

University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

Finding Aid - Klymkiw Family fonds (MSS 146 (A2001-048))

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Language of description: English

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Klymkiw Family fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
Title:	Klymkiw Family fonds
ID:	MSS 146 (A2001-048)
PC [alternative]:	152
TC [alternative]:	98
Date:	1917-2000 (date of creation)
Physical description:	10.5 m of textual records; 195 photographs (52 colour and 150 black & white); 11 slides; 2 negatives; 70 video recordings; 206 audio recordings
Language:	English
Language:	Ukrainian
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Finding aid created by James Kominowski (2001). Encoded by Vladimira Zvonik (2003). Revised by N. Courrier (April 2020).

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Walter (Volodymyr) Klymkiw was born in the village of Saranchuky, Ternopil' province in what was then eastern Poland (now Ukraine) in 1926. Emigrating to Canada in 1928, he and his parents settled in Winnipeg. In 1950, he earned a B.A. in English and History at the University of British Columbia. He returned a year later to Winnipeg and received a teaching certificate from the University of Manitoba. In 1951, he began conducting the Ukrainian National Federation Choir (renamed the Olexander Koshetz Choir in 1967) of Winnipeg, under the guidance of Tetiana Koshetz and Pavlo Macenko. His love of Ukrainian music was fostered back in the mid-1940s, when he attended the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre's Summer Music Courses conducted by the legendary Ukrainian Musicologist, Olexander Koshetz (Oleksander Koshyts'). In 1952, Klymkiw married Mary (Marusia) Kopychansky and had two sons: Myroslaw (Slawko) and Paul. Upon receiving his teaching certificate, Klymkiw began his career as a history teacher, in 1953, at Glenwood Junior High School in the St. Vital school division in Winnipeg. In 1961, he was appointed principal of Hastings Elementary and Junior High School, a position which he held until 1979. In 1979, he returned to Glenwood Junior High School where he served as its principal until 1983. In 1983, he was appointed music supervisor and served in this capacity until retiring later that year.

Retirement allowed Klymkiw to devote more time to being the choral director of the Olexander Koshetz Choir. During his nearly fifty years with the choir, Klymkiw and his choir toured throughout Canada, Ukraine, Poland, the Czech Republic, Western Europe, and South America. The choir went on to record two CDs, nine cassettes, and six records. For nearly half a century, he maintained and developed

contacts with Ukraine's composers and artists. He fostered a special relationship with Anatoli Avdievsky (Anatolii Adiiivs'kii), director of the world renowned Ver'ovka (Veriovka) Ukrainian State Folk Choir, a relationship which led to Ver'ovka's first Canadian tour in 1981. Besides his choir, Klymkiw and his wife devoted much of their time to various community activities including the Ukrainian National Federation (national and St. Boniface branch) and the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre, Oseredok. They were involved in various commercial ventures including the Ukrainian House of Gifts, DK Attractions Ltd., and Canimplex Ltd. The latter two ventures involved bringing in various musical artists and groups from Ukraine to perform concerts for Canadian audiences. In recognition of his cultural achievements and contributions, Klymkiw received the Shevchenko Medal from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the Osvita Foundation Award, a Certificate of Merit from the federal Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship, and an honorary Doctor of Canon Law Degree from St. Andrew's College of the University of Manitoba. In 1992, Klymkiw and the Olexander Koshetz Choir were awarded the Taras Shevchenko Medal from the government of Ukraine, the first such honour given to an individual or group outside of the country. In 1999, the Olexander Koshetz Choir paid tribute to Klymkiw with an evening gala for his lifetime devotion to Ukrainian culture and music in Canada. They honoured him by establishing the Walter Klymkiw Endowment Fund at the University of Manitoba School of Music and Music Education. In December 2000, after a lengthy battle with cancer, Walter Klymkiw died at the age of seventy-four in Winnipeg.

Custodial history

The fonds was donated by Dr. Robert (Bohdan) Klymasz on behalf of Mrs. Mary Klymkiw and her sons, Myroslaw (Slawko) and Paul, to University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections in 2001.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of the following series: i) biographical (subseries: career), ii) correspondence, iii) Mary Klymkiw, iv) Olexander Koshetz Choir [subseries: ISME (International Society for Music Education)], v) Olexander Koshetz [subseries: Tetiana Koshetz, Pavlo Macenko, Kovalenko & Shchorovs'ka-Rossineych (Rossinevi...ova), Ukrains'ka Respublikans'ka Kapela, Koshetz Project], vi) Robert Klymasz, vii) Ukrainian National Federation [subseries: St. Boniface branch], viii) Oseredok, ix) business/commercial ventures, x) Ver'ovka, xi) Wolkowych, xii) Programs, xiii) photographs, xiv) videos, xv) audiocassettes, xvi) scores and sheet music (subseries: liturgical music, handwritten musical notes), and xvii) miscellaneous. The scores segment of the scores and sheet music series is held in the Slavic Collection of the Elizabeth Dafoe Library.

Notes

Title notes

Arrangement

This collection is organized into seventeen series

1. Biographical

subseries:

Career

2. Correspondence

3. Mary Klymkiw

4. Olexander Koshetz Choir

subseries:

ISME

5. Robert Klymasz

6. Olexander Koshetz

subseries:

Tetiana Koshetz

Pavlo Macenko

Kovalenko & Shchorovs'ka-Rossineych

Ukrains'ka Respublikans'ka Kapela

Koshetz Project

7. Ukrainian National Federation

subseries:

St. Boniface Branch

8. Oseredok

9. Business/Commercial Ventures

10. Ver'ovka

11. Wolkowych

12. Programs

13. Photographs

14. Videos

15. Audiocassettes

16. Scores and Sheet Music

subseries:

Liturgical Music

Handwritten Musical notes

The scores segment of this collection is held in the Archives & Special Collections (Slav RBR) of the Elizabeth Dafoe Library, the University of Manitoba

17. Miscellaneous

Restrictions on access

One folder has been designated confidential.

Finding aids

A finding aid can be downloaded from this description by clicking on the Download link under "Finding aid" on the right hand side of this page.

Related material

Digitized Material

"Prairie Immigration Experience":http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/prairie_immigration/klymkiw.shtml

Accruals

Further accruals are not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Partial
- **Status description:** Draft

Access points

- Multiple media (documentary form)