



**Description & Finding Aid:
Frederick S. Challener Collection
CA OTAG SC013**

Prepared by Amy Marshall
With assistance from Gary Fitzgibbon, 2002

Frederick S. Challener collection

Dates of creation:

[ca.1927]-1955

Extent:

43 cm of textual records

Biographical sketch:

Frederick Sproston Challener (1869-1959) was a Canadian painter and educator. Born in Whetstone, England in 1869, he came to Canada in 1870. Living in Toronto, he studied at the Ontario School of Art, was first exhibited in 1900 at the Royal Canadian Academy and subsequently worked as a newspaper artist. After a tour of Europe and the Middle East in 1898-99, he began working as a muralist and participated in the decoration of the recently completed Toronto City Hall. At the end of the First World War, Challener worked as a painter for the Canadian War Records Department. He made his career chiefly by creating murals for passenger boats, restaurants, hotels—such as *Fort Rouillé* in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto—office buildings and theatres, including the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto. He also produced easel paintings, watercolours and drawings in a realistic, romantic style. From 1927-1952 he taught at the Ontario College of Art, during which period he made notes and assembled material on Canadian artists. He died in Toronto in 1959. Challener was a member of numerous arts organizations including the Toronto Art Students' League, Ontario Society of Artists, Royal Canadian Academy, Society of Mural Decorators of Toronto and the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto (founding member, 1908). His work is in the National Gallery of Canada, the Civic Art Gallery, Winnipeg, the Art Gallery of Ontario and numerous public buildings.

Scope and content:

Collection consists of newspaper articles, reproductions, illustrations, exhibition notices and invitations, death notices, photographs and biographical notes on 113 Canadian artists (birthdates 1803 to 1915) and five arts organizations: Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour, Ontario Society of Artists, Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, Toronto Art Students' League, and Canadian Society of Graphic Art.

Custodial history:

The material now constituting the Frederick S. Challener collection was purchased from Thomas Roche Lee in 1959. Initially the AGO Library split up material by subject and filed it in the artists' vertical files sequence; the Challener collection was reconstituted in 1978. Notes on the Canadian Society of Graphic Art and Harry Speirs were re-discovered in 2001 and reintegrated with the collection.

Notes:

Variations in title:

Previously known as the "Frederick S. Challener notes."

Immediate source of acquisition:

Purchased from Thomas Roche Lee in 1959.

Restrictions on access:

Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

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Copyright is held by the creator's heirs. Copyright belonging to other parties, such as that of photographs, may still rest with the creator of these items. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds/collection.

Associated material:

The National Library of Canada holds archival materials of Frederick S. Challenger, as well as Challenger's notes on Canadian painter Arthur Heming (1870–1940), originally in the materials collected by T.R. Lee.

Related groups of records in different fonds:

Materials on the immediate source of acquisition for this collection can be found in the Thomas Roche Lee collection (SC014).

General note:

T.R. (Thomas Roche) Lee (1915-) was an ephemera collector and amateur art historian, author of *Albert H. Robinson, the painter's painter* (1956).

Provenance access points:

Challenger, Frederick S., 1869-1959

Box 1

Files on artists Carl H. Ahrens, William W. Alexander, William Armstrong, William E. Atkinson, Richard Baigent, Frederic G. Banting, John W. Beatty, Frederic M. Bell-Smith, John Bell-Smith, William Bengough, George T. Berthon, William D. Blatchly, James J. Blomfield, Bertram Brooker, Joseph A. Browne, Franklin P. Brownell, Blair W. Bruce, George R. Bruenech, Franklin Carmichael, Georges Chavignon, William H. Clapp, Arthur P. Coleman, John Wesley Cotton, Arthur Cox, William Cresswell, William Cruickshank, William Cutts, Forshaw Day, Edward Dinsmore, Wyatt Eaton, Frederick Ede, A. Allan Edson, Alexander Fleming, John Forbes, Frederick Foster, C. Malcolm Fraser, John Fraser, Robert Gagen, John Gordon, James Griffiths, Joseph Hallam, John Hammond, Robert Harris, H. Hancock, Michael Hannaford, James Hoch, A.H. Howard, John G. Howard, Julius Humme, Walter E. Huntley, John I. Innes, Richard Jack, Otto Jacobi.

Box 2

Files on artists Charles W. Jefferys (2), Franz Johnston, Frances Anne Johnston, Frederic Jopling, William Judson, Paul Kane, John Kelly, James Kerr-Lawson, F. McGillivray Knowles, Cornelius Krieghoff, George Kulmala, Andre Lapine, Arthur Lawson, Ernest Lawson, Fred N. Loveroff, J.E.H. MacDonald (2), Thomas McLean, Charles Manly, Henry Martin, T. Mower Martin, Marmaduke Matthews, Hoppner Meyer, Alfred Mickle, Charles S. Millard, Edmund Morris, Graham Norwell, Lucius O'Brien, Lawrence A.C. Panton.

Box 3

Files on artists A. Dickson Patterson, Henri Perre, Norman Price, John Radford, George Agnew Reid, William Revelle, Albert Robson, Paul Rodrik, Joseph Rolph, Joseph Sampson, Henry Sandham, Stuart Shaw, William Sherwood, Edward Shrapnell, Edward Shuttleworth, Lou Skuce, Joshua Smith, W. St. Thomas Smith, Harry Speirs, Herbert Stansfield, Owen Staples, David F. Thomson, Tom Thomson, Stanley Turner, Frederick Verner, Horatio Walker, Homer Watson, Charles Way, John Whale, G. Harlow White, Thomas Wilkinson, Curtis Williamson.

Files on the Ontario Society of Artists, Toronto Art Students League, Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour, Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, Canadian Society of Graphic Art.