

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

WESTERN ARCHIVES



THE NANCY POOLE FONDS

AFC 22

Inventory prepared by Deb Majer - August, 2004
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WESTERN ARCHIVES
THE NANCY POOLE FONDS
AFC 22

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THE NANCY POOLE FONDS
AFC 22
FONDS DESCRIPTION

Dates

[195-] – 1998

Extent and Material

11.4 m of textual records
ca. 800 photographs and other graphic materials
2 film reels
41 audio cassettes
3 audio discs
1 object

Biographical Sketch

Nancy Poole was born Nancy Geddes in London, Ontario, on May 10, 1930. She was educated at public schools in London, Branksome Hall in Toronto, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Western Ontario in 1955.

In 1969, she founded Nancy Poole's Studio, through which she represented, promoted and helped to establish the reputations of a number of artists, including Herb Ariss, Rudolf Bickers, Jack Chambers, Charles Comfort, Kin Ondaatje and Tony Urquhart. From 1971 to 1974, Nancy Poole served as member and then chair of the governing council of the Ontario Council of Art. She served as committee member, Interim Director and Director of the London Regional Art Gallery from 1977 to 1989, then as Director of its successor organization the London Regional Art and Historical Museums from 1989 to 1995. During her tenure as director of LLAG/LRAHM, Poole played a key role in the controversies surrounding the construction of a new gallery and museum storage area.

Throughout her life, Nancy Poole has been involved in numerous cultural, educational and social activities. In the early 1950s, she hosted television programs on the London art scene; served as consultant to the *London Free Press* and Huron County Playhouse, and as advisor to Canadian Artists Representation; was a member of the boards of the John Howard Society of London, the London Health Association, the United Community Service (United Way); founded Hardy Geddes House, named in honour of her father, to provide services to young males; served on the Board of Governors of The University of Western Ontario; and was active, along with her husband, in Duff Roblin's 1967 campaign for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party. She wrote *The Art of London: 1839-1980*, the principal reference work on the history of art in the city; and edited *Jack Chambers*, an autobiography of her client and friend. In recognition of her community service, Nancy Poole received the first London YM-YWCA Women of Distinction Award in 1984, and was named to the Mayor's New Year's Honours List in 1985. From The University of Western Ontario, she received an Award of Merit from in 1985 and an honorary Doctor of Laws in

1990. Nancy Poole is a Fellow of the Ontario College of Art.

Nancy Geddes married William Poole, a London attorney, in 1952. The Pooles have one daughter, Andrea Mary.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records illustrating Nancy Poole's career as art gallery director and art historian, and her service to the community. Included are artist files, financial records, agendas and minutes, legal papers, manuscripts and transcripts, correspondence, newsletters and clippings, promotional materials, photographs and sound recordings.

Arrangement

The fonds is arranged into the following series:

- Series 1 Nancy Poole's Studio
- Series 2 London Regional Art Gallery / London Regional Art and Historical Museums
- Series 3 Ontario College of Art
- Series 4 Community Activities
- Series 5 Publications
- Series 6 General Papers

Related Material

An audio tape of an interview with Nancy Poole, recorded July 22, 1986, can be found in the President's Committee on Oral History Project records.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Nancy Poole in October, 1999.

THE NANCY POOLE FONDS
AFC 22
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1 Nancy Poole's Studio

Dates

1969 - 1978

Scope and Content

Series consists of records relating to the operation of Nancy Poole's Studio. Included are financial records, insurance papers, sales logs and agreements, artist lists, biographical files, contracts, client profiles, inventories, consignment agreements, correspondence, exhibition materials, appraisals, publicity and promotional materials, photographs, slides and slide lists of work by studio artists, a film about artists Dan Thayer and Daisey Bailey, scrapbooks of newspaper articles about studio artists and exhibits, records relating to setting up a Kitchener-Waterloo studio, and guest books.

Notes

1. Founded in 1969, Nancy Poole's Studio had locations in London and Toronto. The studio was sold in 1978. The Toronto location continues as the Loch Gallery.

THE NANCY POOLE FONDS
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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 2 London Regional Art Gallery / London Regional Art and Historical Museums

Dates

[1977?] - 1995

Scope and Content

Series consists of records relating to Nancy Poole's association with the LRAG and its successor LRAHM. Records relating to her service as committee member, from 1977 to 1980, include auditor's and financial reports, budget reports, materials on exhibitions and acquisitions, and records relating to the transfer of the administration of the LRAG from the London Public Library Board to the London Regional Art Gallery Board. Records from her tenure as Interim Director, from 1980 to 1981, include board and committee agendas and minutes; materials on exhibitions; treasurer's reports and financial statements; records pertaining to contract negotiations with gallery employees; correspondence, minutes, reports, and recommendations and proposals regarding the construction of a new gallery; and records relating to opposition to the location of a new gallery and the Ontario Municipal Board hearing on the museum storage area. Included in records relating the Ms. Poole's tenure as Director from 1985 to 1995, are letters of congratulation on her appointment, daily diaries, correspondence, and administrative and exhibition files.

**THE NANCY POOLE FONDS
AFC 22
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

Series 3 Ontario College of Art

Dates

1972 - 1975

Scope and Content

Series consists of records relating to Nancy Poole's association with the Ontario College of Art. Included are committee agendas and minutes, correspondence, financial statements and reports.

THE NANCY POOLE FONDS
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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 4 Community Activities

Dates

[195-] - 1990

Scope and Content

Series consists of records relating to Nancy Poole's community work. Included are broadcast materials for television programs on the London art scene; board minutes, reports and correspondence of the Battered Women's Advisory Clinic; agendas, minutes and correspondence of the Ad Hoc Committee on a proposed Children's Medical Centre; background files, minutes, operations reports, and contracts from Hardy Geddes House; United Community Service (United Way) correspondence, agendas and reports; minutes, correspondence and reports from committees of The University of Western Ontario; Duff Roblin campaign materials; appraisals and Canadian Artist Representation correspondence, minutes and conference information acquired from Jack Chambers and Tony Urquhart.

**THE NANCY POOLE FONDS
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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

Series 5 Publications

Dates

[197-] - 1984

Scope and Content

Series consists of material relating to the researching, writing and publication of *The Art of London: 1830-1980*, published in 1984; and to the editing of *Jack Chambers*, published in 1978. Included are research materials and slides, manuscript drafts, recorded interviews and transcripts, correspondence, publication files, slides and newspaper clippings.

**THE NANCY POOLE FONDS
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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

Series 6 General Papers

Dates

[196-?] - 1998

Scope and Content

Series consists of correspondence, financial papers and information materials relating to a short-lived (1969-1970) school of interior design; acquired records relating to the Samuel W. Weir Collection; sundry personal papers and photographs; invitations to various cultural, social and fund-raising events; material concerning the Women of Distinction Award; promotional materials and brochures; and newspaper clippings.