

# **Research Collections**



## A. J. Smyth fonds

https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions359

Part Of: A. J. Smyth fonds

Description Level: 1 / Fonds
Fonds Number: V 41
Sous-Fonds: V41
Accession Number: 6344

GMD: Photograph

Photograph print Textual record Private record

V41

Date Range: [1884-1885]

Physical Description: 16 photographs: prints. -- 1 textual record

History / Biographical:

Reference Code:

A. J. Smyth was an itinerant photographer who worked along the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1884-1885 he was working at the end of track in the Rocky and Selkirk Mountains. By 1885, A. J. Smyth was working with his brother, S. A. Smyth, as Smyth Brothers of Calgary, Alberta.

#### Scope & Content:

Fonds consists of photographic views of railway construction in the Kicking Horse Valley and life at Donald, B.C. Accompanied by letter from Bob [Mead], Spring Valley, Minnesota, to brother Ed Mead, Saw Mill Siding, End of C.P.Ry., Track west via Winnipeg, Man., Canada, May 17, 1885. Views are credited as A. J. Smyth, Artist, Rocky Mountains, B.C. or A. J. Smyth, Photographer, Rocky Mountains, B.C.

Name Access: Smyth, A. J.

Subject Access: Arts

Environment Transportation

Access Restrictions: No restrictions on access

Public domain (other restrictions may apply)

Language: Language is English

Finding Aid: Finding aids and reference tools: modern reference prints

Creator: Smyth, A. J.

Category: Arts

Environment Transportation

Title Source: Title based on credits on photographs

Processing Status: Processed

This material is presented as originally created; it may contain outdated cultural descriptions and potentially offensive content. Read more.



## Alex McCoubrey fonds

https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions272

Part Of: Alex McCoubrey fonds

Description Level: 1 / Fonds
Fonds Number: M 140
Sous-Fonds: M140
Accession Number: 6331
Reference Code: M140

GMD: Textual record

Private record

Date Range: [ca.1953]-1957

Physical Description: 4 cm of textual records

History / Biographical:

Alex McCoubrey, b.ca.1916, of Winnipeg, Manitoba was introduced to mountaineering in the Canadian Rockies at the age of eleven by his father, A. A. McCoubrey. Alex McCoubrey was also involved in early ski mountaineering, making his first trip at the age of seventeen.

#### Scope & Content:

Fonds consists of untitled manuscript by Alex McCoubrey includes excerpts and elaborations of his mountaineering diaries, 1927-1953. Pertains to early climbing experiences with his father, 1927; climbing trips with various companions, 1932-1938; descriptions of ski and ski mountaineering trips and first ascent of Mount Field, 1934-1938; 1942 season of climbing; ACC ski camps, 1943; ACC summer camps, 1952-1953; account of being lost near Mount Brown, 1953. Provides detailed accounts of travels, climbs, friends and acquaintances, particularly Grahame Cairns, Norman H. Brewster, Ken Jones; also Margaret Fleming, Bob Hind, Roger Neave and Rex Gibson. Geographic areas discussed include: Lake O'Hara, Lake Louise, Yoho, Glacier, Skoki, Jasper and Vancouver Island areas.

Name Access: McCoubrey, Alex

Subject Access: Exploration, discovery and travel

Family and personal life

Sports, recreation and leisure

Access Restrictions: No restrictions on access

Copyright, privacy, commercial use and other restrictions may apply

Language: Language is English
Creator: McCoubrey, Alex

Category: Exploration, discovery and travel

Family and personal life

Sports, recreation and leisure

Biographical Source

Alex McCoubrey was still alive as of summer 2001

Notes:

Title Source: Title based on accession record

Processing Status: Processed

This material is presented as originally created; it may contain outdated cultural descriptions and potentially offensive content. Read more.



## Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds

https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions36

Part Of: Peter and Catharine Whyte fonds

Description Level: 1 / Fonds

Fonds Number: M36 / V683 / S37

Sous-Fonds: TBD

Accession Number: 3069 and various Reference Code: M36 / S37 / V683

GMD: Drawing

Motion picture

Film

Photograph

Album

Ambrotype

Cased photograph

Daguerreotype

Negative

Photograph print

Postcard Tintype

Transparency
Sound recording

Cassette
Reel to reel
Textual record

Plan Poster

Private record

Published record

Other Title Info: Also known as the Whyte family fonds

Date Range: 1856-1980

Physical Description: 25 m of textual records. -- ca.46,000 photographs: prints, albums,

postcards, cased photographs, transparencies, negatives. -- 178 sound recordings: audio tape reels, audio tape cassettes. -- 6 motion pictures

(and film strips)

# History / Biographical:

Peter and Catharine Whyte were artists, photographers, outdoor enthusiasts, travelers, philanthropists and cultural workers at Banff, Alberta, Canada. Peter Whyte, 1905-1966, was born at Banff in 1905 to pioneer merchant Dave White and Annie (Curren) White. He was an accomplished skier and ski jumper and one of the region's first native-born painters with an intimate knowledge of the mountains and was an active photographer from ca.1920 until the 1950s. Peter Whyte studied art at the Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, 1923-1924, and at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Boston, 1925, where he met Catharine Robb. Catharine Robb Whyte, 1906-1979, was born in 1906 at Concord, Massachusetts and grew up amongst the wealth and creativity of the Robb and Morse families. She studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Boston, 1925-1929.

Following their marriage in 1930, the Whytes pursued a life of painting, photography, hiking, skiing and travelling. Their log home and studio in Banff became a focal point for their artist friends, Stoney Indians and local pioneers. Catharine shared Pete's involvement in skiing and hiking organizations and together they managed Skoki Lodge from 1932-1934. In following years, the Whytes travelled extensively. During the Second World War, Peter served in the reserve army, with the Royal Canadian Air Force as a photographer and, briefly, as an official war artist. Catharine continued to paint and maintain their home and, when possible, accompanied Pete to his military postings. In civilian life, Pete resumed his art career, explored new photographic techniques and sculpted.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the Whytes formulated plans for a foundation to preserve the art and history of the Canadian Rockies. Plans for a building to house an archives, public library and gallery were in preparation when Pete died in 1966. The Peter Whyte Foundation was named in his honour. Catharine immersed herself in the development of what is now the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, in the cultural community, painting, outdoor activity, travel and work with the Stoney First Nations. She became a more active photographer, recording her travels and outdoor pursuits. She served in an official capacity with numerous cultural and charitable organizations, was a patron to individuals studying art and music, and supported numerous causes relating to the Stoney First Nations. Catharine also supported causes related to multiculturalism, regional culture and recreation, and cancer research. Despite her modesty and often anonymous patronage of causes, Catharine was recognized with numerous awards and honours, including the Order of Canada in 1978. She died in Banff in 1979.

### Scope & Content:

Fonds consists of papers, photographs and sound recordings of Peter and Catharine Whyte and the papers and photographs of their respective families. Consists of three sous-fonds: V683, S37 and M36. M36 and S37 consists of three series. Series I: Peter and Catharine Whyte, Series II: Robb and Morse families, Series III: White and Curren families. Within Series I, there are four Sub-series: Series: A. Catharine Robb Whyte papers; B. Peter Whyte papers; C. Peter and Catharine Whyte papers accessioned after 2017; D. Peter and Catharine Whyte sound recordings.

Name Access: Whyte, Peter

Whyte, Catharine

Subject Access: Arts

Communications Environment

Exploration, discovery and travel

Family and personal life

First nations

Sports, recreation and leisure

Access Restrictions: Some restriction/s on access

Copyright, privacy, commercial use and other restrictions may apply

Language: Language is English

Finding Aid: Finding aids and reference tools: arrangement outline

sous-fonds, series and file description for textual sub-series and group description for photographs

item description, subject/proper name index, and summaries for sound

recordings

reference copies for sound recordings

Creator: Whyte, Peter

Whyte, Catharine

Category: Arts

Communications

Environment

Exploration, discovery and travel

Family and personal life

First nations

Sports, recreation and leisure

Title Source: Title based on contents of fonds

Processing Status: Processed

### Electronic Resources



This material is presented as originally created; it may contain outdated cultural descriptions and potentially offensive content. Read more.