

Ms Coll
373

Roberts, Lloyd, 1884-1966

Collection of Grey Owl papers, 1937-1950

3 boxes

Collection includes correspondence from Grey Owl, and "Pony" Gertie to Roberts; typescripts of an unpublished article "Grey Owl the Man" and of a thirteen-part programme on CBC radio entitled "My Friend Grey Owl" by Roberts; and *The Men of the Last Frontier*, by Grey Owl, 1932, bound by Grey Owl and "Pony" with lengthy inscription to Roberts, and manuscript drawing on inside covers and fly leaves.

William Harris Lloyd Roberts was born in Fredericton, N.B., on 21 October 1884, to Sir Charles G.D. Roberts and Mary Isabel Fenety. He was educated privately and attended King's College School in Windsor, N.S., and public schools in Fredericton he began writing as a reporter for the *News* in Nelson, B.C. in 1911, and later for the *Ottawa Citizen*. He then wrote and edited for the Canadian Immigration Service before retiring in 1920 to make writing his career. His books of poems included *England over the Seas*, 1914; *Along the Ottawa*, 1927; and *I Sing of Life*, 1937. His essays included *The Book of Roberts*, 1966. He also wrote several plays and articles, short stories, poems and radio programmes. From 1925 to 1939 he was parliamentary reporter for *The Christian Science Monitor*.

(From *The Canadian Who's Who, 1955-1957*, p. 925)

Grey Owl whose real name was Archibald Stanfeld Belaney was born in Hastings, England in 1888. His father, George Belaney, travelled in America so that he lived with two aunts. During his childhood he read and dreamed about Indians. He believed that his mother who visited him a few times was an Apache. In 1906 he emigrated to America and became a guide and packer in northern Ontario. Within a year he joined a band of Ojibwas, and lived and hunted with them. They gave him the name "Grey Owl". In 1910 he married Angele Eguana, an Ojibwa. In 1912 he left the band and went to Biscostasing, the headquarters of the Mississauga Reserve. During the First World War in which he had enlisted he was wounded. During his convalescence in England he married Constance Holmes, a childhood friend. The marriage ended when he returned to Canada where he resumed trapping and guiding in the Mississauga river, and became known again as Grey Owl.

In 1926 he met Anahareo, an Iroquois, who made him aware of the cruelty of hunting. She had him bring into their cabin two baby beaver whose mother had drowned in one of his traps. Their behaviour led him to decide not to kill another beaver. He and Anahareo moved to Cabano, northern Quebec, and founded a beaver sanctuary and a colony for beaver preservation. Grey Owl describes this in his book *Pilgrims of the Wild*. In 1930 the Canadian Government appointed him an honorary game warden and built a home for him and his beavers at Lake Ajawaan in Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan.

To supplement his war pension he began writing articles about his beavers when he was in Cabano. They were published in English and North American magazines so that he became known to naturalists. After his move to Saskatchewan he wrote four books: *Men of the Last Frontier* (1929), *Pilgrims of the Wild* (1935), *The Adventures of Sajo and Her Beaver People* (1935), and *Tales of an Empty Cabin* (1936). In 1935-36 and 1937-38 he made two successful lecture tours of the United States and Britain, ending with a lecture for the royal family. The Canadian Government had about six films made of him. He died in 1938 and is buried near his cabin on Lake Ajawaan in Prince Albert National Park.

(From *The Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature*. 1983, pp. 50-52)

Box 1

Typescripts

- folder 1 2 ALS from Grey Owl, Riding Mountain National Park Neepawa, Manitoba, [1931?], 1931
- folder 2 1 ALS from Grey Owl, Prince Albert National Park, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, 5 June 1932. With envelope
- folder 3 1 ALS from "Pony" Gertie, Waskesiu Beach [Lake] Saskatchewan, 15 July 1933. With envelope
- folder 4 1 ALS from Grey Owl, Beaver Lodge, Prince Albert National Park, via Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, 28 October 1933
- folder 5 1 ALS from Grey Owl, Beaver Lodge, Prince Albert National Park, via Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, 14 February 1934
- folder 6 1 ALS from "Pony" Gertie, Flin Flon, Manitoba, 1 January 1935. With envelope
- folders 7-10 Photographs
- folder 7 Grey Owl in Rocky Mountain National Park. 8" x 10" glossy. Inscribed to Roberts
- folder 8 Beavers and friends, Rocky Mountain National Park. 11 3" x 5" prints
- folder 9 Grey Owl with friends. Copy print or still, 7 ½" x 13" mounted. [From National Film Board film on Grey Owl?]
- folder 10 Gertie on her horse, with Roberts and his daughter. Colour print, 5" x 5"
- folder 11 "Grey Owl the Man", by Lloyd Roberts. Typescript, carbon copy, signed, with TLS from E.K. Brown, associate editor of *The University of Toronto Quarterly*, 18 August 1937.
- folder 12 Donald B. Smith, [a biographer of Grey Owl], Toronto to Mrs. Roberts, 1 ALS, 6 May 1971

Box 2

About Grey Owl

folders 1-13

"My Friend Grey Owl". Typescript, carbon copy, with holograph revisions, for a 13-part CBC radio series. Last page of part 13 signed by Roberts

folder 14

"Hands off the Little People". Typescript signed by Roberts on p. 30

folders 15-36

"A Book for Boys : Brother to the Beaver". Typescript with holograph revisions, and p.157 signed by Roberts

Box 3 (flat)

***The Men of the Last Frontier*, by Grey Owl. Toronto :
Macmillan Company, 1932**

Drawings with captions in pencil on end papers, and inscription to Roberts from Gertie and Archie Grey Owl and brief notes about bead work on binding on half title page. Bound in brown buckskin with beadwork on front cover.