

Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

Finding Aid - Hugh Percival Illsley fonds (P012)

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Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

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Hugh Percival Illsley fonds

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Summary information

Repository: Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

Title: Hugh Percival Illsley fonds

ID: P012

Date: 1914-[198-] (date of creation)

Physical description: 30 cm of textual records
ca. 700 photographs
10 objects
4 drawings
1 map

**Dates of creation,
revision and deletion:**

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Hugh Percival Illsley was born in Montreal February 14, 1896. He married Liliash Shepherd in 1940. They had twin daughters. Liliash Shepherd Illsley died 1978. Hugh Percival Illsley died April 19, 1992.

He began studies at McGill University School of Architecture in 1914. At the same time, he joined the Canadian Officers Training Corps at McGill. He left studies to fight in World War I as a machine gunner, then as observer and then pilot for the Royal Flight Corps. On his return to Canada in 1919, he was offered his first architectural job, with the firm Ross and MacDonald. He moved to John S. Archibald Architects in the 1930s. The firm changed names several times: in 1934, the architectural firm of Archibald, Illsley and Templeton was created. Illsley later began his own firm, H. P. Illsley, which eventually bought the Archibald firm. Among his architectural projects were the Montreal Forum, the Masonic temple on Sherbrooke St. in Montreal, Manoir Richelieu, and the Post Office building at University Ave. and Cathcart St. in Montreal. He retired in 1976.

Throughout his career, Illsley maintained involvement with the military. Poor health prevented him from serving as a pilot in World War II, but he helped organize the first air cadet squadron to be formed in Canada under the Air Cadet League. Illsley was the Commanding Officer. With over 300 members, the Squadron trained in Westmount High School, using the Royal Montreal Regiment Armoury for drill and recreation purposes. Illsley designed their first uniform. He tried to get money from Air Marshall Leckie for glider training for the squadron members, but was unsuccessful because Leckie wanted only power flight.

Source: Oral History-Montreal Studies Project -- Hugh Percival Illsley / Transcript

Custodial history

The fonds was transferred from Concordia University's Records Management and Archives Department to Concordia University Libraries' Special Collections March 17, 2016 and May 25, 2016.

Scope and content

The fonds provides information on Hugh P. Illsley's military service, his travel to Europe with his family, and his work as a Montreal architect.

The fonds consists of correspondence, a photograph album, sets of photographs, ledgers, and scrapbooks.

Notes

Title notes

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

Conditions governing use

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Finding aids

Box listings are available.

Related material

There is related material in the Archives of Canadian Pacific Railway and in the McGill University School of Architecture Archives. Hugh Percival Illsley is the subject of an interview in the Oral History-Montreal Studies collection P007, Concordia University Records Management and Archive Department.

Other notes

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

Access points

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

Series descriptions
