



Dalhousie University Archives

Finding Aid - Ralph S. Morton fonds (MS-2-249, SF Box 31, Folder 12-13; SF Box 34, Folder 3-7)

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Ralph S. Morton fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Dalhousie University Archives
Title:	Ralph S. Morton fonds
Reference code:	MS-2-249, SF Box 31, Folder 12-13; SF Box 34, Folder 3-7
Date:	1931-1954, 1978-1980 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	4.5 cm of textual records (7 folders)
Note [generalNote]:	Preferred citation: [Identification of item], Ralph S. Morton fonds, MS-2-249, Box [box number], Folder [folder number], Dalhousie University Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Ralph Sedley Morton was born in 1908 in Bedford, Nova Scotia, to Dr. Angus McDonald and Bessie A. Morton. He was educated at Dalhousie University, where he received his BA (1929) and LLB (1931). Morton was a founding member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity chapter and served as class president, business manager of *The Gazette* and editor of the yearbook. He was also an active writer, actor and debater.

In 1930 Morton received a one-year scholarship to study journalism at the University of London. His subsequent journalism career took him to Boston, New York and Australia. He became a correspondent for both the *Canadian Press* and the *Associated Press*, founded and edited *New England's Canadian News*, and established the *Dartmouth Free Press*, which he operated from 1954-1970s. As its associate editor, he played a pivotal role in the success of *Kenneth Leslie's Protestant Digest*. He also authored a number of plays, including *My Father was a Doctor*, *Reunion in Jakarta*, and *Sam Slick Rides Again*, in addition to a book on the Nova Scotia Legislature.

Custodial history

Records were donated to the Archives by Morton in several accessions between 1976-1980.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of Phi Delta Theta records, including programs, budgets, reviews, newspaper clippings and materials related to the fraternity's fiftieth reunion in 1980. There is also Morton's history of the fraternity,

miscellaneous correspondence (including some with Kenneth Leslie's lawyer regarding the Committee on Un-American Activities) and a play written by Morton in the 1930s.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

There are no access restrictions on these materials. All materials are open for research.

Conditions governing use

Materials do not circulate and must be used in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room. Materials may be under copyright. Contact departmental staff for guidance on reproduction.

Related material

See also the Kenneth Leslie fonds (MS-2-232).

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- Phi Delta Theta.
- Dalhousie University
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.) (subject)
- Correspondence (subject)
- Personal archives (subject)
- Halifax (N.S.) (place)

Bibliography

Devanney, Burris. "Kenneth Leslie: A Biographical Introduction." *Canadian Poetry: Studies, Documents, Reviews*. 5 (1975). 22 June 2006 <<http://www.canadianpoetry.ca/cpjrn/vol05/devanney1.htm>>.
"Morton, Angus McDonald, M.D., M.L.A." *Prominent People of the Maritime Provinces*. Montreal: Canadian Publicity Co., 1922. 46. Patterson, Arnie. "New Dartmouth Paper Carries on Fine Journalistic Tradition." *The Daily News* 4 Oct. 1992: 2. Virtual News Library. 16 October 2006 <<http://www.library.newscan.com/Biblio/Frames/FrameMain.asp>>; *Pharos Yearbook*, 1929. Tratt, Gertrude, E.N. *A survey and listing of Nova Scotia newspapers, 1752-1957*. Halifax, N.S.: Dalhousie University, 1979.

Collection holdings
