

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS

AFC 114

Inventory prepared by Alison Mitchell-Reid, based on student finding aid project(s) undertaken in partial fulfilment of archives course requirements – January 2010

WESTERN ARCHIVES
AFC 114
THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FONDS DESCRIPTION	4
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS	
Series 1: Correspondence.....	6
Series 2: Clippings and programs	7
Series 3: Director's notes	9
Series 4: Scripts	10
Sub-series 4.1: Mary O'Meara original scripts	11
Sub-series 4.2: Martin O'Meara original scripts	12
Sub-series 4.3: Adele Reid original script.....	14
Sub-series 4.4: Adele Reid, Mary O'Meara, and Martin O'Meara original script.....	15
Sub-series 4.5: Scripts by unidentified authors	16
Sub-series 4.6: Unbound scripts.....	17
Sub-series 4.7: Commercially published scripts and score	19
Series 5: Photographs.....	20
Series 6: Souvenir programs	21
Series 7: Awards	22
Series 8: London Little Theatre production manual	23
Appendix A: Published scripts and score list	24

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

1935-1973, predominant 1941-1968

Extent

1.02 m of textual records
68 photographs
1 statuette

Biographical Sketch

Martin O'Meara was born in 1906, the eldest of Michael J. and Annie (née Crummer) O'Meara's four children. O'Meara was active in London, Ontario amateur theatre during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s; he remained involved with London Little Theatre productions into the 1970s. He acted in and directed various well-received London Little Theatre productions, including some successful entries in the Dominion Drama Festival. He also wrote several plays that were produced by local amateur theatre groups. His sister Mary, born in 1914, was also a prolific playwright who collaborated with her brother on several original scripts. One of Martin O'Meara's one-act comedies, *Sitting Bill*, was published in 1949 as part of the Samuel French Canadian Playwright series.

Martin O'Meara died in 1991. He is buried in the family plot in Section B of St. Peter's Cemetery in London, Ontario.

Scope and Content

This fonds contains documents relating to the theatrical life of Martin O'Meara. Textual records and photographs relating to the London Little Theatre predominate. Original scripts, annotated commercially available scripts, correspondence, programs, awards, and notes are included. Scripts written by his sister Mary O'Meara and his friend Adele Reid are also included.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1: Correspondence
- Series 2: Clippings and programs
- Series 3: Director's notes
- Series 4: Scripts
- Series 5: Photographs
- Series 6: Souvenir programs
- Series 7: Awards
- Series 8: London Little Theatre production manual

Finding Aids

File and item lists are available.

Custodial History

The majority of the documents were presumably held by Martin O'Meara until their donation to the Archives of Ontario in the early 1980s. Additional material, mainly Mary O'Meara's scripts and the photographs, was willed by Martin O'Meara to his sister Mary, who willed it, in turn, to second-cousins Florine Morrison and Victor Aziz, Jr.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Most of the records were transferred from the Archives of Ontario in 1985. Additional material was donated by Florine Morrison and Victor Aziz, Jr. in 2002.

Related Material

A copy of Martin O'Meara's published play, *Sitting Bill*, is available in the Western Archives special collections (call number PR9299.O535S58 1949).

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions on access.

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 1 Correspondence

Dates

1947-1966

Extent

6 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains correspondence addressed to Martin O'Meara. Correspondence with the Dominion Drama Festival, letters of congratulations, and other theatre-related correspondence is included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Correspondence re: productions	1947-1958	AFC 114-1-1
Correspondence re: productions	1954-1963	AFC 114-1-3
Miscellaneous correspondence	1955-1966	AFC 114-4-2
Correspondence re: Dominion Drama Festival	1958	AFC 114-1-5
Correspondence re: productions	1961-1966	AFC 114-1-6

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 2 Clippings and programs

Dates

1935-1972, predominant 1941-1962

Extent

15 cm of textual records
 1 volume of textual records
 1 photograph : b&w

Scope and Content

This series contains newspaper clippings and programs for plays with which Martin O'Meara was involved. Documents from O'Meara's place as actor and director are included. Souvenirs from London Little Theatre productions predominate, although there are programs and clippings from plays produced at the Catholic Cultural Centre and the Regis Club as well.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Programs, clippings for amateur productions in the London area (not London Little Theatre)	1935-1962	AFC 114-2-5
Scrap book [vol.]	1941-1943	AFC 114-6
Programs etc. – London Little Theatre	1944-1949	AFC 114-2-2
Programs for productions of Catholic Cultural Centre and Regis Clubs	1945-1962	AFC 114-2-6
Clippings, programs “Where There’s A Will”	1949	AFC 114-1-2
Programs, clippings – London Little Theatre	1950-1959	AFC 114-2-3
Saturday Night Magazine – mentions London Little Theatre	1950	AFC 114-6
Program, clippings “The Saint”	1954-1955	AFC 114-1-4

Title	Dates	Box/File
Clippings "Heavens Above"	1960	AFC 114-1-7
Programs, clippings – London Little Theatre	1960-1972	AFC 114-2-4
Photo, clippings "The Reluctant Debutante"	1963	AFC 114-1-8
Clippings, programs "The Miracle Worker"	1963	AFC 114-1-9

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 3 **Director's notes**

Dates

1963

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains typed and hand-written director's notes for Gideon, produced by the London Little Theatre in 1963. Notes, a rehearsal schedule, and a stage diagram are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box
Director's notes – "Gideon"	1963	AFC 114-1-10

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 4 Scripts

Dates

1948, [between 1950 and 1965]

Extent

74 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains copies of scripts and one musical score, collected or written by Martin and Mary O'Meara. Original works by Mary O'Meara, Adele Reid, and Martin O'Meara are included. Commercially available scripts, with Martin O'Meara's handwritten annotations, are also included.

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Sub-series 4.1 Mary O'Meara original scripts

Dates

[between 1950 and 1965]

Extent

9 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains original typed scripts written by Martin O'Meara's sister, Mary. In some instances, several drafts of one script are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box
Script for "The Highest Mountain" [5 copies]	1959	AFC 114-1-11
Script for "War in Peace" [2 copies]	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-1-12
Script for "False Spring"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-15
Script for "Yellow Chrysanthemums"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-16
Script for "Song of the Cicadas"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-18

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Sub-series 4.2 Martin O'Meara original scripts

Dates

1948, [between 1950 and 1965]

Extent

22 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains original typed scripts written by Martin O'Meara. In some instances, several drafts of one script are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Script for "Heavens Above" [4 copies]	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-1-13
Script for "Straws in the Wind" [3 copies]	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-9
Script for "Portrait of a Young Girl"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-1-14
Script for "Poor Felix" [4 copies]	1964	AFC 114-4-8
Script for "Bonds" [3 copies]	1958	AFC 114-3-1
Script for "Where There's a Will" [2 copies]	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-3-2
Script for "Sitting Bill" [2 copies]	1948	AFC 114-3-3
Script for "The Rose Garden"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-3
Script for "The Unholy Garden"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-4
Script for "For a Little While"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-5
Script for "Nefari"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-6
Script for "The Devil's Postscript"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-7

Title	Dates	Box/File
Script for “Three Little Pigs Went to Market” [later became “Poor Felix”]	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-10
Script for “Three Blushing Pilgrims”	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-11
Script for “Rich Man, Poor Man”	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-12
Script for “The Sitter” [later became “Sitting Bill”] [2 copies]	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-13
Script for “Desire’s Attainment”	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-14
Script for “Mal de Mer” as “Mary Ann” and “Mary Martin”	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-17

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Sub-series 4.3 Adele Reid original script

Dates

[ca. 1960]

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains an original script, penned by O'Meara family friend, Adele Reid. No further information about Adele Reid is known.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Script for "As the Heart is Wide"	[ca. 1960]	AFC 114-4-19

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Sub-series 4.4 **Adele Reid, Mary O'Meara, and Martin O'Meara original script**

Dates

[ca. 1960]

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains an original script, penned by Martin O'Meara, Mary O'Meara, and O'Meara family friend, Adele Reid.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Script for "Pray for Miss Softly" [2 copies]	[ca. 1960]	AFC 114-4-20

**THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Sub-series 4.5 Scripts by unidentified authors

Dates

[between 1950 and 1965]

Extent

5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains typed original scripts, presumably by Martin or Mary O'Meara. Written without attribution or with pseudonyms, these plays seem to date from the same time period as the O'Meara's work, and were typed in a similar manner.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Script for "Be it Ever So Humble" or "There Goes Venus"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-21
Script for "The Hoarded Heart" by "Marmaduke"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-22
Script for "The Witch of Knaresborough" by "Mollie"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-23
Script missing title page – title unknown	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-24
Script for "Prairie's Scarey"	[between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-4-25

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Sub-series 4.6 Unbound scripts

Dates

[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]

Extent

20 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains reproduced copies of commercially published scripts, likely intended for Martin O'Meara to study. Some scripts include Martin O'Meara's handwritten notes.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Script for "As you Desire Me" – acts II and III only	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-16
Script for "The Patriots" – Eric Cross	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-15
Script for "Goodbye to the Clown"	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-14
Script for "A Night at the Inn"	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-12
Three one-act plays – "Rain", "The Man in the Bowler Hat", and one untitled	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-11
Script for "Six Characters..."	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-10
Script for "Showboat"	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-9
Script for "The Ecstasy of Rita Joe"	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-8
Script for "The Play's the Thing" – Ferenc Molnar	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-7

Title	Dates	Box/File
Script for "Legend" – Hilda Mary Hooke	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-6
Script for "Over the Boiler Room" – William Digby	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-5
Script for "The Saint" – Orlo Miller	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-4
Script for "Names and Nicknames" – James Reaney	[reproduced between 1950 and 1965]	AFC 114-5-3

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Sub-series 4.7 Commercially published scripts and score

Dates

[between 1950 and 1965]

Extent

15 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains commercially published scripts and a score, collected by Martin O'Meara during the 1950s and 1960s. Some of the scripts included were produced by the London Little Theatre. All of the scripts include margin notes by O'Meara, in his capacity as either actor or director.

Note

For a full list of scripts included, please see Appendix A.
Scripts are located in box AFC 114-5.

**THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS**

Series 5 Photographs

Dates

1943-1968

Extent

67 photographs : b&w ; 37 x 48 cm or smaller

Scope and Content

This series contains photographs of Martin O'Meara in his various acting and directing roles. Photos of actors, sets, and other theatrical subjects (predominantly at the London Little Theatre's Grand Theatre) are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Photographs	1954-1968	AFC 114-4-26
Photo album – "According to the Book" Simcoe	[ca. 1950]	AFC 114-5-1
Photographs of productions	1943-1949, 1968	AFC 114-5-2
Martin O'Meara in "The Changeling"	[ca. 1950]	AFC 114-6

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 6 Souvenir programs

Dates

1950-1973

Extent

5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains souvenir programs of plays that Martin O'Meara attended, but was not directly involved in. Programs from theatres in London England, New York, and Stratford, Ontario are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Programs from London (Eng.) theatres	1962-1973	AFC 114-3-4
Programs from New York theatres	1962	AFC 114-3-5
Programs from various professional productions	1960-1964	AFC 114-3-6
Programs and other publications – Dominion Drama Festival	1950-1967	AFC 114-3-7
Programs – Stratford Festival	1957-1965	AFC 114-2-1

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 7 Awards

Dates

1959-1960, 1964

Extent

2 folders of textual records
1 statuette : wood, hand-carved

Scope and Content

This series contains awards won by Martin O'Meara for acting achievement in various productions. Awards from London Little Theatre, the Western Ontario Drama Festival, and the Dominion Drama Festival are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Award certificate – London Little Theatre	1959	AFC 114-4-1
Western Ontario Drama Festival – supporting actor award statuette	1964	AFC 114-4
Dominion Drama Festival – Calvert Trophy certificate	1960	AFC 114-5-17

THE MARTIN O'MEARA AND MARY O'MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS and FILE LISTS

Series 8 London Little Theatre production manual

Dates

1968

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains a production manual, composed in 1968, from London Little Theatre. Rules and regulations regarding staff responsibilities, set production, and make-up and wardrobe are included.

File List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Production manual – London Little Theatre	1968	AFC 114-5-13

**THE MARTIN O’MEARA AND MARY O’MEARA FONDS
AFC 114
APPENDIX A – PUBLISHED SCRIPTS AND SCORE LIST**

Title	Author
Never too Late [2 copies]	Sumner Arthur Long
Sun Deck	Stanley Richards
The School Board	William Tracy-Harris
Light Up the Sky	Moss Hart
Witness for the Prosecution [2 copies]	Agatha Christie
High Ground	Charlotte Hastings
Pride and Prejudice	Helen Jerome
The Miracle Worker	William Gibson
Peg O’ My Heart	J. Hartley Manners
Death of a Salesman	Arthur Miller
Michael	Miles Malleson
The Two Mrs. Carrolls	Martin Vale
The Cat and the Canary	John Willard
Spring Tide	George Billam and J.B. Priestly
The Lark	Jean Anouilh
Gideon	Paddy Chayefsky
My Three Angels	Sam and Bella Spewak
Father Malachy’s Miracle	Brian Doherty

Harlequinade	Terence Rattigan
Seven Keys to Baldpate	George M. Cohan
Distinguished Gathering	James Parish
The Reluctant Debutante	William Douglas Home
Junior Miss	Jerome Chodorov and Joseph Fields
Theatre	Guy Bolton and Somerset Maugham
A Man for All Seasons	Robert Bolt
Call it a Day	Dodie Smith
Blithe Spirit	Noel Coward
Hay Fever	Noel Coward
His First Shave	Ronald Else
The Lampshade	W.S. Milne
Fool's Errand	Margaret Wood
The Glorified Brat	Charles Emery
The Magic Flute [English version]	W.A. Mozart [English version by Ruth and Thomas Martin]