



Robert J. McGuinness fonds

<https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions276>

Part Of: Robert J. McGuinness fonds

Description Level: 1 / Fonds

Fonds Number: M 460

Sous-Fonds: M 460

Accession Number: 960

3707

2018.9000

Reference Code: M460

GMD: Textual record

Plan

Postcard

Private record

Date Range: 1940-1950

1954

1955

1960

1977

1978

1980-1983

Physical Description: 1.11 cm of textual records (34 pages : 29 x 42 cm or smaller) -- 9 architectural drawings : annotations ; 89 x 58 cm or smaller

History /

Biographical:

Originally from ancient Iveagh, which is now County Down, Ireland, the McGuinness family eventually migrated to Liverpool at an unknown time. The McGuinness family were provision merchants in Liverpool, but found supplies limited so they emigrated to Canada. Born on June 20, 1886 in Liverpool, Father Robert James McGuinness moved to Belleville, Ontario, Canada with his family in 1890. He had 7 brothers and sisters, including Oswald A. McGuinness, who settled in Invermere, British Columbia.

Robert attended St. Lawrence College in Ampleforth, Yorkshire, and completed his studies at St. Servan in Rhiems, France, qualifying as an engineer. He held a position with the federal government upon his return to Canada, however when World War I broke out Robert served in the 29th Battalion of CRTS building pontoons behind European battle lines. After returning to Canada, Robert worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway as an architectural engineer, which brought him west to Banff, Alberta. Robert was the resident architectural engineer overlooking the construction of the Banff Springs Hotel expansion in the 1920's.

In the late 1920's, Robert traveled to Rome to enter the seminary and four years later he was ordained as a priest. After serving as priest in Calgary, Robert was appointed Catholic priest in Banff in 1936, where he lived and worked until his death in 1961. To fulfill a personal dream, Robert designed and supervised the construction of the new church building and grounds for St. Mary's Parish (St. Mary's of the Assumption) which was completed in 1951. During his years in Europe, Robert visited ancient churches and cathedrals which influenced the design of the church, primarily the Norman Chateau architectural style.

Robert was also a talented artist. Some of his work can be seen in galleries in New York and in Banff. His work has been reproduced for Canadian Pacific Railway tourism material, including the Spiral Tunnels postcard included in this fonds.

Robert died in Calgary on June 17, 1961, just shy of his 75th birthday, after being ill for a few months.

Scope & Content:

Fonds consists of two series:

I. St. Mary's Parish, ca.1945-1983, 0.16 cm, and contains two sub-series: A. Architecture, ca.1945-1983 (architectural plans, general information); B. Correspondence and Newspaper Clippings (pertaining to Father McGuinness and St. Mary's Parish), 1950-1978.

II. McGuinness Family, 1953-1977, 1 cm (private records, including handwritten notes, a memoir, and a postcard).

Notes:

. Younger brother Oswald was a surveyor who built the road from Invermere to Calgary

There is some indication that Robert had a role in the construction of the Bow River Bridge or the collection of the stones used for the bridge, but this is unconfirmed

Name Access:

McGuinness, Robert J.

Subject Access:	Architecture
	Art
	Banff
	Buildings
	Churches
	Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel
	Family and personal life
	Professional and Personal Life
	Religions
	St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church
Geographic Access:	Alberta
	Banff
	Banff National Park
	Canada
	Ontario
Access Restrictions:	No restrictions on access
	Copyright, privacy, commercial use and other restrictions may apply
Language:	Language is English
Related Material:	08.3 / Si 3m / Pam
	08.3 / B22 stm / Pam
	08.3 / Sa 2 / Pam
Creator:	McGuinness, Robert J.
Category:	Family and personal life
	Religions
Biographical Source	Based on contents of the fonds
Notes:	https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/g/o/g/Laurie-Goggin/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0444.html
	"St. Mary's of the Assumption" pamphlet printed by the Crag and Canyon in Banff (08.3/Sa 2/Pam)
	http://www.stmarysparishbanff.ca/history/
Title Source:	Title based on accession records
Processing Status:	Processed

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