

Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

Finding Aid - Al Palmer fonds (P084)

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Al Palmer fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	4
Series descriptions	4
P084/A, Photographs, 1936-1971	4

Summary information

Repository:	Concordia University Libraries Special Collections
Title:	Al Palmer fonds
ID:	P084
Date:	1936-1971 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.17 m of textual records 323 photographs
Language:	English
Language:	French
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Alan Douglas Palmer was born in Montreal May 18, 1913, and died March 28, 1971. He started his journalistic career in the 1920s, covering sports for the Canadian Press agency and a number of suburban weeklies. In World War II he served with the Canadian Army for five years, ending his military service as a reporter for The Maple Leaf, the army newspaper. After the war he joined the Montreal Herald as a police reporter before becoming one of its featured columnists with Man About Town. His beat was Montreal when it was known for its tolerance for after-hours joie de vivre. In 1949 he went to Florida to cover the police beat for the Key West Citizen, as well as to report on the Keys for Associated Press and the Florida Daily Newspaper Association. In 1952 he returned to the Montreal Herald as a police reporter, as well as covering the booming night club beat in a daily column called Cabaret Circuit. When the Montreal Herald stopped publishing in 1957 he moved to The Gazette, where he covered the police beat. He had a special interest in the case of Louis Bercowitz, an individual with alleged underworld ties who was in prison for manslaughter. Al Palmer wrote a widely-read column about Montreal called Our Town. He wrote two books, Montreal Confidential and a novel called Sugar-Puss.

Custodial history

Shirley O'Neil Marchessault kept Al Palmer's documents from the time of his death in 1971 until 1993, when she donated them to the Concordia University Archives. The fonds was transferred from Concordia University's Records Management and Archives Department to Concordia University Libraries' Special Collections March 15-17, 2016 and April 6, 2016.

Scope and content

The Al Palmer Fonds provides information on Montreal and other cities, as gathered by Al Palmer through his journalistic career between 1940 and 1971.

The fonds includes thematic files on people and topics that Al Palmer covered in his columns and police chronicles. It contains notes, copies of court records, clippings, programs, brochures, and photographs.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition

Shirley O'Neil Marchessault

Finding aids

Box listing is available.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Level of detail:** Full
 - **Status description:** Draft
 - **Rights:** Copyright belongs to the creator(s).
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Access points

- Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - Jazz (subject)
 - Montreal (place)
-

Series descriptions

Series P084/A: Photographs

Date: 1936-1971 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains 364 photographs, many of which serve to document life in Montreal during the 1930s through to the 1970s.

Physical description: 364 photographs

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list