

# University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Debra Barr and Walter Meyer zu Erpen Research and Publication Collection (MSS 375)

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Debra Barr and Walter Meyer zu Erpen Research and Publication Collection
<b>ID:</b>	MSS 375
<b>A [alternative]:</b>	2011-063
<b>Date:</b>	1989-2007 (date of creation)
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<b>Physical description:</b>	0.26 metres of textual material
<b>Language:</b>	English
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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Born in 1954 in Tofino, on the west side of Vancouver Island, Debra Barr first attended the University of Victoria and then finished her B.A. at Simon Fraser University in 1977. Following her passion for archives, Barr enrolled in the first Master of Archival Studies program at the University of British Columbia in 1981 and studied under notable archivists Terry Eastwood and Hugh Taylor. Graduating from the program in 1985, Barr went on to work in various archives and records management positions including the Archivist of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia, Ministry Records Officers for the BC Ministry of Housing, Recreation and Consumer Service and Records Manager for Royal Roads University. She authored the Guide to the Canadian Manuscript Collections in Victoria University Library in 1988, was a member of the Rules for Archival Description (RAD) Textual Records Working Group in 1990 and 1991, helped prepare the Guidelines for the Development of a Two-Year Curriculum for a Master of Archival Studies from 1987-1989 and wrote articles for the Canadian journal *Archivaria* (issues 25 and 28), which looked at fonds level description, as well as being guest editor of the journal in the 1990 issue dedicated to religious archives. With Walter Meyer zu Erpen, another notable Canadian Archivist, Barr was one of the founding directors of the Survival Research Institute of Canada (SRIC), which was dedicated to researching continued spiritual existence after death and the possibility of communication with such spirits. With Meyer zu Erpen, Barr co-authored a biography of Albert Durrant Watson, Canadian physician, poet and psychical researcher, for the Dictionary of Canadian Biography,

published in 2005. After her death in 2008, Royal Roads University set up a memorial fund in her honour and sought to name a new archives room after her.

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## **Administrative history / Biographical sketch**

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### **Note**

A graduate of the University of British Columbia Master of Archival Studies program, Walter Meyer zu Erpen has been president and archivist of the Survival Research Institute of Canada since its creation in 1991. Meyer zu Erpen has also played an active part in local and British Columbia politics. As a member of the Green Party, he ran for Victoria municipal council in 1999, coming only 180 votes shy of winning the seat. In 2001, he ran provincially and placed third. He also served the party as Campaign Manager for the 2005 election and co-manager for the 2009 election and served provincially as Fund-Raising Chair from 2003-2005 and Party Chair from 2007-2009.

### **Custodial history**

The collection was donated by the Survival Research Institute of Canada and by Walter Meyer zu Erpen, President of the Survival Research Institute of Canada, in 2011.

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## **Scope and content**

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The collection was arranged in part by the donors themselves in accordance with specifications they provided. Consisting of 168 items including research correspondence, publication drafts, and books containing the published versions, this fonds takes up 0.26 linear metres of shelf space. The items and folders were organized by the donors and are divided by publication. Records bound together by staples, archival clips or other means were done so by the donors and thus are treated as a single record, even those which contain what could be considered more than one document.

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## **Notes**

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### **Title notes**

### **Restrictions on access**

There are no restrictions on this material.

### **Conditions governing use**

Users must abide by relevant copyright legislation.

## Finding aids

A finding aid can be downloaded from the fonds-level description by clicking on the "Download" link under "Finding Aid" on the right-hand side of the screen.

## Related material

This collection is one of a series of fonds and collections transferred to the Archives by Walter Meyer zu Erpen 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)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/survival-research-institute-of-canada-fonds;rad>, A.R.G. (George) and Iris M. Owen fonds "(MSS 373, PC 328, EL 38; A11-61)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/r-g-george-and-iris-m-owen-fonds;rad>, Survival Research Newsletters and Periodicals Collection "(MSS 374; A11-62)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/survival-research-newsletters-and-periodicals-collection;rad>, Jenny O'Hara Pincock fonds "(MSS 376; A11-64)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/jenny-ohara-pincock-fonds;rad>, Spiritualist Hymnals and Manuals Collection "(MSS 377; A11-65)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/spiritualist-hymnals-and-manuals-collection;rad>, Kenneth J. Batcheldor fonds "(MSS 378, EL 39; A11-66)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/kenneth-j-batcheldor-fonds;rad>, Mary Olga Park fonds "(MSS 380; A11-71)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/olga-park-fonds;rad>, Albert Batten fonds "(MSS 379, PC 329, EL 40; A11-67)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/albert-batten-fonds;rad>, Howard Reed fonds "(MSS 381, EL 41; A11-107)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/howard-reed-fonds;rad>. 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)":<http://nanna.lib.umanitoba.ca/icaatom/index.php/hamilton-family-fonds;rad>

## Accruals

The donor has indicated that further accruals will be very likely.

## Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

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## Access points

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- Meyer zu Erpen, Walter
- Survival Research Institute of Canada
- Textual record (documentary form)

## Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Dictionary of Canadian Biography	2005		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - DCB - Albert Durrant Watson	2005		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Albert Durrant Watson - Version Prepared for Rosemary Ellen Guiley	2006		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Albert Durrant Watson - Dictionary of Canadian Biography Entry	2001-2005		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Albert Durrant Watson - Biographical Material	n.d.		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Albert Durrant Watson - BAHAI Connection and Interest in Psychical Research	2002-2007		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Albert Durrant Watson - Family History	2001-2006		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Albert Durrant Watson - Archival Repositories and Other Sources	1992-2002		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Albert Durrant Watson - Bibliography	2001-2002		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Albert Durrant Watson - "O Canada" Hymn	2001-2002		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Albert Durrant Watson - Copies of some of his publications	1906-1924		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Archivaria (1990) Article - Preliminary Request for Information	1989-1990		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits - Walter Meyer zu Erpen and Debra Barr Contributions	2006		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - The Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits, 1992	1992		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8
	File - The Encyclopedia of Ghosts and Spirits, Third Edition, 2007	2007		Room 18A (Blue): FF-8