

# University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Albert Batten fonds (MSS 379)

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# Albert Batten fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Albert Batten fonds
<b>ID:</b>	MSS 379
<b>Photograph Collection [alternative]:</b>	PC 329
<b>Electronic Records [alternative]:</b>	EL 40
<b>Date:</b>	1930-2010 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	0.13 metres of textual material, 6 photographs and 1 DVD
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Albert Batten was born in 1906 in Bolton, Lancashire, England to Henry Thomas and Dorothy Batten. The Batten family immigrated to Canada in 1925. Albert grew up around spiritualism; his father was a noted medium and served as President of the East Hamilton Spiritualist Church. It was through the Spiritualist community that Albert met his wife, Gladys Gale, who was also a member of the East Hamilton Spiritualist Church. In 1934, Albert and Gladys were the first couple married within the church and were to remain the only couple for fifty years. At the time Spiritualist ministers were not legally allowed to perform marriage ceremonies and as such a Baptist minister had to be brought in to do so. Both Albert and Gladys continued to be active members within the church, Gladys serving as the church's organist and Albert as president, for a time. For their services to the church, they were both awarded honorary life time memberships. After 1950, Albert was also active in the Lily Dale Spiritualist Assembly, serving on its board for nine years. In 1971, he and Gladys purchased property in Lily Dale. Albert was also active with the Canadian Red Cross Society, earning the Order of the Red Cross and the Member of the Order of Canada for his work there. Gladys passed away in 1995, followed by Albert in 2001.

### Custodial history

The fonds was donated to the Archives by Albert Batten Jr. in 2011 with Walter Meyer zu Erpen, President of the Survival Research Institute of Canada, acting as the transferring agent.

## Scope and content

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The fonds was arranged in part by the transferring agent according to specifications he provided. This particular fonds consists of 18 items including photos of East Hamilton Spiritualist Church members, church death/burial register, biographical research conducted by the donor, Walter Meyer zu Erpen, and a CD containing digitized versions of some of the records.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Immediate source of acquisition

Acquired by the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections in 2011.

### Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on this material

### Related material

This fonds is one of a series of fonds and collections transferred to the Archives by Walter Meyer zu Erpen, President of the Survival Research Institute of Canada, related to survival and parapsychology research. Other such fonds and collections transferred by Meyer zu Erpen are the Survival Research Institute of Canada fonds (MSS 372; A11-60), A.R.G. (George) and Iris M. Owen fonds (MSS 373, PC 328, EL 38; A11-61), Survival Research Newsletters and Periodicals Collection (MSS 374; A11-62), Debra Barr and Walter Meyer zu Erpen Research and Publication Collection (MSS 375; A11-63), Jenny O'Hara Pincock fonds (MSS 376; A11-64), Spiritualist Hymnals and Manuals Collection (MSS 377; A11-65), Kenneth J. Batcheldor fonds (MSS 378, EL 39; A11-66), Mary Olga Park fonds (MSS 380; A11-71), Howard Reed fonds (MSS 381, EL 41; A11-107). Also related, but not transferred by Meyer zu Erpen, is the Hamilton Family fonds (Mss 14, Pc 12, Tc 70; A.79-21, A.79-41, A.79-52, A.79-56, A.79-65, A.80-08, A.80-25, A.81-09, A.86-56)

### Accruals

Further accruals are possible.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

## Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Historical Research	1998-2010		A2011-067, Box 0001 File 0001
	File - Spiritualists' National Union of Canada Education Course By Reverend James Porter Skelton	1954-1955		A2011-067, Box 0001 File 0002
	File - Thought Exchange Notes of Albert Batten, Senior (1906-2001)	1978?		A2011-067, Box 0001 File 0003
	File - East Hamilton Spiritual Church Death Register, Retroactively Compiled by Albert Batten, Senior	ca. July 1964		A2011-067, Box 0001 File 0004
	File - East Hamilton Spiritualist Church Hymn Sheet	1931-1939		A2011-067, Box 0001 File 0005
	File - Photographs Taken of East Hamilton Spiritual Church and SNU of Canada AGM	1931-1939		A2011-067, Box 0001 File 0006
	File - EHSC/Batten	2010		A2011-067, Box 0001 File 0007
	File - East Hamilton Spiritual Church Photographs	1968-1982		A2011-067, File 0001