THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO WESTERN ARCHIVES



PETER McARTHUR FAMILY FONDS AFC 132

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

WESTERN ARCHIVES AFC 132 PETER McARTHUR FAMILY FONDS

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PETER McARTHUR FAMILY FONDS AFC 132 FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

1818-1869, 1887-1967, predominant 1887-1925

Extent

82 cm of textual records 1 volume of textual records 4 photographs

Biographical Sketch

Peter Gilchrist McArthur was born on March 10, 1866 in Ekfrid Township, Middlesex County Ontario, son of Scottish immigrants Peter and Catherine (nee McLennan) McArthur. Raised on the family farm, McArthur attended Wardsville High School and Strathroy High School before earning a teacher's certificate and teaching in Caradoc Township. Having taught for only a few months, he was admitted to the University of Toronto in 1888, but withdrew for financial reasons less than two years later.

McArthur began writing while still a student, first for the local newspapers *Glencoe Transcript* and *Strathroy Age*, and later for John Wilson Bengough's Toronto-based humour publication, *Grip*. After withdrawing from the University of Toronto, McArthur joined the *Toronto Mail* as a reporter, at the same time selling jokes to American publications. Finding success in the United States, McArthur moved to New York in 1890 and continued free-lance writing for various publications.

Peter McArthur married Mabel Clara Waters on September 11, 1895 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The couple had five children:

Daniel Carman McArthur (1897-1967) Peter McKellar McArthur (1900-1955) Kathryn Elizabeth McArthur Sidey (b. 1903) James Frederick McArthur (1905-1965) Ian Stuart McArthur (b. 1907)

In 1895, McArthur was hired as the assistant editor for New York-based *Truth*, the first magazine to feature colour illustrations. During his time at *Truth*, McArthur formed lifelong friendships with writers C. Bowyer Vaux and Bliss Carman. After leaving Truth in 1897, McArthur took various free-lance writing and advertising jobs throughout England and the United States. Returning to New York City in 1904, he established a short-lived advertising agency; after closing the agency in 1908, McArthur and his family returned to the Ekfrid Township homestead.

McArthur settled into a life of farming, spending most of his time writing about his own agricultural experiences. His columns were published regularly in the Toronto newspaper *The Globe* and in London, Ontario's *The Farmer's Advocate*. He was well known for his published books *The Prodigal*, *The Red Cow*, *The Affable Stranger*, *Sir Wilfrid Laurier* and *In Pastures Green*.

Peter McArthur died following surgery on October 28, 1924 in London, Ontario. His wife Mabel died in 1936. Peter and Mabel McArthur are buried in Eddie Cemetery near Glencoe, Ontario. There is a park named for Peter McArthur at 4421 Longwoods Road in Southwest Middlesex, and a plaque has been erected there in his memory. The family homestead was moved to the pioneer village at Doon Heritage Crossroads in Kitchener, Ontario.

Scope and Content

This fonds contains materials created and collected by Peter McArthur and his family. Poems, manuscripts of books and plays, newspaper clippings of McArthur's published works, correspondence, and financial documents are included. Some genealogical and biographical information was added by Peter McArthur's children after McArthur's death.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

Series 1: Correspondence

Series 2: Peter McArthur writings

Series 3: Financial documents

Series 4: Personal documents

Series 5: Writings on Peter McArthur

Series 6: McKellar McArthur poems

Series 7: Photographs

Series 8: Lantern slides

Finding Aids

File and item lists are available.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Most of the documents were donated by the McArthur family on December 2, 1936. A few records were donated, again by the family, in a separate accession around 1970.

Availability of Other Formats

Most of the documents in this fonds have been microfilmed. The microfilm reels are available at the Western Archives reading room under call numbers M262, M263, M264, and M265. Please see individual series for more information.

Conditions Governing Access

No restrictions on access.

Series 1 Correspondence

Dates

1818-1869, 1887-1953, predominant 1887-1924

Extent

19 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains correspondence written and received by Peter McArthur and members of his family. In addition to Peter McArthur's correspondence, early correspondence to the McArthur family, as well as letters to Mabel McArthur, John McArthur, and Dan McArthur, is included.

Language

One of the early letters to the McArthur family, found in file AFC 132-1-16, is in Scottish Gaelic.

Availability of Other Formats

Many of the letters in this series have been microfilmed, and are available at Western Archives (call numbers M262 and M263).

Arrangement

This series is arranged in the following sub-series:

Sub-series 1.1: Peter McArthur incoming correspondence Sub-series 1.2: Peter McArthur outgoing correspondence

Sub-series 1.3: McArthur family correspondence

Sub-series 1.1 Peter McArthur incoming correspondence

Dates

1887-1924

Extent

10 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains letters written to Peter McArthur. Correspondence from authors C. Bowyer Vaux, Bliss Carman, Duncan McKellar, and other family members and acquaintances are included. The correspondence is sorted by date, excepting letters from C. Bowyer Vaux, which are in a separate file.

Availability of Other Formats

Peter McArthur's incoming correspondence is available on microfilm at Western Archives (call number M262).

Title	Dates	Box/File
Letters to Peter McArthur	1887-1892	AFC 132-1-1
Letters to Peter McArthur	1893-1900	AFC 132-1-2
Letters to Peter McArthur	1901-1916	AFC 132-1-3
Letters to Peter McArthur	1917-1918	AFC 132-1-4
Letters to Peter McArthur	1919-1922	AFC 132-1-5
Letters to Peter McArthur	1923	AFC 132-1-6
Letters to Peter McArthur	1924	AFC 132-1-7
Letters to McArthur from C.B. Vaux	1902-1924	AFC 132-1-8

Sub-series 1.2 Peter McArthur outgoing correspondence

Dates

1887-1888, 1892-1924

Extent

3 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains copies of correspondence, written by Peter McArthur to his contemporaries. Letters to writers C. Bowyer Vaux, Duncan McKellar, and Alex Smith are included.

Availability of Other Formats

Peter McArthur's outgoing correspondence is available on microfilm at Western Archives (call number M262).

Title	Dates	Box/File
Letters to C.B. Vaux	1897-1924	AFC 132-1-10
Letters to Duncan McKellar	1887-1888	AFC 132-1-13
Letters to Alex Smith	1892-1922	AFC 132-1-14

Sub-series 1.3 McArthur family correspondence

Dates

1818-1869, 1895-1953

Extent

6 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains correspondence written to various members of the MacArthur and McArthur family. Letters to Peter McArthur (Peter McArthur's father), Peter McArthur's wife and sons, and other items of correspondence are included. Most of the later letters are letters of condolence sent to the McArthur family after Peter McArthur's death.

Availability of Other Formats

The McArthur family correspondence is available on microfilm at Western Archives (call numbers M262 and M263).

Title	Dates	Box/File
Early family correspondence	1818-1869	AFC 132-1-16
Letters to Mabel McArthur	1895-1926	AFC 132-1-9
Letters to John McArthur	1907-1914	AFC 132-1-12
Letters to Dan McArthur	1912-1953	AFC 132-1-11
Miscellaneous correspondence	1915-1942	AFC 132-1-15

Series 2 Peter McArthur writings

Dates

1890-1924

Extent

44 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains handwritten and typed manuscripts written by Peter McArthur. Plays, prose, and poetic manuscripts, as well as the draft of his biography of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, are included.

Availability of Other Formats

Many of the documents in this series have been microfilmed, and are available at Western Archives (call numbers M263, M264, and M265).

Arrangement

This series is arranged in the following sub-series:

Sub-series 2.1: Epigrams

Sub-series 2.2: Manuscripts of plays Sub-series 2.3: Prose manuscripts Sub-series 2.4: Poetry manuscripts

Sub-series 2.5: Published clippings and pamphlets

Sub-series 2.6: Book draft

Sub-series 2.1 Epigrams

Dates

[ca. 1900]-1924

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains epigrams written by Peter McArthur. These short, pithy expressions are often jotted on a scrap of paper. The topics of wisdom, politics, and money predominate.

Availability of Other Formats

Peter McArthur's epigrams are available on microfilm at Western Archives (call number M264).

Title	Dates	Box/File
Epigrams	[ca. 1900]-1924	AFC 132-1-17

Sub-series 2.2 Manuscripts of plays

Dates

[ca. 1900]-1924

Extent

4 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains plays written by Peter McArthur. Many of these manuscripts contain handwritten corrections.

Availability of Other Formats

Peter McArthur's manuscripts are available on microfilm at Western Archives (call number M265).

Title	Dates	Box/File
A play in nursery rhyme	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-1-18
The priest of Amon-Ra	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-1-19
Prince Aguilar	1900	AFC 132-1-20
Love lends a hand / A built-up proposal	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-1-21
Crossing Brooklyn ferry	[between 1920 and 1924]	AFC 132-1-22
The unknown dead	1924	AFC 132-1-23

Sub-series 2.3 Prose manuscripts

Dates

[ca. 1900]-1924

Extent

22 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains miscellaneous prose manuscripts, written by Peter McArthur for publication in magazines, newspapers, and company pamphlets. Some contain handwritten corrections, and some are seen in clippings from their original publications.

Availability of Other Formats

Peter McArthur's prose manuscripts are available on microfilm at Western Archives (call number M264).

Title	Dates	Box/File
A mission to the intellectual	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-1
Boots I have known	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-5
Comments on credit	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-9
Drinking water	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-11
Hyphenated Canadians	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-12
James MacIntyre	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-14
Let's go fishing	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-15
Literature	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-16
Stephen Leacock	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-20
The river of gold	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-28

Title	Dates	Box/File
The thinker	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-29
The usual way	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-30
Miscellaneous manuscripts	[ca. 1900]	AFC 132-2-35
Bliss Carman	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-2-4
Cayuga brook	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-2-8
Diary of Prince Kroptoy	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-2-10
Motion and form	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-2-18
The child and science	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-2-21
The city and the country [pages missing]	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-2-22
The ear of Dionysius	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-2-23
Unselfish money	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-2-31
Walt Whitman and cosmic consciousness	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-2-32
Miscellaneous manuscripts	[ca. 1910]	AFC 132-4-1
Apple articles	1914	AFC 132-2-2
Buying the world	[ca. 1915]	AFC 132-2-6
The last law	[ca. 1915]	AFC 132-2-27
The Eaton Company and food production	1917	AFC 132-2-24
Carman as I knew him	[ca. 1920]	AFC 132-2-7
Living ideas	[ca. 1920]	AFC 132-2-17
Preparing for visitors	[ca. 1920]	AFC 132-2-19
The greater production	[ca. 1920]	AFC 132-2-26
Insurance advertisements	1921	AFC 132-2-13

Title	Dates	Box/File
Atomic energy	1923	AFC 132-2-3
The evolution of French Canada – a review	1924	AFC 132-2-25

Sub-series 2.4 Poetry manuscripts

Dates

1890-1924

Extent

8 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains poems written by Peter McArthur. Poems written on the topics of family, farming, wealth, and wisdom predominate.

Note

All items in file AFC 132-2-33 are numbered and indexed. Please see Appendix A for a full list.

Availability of Other Formats

Peter McArthur's poetry manuscripts are available on microfilm at Western Archives (call number M264).

Title	Dates	Box/File
Manuscripts of poems [indexed]	1890-1924	AFC 132-2-33
Miscellaneous poems [not indexed]	1890-1924	AFC 132-2-34

Sub-series 2.5 Published clippings and pamphlets

Dates

[ca. 1895], 1899, 1905-1924

Extent

8 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains clippings and pamphlets detailing McArthur's published work. Articles from the Toronto Globe, the Farmer's Advocate, and pamphlets from various life insurance companies are included.

Availability of Other Formats

Peter McArthur's clippings and pamphlets are available on microfilm at Western Archives (call number M264).

Title	Dates	Box/File
Scrapbook of clippings from various publications [vol.]	[ca. 1895]	AFC 132-2-48
Bilious man's coon hunt	1899	AFC 132-2-36
The peacemakers	1905	AFC 132-2-52
The ghost and the burglar	1906	AFC 132-2-51
Clippings from the Globe	1908-1924	AFC 132-2-38
The defeat of reciprocity	1911	AFC 132-2-40
My "back to the land" move	1913	AFC 132-2-37
McArthur's column	1913	AFC 132-2-44
The ear of Dionysius	1914	AFC 132-2-41

Title	Dates	Box/File
Clippings from "The red cow"	[1919?]	AFC 132-2-42
Clippings from "The red cow"	[1919?]	AFC 132-2-43
Periwinkles, whetstones, etcetera	1919	AFC 132-2-45
The anchor post	[between 1920 and 1924]	AFC 132-2-49
The river of gold	[between 1920 and 1924]	AFC 132-2-53
Unselfish money	[ca. 1920]	AFC 132-2-54
A chant of Mammonism	1921	AFC 132-2-50
Clippings from "Dominion News"	1922, 1924	AFC 132-2-46
Clippings of poems published	1924	AFC 132-2-47

Sub-series 2.6 Book draft

Dates

1919

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains a typed proof copy of McArthur's biographical book, "Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

Title	Dates	Box/File
Proofs of "Sir Wilfrid Laurier"	1919	AFC 132-2-55

Series 3 Financial documents

Dates

1898-1924

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains some financial documents retained during Peter McArthur's life. A bank book and cancelled cheques, including one to Victoria Hospital for payment of his final surgery and stay, are included.

Availability of Other Formats

Peter McArthur's financial documents are available on microfilm at Western Archives (call number M264).

Title	Dates	Box/File
Personal finance and banking	1898-1924	AFC 132-2-56

Series 4 Personal documents

Dates

1887-1967, predominant 1895-1924

Extent

5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains records documenting the personal life and interests of Peter McArthur. Genealogical records, diaries, and works collected from other authors are included. The genealogical file was augmented by McArthur family members after Peter McArthur's death.

Title	Dates	Box/File
Family records and genealogy	1887-1967	AFC 132-2-57
Diaries	1895-1896	AFC 132-2-59
Miscellaneous personal documents	1898-1924	AFC 132-2-58
Miscellaneous collected works [handwritten]	1900-1919	AFC 132-2-60
Miscellaneous collected works [clippings]	1912-1924	AFC 132-2-61

Series 5 Writings on Peter McArthur

Dates

1895-1959, predominant 1895-1925

Extent

12 cm of textual records 1 volume of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains articles written about Peter McArthur's life and works. Editorials and reviews of McArthur's writings, as well as tributes written after his death, are included.

Availability of Other Formats

These writings about Peter McArthur are available on microfilm at Western Archives (call number M265).

File/Item List

Title	Dates	Box/File
Clippings on Peter McArthur [vol.]	1895-1925	AFC 132-3-14
Editorials on McArthur and his works	1915-1921	AFC 132-2-63
General clippings on McArthur	1919-1924	AFC 132-2-62
Draft of article on McArthur – Canadian Authors Association	[before 1925]	AFC 132-2-64
Funeral notices	1924	AFC 132-3-1
Death notices	1924	AFC 132-3-2
In memoriam clippings	1924	AFC 132-3-3
Posthumous editorials	1924	AFC 132-3-4
Posthumous editorials	1924-1925	AFC 132-3-5

Title	Dates	Box/File
Posthumous clippings	1924-1925	AFC 132-3-6
Posthumous clippings	1925	AFC 132-3-7
Posthumous clippings	1926-1959	AFC 132-3-8
Typescript of radio broadcast – "The sage of Ekfrid" – C.B.C.	1950	AFC 132-3-9
Typescript of radio broadcast – untitled – C.B.C.	[ca. 1950]	AFC 132-3-10
Typescript of radio broadcast – "A land of neighbours" – National School Broadcasts	1959	AFC 132-3-11

Series 6 McKellar McArthur poems

Dates

[ca. 1940]

Extent

1 folder of textual records

Scope and Content

This series contains poems written by Peter McArthur's son, McKellar McArthur.

Title	Dates	Box/File
Poems by McKellar McArthur	[ca. 1940]	AFC 132-3-12

Series 7 Photographs

Dates

[ca. 1920]

Extent

4 photographs: b&w; 20 x 25 cm or smaller

Scope and Content

This series contains photographs collected by Peter McArthur and his family. Two photographs of the family homestead, a photo of Peter McArthur, and a photograph of Jack Miner and his wife in their rose garden, are included.

Title	Dates	Box/File
Photographs	[ca. 1920]	AFC 132-3-13

Series 8 Lantern slides

Dates

1925

Extent

16 glass lantern slides

Scope and Content

This series contains lantern slides shown at a meeting of the Canadian Authors' Association and Men's and Women's Canadian Clubs held in honour of Peter McArthur on March 12, 1925 at London, Ontario's Normal School. Images portray McArthur at university, in England, at home in Ekfrid Township, and at various locations around the family farm.

Item List

Title	Dates	Box
Lantern slides	1925	AFC 132-5

PETER McARTHUR FAMILY FONDS AFC 132 APPENDIX A – INDEXED POETRY LIST - FILE AFC 132-2-33

First Line	Title (When Titled)	Page
Above them rolled	The Priest of Amon-Ra	159
Alas that I must yield and die	Poetry	38
"A mirage upon life's desert", we are told	A Rejoinder	96
Because that men were deaf and man to man	The True Evangel	127, 128, 152
Behold his works – a world enslaved to toil		25
Be swift ye poets. Song must overtake		44
Beyond the search of sun or wandering star	Silence	179
Books are the fragments left behind		51
Born of Thy will it is from Thee I spring	Faith	111
By priests I mean		62
Come be your happy self, you little rogue	A Country Boy in Town	86
Come let us clear this rubbish all away		42
Consider man, His senses were but friends		59
Dear God, I thank Thee for this resting place	Life	112
Dear little boy with wondering eyes	A Confession	136
Dear Robbie Burns, a great occasion		17
Few men could tell a story with such power	Dan	182
Forth from the loveliness of God	The Home Dream	84, 101
Fraud now is more than Fate and cunning		62

First Line	Title (When Titled)	Page
Free of soul and high of heart		26
From a might in the inner light		65
Full fed with knowledge, he has starved his soul		57
Has anyone ever sung that it pays to be happy		78
He did his work divinely commonplace		64
He marks his shadow in the sun	Man	142
Here I am the Lord of Fire		68
Here we will hold a court you be the judge		19
His soul shall be a guiding star	Unknown Dead	63
How blest is he that can but love and do	Summum Bonum	9. 121, 122, 150, 168
How often, in my reveries, come to mind	White Birches	97
How shall I tell what is my soul to me?		3
How shall I be the master of my ways	Aspiration	120, 147
Ho windy gossips, in your ear!	The Bride	156
How should I be the master of my ways	Aspiration	171, 172
Hurled back, defeated, like a child I sought	Antochthon	110, 138
Hurry! Hurry!		70
I am free from the tyranny of looks		74
I care not for what I shall leave behind	Ambition	100
I don't care a whoop for any poet or prophet		76
If every thought shall weigh in the award	Dreams	145, 174, 175

First Line	Title (When Titled)	Page
If I yield to ecstasy		42
If "Yea" and "Nay" were words enough for Him	Duty	140, 141, 143
If your freedom you would win	Philosophy	38
I have a tryst with Flora	A Tryst	109
I look in on the world		75
I may not tell what hidden springs I find	Shakespeare	118, 144, 169
In all the world of dreams but one is worth the heart's desire	The Home Dream	82
In love I have the poorest luck	Cupid's Vagaries	187
In me a spirit free		49
In the spring		30, 31
In the temples of the Sun	Pythoness	154
I prayed for such an hour as this		94
I saw the spirit of the new born year		55
I sought the things that all men seek		69
It is no bondage to be free to give	Consecration	123, 148
It is well, my child, it is well	Decoration Day	79
I weary of knowledge because there is so much to know	Summum Bonum	100
Judgement puissant King! From Philip sober		61
Laughter and Silence for a sword and shield	Questioning	134, 149
Life, to Youth is open-hearted	Carpe Diem	137, 158
Life's greatest wonder how little		41

First Line	Title (When Titled)	Page
Little child, little child		32
Make ready the pans and the ice now	Sugaring Off	91, 92, 93
Mint the gold of sunset into son		20
My joy is effortless. I hear. I see		29
My little boy is eight years old	A Parent's Plea	135
My soul one happy morning	Revelation	98
Nay even the Gods have suffered wrong		47
Never since the world began		28
No deed is great that springs not from the heart		27, 90
No life can die. That which has lost its love(hold)		24
No one can understand me but myself		16
Not even on Olympus choose to rest	Ictinus on the Parthenon	132
Not less than half their Olympian home of cloud	Ictinus on the Parthenon	131
Not yet are deeds fruiting of my thought	De Profundis	113
O wild kaleidoscopic panorama of jaculatory arms and legs	The Football Match	2
Once upon a morning dreary, while I listened weak and weary	Chestnuts	185
On the twenty-third day	The Ode that I Owed to You	188
Silence is best and yet I ever fend		129
Sing! Far sweeter than your singing		40
Sing for the joy that is rising in you		56

First Line	Title (When Titled)	Page
Somebody's got a whistle	The Little Whistler	89
Starved for lack of sunshine the branches wither		66
Stay on the ground floor of the world		43
Such skill had Prosper that he cleft a pine	Shakespeare	119, 170
The chiselled firmness we can but surmise	The Shaw Memorial	117
The dead are buried facing to the sun	To Jay Hambidge	115
The dead are buried facing to the sun	Courage	146
The dumb earth yearns for the expressive seed	Growth	124, 153
The heavy iron tongue leaps in the air sonorous	Christmas Voices	18
The low shall be made high – the high shall be made low		35
The nations rowsing from the glutted sleep	Imperialism	125, 180
The old man cocks his weather eye	The Weather Prophet	81
The perfect poet sleeps unknown		176
The present wipes out the past. One favour done		43
The priests have fixed their canon made profane		37
The rain is on the roses		73
There is harmony		21
There's no sense in going further [written by Vaux?]	The Explorer	11
There was a boy	There was a Boy	95
There was a light upon the sea that made	The Salt Marches	4, 130
These words I write as one that through a wood	Prefatory	139

First Line	Title (When Titled)	Page
The sun of spring is warmer than it need be		54
The things we enjoy, the homely things		34
The world goes on in the same old way		50
They had no patent laws or copyrights		41
Thy may be kind but kinder were thy lips	O, Not for These I Sing	87
This creature man will be the death of me!		33
This I tell	Man	99
To-day I shall venture to take you back		10
To live on nuts all winter long	The Boy and the Squirrel	83
To taste the glamour of old Poetry		46
To wider life I rise		52
Treason I sing! The treason of the great		73
Under a night of dim and alien stars	An Ode of Empire	5
Unite, ye Nations all	War Song	88
We have learned to live, in a blundering way	Learn to Live and Live to Learn	1
We may not babble unto alien ears	Reticence: To Jay Hambidge	114, 173
We seek no light that is not light for all		45
What now to me were honoured intercourse		23
What will you do when these people go up in the air?		60
When friends forsake and fortune in despite	Silence	126, 151

First Line	Title (When Titled)	Page
When last Pomona made a round	The Carman Apple	177
Where is he can paint for me	Art	39
When shall I go		42
Who was the first to save the seed and plant it		48
Youth, O youth		36
You've sported the game too hard		58