

# Ruth Humphrey fonds

Compiled by Jean Beck (1985)  
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# Fonds Description

**Ruth Humphrey fonds.** – 1937-1975.

27 cm of textual records.

## Biographical Sketch

Helen Ruth Humphrey was Associate Professor Emerita and taught English at U.B.C. from 1945 to 1963. She was born in Hampton, New Brunswick and took an Honours B.A. in English Language and Literature at Oxford in 1926. She then taught at Victoria College from 1927 to 1945. Humphrey was a long-standing friend of B.C. artist Emily Carr whom she met when she was teaching at Victoria College and Carr was a struggling artist. She was apparently among the first of the friends who discovered the potential of Emily Carr's writing and encouraged her when she began her second career as a writer after ill-health prevented her from going into the forest, travelling with her van, or sketching at summer cottages. There is also some evidence that she assisted Carr with her early short stories. Humphrey herself received an Honorary doctorate from Mount Allison University in 1977, recognizing her services to Canadian literature and teaching. She died on October 21st, 1984.

## Scope and Content

Fonds consists of assorted materials relating to Emily Carr, and Ruth Humphrey's friendship with her. They include forty-seven letters from Carr, dating from the period 1937-1944 when Humphrey was travelling. The fonds also includes Humphrey's own transcripts and notes on the Carr correspondence; manuscripts written by Carr; copies of works by other authors on Carr; correspondence regarding the publication of the Carr correspondence in the *University of Toronto Quarterly*; and other Carr memorabilia collected by Humphrey.

## Notes

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

Acquired as a bequest following Ruth Humphrey's death.

The Carr correspondence was ultimately published, with annotations by Ruth Humphrey, in the *University of Toronto Quarterly*, Vol. 419, No. 2 (Winter 1972), in honour of the Centenary of Carr's birth.

## File List

File#	File/Item Title	Date	# of Items
1-1	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Jan. 3, 1938 Jan. 5. 1938	2
1-2	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Jan. 14, 1938 Jan. 15, 1938	3
1-3	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Jan. 31, 1938 Jan. 31, 1938	3
1-4	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Feb. 6 Feb. 7. 1938	2
1-5	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover dated	Feb.13 Feb.13. 1938	3
1-6	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover dated	Feb.23 Feb. 23, 1938	3
1-7	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Mar. 7 Mar. 7, 1938	3
1-8	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Mar. 20 Mar. 21, 1938	4
1-9	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked with cover and comment by R.H.	June 19, 1938 June 20. 1938	4
1-10	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover dated	May 25, 1940 May 25. 1940	2
1-11	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	July 6 July 8, 1941	2
1-12	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover dated	Aug. 10 Aug. 10, 1941	3

1-13	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover dated	Aug. 24, 1941 Aug. 24, 1941	2
1-14	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	July 2 July 2, 1940	4
1-15	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	July 10 July 11, 1940	3
1-16	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr dated by R.H. late Aug. or early Sept. with cover dated ditto with comment by R.H.	1943	2
1-17	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	n.d. Oct. 29, 1943	2
1-18	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Feb. 25, 1944 Feb. 25, 1944	2
1-19	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover dated with comment by R.H.	Dec. 1944 Dec. 1944	2
1-20	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover with comment by R.H. suggesting date 1943	n.d.	2
1-21	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Aug. 8 Aug. 9 1943	2
1-22	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked with comment by R.H.	n.d. Aug. 19 1943	3
1-23	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	July 18 1942 July 19 1942	2
1-24	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr	Aug. 9	2

	with cover postmarked	Aug. 9 1942	
1-25	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked and comment by R.H.	n.d. Sept. 29, 1942	3
1-26	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	n.d. Oct. 13 1942	2
1-27	Card to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	n.d. Nov. 16, 1942	2
1-28	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	n.d. May 17, 1937	2
1-29	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	May 21 May 21, 1937	3
1-30	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	n.d. May 22, 1937	2
1-31	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	May 27 May 28, 1937	2
1-32	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr cover with comment by R.H. "follows letter dated May 27"	n.d.	2
1-33	Fragment of letter to R.H. from E.C. cover by R.H. suggesting date	n.d. June 1937	2
1-34	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked with cover with comment by R.H.	June June 22 1937	4
1-35	Fragment of letter with drawings to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover by R.H. suggested date	n.d. June 3, 1937	3
1-36	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr	June 26	3

	with cover dating letter	June 26, 1937	
1-37	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover dating letter	July 4 July 4, 1937	3
1-38	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	July 21 July 21, 1937	3
1-39	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr cover postmarked note by R.H. dating letter	May 10 June 10, 1937 June 10, 1937	4
1-40	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Aug. 10, 1937 Aug. 11, 1937	3
1-41	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with drawing on letter cover postmarked	Aug. 22  Aug. 1937	3
1-42	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Apr. 25, 1938 Apr. 26, 1938	3
1-43	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover postmarked	Aug. 3 Aug. 4, 1937	3
1-44	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr cover postmarked	May 9 June 9, 1938	2
1-45	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr cover postmarked	n.d. May 23, 1938	3
1-46	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with cover dated	May 8 May 8, 1938	3
1-47	Letter to R.H. from Emily Carr with drawing on letter with cover dated	Nov. 7, 1937  Nov. 7, 1937	3
1-48	Cover only postmarked	Dec. 18, 1937	1

- 2-1 Transcripts of letters to R.H. from E.C. 1937-44  
to  
2-5
- 2-6 Transcripts of letters to R.H. from E.C. 1937-44  
Includes editor's notes and  
numbered notes for the University of  
Toronto Quarterly
- 2-7 Notes on letters to R.H. from E.C. 1937-44
- 2-8 Three manuscripts by Emily Carr - Covered by letters from R.H. 1937  
1. "The Cow Yard" - typescript  
2. "D'Sonoqua" - partly handwritten  
3. "The Bishop and the Canary" - typescript
- 2-9 Works by R.H. about Emily Carr [n.d.]
- 2-10 Works by other authors about Emily Carr [n.d.]
- 2-11 Talk on art by Emily Carr - typescript Oct. 22, 1935
- 2-12 Address by Emily Carr - Publication Mar. 4, 1930
- 2-13 Announcement of a publication by Emily Carr [n.d.]
- 2-14 Exhibitions by Emily Carr [n.d.]
- 2-15 CBC TV Program on Emily Carr Sept. 14 & 21, 1975
- 2-16 Newspaper clippings about Emily Carr [n.d.]
- 2-17 Notes by R.H. [n.d.]
- 2-18 Letter to R.H. from Victoria University Women's Club [n.d.]
- 2-19 Photographs and postcards [n.d.]
- 2-20 Celebration of 100th Anniversary of Emily Carr's birth Aug. 31, 1971



2-21 Photograph and letter from Walter Gage [n.d.]

2-22 Drawings by Jack Weldon Humphrey [n.d.]

2-23 Miscellaneous [n.d.]

2-24 "Letters from Emily Carr" - xerox copy from the University of Toronto Quarterly,  
Vol. XLI Number 2 Winter 1972