



## MG 99 - J.B. McGeachy fonds

**Dates:** 1915-1966 (inclusive); 1933-1966 (predominant).

**Extent:** 40 cm of textual records, 1 photograph, 1 - 5" reel audio tape.

**Biographical Note:** James Burns ("Hamish") McGeachy was born in Kilmacolm, Scotland, in 1899 and emigrated to Canada with his parents in 1913. He attended the University of Saskatchewan, graduating at the age of 19 with the Governor-General's Gold Medal. He was also awarded a Rhodes Scholarship but declined it, attending instead the University of Toronto, where he earned his M.A. in 1919, and Princeton University, where he was a Proctor Fellow in modern history.

He worked for the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix from 1922 - 1927, then served in various capacities over the next twelve years for the Sifton newspaper chain. During the Second World War he was chief correspondent for the BBC Overseas Service. After his return to Canada at the end of the war, he joined the Globe and Mail as a member of the editorial board, later becoming associate editor. From 1956 until his retirement in 1965, he was on the staff of the Financial Post.

J.B. McGeachy died in Toronto on 27 August 1966.

**Scope and content:** The majority of this collection are articles written by McGeachy for a variety of Canadian publications over his long and distinguished career as a journalist. It also contains some correspondence, and a scrapbook.

**Arrangement:** Organized into two series:

- A. JB McGeachy;
- B. Barbara McGeachy
- C. Addendum

**Custodial History:** The papers in this collection appear to have been the property of J.B. McGeachy's sister, Dr. Barbara McGeachy of Chorley, England. They were transferred to the University of Saskatchewan Archives from the University of Western Ontario in 1991. The exception to this is the addendum, an audio tape from the collection of the London Public Library, transferred to the University Archives in 2021.

**Notes:**

Almost all of the newspaper clippings were in extremely poor condition; xerox copies were made to replace the original newsprint.

Title based on contents of the fonds.

Accessions 1991-004, 2021-092

**Restrictions on access:** There are no restrictions.

*Finding aid prepared by Cheryl Avery, University Archives, 1991; addendum in 2021.*

**A. J.B. McGeachy. - 1927-1966.**

This series consists of records pertaining to the career of J.B. McGeachy, and includes articles, correspondence, reviews, photographs, etc.

**1. Articles. - n.d., 1927-1933.**

Includes:

- “The Constitution: ‘I am bored stiff with perpetual talk and no action” *Financial Post*, n.d.
- “School Without Tears”, n.d.
- “The West Wins The Battle Of Hudson Bay” *Saskatoon Daily Star*, 1 Oct. 1927
- “Guarantees For Deposits” 18 March [1932]
- “Progress Towards The Waterways” [31, March 1933]
- “The Oxford Group Movement” *Winnipeg Free Press*, 6 May 1933
- “Well Dressed and Radiant Group of Missionaries Here” [*Winnipeg Free Press*], [12 May 1933]
- “Our Feelings We With Difficulty Smother”, [6 June 1933]
- “The End of Prohibition”, [22 July 1933]

**2. Articles. - 1935-1966.**

Includes:

- “World History Made Since King Was [Crowned]” *Winnipeg Free Press*, 6 May 1935
- “Years Ago” *The Green and White*, December 1948, p.3
- “On the Death Of King George The Sixth” Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (booklet), February 1952 p.11
- “Canada In A Mood For Change” *The Listener*, vol. XLVIII, no.1239 27 November 1952 p. 871
- “There Wasn’t A Call Girl Or Gigolo On Board This Cruise Ship...” *Financial Post*, [10 December 1960]
- “Prince Philip’s Second Conference On Man And His Machines” *Shell News*, vol. 15 no. 4 April-May 1962 p.8
- “The Bat Under The Belfry” *Saturday Night Magazine*, vol. 79 no. 2, February 1964, p. 9
- “The Good Life: Manners Make The Man” *Quest* vol. 2 no. 4 March- April 1965 p.31
- “Sunshine, coconuts, steel bands...” *Financial Post*, [9 April 1966]
- “When Is A War Not A War?...” *Financial Post*, [August/September] 1966

**3. Obituaries. – 1966.**

See also below, addendum: “Tribute to JB McGeachy.”

**4. Personal-Miscellaneous. - n.d., 1915, [1963-1965]. – textual records, 1 photograph.**

- “How Do You Write” n.d.
- Commencement Exercises Programme, Saskatoon Collegiate Institute, 29 October 1915
- Photograph, J.B.H. McGeachy receiving an award for “distinguished regular departmental coverage,” Maclean-Hunter Advertising and Editorial Awards, 11 April 1963
- Speech [transcript], Ross McEdden on McGeachy retirement, [1965]

5. **Reviews and Notices.** - n.d., [1933]-1966.

- “Just Ask the Expert” n.d.
- “My Top Ten Men” Mckenzie Porter, [Toronto *Telegram*], n.d.
- “Colourful, Stormy Career of Richard Wagner is Depicted in Bold And Energetic Fashion” review of Wagner by Guy de Pourtales, J.B. McGeachy, [1933]
- “Broadcasting In War Time: The Empire Girdle”, Ivor Brown. *The Listener* vol XXV no 638, 3 April 1941, p. 483.
- “J.B. McGeachy: Writer’s Writes” *CBC Times*, vol.4 no. 27, 20 January 1952 p.4
- “A Touch of McGeachy” review by Joan Irwin; [196-?]
- “Judges Praise High Standards Of Awards Entries”, *Maclean- Hunter Newsweekly*, vol. 53 no. 16 19 April 1963 p.10
- “The World Of McGeachy”, *Maclean-Hunter Newsweekly*, vol. 53 no. 33, 16 August 1963, p.2
- “Radio Portrait of J.B. McGeachy”, *CBC Times*, vol. 16 no. 7, 17 August 1963, p. 2
- “Celebrated Columnist Retires From the *Financial Post*”, *Maclean-Hunter Newsweekly*, vol. 55 no. 31, 6 August 1965, p.1

**B. Barbara McGeachy. - 1966.**

This series consists of correspondence, and a scrapbook; both from colleagues of JB McGeachy, and sent or written to his sister Barbara, following McGeachy’s death in 1966.

1. **Correspondence.** – 1966.  
Primarily with JB McGeachy’s colleague, Frank Singleton (BBC), who wrote the obituary.
2. **Scrapbook.** – 1966.  
Created by John Irwin, of the Financial Post. Includes covering letter.

**C. Addendum. – 1966.**

1. **Tribute to JB McGeachy.** – audio tape.  
A 5” tape, 3 ¾ speed, 30 minutes long. Recorded by the CBC on 21 October 1966, for Dr. Barbara McGeachy, dubbed 11 September 1969. Tape and shipping order.

Found in an archival collection in London, ON and transferred to the University Archives in November 2021.