



**Description & Finding Aid:
Art Institute of Ontario Fonds
CA OTAG SC034**

Prepared by Amy Marshall, 2004

Art Institute of Ontario fonds

Dates of creation:

1959-1968

Extent:

27 cm of textual records and graphic material

Administrative history:

The Art Institute of Ontario (AIO) was incorporated in 1951 to circulate art exhibitions, lecturers, and instructional programmes to venues in smaller communities. The idea of an art institute had been discussed informally as early as 1948, and the Art Gallery of Toronto had organized circulating exhibitions. The AIO was formed when a grant from the Ontario Department of Education made it possible to sponsor a travelling exhibition throughout the province. Later grants from the Atkinson Foundation, the Canada Council, and the Province of Ontario Council for the Arts supported AIO's operations. The AIO was an alliance of several Ontario visual arts institutions and organizations. Its founding members were the Art Gallery of Hamilton, Art Gallery of Toronto (now Art Gallery of Ontario), Hart House (University of Toronto), London Public Library & Art Museum, National Gallery of Canada, Ontario Association of Architects, Ontario Society of Artists, Royal Ontario Museum, Willistead Library and Art Gallery (Windsor) and the Windsor Art Association. Paul Bennett was hired as the AIO's first Field Director / Adviser in 1959, and remained in this capacity until 1964. He then became Director, serving until 1968. The AIO maintained close ties with the Art Gallery of Ontario throughout its existence. It was absorbed into the extension programme of the AGO in 1968.

Scope and content:

Fonds consists of Art Institute of Ontario records accumulated by Paul Bennett, including Adviser's service reports, minutes of annual meetings, director's reports, funding briefs, and two scrapbooks documenting the activities of the AIO.

Contains series:

1. Adviser's service reports
2. Minutes, director's reports and funding briefs
3. Scrapbooks

Custodial history:

Records were accumulated by Paul Bennett in the course of his duties as Field Director / Adviser and later Director of the Art Institute of Ontario.

Notes:*Immediate source of acquisition:*

Records were donated to the Art Gallery of Ontario by Paul Bennett ca. 1991.

Restrictions on access:

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

Terms governing use and reproduction / publication:

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

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Related material:

Activities of the Art Institute of Ontario are documented in the archives of the Art Gallery of Ontario, particularly in the records of the Education and Extension departments.

General note:

Publications received with this fonds have been added to the collection of the E.P. Taylor Research Library & Archives. A list of these titles is available on request.

Provenance access point:

Art Institute of Ontario.
Bennett, Paul, 1928-

SERIES 1: ADVISER'S SERVICE REPORTS

Dates of creation:

1959-1964

Extent:

12 cm of textual records

Scope and content:

Series consists of copies of weekly reports by Art Institute of Ontario Adviser Paul Bennett on his advisory activities throughout the province. Some appear to be originals and others may be copies kept by Bennett. Reports are typewritten and range in length from 1 to 15 or more pages.

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX-FILE #
Advisers' service reports	1959	1961		1
Trip reports – Advisers' reports from April 1, 1961	1961	1962		1
Advisers' service reports from April 1, 1962	1962	1963		1
Advisers' service reports, from April 1, 1963	1963	1964		1

SERIES 2: MINUTES, DIRECTOR'S REPORTS AND FUNDING BRIEFS

Dates of creation:

1959-1968

Extent:

5 cm of textual records (1 binder)

Scope and content:

Series consists of the contents of a single binder containing minutes of the annual meetings of the Art Institute of Ontario, 1959-1967; and monthly reports by the Director of the AIO, Paul Bennett, on his activities in that role, 1964-1968. Binder contents also include a list of exhibitors, 1966-1967, and annual funding briefs to the Province of Ontario Council for the Arts, 1964-1967.

Location: box 2

SERIES 3: SCRAPBOOKS

Dates of creation:

1964-1968

Extent:

10 cm of textual records and graphic material (2 scrapbooks)

Scope and content:

Series consists of two scrapbooks containing press releases, press clippings, and photographs relating to the activities of the Art Institute of Ontario under the directorship of Paul Bennett.

Location: box 3