

# University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Joe and Lillian Bain fonds (MSS 447)

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**Joe and Lillian Bain fonds**

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

**Title:** Joe and Lillian Bain fonds

**ID:** MSS 447

**Date:** 1999-2015 (date of creation)

**Date:** 1971-2006 (date of creation)

**Date:** [196?], 1971-2015 (date of creation)

**Physical description:** 0.08m textual records ; 1 photograph

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

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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.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Joseph Cecil (Joe) Bain was born in Toronto in 1916. He lost his mother a few weeks later and was raised by his aunt, Mrs. Margaret (Horton) Robinson. He met Lillian Murphy in late 1934 or early 1935 and they were married in late 1935 in Toronto. Throughout Lillian's time as a Spiritualist, Joe was supportive of her interests and career, building the Bethel Sanctuary in their unused basement in 1974. In 1980, Joe was certified as a healer with the National Federation of Spiritual Healers (Canada), Inc., and ordained by W.C. Partridge in Richmond. Joe, an Anglican, agreed to be ordained so as to have the authority necessary to manage the business and legal aspects of Springdale Park Spiritual Association, and to conduct funeral services when necessary. Later, he produced for his children a compendium from Arthur Findlay's autobiography *Looking Back* (1955), to highlight the parts he felt were most significant to Lillian's belief in Spiritualism. In 1980, he became the fifth and final President of Springdale Park

Spiritual Association. He retired from his career in business for the last time in 1987, when he and Lillian moved up to Bracebridge permanently. After Lillian's death in 2003, he donated a number of records and other material to SRIC. Joe passed away peacefully in 2009.

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## **Administrative history / Biographical sketch**

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### **Note**

Lillian Catherine (Murphy) Bain was born in Toronto on 4 May 1916. She met Joe Bain in 1934 or 1935, and they were married in late 1935 in Toronto. They had eight daughters and two sons. In the mid-1960s, Lillian began to explore Spiritualism. She began her investigation at Toronto's Springdale Church under the guidance of Reverend William Charles Partridge (1893-1984), where her main interest was in the healing aspects of Spiritualism. Lillian first visited Camp Chesterfield in Indiana in 1968, and visited annually until 1982, often accompanied by her husband. In 1971, she held a licentiate certificate from the Vancouver-based International Spiritualist Alliance, and gave her first lecture at Springdale Church. She was also certified as a healer by the National Federation of Spiritual Healers (Canada), Inc. In 1974, Lillian opened the Bethel Healing Sanctuary in her home at 91 Marilake Drive, Agincourt, on the instigation of British Spiritualists' National Union minister Mrs. Hilda Martin. Lillian worked at Springdale Church until 1978, when Reverend Partridge appointed her Pastor / Minister of the Springdale Park Spiritual Association church at Bracebridge, Ontario. She served there until the church's closure in the mid-1980s, when she conducted the last service. For a number of years after Lillian became Pastor of Springdale Park Church, the Bains continued to live in Toronto. During those years, they spent their summers in a home on a lot in Springdale Park, on the North Muskoka River, next door to the Partridges' summer cottage. In September 1980, Reverend Partridge ordained Lillian and Joe in Richmond. In the late 1980s, Lillian began suffering from Alzheimer's disease, which was not diagnosed until 1991, when she was already seriously ill. She died in 2003.

### **Custodial history**

This collection was donated to the Survival Research Institute of Canada (SRIC) by Joe Bain between 1999 and the early 2000s, and was transferred to the University of Manitoba Archives and Special Collections in 2015 by Walter Meyer zu Erpen (President, SRIC).

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## **Scope and content**

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This fonds contains certificates, correspondence, meeting agenda and minutes, study course outlines, leaflets, newsletters, séance records and other ephemera, photographs, and other records from the personal files of Joe and Lillian Bain. It also includes several folders of material from the Survival Research Institute of Canada correspondence and research files relating to the Bains. Photocopies of the 2 envelopes were made on 8 June 2015.

## Notes

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### Title notes

### Arrangement

This collection is arranged according to the transferring agent's specifications.

### Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on access.

### Conditions governing use

Users must abide by relevant copyright legislation.

### Finding aids

A finding aid can be generated from this description.

### 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. It is related to the various other Psychological Research and Spiritualist Collections that the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections has attracted since it acquired the Hamilton Family fonds. It is especially related to the Springdale Park Spiritual Association fonds, as the Bains were active participants in the Springdale Park Spiritual Association, and the Noreen Hodgson fonds, which is also associated with the Springdale Park Spiritual Association fonds.

{Text of the Separated Materials Note}

### Accruals

No further accruals expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

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## Access points

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- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

## Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Biographical sketch of Joseph Bain & Lillian Bain by W. Meyer zu Erpen	2015		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0001
	File - Joseph Bain/Lillian Bain – affiliation & ordination certificates	1971-1980		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0002
	File - Lillian C. Bain – first Spiritualist address at Springdale Church, Toronto	4 April 1971		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0003
	File - Correspondence to Lillian and/or Joseph Bain relating to healing or Springdale Park Spiritual Association	1973-1980		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0004
	File - National Federation of Spiritual Healers (Canada) – meeting notices and minutes	1975-1977		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0005
	File - Correspondence with Spiritual Science Institute of Canada	1976-1977		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0006
	File - Correspondence with Spiritual Science Institute of Canada	1978		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0007
	File - Circle minutes, inspired writing, information about music and colour, and other notes	[ca.1975-1978]		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0008
	File - “Thoughts for contemporary spirits no. 1” [transcript of automatic writing, Bryon W. Fearon]	1975		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0009
	File - Adeline Hurn’s “Astara” notebook	[196-?]		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0010
	File - Photographs	1999-2000		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0011
	File - Correspondence between Joseph C. Bain and Walter Meyer zu Erpen (SRIC)	1977; 1999-2006		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0012
	File - Joseph C. Bain - lists of Spiritualist books in Lillian Bain’s library	1999-2001		A2015-064, Box 0001 File 0013