

Description and Finding Aid
HICKS FAMILY FONDS
F2074

Prepared by
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HICKS FAMILY FONDS

Dates of creation

1898-1979, predominantly 1920-1964

Extent

0.60 m of textual records

4 photographs

Biographical sketches

Rivers Keith Hicks (RKH), university professor, was born in 1878 in Highbury Terrace, London, England, to Rivers Hicks (1854-1940) and Edith (Barcham) Hicks (1857-1904). The family moved soon after to Surrey. He was brother to Graham Barcham (b. 1879), Peter Rivers (b.1881), Ruth (b.1882), Edith (b.1883), Gilbert (b.1885), Louisa (b.1887), and John (b.1891).

RKH was educated at Cranleigh School, Surrey, and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he took the Mathematics tripos in 1901. He was assistant master at Routenburn School, Ayrshire, 1901, Cranleigh School, 1901-4, and Highgate School, London, 1904-7.

In 1907, RKH came to Canada and was an assistant master at Upper Canada College until 1911. He obtained an MA from Harvard in 1912. He was an instructor at Harvard and Dartmouth during that time. He returned to Canada to become an associate professor of French at Queen's University, Kingston, in 1916. He left in 1925 to serve as special investigator for the Canadian Committee on Modern Languages and helped produce the two-volume report *Modern Language Instruction in Canada* (1928).

In 1927, RKH became Professor of Modern Languages at Trinity College, Toronto, and was named the first W.R. Brock Professor of French. He taught old French, philology, Renaissance literature, and eighteenth-century Literature. He became Registrar in 1943 and Dean of Arts in 1949, holding both positions until 1953. He wrote a number of textbooks, including *The Reading Approach to French* (1930), *A New French Reader* (1937), an abridged version of Prosper Mérimée's *Columba* (1931), and an abridged version of Valentine Bonhoure's *Le Trésor de Châteaueux* (1935) as well as several standardized grammar tests incorporating the new approaches advocated in the committee's report. He published an English translation of the first French play ever produced in Canada in 1608, *Marc Lescarbot's Théâtre de Neptune* (1947). He also published an English translation of French-Canadian folk songs, *Douze chansons canadiennes* (1958). He had an interest in poetry and drama, serving as an honorary president of the Trinity College Dramatic Society, a member of the Board of Syndics of Hart House Theatre, and a director of the Crest Theatre. He died on 27 March 1964 in Toronto.

In 1911, RKH met Marjorie Ogilvy Edgar (1886-1951), daughter of Sir James David Edgar (1841-1899) and Matilda Ridout (1845-1910). They married in 1913. Marjorie was an amateur actress and writer, and an avid golfer and badminton player. She died on 21 May 1951 in Toronto. They had five children: John Edgar, Anthony Rivers, Douglas Barcham, Maud Jocelyn, and Michael Keith.

John Edgar Hicks, chartered accountant, was born circa 1914. He attended Lakefield Preparatory School and Upper Canada College and as a teenager worked as a caddy in Jasper, Alberta. He attended the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario until 1941. He worked for the Bank of Montreal, 1931-1932, and for Welch Anderson, Chartered Accountants, 1932-1939, before working for Tropical Oil Company in Colombia, 1939-1941. He developed an interest in aviation, joining the RCAF. He married Catherine (Kiki) Bethune. They had eleven children. He died in 1999 in Chemainus, British Columbia.

Anthony Rivers Hicks, naval officer, business executive, was born ca.1916. He attended Upper Canada College and entered Trinity College in 1933, graduating with a BA in 1938. He was in active service with the Royal Canadian Navy from August 1940. Later in life, he became an executive with the Sun Life Company and lived in Montreal. He married Jeanne Sargent and they had two children. He died in 1998 in Montreal.

Douglas Barcham Hicks, diplomat, was born in 1917. He attended University of Toronto Schools and the University of Toronto, graduating in 1939 with a BA. He was employed by the Department of External Affairs beginning in 1944 and served in important diplomatic posts in a number of African states in the 1970s, including high commissioner to Ghana, 1968-1971, and ambassador to Ethiopia, 1975-1978. He married Elizabeth Maud Stones and they had four children, three daughters and one son. He died in 1984 in Ottawa.

Maud Jocelyn Hicks, broadcaster, teacher, and writer, was born circa 1925. She attended Havergal College, 1942-1943, and then Trinity College, 1945-1946. She married John Smart and then John MacLean. She had three sons. She died in 2008 in Oakville.

Michael Keith Hicks, clergyman and civil servant, was born ca.1927. He attended University of Toronto Schools and then Trinity College, obtaining a BA in 1949 and an MA in 1950. He worked for the government of Canada and lives in Ottawa with his wife Barbara Findlay. They have three daughters.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of textual material and photographs relating to the Hicks family. Some material relates to the university career of RKH and includes research notes, articles, translations, book reviews, and poetry in the field of French literature. The majority of the material includes draft copies of RKH's memoirs as well as diaries that he kept in the years leading up to his retirement in 1953 until his death in 1964. Some of the material relates to RKH's personal life, including family correspondence, Christmas poems, and records pertaining to the life and amateur pursuits of Marjorie Ogilvy Edgar Hicks, including a scrapbook and two drafts of various chapters of an incomplete historical novel. Some material relates to the education and career of RKH's son, John Edgar Hicks, including family correspondence and financial documents.

Contains series

1. Rivers Keith Hicks, Academic papers
2. Rivers Keith Hicks, Memoirs

3. Hicks Family, Personal papers
4. John Edgar Hicks, Personal papers

Notes

Acquisition history: A portion of the records are of uncertain provenance and were first recorded in the Trinity Archives in 1985. They comprise a journal of RKH and an analysis of a pass course from 1951 as well as the personal records and correspondence of his son John Edgar Hicks. Another set of documents was received from Michael Keith Hicks in 2003. These are described in the original donation documentation as the 'papers of R. Keith Hicks', comprising a box of correspondence, papers, scrapbooks, and diaries.

Arrangement: The arrangement is artificial. Records were kept in chronological order where applicable.

Restrictions on access: None.

Terms governing use and reproduction / publication: Public domain.

General note: An oil portrait of Rivers Keith Hicks (Art Inventory 621), painted by his friend Aba Bayefsky in 1959, was donated to Trinity College in 2002.

Provenance access points: Hicks, Rivers Keith, 1878-1964

Hicks, Marjorie Ogilvy Edgar, 1886-1951

Hicks, John Edgar, 1914-1999

SERIES 1: RIVERS KEITH HICKS, ACADEMIC PAPERS

Dates of creation: 1912-1964, predominantly 1920-1960

Extent: 0.13 m of textual records

Scope and content: Series contains records pertaining to the academic career of RKH beginning with his time as a graduate student at Harvard to his service in academic administration at Trinity College prior to his retirement in 1953. It includes research notes, manuscripts of essays, as well as offprints of book reviews, articles, translations, and poems published throughout the course of his career. It also includes ephemera relating to RKH's duties as Professor, and later Registrar and Dean of Trinity College, such as copies of speeches. Also included are several pieces of academic correspondence and an address book. Some of the records appear to have been annotated by RKH between 1959 and 1963 with a view to identifying and dating for preservation.

Location/File listing:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX/ FILE #
Essay, 'Margutte and Panurge'	1912	1912	Manuscript essay about the figure of Margutte in a poem by Luigi Pulci (d. 1484), <i>Il Morgante</i> (1482), who is compared with the figure of Panurge in François Rabelais' (d. 1553) novels, <i>Gargantua</i> and <i>Pantagruel</i> .	1-1
Writings and published articles	1916	1928	Group of typescript and offprint articles includes: 'The first month in beginning French,' <i>Ontario Education Association</i> [vol.?] (1916), 340-6. 'L'honnête homme,' <i>Queen's Quarterly</i> 27(1919), 22-36. 'French Canada in Fiction,' <i>Dalhousie Review</i> 2.2 (1922), 215-29. 'Direct reading in foreign languages,' <i>The School</i> 17 1928), 327-30, 497-500. Typescript of an article entitled, 'Spanish neutrality,' perhaps published in the <i>Canadian Courier</i> [vol.?] (1917), not paginated.	1-2
Correspondence	1917	1962	Several typed letters from academics to RKH regarding publications; handwritten personal letters and postcards sent to RKH; business letters regarding financial matters; copy of RKH's article, 'The professor on the farm,' <i>Canadian Courier</i> , 22:13 (25 August 1917).	1-3

Writings: newspapers and magazines	1917	1943	<p>Various publications by RKH. 1-4</p> <p>The following are book reviews.</p> <p>'The Community Theatre,' <i>Canadian Forum</i> 10 (1921), 309-10.</p> <p>'Moreno-Lacalle, <i>Elementos de Español</i>,' <i>Hispania</i> 4:2 (March 1921), 98.</p> <p>'Green, <i>Eighteenth Century France</i>,' <i>Toronto Saturday Night</i> (2 November 1929), no pagination.</p> <p>'Green, <i>French Novelists, Manners and Ideas from the Renaissance to the Revolution</i>,' <i>University of Toronto Monthly</i> (January 1929), no pagination.</p> <p>'The French Novel,' <i>Toronto Saturday Night</i> (16 March 1929), no pagination.</p> <p>'Rabelais in Full,' <i>Toronto Saturday Night</i> (May 1932?), no pagination.</p> <p>'Ashton, Lettres de Marie-Madeleine Pioche de la Vergne, Comtesse de La Fayette et de Gilles Ménage,' <i>Queen's Quarterly</i> (June 1925), no pagination.</p> <p>The following are opinion pieces.</p> <p>'The Professor on the Farm,' <i>Canadian Courier</i> 22:13 (25 August 1917), 3.</p> <p>'The Three Persians: how oriental ingenuity was applied to a war debt problem,' <i>Toronto Saturday Night</i> (19 January 1929), no pagination.</p> <p>'The Young Lady's Own Book,' <i>Toronto Saturday Night</i> (20 April 1929), 17.</p> <p>The following are poems published by RKH, some under the pseudonym Archaics, which is a homonym-like play on his name, R.K. Hicks.</p> <p>'Ruminant Rhythms,' <i>Canadian Forum</i> (September 1921), 367.</p> <p>'The Wolf and the Lamb or The Danger of Argument,' <i>Canadian Forum</i> (February 1930), no pagination.</p> <p>'Acquitted,' <i>Toronto Saturday Night</i> (27 May 1939), no pagination.</p> <p>'Festina Lente,' <i>Trinity College Review</i> (Spring 1943), 16.</p>	
Miscellaneous	1920	1963	<p>Various newspaper clippings and handwritten poems, one of the latter authored by Marjorie Ogilvy Edgar Hicks; also includes a Dent's Modern Language Test co-authored by RKH, 1920. 1-5</p>	

Public lecture at Queen's on Rabelais	1920	1958?	Typescript, annotated copy of a public lecture on style and themes in the writings of François Rabelais. Also includes a portion of a typed earlier draft and some handwritten notes.	1-6
Paper on the French spoken in Canada	1920?	1920?	Annotated typescript of a paper about the regional nature of the French language in Canada.	1-7
Notes on <i>Heptameron</i> and other XVIth-century tales	1920?	1960?	Handwritten and typed notes, annotated at a later date, dealing with dialogue and architectural matters in Marguerite de Navarre's <i>Heptameron</i> (1558), and Jacques Yver's <i>Le Printemps d'Yver</i> (1572).	1-8
Notes on <i>Heptameron</i> and other XVIth-century tales	1920?	1930?	Two typed annotated copies of a paper about conversation and its setting in Jacques Yver's, <i>Le Printemps d'Yver</i> (1572), given as a public lecture at Queen's; typed and handwritten notes on the same subject.	1-9
Notes on <i>Heptameron</i> and other XVIth-century tales	1920	1960?	A typed annotated copy of a paper dealing with Marguerite de Navarre's, <i>Heptameron</i> (1558), given as a public lecture at Queen's in November 1920.	1-10
Notes on <i>Heptameron</i> and other XVIth-century tales	1920?	1930?	Several typed essays dealing with Marguerite de Navarre's <i>Heptameron</i> (1558); also includes handwritten and typed notes.	1-11
De Maupassant	1920?	1960?	A typed translation of <i>Le Trou</i> or <i>The Fishing Hole</i> by Guy de Maupassant made by RKH; according to later annotation, the translation was never published.	1-12
Tabourot	1920?	1930?	Typed and handwritten notes regarding the poetry of Étienne Tabourot.	1-13
Public lecture at Queen's on Rabelais	1925	1960?	Although according to RKH's later marginal annotations the primary subject of this typescript and annotated paper is Rabelais, but it is really about Molière.	1-14
Verses, etc.	1926	1941	Various typed and handwritten poems by RKH, some about family, others on the theme of farming.	1-15

Writings: Lescarbot's <i>Le Théâtre de Neptune</i>	1926	1926	An offprint of W.L. Grant and R.K. Hicks, 'Le théâtre de Neptune,' <i>Queen's Quarterly</i> 34 (1926), 215-23, two typed annotated copies of his translation including an introduction which was left out of the article, an invitation to a related event, and an undated newspaper clipping about the original performance.	1-16
French at Queen's	1929	1929	A typed essay written by RKH presenting an analysis of the results of a standardized French grammar test taken by a summer school class.	1-17
Unidentified toast	1930?	1940?	Typescript annotated copy of a toast offered on the undated visit of two Anglican ministers to Trinity College from Penetanguishene and Coldwater respectively surnamed Dwelly and Pelletier.	1-18
Miscellaneous verses	1930?	1940?	Various typed verses including some from Molière's <i>Femmes Savantes</i> and a poem inscribed 'Charles Dickens' Gong'; Dickens was an acquaintance of RKH's grandfather, Henry Hicks.	1-19
Address Book	1930?	1964?	Address book belonging to RKH.	1-20
Verses	1934	1955	Various typed and handwritten poems by RKH.	1-21
Canteen Verses	1942	1942	Various typed and handwritten poems by RKH.	1-22
Poem on the occasion of 60 th birthday	1948	1960	Typed French poem written by students W.S. Rogers and W. Ruddock in honour of RKH's 60 th birthday.	1-23
Trinity College	1951	1951	A Latin certificate of commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the founding of Trinity College.	1-24
Speech at Trinity College, probably 1952	1952	1952	Typed speech written by RKH for the undergraduate students of Trinity College.	1-25

SERIES 2: RIVERS KEITH HICKS, MEMOIRS

Dates of creation: 1899-1979, predominantly 1920-1960

Extent: 0.33 m of textual records; 2 photographs

Scope and content: Series contains records collected and compiled by RKH in preparation for writing his memoirs, which were never completed. The series includes photographs of his parents and siblings, manuscript letters and essays regarding his childhood, schooling, and early teaching experiences in England and Canada. Many of the records were annotated or retyped in the early 1960s. Also included is a set of diaries which RKH assiduously kept from his retirement in 1953 until his death in 1964.

Location/file listing:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX/ FILE #
Photographs	1899	1899	A photograph of RKH and his family, 1899, and a roughly contemporary photograph of an unidentified female, perhaps his mother Edith.	2-1
Testimonials	1901	1907	Printed letters of reference for RKH from the headmasters at Routenburn School, Ayrshire, Cranleigh School, Surrey, and Emmanuel College, Cambridge.	2-2
Family history and childhood memories in the form of various letters	1920?	1960?	Two typed copies of letters written by RKH entitled 'Childhood memories – R.K.H.', and 'Last years of Rivers Hicks, Kentville, N.S.', with handwritten annotations added late in life.	2-3
Family history, childhood memories	1920?	1960?	Multiple typed copies of notes written by RKH about childhood and family, with handwritten notations added late in life.	2-4
Our various houses	1920?	1930?	Notes handwritten by RKH about his childhood homes in London and Surrey and early schooling.	2-5

Letter (undated) on childhood memories	1920?	1930?	Notes handwritten by RKH, the first entitled 'Childhood memories – R.K.H.', which may be the original of the typed copy found in 2-3; a marginal note relates that this was typed by Jane Edgar.	2-6
William Joynson-Hicks	1928	1960?	A typed letter to RKH from the British politician William Joynson-Hicks, who was his first cousin; on the back are annotations recording family relationships, likely added in 1960. The file includes a newspaper notice of the latter's death in 1932.	2-7
Letter on last years of Rivers Hicks	1930	1930	Typed and annotated letter, entitled 'Last years of Rivers Hicks, Kentville N.S.', 5 January 1930, which may be a duplicate of that found in 2-3.	2-8
Account of a trip to England in the summer of 1955	1955	1955	Two typed copies of a letter written by RKH entitled 'Account of a trip to England in the summer of 1955' addressed to his sister Edith.	2-9
Family history, childhood memories	1960?	1960?	Two typed and annotated accounts of RKH's schooling and early years teaching at Upper Canada College.	2-10
Memories – early years	1960?	1960?	An account book used by RKH to make notes about his early memories.	2-11
Autobiographical notes	1960?	1960?	Handwritten looseleaf notes written by RKH recording memories of his early teaching career.	2-12
Diary 1931	1931	1939	This five-year hardcover diary was used by RKH over a number of years. The latest date noted is 1939. The entries include meetings with friends, academics, and family as well as personal observations and notes about travel.	2-13
Diary 1951-1953	1945	1953	This hardcover notebook was originally used by RKH in 1945 and 1946 to record notes about students; inverted, it was used as a daily diary between 1951 and 1953. The diary includes an account of	2-14

the death of Marjorie Ogilvy Edgar Hicks
in 1951.

Diary 1952-1953	1952	1953	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events as well as notes about travel to England in 1953.	2-15
Diary 1953	1953	1954	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events in 1953; inverted, it was used well into 1954.	2-16
Diary 1954	1954	1954	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events.	3-1
Diary 1955	1955	1955	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events.	3-2
Diary 1956	1956	1956	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events.	3-3
Diary 1957	1957	1957	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events.	3-4
Diary 1958	1958	1958	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events; notes are primarily of a personal nature.	3-5
Diary 1959	1959	1959	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events; includes notes about his trip to London, England, in May and note about sorting family letters.	3-6
Diary 1960	1960	1960	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events; he is increasingly introspective and includes notes about his early years and mentions sorting his personal papers.	3-7
Diary 1961	1961	1961	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily appointments and events.	3-8
Diary 1962	1962	1962	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily events and appointments; a note on the title page to his executors	3-9

requests that the diaries be given to his son, Douglas Barcham.

Diary 1963	1963	1963	This hardcover diary was used by RKH to record daily events and appointments; he frequently expresses concern about failing memory.	4-1
Diary 1964	1964	1979	This hardcover diary was used only sporadically by RKH; the last entry appears on 24 March; a note written perhaps by one of his sons and dated 1979 records that RKH died on 27 March after spending four days in hospital due to a fall outside his apartment.	4-2
Notebook	1948	1953?	This folder contains a hardcover notebook used by RKH to make notes about students; also included is an analysis of a pass course for 1951.	4-3

SERIES 3: HICKS FAMILY, PERSONAL PAPERS

Dates of creation: 1898-1964, predominantly 1943-1963

Extent: 0.07 m of textual records; 1 photograph

Scope and content: Series contains records pertaining to the family and personal life of RKH, including poetry he composed for family members and for his amateur dramatic interests, family photographs, correspondence with Douglas Barcham Hicks and genealogical information, two scrapbooks, and an unfinished manuscript of a Jacobite novel compiled by Marjorie Ogilvy Edgar Hicks.

Location/file listing:

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX/ FILE #
Scrapbook, probably compiled by Marjorie Hicks	1898	1912	Scrapbook containing poems, postcards, calendar pages, and theatrical notices.	4-4
Photograph, Lady	1906	1906	A photograph of Matilda Ridout Edgar.	4-5

Edgar

Photographs belonging to Michael Hicks	1915	1964?	Copies of photographs of the Hicks family, including a portrait of RKH and Marjorie Ogilvy Edgar Hicks, 1915; a partial photo of the headstone for RKH in Saint James Cemetery, Toronto.	4-6
Scrapbook, probably compiled by Marjorie Hicks	1922	1925	An unbound notebook containing various wedding, employment, and social notices, including those marking the amateur accomplishments of Marjorie Ogilvy Edgar Hicks.	4-7
Some chapters of a Jacobite story (apparently written by Marjorie Ogilvy Edgar Hicks)	1940?	1950?	Two copies of various chapters of a book of historical fiction possibly entitled 'Between Snow and Fire'; the typed and annotated looseleaf pages are only roughly organized.	4-8
Family album	1943	1960?	Christmas poems written by RKH for his wife and children, typed and annotated perhaps in 1960.	4-9
Family album	1946	1949	Typed Christmas poems written by RKH for his wife and children, including contemporary newspaper and magazine clippings.	4-10
Biographical materials	1953	1960	A retirement notice for RKH in 1953, a copy of his biography from <i>The Canadian Who's Who</i> , and genealogical information for the Hicks family dated 1960.	4-11
Arts and Letters Club	1955	1955	Program for a theatrical event entitled 'La Poule grillée', in which RKH performed.	4-12
Letters from Douglas Barcham Hicks	1962	1963	Typed letters from Douglas Barcham Hicks to his father RKH regarding personal matters and his career.	4-13
List of family letters and other lists	1957?	1964?	File folders originally used to organize RKH's papers on which he made lists and notes regarding contents	4-14

SERIES 4: JOHN EDGAR HICKS, PERSONAL PAPERS**Dates of creation:** 1928-1942**Extent:** 0.07 m of textual records; 1 photograph**Scope and content:** This series contains records pertaining to the education and youthful employment and interests of John Edgar Hicks (JEH), including original report cards and exam results, financial and early employment records, aviation information, and correspondence with friends and family.**Location/file listing**

FOLDER/UNIT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	CONTENTS	BOX/ FILE #
Upper Canada College	1928	1941	Report cards and alumni association membership cards for JEH.	5-1
Calling cards and invitations	1930?	1940?	Family names include Bowerbauk, Farwell, Grey, Jones, Laidlaw, McCarter, Piper, Robinson, Shaver, Sifton, Simpson.	5-2
Correspondence	1930	1936	Letters written by JEH to his father and mother sent from Jasper Park Lodge, where he worked as a caddy; also includes letters to JEH perhaps from Laurence MacGregor of Montreal.	5-3
Accountancy, Institute of Chartered Accountants	1935	1941	Exam results and newspaper notices for JEH.	5-4
Financial and Insurance	1936	1941	Bank account records, life, auto and motorcycle insurance policies for JEH.	5-5
Miscellaneous	1937	1942	Various documents including flight stub bearing the birth date of JEH.	5-6
Employment, Tropical Oil	1939	1941	Letters of introduction and reference for JEH; employee lists, travel information, map of Colombia.	5-7
Aviation	1941	1941	Aviation information; photograph pertaining to the military service of JEH.	5-8