeth Frauenfelder Dufresne fonds					
Photo	2	1-2	Photographs	This file consists of 44 photographs and one small photo album. The photographs depict Maria Elisabeth Frauenfelder Dufresne and her family throughout her life. Most of the photographs have the date and people depicted listed on the back. They include wedding photographs and family photographs, as well as photographs from different trips around the world. The people depicted include: Maria; her mother Suzanna de Jong; her sisters Annie, Jeannet and Peggy; Peggy's husband Hans Gevers; her daughter Suzanne Dufresne and Suzanne's children and grandchildren; her son Michel Dufresne; her former husband Louis Dufresne and his subsequent romantic partner Luce Bernardin; her parents-in-law and sister-in-law; João [Castanheira Nunes]; the ship captained by Heinz Poeschel; and Piet Brouwer. The photo album contains 12 photographs from around 1957 which include images of Maria's son Michael Dufresne as a baby, Maria and her mother Suzanna de Jong at an historic fort, as well as images of the KLM airplane the Flying Dutchman and her crew.	1900-2009
Textual	1	1	Correspondence with Pel Steck	This file consists of 23 letters written to Maria Frauenfelder by her then boyfriend, Pel Steck, during the Second World War. The letters were written during 1943 and 1944 while Pel was working in a factory in Germany, presumably as part of the forced labour implemented by the Nazis during their occupation of the Netherlands. Pel refers to Maria as Ria throughout the letters. He writes about the work he is doing, his health, and his hopes to be allowed to return to Holland. This file also includes a letter from Pel's mother to Pel discussing Ria's behaviour while he was away, and Pel's subsequent angry letters breaking up with her.	1943-1944
Textual Art	1	2	Gek en Wijs tijdens Seyss	File consists of a small, illustrated book describing the various ways the Dutch people suffered under Nazi occupation during the Second World War. The book is written in Dutch with humorous colour illustrations on each page. The title translates to "Crazy and Wise During Seyss," which is a reference to Arthur Seyss-Inquart who was the Reich Commissioner of the German occupied Netherlands. He was responsible for the deportation and murder of approximately 120 000 Dutch Jews in concentration camps and the forced labour of over 500 000 Dutch civilians. Each set of pages includes a contrast. For example Dutch Police actively confiscating bicycles under Nazi orders is compared to Police choosing to turn away so that they do not see a bicycle to confiscate. This file also includes a handwritten translation into English of each page provided by the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in 2019.	ca. 1945
Textual	1	3	Correspondence with Louis Dufresne	This file consists of correspondence from Louis Dufresne to Maria Frauenfelder Dufresne. It includes letters from before, during, and after their marriage and divorce. He addresses her as Ria throughout. Most of the letters are written in English, but he also writes in French. The earliest letters date from 1945-1946 before their marriage while Louis is still serving in the military immediately after the Second World War. There are also letters from during their marriage while Maria is visiting Holland with their daughter. Correspondence from after their divorce in 1968 includes business focused letters asking about banking information, as well as Christmas cards and notes from later in their lives sharing personal details and news about family members.	1945-2006
Textual Photo	1	4	Precious moments	This file consists of one bound baby book of information compiled about Suzanne Dufresne by her mother Maria Elisabeth Frauenfelder Dufresne. The book is bound in green with lambs frolicking on the inside cover. It was printed in English with places to provide photographs and written details about the child and her early life. Maria has filled out the details and provided photographs about Suzanne's birth, early childhood, and family members. It includes physical milestones such as height and weight, as well as social ones such as first time talking on the phone, schooling, and vacations. Maria writes in a combination of French, English and Dutch, with varying levels of detail. She indicates that the most recent additions were added in 1970 in Lisbon.	1947-1970
Textual	1	5	Correspondence with João [Castanheira Nunes]	This file consists of ten letters and postcards to Maria Frauenfelder from her then boyfriend João [Castanheira Nunes]. He is writing to her in Lisbon, Portugal from Beira, Mozambique where he has gone for work. João refers to Maria as Ria. The letters discuss what it is like in the city and his accommodations, as well as logistics and money to get her to come and stay with him. He also discusses their relationship and in particular their difficulties and Maria's character flaws.	1961-1963

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Textual	1	6	Diary	This file consists of one bound book in which Maria wrote a diary. The majority of the text is from the fall and winter 1965-1966. In these entries, she discusses her feelings, her opinions about love, and the end of her relationship with João. She next writes thirty years later in 1997, and then again in 2001. These entries provide updates on her life and the lives of her family including her children and grandchildren, and her travel plans. They are less personal in tone. The remainder of the pages in the book are blank. The file also includes several pages from a notebook Maria used as a travel diary. The pages contain her notes about her trips to Canada from 1968 into the 1990s, including dates and expenses.	1965-2001
Textual	1	7	Documents and correspondence related to marriage and divorce of Louis Dufresne	This file consists of correspondence and documentation related to the marriage and divorce of Maria Elisabeth Frauenfelder and Louis Francis Dufresne. Although it includes their marriage license and official marriage booklet from the civil registry office of The Hague, the majority of the file relates to their divorce in 1968. It includes letters between Maria and Louis, as well as between their lawyers, and from their lawyers to each of them. The letters discuss the logistics of the process as well as determining an allowance for Maria and her son Michel. Also included are notices from the Chief Clerk of Committees of the Senate of Canada advising on the dates of evidence hearings, and an official true copy of the Resolution of the Senate which provided for the relief of Maria Elisabeth Frauenfelder Dufresne and the dissolution of their marriage, adopted 24 October 1968.	1946-1969
Textual	1	8	Correspondence with Louise Dufresne	This file consists of twelve letters and cards written to Maria by her mother-in-law Louise Dufresne. The earliest letter is from before Maria and Louis' divorce in 1968, but most of them date from the 1970s. The letters share news and updates about family.	1965-1980
Textual	1	9--11	Correspondence with Heinz Poeschel	This file consists of 58 love letters written to Maria by Heinz Poeschel, a German ship captain with whom she had a long distance relationship in the late 1960s. From October to November of 1966 Heinz wrote to Maria, whom he calls Elisabeth, nearly daily. His letters continue until January 1971. Heinz writes about his life on board ship, where they will be making port, and when he will be able to see Elisabeth again. He also discusses both his and Elisabeth's physical and mental health; his concerns about his wife and children, as well as keeping his relationship with Elisabeth a secret from them; his concerns about Elisabeth's husband and his advice to Elisabeth while undergoing her divorce.	1966-1971
Textual	1	12	Miscellaneous correspondence	This file consists of four letters and two Christmas cards written to Maria Frauenfelder Dufresne by different senders at different points of her life. The senders include: Frank Seaworth, a pilot at the Dorval airport; Fam A.N. Rietkerk in South Africa; Maria's mother, Suzanna de Jong; J.D.L. Hohnes; Luis; and an unknown sender.	1958-1971
Textual	1	13--17	Correspondence with Peggy Gevers	This file consists of 95 letters, notes, and cards sent between Maria Elisabeth Frauenfelder Dufresne and her sister Janna (Peggy) Gevers over more than 40 years. Over the course of their correspondence Maria lived in a variety of different countries, and Peggy lived in Luneburg, Germany. They discuss a wide variety of subjects including: family news; Maria's travels and work; a dispute over inheritance and funeral expenses after the death of their mother in 1989; Maria's romantic relationships; and the death of Peggy's husband in the early 1970s.	1953-1990
Textual	1	18	Correspondence with Susanne Dufresne	This file consists of two postcards and one Christmas card sent to Maria Elisabeth Frauenfelder Dufresne by her daughter Suzanne Dufresne, and one postcard sent to Suzanne from Maria. They give updates on their travels and some brief news about family members. One of the postcards from Suzanne is also signed by her brother Michel, and the Christmas card is also signed by Suzanne's granddaughter, Priscilla.	1956-2006
Textual	1	19	Correspondence with Peit Brouwer	This file consists of four letters written by Maria Frauenfelder to her final romantic and travelling companion, Piet Brouwer. The letters were written in 1998 and 2002 while Maria was visiting Montreal and Voorthuizen, Netherlands without him. She signs each letter with her middle name Elisabeth. The letters discuss the weather and her travel experiences, as well as the flowers in Voorthuizen. Piet and Maria were in a relationship from the early 1980s until his death in 2002. They both lived in Holland during this time. Throughout their relationship they travelled extensively around the world, visiting countries such as Indonesia, Russia, Thailand, and Spain among others.	1998-2002
Textual	1	20	Government identification and documentation	This file consists of official identification and documentation for Maria Frauenfelder and her children. It includes: documents related to her birth and death in the Netherlands; Dutch and Canadian passports; her residence authorization from the Government of Portugal; her Quebec driver's license; a booklet for Canadian Unemployment Insurance; official correspondence from the Canadian Embassy announcing the revocation of her Canadian citizenship; the birth certificate for her son Michel Francis Dufresne, including an official translation into Portuguese; and the Baptism certificate for her daughter Suzanne Maria Louise Dufresne.	1925-2009

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Textual Photo	1	21	de Grote Vaart / La grande traversée	File consists of two copies of the life story of Maria Elisabeth Frauenfelder Dufresne as told by Maria to Philo Weijenborg, a volunteer at the Ametisthorst residence in the Hague where she lived starting September 2005. There is a typed version in Dutch with included 14 photographs, and a handwritten version in French. The French document includes page numbers referencing the corresponding page in the Dutch document. In this autobiography, Maria discusses among other topics: the different names she has used over the years; her family in the Netherlands; her marriage and later divorce of Louis Dufresne; moving to Canada, Portugal, and back to Holland; her relationships with her children; and her final romantic relationship with Peit Brouwer.	ca. 2008
Textual	2	3	Employment and education	This file consists of documents related to the education and employment of Maria Elisabeth Frauenfelder Dufresne. It includes: her primary school diploma from Holland; a certificate for stenography from the Netherlands Society for the Promotion of Examination in Commercial Science and its official translation; two letters certifying her employment at the telephone district of The Hague, and the Central Bureau of Statistics in The Hague respectively; a diploma from the Art Institute of Hairdressing, Inc., Montréal in all branches of beauty culture; a certificate from the Apprenticeship Commission of the Hairdressers for Ladies and Gentlemen of Montreal for completing the Hygiene and Cosmetology course with high honours; a booklet of instructions for different hairstyles; her apprenticeship certificate booklet for ladies hairdressing; and a business card for Ria Dufresne from when she was working as a ground hostess for the Dutch airline KLM at the Dorval airport.	1943-1956