



Dalhousie University Archives

Finding Aid - William Jarvis McCurdy fonds (MS-2-327)

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William Jarvis McCurdy fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	4
Collection holdings	5

Summary information

Repository:	Dalhousie University Archives
Title:	William Jarvis McCurdy fonds
Reference code:	MS-2-327
Date:	1923-1988 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	5 cm of textual records. - 9 folders
Note [generalNote]:	Preferred citation: [Identification of item], William Jarvis McCurdy fonds, MS-2-327, Box [box number], Folder [folder number], Dalhousie University Archives and Special Collections, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

William Jarvis McCurdy was born in Quebec in 1904, son of the Reverend James Farquarhar McCurdy and Amelia Palmer McCurdy. Following in his father's footsteps, McCurdy was educated at Dalhousie University, receiving his BA in 1926. He earned an MA (1927) and PhD (1929) in philosophy from Harvard, then spent three years teaching at McMaster University before being recruited by the philosophy department at the University of Toronto. He remained there until his retirement in 1969.

McCurdy was active in social and political causes, including the Fellowship for the Christian Social Order (FSCO) and the Workers' Education Association (WEA). He served as a national president for the League for Social Reconstruction (LSR), and later ran for office as a Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) candidate. He was a longtime member of the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto and was lifetime president of Dalhousie's Class of 1926. In 1929 he married Avis Marshall, with whom he raised four children. He died in 1988.

Custodial history

Fonds was accessioned in 1978 and 1991; custodial history of the first donation is unknown; Avis McCurdy donated the second accession in 1991.

Scope and content

Fonds consists primarily of correspondence and records pertaining to the Dalhousie Class of 1926 and William Jarvis McCurdy. Financial records include class contributions and invoice payments; correspondence includes letters exchanged between McCurdy and various classmates, letters to Elinor Barnstead and a letter from Elinor Barnstead to Wilfrid Creighton.

McCurdy's personal records include a newspaper announcement of his 1929 engagement to Avis Marshall, his 1931 doctoral thesis from Harvard University, and the memorial service program of his death in 1988.

Notes

Title notes

Related material

See the Dalhousie Alumni Association records (UA-32), for other alumni activities as well as the Avis (Marshall) McCurdy fonds (MS-2-299).

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
-

Access points

- Dalhousie University
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Correspondence (subject)
- Minutes and proceedings (subject)
- Personal archives (subject)
- Philosophy (subject)
- Reunions--Planning (subject)
- Halifax (N.S.) (place)

Collection holdings

File: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 41 - Dalhousie University, Class of '26 - Minute Book

Title: Dalhousie University, Class of '26 - Minute Book

Reference code: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 41

Date: 1923-1986 (date of creation)

File: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 42 - Dalhousie University, Financial Records

Title: Dalhousie University, Financial Records

Reference code: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 42

Date: 1928-1940 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Includes record of class contributions, report of payments for Class of 1926 Dalhousie Memorial, and an invoice for a portrait of A. Stanley McKenzie.

File: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 43 - Class of '26 – Correspondence to Elinor Barnstead

Title: Class of '26 – Correspondence to Elinor Barnstead

Reference code: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 43

Date: 1927-1936 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Includes thank you notes and bank statements regarding a savings account.

File: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 44 - Dalhousie Class of '26 – Letters to Jarvis McCurdy

Title: Dalhousie Class of '26 – Letters to Jarvis McCurdy

Reference code: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 44

Date: 1929 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Various letters regarding class gift and reunions.

File: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 45 - Dalhousie – Class of 1926 Correspondence to Wilfred Creighton

Title: Dalhousie – Class of 1926 Correspondence to Wilfred Creighton

Reference code: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 45

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Letter from Elinor Barnstead.

File: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 46 - Dalhousie University Songs Lyric sheets

Title: Dalhousie University Songs Lyric sheets

Reference code: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 46

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Printed song lyric sheets donated in 1976.

File: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 47 - 10th Halifax Siege Battery Overseas

Title: 10th Halifax Siege Battery Overseas

Reference code: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 47

Date: 1918 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Souvenir booklet.

File: MS-2-327, SF Box 37, Folder 1 - The Concept of the Object in Positivistic Philosophy

Title: The Concept of the Object in Positivistic Philosophy

Reference code: MS-2-327, SF Box 37, Folder 1

Date: 1931 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Manuscript, 226 pp. Subtitled: Thesis submitted to The Division of Philosophy of Harvard University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. By W. Jarvis McCurdy

File: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 48 - Newspaper announcement of McCurdy's engagement to Avis Marshall and program from his memorial service

Title: Newspaper announcement of McCurdy's engagement to Avis Marshall and program from his memorial service

Reference code: MS-2-327, SF Box 36, Folder 48

Date: 1929, 1988 (date of creation)
