

# **THOREAU MACDONALD FONDS 1920-1957**

---

City of Vaughan Archives  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario  
Latest Version 2020

## Table of Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Introduction to the City of Vaughan Archives' Finding Aid..... | 3 |
| Part 1: Fonds Level Description.....                           | 4 |
| Thoreau MacDonald Fonds (MG 40).....                           | 4 |
| Part 2: Series Level Description.....                          | 4 |
| Book Plates (MG 40/I) .....                                    | 4 |
| Photographs, Sketches and Write-ups (RG 3/II) .....            | 5 |
| APPENDIX A: FILE LISTS .....                                   | 5 |
| Book Plates (MG 40/I) .....                                    | 5 |
| Box 1.....   | 5 |
| Photographs, Sketches and Write-ups (MG 40/II) .....           | 7 |
| Box 1.....   | 7 |
| Box 2.....   | 8 |

## **Introduction to the City of Vaughan Archives' Finding Aid**

The purpose of the City of Vaughan Archives Finding Aid is to provide access to a given body of records by representing those external and internal components of a fonds and its constituent parts brought to light during the analysis of the fonds' characteristics (i.e. during arrangement). A fonds is defined as the totality of records or papers created and/or accumulated and used by an individual, family, or corporate body throughout their existence. The external structure of a fonds consists of contextual information relating to the record creator (i.e. the person, family or corporate body chiefly responsible for the creation and/or accumulation and use of a fonds), that is to say, information relating to the history, organization, functions and activities of a records creator that give shape to the fonds. The internal structure of the fonds is concerned with the latter's documentary nature, or with the actual records themselves: their arrangement, organization, classification, documentary form, etc. The reason for providing data about the external and internal nature of a fonds is to ensure that records can be seen in the context of their creation and so that they can be associated with the actions which brought them into existence in order for them to act as evidence of said actions.

Fonds may have a number of components. In terms of the concept of agent of creation (i.e. the person, family or corporate body responsible for the creation and/or accumulation and use of the fonds), a fonds may be divided into sous-fonds, which represent subordinate record-creating agencies (departments, bureaus, etc.) under the jurisdiction of the larger administrative body responsible for the creation of the fonds as a whole. For example, the fonds of the Vaughan Township Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, the Treasure Branch and General Administration Branch are the constituent sous-fonds. The actual records constituting a fonds (i.e. internal structure of a fonds) are grouped into bodies of like documents called series, with a series being an aggregate of records deriving unity from some common relationship arising out of the records' creation, receipt and use, and relating to the functions and or activities of the records' creator. Series in turn may be further divided into subseries, or even sub-subseries, these being naturally-defined subdivisions of series formed on the basis of a common feature such as documentary form, subject, arrangement in accordance with a filing system (chronological, alphabetical, subject, etc.), etc.

The format utilized to represent the part-to-whole structure of the fonds described in this Finding Aid is based on the Canadian data content standard Rules for Archival Description (RAD). All formal descriptions (i.e. those descriptions above the file level in the Finding Aid) are compiled in accordance with the guidelines outlined in RAD. Lists of files and items are presented as appendixes in the descriptive inventory, without regard to RAD.

Photocopying of documents in the City of Vaughan fonds is permitted except where documents fall under the personal information and privacy provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. In such instances, the researcher is referred to the City Archivist for specific access procedures.

## Part 1: Fonds Level Description

### Thoreau MacDonald Fonds (MG 40)

**Date(s) of creation  
of record(s)** 1920-1957

**Physical Description**

- 29 book plates
- 100 photographs: b&w; 28 x 36 cm or smaller.
- 41 drawings: pencil on paper; 30 x 33 cm or smaller.

**Biography/History** Thoreau Macdonald, son of Group of Seven Artist and Vaughan resident J.E.H. MacDonald, was an artist and book designer, working predominantly for Ryerson Press in Toronto until his retirement in 1960. Born in 1901, Thoreau possessed his father's love of Canada's natural beauty, this sentiment finding expression in work ranging from oil paintings, watercolours, black and white sketches to sculpture. He died in his father's house in Thornhill (the historic J.E.H. MacDonald House) in 1989.

**Scope and Content** Fonds consists of 29 book plates, 100 black and white photographs (including images of Yonge St, Arnold Ave, Elizabeth St, Centre St, Bathurst St, Hwy 7 and Seager farm and other agricultural scenes in Thornhill) 41 sketches done in pencil, and several write-ups on Thoreau Macdonald.

**Notes** Title based on content of fonds.

## Part 2: Series Level Description

### Book Plates (MG 40/I)

**Date(s) of creation  
of record(s)** 1920-1957

**Physical Description**

- 29 book plates

**Scope and Content** Series consists of book plates.

**Notes** Title based on contents of series.

Has notes inscribed artist ""Please keep these book plates W.L. Mackenzie Museum Dr. E. M. Walker" and "BALLANTINE (CORSWELL)," which is crossed out

## Photographs, Sketches and Write-ups (RG 3/II)

**Date(s) of creation** 1920-1957  
**of record(s)**

**Physical Description**

- 100 photographs: b&w; 28 x 36 cm or smaller
- 41 drawings: pencil on paper; 30 x 33 cm or smaller

**Scope and Content** Series consists of photographs, sketches done in pencil, and several write-ups on Thoreau Macdonald.

**Notes** Title based on contents of series.

## APPENDIX A: FILE LISTS

### Book Plates (MG 40/I)

#### Box 1

1. 2 identical bookplates, side by side "Ex Libris E.M. Walker" with illustration of dragonfly flying over lake with tree-lined shore in background and rocky shore in foreground. Reverse says in pencil, "MacDonald"
2. 2 identical bookplates, side by side "Ex Libris The William Lyon Mackenzie Homestead Toronto" with illustration of the Mackenzie House
3. Corner says "Thoreau MacDonald" with illustration of pine tree - inked over. Reverse in pencil says "Thoreau MacDonald"
4. 2 identical bookplates, one over the other - inked over "Presented by the Ernestine Whiteside Fund for Christian Literature Established by the Baptist Women's Missionary Society of Ontario and Quebec in recognition of Miss Whiteside's distinguished service as Editor of their Missionary paper." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald, Ernestine Whiteside"
5. Large letterhead filling one-third of sheet - inked over "Federation of Ontario Naturalists Bulletin No." with illustration of birds flying over landscape with trees and water. Reverse says in pencil, "Federation of Ontario Naturalists"
6. Engraved with "J.E.H. MacDonald 1873-1932, The Art Gallery of Hamilton, March 1957" on reverse it says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald J.E.H. Catalog cover"

7. Left side says continuation of list of owners lending works for catalogue. Right side says biography of J.E.H. MacDonald, first page entitled "J.E.H. MacDonald, 1873-1932." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald J.E.H. Catalog"
8. Left side says biography of J.E.H. MacDonald, second page, begins "of a suggested form...." Right side says "Catalogue" first page of list of works and lenders
9. Name of last lender and works (N.D. Young, etc.) with MacDonald illustration of sugar shack, maple trees. Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald J.E.H. Catalog"
10. Four identical illustrations symmetrically arranged 2 over 2 = "Ex Libris Maxwell Strange" with rearing lion within shield with foliage - inked over, very faint. Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald Lorne Pierce cards 4 on" "MacDonald, Thoreau (Biography of Mr. MacDonald, Sr.) and Library Plates
11. Barely legible, inked over, 5 bookplates, 2 over 2 "The Edith and Lorne Pierce Collection of Canadiana Queen's University at Kingston", illustration of plough. Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald Lorne Pierce cards 4 on."
12. Barely legible, inked over - 4 bookplates, 2 over 2 crest in form of circular leather strap with words "County of Frontenac" - illustrations within circle: three-masted sailing vessel, sheaves of wheat, plough." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald Judge Chambers bookplate"
13. 2 Pages (34,7), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "In the Spring of 1857..." Right side begins "The Succession of Forest Trees" title. Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald "34-7"
14. 2 pages (28, 13), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "anticipated by a family of a dozen red squirrels..." Right side begins "is it not wonderful that cherry trees of all kinds..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald "28-13."
15. 2 pages (8,33) side by side - inked over. Left side begins "introduces it to Concord groves..." Right side begins "town, and a few months before this not even I..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald Forest Tree"
16. 2 pages (10, 31), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "It remains, then, only to show how the see..." Right side begins "observation his remark is founded, I must doubt..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 10-31"
17. 2 pages (12, 29) side by side - inked over. Left side begins "the pines have sprung up from nothing, and I..." Right side begins "to time to see if any foe is approaching, and soon..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 12-29."
18. 2 pages (16, 25), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "If a pine wood is surrounded by a white oak..." Right side begins "there is all the moisture and manure they want..." Reverse says in pencil, Thoreau MacDonald 16-25"
19. 2 pages (14, 27), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "of pindes, for these are carried even against the..." Right side has an illustration of a deer in trees. Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 14-27"

20. 2 pages (20,21), side by side - inked over. Left side has an illustration of pine trees. Right side begins "sued has been to plant the enclosures with Scotch..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 20-21"
21. Right side only - inked over. Right side begins "almost any fruit you wish, every year for ages..." There is an illustration of wolf in pine trees at bottom of page. Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald"
22. 2 pages (18,23), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "pine wood, which has a few little oakes in it, on..." Right side begins "chestnut-bur dropped on our great river meadow..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 18-23"
23. Cover page says "The Succession of Forest Trees by H.D. Thoreau" with an illustration of landscape with tree-lined shore, water and rocky shore - inked over. Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald Cover"
24. 2 pages (30,11), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "so, far from the seed having lain dormant in..." Right side has an illustration of forest with owl in tree. Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau Macdonald 30-11"
25. 2 pages (22, 19), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "ago made patent to all. She is all the while..." Right side begins "recently prostrated, though it was still covered..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 22-19"
26. 2 pages (24-17), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "an oak standing here and there in the wood in..." Right side begins "way, betrayed no little anxiety about its treasure..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 24-17"
27. 2 pages (26, 15), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "more than follow Nature, though they may not..." Right side begins "many little oaks, birches, and other hard woods..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 26-15"
28. 2 pages (32, 9), side by side - inked over. Left side begins "Yet I am prepared to believe that some seeds..." Right side begins "Therefore, it would seem that I have some..." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 32-9"
29. Title and end pages (36, 5), side by side - inked over. Left side has an illustration, 2 men sawing log, forest in background. Right side says "The Succession of Forest Trees by H.D. Thoreau", illustration of leaf, at bottom "An Address Read to the Middlesex Agricultural Society in Concord, September 1860. Reprinted by Thoreau MacDonald 1956 courtesy of Thoreau's Publishers, Houghton, Mifflin Co." Reverse says in pencil, "Thoreau MacDonald 36-5"

## Photographs, Sketches and Write-ups (MG 40/II)

### Box 1

1. T.M. Photographs, 1920s-1930s (1 of 7)
2. T.M. Photographs, 1920s-1930s (2 of 7)
3. T.M. Photographs, 1920s-1930s (3 of 7)

**Box 2**

1. T.M. Photographs, 1920s-1930s (4 of 7)
2. T.M. Photographs, 1920s-1930s (5 of 7)
3. T.M. Photographs, 1920s-1930s (6 of 7)
4. T.M. Photographs, 1920s-1930s (7 of 7)
5. Written Time Capsule, 1936
6. T. MacDonald Programs
7. T. MacDonald Write-ups