

Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

Finding Aid - Bill Stewart fonds (P195)

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Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

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Bill Stewart fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Concordia University Libraries Special Collections
Title:	Bill Stewart fonds
ID:	P195
Date:	[188-]-2005 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.2 m of textual records (some electronic) graphic material (237 photographs, about 200 drawings) about 20 objects (military decorations, others) 13 maps 7 sound recordings (audio cassettes, vinyl disc) 4 postal covers 1 videocassette 2 CD-ROMS 1 diskette
Language:	English
Language:	French
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
Note [generalNote]:	<p>The textual records on 2 CD-ROMs (one is a backup copy of the other) that were created by William Stewart's son at the time the fonds was donated to Concordia University Archives have been printed out and the print-outs have been arranged with other records on paper according to the classification plan.</p> <p>The diskette has not been read. However, the materials it contains were printed out by the creator of the fonds and are included in the materials that may be accessed.</p>
Note [generalNote]:	Copyright belongs to the creator(s).

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

William Archibald (Bill) Stewart, OBE (1914-2004) was born in Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, February 28, 1914. He died in St. Lambert, Quebec, December 3, 2004. His father, Charles A. Stewart (d. 1960), a descendant of Scots who settled in Prince Edward Island in 1770, worked for the Temiscouata Railway Co.; he became president of the railway in 1940. His mother was A. Laura Walsh Stewart (d. 1982, age

94). Bill was the second eldest child, with five brothers and two sisters: E. Vaughan, Charles (m. Rolande Viel), Ruth (m. D. Ernie Burritt of Canadian Press), Anne T. (m. Bertrand Potvin), James Robert (d. 1995), Alan (m. Denise ?), and R. Lloyd (d. 1987). In 1946 Bill Stewart married Katherine Elizabeth (Kay) Young (b. Winnipeg, 1920, d. 2013). Kay and Bill Stewart had five children: Dugald (m. Ginette, children: Jonathan, Carine), Landon, Susan, John (had Charles-Antoine with Murielle Allain), and Janet (m. Marcelo ?, daughter Arlen).

Bill went to school in French at the Christian Brothers' Collège St-Patrice near Rivière-du-Loup. He began undergraduate studies at the University of Ottawa, but had to return home because the Depression diminished family resources. He ran the family farm and studied art by correspondence in 1932-1933. He continued to be active in visual art for a number of years thereafter, creating portraits, caricatures, and cartoons. Some are signed JF, a pseudonym he adopted when his artwork appeared in newspapers.

In 1933 he contributed articles to Canadian Press as a correspondent in Rivière-du-Loup. In 1934 he became a CP staff member in the Halifax bureau. He was to work in various positions with CP until retirement in 1979. In 1935-1936 he worked successively in Charlottetown, P.E.I. and Sydney, N.S., and St. John, N.B. In 1936 he was transferred to Montreal, then to CP's Toronto bureau. In 1937-1939 he was a correspondent in Quebec City. He served on the Montreal bureau editorial staff in 1940.

In 1941 CP stationed him in London to report on Canadian military personnel training there for the 1942 invasion of Dieppe. After a few weeks in North Africa in 1943, he covered Canadian action in the 1943 Sicily and Italian campaigns. In January 1944 he reported on action in northwest Europe. His eyewitness account of the Normandy D-Day invasion was among the first to reach the outside world.

In 1944, Stewart was the first Canadian correspondent accredited to the Southeast Asia Command; he was based in the Philippines where a Canadian force of army, air force and navy personnel was preparing to take part in an invasion of Japan, a plan that was abandoned when two atomic bombs were used against Japan in August 1945. Following the surrender of Japan, Stewart interviewed Canadians who had been taken prisoner by the Japanese in Hong Kong in 1941. Some of his dispatches from the Pacific war were signed with the pseudonym George Hawkes. In 1946-1947 he was CP's Far East correspondent, based in Australia.

In 1947 he became Quebec City bureau chief (1948-1952). He was a member of the Quebec Parliamentary Press Gallery. In 1952-1974 he was Montreal bureau chief. In 1951 he was instrumental in establishing CP's French service *La Presse Canadienne*, which he headed at its inception. (He was also involved in CP's radio service, *Broadcast News*, which offered service in English and French starting in 1945.) In 1954, he accompanied Canadian Prime Minister Louis St-Laurent on a world tour. He presided over coverage of Quebec's Quiet Revolution and the FLQ October Crisis of 1970.

He helped his friend Roger Lemelin develop scripts for the English-language version of *La Famille Plouffe/The Plouffe Family*, a popular series shown on the CBC 1954-1959.

From 1975 to 1979 he was a CP general executive, based in Montreal.

After retirement he continued writing, often on Quebec subjects, until the year he died, when he filed a story on the 60th anniversary of D-Day. He also did freelance translation. He was a member of the Canadian War Correspondents Association and served on its board of directors until his death.

Throughout his life he maintained an active correspondence with family members, friends, and colleagues, retaining a copy of many of the letters he sent.

In 1948 he was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of his wartime reporting. He was inducted into the Canadian News Hall of Fame in 1986. He was listed in *Canadian Who's Who*.

Custodial history

The fonds was transferred from Concordia University's Records Management and Archives Department to Concordia University Libraries' Special Collections February 17, 2016, April 12-13, 2016, April 19, 2016, April 21, 2016, and May 3, 2016.

Scope and content

The fonds documents William Stewart's early life, his family, his work as a World War II war correspondent, his later work as a journalist and executive with Canadian Press, and his activities in retirement. The fonds also documents the history of Canadian Press/La Presse Canadienne, Canadian politics, journalism, French-English relations in Canada, figures such as Roger Lemelin, J.W. Pickersgill, Claude Ryan, Clyde Gilmour, and other subjects.

The fonds includes news and feature articles by William Stewart in various forms (drafts, wire copy, clippings), correspondence received and sent, photographs, artwork, reports, newsletters, family documents, articles by other writers, and a small number of objects related to his work as a war correspondent and his later activity.

The materials are arranged in the following series:

P195/1 Early life, family, visual art, diaries, personal documents, honors and awards

P195/2 Correspondence with friends and colleagues

P195/3 Canadian Press

P195/4 Retirement, freelance activity

P195/5 Canadian Press War Correspondents' Association

P195/6 Canadian War Correspondents Association

P195/7 Research materials

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The materials in the fonds were donated to the Concordia University Archives by Katherine Stewart with the help of John Stewart in June 2005 and December 2007.

Restrictions on access

The CD-ROMs and some of the print-outs as well as a small number of hand-written or typed letters may not be accessed because they contain personal data. They have been placed in Box HA3342.

Conditions governing use

Reproduction for research or private study is permitted. Use of material in publications cannot be done without permission of the copyright holder.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final

Access points

- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Communications (discipline) (subject)

Series descriptions

Series P195/1: Early life, family, visual art, diaries, personal documents, honours and awards

Date: [191-]-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contains materials relating to Stewart's personal life and accomplishments.

The series is arranged in sub-series:

P195/1A Early life

P195/1B Family

P195/1C Visual art

P195/1D Diaries

P195/1E Passports, other personal documents

P195/1F Honours, awards

Physical description: 21 cm of textual records (some electronic)

graphic materials (53 photographs, drawings)

1 map

Material specific details: N/A

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Cartographic material (documentary form)

File / item list**Subseries P195/1A: Early life**

Date: [191-]-2003 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contents relating to his early life.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

3 cm of graphic materials (17 photographs)

1 map

Box listings

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Cartographic material (documentary form)

File / item list**Subseries P195/1B: Family**

Date: 1939-[200-] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Textual records and graphic material relating to the family.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual records

graphic material (27 photographs)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list**Subseries P195/1C: Visual art**

Date: 1932-[nd] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Graphic material relating to the visual art.

Physical description: 6 cm of graphic material (drawings)

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list**Subseries P195/1D: Diaries**

Date: 1945-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Textual records relating to his diaries.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list**Subseries P195/1E: Passports, other personal documents**

Date: [1940s]-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contents relating to passports, other personal documents.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

3 objects

graphic materials (9 photographs, identification cards)

1 sound recording (vinyl disc)

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

File / item list**Subseries P195/1F: Honours, awards**

Date: 1948, 1981, 1986 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

textual records relating to honors and awards.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list**Series P195/2: Correspondence with friends and colleagues**

Date: 1941-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contains correspondence between Stewart and his colleagues and friends.

Physical description: 42 cm of textual records (some electronic)
graphic materials (10 photographs)
1 diskette

Note:

Materials Bill Stewart received from (and in many cases copies of materials sent to) his principle correspondents are filed by name of correspondent. Others are in the files labeled Correspondence & notes.

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P195/3: Canadian Press

Date: 1933-1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contains records related to Stewart's career in the Canadian press.

The series is divided in sub-series:

P195/3A 1933-1940

P195/3B World War II Europe 1941-1945 and post-war

P195/3C World War II Southeast Asia Command 1945 and post-war

P195/3D Far East correspondent 1945-1947

P195/3E Quebec City bureau chief 1948-1952

P195/3F Montreal bureau chief 1952-1974

P195/3G CP General executive 1975-1979

Physical description: 91 cm of textual records
graphic materials (photographs, drawings)
6 maps
1 object
1 item of sheet music
1 DVD

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

File / item list**Subseries P195/3A: 1933-1940**

Date: 1933-1940 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Graphic material relating to the time 1933-1940.

Physical description: graphic material (1 photograph)

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list**Subseries P195/3B: World War II Europe 1941-1945 and post-war**

Date: 1941-1945 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contents relating to World War II Europe 1941-1945 and post-war.

Physical description: 32 cm of textual documents (some in electronic form)
graphic materials (53 photographs)

1 map

1 object

1 DVD

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

File / item list**Subseries P195/3C: World War II Southeast Asia Command 1945 and post-war**

Date: 1944-1945, 1972, 1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

contents relating to World War II Southeast Asia Command 1945 and post-war.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual records
graphic material (1 photograph, identification cards)

1 map

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Cartographic material (documentary form)

File / item list
<p>Subseries P195/3D: Far East correspondent 1945-1947</p> <p><u>Date:</u> [194-]-1947 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Scope and content:</u></p> <p>Textual records and graphic materials relating to Far East correspondent 1945-1947.</p> <p><u>Physical description:</u> 14 cm of textual records graphic materials (1 photograph, drawings)</p> <p><u>Access points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textual record (documentary form) • Graphic material (documentary form)
File / item list
<p>Subseries P195/3E: Quebec City bureau chief 1948-1952</p> <p><u>Date:</u> [194-]-[195-] (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Scope and content:</u></p> <p>Textual records and graphic materials relating to Quebec city bureau chief 1948-1952.</p> <p><u>Physical description:</u> 5 cm of textual records graphic materials (12 photographs)</p> <p><u>Access points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textual record (documentary form) • Graphic material (documentary form)
File / item list
<p>Subseries P195/3F: Montreal bureau chief 1952-1974</p> <p><u>Date:</u> 1952-1974, 1983 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Access points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple media (documentary form)
File / item list
<p>Subseries P195/3G: CP General executive 1975-1979</p> <p><u>Date:</u> [194-], 1950, 1976-1979 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Scope and content:</u></p>

Textual records and graphic materials relating to CP General executive 1975-1979.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual records
graphic materials (6 photographs)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P195/4: Retirement, freelance activity

Date: 1978-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contains documents relating to Stewart's retirement and post-retirement activities.

Physical description: 20 cm of textual records (some electronic)
6 audiocassettes
graphic materials (4 photographs)
1 videocassette

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P195/5: Canadian Press War Correspondents' Association

Date: 1945-1954 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contains records related to the Canadian Press War Correspondents' Association.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records
graphic material (47 photographs)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list

Series P195/6: Canadian War Correspondents Association

Date: 1945-2001 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contains records related to the Canadian War Correspondents Association.

Physical description: 26 cm of textual records (some electronic)

about 20 objects (ribbons, badges, insignia)

2 postal covers

graphic material (1 piece of artwork, photograph)

Access points:

- Multiple media (documentary form)

File / item list**Series P195/7: Research materials**

Date: [1960s]-1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Contains Stewart's research materials on a variety of topics, including the Meech Lake Accord and politics in Quebec.

Physical description: 12 cm of textual records.

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list