

LLOYD ALEXANDER MUNRO
PAPERS
COLL. 1030

Arranged and Described
by
Paul Banfield

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	3
PROVENANCE	5
RESTRICTIONS	5
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS	6
DETAILED LISTING OF THE PAPERS	7

INTRODUCTION

Lloyd Alexander Munro, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at Queen's University at Kingston, was born in Toney Mills, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, 10 January 1899. The son of Henry Dan and Jessie Ann (MacKenzie), Dr. Munro received his early education in Stellarton, after living briefly in Manitoba. Following his graduation from Pictou Academy in 1917, he enlisted in the Canadian Army and spent the next two years overseas with the Canadian Signal Corps. On his return to Canada he enrolled at Dalhousie, from which he received his B.A. in 1921, and his M.A., the following year. In 1926 he was awarded his Ph.D. from McGill, and then returned to the West where he joined the University of Manitoba as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Chemistry.

In 1929, he joined the Faculty of Arts and Science at Queen's University and taught for the next thirty-eight years -- until his retirement in 1967-- in the Department of Chemistry. During this period he often conducted the first year chemistry course offered for both Arts and Science and Applied Science students. His experience and knowledge in teaching to two disciplines led, in 1964, to the publication of his widely acclaimed text, Chemistry in Engineering.

Dr. Munro was also very much involved in the professional organization of chemists in Canada. Consequently, when it was realized that such an objective would be accomplished much quicker if there was a national journal and newsletter, L.A. Munro undertook the task. Commencing in the summer of 1944 (a year before the formation of the Chemical Institute of Canada) until he relinquished the post in 1946, he "almost single-handedly undertook the work of assembling, editing and publishing the 'Chemical Institute News'." In 1948 the journal was renamed "Chemistry in Canada" --at Munro's suggestion as Chairman of the Editorial Board, a post he had held since 1946.

With the outbreak of World War II, Dr. Munro volunteered for service and was appointed to the rank of Captain in the Army Reserve. Shortly afterwards, he was recruited by the Department of National Defence to participate in chemical research connected to the war effort. He continued in this capacity until late 1945.

Over the years he published extensively on the chemistry of gels, chemical analysis, resins and colloids. The latter subject area in particular led to investigations and important papers being written on the use of colloids in the detection and treatment of cancer. For such contributions and others he was elected to Fellowships in the Canadian Institute of Chemistry in 1937, and the Royal Society of Canada in 1947, and in 1967 he was awarded a Centennial Medal by the Canadian Government.

Apart from his professional interests, Dr. Munro was a keen student of the history of chemistry and an avid philatelist. He was able to combine these through a series of articles and public lectures on the subject of "Chemists and Chemistry on Stamps".

Lloyd Alexander Munro died, 3 September 1987, at the age of 88, in Brampton, Ontario. He is survived by his wife, Della Douglas, and son, H. Douglas Munro, both of Brampton.

PROVENANCE

These papers were donated to Queen's University Archives by Professor Ralph A. Whitney, Department of Chemistry. They were originally compiled by Professor Saul Wolfe, formerly of the Department of Chemistry, during the preparation of an obituary for Professor Munro, to appear in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, 1991.

RESTRICTIONS

There are no restrictions pertaining to this fonds. It is open to all responsible and serious researchers.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Upon the death of Professor Lloyd Alexander Munro, the Department of Chemistry at Queen's University was asked to forward an obituary to the Royal Society of Canada for inclusion in its 1991 Transactions. This task was undertaken by one of L.A. Munro's colleagues, Professor Saul Wolfe. In the course of the preparation of the obituary (a copy of which is found in Folder #1.6 'Biographical Data') Professor Wolfe gathered together material relating to the life and work of his friend and associate. He did not attempt to arrange it in any way, and as such it arrived (7 cm.) at the Archives in no discernable order. The Series listed below therefore, are purely arbitrary and do not reflect in any way upon Dr. Munro.

Series I - "Personal" contains correspondence to and from Professor Munro; correspondence to Prof. Wolfe concerning his preparation of the obituary; biographies of Dr. Munro for various publications; material relating to his work both as an academic chemist and as editor of the Chemical Institute of Canada's journal; as well as clippings and photographs.

Series II - "Publications" contains only several of the more than three dozen books and articles published by Professor Munro throughout his distinguished career. A more complete listing is to be found in the 'Biographical Data' - Folders #1.6 and 1.7.

Series III - "Stamp Collecting" contains a small sample of Dr. Munro's love of both the history of chemistry and philately and shows how he was able to combine the two.

DETAILED LISTING OF THE RECORDS

SERIES I

PERSONAL

Box 1

Folder 1.1	T.C. Alywin	1949-1964
1.2	Roger Barre	1948-1949
1.3	Dr. Samuel Wolfe (letters written to Dr. Wolfe in the course of his preparation of the obituary of Prof. L. A. Munro)	1988-1989
1.4	General	1942-1982
1.5	Biographical Data - Queen's University	1929-1968
1.6	Biographical Data- General	n.d.-1990
1.7	The Chemical Institute Canada	1943-1944
1.8	Editor and Publications Policy	1946-1948
1.9	Miscellaneous	1935-1960's
1.10	Clippings	1949-1987
1.11	Photographs	n.d.

SERIES II

PUBLICATIONS

Box 1 con't.

Folder 1.12	"A Study of Molybdenum Blue, Its Properties and Composition"	1929
1.13	"Protective Colloids in Cancer"	1944
1.14	"A Comparison of the Protective Colloid Index and Polargraph Wave for Normal and Cancer Sera" - written in conjunction with D.J. Boyd	1951
1.15	"Memo of the Role of Reticulo-endothelial Activity in Malignant Disease I."	n.d.

SERIES III

STAMP COLLECTING

Box 1 con't.

Folder 1.16	"Chemists & Chemistry on Stamps"	1952
1.17	"Philately and Chemistry"	1953
1.18	Postal Publicity for Chemists and Chemical Industry	1953