

Trent University Archives

Finding Aid - Katherine E. Wallis fonds (69-002)

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Language of description: English

Trent University Archives
Trent University Library & Archives
Archives, Room 117
Thomas J. Bata Library
1600 West Bank Drive
Peterborough
Ontario
Canada
K9J 7B8
Telephone: 705-748-1011 ext. 7413
[Email: archives@trentu.ca](mailto:archives@trentu.ca)
<http://www.trentu.ca/library/archives>
<http://archives.trentu.ca/index.php/69-002>

Katherine E. Wallis fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Trent University Archives
Title:	Katherine E. Wallis fonds
Reference code:	69-002
Date:	1861-1956 (creation)
Physical description:	8 volumes of textual records and other materials photographs drawings
Language:	English
Language:	French

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Katherine E. Wallis was born in 1860 in Peterborough, Ontario. She studied art as a copyist at the National Gallery in Edinburgh, Scotland and later at the Royal College of Art in London, England. In London she discovered sculpting as her medium of expression and won the College's bronze medal and the Modellers' Free Scholarship for her work. After two years of study in London, she went to Paris to study under noted sculptor Oscar Waldmann and was soon invited to exhibit at the Exposition Universelle where she won honourable mention. In subsequent years, she exhibited frequently in the Spring Salon of the Artists Francais and later in the Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts, as well as at numerous exhibits in London and elsewhere in the British Isles. Katherine E. Wallis' career was interrupted by World War I while she served as a nurse in the Canadian Hospital in Paris, France. For her services she was decorated by the French and British governments. At the end of the war, Miss Wallis spent several years in Canada exhibiting her work and visiting her sister in Peterborough, Ontario. Later she returned to Paris, and in 1929, she received her highest recognition as an artist when she was the first Canadian to be elected Societaire of the Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts for her sculpture titled "La Lutte pour la Vie." She was forced to flee from France at the beginning of World War II and took up residence in Santa Cruz, California, where she lived until her death, 14 December 1957. Examples of the photographs are reproduced here.

Custodial history

The fonds remained within the Wallis family in Montreal, Quebec, until it was donated to Trent University in 1965 by Colonel Hugh M. Wallis, nephew of Katherine E. Wallis.

Scope and content

The fonds is in eight bound volumes and consists of letters, newspaper clippings, photographs, diaries, poetry, sketch books, accounts and a typewritten unpublished autobiography.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the creator of the fonds.

Physical condition

The original order of the fonds was destroyed. The fonds was bound into eight volumes in chronological order before it was donated to Trent University. NOTE: In 2012, bound volumes 5 and 6 were professionally disassembled to enable access.

Immediate source of acquisition

The fonds was donated by Colonel Hugh M. Wallis, nephew of Katherine E. Walls, February, 1965.

Arrangement

The items in volumes one to five have been inserted loosely between the pages of the volumes. The sketchbooks bound into volume six are very difficult to research without causing damage to the sketches and bindings.

Alternative form available

The news clippings and the autobiography have been photocopied and contact sheets and negatives have been made of the photographs in the collection.

Restrictions on access

None

Related material

Related materials: 14-001.

Note [General]

Box 1

Volume 1 : 1860-1920

Includes extracts from Katherine's diary 1881, diplomas, war medals, loose newspaper clippings and photographs. NOTE: See binder, Appendix "A" at end of collection which contains contact prints and negatives of photographs in volume 1. See file folder shelved at end of collection which contains xeroxed copies of newspaper clippings in volume 1.

Volume 2 : 1921-1945

Includes exhibition press clippings, materials regarding visit to Bosnia, Greece; diary of trip sketching around the world, 1931; materials re Santa Cruz, 1944; Prague Medal, 1928; photographs of Wallis and her works. NOTE: See binder, Appendix "A" at end of collection which contains contact prints and negatives of all photographs in volume 2. See file folder shelved at end of collection which contains xeroxed newspaper clippings from volume 2.

****Volume 3****: 1945-1957

Life in Santa Cruz, poetry, literature, clippings and photographs. Notices re death of Wallis in December, 1957. NOTE: See binder, Appendix "A" at end of collection which contains contact prints and negatives of all photographs in volume 3. See file folder shelved at end of collection which contains xeroxed newspaper clippings from volume 3.

Box 2

****Volume 4****: Photographs of works of art and bound-in sketches and watercolours. These have not been copied.

****Volume 5****: Poetry and Stories, 1893-1956 (NOTE: In 2012, this bound volume was professionally disassembled to enable access).

Box 3

****Volume 6****: Sketchbooks. Very fragile and difficult to use. (NOTE: In 2012, this bound volume was professionally disassembled to enable access). Included in this volume is a notebook with cover brand name "South Kensington Note Book, Lamley & Co." which contains photographs of models and art works. As with volumes 1, 2 and 3, contact prints and negatives of these photographs have been made and are included in the binder shelved at the end of this collection as Appendix "A".

Box 4

****Volume 7****: Diaries, address books, accounts, 1939-1956

****Volume 8****: Autobiography entitled, "Before the West Became the East"; biography by A. R. Collins; published poems, "Chips From the Block."

Box 5

Folder 1: Correspondence, from vol. 1, no date

Folder 2: Correspondence, from vol. 1, 1884-1920

Folder 3: Correspondence, from vol. 2, no date

Folder 4: Correspondence, from vol. 2, 1921-1929

Folder 5: Correspondence, from vol. 2, 1930-1945

Folder 6: Correspondence, from vol. 3, no date

Folder 7: Correspondence, from vol. 3, 1946-1950

Folder 8: Correspondence, from vol. 3, 1951-1959

Folder 9: Miscellaneous copy photographs and negatives

Note [General]

****APPENDIX "A"****

****CONTACT PRINTS AND NEGATIVES OF PHOTOGRAPHS****

****Contact Sheet 1 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 1)****

2 Grandma Haultain, Helen, Bessie Gibson

3 dup. of above

4 William Donald Forbes

11 Waldmann and "Owl"

12 Nurse and 2 patients

13 dup. of above

14 Nurse and patients

- 15 K. E. Wallis and patient
- 16 KEW and patient
- **Contact Sheet 2 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 3)**
- 2 unidentified
- 3 KEW
- 4 Mildred and KEW
- 5 Helen Haultain
- 6 KEW and Clara 1939
- 7 Santa Cruz
- 8 KEW, Mrs Brody, Mrs Lynton
- 9 KEW, Santa Cruz
- 10 Santa Cruz
- 11 Sculpture
- 12 KEW
- 13 KEW, 1957
- 14 KEW, 1957
- 15 KEW
- 16 Mrs Herron, Miss Gardner, KEW (1956)
- 17 Duplicate of above
- 18 "For Miss Katherine Wallis, 1953"
- 19 Dup.
- 20 Wallis studio, Santa Cruz, 1948
- **Contact sheet 2 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 1)**
- 21 Adah and Katherine Wallis
- 22 Ada and Katherine Wallis with horse
- 23 Katherine and Adah Wallis
- 24 Dup.
- 25
- 26 Katherine Wallis with dog
- 27 Haultain grave stone
- 28 Dup.
- 29 War Medals
- 30
- 31 H Waldmann and student
- **Contact Sheet 3 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 2)**
- 6 Waldmann sculpting
- 7 Dup.
- 8 KEW with sculpted bust
- 9 KEW seated at desk
- 10 Funeral of Msr. Trenier, 1937
- 11 Quilt sent to Queen Elizabeth
- 12 Chapel of L'Ascension, Paris
- 13 Père Georges Lamothe, 1944
- 14 Paris, 1944
- 15 Dup.
- 16 Bosnians in native costume
- 17 Dup.

- 18 Dup.
- 19
- 20 In the garden, Rue D'Allery, Paris
- 21 Archimandrite Denis Chambault
- **Contact Sheet 3 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 6)**
- 22 Unidentified, South Kensington Notebook
(hereafter SKN)
- 23 Same
- 24 Same
- 25 Same
- 26 Same
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34 SKN
- 35 Dup. of above
- **Contact Sheet 4 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 6)**
- 14
- 15 SKN
- 16 Dup.
- **Contact Sheet 4 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 3)**
- 17 "From Pig-tails to KEW, 1956
- 18 Same [her father ie Pig-tails, 1937]
- 19 Same
- 20 KEW in Santa Cruz studio
- 21 KEW
- 22 Harold's visit, 1949
- 23 KEW and guest, 1949
- 24 KEW and guests
- 25 KEW: Harold's visit, 1949
- 26 Kathleen Wallis and KEW, 1949
- 27 KEW: Harold's visit, 1949
- 28 KEW, 1949
- 29 Mrs. Lynton, KEW, Gertrude
- 30 Unidentified
- 31 KEW
- 32 KEW
- 33 KEW, 1955
- 34 KEW and nephew Hugh, 1955
- 35 KEW, 1955
- 36 KEW, 1955
- 37 Roses, Santa Cruz
- 38

39
40 KEW
41 KEW
42 KEW
43 Santa Cruz
Contact Sheet 5 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 1)
5 C.S.W.
6 Hospital Chaise
7 C.S.W.
8 KEW and patient
9 KEW
10 Unidentified
17 KEW and Sergeant Besse
18 KEW
19
20
21 Unidentified (see sheet 1, nurse and patients)
22 As above
23 Unidentified
24 KEW and Marechal Courtois
25 "With love from Gertie & Marquis, 1919"
Contact sheet 5 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 2)
26 Exhibition at the Chateau Laurier
27 Same
28 Same
29 Same
30 Unidentified
31 Exhibition at the Chateau Laurier
32 KEW
33 KEW and Clara Haultain
34 KEW and Clara Haultain
35 "K. sketching. F & the cat looking on, 1922"
36 KEW and Waldmann
37 Unidentified 2
38 KEW
39 Maj. Gen. F.J. Fraser
40 KEW
Contact Sheet 6(a)
6 South Kensington Notebook (SKN)
7 Dup. of 6
8 Dup. of 6
9 SKN
10 Dup. of 9
11 SKN
12 Dup. of 11
13 SKN
14 Dup. of 13

15 SKN
16 Dup. of 15
17 SKN
Contact Sheet 6
8
9
10 SKN. Dup. of 29
11 SKN. Frieze
12
13
14 SKN
15 Dup. of 6:26
16 SKN
17 SKN
18 SKN. Female model
19 SKN. Female bust
20 SKN. Frieze
21 - 35 SKN: Various pieces of sculpture
Contact Sheet 7
4 - 32 SKN: Various pieces of sculpture
Contact Sheet 7 (corresponding photographs located in Vol. 1)
32 KEW in living room at Merino
33 Merino
34 Merino
35 Katherine and Adah Wallis
36 KEW about 1880
37 "Piper of Hamelin"
38 KEW
39 "In Captivity" by Waldmann
40 "Mother"
Contact Sheet 8
10 - 44 SKN: Various pieces of sculpture
Contact Sheet 9
6 - 17 SKN: Various pieces of sculpture

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- Textual records (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Drawings and sketches (documentary form)
- Arts (subject)

- Women's Studies (subject)