



**Description & Finding Aid:
Nellie Curnoe – Greg Curnoe Collection
CA OTAG SC074**

Prepared by Amy Marshall, 2005

Nellie Curnoe – Greg Curnoe collection

Dates of creation:

1936-1999

Extent:

28 cm of textual records and graphic material

3 drawings

1 artefact

Biographical sketch:

Nellie Olive Curnoe (née Porter, 1909-1999) was the mother of Canadian artist Greg Curnoe (1936-1992). She married Gordon Charles Curnoe (1909-1985) in 193- and had three children: Greg, Glen (b. 1939) and Lynda (b. 1943). For biographical information on Greg Curnoe, see the finding aid to the Greg Curnoe fonds at this library, or Judith Rodger's chronology in the 2001 Art Gallery of Ontario catalogue *Greg Curnoe: Life & Stuff*.

Scope and content:

Fonds consists of documentation of Greg Curnoe's life and career as an artist, collected by Nellie Curnoe throughout her son's life and after his death. The fonds includes Greg Curnoe's childhood drawings, notes, annotated books and school records; documentation of his artistic activities, including press clippings and exhibition invitations; postcards from Greg Curnoe and his family to his parents; and sympathy cards to Nellie and Gordon Curnoe following Greg Curnoe's death.

Contains series:

1. Juvenilia
2. Memorabilia
3. Elementary school records
4. Childhood books
5. Artefacts
6. Exhibition documentation
7. Postcards from Greg Curnoe
8. Press clippings
9. Sympathy cards

Custodial history:

Material in this collection was brought together by Nellie Curnoe throughout her son's life, and following his death. After Nellie Curnoe's death, the collection passed to her surviving children Glen and Lynda, who together donated it to the AGO.

Notes:

Conservation:

Items in Series 1: Juvenilia were treated for mold growth in 2002 and stabilized at that date.

Immediate source of acquisition:

Donated by Glen and Lynda Curnoe in 2000.

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 collection.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Related material:

The Greg Curnoe fonds at this repository contains extensive documentation of Greg Curnoe.

Provenance access points:

Curnoe, Nellie Olive

Curnoe, Greg, 1936-1992

SERIES 1: JUVENILIA

Dates of creation:

[ca. 1942] – [194-]

Extent:

3 drawings

Scope and content:

Series consists of childhood drawings by Greg Curnoe, kept by his mother Nellie Curnoe.

Notes:

Original folder label read "Found with my stuff in mom's basement July 12/99", written by Glen or Lynda Curnoe.

Location/item listing:

Box/ Folder 1 - 1

- [Drawing of a woman], ca. 1942, 33 x 20.5 cm
 - [Sketch for hockey team portrait], 194-, 33 x 20.5 cm
 - [Tracing (?) of a Coca-Cola bottle], 194-, 35 x 20 cm
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SERIES 2: MEMORABILIA

Dates of creation:

1936-1995

Extent:

6 cm of textual records

Scope and content:

Series consists of Greg Curnoe's childhood notes and letters, greeting cards, Sunday school diplomas, and similar items, together with later ephemera (excluding press clippings) documenting his career as an artist.

Notes:

Source of title:

Title based on Nellie Curnoe's titles for these files.

Related material:

Press clippings covering a similar date range may be found in Series 8.

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX-FILE #
Curnoe, Greg: Memorabilia 1950 & earlier	1936	[195-]	Birth announcement, baptism certificate, early letters and greeting cards by Greg Curnoe, Sunday school certificates and related memorabilia.	1 – 2
Memorabilia	19--	199-	Greeting cards sent by Greg Curnoe to Nellie Curnoe, appendices from <i>Deeds / Abstracts</i> , items relating to Greg Curnoe's death and posthumous tributes.	1 – 3
[Sunday school certificate]	1951	1951	Greg Curnoe's certificate from Calvary United Church Sunday School for perfect attendance.	Box 4

SERIES 3: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECORDS**Dates of creation:**

1941-1950

Extent:

3 cm of textual records and graphic material

Scope and content:

Series consists of records from Greg Curnoe's studies at Wortley Road School in London, Ontario. Series includes a kindergarten work book containing art assignments, and report cards for grades 1 through 8.

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX-FILE #
Kindergarten work book	1941	1942	Greg Curnoe's work book containing kindergarten art assignments	1 - 4
Report cards	1942	1950	Greg Curnoe's report cards for grades 1-8 at Wortley Road School.	1 - 5

SERIES 4: CHILDHOOD BOOKS**Dates of creation:**

1940-[194-]

Extent:

5 cm of textual records and graphic material (2 volumes)

Scope and content:

Series consists of two volumes, *Ontario Public School Geography* (W. Gage & Co. Limited, Toronto, 1948) and Spafford & Esty: *Ask Me Another: The Question Book* (Blue Ribbon Books, New York, 1940), with marginalia by Greg Curnoe as a child.

Location:

Box 2

SERIES 5: ARTEFACTS**Dates of creation:**

[194-]

Extent:

1 artefact

Scope and content:

Series consists of a ping-pong paddle and ball owned by Greg Curnoe as a child.

Location:

Box 2

SERIES 6: EXHIBITION DOCUMENTATION**Dates of creation:**

1966-1997

Extent:

3 cm of textual records and graphic material

Scope and content:

Series consists of invitations and posters relating to exhibitions of Greg Curnoe's work, and collected by Nellie Curnoe.

Notes:**Location:**

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX- FILE #
Exhibitions	[19--]	[19--]	Invitations and posters relating to exhibitions of Greg Curnoe's work, collected by Nellie Curnoe.	1 – 6

SERIES 7: POSTCARDS FROM GREG CURNOE**Dates of creation:**

1969-[198-]

Extent:

1 cm of textual records and graphic material

Scope and content:

Series consists of 12 postcards sent by Greg and Sheila Curnoe (and later Owen, Galen, and Zoë Curnoe), while on family vacations, to Nellie and Gordon Curnoe.

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX- FILE #
Postcards to Mum & Dad	1969	[198-]	12 postcards sent by Greg and Sheila Curnoe (and later Owen, Galen, and Zoë Curnoe), while on family vacations, to Nellie and Gordon Curnoe.	1 - 7

SERIES 8: PRESS CLIPPINGS**Dates of creation:**

[194-]-1999

Extent:

5 cm of textual records

Scope and content:

Series consists of press clippings featuring Greg Curnoe, from his childhood activities to his career as an artist and his artistic legacy, collected by Nellie Curnoe.

Notes:*Conservation:*

Press clippings have been photocopied onto acid-free paper for conservation reasons. Researchers should use only the preservation copies, located in box 1.

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX- FILE #
Clippings (undated)	[19--]	[19--]	Preservation copies of clippings for this date range.	1 - 8
Clippings 1950s	[195-]	[195-]	Preservation copies of clippings for this date range.	1 - 9
Clippings 1960s	[196-]	[196-]	Preservation copies of clippings for this date range.	1 - 10

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX-FILE #
Clippings 1970s	[197-]	[197-]	Preservation copies of clippings for this date range.	1 - 11
Clippings 1980s	[198-]	[198-]	Preservation copies of clippings for this date range.	1 - 12
Clippings 1990s	[199-]	[199-]	Preservation copies of clippings for this date range.	1 - 13
Clippings (undated) Originals	[19--]	[19--]	Note: please use preservation copies in file 1-8.	3 - 3
Clippings 1950s (Originals)	[195-]	[195-]	Note: please use preservation copies in file 1-9.	3 - 4
Clippings 1960s (Originals)	[196-]	[196-]	Note: please use preservation copies in file 1-10.	3 - 5
Clippings 1970s (Originals)	[197-]	[197-]	Note: Note: please use preservation copies in file 1-11. "The Canadian" July 17, 1976 moved to oversized storage, Box #4	3 - 6
Clippings 1980s (Originals)	[198-]	[198-]	Note: please use preservation copies in file 1-12.	3 - 7
Clippings 1990s (Originals)	[199-]	[199-]	Note: please use preservation copies in file 1-13.	3 - 8

SERIES 9: SYMPATHY CARDS

Dates of creation:

1992

Extent:

5 cm of textual records and graphic material

Scope and content:

Series consists of sympathy cards received by Nellie Curnoe on the death of Greg Curnoe.

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX-FILE #
Sympathy cards received by Mom when Greg died [1]	1992	1992		3 - 1
Sympathy cards received by Mom when Greg died [2]	1992	1992		3 - 2