



**Description & Finding Aid:  
L.A.C. Panton Fonds  
CA OTAG SC046**

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## L.A.C. PANTON FONDS

**Dates of creation:**

[18--] – 1987

**Physical description:**

61 cm of textual records

221 photographs

5 sketches

**Biographical sketch:**

Lawrence Arthur Colley Panton (1894-1954) was a Canadian painter, educator and academician active in Toronto from the 1930s until his death. Born in England, he immigrated to Canada at 17. He served in the Army during 1916-1919 and studied art in the evening after his return from the war. In Toronto, he worked at Rous and Mann as a designer until 1924 when he began his teaching career, first at the Central Technical School and then at Western Technical School (1926-37), Northern Vocational School (1937-51) and finally principal of the Ontario College of Art (1951-54). In 1920 he married Marion Pye; their son Charles was born in 1921 and died in action in 1944. Panton was active in a number of organizations, including the Ontario Society of Artists (President 1931-37), the Canadian Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers, the Canadian Group of Painters, The Royal Canadian Academy and the Arts and Letters Club (President 1953-54).

**Scope and content:**

Fonds consists of correspondence, newspaper and magazine clippings, lecture notes, newsletters, cards and party invitations, exhibition catalogues, reproductions of art works, passport, certificates, and photographs relating to L.A.C. Panton's personal and professional life. The photographs range from portraits of his family in England to scenes that provided the basis of paintings, particularly the Nova Scotia coastline. Correspondence relates to his involvement in art societies and his community in North Toronto but does not include his family life. Letters were received from several members of the Group of Seven, Florence Wyle, Arthur Heming, Fred Brigden, G.A. Reid and many others. Clipping files relate both to his professional life and his interest in economics and current events. The fonds arrived at the archives in no discernible order; order has been imposed by the archivist to correspond as much as possible to a file listing found in the fonds.

The fonds is arranged in the following series:

1. L.A.C. Panton's file arrangement
2. Other files
3. Photographs

**Custodial history:**

Fonds remained in the home of L.A.C. Panton at 65 St. Germaine Avenue, Toronto, until the death of his widow on September 24, 1981. The executor of the estate, Mr. Frank Winter, gathered together the papers, sketchbooks, drawings, paintings and photographs from various parts of the house, and they remained in his custody until 1989 when they were delivered to Christine Boyanoski, Curator of Canadian Historical Art at the AGO. In 1990, the artwork and archival materials were separated, and the papers were housed in the Library. In 2001 Panton's certificate of induction into the RCA was donated by Mr. Winter.

**Notes:**

*Immediate source of acquisition:*

Received from Mr. Frank Winter in 1989 and 2001.

*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:*

Various copyright holders. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the fonds.

*Accruals:*

No further accruals are expected.

**Provenance access points:**

Panton, L.A.C. (Lawrence Arthur Colley), 1894-1954

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**SERIES 1: L.A.C. Panton's file arrangement**

**Dates of creation:**

1925-1954

**Physical description:**

13 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:**

Series contains published and unpublished material relating to Panton's personal and professional life, including correspondence, clippings, lectures, notes, reproductions and photocopies. Correspondence relating to his tenure as President of the Ontario Society of Artists is included, during the controversy involving the secession of the Group of Seven and other matters. Among the papers was a list with file designations (see file 1). The first series follows this arrangement.

**Box/file listing:**

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX-FILE #
L.A.C. Panton's file listing		[193-?]	Typed list of files with alphabetical designation.	1.1
A – OSA	1931	1947	File contains material other than correspondence relating to the OSA: memos, reports, published Constitution and Annual Report, and material related to annual exhibitions	1.2
A – OSA [Correspondence]	1931	1935	Letters include congratulations on Panton's election as President, correspondence with Lawren Harris regarding the formation of the Canadian Group of Painters, letters from Fred Brigden, Thoreau MacDonald, C.W. Jefferys, Franz Johnston, letters to the editors of the Canadian Forum and The Globe and Empire, correspondence with G.A. Reid, the Ontario Department of Education, Frank Carmichael, Eric Brown, Florence Wyle and others.	1.3
B – Summer courses, MacDougall, etc.	1929	1933	File contains a course syllabus for 1929 and correspondence relating to the Ontario Department of Education summer program for art teachers	1.4

<b>FOLDER/UNIT TITLE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>END DATE</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>BOX- FILE #</b>
C – Lectures, papers, etc. [No. 1]	1929	1938	File contains hand-written notes, typed lectures, published guidelines from the Department of Education and photocopied lesson plans.	1.5
C – Lectures, papers, etc. [No. 2: Toronto Typothetae]	1930	1932	File contains correspondence and notes for a series of lectures on typography, letters, layout, etc. given to the Toronto Typothetae.	1.6
C – Lectures, papers, etc. [No. 3: Public lectures]	1931	1936	Files contains typed texts of lectures given to the St. Clements Club, talks to open OSA exhibitions in Hamilton, Barrie and elsewhere, lectures addressed to the Heliconian Club, the Hamilton Association and the University of Western Ontario.	1.7
D – Correspondence re art [No. 1: RCA]	1933	1943	File contains correspondence with E. Wyly Grier, and letters of congratulations on his appointment.	1.8
D – Correspondence re art [No. 2: Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour]	1931	1935	File includes correspondence with H.O. McCurry and Eric Brown at the National Gallery, The Art Association of Montreal, the editor of the Edinburgh Scotsman, the editor of the Montreal Gazette and others.	1.9
D – Correspondence re art [No. 3: art sales]	1932	1954	File contains correspondence with the National Gallery, The Canadian Fine Art Guild, the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia, the Medici Society, correspondence relating to the award for third prize in the Victory Loan Bonds poster design competition, the Art Gallery of Toronto, the Roberts Gallery, the Doon School of Fine Arts and the Robertson Galleries (Ottawa).	1.10
E – General Correspondence	1925	1950	File contains correspondence relating to a number of topics, including letters to newspapers and magazines, problems with the neighbours, slights from Arthur [Heming?], correspondence with Kenneth Wells regarding art reviews, letters from Bill Palmer, art instructor at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute School of Art, and others	1.11
E – General Correspondence [No. 2: publishers]	1933	1938	Correspondence with Pitman & Sons, Ontario Dept. of Education, Clarke, Irwin & Co., Macmillan, and Frank Tate, regarding a textbook for art students.	1.12
E – General Correspondence [No. 3: teaching]	1932	1934	Correspondence with the Art Gallery of Toronto, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, and the Board of Education.	1.13
G – Personal news clippings etc.	1927	1954	File contains clippings from newspapers and magazines with articles regarding L.A.C. Panton, and Art Gallery of Toronto Bulletins with Panton paintings on the cover.	1.14
M – Clippings – Art	1927	193-?	File contains newspaper and magazine clippings relating to exhibitions, artists, and views on modern art.	1.15
N - Clippings, general subjects	[192-?]	[193-?]	File contains newspaper clippings relating to education, economics, smoking and Peggy's Cove.	1.16
P – Recipes, processes, etc.	1932	1946?	File contains correspondence relating to art supplies, batik, priming sketch boards, formula for canvas ground, price lists, lecture notes on tempera from William C. Palmer (see file 1.11).	1.17
R – Reproductions	[193-?]	[194-?]	Reproductions of artworks pulled from The Studio and other publications.	1.18

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX-FILE #
W – Poetry, doggerel	[19-]	[19-]	Typed, hand-written and photocopied poems, by Panton, one published poem dated 1928.	1.19
Y – House and garden	[192-?]	[193-?]	File contains photocopied information on gardening, plan of the garden at 65 St. Germaine Ave, and invoices for plants	1.20

## SERIES 2: Other material

**Dates of creation:**  
1919-1987

**Physical description:**  
48 cm of textual material  
5 sketches

### Scope and content:

Series contains posthumous and other material that does not fit into Panton's file categories. Files relate to exhibitions of his work, including posthumous exhibitions, personal material including party invitations and home-made Christmas cards, qualifications certificates relating to his teaching career and his RCA induction certificate, obituaries and other material collected around the time of his death, his passport, four small caricatures, and the layout for an unpublished book.

### Box/file listing:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX-FILE #
Exhibitions	1933	1977	File includes a typed list of works exhibited at Hart House, a gallery announcement from the Park Gallery and Hart House, typed material relating to a retrospective at the Arts and Letters Club, published material from the 'Panton and Hallam' exhibit, and a catalogue of the Art Gallery of Cobourg permanent collection. File also contains typed sheets with lists of canvases and sketches in private and public collections, and a typed list of membership in art societies.	2.1
Personal	1919	[1954?]	File includes party invitations and Christmas cards, Panton's Discharge Certificate from the Canadian Expeditionary Force, a 1942 passport and two training certificates from the Ontario Department of Education.	2.2
Memorial material	1954	1987	File contains published obituaries, copy of a resolution passed by the Art Gallery at the time of Panton's death, a copy of The Monthly Letter of the Arts & Letters Club with news of his death, the Book of Remembrance from the funeral home with signatures of attendees at his funeral, a remembrance of Panton in the Arts & Letters Club News and Views (1987), and a letter of condolence to Mrs. Panton.	2.3
Layout for an unpublished book		[194-?]	File contains a 7-page layout for a proposed book on Panton, part of the Contemporary Canadian Artists Series from The Ryerson Press. The proposed author was C. Dudley Gaitskell. The book was never published.	2.4
Sketches	[193-?]	194-?]	File contains 4 small portrait sketches in charcoal, probably by Panton, and a pencil caricature of Panton, by York Wilson?	2.5

<b>FOLDER/UNIT TITLE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>END DATE</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>BOX- FILE #</b>
Induction certificate from the RCA		1944	File contains Panton's certificate of induction as an Academician of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts	Box 3

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**SERIES 3: Photographs****Dates of creation:**

[18-] – [195-]

**Physical description:**

221 photographs

**Scope and content:**

Series contains photographs and negatives relating to the personal and private life of L.A.C. Panton. Material includes photographs of family and friends, photographs of his paintings, and photographs on which he based his paintings. The photographs have been arranged by subject matter and size. Very few of the photographs have been labeled or dated.

**Box/file listing:**

<b>FOLDER/UNIT TITLE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>END DATE</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>BOX- FILE #</b>
Family photos	[18-]	[194-?]	14 photographs, unlabelled, including what appears to be his wedding and a photograph of his son, Charles.	4.1
L.A.C. Panton and friends	[1916]	[195-?]	22 snapshots of Panton and his contemporaries.	4.2
Scenery and friends	[194-?]	[195-?]	14 contact sheets	4.3
Nova Scotia seashore	[194-?]	1952	Book of 11 snapshots; 21 small photographs of the seashore.	4.4
Paintings	[194-?]	[195-?]	39 photographs of paintings by Panton	4.5
Miscellaneous 8 x 10's	1916	[195-?]	21 photographs of similar size, including group portraits of Panton's unit at the Signal Training Depot, Ottawa 1916, and another group portrait from a Hamilton photographer; portraits of Panton painting, his induction at the RCA?, scenery and friends, and a photograph of York Wilson's portrait drawing.	4.6
Landscape 8 x 10's	[194-?]	[195-?]	14 photographs of the seashore.	4.7
L.A.C. Panton painting	[193-?]	[194-?]	3 photographs in cardboard frames depicting the artist painting	4.8
Negatives	[194-?]	[194-?]	44 negatives of scenery and people	4.9
"Lake Ahmec Cedarcroft"		[193-?]	Photograph in cardboard frame, labeled on the back of the frame, identifying 3 of the 8 people as Tom Stockdale Sr., Mrs. P, Mr. P.	4.10
Mounted photographs	[19-]	[195-?]	17 photographs mounted on paper, including portraits of Panton, scenery, the house at 65 St. Germaine Ave., and family photographs.	4.11