

E.P. Taylor Research Library & Archives

**Description & Finding Aid:
M.O. Hammond Collection
CA OTAG SC032**

Prepared by Gary Fitzgibbon, 2016

M.O. Hammond collection

Dates of Creation:

1905–[192-?]

Extent

31 photographs

1 picture

Biographical sketch:

Melvin Ormond Hammond (1876–1934) was a Canadian journalist, editor, photographer and author. He was born in Clarkson, Ont. to Alvin and Catharine (Nauman) Hammond, and attended local public schools. In 1895 he became a reporter in Toronto with *The Globe* newspaper, where he continued in various positions for his entire career. In 1900 he married Clara Williams (b. 1875), with whom he had two children, Harold James (b. 1901) and Helen Isabel (b. 1909).

Melvin Hammond joined the Toronto Camera Club in 1906 and took up photography, the pursuit for which he is today best known, exhibiting his amateur photos at the Canadian National Exhibition and elsewhere in Toronto. His journalistic interest in Canada resulted in photographs of Canadian monuments and memorials and in portrait photographs of prominent figures of the day. As an author, he wrote three books, the last of which was *Painting and Sculpture in Canada* (Toronto : Ryerson Press, 1930).

M.O. Hammond was also a member of the Canadian Literary Club, the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, the Ontario Historical Society, and the Canadian Historical Society. He died in Toronto in 1934.

Custodial history:

The photographs in the M.O. Hammond collection were assembled probably between the First World War and 1934. The collection was afterwards acquired by marine-history writer Edwin Barry “Skip” Gillham (1941–2016) of Vineland, Ont. at an undetermined date, and retained until donated to the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) in 1984.

Scope and content:

Collection consists of early-20th-century photographs of Canadian historical figures and Canadian public monuments taken by M.O. Hammond and others. Portrait photograph subjects include Canadian poets Bliss Carman and Charles G.D. Roberts and artists Walter S. Allward, E.J. Dinsmore and Charles Eduard Huot. The collection also includes a copy print of a drawing of the first director of the National Gallery of Canada and studio portraits from 1905 of Canadian prime minister Robert Laird Borden and his wife Laura Borden. The memorials photographed are chiefly by British-Canadian sculptor Alfred Howell, with a photo of a statue of a soldier by Emanuel Hahn. Some photographs in the collection are by M.O. Hammond and the studio portraits are credited to Pittaway Studio (Ottawa).

Notes:

Source of title proper:

Title of collection is based on its provenance. Titles of files or items are taken from the items themselves.

Physical description:

Includes 31 black-and-white prints (photographs), including 2 photographic postcards.

Immediate source of acquisition:

Donated by Skip Gillham in November, 1984.

Arrangement:

The original order of materials in the collection is not known. Photographs have been arranged by the archives. Series-level description is omitted.

Restrictions on access:

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

Terms governing use and reproduction and publication:

Material in this collection is in the public domain. Permission of the Art Gallery of Ontario is required for publication.

Associated material:

The Archives of Ontario holds archival records of M.O. Hammond, including over 13,000 photographs, in its M.O. Hammond fonds (F-1075).

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Related material:

Photographs by M.O. Hammond donated by Skip Gillham are in the permanent collection of the Art Gallery of Ontario. Others will be found in the Photographs of Canadian Artists collection (SC024) of the AGO Library and Archives. His publication *Painting and Sculpture in Canada* is in the collection of the AGO library.

General note:

Photographs in this collection were shown in the exhibition "Charles McNamara & M.O. Hammond: pictorial expressions in landscape and portrait," at the Art Gallery of Ontario in 1991–1992; the catalogue of the exhibition is in the collection of the AGO library.

Provenance access points:

Hammond, M.O. (Melvin Ormond), 1876–1934

Location: box 1

| FILE OR ITEM TITLE | DATE(S) | DESCRIPTION | BOX-FOLDER |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--|-------------------|
| Robert Laird Borden and Laura Borden | 1905 | 2 photographs : b&w prints ; 22 x 14 cm (oval), in mats 33 x 22 cm File contains a studio portrait of Robert Laird Borden (1854–1937), prime minister of Canada 1911–1920, signed Robert Laird Borden and dated 1905, and another of his wife Laura (Bond) Borden, signed Laura Borden, both credited to Pittaway Studio of Ottawa. | 1-1 |
| Bliss Carman | 1921 1927 | 6 photographs : b&w prints ; 25 x 20 cm or smaller File contains portrait photographs of Canadian poet William Bliss Carman (1861–1929) taken by M.O. Hammond probably in Toronto between 1921 and 1927, signed Bliss Carman. | 1-2 |
| Charles G.D. Roberts | [1925?] | 6 photographs : b&w prints ; 19 x 12 cm or smaller File contains 6 portrait photographs of Canadian poet Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts (1860–1943) taken by M.O. Hammond probably in Toronto in 1925, signed Charles G.D. Roberts. | 1-3 |

| FILE OR ITEM TITLE | DATE(S) | DESCRIPTION | BOX-FOLDER |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---|------------|
| Walter S. Allward | [192-?] | 2 photographs : b&w prints ; 16 x 11 cm and 12 x 9 cm File contains 2 portrait photographs of Canadian sculptor Walter Seymour Allward (1876–1955) probably taken by M.O. Hammond in Toronto in the 1920s, signed Walter S. Allward. | 1-4 |
| E.J. Dinsmore | [192-?] | 1 photograph : b&w print ; 14 x 11 cm Item is a portrait photograph of Canadian illustrator Edward Jackson Dinsmore (1885–1936) taken probably by M.O. Hammond in Toronto in the 1920s. | 1-5 |
| C.E. Huot | [192-?] | 2 photographs : b&w prints ; 10 x 7 cm File contains 2 outdoor snapshots of Canadian painter and illustrator Charles Edouard Masson Huot (1855–1930) taken probably by M.O. Hammond in the 1920s. | 1-6 |
| Eric Brown | [192-?] | 1 photograph : b&w print ; 24 x 19 cm, on cardboard mount 28 x 22 cm Item is a copy print of a drawing of the first director of the National Gallery of Canada, Eric Brown (1877–1939), by Sir Edmund Wyly Grier (1862–1957), signed Eric Brown. | 1-7 |
| Photographs of Canadian war memorials | [1921?] [1927?] | 6 photographs : b&w prints ; 25 x 20 cm or smaller 1 picture : b&w File contains 1 photograph taken in studio of the statue by Emanuel Hahn commonly known as “Tommy in Greatcoat,” included on several war memorials in Canada, signed Emanuel Hahn and dated 1921; 3 photographs of monuments by sculptor Alfred Howell (1889–1978), including his war memorials in Saint John, N.B. and Guelph, Ont., a photographic postcard of the memorial in Saint John, and a picture of his war memorial in Sault Ste Marie, Ont. clipped from <i>Saturday Night</i> magazine (22 Nov. 1924); and 1 photograph of the Japanese Canadian war memorial in Vancouver, B.C. File also contains 1 photographic postcard of the memorial to the pioneers of Stanstead, Quebec. The photographs are uncredited. | 1-8 |
| Unidentified photographs | [192-?] | 5 photographs : b&w prints ; 34 x 24 cm or smaller File contains uncredited individual portrait photographs of an unidentified woman and 3 men (also unidentified, 1 photographed twice), possibly taken in the 1920s or earlier. | 1-9 |