

# Concordia University Library, Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Mary Morter fonds (P239)

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<http://concordia.accesstomemory.org/index.php/mary-morter-fonds>

# Mary Morter fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Concordia University Library, Special Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Mary Morter fonds
<b>ID:</b>	P239
<b>Date:</b>	1914-2001, predominantly 1969-1975 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	45 cm of textual material 32 photographs 6 poster 1 sound recording
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	Created 2019-05-28 Revised 2019-09-24

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Lilian Mary Morter (born Jones) was born in London, England, on April 1st, 1924. She was daughter of William Jones, mayor of Gloucester, England, and carpet factory owner. From 1950 to 1987, she was married to the engineer Eric Morter. They had two children, Jennifer and Michael. The family immigrated to Canada in 1957, where they first lived in Toronto, Ontario, before settling in Montreal, Quebec, in 1963.

Morter began her career as actress with the Cheltenham Little Theatre Group in Gloucestershire, where she performed in her youth. When the family settled in Toronto, Morter started playing for CBC television. She founded The Questers, an amateur theatre company, and was president of the Broadview Barn Players. She also was member of the Christian Drama Council of Canada. Shortly after having moved to Montreal, Morter founded the theater group The Unknown Players. The group toured the city and presented plays in the English language, following Morter's believe that theater should be accessible to everybody. Later, together with Jack Cunningham Morter founded the English lunchtime theatre Instant Theatre in Place Ville Marie, Montreal, which opened its doors on February 1, 1965. Morter was the head of the theatre until 1969. Her successor, Maurice Podbrey, closed the theatre in November 1969, to later reopen it as the Centaur Theatre. In 1971, Morter founded the touring company Pendulum Theatre, which offered performances all over Quebec. The bilingual production of Oskentonon, based on North American Indian legends and played by aboriginal actors, was its main success.

Morter completed a degree in library studies at Concordia University in 1977. From 1979 to 1986, she worked at Alcan Internationa. Following this, she worked as an assistant librarian at McGill University. In the 1990s, she was involved with the Westmount amateur drama group Dramatis Personae.

Mary Morter died on March 28, 2008 in Westmount, Québec.

## Custodial history

In February 2008, the fonds was transferred to the Concordia Centre for Broadcasting Studies by Jennifer Cortinas Morter, daughter of Mary Morter, with the permission of Mary Morter. The fonds was donated to the Concordia University Archive, now Records Management and Archives Department, by Harold Fink, director of the Concordia Centre for Broadcasting Studies, on January 7, 2011. The documents were transferred from the Records Management and Archives Department to Concordia University Library's Special Collections on September 6, 2018.

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## Scope and content

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The Mary Morter fond contains documents pertaining to theater in Montreal. More specifically, the fonds is composed of materials concerning the Instant Theatre and the Pendulum Theatre, both located in Montreal and founded and run by Mary Morter in the 1960s and 1970s. The fonds provides an overview of the programming at both theatres. It also provides insight into how the theaters were perceived by the public. In addition, the fonds contains a number of documents focusing on the play North American Indian Legends by Pendulum Theatre. Documents created by other theatres located in Montreal or Toronto provide additional insight into the English-speaking theatre scene in those cities in the 20th century.

The Mary Morter fonds contains theatre programs, photographs, posters, correspondence, magazines, scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, a sound recording, and various plays, among other documents.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

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

### Arrangement

Materials are arranged in the order of receipt.

### Conditions governing use

Reproductions are allowed for the purpose of research and private study. Use of material in a publication may only be done with written consent of the copyright owner(s).

### Finding aids

Box listings are available.

**Related material**

Instant Theatre fonds (R13954-0-3-E) at Library and Archives Canada

**Accruals**

No further accruals expected.

**Other notes**

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

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**Access points**

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- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)
- Theater (subject)
- Performing Arts (subject)
- Arts and culture (subject)