

**University of Toronto Archives and
Records Management Services**



Rudi Christl Personal Records

B2006-0009

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Biographical Sketch¹

Rudi Christl was born and educated in Munich Germany, where he began his career as a colour separator. In 1965 at the age of 18, he immigrated to Toronto, continuing to pursue his trade, then gradually moving into the art of photography.

Self-taught, Christl began photographing professionally in the early 1970s. Fashion, portraiture and editorial assignments took him across Canada, the U.S. and occasionally back to Europe. Throughout this time, he had always kept his photographer's eye on Toronto, and in 1977 his first book, co-authored with the late Bill Kilbourne, was published by McClelland & Stewart. *Toronto in Words and Pictures* garnered rave reviews.

In the late 1970s, Christl changed direction and focused on advertising photography. He was soon shooting for some of Canada's major agencies, though his personal creative work – in the studio, the city and countryside – continued throughout, and was shown as part of a Canadian artists' group exhibit in New York. Christl then held his first solo retrospective at the Limited Edition gallery in Toronto's Yorkville neighborhood. Christl also delved deeper into the art of portraiture – capturing prominent Canadians such as Pierre Trudeau, poet Irving Layton, and novelist Sylvia Fraser – images that remain classic examples of that period.

An updated 'sesqui-centennial' edition of *Toronto in Words and Pictures* followed in 1982, with both books remaining in print for a total of 15 years. In the meantime, Christl's commercial and editorial assignments were earning him numerous national and international awards from the Toronto Art Director's Club. It was at this time that he collaborated with author, Ian Montagnes, on a new photographic book: *The University of Toronto – a Souvenir*, published by Oxford Press in 1984.

With the 1990s came a new decade and new inspiration for a photographic book on Toronto. In 1999, *Toronto the Celebration*, made its debut in Toronto book stores. It was embraced by the City and declared Toronto's official photographic book for the new millennium.

Christl's solo exhibition, "Looking Back, Sideways and Forward" – a three- decade retrospective – was shown at Toronto's Wagner Rosenbaum Gallery in November 2001. This exhibit featured 27 large format 'giclee' prints. This was followed by an exhibit entitled "Out Takes" at Toronto's Peterson Fine Art Gallery, showcasing photographs from Christl's books and personal selections. He also participated in a group exhibition at Toronto's Art Square Gallery, summer through September 2005. Rudi Christl is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and continues to publish

¹ This sketch was provided by Rudi Christl and is included here with a few amendments.

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Scope and Content

ca. 1983-1984 0.07 m 134 - 35mm colour slides

This accession contains images taken for *The University of Toronto: A Souvenir* published by Oxford University Press and written by Ian Montagnes. It also includes images that were taken for the book and not used as well as a series of images of Osgoode Hall.

Access: Open

ITEM LIST

/File (item)	Description	Page
/001 (01)	The University in 1876 as painted by Lucius O'Brien	p. 4-5
(02)	Illuminated map that hangs in Hart House created by Alexander Scott Carter in 1937	p. 18
(03)	Orientation at Victoria College	p.24-25
(04)	University College	p.26
(05)	Outside Sir Daniel Wilson residence	p.27
(06)	Victoria College	p.28
(07)	Elevated view of Victoria College looking south east	p.29
(08)	University College and King's College circle – night view	p.30-31
(09)	Flavelle House – Faculty of Law	p.32
(10)	Alcove in Hart House	p.33
(11)	The Great Hall of Hart House	p.34
(12)	Fitness class in Hart House gym	p.36
(13)	Soccer on the front campus	p.37
(14)-(15)	The Arms of the University of Toronto and University College located in the west hall of U.C.	p.38
(16)	Soldier's Tower	p.39 and front cover
(17)-(19)	Performance of the Chester Cycle plays by students of the Poculi Ludisque Societas : the Crucifixion, Visit of the Virgin to Elizabeth and break between performances	p. 40 and 41
(20)	Abstract sculpture "Michael" by Anne Allardyce	p.42

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/File (item)	Description	Page
/002 (01)	St. Michael's College, Teefy and Carr Halls viewed from Queen's Park Cres.	p. 43
(02)	Sir Daniel Wilson residence	p.44
(03)	The judges' stand at a Homecoming float parade	p.45
(04)	Erindale College entry in annual Homecoming Float Parade	p.47
(05)	Intramural football on back campus	p.48
(06)	Walking down stairs in front of Hart House	p. 49
(07)	Robarts Library with Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library on its right	p.50
(08)-(9)	Lobby of Sidney Smith Hall	p. 52 and 53
(10)	Students study in unidentified lecture hall	p. 54
(11)	Athletes in weight room, Athletic building	p.55
(12)	Architecture students look over design projects	p. 56
(13)	Practice session of a Hayden quartet from the Faculty of Music	p.57
(14)	Rehearsal of the Opera Department in the MacMillan Theatre	p.58-59
(15)	Student lunch in Strachan Hall, Trinity College	p.60
(16)	Cafeteria in Sidney Smith Hall	p.61
(17)	View from University College Cloister across quadrangle to Laidlaw wing	p. 62
(18)	East staircase in University College	p.63
(19)	Science and Medicine Library and Sigmund Samuel Library, night view	p. 64
(20)	Cumberland House, home of the International Student Centre	p. 65
/003 (01)	Cross country skier on back campus	p. 66-67
(02)	Walking in winter along west side of King's College Circle	p. 68
(03)	Student stands in front of a bulletin board	p. 69
(04)	Corner of St. George and Hoskin showing Newman Centre and CIUT Radio to the left	p. 72-73
(05)	Laser laboratory	p. 74
(06)	Concrete sculpture with Medical Science Building in the background	p. 76

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/File (item)	Description	Page
/003 (07)	Engineering test machine in the Department of Civil Engineering	p. 77
(08)	Medical Science Building	p.78
(09)	Engineering students march with the School Cannon	p.79
(10)-(11)	Stone faces at Trinity College doorway	p. 82
(12)	Students entering Trinity College	p. 83
(13)	New College Quadrangle	p.84
(14)	University Book Room	p.85
(15)	Doorway to the Botany Greenhouses	p.86
(16)	McLennan Laboratory housing the Physics Department	p. 87
(17)	Trinity College and front landscape	p. 88-89
(18)	Erindale College	p. 90
(19)	Lounge in Erindale College	p.91
(20)	Scarborough College	p.92
/004 (01)	Styrofoam model being studied by Scarborough students	p. 93
(02)	Innis College green	p. 94
(03)	Philosopher's Walk	p. 95
(04)	Wycliff College	p. 96
(05)	Public Billboard	p. 97
(06)	Lunch wagon on St. George	p. 98
(07)	Entrance way to Victoria College Burwash Hall	p. 100
(08)	Student on steps of Victoria College Quadrangle	p. 101
(09)	Convocation procession across front campus	p.102-103
(10)	Students on front campus after convocation	p. 106
	Slides not used in book	
/004 (11)	Cumberland House, International Student Centre	
(12)	Medical Sciences Building	
(13)	University College Cloister	
(14)	<i>window - unidentified</i>	
/005 (01)	Hart House Quadrangle	
(02)-(04)	Soldiers' Tower	
(05)	Hart House	
(06) – (09)	Alcoves in Hart House	
(10)	Great Hall, Hart House	
(11)	Wycliff College	
(12)	Sanford Fleming Building	

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/File (item)	Description	Page
/005 (13)	St. Michael's College	
(14)	Quadrangle at St. Michael's College	
(15)	Trinity College field in north wing	
(16)	Victoria College	
(17)	Main Entrance to Victoria College	
(18)	Victoria College	
(19)	St. Michael's College	
(20)	Athletic Centre	
/006 (01)-(05)	Convocation	
(06)	Victoria College Float in Homecoming Float Parade	
(07)	Engineering Society – probably LGB	
(08)	Engineering student lets off canon	
(09)	Philosopher's walk	
(10)	Pathway on St. Michael's campus near Brennan Hall	
(11)	Ice rink on back campus	
(12)	Engineering lab	
(13)	Trinity College Chapel	
(14)	Sculpture in front of the Kelly Library	
(15)	Sculpture in front of Hart House	
(16)	Gargoyle	
(17)	Illuminated map from Hart House	
(18)	Stairwell, unidentified	
(19)-(20)	Lecture hall – unidentified possibly Osgoode Hall	
/007 (01)-(20)	Osgoode Hall – exterior and interior views	

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The following images published in the book were not found among the donated slides:

Elevated view of campus roofs, looking south west	Inside title page
St. George Campus, numerical directory and location guide	p.22-23
Hart House quadrangle	p.35
Former members of the Blue and White at alumni celebrations	p.46
Stacks in Robarts Library	p. 51
Vaulting of Soldier's Tower	p.70
Trinity College Chapel	p.71
University College - dean's residence and Howard Ferguson Hall	p. 80-81
Koffler Student Centre	p. 99
Convocation in Convocation Hall	p. 104-105