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**Accession No.****Provenance Heading**

B1997-0031

Kenneth McNaught Personal Records

Records [textual; publications; works of art], 1909-1997; 2.42 m

**Access:** Series 5 Subseries 2 is restricted. All other series are open.**Biographical note:**

Kenneth William Kirkpatrick McNaught was born in Toronto on November 10, 1918, the son of William Carlton McNaught and Eleanor Sanderson. Both his father, a graduate of University of Toronto (BA, 1911) and mother were writers. Carlton McNaught worked for a number of years with newspapers in Toronto and with the *Calgary Herald*, was a writer and account executive for an advertising firm, and later did editorial work for the Ryerson Press in Toronto. Eleanor Sanderson, “the clever young Canadian writer”, was one of the first women reporters for the *Toronto Star*. His grandfather was Colonel W. K. McNaught, a member of the Ontario Legislature (ca 1910) and member of the Hydroelectric Power Commission of Ontario (ca 1916).

Kenneth McNaught attended Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1941, Master of Arts degree in 1946 and Ph.D. in 1950. His doctoral dissertation “James Shaver Woodsworth: 1874-1921. From Social Gospel to Social Democracy” reflected his life long belief in social democracy and participation in public life. Frank Underhill, his thesis supervisor, became his mentor and “academic model”. His thesis led to the publication of his first book, a biography of Woodsworth in 1959 entitled *A prophet in politics*.

Prof. McNaught joined the faculty of the University of Toronto in 1959 following his resignation in protest over the firing of a colleague, Prof. Harry Crowe at United College, Winnipeg (now the University of Winnipeg). His involvement in the “Harry Crowe Case” was early evidence of his strong feelings towards academic freedom and justice. He was awarded tenure in 1962 and elevated to the rank of professor. During these 25 years, he taught predominately Canadian history, and influenced such future historians as Michael Bliss and Ramsay Cook. He retired in 1984 as professor emeritus. A few months before his death on June 2, 1997, he received the Order of Canada. Michael Valpy, columnist for the *Globe and Mail*, in commemorating his life described him as a “Red Tory” “that uniquely Canadian political persona compounded of collectivism, conservatism, and monarchism”. “He was modestly delighted to be the Red Tory icon of a younger generation”.

**Scope and content:**

This accession contains correspondence, manuscripts of published and unpublished articles, books and papers, offprints, notes, lectures and works of art organized into nine series. Series 1 provides some documentation of his early student life as well as a comprehensive

curriculum vitae, prepared in 1991. Series 2 to 5 are predominantly correspondence, both received and sent, documenting his personal and professional life from his student days at the University of Toronto through his career as University professor in Winnipeg and Toronto. The most comprehensive evidence of his range of writing and social activist activities will be found among Series 2 General correspondence which spans some thirty-seven years. Articles and correspondence regarding his involvement in the “Harry Crowe Case” will be found in Series 3. Series 4 and 5 supplement Series II with correspondence, reports and notes relating to specific activities at the University of Toronto such as the supervision of graduate students and participation in campus groups such as the Faculty Committee on Vietnam and the University League for Social Reform. Some additional teaching materials for courses in history will be found in Series 8.

Series 6 and 7 relate to scholarly writing and contain predominantly copies of articles and correspondence relating to books published. Unfortunately, few manuscripts for these publications have survived.

The two watercolours in Series 9 provide another dimension that has been overlooked in biographies produced to date – that of amateur artist. The bulk of his original artwork remains with his family as a lasting testament to a multi-faceted and talented scholar.

**Related accessions:** B1999-0006

**SERIES DESCRIPTION****SERIES 1****Family & Education**

1909 - 1997

.04 m

textual

This series provides some documentary evidence regarding Prof. McNaught's early education through letters to his parents while on a school trip to Scotland in 1935, and samples of undergraduate course papers in history for professors such as Saunders, Glazebrook, McInnes, Flenley and Underhill at the University of Toronto (1938-1941). Also included is a file containing copies of articles by his grandfather, W. K. McNaught, as a member of the Ontario Legislature (1909) and member of the Hydro-electric Power Commission of Ontario (1916). A 1991 curriculum vitae prepared by Prof. McNaught will also be found in this series.

Box 001, Files (01) – (04)

**SERIES 2****General correspondence**

1940-1997

.44 m

textual

This series contains chronologically arranged personal and professional correspondence dating from his student days at the University of Toronto (1940- 1950), to his first full time academic appointments to United College, Winnipeg (1947) and the University of Toronto (1959-1984), to his active retirement years and his Order of Canada award (1984-1997). It provides a comprehensive overview of Prof. McNaught's academic activities as teacher, scholar of Canadian social history, and social activist. Correspondents include historians at the University of Toronto such as F.H. Underhill (thesis supervisor), and Donald Creighton, Stanley Knowles, Lucy Woodsworth, widow of J. S. Woodsworth, United College, Winnipeg staff, CBC Radio, etc. Correspondence following his retirement in 1984 documents both a continuing life of scholarly endeavours, and contains more personal commentary to family, friends and colleagues.

See also Series 5, Subseries 2 for correspondence with specific graduate students.

See Box 001, files (05) – (09), Box 002 and Box 003

**SERIES 3****United College, Winnipeg**

1948-1959

.10 m

textual; publications

Prof. McNaught was appointed Assistant Professor of history in 1947 at United College (now University of Winnipeg), a college funded by the United Church of Canada. The majority of files in this series document his role in the "Harry Crowe Case" of 1958. Prof. Harry Crowe was a member of the History Department at United College and shared Prof. McNaught's social democratic views. In April, 1958 the principal of United College, Rev. Wilfrid C. Lockhart, was anonymously sent a letter written by Prof. Crowe to Professor W.A. Packer critical of the College's administration and the role of the ministers in public administration. Between April and September of that year, the matter escalated culminating in the firing of Prof. Crowe by the Board of Regents in July, 1958. In the fall, three members of the faculty, including Prof. McNaught, threatened to resign over the firing of Prof. Crowe. As a result, the Board accepted their letters of protest as letters of resignation. This resignation from United College led to his eventual appointment at the University of Toronto. Included are correspondence, newspaper and magazine articles, and copies of public statements and one file relating to his research on J. S. Woodsworth for his doctoral dissertation.

Box 004, files (01)-(05) and Box 009

**SERIES 4****Subject files**

1967-1996

.12 m

textual

This series consists of correspondence arranged by topic during Prof. McNaught's tenure at the University of Toronto and during his retirement. It includes files relating to publications, visiting lectureships and trips abroad to such places as Japan, Germany and New Zealand, and the Governor General's award jury activities. Arranged alphabetically by title.

See File List in Appendix A

**SERIES 5                      University of Toronto**

1961-1997                      .36 m                      textual

Prof. McNaught joined the faculty of the History Department as Assistant Professor in 1959 following his resignation from United College, Winnipeg. These records date primarily from his tenure award in 1962 as Assistant Professor and full Professor in 1965, to his ongoing activity as a representative for “Retired professors” with the University of Toronto Faculty Association. The series has been divided into Subseries 1 Subject files, and Subseries 2 Letters of recommendation.

**Subseries 1                      Subject files**

1964-1997                      .09 m                      textual

This subseries consists of files relating to activities of particular interest to Prof. McNaught during his tenure as professor in the Department of History (1965-1984), and his continuing interest in the faculty’s professional association after his retirement. Included among this small group are files relating to the Faculty Committee on Vietnam (1967-1969), University League for Social Reform (1964-1966), applications for an unfilled one year appointment in American History (1969-1972), and two files on the University of Toronto Faculty Association (1995-1997).

See Box 005, files (01) – (07)

**Subseries 2                      Letters of recommendation**

1961-1986                      .27 m                      textual

This series consists of chronologically arranged letters of recommendation for graduate students and for other students with whom he was involved indirectly. These files are followed by individual files containing correspondence such as letters of recommendation prepared during their years at University of Toronto and after graduation.

See Box 005 files (08) – (11), and Box 006 (list below). See also Series 2.

**Access:** Restricted; permission of University Archivist required.

**Box 006                      Students**

(01)	Abella, Irving	1967-1979
(02)	Bercuson, David Jay	1966-1978
(03)	Cassidy, Keith	1968-1976
(04)	Dick, William M.	1963-1966
(05)	Finkel, Alvin	1972-1978

**Subseries 2****Letters of recommendation**

Box 006

Students (cont'd)

(06)	Gadfield, Charles (Chad)	1975-1978
(07)	Gleberzon, William	1968-1981
(08)	Hogan, Brian F.	1974-1980
(09)	Homel, Gene	1978-1988
(10)	Laycock, David	c1983-1984
(11)	McCallum, Margaret E.	1982-1983
(12)	MacDowel, Laurel S.	1972-1983
(13)	Metzler, Marshall	1968-1970
(14)	Miller, Sally M.	1964-1983
(15)	Mount, Graeme S.	1968-1984
(16)	Ramirez, Bruno	1970-1976
(17)	Randall, Stephen	1969-1982
(18)	Roberts, Wayne	1973-1979
(19)	Seretan, Glen	1972-1983
(20)	Spiers, Rosemary	1967-1973
(21)	Swainson, Donald	1963-1969
(22)	Webb, Douglas	1978-1983

**SERIES 6****Publications**

1952-1995

.18 m

textual; publications

Prof. McNaught began his scholarly publishing with articles and eventually a book based on his Ph.D. dissertation on J. S. Woodsworth entitled *A prophet in politics* (1959). During his career he published 6 books, numerous chapters in books, articles both for scholarly and popular periodicals (columns in the *Toronto Star*, *Globe and Mail*), and about 60 articles for *Saturday Night* as contributing editor from 1958-1968. He was on the editorial board for the *Christian Outlook* (1961-1966) and *Canadian Forum* (1968-1979) from which he resigned because of its denunciation of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Arranged as follows:

Box 007

(01) – (06)	Articles (off prints, copies, manuscripts) includes file on Canadian Historical Review.	1952-1995 and undated
(07)	Books and chapters in books: <i>Approaches to Canadian politics-</i> royal statements, correspondence manuscript	1977-1988

**SERIES 6****Publications (cont'd)**

Box 007

(08)	<i>Handbooks to the modern world</i> - correspondence, manuscript	1989
(09)	<i>Historia General de America Vol 29</i> - correspondence, manuscript	1978-1983
(10)	<i>J. S. Woodsworth</i> –royalty statements correspondence, contract	1978-1990
(11)	<i>Manifest Destiny: a short history of the United States</i> - correspondence, royalty statements, contract	1960-1991
(12)-(13)	<i>Pelican History of Canada (1969, 1977, 1982 editions</i> –correspondence, royalty statements	1964-1992
(14)	<i>A prophet in politics</i> - correspondence, royalty statements	1953-1977
(15)	<i>A source book of Canadian history</i> –correspondence, contract, royalty statements, partial manuscript outline.	1953-1983
(16)	<i>With or without Quebec</i> –correspondence, manuscript, contract.	1990-1991

**SERIES 7****Addresses and unpublished papers**

1953-1991

.08 m

textual

This series consists of notes for talks, addresses, and public lectures, manuscripts of unpublished papers and programmes for CBC radio, as well as a later 1980 CBC commentary.

See Box 008, files (01) to (04)



**SERIES 8                                      Teaching materials**

ca 1974-1989                                      .10 m                                      textual  
and undated

This series provides only a small sample of what must have been a large body of materials relating to the teaching of Canadian and American history at the University of Toronto. These six files consist of lecture notes for HIST 271, 379Y, 472Y, and 731. Also included are lecture notes for American History seminar at York University (1989).

See Box 008 files (05) – (10)

**SERIES 9                                      Works of art**

1984-1990                                      0.64 m

This series consists of two signed water colours, samples of a larger collection still in the possession of his family. Both pictures are scenes near his cottage on Garden Island in the St. Lawrence River between Wolfe Island and the City of Kingston. The watercolour of the sailboat “The Curlew” was painted in a harbour near the cottage of his former student, friend and colleague, Donald Swainson, professor of history at Queen’s University in 1984. The snow scene is a view of his son walking from the cottage in the winter of 1990. This was the one and only occasion that Prof. McNaught agreed to visit the cottage in the winter.

See Box 001P.

**APPENDIX A**

## Box 004

(06)	CAUT –Retired professors	1995-1996
(07)	Council of Canadians	1989-1990
(08)	Excelsior Collectors Guild	1983-1994
(09)	Governor General's Awards	1985-1987
(10)	Guide to the Study of US history outside the United States	1979-1983
(11)	Japan	1983-1984
(12)	John F. Kennedy Institute, Berlin	1981-1983
(13)	Italian Association for Canadian Studies	1987-1989
(14)	New Zealand	1986-1987
(15)	OSNC/OENC	1995
(16)	Rockefeller Foundation – Bellagio Study and Conference Center	1981-1989
(17)	Scott, F.R. Conference	1980-1981
(18)	Underhill, F. H. – Festschrift	1967-1968
(19)	University of Cambridge	1992-1993
(20)	University of Warwick	1984-1986
(21)	J.S. Woodsworth and his legacy Conference, Vancouver	1987
(22)	York University – American history seminar	1989-1991