

Kamloops Museum and Archives

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Kamloops Little Theatre fonds

1991.034

Compiled by
Jaimie Fedorak, January 2020

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KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

1991.034

Access: Open.

Kamloops Little Theatre fonds

Textual, Graphic

1907-1975

0.10 meters

Title: Kamloops Little Theatre fonds

Dates of Creation: 1957-1975

Physical Description: 10 cm of textual records and 17 b&w photographs

Administrative History:

The Kamloops Little Theatre was an amateur theatre company formed in Kamloops, B.C. in April 1932. J.J. Kerr was their first elected president, and by the middle of the month they had already set up committees to begin planning plays. In June, the Company had found premises to operate in the Godman Block (currently the Ellis Block) in the former location of the Canadian Legion Club, but after months of work to renovate the space they were told to move elsewhere. By October they were in good standing in the Fremont Block, due to the support of local businessman and politician John Fremont Smith. This space was not meant to hold performances, and was strictly for rehearsals and administrative purposes, and the company's early performances were held in the basement of the Nurses' Residence and in the Elk's Hall. On October 20, 1932 the company performed for the first time, showing four short plays, and by early the following year were performing full length plays, short pieces, and readings for regular audiences. In November 1933 the company was able to move back to their original space in the Godman Block, and they quickly established a regular season of performances - full-length plays performed in November and December, and shorter pieces performed in the Spring. During their hey-day in the 1930s the company had guest troops sponsor their performances, memorably the UBC Players in 1935 and the Vancouver Progressive Arts Club in 1936, and would travel throughout the region to perform and compete in theatre festivals. In 1937 the company moved to the basement below the Galloway-Ellis drugstore. During World War II the company was involved in fundraising activities to support the war efforts and local soldiers by holding special performances, and they were also instrumental in fundraising activities for the construction of Memorial Arena after the war. In 1953 they moved to occupy the old Golf Club building, but by the end of the 1950s they were beginning to struggle for audiences and membership. Yet, after the reported "membership crisis," there was a revival of interest in theatre activities in Kamloops, and the company would continue to operate through the 1960s. The Kamloops Little Theatre was formally dissolved in April 1971.

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Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of records collected, used, and created by the Kamloops Little Theatre, including scripts (some with written notes), programmes and pamphlets for theatre performances and festivals, drama magazines, a ledger of accounts, correspondence, and photographs. Fonds also contains two records related to J.H. Binns' (donor Agnes Binns' husband) activities with the Kamloops I.O.O.F.

Custodial History:

Accession 1991.034 was donated to the Kamloops Museum and Archives on August 1, 1991 by Cavendish Lab (of Burnaby, B.C.) on behalf of the family of Agnes Binns. Binns was the former president of the Kamloops Little Theatre during the 1940s onwards, and was one of the organization's original members.

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Notes:

Source of supplied title: Title based on contents of fonds.

Arrangement: Order that fonds arrived in was maintained by the archivist.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access. The archivist reserves the right to restrict access to any fragile material for preservation purposes.

Terms governing use and reproduction: No reproduction permitted without consent of copyright holder. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission for the reproduction of materials for publication or dissemination.

Finding aids: File list is available for this collection.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Related materials: See Artifact Collection for additional materials donated with accession 1991.034.

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Accession	Description	Dates	Box/Folder
1991.034.002-015	Scripts – File contains scripts for plays used by the Kamloops Little Theatre, some including written notes. Plays include: <i>Through the Keyhole</i> , <i>The Dear Departed</i> , <i>Fine Feathers</i> , <i>Hands Across the Sea</i> , <i>The Tenth Word</i> , <i>Enter the Angela</i> , <i>The Weakness of Frau Borkhardt</i> , <i>Fixing it for Father</i> , <i>The Shakespeare Garden Club</i> , <i>The Late Christopher Bean</i> , <i>The Mousetrap</i> , <i>Green Stockings</i> , <i>My Three Angels</i> , and <i>Daughters of the Sea</i> . – 7.5 cm of textual records	1926-1954	1/1
1991.034.016	British Columbia Drama, No. 1 Vol. 2 – File contains an issue of the magazine <i>British Columbia Drama</i> , No. 1 Vol. 2, published by the School and Community Drama Branch of the Department of Education, Victoria, B.C. – 0.25 cm of textual records	Autumn 1953	1/2
1991.034.017	Dominion Drama Festival 1953 programme – File contains a programme for the Dominion Drama Festival, held at the Royal Theatre in Victoria, B.C. from May 4-9, 1953. – 0.25 cm of textual records	1953	1/3
1991.034.018	Kam. Little Theatre Correspondence – File contains correspondence relating to the dissolution of the Kamloops Little Theatre. – 8 textual records	1968-1975	1/4
1991.034.019	J.H. Binns' I.O.O.F. records – File contains a program for an annual I.O.O.F. banquet and a letter to J.H. Binns. – 2 textual records	1907-1921	1/5
1991.034.020-026	Programmes and Pamphlets – File contains programmes and pamphlets for performances by the Kamloops Little Theatre and other theatre companies. – 0.5 cm of textual records	1915-1952	1/6
1991.034.027-043	Photographs – File contains photographs of performances by the Kamloops Little Theatre. – 17 b&w photographs	[ca. 1930s-1940s?]	1/7
1991.034.044	Ledger – File contains a ledger of accounts, which also contains insurance forms and certificates for the Little Theatre Club House. – 1.5 cm of textual records	1949-1959	1/8