

S. J. McKee Archives



John Weldon Grant collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions8219>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: MG 3 1.21

Accession Number: 3-2008

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1910; predominant 1961-1977.

Physical Description: 40 cm text; prints and art work.

History /

Biographical:

Professor John Weldon Grant was born 12 March 1919 in Sunnybrae, Nova Scotia, son of Alec and Linda Grant. He was raised in Sunnybrae and graduated from Pictou Academy in 1937. Prof. Grant entered Pine Hill Divinity School to study Theology. During his ministerial internship, he taught and preached in Rabbit Lake and Biggar, Saskatchewan. He graduated from Pine Hill in 1943 and entered the mission field with the United Church.

Professor Grant moved to Trinidad & Tobago in the 1940s. There he taught in both San Fernando and Siparia, towns located in the southwest tip of the island. Weldon Grant was the first head master of the Iere High School in Siparia when it opened in 1955. Professor Grant is recalled by Kenneth Ramchand in his *The West Indian Novel And Its Background* as "his beloved English teacher" reading from an early Sam Selvon novel in a "Saskatchewan version of Trinidad dialect." That he was teaching Selvon – a West Indian writer – testifies to Grant's cultural pluralism. See Kenneth Ramchand, *The West Indian Novel and its background* (London: Faber and Faber, 2001 edition).

Professor Grant and Bernice Emma Moats were married in Gray, Saskatchewan 30 June 1954. They adopted three children in Nova Scotia and returned to Trinidad.

In 1961, the Grants returned to Canada. Weldon taught for one year at Vincent Massey High School and then joined the English Department at Brandon University where he taught in the English department until his retirement on August 31, 1984.

During a sabbatical he spent six months exploring Ireland and the poets that had been inspired by its countryside. He also loved stories of the sea and read many varied authors, both factual and fiction.

Custodial History:

Records were collected by Weldon Grant during his teaching career in Trinidad and Canada.

Scope and Content:

In the course of his teaching career in Trinidad & Tobago and at Brandon University Professor Grant acquired and retained a number of items with cultural, scholarly and sentimental value. These include The First Folio of Shakespeare, prepared by Charlton Himan, [Academic ed.]. Imprint New York : W.W. Norton, 1968. xxvii, 928 p. : port. ; 37 cm. Mr. William Shakespeares comedies, histories, & tragedies. Published according to the true original copies. London, Printed by Isaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount, 1623.

The facsimile is described as "an ideal copy in which each page represents the best page selected from one of the 29 most satisfactory copies of the 80 copies in the Folger Shakespeare Library."

1 Self pronouncing Holy Bible, Oxford 1910.

1 print 22.4" x 17," "Baking in a Clay Oven," by Trinidad artist David Moore, June 1977 printed in Trinidad by the College Press.

2 water colour paintings 17.5" x 12" by artist "AM." One titled San Fernando (1961) one titled Royal Palm, Trinidad (1960).

1 black and white portrait 10" x 13" of Governor general Roland Michener and his wife (No: A-2) copyright Karsh dated 1970.

1 Asian art work, 12.5" x 18" embroidery on silk.

Notes:	Weldon Grant history/bio from Weldon Grant obituary Brandon Daily Sun c. April 14, 1999.
Name Access:	Weldon Grant
Subject Access:	English Department
Storage Location:	MG 3 Brandon University Teaching and Administration MG 3 1.21 John Weldon Grant