

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Dean of Arts

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions154>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds  
Description Level: Sub sub series  
Series Number: 7.1.1  
Accession Number: 17-2000, 24-2000, 3-2005, 4-2005  
GMD: textual records  
Date Range: 1962-2004  
Physical Description: 1 m  
History /  
Biographical:

### DEANS OF ARTS:

R.F.B. KING (1967-1972)

Ralph Frederick Breach King was born July 16, 1921 in Vancouver, B.C. He obtained his B.A. from the University of British Columbia in 1948, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1951 and 1960 respectively. Before coming to Brandon College in 1963, King held positions in the English Departments of the University of British Columbia, Royal Military College (Kingston), and the Canadian Services College (Victoria). At the latter, he was also the head of the department.

At Brandon College he joined the Department of English as its Head and also acted as, first, the Associate Dean of Arts (1963-1965), and then as the first Dean of Arts (1965-1972) of Brandon University. He continued as Head of the English Department until 1977. In addition, during the interregnum between the Robbins and Dulmage presidencies in 1969-1970, King also served as Acting President of the University.

As Dean, King oversaw the radical change in curriculum that took place just prior to Brandon College becoming an independent University. He supervised the introduction of the major-minor system (instead of three sequences of specialization) and the wide-ranging revisions in the academic program that the new degree structure required. Once Brandon University had been formally constituted in 1967, a need arose to expand and develop teaching staff, and King profoundly influenced the development of the institution through his choice of faculty. King also played an important role in expanding the library collection as Chair of the Brandon College Faculty Library Committee in the 1960s.

King retired in 1986; he was on full-time disability for the last seven years of his appointment due to complications arising from multiple sclerosis. In 1988, the University conferred on him "Emeritus" status.

Ralph F.B. King died June 3, 2002.

MICHAEL BLANAR (1972 - December 31, 1980)

Michael Blonar was born on April 26, 1933, in Montreal, Quebec. He graduated from Loyola

College (Universite de Montreal) with his B.A. in 1954, and from the Universite de Montreal with his M.A. in 1956. From 1955-1960, except for 1958-1959 when he was registered as a post-graduate external Ph.D. student at University College, University of London, Blonar taught at Loyola High School in Montreal. In 1960, he graduate from the University de Montreal with his Ph.D.

From 1960-1970, Blonar taught English at Loyola College and directed the Freshman English Program there. For the two years before he came to Brandon University, he was on a leave of absence from Loyola College at Mount Saint Vincent University (Halifax), where he held the position of visiting associate professor in the English Department. In 1972, Blonar accepted the position of Dean of Arts at Brandon University. He held that post until 1981, while teaching part-time; in 1981, he resumed teaching full-time in the English Department, and continued to do so up until his retirement on September 1, 1993.

As a member of the English Department, Blonar developed and taught Written Expression, in addition to teaching other courses. He also acted as: a member of Senate (1981-1988); a member of the Senate Executive Committee; Chairman of the Scholarship Committee; Chairman of the Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee; Chairman of the Brandon University Act Committee; Chair, Tenure Committe; Chair, Promotions Appeal Committee; Chair, Search Committee for Director of Extension; and Chairman, Graduate Studies Committee (Arts Faculty Council). Blonar was also the Senior University Officer of Inter-Universities North for a number of years during the 1980s.

As Dean of Arts, he performed the usual academic administrative responsibilities, and due to the fact that there was no Vice-President (Academic and Research) at the time, he also represented the University at negotiations with the Universitites Grants Commission on Inter-Universities North, on the Inter-University Admission Committee. During his tenure as Dean, Blonar also oversaw the establishment of the Department of Native Studies, the consolidation of the language areas at the University into the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, and the intoduction of a Business Minor into the Economics Department.

In addition to his work at the University, Blonar was also a representative on the Articulation Council for Secondary and Post-Secondary Education for the Province of Manitoba (1982-1986), a member of the Board of Directors and the Brandon representative for the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC), and an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Opera Association.

Michael Blonar had three children with his first wife. In 1985, he married Shirley Lyon. Shirley Lyon passed away on March 1st, 2012. Michael Blonar lived in Winnipeg until his death on April 23, 2019.

P.J.C. HORDERN (January 1, 1981 - June 30, 1993)

Peter John Calveley Hordern was born in England on February 5, 1935. He was awarded a State Scholarship to Cambridge University (Latin, History, English) in 1953, and in 1959, completed his B.A. Thological Tripos Part 1 and 2 at that same institution. In 1961, he passed his General Ordination Exam at Lincoln Theological College and in 1961, received his Diploma in Ecumenical Theology from the Unviersity of Geneva, Switzerland. Hordern obtained his M.A. from Cambridge in 1964, and his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from McMaster University in 1972.

In the late 1960s, Hordern was a sessional lecturer in Hebrew at the University of Saskatchewan and a Professor of the Old Testament at the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad. In 1971, he took a position as a Lecturer in the Religion Department at Brandon University. From 1975-1978, he acted as the Chair for the department, and in 1980, he became the Co-ordinator for the Mature Student Centre. In 1981, he became the Dean of Arts; Hordern held this position until July 1993

Hordern held this position until July 1999.

During his career at Brandon University, Hordern served the school in a number of additional capacities, including: Chairman of the Student Recruitment Committee, Chairman of the Arts Faculty Council Library Committee, a member of the Executive of the Brandon University Faculty Association, Vice-Chairman of the Arts Faculty Council, Vice-Chairman of the General Faculty Council and Vice-Chairman of the University Senate. In addition, Hordern was also a member of the Executive of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, Vice-Chairman (1976) and Co-Chairman (1978) of the Programme Committee for the Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, and Chairman of the Manitoba Police Commission. One of his prime research interests was the Epic of Gilgamesh.

Peter John C. Hordern retired from Brandon University in 2005 and on January 26, 2006 he was designated the title of Dean Emeritus. He continues to live in Brandon.

R.E. FLORIDA (July 1, 1993 - December 31, 1999)

Robert Florida was born on September 16, 1939 in St. Louis, MO to Edwin Lowe Florida and Eleanor Camille (nee Greene). He completed his Mech. Eng. degree at the University of Cincinnati in 1962, his Bachelor of Divinity at Tufts University in 1965, his M.A. at McMaster University in 1969 and his Ph.D. at McMaster in 1973.

He joined the Department of Religion at Brandon University in 1969 and retired at the end of 1999. While at Brandon University, Florida served as Dean of Arts from 1993-2000, as Chair of the Religion Department (1974-1975, 1978-1982, 1984-1986, 1991) and as President of the Brandon University Faculty Association (1972-1974, 1979-1980). His research interests focused on Buddhist ethical theory and practice.

During his career, Florida also acted as the Treasurer of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion from 1980-1986, and as Treasurer of the Canadian Corporation for the Study of Religion from 1986-1989. From July 1989-June 1991, he was an Associate Professor, and member of the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni, Swaziland (CIDA Project) helping that institution revise its curriculum. In the Spring of 1989, Florida was a Professor for the University of Pittsburg's Semester at Sea, and from January-June 1992 and January-June 1993, he was a Visiting Professor at Mahidol University, Salaya (Bangkok), Thailand.

Robert Florida married his wife Janice in 1963, and together they had two children: Aisha and Michael. At present (January 2006), Florida and his wife live in Victoria, B.C.

C. SCOTT GRILLS (August 2000 - June 30, 2007)

Scott Grills was born on December 31, 1963 in Peterborough, Ontario. He obtained his B.A. (Hons.- sociology) from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1984, his M.A. from the University of Waterloo in 1985 and his Ph.D. (sociology) from McMaster University in 1989.

Prior to becoming the Dean of Arts and Graduate Studies at Brandon University in August 2000, Grills served as the President of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations, and taught in the sociology department at Augustana University College from 1989-2000. In his time at Brandon University, Grills has also served on the Brandon University Research Committee, as Chair of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, as the Brandon University representative of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada and as a member of the Province of Manitoba's Working Group on Socio-Economic Status and Tuition Policy.

Scott Grills assumed the position of Vice-President (Academic & Research) on July 1, 2007.

DEREK D. KRAMER, A.B. (1984), M.A. (1987), Ph.D. (1991)

REINHOLD KRAMER - Acting (January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007)

No biographical information yet.

STEVEN ROBINSON - Acting (January 1, 2008 - July 30, 2009)

Steve Robinson obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Guelph. He also studied Classics at Queen's University. He came to Brandon University in 1996 as a member of the Philosophy Department.

G. BRUCE STRANG (August 1, 2009 - December 31, 2014)

Bruce Strang obtained his Ph.D. in History and an M.A. in History from McMaster University and a B.A. (Honours) from the University of Winnipeg. He came to Brandon University from Lakehead University, where he was a member of the history department. At Lakehead, Strang had also served as Acting Dean of Social Sciences & Humanities and Chair of the Department of History. After stepping down as Dean of Arts, Strang returned to teaching in the history and business administration departments at Brandon University.

DEMETRIOUS TRYPHONOPOULOS (January 1, 2015 - July 1, 2019)

No biographical information yet.

LISA ROBSON - Acting (June 1, 2019 - 2020)

Custodial History:

Accession 17-2000 was donated to the McKee Archives by Dr. Robert Florida, Dean of Arts. Accession 24-2000 was donated to the McKee Archives by the Dean's Office in October 1999. Accession 03-2005 was donated to the McKee Archives by the Dean's Office in June 2005. Accession 04-2005 was transferred to the Archives from the Dean of Arts Office in February 2005.

#### Scope and Content:

Sub sub series consists of a number of accessions.

Accession 17-2000, consists of personnel records of faculty members who have left Brandon University or who have left the employment of the University through retirement or death. In addition, the records of the Northern Manitoba Business Institute, which was operated as a feature of the Faculty of Arts, are included. This accession contains 36 cm of textual records and covers the years 1967-1986.

Accession 24-2000, consists of personnel files for the following members of the Faculty of Arts: C. Acosta-Gonzalez, M. Abou, J. Barletta, M. Bartosova, R. Bazillion (University Librarian), M. Blamar, H. Burmeister, D. Campbell, J. Chyzik, L. Clark, F. Ezeala-Harrison, L. Hallat, K. Hanly, S. Hunter-Harvey (Vice-President Academic and Research), B. Jukpor, L. Kaufman, I. Makus, J. Rastel, M. Ruml, K. Saunders, J. Skinner, Z. Yiheyis. In addition, the accession also includes miscellaneous records dealing with the Northern Manitoba Business Institute, the Brandon University Foundation, Attrition, and Remunerations of instructional staff. This accession contains 30 cm of textual records and covers the years 1962-1995.

Accession 3-2005, consists of personnel files for Dennis Anderson, William DeHaney, Trevor Denton, Robert Florida and Trevor McNeely. Files include curriculum vitae, correspondence, sabbatical applications, notes, paperwork related to courses and certificates. This accession contains 17 cm of textual records and covers the years 1977-2004.

Accession 4-2005, consists of Dr. Robert Brockway's personnel file. The file contains correspondence and copies of articles written by Brockway. The file consists of 5 cm of textual records and covers the years 1966-1999 (predominantly 1972-1985).

Notes: History/Bio information for Scott Grills was taken from the Dean of Arts page of the Faculty of Arts webpage at <http://www.brandonu.ca/academic/arts/Dean's%20Office/dean's%20message.html> (December 2005). History/Bio information for Steve Robinson was taken from the Fall/Winter 2008 Alumni News.

Accruals: Further accruals expected.

Access Restriction: Personnel records are closed.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds  
Series 7: Faculties and Schools  
7.1 Faculty of Arts



## Arts Faculty Council

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4388>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: Sub sub series

Series Number: 7.1.14

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1970-1993

Physical Description: 78 cm

Physical Condition: excellent

### Custodial History:

Records were stored in the Dean of Arts and Graduate Studies Office until their transfer to the McKee Archives on March 31, 2006.

### Scope and Content:

Sub sub series consists of minutes and meeting materials for the Arts Faculty Council (1970-1993).

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds  
Series 7: Faculties and Schools  
7.1 Faculty of Arts



## Faculty of Arts publications

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions155>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: Sub sub series

Series Number: 7.1.3

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1969-1989, c. 2010

History /

Biographical:

This is an artificially created sub sub series.

Pierian Spring was the by-product of a creative writing workshop taught by Dr. Robert Brockway at Brandon University in 1969. The members of the workshop met once a month and at the end of the year they decided to produce a mimeographed book of poetry written by members of the group. They called it Peirian Spring, after the spot in Thrace from which the Muses came. In subsequent years, Brockway continued to teach the creative writing class as a non-credit extension course, however there were no further publications of Pierian Spring until Winter 1976. The later publications incorporated the writings of members of the group, but also included works by writers from across North America.

### Scope and Content:

Sub sub series consists of copies of one issue of "Aspen Grove" (1971) and numerous issues of "Pierian Spring" (1969, 1976, 1976-1989). It also contains a number of promotional pamphlets created by the Faculty of Arts. Included are pamphlets on: Arts One; the History, Religion, English and Creative Writing, Business Administration, Gender and Women's Studies, Classical and Modern Languages departments; liberal arts degrees: pre-professional programs for early and middle years teachers; Justice System Certificate; graduate programs in Rural Development; and general Faculty of Arts information.

Notes: History/Bio information on Pierian Spring taken from an article in "The Quill" (January 13, 1977).

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds  
Series 7: Faculties and Schools  
7.1 Faculty of Arts



## McGuinness library

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions13683>

Other Title Info: Title based on the contents of the series

Part Of: Fred McGuinness collection

Description Level: Series

Series Number: McG 8

Accession Number: 1-2015

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: c. 1882-2010

Physical Description: Approximately 2 m

83 books and other materials (see Material Details Note)

Material Details:       49 booklets  
                                  3 maps  
                                  3 newsletters  
                                  18 periodicals  
                                  16 pamphlets  
                                  35 newspapers [oversize drawer]

#### History /

##### Biographical:

The publications in this series were collected by Fred McGuinness during the course of his career as a newspaperman. McGuinness' personal library contained over 500 volumes pertaining to local history. He regularly consulted these materials when writing his radio broadcasts, newspaper columns, and monographs. McGuinness was known to file related materials (e.g., correspondence, newspaper clippings, invitations) between book covers of various titles.

McGuinness donated a substantial portion of his personal library to Brandon University's John E. Robbins Library when he moved to River Heights Terrace (Brandon, Manitoba). That collection can be found in BU's library catalogue under the McGuinness local history collection. The titles McGuinness retained upon his move were donated to the McKee Archives by his estate in 2011.

##### Custodial History:

Accession 1-2015 contains records created and collected over the course of McGuinness' career as a newspaper journalist and freelance writer. The Estate of Fred McGuinness donated the materials to the SJ McKee Archives circa 2011. The Archives accessioned the records in 2015.

Accession 20-2009 contain records created and collected by Fred McGuinness over the course of his career as a newspaper journalist and during the research and writing period of the Brandon history book, *The Wheat City*. Records remained in his possession at his home until their transfer to the McKee Archives on July 28, 2009.

Accession 6-2008 contains records created and collected during the writing of the Provincial Exhibition book, *Pride of the Land*. Fred McGuinness, who co-authored the book with Ken Coates, donated these records to the McKee Archives circa 1988. The materials relating to Souris, Manitoba, were given to McGuinness by Kay Sullivan in August 2007, and were subsequently deposited in the Archives.

##### Scope and Content:

This series contains publications collected by Fred McGuinness during the course of his lifetime as a newspaperman. McGuinness was a well-known local history enthusiast and frequently wrote about Brandon's local history. Many of his readers forwarded booklets and pamphlets for his consideration and review.

Materials in this series include books, booklets pamphlets, periodicals, newspapers and maps. Subjects include, but are not exclusive to: the city of Brandon, the town of Souris, memoirs, family histories, Canadian Pacific Railway, and local businesses.

Accruals:               Closed  
Finding Aid:           A file level inventory is available  
Storage Location:     All library titles, except the newspapers in the McGuinness oversize drawer, are located in Special Collections



Arrangement:

Arrangement was artificially created by the Archives.

McG 8 McGuinness library

McG 8.1 Books

McG 8.2 Booklets

McG 8.3 Maps, newsletters, and periodicals

McG 8.4 Pamphlets

McG 8.5 Magazines and newspapers (oversize)

## Documents

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## Series I: Library Activities

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions2>

Part Of: Brandon University Photograph Collection

Description Level: Series

Series Number: I

Start Date: 1940

End Date: 2000

Scope and Content:

This series contains three sub-series: Layouts & Furnishings, Receipt of Gifts, etc. and Archives. The first sub-series, Layouts and Furnishings, consists of photos of the Brandon College and University libraries from the 1940's to the present time. These photos highlight interesting areas of the library and include past and present library staff members. The second sub-series contains photos taken in the library during presentations of gifts, and other important events, such as the naming of the Robbins Library. The third sub-series contains photos taken in the McKee Archives, at its former location in the Jeff Umphrey Building, and since 1997, in its new location on the mezzanine floor of the John E. Robbins Library.



## BC 15: Brandon College library

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4291>

Part Of: RG 1 Brandon College fonds

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 15

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1912-1967

Physical Description: 33 cm

History /

Biographical:

From the very beginning, Brandon College has maintained library services for its students. A professor was put in charge of the library, although in the beginning it was little more than an empty shelf in a cabinet. As it grew, there became more of a need for an administrative body. A Library Committee was created in order to keep the library running smoothly. With the construction of the A.E. McKenzie Building in 1960 came a permanent resting place for the Brandon College Library.

Scope and Content:

The records include a 3 cm book of Library of Congress Card Orders of Recent Publications from 1957 to 1960. As well, there are applications for employment, minutes from the Library Committee and Sub Committees. There is also correspondence from the Director of Library Services and accession records.

Series has been divided into three sub-series, including: (1) Minutes; (2) Director of Library Services; and (3) Library Accession Records.

Storage Location: RG 1 Brandon College fonds  
Series 15: Brandon College Library

Related Material: RG 6 (Brandon University fonds), series 8 (Brandon University Library Services).



## Manitoba Pool Elevator Library collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/specialcollections1407>

Part Of: RG 4 Manitoba Pool Elevator fonds

Collection: Manitoba Pool Elevator Library collection

Description Level: Series

Series Number: MPE E

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1888-1998

Physical Description: 13.7 m

History /

Biographical:

The importance of knowledge and education to the Manitoba Wheat Pool is made clear in the The Scoop Shovel, the official organ of the Manitoba Wheat Pool and other co-operatives in Manitoba. Established in the 1920s, The Scoop Shovel owed its existence to a decision by the directors of the Pool to set aside small percentage of income per bushel for educational purposes. R.A. Hoey began to hold meetings to discuss the idea that the Pool was about more than just marketing grain, and in 1926 a Department of Education and Publicity was organized

within the Pool. It was directed by J.T. Hull and advised by R.A. Hoey; they expanded and supervised The Scoop Shovel.

They also began to accumulate the educational volumes that would become the Pool library. Hull announced in November of 1926 that the library would be open by the end of the month and reported that: "We have a good representation of works on sociology... On co-operation we have about every book that we can find published in the English language. We have also a good selection of books on economics, history, science, general literature, and rural life. In a word, we have tried to make the library one of usefulness to people whose life is on the land."

He also encouraged Pool members—who were the only ones allowed to use the library at this time—to utilize the library to educate themselves, saying "Use it, for knowledge is power". Once the library was open to all Pool members, Hull wrote a regular column for The Scoop Shovel called "In the Library", in which he would review books and recommend reading in response to frequent questions from members. When the library gained new books, which was almost continually, he would list them and sometimes discuss them.

The library service was a mailing one; the main collection was kept at the Manitoba Wheat Pool central office in Winnipeg and members could request a catalogue of all the library holdings. If they wanted to borrow a book or books on a specific topic, they could write to Hull and the books would be mailed out to the member and returned by mail, all postage costs covered by the Pool Library.

During the crisis of the early 1930s, the library was saved because the Manitoba Co-operative Conference believed it was vital to the success of the Pools and the co-operative movement. The Conference took over administration of the Pool library in 1931, leasing the books and equipment from the Wheat Pool. The library was formally incorporated under a charter after it changed hands, the other charter members being the Co-operative Marketing Board and the United Farmers of Manitoba.

In 1935 the service was made available free of charge to all rural Manitobans with the financial support of the Co-op Marketing Board. By 1939, Manitoba Pool Elevators had begun to prosper again, and took back responsibility for the administration and housing of the library. The traveling library was also established around this time, and hundreds of boxes were distributed to all MPE points. The boxes were rotated and refreshed twice a year.

In 1942 Hull estimated that there were approximately 4,700 books in the Pool Library with an annual circulation of 4,000 to 5,000 books. Operating the library cost around two thousand dollars per year, although the cost was split between the members of the Manitoba Co-operative Conference, at least it was in theory. The Pool library ran as a free service to all rural Manitobans, regardless of whether they were members of the Pool, and the federal government census in 1941 indicates that over half of Manitoba's population (56%) still lived in rural areas. In 1948, the majority of the Pool Library's services were rendered unnecessary by an act called the "Public Libraries Act" that had been passed by the Manitoba legislature on April 22, 1948, and would go into effect July 1, 1948. The act provided for the establishing of a provincial "Public Library Advisory Board" that would be appointed by the government. Once the board had been established, the act allowed for the establishment of municipal and regional libraries that would be the administrative responsibility of the municipality or region they served and would be supported by a land tax levied on the population that would have access to the library. All employees of the central provincial library would be considered civil servants.

When the Provincial Library was being established in 1949, the Minister in charge of education—Ivan Shultz—actively sought both the advice of those who operated the Pool Library and the physical resources of the Library. In a letter to W.J. Parker, the President of Manitoba Pool Elevators, Shultz wrote that: "We find that in looking at the province as a whole that the box library service of the Manitoba Pool Elevators is the best developed and the best

...library service of the Manitoba Pool Elevators is the best developed and the best distributed within the province... We would feel that to a considerable extent you had pioneered in this field and we would be using your accomplishments as a springboard for a wider coverage of the province and an enlargement of the service."

He also requested that Miss E.L. Shields—the Pool Librarian—be released from Pool employment so that the Provincial Library could hire her for a year to aid in setting up the new library system.

An agreement was reached between MPE and the Provincial Library, and the bulk of the Pool Library was transferred to the province. The Pool retained the volumes it wished to keep as reference for its employees, and donated the rest of the open shelf library to the province. The traveling library service was sold at a discount to the province, with the caveat that service not be interrupted during the transfer and that the quality of service to rural Manitoba not diminish once the Library had been entirely transferred to the government. In a letter to Ivan Shultz after the agreement to sell the traveling library had been reached, W.J. Parker wrote that: "...Manitoba Pool Elevators has maintained an open shelf library for a period of some twenty years. These books have been made available to anyone in Manitoba, outside the City of Winnipeg, and the postage both ways was paid by the Pool. We feel it has served a very useful purpose, but that it is not primarily our function and if the government proposes to offer a more complete and universal service we are prepared to retire from the field and avoid what might be considered unnecessary duplication."

Scope and Content:

Series contains items once held as part of the Manitoba Pool Library. It has been divided into the following four sub-series: (1) MPE E 1 Manitoba Pool Library publications; (2) MPE E 2 The Scoop Shovel; (3) MPE E 3 The Manitoba Cooperator; and (4) MPE E 4 Pamphlet collection.

Notes: Description by Jill Sutherland and Christy Henry



## BU 8: Brandon University library services

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions169>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 8

GMD: multiple media

Physical Description: 5.14 m textual records; approximately 20 photographs (Millwood display)

Scope and Content:

Series has been divided into three sub-series, including: (1) Director of Library Services; (2) S.J. McKee Archives; (3) Film Services.

Notes: Series needs to be processed.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds



## A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4309>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Fonds  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 1887-1996; predominantly 1910-1974  
Physical Description: 7.47 m of textual records  
500 photographs

History /  
Biographical:

The A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. originated with the McKenzie family Flour, Grain and Seed business, started by F. B. McKenzie in the early 1880's. When F. B. McKenzie passed away in 1896, his son, Albert Edward McKenzie, assumed control of the company, and renamed it The Brandon Seed House. With its main office and plant in Brandon, Manitoba, the company specialized in the production and sale of field seeds and service exclusively to seed buyers in the prairie provinces and British Columbia. In later years, a complete line of products including garden seeds, lawn grass, and other allied lines was developed for sale across Canada.

In 1906, the company underwent a change of name when A. E. McKenzie determined that the growth of the country demanded a larger seed institute than could be managed by one man. As a result, the company was incorporated under provincial statutes and the federal Joint Stock Companies Act as A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd., and new personnel were hired.

Under the Joint Stock Companies Act, A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was required to elect a Board of Directors of not less than three, and not more than nine individuals. Only shareholders of the company were eligible for election, and election was to take place yearly with each shareholder entitled to as many votes as shares owned in the company. The Act also dictated that the directors were, from time to time, to elect from among themselves, a president of the company. They were also able to appoint and remove all other officers of the company and to create company by-laws. The directors were not obliged to pay any dividend on shares if the company should become insolvent. Under the Act, the stock of the company was deemed a personal estate and was only transferable as such. In addition, the company could acquire, hold, and transfer real estate, and was required to submit annual statements.

A. E. McKenzie was elected President of the newly constituted company. For the remainder of his natural life he remained in this position and supervised the operation of the company. S. A. Bradford, who was given responsibility for various company departments, filled the position of General Manager. H. L. Patmore became the Vice-President, overseeing the nursery business, while W. A. McCracken was put in charge of the warehouse stock, and shipping department. McCracken also supervised the mail order department.

The Company was initially comprised of three divisions: The Brandon Seed House, Brandon Nurseries, and Brandon Greenhouses. Each division was registered under Dominion Patents. Later, the company was divided into Retail Mail Order, Wholesale and Commission Packet Trade divisions. It also undertook some export business.

By registering the divisions of the company under federal legislation affecting trademarks and industrial designs, McKenzie and the Board, were able to register both the company's trademarks and to protect the company's industrial techniques. The company could thus patent the methods and processes of its operations so that no other individual or business could duplicate them.

Located at 30 9th Street, the head office and plant of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. housed all the facilities and staff of the company, with the exception of the regional sales offices and warehouses. The business of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. was conducted from a frame warehouse until the current McKenzie building was constructed on the same site after a fire destroyed the original premises. Designed by architect Thomas Sinclair, and built by the Brandon Construction Company, the new building opened in 1911. In time, The A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. came to be known as Western Canada's Greatest Seed House.

During the 1930's, before a new building was erected in 1945, the A. E. McKenzie Co. occupied space at five different locations in Brandon, including the Massey Harris Building, the International Harvester Building and the Security Building. The last of these premises was destroyed by fire in 1972. As a result of its proximity to the Security Building, the main McKenzie Building also suffered heavy fire and water damage. A. E.

McKenzie Co. Ltd. also utilized a warehouse on the north side of Pacific Avenue alongside the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks between 5th and 6th streets. This building and its contents were destroyed by fire (1946). In May of 1949, the company purchased and erected a Quonset structure on the west side of 15th Street between Rosser and Pacific Avenues.

In 1908, the first branch of the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was established at Calgary. In the following sixteen years, additional branches were established in Edmonton and Saskatoon (1923), Moose Jaw, Toronto (1934) and Winnipeg (1935). Both the Edmonton and Saskatoon branches were seasonal, operating for a four-month period, March to June inclusive. Business in the Maritime Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick further extended the company's operations by the mid 1940's. In 1946, the company purchased property in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, 120 miles north of Brandon. This purchase enabled the company to handle larger quantities of Sweet Clover, a popular crop that was grown in the surrounding area. Additional offices were opened in Vancouver and Quebec City in rented premises by the early 1960's.

In the years 1944-1945, the McKenzie Foundation was created. Through the Foundation, arrangements were put in place to transfer shares of the company to the Manitoba Government for the benefit of higher education, specifically Brandon College. In return for this gift, which included 90% of all capital resources of the company together with all of the income earned each year, except for the amount retained annually to ensure sufficient operating capital, the A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. received exemption from paying Corporate Tax.

Prior to the establishment of the McKenzie Foundation, in 1945, the National Trust for the benefit of the College held the shares of McKenzie Seeds. On April 7, 1945 the Manitoba Legislature passed legislation whereby A. E. McKenzie retained effective management control of his company, but 1031 shares out of 1145 issued shares were gifted to the Provincial Government. In return, the government agreed that all financial benefits from the shares would go to Brandon College through the A. E. McKenzie Foundation. When Mr. McKenzie passed away in 1964, the primary responsibility of appointing the Board of Directors for McKenzie Seeds passed to the Provincial government.

The remaining 114 shares of the Company were turned over to the Crown on July 16, 1975 in accordance with an agreement between Brandon University, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. and the Manitoba government. The same agreement also turned the McKenzie Foundation over to Brandon University. Therefore, since 1975 the crown has held all shares of the McKenzie Co. through the Province of Manitoba.

A.E. McKenzie died on September 25, 1964 at the age of 94 and was succeeded as President of the company by J. Lasby Lowes. When Mr. Lowes retired in 1968, A. R. Swanson was appointed by the government to fill the position and was responsible for all operations of the company under a Board of Directors comprised mainly of appointees of the government. It has proven impossible to establish a complete list of those individuals who held the positions of President/General Manager of McKenzie Seeds after 1964. A partial account is as follows: Anthony J. Maruca became President of A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. in 1972. In 1975, the Board of Directors appointed William Moore General Manager, creating a new position to relieve the President of the company from management of plant operations. At the same time, Pat Kelleher was named new interim President. Following the resignation of Kelleher, William Moore assumed the role of President as well. Moore left the company in the early 1980s. He was later convicted of criminal misconduct as President of the company. Keith Guelpa

became President/General Manager in the mid 1980's; Raymond West was his successor.

Beginning in 1969, the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. began phasing out the Field Seed division of their company, including business related to forage crops and cereals. Seed cleaning equipment located in Brandon and the company's Calgary and Toronto cleaning plants was sold. The Company concentrated its resources on the production and sale of vegetable and flower seeds, and lawn and turf grasses. It acted as a wholesaler and conducted business through chain stores, grocery, hardware and general stores.

Late in 1971, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. purchased its largest competition in packaged seeds - Steele Briggs Seed Co. from Maple Leaf Mills Inc. for two million dollars. At the time of the acquisition the company changed its name to A. E. McKenzie Co. - Steele Briggs Seeds, in order to benefit from the favorable reputation held by Steele Briggs Seeds across Canada. In the early 1970s, the acquisition of Brett-Young Seeds Ltd., a Winnipeg company that dealt exclusively in the production and sale of field seed, brought the A. E. McKenzie Co. back into the field seed market.

In 1994 the Manitoba Government sold the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, Canada's largest non-retail mail-order catalogue company, which is owned by MDC Corporation of Toronto.

In 2001, McKenzie Seeds is Canada's leading supplier of packaged seeds and related gardening products. It is divided into a Retail Consumer Products division which features well known seed brands including McKenzie Seeds, Pike Seeds and Thompson & Morgan Seeds from England. As well, this division also carries a complete range of lawn seeds and perishables. It also continues to ship the seed racks invented by A.E. McKenzie to numerous retail stores. The second division, Direct Mail, consists of the McFayden and McConnell catalogues which reach over 500,000 Canadian homes each year.

#### Custodial History:

Following the sale of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, the records of McKenzie Seeds and its subsidiaries were retained in the McKenzie Plant on 9th Street. In April of 1997, the records were transferred to the McKee Archives at Brandon University. Because the company was a crown corporation, the records of McKenzie Seeds belonged to the Province of Manitoba and might have been placed in the Provincial Archives. However, Provincial Archivist Gordon Dodds permitted the retention of the records in Brandon at the S. J. McKee Archives. The minutes of the Board of Directors, previously transferred to the Provincial Archives, remain in Winnipeg. Until 1960 these minutes, by-laws of the Company, and the letters patent of incorporation (April 7, 1906) were in the possession of the Company's lawyers, Johnson, Garson, Forrester, Davidson, & Steen.

#### Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of textual records, photographs and artifacts from A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. The textual records include minutes, documents, financial records, administrative records, by-laws, legal records, catalogues, sales literature, seed packets, newspaper clippings, appraisals, publications, scrapbooks and miscellaneous sections.

In addition, some of the records within the fonds relate to the operations of McKenzie subsidiaries -- Brett-Young Seeds, Steele-Briggs Seeds, Pike & Co. and McFayden Seeds -- and various properties owned by McKenzie Seeds.

Fonds contains approximately 500 photographs. These depict the operations and employees of McKenzie Seeds and the seed industry in general. Artifacts contained in the fonds include blueprints, newspaper clippings, copper printing plates, seed bags and plaques.

Fonds also includes an artificially created series of records dealing with Brandon College Inc., the A.E. McKenzie Foundation, the Brandon Allied Arts Council and the Brandon Board of Trade. These records stand outside the provenance of the McKenzie Seed Co.

Of particular interest within the textual records are the transcripts of various features of the company's history as dictated, researched and recalled by its second President/General Manager, J. Lasby Lowes. The fonds also contains a collection of company catalogue which is almost complete. Outside of the seed industry, the records dealing with both Brandon College Inc. and the McKenzie Foundation are significant records relating to the history of Brandon College/University and the City of Brandon.

Notes: Description written by Christy Henry (2001).

Name Access: A.E. McKenzie  
J. Lasby Lowes  
Irene Cullen  
Joseph Airey  
Alan R. Mundie  
Sandy Black  
Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha  
McFayden Seeds  
Steele-Briggs Seed Co  
Pike & Co  
Davidson & Gowen  
Davidson Studio  
Frank Gowen  
Dean Photo Service  
Jerrett's Photo-Art Studio/Jerrett's Photo Service  
Crawford Drug Store  
Leech Printing Ltd  
Eastman Photographic Materials Ltd



Subject Access:	Seed Industry Seed Catalogues Brandon Business Seed Photographs Brandon Photographs Seed Packets Agriculture Women Workers Labour Relations A.E. McKenzie J. Lasby Lowes A.R. Swanson William Moore Anthony J. Maruca Pat Kelleher Keith Guelpa Raymond West Brett-Young Seeds Sabetha Steele Briggs Seed Co Pike & Co McFayden Seeds Seed Marketing Co Brandon Board of Trade Brandon Allied Arts Council McKenzie Foundation Regal Greetings and Gifts
Repro Restriction:	Because the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was a crown corporation, the records in the fonds are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).
Storage Location:	RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds
Related Material:	Additional records regarding A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. are housed at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. In order to gain access to these records it is necessary to contact the Archives of Manitoba.
Arrangement:	RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Fonds  McS 1 Board of Directors 1.1 Documents 1.2 Minutes/Meetings 1.3 Management Consultant Reports 1.4 Miscellaneous 1.5 Financial Records  McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager 2.1 A.E. McKenzie 2.2 J. Lasby Lowes 2.3 Comptroller 2.4 Properties

- 2.5 Marketing
- 2.6 Reference Library
- 2.7 Miscellaneous Publications/Correspondence

McS 3 Acquisitions

- 3.1 Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha
- 3.2 Steele-Briggs Seed Co.
- 3.3 Pike & Co.
- 3.4 McFayden Seeds

McS 4 Seed Marketing Co.

McS 5 Photographs

- 5.1 McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Executives
- 5.2 Construction at McKenzie Seed Co. Brandon (two files)
- 5.3 Exterior Photographs of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Building
- 5.4 McKenzie Seed Co. Plant Operations and Workers (2 files)
- 5.5 McKenzie Seed Co. Equipment and Plant - Head Office 1983
- 5.6 McKenzie Seed Co. Field Operations and Workers
- 5.7 McKenzie Seed Co. Strike 1944
- 5.8 Fires at McKenzie Seed Co. 1910, 1945, 1972
- 5.9 McKenzie Seed Co. Centennial Exhibition 1996
- 5.10 Miscellaneous McKenzie Seed Co. Photographs
- 5.11 People Connected to McKenzie Seed Co.
- 5.12 Princess Anne's Visit to McKenzie Seed Co. 1982
- 5.13 Onion Set Production Book
- 5.14 Irene Cullen Photographs - McKenzie Seeds Employee Photos
- 5.15 Josiph Airey Photographs - McKenzie Product Photos
- 5.16 Alan R. Mundie Seed Production Photographs
- 5.17 Steele Robertson/Steele Briggs Seeds Photographs
- 5.18 Seed Packet Display Units Photographs
- 5.19 Product Photographs
- 5.20 Parade Photographs
- 5.21 Oversized Photographs
  - 5.21.1 Drawer #1: Executive Photographs
  - 5.21.2 Drawer #2: Office and Equipment/Plant Photographs
  - 5.21.3 Drawer #3: Miscellaneous Oversized Photographs
  - 5.21.4 Drawer #4: Artifacts

McS 6 Miscellaneous

- 6.1 Centennial Exhibition
- 6.2 Miscellaneous Publications
- 6.3 Scrapbooks

MG 1 A.E. McKenzie Fonds

- 1.1 Brandon College Inc.
- 1.2 McKenzie Foundation
- 1.3 Brandon Allied Arts Council
- 1.4 Brandon Board of Trade
- 1.5 Miscellaneous



## BUPC 2: Campus buildings

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions7>

Part Of: Brandon University Photograph Collection

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 2

GMD: graphic

Date Range: c.1909 - 2000; predominant 1960s - 1996

Physical Description: 604 photographs (b/w & colour)

Scope and Content:

Series consists of photographs of various buildings found on the Brandon College/University campus.

Subject Access: Buildings

Storage Range: Photograph storage drawers

Arrangement:

Series is divided into 13 sub-series, including: (1) Aerials; (2) Brandon College Building & Clark Hall; (3) Citizens' Science Centre & Knowles Douglas Building; (4) Richardson Centre & A.E. McKenzie Building; (5) Healthy Living Centre & Henry Champ Gymnasium; (6) Dining Hall & Residences; (7) Education Building; (8) Original Music Building & the Queen Elizabeth II Music Building; (9) J.R. Brodie Science Centre; (10) Dr. James and Mrs. Lucille Brown Health Studies Complex; (11) Jeff Umphrey Building & Glen P. Sutherland Art Gallery; (12) Physical Plant; (13) H-Huts.



## RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4722>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Fonds

Fonds Number: RG 5

GMD: multiple media

History /

Biographical:

This record group was artificially created in January 2007 by Tom Mitchell and Christy Henry of the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

The record group consists of various fonds and collections concerned with the political, cultural, social, and educational life of western Manitoba. See the Subject Access field for a list of titles.

Notes: Description written by Christy Henry (2007).

Subject Access: Joseph H. Hughes

Canadian Federation of University Women

Verna Gamey

Brandon Cinema Club

Birtle Indian Residential School

Brandon Assisted Passage Association

Binscarth Women's Institute  
Griswold School District  
Manitoba School Trustees Regional Association  
Riverbank/Berbank Red Cross  
A.C. Miller  
C.J. Barnes  
David Sommerville Charleson  
Southwest A Region Manitoba Women's Institute  
Berbank Ladies Aid  
Berbank Church  
Blyth Protestant School District #471  
Crown Protestant School District #184  
Ward Watson  
Laurie V. Smith  
Marion Doig  
Elm Creek/Wingham Branch United Farmers of Manitoba  
Roseland Church  
Fairfax United Church  
Humesville & Forrest Women's Missionary Society  
Chater Protestant School District  
William Wallace  
United Grain Growers  
G.R. Rowe  
Cecil Herbert Edward Johnston  
Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium  
Brandon Art Club  
James Duncan McGregor  
Stephan Adolph Magnacca  
Harry "Hap" Fraser  
Leslie Victor Robson  
Bertha School District #861  
Manitoba Genealogical Society  
Brandon Golf & Country Club  
Keystone Centre Development and Construction  
Manitoba Elevator Company  
B.J. Hales  
Brandon Council of Women  
Westman Oral History  
Mildred (Mollie) Kellet  
Gerald McKinney  
Janet Donnelly  
Minnedosa OddFellows  
Basswood OddFellows  
Archibald E. Wilson  
Audrey Silvius

Western Manitoba Philharmonic Choir  
Lawrence Stuckey  
Minnedosa Women's Institute  
Clanwilliam Women's Institute  
Cordova Women's Institute  
Crocus Women's Institute  
Rathwell Women's Institute  
Strathclair Women's Institute  
Manitoba Women's Institute  
Brandon Business & Professional Women's Club  
Minnedosa Business & Professional Women's Club  
Neepawa Business & Professional Women's Club  
Brandon Women's Musical Club  
International Toastmistress Club - Land O'Lakes Region  
Fred McGuinness  
Reg Forbes  
Jack Stothard  
Janet Louisa May More  
William J. Birtles  
Ruby Miles  
Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women  
Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Brandon & District Labour Council (CLC)  
Westman Multi-Cultural Council  
Westman Coalition on Equality Rights  
Martin Kavanagh  
James Buckley  
James Douglas Wall  
Brandon Women's Institute  
Trilliam Business & Professional Women's Club  
Westridge Senior Citizens  
Kodaly in Manitoba  
WARUCC - Western Association of Registrars of the Universities and  
Colleges of Canada  
Margaret Laurence Endowment  
Douglas Women's Institute  
Albert Angus Murray McPherson  
Edward Walker  
Alexander MacPhail  
Inventory of Archival Material in Western Manitoba Project  
Greenway Fair  
Brandon Hills Busy Bees  
Prairie Horizons Toastmistress Club  
Grand Valley School District #206  
Douglas Brolund

Norma Laird  
Brandon Square Dancing Club  
Tully McKenzie  
Basswood School District  
Anna Enns  
Frank Robb  
Bankburn School District  
John Crawford  
J.C. Cousins  
William Ridley Sheridan Wade  
Mary Schwalm  
Robert (Bert) Lane  
Ross Hume  
Quincy H. Martinson  
Helen Dutka  
Dorothy Frances Davidson  
Brandon Sno-Goers Snowmobile Club  
Brandon Folk, Music & Art Society, Inc.  
Baker family  
Brandon Daily Sun microfilm  
Western Manitoba Home Economic Association  
Hubert Weidenhamer  
Len Evans  
Henry Hlady  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Westman Recycling Council

Storage Location: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection  
Herbert Goodland

Storage Range: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Arrangement:

The fonds and collections in RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript collection have been arranged primarily by accession number.