

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

Finding Aid - E. Pauline Johnson Collection (MsC-175)

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Language of description: English

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E. Pauline Johnson Collection

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Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	E. Pauline Johnson Collection
Reference code:	MsC-175
Physical description:	7 photographs: b&w prints 1 photograph: postcard, b&w 1 photograph: postcard, hand-coloured 0.5 cm textual materials
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created by JMH, 21 October, 2016

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Emily Pauline Johnson (also known in Mohawk as Tekahionwake), commonly known as E. Pauline Johnson or Pauline Johnson, was a Canadian writer and performer who became popular in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. She was born on 10 March, 1861, at her family's home at the Six Nations reserve outside of Brantford, Ontario. Her father was a Mohawk hereditary clan chief and her mother a native of England who immigrated to the United States as a child. Johnson and her siblings were all encouraged to learn about both sides of their heritage; it is said that the stories and influence of her paternal grandfather, Chief John Smoke Johnson, inspired her work as a poet and performer. She was also encouraged to read widely and became familiar with many classic and contemporary literary works.

Johnson began composing, performing and publishing prolifically at an early age. She was notable for poems and performances that celebrated her Indigenous heritage, developing a stage persona that, in the first act, incorporated many of her family's traditional Mohawk cultural artifacts. For the second act she would change into modern dress and recite her works of Victorian themes. Throughout the 1880's and 1890's she toured extensively throughout Canada, the United States and Great Britain, becoming known as a contributor to the Canadian literary identity. While her notoriety and influence waned for a time following her death, there has been a recent resurgence of interest in her works and she is now acknowledged as a key player in both the oral and written cultural traditions of Canadian and Indigenous history.

Johnson retired from performing in 1909 and relocated from Winnipeg to Vancouver, British Columbia. She continued to write and publish, primarily stories told to her by local First Nations friends. Already a lover of nature, she came to love the city's expansive Stanley Park, which featured in some of her writings.

E. Pauline Johnson died of breast cancer on 07 March, 1913. Her ashes were buried in Stanley Park. In 1922, a monument was erected at her burial site. In 1961 a Canadian stamp was issued on the centennial of her birth, which is commonly credited with the revival of interest in her works. She has since been

named a Person of National Historic Significance, likewise, her ancestral home has been designated a National Historic Site and is now a public museum.

Custodial history

The collection was acquired by Simon Fraser Special Collections and Rare Books, presumably from the book seller who assembled the materials, however it is believed to have been folded in with the purchase of multiple collections so an exact date of acquisition/name of creator is not known.

Scope and content

The collection consists of photographic images and printed materials relating to the life and death of E. Pauline Johnson. Some of the material is associated with her sister, Evelyn Johnson, but the provenance and nature of compilation is largely unknown.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** In some instances, the titles used are those written on the reverse of some photographic images. For everything else, titles have been generated by the archivist based on the item. These titles have been enclosed in square brackets.

Arrangement

Arrangement of the items into series was provided by the archivist.

Finding aids

An item list is available

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
 - **Status description:** Published
-

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Photographic material (documentary form)
- Clippings (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)

- Postcards (documentary form)
- First nations (subject)
- Arts and culture (subject)
- Vancouver (place)
- Canada (place)
- British Columbia (place)

Series descriptions

Series MsC-175-0-1: Photographs

Date: [19--] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series consists primarily of photographs relating to Stanley Park and the burial site of E. Pauline Johnson. All but one hand-coloured photo postcard are black and white images, most have notes written on the reverse which approximately date the series between about 1905-1913. One postcard can only be dated to after-1922 because that is the year the stone memorial was built. Pauline's sister Evelyn is thought to have written some of the identifying information on the reverse of some images, and features in at least one of them.

Physical description: 7 photographs: b&w prints

1 photograph: postcard, b&w

1 photograph: postcard, hand-coloured

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Johnson, E. Pauline (subject)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Postcards (documentary form)
- First nations (subject)
- Environment (subject)
- Arts and culture (subject)
- Vancouver (place)

Arrangement:

Arrangement of the items was provided by the archivist.

Finding aids:

An item list is available.

Publication status:

published			
File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
MsC-175-0-1-0-0-1	Item - "The old Indian canoe in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C. Evelyn H. C. Johnson. July 1913" <i>Scope and content:</i> Image of a woman in a forest standing next to a dilapidated canoe. Image is mounted in a cardboard frame. Inscriptions on reverse of frame read: In ink: "The old Indian canoe in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C. Evelyn H. C. Johnson. July 1913". In another hand/ink: "Ashes [interred?] - March 14 1913". In pencil: "12".	1913	1 photograph: b&w print
MsC-175-0-1-0-0-2	Item - "E. Pauline Johnson's tomb in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C." <i>Scope and content:</i> Image of trees in a forest, with a log barrier surrounding a clearing with a raised area in the middle. Image is mounted in a cardboard frame. Inscriptions on reverse of frame read: In ink: "E. Pauline Johnson's tomb in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C.". In another hand, in pencil: "Written by Evelyn Johnson, sister of Pauline. Ashes [interred?] Mar 14, 1913". In pencil: "15.-".	[1913?]	1 photograph: b&w print
MsC-175-0-1-0-0-3	Item - "Boulder over E. Pauline Johnson's tomb in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C" <i>Scope and content:</i> Image of a rock in a clearing with flowers and ferns scattered on top. Image is mounted in a cardboard frame. Inscriptions on reverse of frame read: In ink: "Boulder over E. Pauline Johnson's tomb in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C.". In another hand, in pencil: "Written by Evelyn Johnson, sister of Pauline". In pencil: "15.-".	[1913?]	1 photograph: b&w print
MsC-175-0-1-0-0-4	Item - [People in front of large tree] <i>Scope and content:</i> Image of two women and a man standing in a forested area, directly in front of a massive tree trunk with a natural opening. Image is mounted in a cardboard frame. Typed inscription on reverse of frame reads "The Stanley Park Photographers. Head Office 162 Cordova Street, Vancouver, B.C. When ordering duplicates of this photo, mention negative No.....". In pencil: "3855" and "Year 1910".	1910	1 photograph: b&w print
MsC-175-0-1-0-0-5	Item - [Woman in front of large tree] <i>Scope and content:</i> Image, on paper stock, of a woman standing in a forested area, directly in front of a massive tree trunk with a natural opening. Inscription on reverse, in pencil, reads: "I am standing in front of this old Cedar tree stump, which Indians used for a house, and which is supposed to be 2,000 years old. Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C. Evelyn H. C. Johnson. July, 1911. By T. S. H. [Shearman?]".	1911	1 photograph: b&w print
MsC-175-0-1-0-0-6	Item - [Clearing in forest with flowers] <i>Scope and content:</i> Image, on paper stock, of a clearing in a forested area, with flowered wreaths and ribbons. Inscription on reverse, in pencil, reads: "This picture was made the day of the interment of the ashes of E. Pauline Johnson. The boulder in the foreground had not then been placed in position in the center. Photographed Friday, March 14th 1913. Vancouver, B.C. Nearly every Society-organization in Vancouver sent floral tributes."	1913	1 photograph: b&w print
MsC-175-0-1-0-0-7	Item - [Funeral of E. Pauline Johnson]	1913	1 photograph: postcard, b&w

	<i>Scope and content:</i> Photographic postcard. Image of a funeral, with hearse, pallbearers, coffin and onlookers. Inscription on reverse, in ink, reads: "Funeral of Pauline Johnson from Christ Church Cathedral. G. S. Forsythe one of the pallbearers".		
MsC-175-0-1-0-0-8	Item - [E. Pauline Johnson monument]	[after 1922]	1 photograph: postcard, hand-coloured
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Photographic postcard. Image, hand-coloured, of a carved stone monument and small water feature in a forested area. Printed text on the front of the postcard reads "The Pauline Johnson Memorial, Standley Park, Vancouver, B.C. Vancouver series No. 45".		
MsC-175-0-1-0-0-9	Item - [Drawing of E. Pauline Johnson 1]	[before 1907]	1 photograph: b&w print
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Photograph of an illustration. Image is of a woman dressed in indigenous clothing. Background is trees and a lake. An inscription at the bottom read: "Faithfully yours E. Pauline Johnson. Tekahionwake". Text, in pencil, on reverse reads: "Tim would like to have dates for the Pauline Johnson pictures he photographed. (He thought you might like to see a copy of his reproduction - you can keep the print) (see over)".		

Series MsC-175-0-2: Textual materials

Date: [1905-1919?, 1961] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series consists of various printed materials, mostly newspaper articles. There is one illustrated advertisement for an up-coming speaking tour, but the other items are mostly tributes relating to the life and death of E. Pauline Johnson.

Physical description: 0.5 cm textual materials

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Johnson, E. Pauline (subject)
- Clippings (documentary form)
- Advertisements (documentary form)
- Poetry (documentary form)
- Illustrations (documentary form)
- First nations (subject)
- Arts and culture (subject)
- Military (subject)
- Vancouver (place)

Arrangement:

Arrangement of items was provided by the archivist.

Finding aids:

An item list is available.			
<u>Publication status:</u>			
published			
File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
MsC-175-0-2-0-0-1	Item - [Drawing of E. Pauline Johnson 2]	[before 1907]	1 textual record: illustration
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Drawing, coloured, of woman dressed in indigenous clothing. Background is trees and a lake. An inscription at the bottom read: "Faithfully yours E. Pauline Johnson. Tekahionwake". The illustration is mounted in a cardboard frame. On the reverse of the frame is text describing an upcoming entertainment tour, together with Canadian entertainer Walter McRaye, and advertising past achievements. A black and white image of Johnson is included with the text.		
MsC-175-0-2-0-0-2	Item - [E. Pauline Johnson memorial booklet]	1913	1 textual record: booklet
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Memorial booklet titled "E. Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake). Poetess". Front cover has illustration of a feather and arrowhead, with a printed image of her birthplace in Brantford, Ontario. Inside is a retrospective of Johnson's life and a printed copy of one of her last poems. There is a loose-leaf printed page with the same poem, handwritten and signed by Johnson.		
MsC-175-0-2-0-0-3	Item - [Article, E. Pauline Johnson WWI gun]	[after 1916]	1 textual record: newspaper clipping
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Newspaper article describing the use in World War One of a gun purchased with the bequest of E. Pauline Johnson. Article is mounted with glue to black paper page.		
MsC-175-0-2-0-0-4	Item - [Article, E. Pauline Johnson in memorium 1]	1918	1 textual record: newspaper clipping
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Newspaper article titled "E. Pauline Johnson: An Appreciation and a Memory. By Frank Yeigh".		
MsC-175-0-2-0-0-5	Item - [Articles, E. Pauline Johnson in memorium 2]	1913	1 textual record: newspaper clipping
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Three newspaper articles announcing the death of E. Pauline Johnson. One published in "The Province" (W.C. Nichol, Saturday March 8, 1913), the other two are of unknown date and provenance.		
MsC-175-0-2-0-0-6	Item - [Article, E. Pauline Johnson in memorium 3]	1913	1 textual record: newspaper clipping
	<i>Scope and content:</i> Front page article titled "A Singer of Brave Songs". From "Women's Saturday Night", Toronto, Canada, August 23, 1913. Handwritten in ink: "[??] Fred S. Clark"		
MsC-175-0-2-0-0-7	Item - [Articles, E. Pauline Johnson, 1961]	1961	1 textual record: newspaper clipping
	<i>Scope and content:</i>		

	Newspaper page with three related articles concerning E. Pauline Johnson on the centenary of her birth. "The Globe and Mail", Saturday, March 11, 1961.		
MsC-175-0-2-0-0-8	Item - [Poem, E. Pauline Johnson tribute]	[after 1913]	1 textual record: magazine clipping
	<i>Scope and content:</i> A magazine page with a poem titled "To Pauline Johnson" by Mildred Louise Gould.		