

# University of Toronto Archives



## Thomas F. McIlwraith Fonds

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### Thomas F. McIlwraith Fonds

#### Biographical Note

Professor Emeritus Thomas F. McIlwraith, an historical geographer, joined the faculty of Erindale College (now University of Toronto at Mississauga) in 1970. As the son of prominent University of Toronto anthropologist, also named Thomas F. McIlwraith, he had attended the University of Toronto where he obtained both a B.A. (1963) and an M.A. (1966) before venturing to the University of Wisconsin to complete his Ph.D. (1973).

Professor McIlwraith's research has focused on the history of trade and commerce in the Ontario and Great Lakes region including the history of agriculture, transport and building technologies. His research has also extended into the geography of oceanic discovery and North American settlement over recent centuries. He has written and spoke extensively on the cultural landscape of rural Ontario, on heritage conservation and on environmental management. He is the author of *Looking for Old Ontario* – a book designed to help readers understand how the countryside and towns can be read as expressions of social development. He is also co-editor of the *Concise Historical Atlas of Canada* (1998) and, *North America: the Historical Geography of a Changing Continent 2nd edition* (2001). He has been book review editor for *The Canadian Geographer* (1984-1990) and for *Ontario History* (2005 - ). Until 2008, he was advisor for the *Historical Atlas of Canada On-Line Project*.

As a result of his expertise of local historical geography, Prof. McIlwraith has served on various conservation boards and associations. He was a member of the City of Mississauga Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee between 1976 and 1985, and Chairman from 1983 to 1985. In 1999 he was appointed to the Conservation Review Board for the Province of Ontario, and was Vice-Chair of the Board from 2002 to 2005.

Throughout his thirty-five years at the University of Toronto at Mississauga, Prof. McIlwraith taught and developed various courses ranging from human geography, cultural geography, historical geography, environmental geography, mapping and field studies. He chaired the Department of Geography at Erindale from 1990 to 1993 and has held brief teaching appointments at the University of British Columbia and McMaster University. On two occasions he was guest lecturer aboard small American cruise ships plying the Great Lakes and Canada's Atlantic coastline.

Although he retired from teaching in 2005, Professor McIlwraith maintains an active research program, currently focused on two projects: environmental history along the edge of the Precambrian Shield in southern Ontario, and the role railroads have played in Ontario society over several generations. He lives with his wife Duane in Mississauga, Ontario.

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### Thomas F. McIlwraith Fonds

#### Scope and Content

1960-2007

1.5 m

textual; graphic; cartographic

This accession mainly documents Prof. McIlwraith's role as a teacher. Records in **Series 1 Teaching**, **Series 2 Field Trips**, and most records in **Series 4 Tenure Documentation** focus on courses he taught from 1970 to 2003. His heritage work and his talks to various local historical groups are also fairly well documented in **Series 3 Public Lectures and Talks**, and **Series 6 Heritage Associations**. Except for a few typescripts and photocopies of publications and reviews found in **Series 4 Tenure Documentation** and one annotated typescript that makes up **Series 5 Publications**, Prof. McIlwraith's accomplishments as a writer, reviewer and editor are absent from this accession.

**Access:** Open

**Accessions:** B2009-0009

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### Thomas F. McIlwraith Fonds

#### **Series 1      Teaching**

1974-2004                      0.52 m                      textual

This series contains lectures for many of the courses Prof. McIlwraith taught, focused on his particular area of expertise of historical geography . Reading lists, course outlines, term tests and exams have also been included. Arranged by course number as listed in Appendix 1.

For similar type files documenting Prof. McIlwraith's teaching, see Series 4 Tenure Documentation.

B2009-0009/001 - /004

See Appendix 1 for detailed file list for courses

#### **Series 2      Field Trips**

1963-2003      0.26 m                      textual ; graphic

This series documents field trips taken and organized by Prof. McIlwraith beginning in 1963 while still a geography student at the University of Toronto. Most of the files however document field trips that were organized and led by Prof. McIlwraith as part of the Erindale College Field Studies Courses - GGR 301 and GGR 319.

Many of the field trips required students to undertake oral histories in various Ontario Townships. Files include correspondence, memos, notes, forms, photographs and logistical information handed to students. Tapes and transcripts relating to these Field Trips have been deposited in local archives.

B2009-0009/005 - /006

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### Thomas F. McIlwraith Fonds

#### Series 3                      Public Lectures and Talks

1974-2007      0.20 m                      textual

Throughout his career, Prof. McIlwraith was connected to many conservation groups and historical associations. This series contains lecture notes, typescripts, correspondence and invitations documenting talks given to these various groups.

Topics relate mainly to various aspects of the historical geography of Ontario. For example, Prof. McIlwraith attended quite a few conferences of the Mississauga Local Architecture Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) where he was asked to speak. Other groups include the Ontario Genealogical Association, Community Heritage Ontario, Streetsville Historical Society, North York Historical Society, Canadian Association of Geographers to list but a few.

Also included is documentation on a series of lectures on the historical geography of Canada he gave for the American Canadian Caribbean Cruise Line 2000

Files are arranged chronologically.

B2009-0009/007 - /008

#### Series 4                      Tenure Documentation

1970-1997      0.26 m                      textual

This series contains two sets of documentation. The first compiled in 1976 when Prof. McIlwraith was applying for promotion to Assistant Professor. This documentation includes course files as described in Series 1 that complete this series for the years prior to 1976. Also included are copies of some of his early papers, reviews and talks often accompanied by an explanatory note meant to put the work in context to his entire output.

The second set of documentation is made up entirely of course related material, again with explanatory notes that most often fill the gap of similar course related files found in Series 1. This binder was amassed as part of the tenure review process to full professor in 1997

B2009-0009/009 – 010

See Appendix 1 for detailed file list for courses.

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### Thomas F. McIlwraith Fonds

#### Series 5      Publications

1986                      0.10 m                      textual

This series documents only one of Prof. McIlwraith's publications. It is a 1986 annotated version of what was later published as *Looking for Old Ontario* in 1997.

B2009-0009/011

#### Series 6      Heritage Associations

1983-2004                      0.16 m                      textual ; graphic ; cartographic

Records in this series document Prof. McIlwraith active involvement in various conservation groups or initiatives. It includes records relating to his time on the Ministry of Culture, Conservation Review Board of which he was a member and vice chair. Drawing on his academic expertise, he often prepared reports for the Board on properties under review. As a Board member he also acted as one the adjudicators for cases brought before the Board. Other committees documented here are the Cultural Policy Advisory Committee for the Mississauga Arts Council, Mississauga Local Architecture Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), and the Erindale College Plaque Committee.

Files contain reports, memos, correspondence and, in some cases, hand drawn maps and photographs.

B2009-0009/011-/012

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#### Appendix 1 – Course Listing for Series 1 and 4

##### B2009-0009

Box	Course No.	Description
/001	GGR 117Y	Introduction to Geography 1999-2000
/001	GGR 131Y	Introduction to Economic Geography 1974-1978
/009	GGR 131E	Introduction to Man's Use of the Environment 1975-1976
/010	GGR 131Y	Introduction to Human Geography 1977-1987
/001	GGR 131Y	Introduction to Human Geography 1987-1988
/001	GGR 202F	Thematic Mapping 2004
/010	GGR 215H	Introduction to Geometrics 1996
/001	GGR 218Y	Human Geography 1989-1996
/010	GGR 218Y	Human Geography 1991-1996
/010	GGR 228Y	The Human Geography of Canada 1997-1994
/001	GGR 228Y	The Human Geography of Canada 2000-2004
/009	GGR 231E	Human Geography 1971-1972
/002	GGR 253Y	Cultural Geography, 1979-1980
/010	GGR 253Y	Cultural Geography, 1979-1980
/002	GGR 263	Pre-Settlement Ontario 1987-1989
/010	GGR 263	Pre-Settlement Ontario 1984-1997
/009	GGR 271	Research Methods in Historical Geography 1972-1974
/010	GGR 276	Geographic Information Processing and Mapping 1996-1997
/010	GGR 300H	Field Studies 1974-1988
/009	GGR 301EF	Field Studies 1972
/010	GGR 318	Canada and The World 1993
/010	GGR 319	Field Studies 1991-1996
/002	GGR 318	Canada and the World 1993-1994
/002	GGR 327	Historical Geography (UBC) 1976
/002	GGR 329	Environmental Geography 1999-2003
/009	GGR 333	Transportation Geography 1970-1974
/010	GGR 351	Historical Geography of Northeastern North America,
/010	GGR 351	Landscape, Economy and Society in the New World, 1984-1985
/010	GGR 353	Current Canadian Problems in their historical setting, 1977
/010	GGR 363	Historical Geography of the Seas 1984-1994
/003	GGR 363	Historical Geography of the Seas 1990-2003
/004	GGR 351	Explicitly Unites States Material culled from GGR 351 up to 1985
/004	GGR 353F	History of the Canadian Environment, 1982
/004	GGR 368F	Historical Geography of Ontario 2000-2003
/010	GGR 380H	Communicating with maps, 1988-1994
/004	GGR 380H	Communicating with maps, special lecture, May 2002
/009	GGR 381	Research Design 1975
/010	GGR 381H	Research Design, 1987



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### Appendix 1 – Course Listing for Series 1 and 4

#### B2009-0009 (cont'd)

Box	Course No.	Description
/010	GGR 417H	Research Project , 1997-1998
/010	GGR 1700H	Seminar in Cultural Historical Geography 1988
/010	GGR 1701S	Historical Geography of North America 1997
/004	GGR 1701S	Historical Geography of North America, 2000
/010	Geo – UBC	Human Geography 1975
/010	Geo – UBC	Historical Geography of Eastern Canada 1975
/010	Geo – McMaster	Historical Geography of Canada, 1986