



## MG 344: Hugh Arscott fonds

**Dates:** 1916-2001 (inclusive); 1961-1979 (predominant)

**Extent:** 1.2 m of textual records, slides, photographs, audio tape, film.

**Biography:** William Hughes Arscott was born 13 March 1924. His early education was at Westmount public school and Bedford Road Collegiate; from 1945-1948 he attended the University of Saskatchewan, earning a BComm. He served in the army from 1943-1945 and was discharged with the rank of Corporal. Arscott served on numerous organizations, including the Kinsmen Club; the YMCA board; was director at large for the Canadian Arthritic and Rheumatism Society, served as president of the University Alumni and was elected to the senate of the University in 1963. He was active in politics, first with the Progressive Conservative party and later, with the Rhinoceros party; although he was never successful in his bids for elected office. Arscott worked in the life insurance business since 1951, eventually establishing his own firm, Arscott and Associates. Arscott was well-known for his humorous observations of the Canadian and Saskatchewan political scene. He died in Saskatoon in 2002.

**Scope and Content:** This fonds contains materials relating to Arscott's work; his involvement with the Progressive Conservative Party and later disillusionment with the mainstream parties and his activities with the Rhinoceros Party; his extended family; his war service; and reminiscences of growing up in Saskatoon, attending the University, and local and political figures. Particularly extensive is his writing: creative; satire; and memoirs.

**Arrangement:** This fonds has been organized into 5 series:

- Business
- Correspondence
- Personal Subject-Nominal
- Political
- Writing

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

Title based on provenance.

Donated to the University Archives by Jane and Will Arscott, 2005.

*Guide prepared by Cheryl Avery, 2005; formatted by Lisa Carpenter, 2017.*

**SERIES 1: BUSINESS.** – 1956-1965. – 16 cm of textual records.

This series contains records relating to Arscott's position as a field representative of The Equitable Life Insurance Company of Canada. See also below, Personal Subject-Nominal series, file "Personal – 1962."

1. **Life Underwriters Association.** – ca. 1956.  
Copy of The Story of the Life Underwriters Association of Canada, 1906-1956; together with a photocopy of clippings.
2. **McLeod, D.E.** – 1963-1965. – 2 folders.  
Correspondence, memorandum and forms. McLeod was Superintendent of Agencies.  
Folder 1: 1963-1964  
Folder 2: 1964-1965.
3. **McLeod, Don – Discussion Nov 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Visit.** – 1965.  
Correspondence on various matters to be discussed.
4. **Month End Reports.** – 1963-1964.
5. **Power, Howard E. – General Manager.** – 1963-1964.  
Correspondence.
6. **Production Records.** – 1962-1968. – 5 folders.  
Includes copies of "Branch Standings" and "Agency Records."  
Folder 1: 1962-1965.  
Folder 2: Jan-May 1966  
Folder 3: Jun-Nov 1966  
Folder 4: Dec 1966-Apr 1967  
Folder 5: May 1967-1968.
7. **Production Records – Sanford.** – 1967.
8. **Promotion.** – 1962.  
Engraving, embossed "statement of purpose," sketches, booklet on "Planning your Affairs;" notes for Star Phoenix ads; etc.
9. **Seebach, D.G. – Agency Secretary.** – 1962-1964.  
Correspondence.

**SERIES 2: CORRESPONDENCE.** – nd, 1916-1951 (inclusive); 1944-1945 (predominant) – 40 cm of textual records; 23 photographs.

This series contains correspondence predominantly from Arscott's time in training and then service with the army during World War II. It includes correspondence from family members and friends, as well as some correspondence relating to military matters and Arscott's university education.

Note: although not affecting legibility, a number of these letters have sustained water damage.

Folder 1: Miscellaneous

Folder 2: nd, 1938-Aug 1942

## **Box 2**

Folder 3: Sep-Dec 1942

Folder 4: May-Jul 1943

Folder 5: Aug-Sep 1943

Folder 6: Oct 1943

Folder 7: Nov-Dec 1943

Folder 8: Jan-Feb 1944

Folder 9: Mar-Apr 1944

Folder 10: May-Jun 1944

Folder 11: Jul-Aug 1944

## **Box 3**

Folder 12: Sep-Oct 1944

Folder 13: Nov 1944-Jan 1945

Folder 14: Feb-Mar 1945 (\*includes George V dollar bill)

Folder 15: Apr-May 1945

Folder 16: Jun-Jul 1945 (includes application for discharge)

Folder 17: Aug-Sep 1945

**SERIES 3: PERSONAL SUBJECT – NOMINAL.** – nd, 1942-2001. – 20 cm of textual records, 152 slides, 2 reel-to-reel audio tapes.

This series contains materials relating to Arscott's education; business and family life; notes for stories and anecdotes; etc. It includes two reel-to-reel tapes of an interview with CJUS-FM.

1. **Adilman, George.** – nd, 2001. – textual records, photograph.  
Clippings; photographs.
2. **Childhood.** – nd.  
Artwork, some with annotations from teachers.
3. **Greetings from Liz and Phil.**
4. **Lever Brothers.** – 1948.

5. **Meridian Dam.** – 2001.
6. **Miscellaneous.** – nd, 2000-2001.  
Notes; copies of United Way “Dinner Date – Being Hugh Arscott.”
7. **Newspaper Clippings.** – 1958-1961.  
Correspondence regarding articles in the paper.
8. **Notebook.** – 1942.  
Includes typescript.
9. **Notebook.** – 1949.  
Includes copy of “The Digger,” vol. 6, no. 2 (published by staff of Simpsons).
10. **Notebooks.** – [ca. 1970s].

**Box 4**

11. **Ourton with Hugh Arscott.** – 1967. – 2 audio tapes.  
From CJUS-FM.
12. **Personal.** – 1962-1982. – textual records, 4 photographs. – 7 folders.  
Includes family, professional and political correspondence; material relating to children Will and Jane; etc.  
Folder 1: 1962  
Folder 2: 1963-1964.  
Folder 3: 1969-1971.  
Folder 4: 1971-1975.  
Folder 5: 1980.  
Folder 6: 1981.  
Folder 7: 1982
13. **Personal – Relatives Correspondence re: London Trip.** – 1965-1969.
14. **Photographs.** – 2002. – 1 print, 1 negative.  
Also includes 6 prints from colour printer.
15. **Saskatoon’s 100<sup>th</sup>.** – 1982.  
Memoir, part of which was published in the Star Phoenix.
16. **Scrapbook – Boat Trip Down South Saskatchewan River.** – 1966. – Oversize.  
Two scrapbooks of clippings, one created by Will Arscott, of a 25-day canoe trip taken by Hugh, Will and dog Sam.
17. **Slides.** – 1966. – 152 colour slides.  
Images taken during canoe trip, traveling east from Red Deer; and including several of Saskatoon, Batoche, Fish Creek, etc.

18. **Thank-You Notes.** – 1962-1964. – 2 folders.

Folder 1: 1962-1964

Folder 2: 1964

19. **University – Economics.** – 1945-1946.

Notes, exam questions from course [taught by George Britnall].

20. **University – Political Science.** – 1945-1946.

Notes, exam questions from course taught by Professor Ward.

21. **Westmount School.** – 1992.

**SERIES 4: POLITICAL.** – 1963 – 2002. – 20 cm of textual records, 32 – 16mm film strips; 1 DVD.

This series contains campaign materials, correspondence, etc. relating to Arscott's involvement with the Progressive Conservative Party; his memories of JG Diefenbaker; and his later involvement with the Rhinoceros Party of Canada.

1. **General.** – 1963-1964.

Primarily relating to the Saskatoon branch of the PC Association; but includes correspondence with Alvin Hamilton, Dalton Camp, Joe Clark, Arthur Pearson, John Hnatyshyn, Fred Mendel, Michael Starr, etc. Also included are copies of PC campaign material promoting Arscott, Brandt, Goldenberg, Hnatyshyn, and Rees.

2. **Diefenbaker, JG.** – 1963-1964.

3. **Hanley.** – 1964.

Materials relating to a provincial by-election, in which Arscott ran as a PC party candidate. See also below, "Provincial."

#### **Box 5**

4. **Hanley Publicity.** – 1964. – textual records, 16 mm film, DVD.

Includes 32 short clips of Arscott on policy [filmed for use during the provincial by-election in Hanley]. The film has been copied onto DVD.

5. **Jones, Harry and Eloise.** – 1961-1964.

Eloise Jones won the by-election following her husband's death and was returned as MP for Saskatoon, the riding previously represented by Henry Frank (Harry) Jones. Arscott served as finance chairman for her campaign.

6. **1997 General Election.** – 1997.

"Rhino tales," clippings, etc.

7. **1998 By-election.** – 1998.

Notes.

8. **Pederson, Martin.** – 1964.

9. **Political.** - 1964

10. **Political – Draft – Diefenbaker.** – 2001-2002.

Draft of manuscript regarding Diefenbaker and the PC party in Saskatoon.

11. **Progressive Conservatives.** – 1968.

Correspondence from Alvin Hamilton concerning the outcome of the 1967 PC leadership convention; letter concerning party finances; clipping concerning Arscott's resignation from the party.

12. **Provincial.** – 1963 – 1964.

Primarily concerning the provincial election of 1964, in which Arscott ran as a PC party candidate first in Saskatoon, then in the Hanley by-election. See also above, "Hanley."

13. **Published Writings.** – 1960.

"One Opposition Party" and "Problems of Opposition."

14. **Rhino [Rhinoceros Party].**

15. **Rhinoceros Campaign Posters.**

Three versions.

16. **Rhino Material (Unused).** – 1983.

Includes vol. 1, no. 1 of "The Rhino Times"

17. **Speeches.** – 1992-2002.

Includes print out of website, "Western Home Rule."

18. **Thrasher, R (Dick).** – 1964.

Dick Thrasher was then national director of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

**Box 6**

**SERIES 5: WRITING.** – nd, ca. 1949-2002. – 20 cm of textual records.

This series contains early and later writing by Arscott: creative fiction; satire; and memoirs.

1. **Canadian Forum.** – 1967.

Rejection letter for "The Widow's Son."

2. **"The Happy, Little World of Ourton or People tell me the strangest things."** – 1972-1974. – 2 folders.

Stories #1-50.

3. **"A Miscarriage of Justice."** – 1950.
4. **"Pansy."** – [ca. 1949].
5. **"Paradise."** [ca. 1949].
6. **"A Politician's Allegory."** – nd.
7. **"Some of the Things I Remember Best Never Happened to Me."** – nd, 1973-1974. – 2 folders.
8. **Stories # 51 - # 100.** – Feb-Oct 1973.
9. **Stories # 101 – # 149.** – Oct 1973 – Jul 1974.
10. **Stories # 150 - # 200.** - Aug 1974 – Oct 1975.
11. **"Stories I Tell My Friends, and Other Recollections of a Full Life."** – 2002. – 2 folders.  
A later title appears to have been "To Be Continued."
12. **"Stories I Tell My Friends" – Original Version.** – 1969. – 2 folders.
13. **Untitled [Company Picnic at Regina Beach].** – [ca. 1950]  
Includes copy of "The Digger" vol. 7 no. 2 (published by staff of Simpsons).