



## Boorne and May fonds

<https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions100>

Part Of: Boorne and May fonds

Description Level: 1 / Fonds

Fonds Number: V 10

Sous-Fonds: V10

Accession Number: 494, 658, 1449, 3227, 6169, 6173, 6208, 6603, 7508

Reference Code: V10

GMD: Photograph  
Album  
Photograph print

Date Range: [ca.1887-1888]

Physical Description: 1 photograph album (100 prints). -- 40 photographs : prints

### History /

### Biographical:

The photographic firm of Boorne and May, a portrait, landscape and architectural business, operated in Calgary and Edmonton, N.W.T. (now Alberta) between 1886 and 1893. William Hanson Boorne, 1859-1945, and his cousin, Ernest Gundry May, opened their Calgary studio in 1886, later expanding the business to Edmonton. During its short life, Boorne and May was one of the most prestigious photographic firms in western Canada.

### Scope & Content:

Fonds consist of two separate series: A. Prints; B. Photograph Albums. Fonds consists primarily of presentation album titled "Landscapes," containing one hundred views along the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Rocky and Selkirk Mountains. The album contains many popular views of the period and is inscribed to "W. Whyte Esq., General Superintendent, Western Division C.P.R., Winnipeg. With Boorne & May's Compliments. Calgary. January 1889." Also includes individual prints of similar views to those in the album and include views as far west as Yale, B.C.

Twenty-two prints, attributable to Boorne and May through photographer numbers and titles on the fronts, are stamped "From J. Nicholson, Photo Artist, Boissevain, Man." on the reverse. Nicholson was a professional photographer at Boissevain, Manitoba between 1888 and 1893. His business was sold to Jas. E. Miers in 1893.

Name Access: Boorne and May

Subject Access: Arts  
Environment  
Exploration, discovery and travel

Access Restrictions: Some restrictions on access to originals  
Public domain (other restrictions may apply)

Language: Language is English

Finding Aid: Finding aids and reference tools: basic description  
selected modern reference prints  
digital images in Images database and in Alberta InSight database

Creator: Boorne and May

Category: Arts  
Environment  
Exploration, discovery and travel  
Title Source: Title based on contents of fonds  
Processing Status: Processed

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## 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
Access Restrictions:	Sports, recreation and leisure
	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

Peter and Catharine Whyte Fonds

m36\_s37\_finding\_aid.pdf

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