

Research Collections



Charlie Russell fonds

https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions643

Part Of: Charlie Russell fonds

Description Level: 1 / Fonds
Fonds Number: V 557
Sous-Fonds: V557
Accession Number: 7728
Reference Code: V557

GMD: Photograph

Negative

Transparency

Date Range: ca.1961-ca.1968

Physical Description: ca. 2520 photographs: b&w negatives; 35 mm and 4x5, 2

transparencies; col.

History / Biographical:

Andrew Charles "Charlie" Russell (August 19, 1941 – May 7, 2018) was a naturalist, photographer, pilot, wilderness guide, and rancher. One of the son's of Andy Russell and Kay Russell and grandson of Bert Riggall, Charlie grew up at the Hawk's Nest ranch on the N.E. boundary of Waterton Lake National Park.

Alongside his brother Dick Russell, Charlie assisted his father Andy in the production and filming of Grizzly Country throughout the Canadian Rockies, British Columbia, and Alaska from 1961-1964. In 1967 he returned to the Tolkat River in Alaska to photograph and observe bears alone. In 1970 he purchased a large percentage of his fathers land on Waterton's north-east border to run a cattle operation. In 1991, he made his first visit to Princess Royal Island, British Columbia, and began photographing for "Spirit Bear", a book of photographs and writings published in 1994. Beginning in 1997, Charlie spent 6 years among the grizzlies of Kamchatka Peninsula in eastern Russia alongside artist and partner Maureen Enns. After returning to Alberta from Russia, Charlie continued to be a conservation advocate until he passed from a surgery-related complication in May 2018.

The bulk of Charlie Russell's work was destroyed in a house fire in [1991?].

Scope & Content:

The Charlie Russell fonds consists of photographs pertaining to the filming of "Grizzly Country", ranching, friends and family, wildlife, and recreational activities, ca.1961-ca.1968. The majority of the images were made in the Waterton Lakes area. There are some images made in New York City, British Columbia, and Alaska.

The fonds is comprised of two series: I. Black and white negatives; II. Transparencies; I. Black and white negatives consists of A. 1964, B. Waterton Park Flood, June 8-9, 1963, C. 35mm Books, D. 4x5 Book, E. Bert Riggall Copy Negatives. II. Transparencies consist of two 4x5 colour transparencies depicting Cal Wellman's Cattle.

Notes: I.C. was received in the form of three separate negative books. The

> books have been arranged numerically in subseries I.C, with the negative book book and page number of origin written on the negative sleeves.

For example, V557/I/C/NA-1a to NA-6e [Book 1, pg. 1,2].

Select 35mm negatives in I.C. are marked with red stickers and overlaid with rectangles on the negative sleeve. These negatives correspond to the negatives used in "Spirit Bear" and their cropping for publication. Each image is listed and described in the case file on the document titled "These are the negs used in Spirit Bear Chapter One". Some of the dots have a number corresponding to the document, others do not (the stickers were taken from the original negative sleeves and re-applied to the new negative sleeves).

Name Access: Russell, Andrew Charles (Charlie)

> Russell, Charlie Russell, Andy Riggall, Bert

Subject Access: Environment

> Sports, recreation and leisure Science and technology

Natural resources

Education

Hawk's Nest Ranch

Bears Wildlife

Waterton Lakes National Park Geographic Access:

Mount McKinley

Canada Alberta Alaska

British Columbia

United States of America

Language:

Finding Aid: Revised digital and original handwritten in case file

Related Material: Related by provenance to a portion of Andy Russell fonds.

Creator: Russell, Charlie Education Category: Environment

Sports, recreation and leisure

Science and technology

Natural resources

Biographical Source

Accession record.

Notes: Handwritten documents in case file.

"Spirit Bear, Encounters with the White Bear of the Western Rainforest",

Charlie Russell, 1994, Key Porter Books Limited. Pg 12-25.

https://charlierussellbears.com/

Title Source: Title based on contents of fonds

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



I. C. 1. Book 1

https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions54479

Part Of: Charlie Russell fonds

Description Level: 5 / File
Fonds Number: V557
Series: I
Sous-Fonds: V557

Sub-Series: C
Accession Number: 7728

Reference Code: V557 / I / C / 1
GMD: Photograph

Negative

Date Range: ca.1961-ca.1968

Physical Description: ca. 800 photographs: b&w negatives; 35 mm

Scope & Content:

File consists of black and white negatives pertaining to a trip to New York City, Wildlife, Clarence Tillenius, the filming of Andy Russell's "Grizzly Country", the Hawk's Nest, packtrains, wildlife, and hiking.

Notes: When initially housed in negative books, certain negatives had numbered

or unnumbered red stickers and overlaid rectangles to indicate which negatives were to be reproduced for Charlie Russells book "Spirit Bear", as well as how to reporduction was to be cropped. Both the stickers and the cropping information was carried over into the new housing and corresponds with the "These are the negs used for Spirit Bear chapter

one" document in the case file.

Name Access: Russell, Andy

Russell, Andrew Charles (Charlie)

Tillenius, Clarence

Russell, Dick

Subject Access: Artist

Animals Bears

Big Horn Sheep Bighorn Sheep

Birds Caribou

Hawk's Nest Ranch

Grizzly Bears Marmots

Moose

Geographic Access: New York

United States of America

Mount McKinley

Alaska Waterton

Waterton Lakes National Park

Alberta Canada

Language: English

Finding Aid: Revised digital and original handwritten in case file

Creator: Charlie Russell

Title Source: Title based on contents of file

Processing Status: Processed

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



I. C. 35mm Books

https://archives.whyte.org/en/permalink/descriptions54474

Part Of: Charlie Russell fonds

Description Level: 4 / Sub-series

Fonds Number: V557
Series: I
Sous-Fonds: V557
Sub-Series: C
Accession Number: 7728
Reference Code: V557/I/V

GMD: Photograph

Negative

Date Range: ca.1961-ca.1968

Physical Description: 2337 photographs: b&w negatives; 35 mm

Scope & Content:

Subseries consists of 2377 black and white 35mm negatives pertaining to the filming of "Grizzly Country",ranching, friends and family, wildlife, skiing, hunting trophies, hiking, a trip to New York City, snowshoeing, and pack trains.

Notes: When initially housed in negative books, certain negatives had numbered

or unnumbered red stickers and verlaid rectangles to indicate which negatives were to be reproduced for Charlie Russells book "Spirit Bear", as well as how to reporduction was to be cropped. Both the stickers and the cropping information was carried over into the new housing and corresponds with the "These are the negs used for Spirit Bear chapter

one" document in the case file.

Name Access: Russell, Andrew Charles (Charlie)

Russell, Andy

Tillenius, Clarence

Russell, Dick

Subject Access: Animals

Backpacking

Birds
Bison
Marmots
Hiking
Skiing

Family and personal life

Moose

Caribou

Horse packing

Camping

Environment and Nature

Farmland Filmaking Grizzly Bears

Hawk's Nest Ranch

Hunting

Outfitters, trail guides and packers

Geographic Access: Waterton

Waterton Lakes National Park

Alberta Canada Alaska New York

United States of America

British Columbia

Language: English

Finding Aid: Revised digital and original handwritten in case file

Creator: Charlie Russell

Title Source: Title based on contents of file

Processing Status: Processed

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