



MG 431 - Tom Smith fonds

Dates: ca. 1900-2012 (inclusive) ; 1930s-1970s (predominant).

Extent: 72 cm of textual and graphical material (including ca. 285 photographs, 101 negatives, 15 postcards, 22 digital prints). - 7 audio cassettes. – ca. 75 paintings and drawings. – 3 framed certificates.

Biographical notes:

Tom Smith is a graduate of the College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan; he received his B.E. in 1945. His varied career has included being part of the team that built the Alaska Highway, service during World War Two, farming, and teaching in the College of Engineering. His research has had a strong focus on archaeology and local history, especially through years of involvement in the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society. He was married to Laura, who died in 2008. His mother, Olena Jeanette (Sherven) Smith, was an amateur artist who studied at the Winnipeg School of Art in 1914-15, with Gus Kenderdine in the early 1930s; and attended the Emma Lake Art Camp in the 1950s.

Olena Jeanette (Sherven) Smith:

Born in 1889 at Ridgeway, Iowa, to Norwegian pioneers, the fifth daughter of seven with a younger brother and four sisters, Olena came to a homestead 30 miles north of Watson, Saskatchewan in 1911. Olena's interest in sketching animals at a young age led to her being enrolled in a Lutheran college in Red Wing, Minnesota in 1907, where she learned oil painting. She had previously taken a mail course doing a pen and ink perspective exercise. Her father encouraged further schooling, so she went to the Winnipeg School of Art during 1914-15 where pencil studies of the human form were taught using plaster models. In 1938 she went there for a brief time; LeMoine FitzGerald, a member of the Group of Seven, was Head.

Boarding with her sister on the U of S campus, she was able to get lessons from Gus Kenderdine who had been appointed the university's first art instructor. Two copies of Kenderdine oil paintings survive from these lessons. Her first showing was held in Saskatoon. She exhibited oils "Winter" and "Autumn," scenes from the farm. She attended the Emma Lake summer school for three seasons. Instructors included Kenneth Lochhead, Arthur McCay, Reta Cowley, H.W. Wickenden, and Winona Mulcaster.

In later winters at Edinburg, Texas, Olena enjoyed doing street scenes in Mexico and some portraits in pencil. Retiring to Melfort, she continued to sketch, making notes on colours for future paintings. She died in 1972 at the age of 83.

Scope and content: The fonds includes paintings, sketches and memorabilia relating to the artistic pursuits and output of Olena (Sherven) Smith; and material relating to Tom Smith's careers and interests, particularly archaeology and local history, as well as engineering and farming, including documentation of his job on the engineering crew for the Alaska Highway.

Donated to the University of Saskatchewan by Tom Smith, 2012.

Further accruals are expected.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Finding aid edited for formatting by Amy Putnam, 2018.

Box 1

Framed works:

See also unpublished catalogue (Box 4)

Spring Breakup Our Road. – ca 1930. – Pencil on paper.

63 Miss Mattie – Edinburg, Texas. – 1957. – Pencil on paper.

46 Mexican girl. – Edinburg, Texas. – 1960. – Pencil on paper.

Mexican Lady. – nd. – Pencil on paper.

8 Foot. – nd. – Pencil on paper.

61 Back Lane/Melfort. – 1962. – Pencil on paper.

RWS Birthday 1 Feb 1886. – Pencil on paper.

Unframed works:

Revellers. – 1938. Pencil on paper.

[Dock at a lake]. – nd. – Pencil on paper.

[Wickenden] (Emma Lake Instructor). – nd. – Watercolour on paper.

Box 2

Photographs

Photograph Album/Scrapbook – Alaska Highway. – 57 photographs (some loose)

In 1942, Tom Smith was a member of the engineering crew that built the Alaska Highway, including the Kiskatinaw River Bridge – the first curved wooden bridge to be built in Canada. See also Alaska Highway file.

Photograph Albums – General. – 2 albums (56 photographs)

1. Earlier photograph album (29 photos; predominant ca. 1930-1940s) showing life on the Smith farm, family, etc. (with several loose prints which may not have been part of the original album).
2. Album compiled more recently, with 27 photographs covering ca. 1915-1990s. Includes Smith farm, Tom's Convocation day, Qu'Appelle Highway survey, Laura and Tom, family and friends.

Photograph Album – Sherven Family / Emma Lake / Olena Sherven Smith artwork. – ca. 1911-1972. – 24 photographs, 5 sketches and other material

Includes early Sherven family photographs; Olena Smith's obituary; a few pencil sketches by Olena; letters from Reta Cowley, 1958 and 1969; Program for Saskatoon Art Centre exhibition, 1944 (with three Olena Smith paintings); a few photos of Olena Smith paintings; group photographs from the Emma Lake Art Camp; and correspondence about exhibits.

Photograph Album – Sherven Family? – Prairie City, Iowa. – ca. 1920s and earlier. – 35 photographs
Studio portraits

Photographs – Archaeology. – 7 photographs + 3 digital prints
Patterns in clay – junction of Highway 368 and 41, at time of new Highway 41
Archaeology related? – 5 photographs (rock formations and unidentified group of men)
Tom Smith's archaeological displays. – 1 photograph, digital print (3 images)

Photographs – Farming / Agriculture. – 20 photographs + 3 digital prints
Smith Farm. – 7 photographs + digital print (3 images)
Farming – General. – 9 photographs
(some images may be Smith farm, but not identified)
A. Heyer, Melville – No. 12 apple. – 4 photographs

Photographs – Smith Family. – 29 photographs
Tom Smith and/or Laura Smith. – 19 photographs
Portraits and snapshots, ca. 1930s-2005; includes photograph of Laura with Brian Mulroney
Family history. – 2 photographs.
Copies of Smith family portraits, ca. 1900
R.W. Smith (Tom's father). – 3 photographs
On stallion "Morgan" at farm; in Alma, Ontario, 1915; in Edinburg, Texas, 1963.
Olena Smith – photographs of artwork. – 5 photographs
See also Olena Smith – artwork – catalogue

Photographs – Unidentified negatives. – ca. 93 b&w images, 27 col. images

Photographs – Various. – 2 folders. – 40 photographs, 8 negatives, 14 postcards, 12 digital prints

Various – Identified. – 19 photographs, 8 negatives
Includes Pipeline Survey, Laura, family and friends, scenic views, etc.
Various – Unidentified. – 17 photographs
Postcards. – 14 postcards
Both sent and unsent; includes postcard from Tom during motorcycle trip with Ray, 1948
4 mounted photographs + digital print
2 digital printouts (11 images)

Photographs – Transportation / Engineering. – 9 photographs, 7 negatives
Photos of trains, tractors, airplane, display about Fairbanks Morse Diesel Fuel Injection System; construction of 50 foot arch bridge on Highway 6 at Melfort Creek (Tom Smith, Dept. of Highways Engineer), 1946 or 1946; Tom's rodmen for inter-provincial pipeline project, 1949.

Photographs – University of Saskatchewan. – 1 photograph, 1 postcard

Postcard of Chemistry Building; Eng '45 – Roy Blezard Wedding 1944 (groom's party?)

Photographs – Ray Zurowski. – 6 photographs, 4 digital prints

Primarily photos from Tom and Ray's motorcycle tour of the U.S., 1946 – identified photos include stops on the road in Kentucky and West Virginia.

Audio Cassettes

1. G. Kuhns oral history interview / Walter Kupsch lecture. – ca. 60 minutes
Oral history interview with G. Kuhns (primary interviewer Laura Smith? Includes contributions by Tom Smith). Topics include bootlegging, trains, excavation for a pipeline, dams, flooding of farmland.
Lecture by Walter Kupsch, Professor of Geology at U of S, about glaciers (starts on side one, all of side two)
2. John Diefenbaker speech
3. Why Buildings Fall Down – CBC Ideas (Lister Sinclair)
4. Moose Jaw Times, 1907 – Tom's dictation of newspaper articles; seems to relate to local history research
5. Winnipeg – Tom's dictation of auction notices and articles; seems to relate to local history research
6. Quirks and Quarks episode
7. CBC As it Happens – The Shepherd – reading by Alan Maitland

Subject Files

Includes clippings, correspondence, articles, research material, etc.

Box 3

Agriculture

Clippings; first page of letter to the editor [by Smith?]

Alaska Highway

Includes "Alaska Highway Memories" by Tom Smith (typescript and version published in *Rural Roots*) as well as clippings and articles.

Archaeology – Articles/Clippings – General

Archaeology – Articles – Saskatchewan

Archaeology – Finds

Includes record cards for two finds by Smith; copy of request for carbon dating, 1970; and notes about game trails described to Smith by Ole P. Shirley.

Archaeology – Instructional sheets

Archaeology – Manitoba

Two issues of Manitoba Archaeological Quarterly, 1978

Archaeology – Maps

Archaeology – Miscellaneous

Archaeology – Miscellaneous notes

Archaeology – Saskatchewan Anthropology Journal. – 1968

Copy of Vol. 1, No. 1 of *Na'pāo: A Saskatchewan Anthropology Journal*

Archaeology – Saskatchewan Archaeological Society

Includes certificate of 45 years of membership, brief to government (1983), constitution (1963), and misc. meeting reports.

Archaeology – *Saskatchewan Archaeology* (journal). – 1983, 1986, 1987, 1989

Archaeology – Saskatchewan Archaeological Society Newsletter. – 1980-2007 (incomplete). – 4 folders

Archaeology – Saskatchewan Archaeological Society – Prince Albert chapter. – 2010

Agendas and minutes relating to the establishment of a Prince Albert chapter.

Archaeology – Saskatchewan Pre-History Museum

Letterhead for Saskatchewan Pre-History Museum, “under the auspices of Saskatoon Archaeological Society and Department of Geology, U. of S.”

Archaeology – Saskatoon Archaeological Society. – ca. 1966-1971

Notices and reports of lectures and meetings; and information about “Early Man Survey.”

Archaeology – Sketches by Smith. – 2 folders

Archaeology – Smith collection

Letter to David Meyer, Dept. of Archaeology at U of S, about a possible display in Melfort, Smith’s collection of fur trade era items, and potential sites for testing.
See also Photographs – Archaeology

Archaeology – University of Saskatchewan course notes

Archaeology – Writing by Smith

Published articles and drafts

Birds

Field guide excerpts

Engineering – article

Typescript of article co-authored by Smith with S.M. Drance and R.G. Murray: “The Effect of Alpha-Chymotripsin on suture materials.”

Engineering – job offer. - 1947

Letter informally offering Smith a job in Regina.

Engineering – miscellaneous

Notes, clippings, blueprints, etc.; including a few hand-drawn designs.

Family history. – 2 folders

Various material relating to family history research

Family history – Laura

Biography by Tom of Laura Smith, Tom’s wife; and copy of proof of age.

Farm – log cabin plans

Sketch which appears to be plan for log cabin on Smith farm.

Finances / Land

Misc. notes, correspondence, etc.

Flett Creek Co-operative. - 1986

Correspondence relating to the formal dissolution of the Flett Creek Co-operative, for which Tom Smith was secretary.

Box 4

Local history – general. – 3 folders

Various material, primarily clipping and articles.

Local history – 1906/07 winter

Material relating to Smith research about 1906-07, “A Winter of Crisis,” including drafts of article.

Local history – articles by Smith

Published articles and drafts

Local history – Bar U Ranch

See also Local history – Ranches

Local history – *The Beaver*. – 1942

December 1942 edition (cover missing).

Local history – correspondence

Local history – *High North* magazine. – December 1951

Local history – Ironside Ranch.

See also Local history – Ranches

Local history – The Lily / Sam Waller Museum

Material relating primarily to Smith's research about the river steamer "The Lily," published in *Saskatchewan History* in 1964.

Local history – Notes (misc.)

Local history – Ole Peder Shirley, "Viking of Willowdale"

Local history – Pathlow homesteads

Map

Local history – ranches

See also Local history – Bar U Ranch and Local history – Ironsides Ranch

Local history – *Saskatchewan Co-operative News*. – 1925

Published by Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company

Misc.

Misc. correspondence

Olena Smith – art – catalogue

Unpublished catalogue of artwork by Olena Smith – with images, titles and dates.

Olena Smith – art – exhibitor/prize tags

Olena Smith – art – misc.

Clippings, copies of work (some from scrapbook), "My Life with an Artist" by Tom Smith, etc.

See also Box 5 – sketch book

Olena Smith – Lutheran Seminary

Material relating to Lutheran Ladies' Seminary in Red Wing, Minnesota, which Olena Smith attended.

Olena Smith – Texas

Brochure about the Alamo

Olena Smith – textbooks

See Box 5

Politics

Circular to electors of R.M. of Flett's Springs from Smith as candidate for Reeve, n.d.; candidate cards and name tag – candidate for Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan, 1975, Kinistino constituency.

Travel

Brochures/booklets from Montana (ca. 1930s) – “Through the Land of the Shining Mountains” by Bob Fletcher; as well as Iowa, and Yorkshire (England). The Montana booklets are likely from Smith's motorcycle tour of the U.S.,

Box 5

Books (see also oversize, below)

Olena Smith – art - sketch book. – nd, 1958. – ca. 17 drawings
pencil sketches and water colours on paper.

Olena Smith – textbooks

The Mother Tongue Book II: An elementary English grammar. Ginn & Company, 1901.

Practical Geography for Common Schools. Rand McNally, 1898

Both inscribed by Lena Sherven, Red Wing, Minn., Sept. 12, 1907

Oversized material - S30.4

Framed paintings.

#64 Hand Wpg School. – 1915. – 8 ½ x 10 ¾ - Pencil on paper.

#55 Lady Slippers. – 1960. – 9 ½ x 7 ½ - Water colour on paper.

#53 Texas Girl. – 1960. – 9 x 7. - Pencil on paper.

#23 Smith Farm Barn and Shed. – 1944. -11 ½ x 8 1/2 - Pencil on paper.

Mexican Church Edinburgh Texas. – 1959. – 13 x 10, - Water colour on paper.

#70 Hungarian Partridges. – 1940. – 14 x 9. – Oil on board.

#54 Youth (Winnipeg). – 1915. – 18 x 13 ½. – Pencil on paper.

#11 Laughing Boy (Winnipeg). – 1915. – 18 x 13 ½. – Pencil on paper.

#12 Philosopher (Winnipeg). – 1915. – 19 1/2 x 14. – Pencil on paper.

Margaret Smith. – 1929. – 7 ½ x 5 ½. – Pencil on paper.

[Roses]. – 1961. – 9 ½ x 7 ½. - Water colour on paper.

#41 Donkey Cart Mexico. – 1960. – 9 x 13. - Water colour on paper.

57 Monochrome Emma Lake School. – nd. – Oil on board.

[Emma Lake Camp]. – 1954. – 24 x 18. – Oil on board.

#37 Stooks. – 1941. – 8 ½ x 11 ½. - Oil on board.

#66 Pioneer Woods Home Melfort. – nd. – 5 ½ x 9 ½. – Pencil on paper.

#5 Turkey River Iowa. – 1907. – 15 x 9. – Oil on board.

#26 Horse. – 1941. – 12 x 16. – Oil on board.

[Cabin in woods]. – 1935. - 11 ½ x 15 ½. - Oil on board. Back in a paint by numbers painting of sad clown

#24 East lane. – 1934. – 12 x 6 ½. - Oil on board.

#35 Winter. – 1939. – 8 ½ x 11 ½. – Oil on board.

#9 [Hand with fruit]. – Wpg School. – 1915. - Pencil on paper.

Carmen - Mexican Girl Edinberg Texas. – 1963. - 10 x 7 ½. - Pencil on paper.- backing board paint by numbers Majestics Peaks.

#32 Joe Munro Prairie River. – 1952. – 14 x 9 ½. – Oil on Canvas.

31 Annie Stonestand James Smith I.R. – 1948. – 13 ½ x 9 ½. - Oil on board.

#10 Julius. – 1914. – 13 ½ x 10 ½. Pencil on paper.

[Two bottles and a plate]. – nd. – 12 x 9 ½. – Pencil on paper.

Framed certificates.

Thomas R. Smith - Life Membership. – 1948.

The Association of Professional Engineers of Saskatchewan.

Thomas R. Smith - Certificate of merit. – 1943.

Awarded to meritorious service during the construction of the Alaska Highway 1942-43.

Thomas Rutherford Smith – membership. – 1949.

The Association of Professional Engineers of Saskatchewan.

Framed art - S30.3

#42 Street Scene, Mexico. – 1960. - 16 x 11.5". – Watercolour.

#38 Cribbage. – 1952. - 10.5 x 8". – Oil.

#18 Kenderdine Copy 1. – 1927. - 14.5 x 11.5". - Oil.

#19 Kenderdine Copy 2. – 1927. - 14.5 x 11.5". – Oil.

#60 Emma Lake Cabin - Art School. -1953. - 16.5 x 20". - Oil

T.R. [Smith]'s Pony. - 1942

#20 Stacking Oats. – 1935. - 10.5 x 12.5". – Oil.

Girl (Winnipeg). – 1915

Unframed art. (oversize envelope)

[Cabin in the woods]. – nd. – 9 x 12. – pencil on paper.

October [1]. – nd. – 6 ½ x 8. – water colour on paper.

October [2]. – nd. – 9 x 11 1/2. – water colour on paper.

[Log cabin]. – nd. – 13 x 19. – oil on canvas.

Ethelton sketch. – 1965. – 11 x 15. – pencil on paper.

[Cow shed]. – 1959. – water colour on paper.

Edinburg Texas Girl. – nd. – 10 x 8. – pencil on paper.

Otto Rogers. – nd. – 13 x 10. – pencil on paper.

Oversized publications. (oversize envelope)

The Fujiyama Edition World's masterpieces of modern painting. – nd.

Section no. 1. No 71 of 350 numbered and registered copies.
The Art Journal. – 1893, 1896.
Two volumes.

Framed Artist biography. – nd.

Life of an Artist OLENA JEANETTE SHERVEN-SMITH. Part of an exhibit at the Melfort Art Gallery, now called the Sherven-Smith Art Gallery.