



MG 651 – Fiji Robinson fonds

Dates: 1966-2009 (inclusive) ; 1980-2006 (predominant).

Extent: 20 cm textual records, 57 photographs, 6 negatives, 2 drawings, 2 optical discs, 1 audio cassette (59 minutes).

Biography: Margaret Isabel (Peggy) Robinson was born on August 21, 1955 in Red Deer, Alberta. As a child, her family moved to Calgary and then Edmonton. She graduated from McNally Composite High School in Edmonton in 1973.

In 1975, Robinson moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and was enrolled in the Arts and Science undergraduate program at the University of Saskatchewan. Robinson was also employed as a lab technician for the University's Audio/Visual Department. She became Director of the U of S Photography Directorate and joined the Photographers Gallery in Saskatoon. In 1981, Robinson was Assistant Co-ordinator/Curator of the Photographers Gallery, as well as Associate Editor (Art) for Grain magazine.

Robinson also began singing with the a cappella trio The Quinlan Sisters, a musical revue act, in 1981. She moved to Toronto, Ontario in 1982 to continue performing with the act. It was with The Quinlan Sisters that she adopted the stage name of Fiji Champagne Robinson. Robinson, along with Peter McGehee (Marie Quinlan) and Wendy Coad (Peaches O'Cod) performed as the Quinlan Sisters until 1984. Robinson performed with the vocal group The Beau Girls from 1985 to 1987 and paired with McGehee in 1987 to perform in the a cappella musical revue act The Fabulous Sirs until 1990.

Since the late 1980s, Robinson has worked in the field of communications and marketing in a number of sectors, including post-secondary education, international development, and human rights. In 2006, Robinson began producing short documentaries for her production company, Rudecat Pictures Inc. She has produced two short documentaries for the Saskatchewan Communications Network's (SCN) 15 Minutes of Fame series: *The Tale of Tortellini*, about Italian entrepreneur Aniello Marotta, Saskatoon's Prince of Tortellini; and *Painted on the Spot: On the Road with Ernie Luthi*, featuring the Saskatchewan artist.

Peggy (Fiji) Robinson currently (2010) resides in Saskatoon.

Custodial History: Margaret (Fiji) Robinson donated these records to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan in three accessions: in 2009 (2009-645), in 2011 (2011-101), and in 2015 (2015-012). The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan transferred these records to the University of Saskatchewan, University Archives & Special Collections in March 2019 in two accessions (2019-016 and 2019-026).

Scope and Content: This fonds consists of records created, accumulated and used by Margaret (Fiji) Robinson in her career as a vocalist and performer in the musical revues The Quinlan Sisters (comprised of Robinson, Peter McGehee, and Wendy Coad) between 1981 and 1984, and The Fabulous Sirs (Robinson and McGehee) between 1987 and 1990 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Toronto, Ontario.

It also includes records created, accumulated and used by Robinson between 1990 and 2007 in the development of a book proposal and subsequent film proposal on her career as a performance artist

working with writer/director Peter McGehee. Research and notes for the online GLBTQ On-Line Encyclopedia entry for McGehee's life partner, human rights activist Douglas Wilson, are also included.

It also includes records created, accumulated and used by Robinson in 2008 and 2009 in the course of producing *Painted on the Spot: On the Road with Ernie Luthi*, a documentary about Ernest Luthi (1906-1983), an artist from Punnichy, Saskatchewan.

The types of records included are research notes, drafts of written works, clippings, programmes, posters, song lyrics, music scores, photographs, budgets, grant applications, curricula vitae, drawings, photocopies of correspondence to Ernest Luthi, a CD-ROM, and an audio cassette recording of The Fabulous Sirs in concert at the 1988 Edmonton Fringe Theatre Festival.

Arrangement: Order imposed by archivist. Arrangement reflects chronology of Robinson's entertainment career.

Restrictions: Files marked restricted require vetting by an archivist prior to release. All restrictions are applied as per privacy legislation. Use, publication and/or reproduction of records are subject to the terms of an agreement with the donor and the conditions of the *Copyright Act*. Copies may be made for research or private study purposes but publication or other uses will require the permission of the donor.

Related Records: Doug Wilson fonds (MG 653) includes records related to Wilson's human rights claim against the University of Saskatchewan, and his activism for the rights of gays and lesbians. Neil Richards fonds (MG 355) includes records of various gay and lesbian groups in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and work done by Doug Wilson for gay and lesbian rights. Peter McGehee fonds (MG 652) includes records related to Robinson's involvement with Peter McGehee in The Quinlan Sisters, The Fabulous Sirs, and as a friend.

Conservation Note: Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan staff removed paper clips and other fasteners, placed photographs in Mylar sleeves, and transcribed notations on the back of photographs which were originally affixed to the prints with post-it notes. An audio cassette was also copied onto compact disc for preservation purposes.

Notes: Accn 2019-016 and 2019-026.

Finding aid created by Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. Edited for formatting by Bonnie Dahl, 2019.

Box 1

1. Margaret (Peggy) Isabel Robinson: Curricula Vitae. – 1983-1988.
2. The Quinlan Sisters: CBC Recordings List. – 2001.
3. The Quinlan Sisters: Contracts. – 1982.
4. The Quinlan Sisters: Correspondence. – 1982-1984.
5. The Quinlan Sisters: Grants from Canada Council. – 1984-1984.
6. The Quinlan Sisters: Itineraries. – 1981-1984.
7. The Quinlan Sisters: Photographs. – [1982-1984]. – 26 photograph prints. – 1 optical disc (43 photographs).

The date written on the CD-ROM of 1979 is likely incorrect. It pre-dates the formation of The Quinlan Sisters. The photographs on the CD-ROM are more likely from 1982.

8. The Quinlan Sisters: Programmes and Promotions. – [1982]-1984.
9. The Quinlan Sisters: Reviews. – 1982-1985.
10. The Quinlan Sisters: Song Lyrics. – 1980-1984.
11. The Fabulous Sirs: Photographs. – 1987. – 10 photograph prints.
12. The Fabulous Sirs: Programmes and Promotion. – 1987-1990.
13. The Fabulous Sirs: Reviews. – 1987-1989.
14. The Fabulous Sirs: Song Lyrics and Music Score. – 1985-1988.
15. The Fabulous Sirs: Sound Recording. – [1988]. – 1 audio cassette.

File contains recording of performance by The Fabulous Sirs. The performance is likely from 1988 at the last night of the Edmonton Fringe Theatre Festival. Side A includes performances of the following songs: "Boy to Boy," "No Man At All," [Right-Wing Fundamentalist Evangelical Jive], "I Remember," "Be Bop," "Dance with Me," "White Bread," "Big Dyke," "If Love Were the Key," [Bearhill Road], "Stellrita's Song," "You and Me," "Lost," "Italy's Got the Pope," and "Godzilla." Side B includes "Stellrita's Song," "You and Me", and "Lost." The file also includes a preservation copy on audio CD made by the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.

16. Peter McGehee. – [1984]-1992. – 2 photograph prints.

17. Doug Wilson: Research. – 1975, 2005-2006.
18. *Muff & Marie: Changing the World with Activism & Art*: Research, Drafts, Budgets, Grant Applications. – 1975-2006. – 3 folders. – **RESTRICTED**.

Note: Folder 3 includes images containing explicit content.
19. *Lick Shoot Suck*: Proposal, Research. – [2006].
20. Quarter to 9: Proposal for Sponsorship. – 2007.
21. Photographs and Cards. – [1980-2001]. – 19 photograph prints. – 6 negatives. – 2 drawings.
22. *Painted on the Spot*: Research Materials, Drafts, Documentary. – 1966-1969, 1977, 1992, 2008-2009. – 1 optical disc.
23. The Fabulous Sirs, The Quinlan Sisters, and Photographer's Gallery. – 1982-1989.

Pamphlet for Photographer's Gallery in Saskatoon, newspaper clippings, ticket stub, and *Grapevine* newsletter.