



**Description & Finding Aid:
J. Loxton Rawbon Fonds
CA OTAG SC099**

Prepared by Amy Marshall, 2005

J. Loxton Rawbon fonds

Dates of creation:

[187-] – 1942

Extent:

10 cm of textual records and graphic material (2 volumes and additional textual records)

Biographical sketch:

Joseph Loxton Rawbon (1855-1942) was an artist and art restorer active in Toronto in the 1920s. He was born in Cape Town, moved to England ca. 1861, and emigrated to Canada in 1871. Rawbon began his career as a gun maker in his father's employment, but turned later to art and photography. He won prizes for his work at several fairs in southern Ontario. Rawbon claimed to have invented the keyless stretcher for artists' canvases, and developed his own "Rawbon Process" to clean the varnish from paintings. He served as a lifeguard as a member of the Queen City Life-Saving Association.

Scope and content:

Fonds includes an album (disbound) containing 45 photographs of paintings and prints restored by Rawbon, with a typed description of the "Rawbon Process" signed and dated, 1921. Collectors and collections mentioned include: Elliott W. Atkins, Toronto; Hôtel Dieu, Kingston; Major Kenneth C. Macpherson, Ottawa; Col. W. O'Brien, Shanty Bay; D.A. Story, Halifax; R.E. Cooper, Victoria; A.J. Gough, Toronto; C.S. Gzowski, Toronto; Mrs. John Small, Toronto; Henry O'Brien, K.C., Toronto; Walker House, Toronto. Fonds also includes a notebook containing a list of "Canadian Artists: Members of the Royal Canadian Academy and The Ontario Society of Artists", September 1922. The back pages of the notebook contain records of sales of "Oxford" and "Lusterize" polish formulas, and of free sample canvas stretchers sent out to clients. Fonds also includes 14 prizes and diplomas won in art and photography competitions at fairs in southern Ontario (1874-1887); 2 photographs of J. Loxton Rawbon; notes on art restoration methods; correspondence and testimonials; and press clippings related to Rawbon's career.

Custodial history:

Material constituting this fonds was acquired by Joan Murray, a former curator of Canadian art at the Art Gallery of Ontario, from Rawbon's son, John L. Rawbon. Material was transferred to the Library in May 1969. With the exception of the album and the notebook, items in the fonds were added to the Library's artist file on Rawbon. They were removed in 2005 to reconstitute the J. Loxton Rawbon fonds. The album and notebook were part of the General Archives collection until 2005.

Notes:

Physical condition:

The photograph album has been disbound.

Immediate source of acquisition:

Transferred to the Library by Joan Murray in May 1969.

Availability of other formats:

Digital photographic reproductions of the album are available on CD at the reference desk.

Restrictions on access:

Because of its fragility, the album may not be consulted by researchers without special legitimate reason. Researchers are requested instead to use digital photographic reproductions, available on CD at the reference desk. 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.

Related material:

Two pamphlets authored by J. Loxton Rawbon are in the AGO Library collection.

Accruals:

No further accruals are expected.

Provenance access point:

Rawbon, J. Loxton, 1855-1942

Location:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX-FILE #
Prizes and Diplomas	1874	1887	14 diplomas and certificates won by Rawbon at art and photography exhibits at the following fairs in southern Ontario: Western Fair, Central Exhibition, Agricultural and Arts Association (Ottawa, 1875; Hamilton, 1876; London, 1877), Toronto Electoral Division Society, Provincial Exhibition (Guelph, 1886), Dominion Industrial Exhibition (Toronto, 1887).	1-1
Photographs of J. Loxton Rawbon	[187-]	[191-]	2 photographs of Rawbon: in his lifeguarding costume, with medals; and later in life in business attire, with a medal.	1-2
Correspondence and testimonials	1895	1935	Testimonial from Claud A.L. Pascoe of the Toronto Star; 2 letters from unidentified correspondent in England, 1895; statement re: value of paintings by Vicat Cole; letter re: membership from the Art Gallery of Toronto.	1-3
Methods	[192-?]	[192-?]	Carbon typescripts of methods used by Rawbon in his restoration work: "To mend holes, tears etc. in damaged oil paintings" and "On the treatment of oil paintings where the surface is exfoliating".	1-4
Press clippings	[ca. 1922]	1942	Press clippings of articles about Rawbon, or written by him, or collected by him on the subject of art restoration.	1-5

Box 2: Notebook

Box 3: Album