

Trent University Archives

Finding Aid - Dorothy Choate Herriman fonds. 1994 additions (94-019)

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Dorothy Choate Herriman fonds. 1994 additions

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Summary information

Repository:	Trent University Archives
Title:	Dorothy Choate Herriman fonds. 1994 additions
Reference code:	94-019
Date:	1903-1977 (creation)
Physical description:	45 cm of textual records and books 1 photograph album ca. 90 photographs 40 postcards 3 drawings 3 maps 1 scrapbook 1 object (ribbon)

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Dorothy Choate Herriman was born in September of 1901 at Lindsay, Ontario, the daughter of William Choate Herriman (Medical Director of the Ontario Hospital, Orillia) and Nellie J. Williams (daughter of Lewis Williams of Johnstown, Pennsylvania). Her family is related to the Choates who were early pioneer settlers in the area. She spent her childhood in Kingston, Toronto and Orillia. She was educated at the Model School in Toronto, Orillia Central School, Orillia Collegiate Institute, Havergal College in Toronto and the Ontario College of Art. She served, for a time, as secretary to the Canadian Author's Association. She was a poet and published a volume of poetry entitled *Mater Silva* in 1929 by McClelland and Stewart. She had numerous other poems published in newspapers and literary journals in Canada and England. Dorothy died in 1978.

Custodial history

This fonds was in the custody of Diane Choate, who inherited them from Doris Kennard, cousin of Dorothy Herriman. Diane Choate donated the fonds to the Trent University Archives.

Scope and content

This addition to the fonds consists of diaries, manuscripts, correspondence, photographs and newspaper clippings of Dorothy Choate Herriman. The fonds includes material on the Canadian Authors Association, Carol Cassidy Coates and other poets and writers. Newspaper clippings, original illustrated layout,

biographical information, author's proof and a bound copy of _Mater Silva_ are also included in the fonds. There is also an annotated copy of editor John Garvin's _Canadian Poets_.

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

This fonds was donated by Diane Choate of Trent University.

Restrictions on access

None

Accruals

This fonds is an addition to 92-010.

Note [General]

Special thanks to volunteer Claire Stewart, who rehoused and re-described this accession in 2026.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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Access points

- Textual records (documentary form)
 - Photographs (documentary form)
 - Postcards (documentary form)
 - Maps and atlases (documentary form)
 - Scrapbooks (documentary form)
 - Books and pamphlets (documentary form)
 - Objects (documentary form)
 - Arts (subject)
 - Literature and Publishing (subject)
 - Women's Studies (subject)
-

Series descriptions

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
94-019/001(01)	File - Diaries: 1-3	1926-1928	1 folder of textual records (3 diaries)

	<i>Scope and content:</i> File consists of 3 diaries of Dorothy Choate Herriman. Diary 1 pertains to when Herriman and family lived in Orillia, Ontario where her father was assistant superintendent of the Ontario Hospital at Orillia. Dorothy was in Toronto attending Ontario College of Art (OCA) for her last year. She writes about her new Remington portable typewriter, a new short coat, dreading going home for the summer because the house is "all torn up" and she and her mother seem incompatible. On July 24, she notes a drowning accident in Balsam Lake when 11 boys of St. Andrews Brotherhood died. August 19, "as a united household we would make a good volcanic eruption! We are the acme of disintegration, individualism & misinterpretations. I wish some invisible being would 'write us up' --- as a comedy." September 25, Garvin's book containing poems and photographs of Dorothy Herriman was published, and Dorothy hated her picture, "...I have such a 'hatchet' faced expression." She returned to OCA. in October and found that "Mr. Reid is very uninspiring in costume. I shall forget all I ever learned with Mr. Varley." On October 18, Herriman notes it is a red-letter day because she was "wangled" into getting her hair bobbed. Diary 2 starts with Herriman's last few months at OCA. On March 4, she is wondering who will get appointed as administrator of Rockwood. The diary is full of details about courses, instructors, public lectures she has attended, residence problems, health concerns, and letters from her father. On May 30, Herriman talks about her mother who has gone to Battle Creek for a few days and has consulted Dr. Kellogg. Dr. William Herriman had been assistant superintendent at Orillia, and in 1927 was made superintendent of the Ontario Hospital at Cobourg as Herriman notes on September 20. On November 17 she writes, "I seem to crave an impetus of some sort to feel any vital interest in life. I must be suffering from ennui--or the modern craze for excitement & stimulation." Diary 3 documents a problem in the family with William and his daughter Dorothy's habit of going to bed at 2:00 AM and often later and not arising until noon. The diary also talks about quarrels with her mother and constant tension at home. On May 10 she writes, "Daddy wants to go to Orillia over Sunday but is afraid I won't get up on time while he is away. He looks 'crushed & broken' with his 'domestic troubles'."		
94-019/001(02)	File - Diaries: 4-5 1930, 1932-1933 1 folder of textual records (2 diaries) <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes two diaries by Dorothy Choate Herriman. Diary 4 documents Dorothy Herriman at home in Cobourg. Her grandmother's funeral was on June 16. The diary also talks about more family "ructions," and the beginning evidence of economic depression in towns. Diary 5 has introspective writing with much soul-searching. Dorothy Herriman is living in Toronto, visiting family and friends in Cobourg, Port Hope and Orillia, trying to write. There is conflict with her mother and despair over what she perceives as the lack of courage of a weak father. Her father is going to have trouble financing Cousin Doris, Orillia, at Normal School and Dorothy wished the chance to give back some of her years at Havergal or Tech. or the Ontario College of Art since "my reward for study has certainly not been monetary -- nor has it brought me a peaceful environment." She starts her infatuation with a cousin, Ralph Wilson, which becomes a love affair and lasts until 1938. The economic depression is severe. She notes one Orillia suicide and tells of a neighbour, Mr. Dempsey who has lost his job as manager of local branch of the Northway's store. File also includes many newspaper clippings.		
94-019/001(03)	File - Diaries: 6-7 (many loose pages) 1927-, 1933-1934 1 folder of textual records (2 diaries) <i>Scope and content:</i> File consists of two diaries of Dorothy Choate Herriman, along with correspondence between Dorothy and her mother (1927) and newspaper clippings. In diary 6, Herriman writes of family discord, with thwarted writing. She talks about last illness and death of her mother (May 1934). Diary 7 talks about her father apparently objecting to her affair with a "relative". Dorothy turned 33 that year and writes of her continuing relationship with "R" [Ralph Wilson].		

94-019/001(04)	File - Diaries: 8-9	1938-1940	1 folder of textual records (2 diaries)
	<i>Scope and content:</i> File consists of 2 diaries and a few newspaper clippings. Diary 8 talks about the relationship with "R" [Wilson] winding down and a new infatuation with Eric Gaskell, National Secretary of the Canadian Authors' Association (CAA). Diary 9 discusses the Journal of the CAA. convention and her feelings for Eric of whom she would "trail his footprints like a faithful hound - to Hell or Heaven."		
94-019/001(05)	File - Diaries: 10-11	1940, 1946-1947	1 folder of textual records (2 diaries)1 sketch
	<i>Scope and content:</i> File consists of 2 diaries and one sketch of "The Radical" (R.S.K.) by DCH [Dorothy Choate Herriman] (1946), in the back. Diary 10 documents a party for Sir Charles G.D. Roberts' 80th birthday attended by Canadian literary people, W. Perkins Bull, etc. Notes also an "at-home" at the Art College with the Reids, Jackson, Sir Wyly [Grier] etc. In Diary 11, Herriman writes of her interest in Robert Sheldon Kenny, a friend of Dorothy Livesay, beginning in 1946. He began his career as an anarchist but gradually worked for organized labour as a socialist. Dorothy H. met him when he worked in a second-hand bookshop in Toronto. A penciled note on the first page by Dorothy gives an outline of their friendship written in 1972.		
94-019/001(06)	File - Correspondence from Dorothy to Papa, Daddy	1912-1918	1 folder of textual records1 sketch
94-019/001(07)	File - Correspondence from Dorothy to parents	1924-1926	1 folder of textual records
94-019/001(08)	File - Correspondence from Dorothy to parents, and unknown correspondent to Dorothy	1933-1934	1 folder of textual records
94-019/001(09)	File - Correspondence from Dorothy to parents: includes pressed flower, leaf, and birch bark with writing	1941	1 folder of textual records
94-019/002(01)	File - Alack I Loved: coloured illustrated manuscript, text and drawings by Dorothy Choate Herriman. Spelling changes penciled in by Herriman	[19--]	1 folder textual records
94-019/002(02)	File - Clippings of poetry by Frances Hanson and Caterwaul by Dorothy C. Herriman	[19--]	1 folder textual records1 drawing
	<i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes a hand drawn illustration and lists of names.		
94-019/002(03)	File - Poetry and clippings by Dorothy Herriman, Margaret Laurence, and Margaret Atwood	1920-1954, 1972-1974	1 folder textual records
94-019/002(04)	File - Newspaper clippings, photographs, and poetry by Elizabeth Donaldson and Dorothy Choate Herriman	1921, 1936, 1940-1941	1 folder of textual records15 photographs2 postcards1 map1 object (ribbon)
	<i>Scope and content:</i> File includes a photograph of the Canadian Authors Association (CAA) convention in Victoria, Vancouver and a photograph of Sir Charles G.D. Roberts (1940). File also includes an annotated dial		

	map of Greater Vancouver, a Canadian Authors Association ribbon, newspaper clippings, hand drawn illustrations, correspondence relating to Mater Silva, and publisher's contract.		
94-019/002(05)	File - Original layout and documents relating to Mater Silva <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes newspaper, clippings, hand drawn illustrations, correspondence relating to Mater Silva, and publisher's contract.	1929, 1944, 1968	1 folder of textual records and drawings
94-019/002(06)	File - Mater Silva, by Dorothy Choate Herriman, published by McClelland and Stewart in Toronto (2 copies)	1929	2 volumes
94-019/002(07)	File - Dorothy Herriman, notebook (mostly empty)	1931, 1977	1 notebook
94-019/002(08)	File - Poetry yearbook by Canadian Authors' Association, and original poem by Dorothy Choate Herriman <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes newspaper clippings and annotations.	1935, 1961	1 folder textual records
94-019/002(09)	File - Literary journals and poetry <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes poem and collage by Dorothy Choate Herriman for M.N.G., Last days on the desert by A.E. Sprogis, illustrations by Christine Roberts (1974), and a certificate to Dorothy.	1904, 1926, 1936-1950, 1974	1 folder of textual records
94-019/002(10)	File - Seven Concertos, by Carl Philip Emanuel Bach, broadcasted by CBC (1943), partly used as a scrapbook <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes newspaper clippings and poetry by Dorothy C. Herriman.	1943, 1969-1976	1 volume1 photograph
94-019/002(11)	File - Canadian Poets, edited by John W. Garvin (1926), used as a scrapbook <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes newspaper clippings, poetry, correspondence, and photographs of Dorothy C. Herriman aged fifteen months, two, and ten.	1903-1953, 1972-1973	1 volume5 photographs1 postcard
94-019/002(12)	File - Photographs, clippings, cards, and poetry by Robina Monkman <i>Scope and content:</i> File also includes correspondence between Dorothy and Robina Monkman and photographs of Robina Monkman and Victoria, Malahat, Vancouver, Kamloops, Calgary, and Banff.	1938-1950	1 folder textual records36 postcards27 photographs1 map
94-019/002(13)	File - Notes and poetry by Amabel King	1939, 1941	1 folder of textual records
94-019/002(14)	File - Poetry books by Carol Cassidy Coates (some inscribed to Dorothy) <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes correspondence and the following poetry books: - Fancy Free - Shanling - The Return and Selected Poems - Invitation to Mood	1941-1950	1 folder of textual records1 volume

	- The Jade Heart		
94-019/003(01)	File - Dorothy Herriman, "Personal Anthology"	1945-1946	1 folder of textual records
94-019/003(02)	File - Photographs <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes the following photographs: - Photographs from Canadian Authors' Association (CAA) convention in Montreal with Mary McCullough, Robina Monkman, Anne Marriott, Amabel King, Elsie Pomeroy, Lloyd Roberts, and Robert J.C. Stead (1940) - Dorothy Herriman, (1939-1943) - Copy photograph of Bliss Carmen - Dorothy with Bliss Carman (1921) - Copy photograph of Sir Charles G.D. Roberts (1940) - Dorothy Herriman, studio photo (1926) - Dorothy Herriman in backyard feeding blue jay (1952)	1921-1952	12 photographs
94-019/003(03)	File - Scrapbook: verses and clippings regarding animals, collected by Dorothy C. Herriman	1928-1949	1 scrapbook1 postcard
94-019/003(04)	File - Photograph album <i>Scope and content:</i> File includes the following: - Photos from Canadian Authors' Association convention, Halifax, 1939 - Many postcards from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, convention programs, etc. Program from Canadian Authors' Association convention at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, 1940. - Many photos taken when Dorothy attended the C.A.A. convention in Victoria, B.C. in 1941, plus post cards of scenes in British Columbia and Alberta. - Glossy prints, (8x10) of Sir Charles Roberts, E.J. Pratt, E.A. Hardy, and Walter McRae reading at the Canadian Literature Club, Toronto, 5 December 1938. - Newspaper clippings	1938-1941, 1998	1 photograph album28 photographs1 map