

**Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library**

University of Toronto



**Jack Batten
Papers 2023**

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Jack Batten Papers

Dates:

1928-2023

Extent:

1.26m (4 boxes)

Scope and content: This accession largely consists of records related to *Ross MacKay, Saga of a Brilliant Criminal Lawyer: And his Big Losses and Bigger Wins in Court and in Life* by Jack Batten, including research, interview notes, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, materials related to MacKay's legal career, photographs, correspondence, and records from MacKay's family and childhood. The accession also includes research for and drafts of an unpublished memoir of philanthropist Jim Fleck, ghost written by Batten. The fonds also includes records pertaining to the 'Crang' novel *Booking In*, and Batten's Whodunit columns for *The Toronto Star*.

Contains series:

1. Ross Mackay
2. Jim Fleck
3. *Booking In*
4. Reviews and awards

Custodial History:

Material was donated by Jack Batten to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in 2023.

Notes:

The majority of titles are, where possible, taken directly from titles given by Batten to his own folders. Shorthand notations are used throughout the finding aid and are translated as follows:

- RM: Ross MacKay
- JF: Jim Fleck

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Jack Batten Papers

- WP: Word processed (computer)
- WP with holograph revisions: computer generated with handwritten revisions in the hand of the author
- ALS: Autograph letter signed (signed by the author of the letter, handwritten)
- ANS: Autograph note signed (shorter note, card, postcard, etc.)
- TLS: typed letter signed (typed letter signed by hand)
- n.d.: No date

Series 1: Ross MacKay

Dates:
1927-2021

Extent:
3 boxes

Scope and content: Series contains research materials and manuscripts drafts of a non-fiction book Batten wrote on Canadian criminal defense lawyer Ross MacKay. MacKay was defense counsel for the last two men to be executed in Canada in 1962, Arthur Lucas and Ronald Turpin. Batten's research covers MacKay's parents and childhood, and various stages of his career up to his death in 1983. Series includes: interviews with MacKay's friends, family, and colleagues; WP and holograph research notes; newspaper clippings; criminal case summaries and trial transcripts; photographs and negatives; correspondence; elementary and high school progress reports; and other textual records.

Arrangement: Oversize materials such as trial transcripts, bound manuscripts, and notebooks are physically stored in box 4, though they are intellectually organized with relevant materials in Series 1.

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
1:1-1:5	Interviews	Notes on interviews with the following subjects: Folder 1: Ross MacKay, Ken Anders, Peter Budnick, Dragi Zekavica, Ian MacKay, Don Bitter Folder 2: Steve Posen, Rita Hooper, Dave Bristow, Eddie Gibula, Peter Zaduk Folder 3: Abby Solomon, Alison MacKay, Mary Leonard MacKay, Anna Mackay Folder 4: Shelley Altman, Ken Anders, Archie Campbell, Norm Dyson, David Fricker, Bruce North, Bob Milne, Evelyn Viney, George Wooten, Carl Mollins, Alec MacKay, Brian Jones Folder 5: Eddie Greenspan, Harry Freedman, Earl Levy, Laura Legge, Robert Bombier	1979-2019
1:6	Interviews – research material	Typescript notes, correspondence, telegraphs, architectural drawings.	1930-2003
1:7	Parents	Research notes and materials on RM's parents, Rose and Cameron.	1945-1953, [200-?]
1:8-1:10	UTS	Interview notes, newspaper clippings, and draft excerpts on RM's time at University of Toronto Schools.	1950, 2000-2003, 2014-2018
1:11	Victoria College + Osgoode Hall	Interview notes, newspaper clippings, email correspondence, case summary photocopies, and other research materials on RM's time in university.	1955-2003
1:12	Articling with Arthur Martin + Tilley, Carson Years w. McMillan Binch	Holograph and WP notes, photocopies of orientation reports, case summary photocopies, and other research materials on RM's early career.	2001-2018

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
1:13-1:15	McMillan Binch	Research on RM's early career at a large law firm, includes holograph and WP notes, case book excerpts, copy of <i>McMillan, Binch: A History 1903-1976</i> , by Gordon McMillan.	[ca. 2002]
1:16-1:17	Lucas trial	Script for "End of Rope" by Derrick Murdoch, holograph and WP notes, newspaper clippings on Arthur Lucas.	2000-2015
1:18-1:19	Hanged by Chris Britton	Screenplay on Lucas and Turpin execution.	[after 1987]
1:20	Judges - McRuer	Notes and research on McRuer, the judge on the Lucas case. Also includes clipping of his obituary, WP drafts.	1983-1985
1:21-1:22	Turpin trial + appeal	WP and holograph notes, notes on trial transcripts, WP drafts, photocopies of newspaper clippings, correspondence.	2003-2018
1:23	Execution of Lucas and Turpin	WP and typescript notes, photocopies of newspaper clippings.	[Photocopied 200-?] (originally created 1962-1985)
1:24-1:26	Appeal cases in the late 1960s + early 1970s	Criminal case summaries, case book excerpts, court proceedings, appellants and respondent's statements, holograph and WP notes on RM's cases.	[200-?]
4:1	Ross MacKAY	Printed and bound criminal case summaries of RM's cases from 1966-1982.	[200-?]
4:2-4:4	The Queen vs. Bruno Consentino	Printed and bound trial transcript.	23 June 1971

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
1:27	Abby Solomon	WP and holograph interview notes, case book excerpts, case summaries, and newspaper clippings on Solomon, a client of RM.	1979-2019
1:28	Marcoux + Solomon to disbarment	Holograph and WP notes, case book excerpts of R. v. Marcoux and Solomon (No. 2), 1973, entry in <i>Ontario Discipline Summaries</i> on RM's disbarment, email correspondence.	2001-2015
1:29	Disbarment	Includes clippings, and webpage printouts on bipolar disorder, WP and holograph notes on RM's disbarment and alcoholism, email correspondence with Susan Lewthwaite of the Law Society of Upper Canada.	2003-2007
1:30-1:31	Late 1970s	News clippings saved by RM, case summaries of appeal cases, appellant's statement and respondent's statement for R. v. McGee.	1979-2004
4:5-4:6	Her Majesty The Queen against Robert Phillip McGee	Printed and bound trial transcript.	15 Nov. 1978
1:32	Tony Rowan case	Materials related to R. v. Hertrich, including court judgements, interview notes with RM, and newspaper clippings.	1979-2019
1:33	Tony Genovese	Research materials relating to murder trial, includes WP and holograph notes, copy of a statement from Genovese, and newspaper clippings.	1979-2017
1:34	Drummond case	Newspaper clippings on the trial for the murder of Linda Marie Rockwood, also includes some holograph notes.	1980, [200-?]

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
1:35	Ross's 1980 drug charge	Documents of court proceedings, letters of congratulations on RM's acquittal, and copies of a statement from RM. Also includes Batten's interview notes and correspondence.	1980, 2000-2004
1:36	Dube case	Research materials on the Dube murder trial including newspaper clippings, holograph notes, and a map of Windsor.	1979-1980
1:37	Last years + death	Transcript of RM court appearance for traffic violation, photocopies of news articles on RM's death, notes on interview with Mary Leonard MacKay, research on <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> .	1979-1983, 2003-2019
1:38	Medical diagnosis + funeral	RM's ID cards, funeral services invoices, sympathy cards, map of cemetery grounds.	1982-1984
1:39	Correspondence and greeting cards	Letters and cards addressed to Rose Mackay and Cameron MacKay, RM's parents.	[ca. 1927-1955]
1:40	Rose MacKay medical records and other material	Nursing graduating exercises, medical diagnoses, correspondence addressed to RM's mother.	1928-1954
1:41	Ross MacKay report cards and other materials	Records from RM's early life, including progress reports, exam slips, term reports from Toronto Public Schools, reports from the Toronto Conservatory of Music, and correspondence from RM.	1930-1954
2:1	Newspaper clippings and other materials	News clippings collected by Rose Mackay, handwriting analysis pamphlet, business card.	1951-1978
2:2-2:4	Photographs and negatives	Photographs of RM and family.	ca. 1943-1953

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
2:5	Ross MacKay version #1	Early drafts of piece on RM.	[2001?]
2:6	Ross MacKay version #2	Second draft of piece on RM.	[2001?]
2:7-2:9	Counsel to the Damned	WP drafts with revisions and typeset drafts of an article published in <i>Toronto Life</i> magazine in 2001, file also includes correspondence from editor and responses to the article.	2000-2001
2:10	Macfarlane Walter & Ross	Includes book proposal and contract <i>A Brilliant and Appalling Life</i> with the publishing house MW & R.	2002
2:11-17	A Brilliant and Appalling Life	WP manuscript with holograph revisions.	Oct. 2004
4:7	A Brilliant and Appalling Life	Printed and bound WP manuscript with holograph revisions.	Oct. 2004
2:18-2:28	McClelland & Stewart manuscript	Includes correspondence with editor 'Pat,' correspondence cancelling Batten's contract with MW & R, two floppy disks of the manuscript, and a WP copy of the manuscript with revisions.	2004
2:29-2:30	The Ross MacKay Story	Partial draft of a piece on RM.	n.d.
2:31	Partial Ross MacKay draft	Unfinished draft of a piece on RM.	n.d.
2:32	Ross – The Wild Saga of a Brilliant Criminal Lawyer's Wins and	Partial draft of prologue up to chapter 2.	n.d.

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
	Losses in Court and in Life		
2:33	Misc. drafts and notes	Unfinished excerpts of writing on RM	n.d.
2:34	Option agreements	Film and TV option agreements for <i>A Brilliant and Appalling Life</i> .	2002, 2006
2:35	Ontario Arts Council grants	Failed application from 2015, instructions for application, email correspondence and notes on successful 2018 application.	2015-2018
2:36	Published version with Durvile	Includes correspondence with Lorene Shyba, promotional material, cover mock-ups, holograph notes.	2019-2020
2:37	Post publication	Notes on planning book launch, drafts of speech for launch, email correspondence with reactions to the book.	2019-2021
2:38	Legal pamphlet	"Public Legal Education & Information – My Role," section on writers written by Batten.	1984
2:39	National Post clipping	"Their Story – Why biographies can be as stimulating as great literature," by Robert Fulford, <i>National Post</i> .	7 Nov. 2017
4:8	<i>The Last to Die: Ronald Turpin, Arthur Lucas, and the End of Capital Punishment in Canada</i> (2007, Dundurn Press)	Nonfiction book by Robert Hoshowsky, 1 TLS Robert Hoshowsky.	2007
4:9	<i>The Star Rover</i> (1986, Alan Sutton Publishing)	Novel by Jack London, with minimal annotations.	1986
4:10-4:20	Notebooks	Research notes on RM manuscript.	n.d.

Series 2: Jim Fleck

Dates:

1953-2020

Extent:

1 box

Scope and content: Series consists of materials relating to an unpublished memoir ghost written by Batten on philanthropist Jim Fleck. Series includes transcripts and notes on interviews with Fleck and his family, research on Fleck's life and activities, newspaper clippings, and manuscript drafts.

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
2:40	Invoices	Invoices from Batten to JF for ghosting his memoirs.	2003-2007
2:41-2:46	Interviews with Jim Fleck	Transcripts of interviews, WP notes, printed web pages with research related to interview topics	2003-2020
2:47	R.J. Fleck	WP draft of chapter on JF's oldest son R.J., with notes and revisions from R.J.	2009
2:48	Dave Fleck	Notes on interviews with and newspaper clippings related to JF's son Dave.	2007-2010
2:49	Ellen Fleck	Notes on interview with JF's daughter Ellen, notes from JF about Ellen, and WP draft of Ellen's chapter.	2008
3:1	Chris Fleck	Notes on interview with JF's son Chris, WP draft with revisions of Chris's chapter	2007

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
3:2	Marg Fleck	Notes on interviews with JF's late wife, Marg, autobiographical statement from Marg, and WP draft of chapter 36.	[2008?]
3:3	Polly Fleck	Notes on interview with the wife of JF's late brother Paul.	27 Oct. 2007
3:4	Newspaper clippings - Fleck Manufacturing strike	Clippings on the anniversary of the 1978 labour strike at Fleck Manufacturing Co. in Huron Park, ON.	[1988?]
3:5	Newspaper clippings – Jim Fleck	Clippings on JF's philanthropy in the Canadian arts sector.	2003-2008
3:6	Newspaper clippings - AGO	Clippings on renovations to the Art Gallery of Ontario.	2006-2008
3:7	Newspaper clippings – federal funding for the arts	Clippings on cuts to the funding for the Canada Council for the Arts.	2006-2011
3:8	Correspondence from C.M. Drury	Letter from Department of National Defense on outstanding balance in JF's Royal Canadian Air Force pay account. 1 TLS C.M. Drury.	16 July 1953
3:9	Appointment to Deputy Minister	Statement from William G. Davis and photocopies of newspaper clippings on JF's appointment to Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister of Ontario.	1971-1980
3:10	Fleck genealogy	Basic biographical information on members of JF's family tree.	[after 1998]
3:11	UTS alumni	WP copy of speech given by JF at a UTS alumni dinner.	29 Oct. 1999
3:12	Jim Fleck awards & honours	Speeches, pamphlets, communiqués on awards received by JF.	2002-2010

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
3:13	Investing research	"Research Comment" from RBC, slides on 'Investment Canada' from Goodmans LLP.	2006
3:14	R.H. Thomson WWI Vigil	Poster, production schedule and newspaper clippings on <i>Vigil 1914-1918</i> , a war memorial project created by Canadian actor R.H. Thomson.	2008
3:15	Notes and research on later life	WP notes, printouts of web pages, newspaper clippings on other JF activities including the Venice Biennale, Vimy fundraising, involvement with the Bata Shoe Museum.	2011-2018
3:16	UTS fundraising	News articles, WP and holograph notes, email Martha Drake and Rosemary Evans, and WP drafts on fundraising efforts for University of Toronto Schools.	2014-2020
3:17	Toronto Music Garden	Copy of April 2015 edition of <i>re:porter</i> with article on creation of the Toronto Music Garden. 1 ANS, Martha.	2015
3:18	Marg Fleck death & funeral	Email correspondence from JF, copy of JF's eulogy for Marg, funeral program, WP draft with holograph revisions of chapter 51.	2019-2020
3:19	Emails – Jim Fleck	Correspondence between Batten and JF.	2009-2017
3:20	Emails – Martha Drafte	Correspondence between Batten and Martha Drake, Executive Director of Advancement at UTS.	2015-2017
3:21	Emails – UTS Communications	Newsletters from UTS related to fundraising and renovations.	2015-2020
3:22-3:23	Jim Fleck: My Story	Partial draft, WP with holograph revisions.	[2007?]
3:24-3:26	Jim Fleck: The First Seventy Five Years – And Beyond	WP draft.	[2008?]

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Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
3:27-3:30	Jim Fleck: The First Seventy Five Years – And Beyond (Draft 2)	WP draft with holograph revisions.	[2008?]
3:31-3:33	Jim Fleck: The First Seventy Five Years – And Beyond (Draft 3)	WP draft.	[2008?]
3:34	Notes on Fleck MS	WP and holograph notes on various drafts.	2006-2020
3:35	Notes from Jim Fleck	Notes from JF on manuscript	[2008?]
3:36	Chapter 48	WP and holograph notes, related email correspondence and newsletters	
3:37	Scrapbook	Scrapbook of news clippings and photographs of JF and Fleck family	1969-1975

Series 3: Booking In

Dates:
1992-2017

Extent:
2cm

Scope and content: Series contains materials to the novel *Booking In*, the seventh book in Batten's 'Crang' series of mystery novels. Series consists of research and clippings, notes on the manuscript, contracts and correspondence with the publishing house Dundurn, and other related materials.

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Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
3:38	'Booked In" research	Newspaper and magazine clippings, webpage printouts, and WP notes on topics like book thieves, book and art forgeries, safe cracking, colt revolvers, etc.	1992, 1999, 2015-2016
3:39	Correspondence re: CBC	Letter requesting Batten return as the movie critic on Metro Morning. 1 TLS Clayton C. Ruby	29 Jan. 2003
3:40	Notes on 'Booking In'	WP and holograph notes on setting, structure, chronology, character.	[2015?]
3:41	Dundurn publishing	Dundurn author guide, email correspondence on contract details and royalties.	2015-2017
3:42	Synopses & outlines	WP blurb and note to readers.	[2017?]
3:43	'Booking In' book launch	Email correspondence, guest list, promotional poster, copy of remarks.	2017
3:44	Reviews	Emails and newspaper clippings of book reviews.	2017
3:45	David Mason letter	Letter requesting feedback from Batten on a draft, 1 ALS, [D-?].	n.d.

Series 4: Reviews and awards

Dates:
1959-2023

Extent:
2cm

Scope and content: Series largely contains clippings and notes related to Batten's "Whodunit" column of crime fiction reviews in the *Toronto Star*, as well as some other reviews written by Batten. Series also contains records related to awards Batten received for his writing.

Box:Folder Number	Title	Contents	Date range
3:46	Review in <i>Metronome</i>	Review of Toronto Jazz Festival Batten wrote for an American jazz magazine.	June 1959
3:47	Whodunit - notes	Holograph notes planning and scheduling Batten's crime fiction reviews.	[2014-2017?]
3:48-3:53	Whodunit	Newspaper clippings of Batten's crime fiction reviews in the <i>Toronto Star</i> .	2017-2022
3:54	Final Whodunit	WP draft and newspaper clipping of Batten's final book review for the <i>Toronto Star</i> , also includes clipping of the first review Batten wrote for the <i>Star</i> .	1959, 2022
3:55	Norma Fleck award	Newspaper article on Batten winning an award for the nonfiction book <i>The Man Who ran Faster Than Everyone: The Story of Tom Longboat</i> .	[2002?]
3:56	Correspondence re: Derrick Murdoch award	Email correspondence planning interview with Batten, 1 TLS Hyacinthe M. Miller.	2023