

Queen's University Archives

Finding Aid - Harry W. Tanner fonds (F3050)

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Harry W. Tanner fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Queen's University Archives
Title:	Harry W. Tanner fonds
Reference code:	F3050
Physical description:	0.80 m of textual records and ca. 600 photographs (slides, negatives and prints)
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Harry W. Tanner was born in 1934 in Cuba. His father was a Canadian banker posted on the island; his mother was from West Lafayette, Indiana. He completed his early education in different bilingual schools in Cuba, graduating from high school in Havana. His interest in painting began when he was fifteen years old, taking watercolour courses from a local artist.

Harry attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia where he studied geology for two years before returning to Havana. It was during this time that his interest in painting returned and he joined an art class given by Palko Lukacs, a Hungarian painter who had studied under Oskar Kokoschka. Tanner's parents supported his artistic pursuits and sponsored an indefinite stay in Paris to study art. He spent over a year learning cubism at the atelier of André Lhote in Montparnasse, visiting museums and getting to know the masterpieces in the Louvre.

Tanner made the decision to return to post revolution Havana in 1959 and participate in Cuban cultural life after most foreigners had left. he participated in the creation of the Cuban Institute of Cinematic Art and Industry (ICAIC). He worked at ICAIC for the next eleven years. He had become interested in cinematography while in Paris and worked as a cameraman, cinematographer, and director of documentaries. He also worked as an assistant to Mikhail Kalatozov, the director of the Cuban/Russian film Soy Cuba. Tanner decided to leave the film institute in 1970 to become an independent painter. Harry joined the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) and was an active promoter of the art of painting.

In 1984, Harry left Cuba for Toronto, Canada, to assist his mother who was living there alone and settled in Toronto. Harry continued painting and gave classes in technique at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO). Tanner produced over 200 paintings and exhibited several times in different venues.

Harry Tanner died November 7th, 2019 at the age of 85.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of material created and kept by Harry Tanner. Much of the material that still exists was originally that of Dorothy Todd Tanner, that remained in Harry's possession when she passed away. The fonds has been divided into two series, material seemingly created and or accumulated by Harry Tanner about his life and work, and a second series of material that was maintained by Dorothy Tanner from, or about, Harry that then came to be in Harry's possession after her death.

Notes

Title notes

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
-

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Series descriptions

Series F3050-S1: Harry Tanner

Scope and content:

This series is comprised of textual records and ephemera of Harry Tanner's time with a variety of Cuban organizations such as Instituto Cubana Del Arte e Industria Cinematograficos (ICAIC) and National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) as well as a small amount of correspondence and research material pertaining to particular paintings or research interests, such as William Ryan. There are a large number of slides and photographs both of Cuba and of Tanner's artwork. Of particular note is the file outlining the immigration process and problems that were unique to Harry Tanner in his being both Cuban and Canadian.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F3050-S1-f1	File - [Miscellaneous Ephemera] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains movie poster, plaquard for Pier 5 Havana, and miscellaneous documents. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-1 <i>Physical location:</i> (302) Map 66	[195-]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f2	File - Sketchbooks <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains two sketchbooks. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-2	[195-]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f3	File - Paris Memorabilia <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains documents and items collected while in Paris and correspondence. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-3	[195-]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f4	File - [Miscellaneous Documents] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs, notes, correspondence and other miscellaneous documents. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-4	[1957-1999]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f5	File - [ICAIC Papers] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains documents from ICAIC, the Cuban Institute of Cinematic Art and Industry. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-5	[1959-1969]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f6	File - ICAIC Papers <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains documents from ICAIC, the Cuban Institute of Cinematic Art and Industry. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-6	[196-]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f7	File - [Recollections 1959 - Return to Havana] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains Harry Tanner's recollections. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-7	[196-?]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f8	File - Ideas Para Guinones Documentales	1965-1970	1 folder of textual records

	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains script ideas.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-8</p>		
F3050-S1-f9	File - Documentales Realizados [Docs Made]	[1968?]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains information about Documentaries that were made.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-9</p>		
F3050-S1-f10	File - Filmes no exhibidos	[1968-1970]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains documents about unscreened films.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-10</p>		
F3050-S1-f11	File - [From Harsyl]	[197-]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains cards from Harsyl.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-11</p>		
F3050-S1-f12	File - Ideas Para Guines Largo Metraxe [Features Scripts]	[197-]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains scripts.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-12</p>		
F3050-S1-f13	File - Lista Filmes ICAIC (Instituto Cubana Del Arte e Industria Cinematograficos)	1970	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains film information.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-13</p>		
F3050-S1-f14	File - [Biographical and Organizational Membership]	[1970-1989]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains biographical and organizational information.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-14</p>		
F3050-S1-f15	File - [Art Exhibitions, articles, clippings regarding Harry Tanner]	[1970-2011]	2 folders of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i></p>		

	File contains articles and clippings regarding Harry Tanner's art career mainly in the 1970's and 1980's. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-1-15		
F3050-S1-f16	File - [Biographical Information and Organizational Membership] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains biographical and organizational information. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-1	1974-1982	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f17	File - Dorothy Todd Tanner Estate <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains estate information for Harry's mother Dorothy Todd Tanner. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-2	[1981-1991]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f18	File - [Paintings - exhibition and Sales] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains exhibit information. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-3	[198-]-[2000]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f19	File - [Letters to Harsyl] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains letters from Harry to his daughter Harsyl. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-4	1985	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f20	File - [Immigration and Travel issues] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains immigration and travel documentation. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-5	1985-1998	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f21	File - William Ryan Material <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains research, including DVD "The Lost Story of Whack Ryan". <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-6 <i>Physical location:</i> MI 288	[1988-2004]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f22	File - Art Correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains correspondence. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-7	1993-2011	1 folder of textual records

F3050-S1-f23	File - [Steam Automobile] [1996] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains catalogue and photographs. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-8	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f24	File - Computer Drawings [200-] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains computer drawings. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-9	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f25	File - [Sketches] [198-?] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains sketches and copies of paintings. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-10 <i>Physical location:</i> (302) Map 66	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f26	File - [Family, friends and co-workers (ICAIC)] [19--] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of family, friends and co-workers in Cuba. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-11	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f27	File - Family Album [19--] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of family and friends. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-12	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f28	File - [Travel] [1980-1999] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs from travels. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-13	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f29	File - [Travel] [1980-1999] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs from travels. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-14	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f30	File - [Travel] [199-] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs from travels.	1 folder of textual records

	<i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-15		
F3050-S1-f31	File - [Travel] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs from travels. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-16	[199-]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f32	File - [Family, Friends and Paintings] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of family, friends and Harry Tanner Paintings. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-17	[1980-2010]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f33	File - [Family and In Toronto] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of family and views of Toronto. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-18	[198-]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f34	File - [Friends and Family] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of family and friends. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-2-19	[1960-1990?]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f35	File - [General Cuba Photographs] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of Cuba, mostly of built structures, street scenes, industrial scenes and workers intermingled with photographs of friends and family, some of which were used for creating paintings especially in the 1950's and 1960's. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-1	[1940-1980]	4 folders of textual records
F3050-S1-f36	File - Cuba- Fidel <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of Fidel Castro. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-2	[1950-1960]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S1-f37	File - [Cuba] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains negatives and slides of photographs from Cuba including images of Fidel Castro, revolutionaries, family and painting inspiration. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-3	[1949-1984]	2 folders of textual records
F3050-S1-f38	File - [Painting Documentation, arts and culture, and ICAIC]	[1960-1989]	2 folders of textual records

	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs mainly of Cuba that inspired paintings, of arts and culture in Cuba and on film sets working with ICAIC.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-4</p>		
F3050-S1-f39	File - [Sugar Cane Plantation workers?]	[ca. 1977]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of sugar cane plantation workers.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-5</p>		
F3050-S1-f40	File - [Slides of Paintings]	[197-?]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains slides of paintings.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-6</p>		
F3050-S1-f41	File - Exhibit	23 Feb. 1987	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs and slides from art exhibit.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-7</p>		
F3050-S1-f42	File - Queen Street	[198-]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of Queen Street in Toronto.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-8</p>		
F3050-S1-f43	File - [Poundmaker]	[198-]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs used for the painting Poundmaker, 1987.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-9</p>		
F3050-S1-f44	File - Eaton Centre Photographs	[198-]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photograph used for the painting Eaton's 1984, 1986.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-3-10</p>		
F3050-S1-f45	File - [Photos for Paintings]	[1980-1999]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs and slides used for paintings.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-1</p>		
F3050-S1-f46	File - [Paintings]	[1980-200-]	2 folders of textual records

	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs and slides of Harry Tanner paintings.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-2</p>		
F3050-S1-f47	File - [Paintings]	[199-]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs and negatives used for paintings.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-3</p>		
F3050-S1-f48	File - Slides of Paintings	[199-]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains slides of paintings.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-4</p>		
F3050-S1-f49	File - [Photographs of Harry Painting]	[20--]	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs of Harry Tanner in his studio.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-5</p>		

Series F3050-S2: Dorothy Todd Tanner

Scope and content:

This series is predominantly comprised of material relating to Harry's childhood that was held and maintained by Dorothy Todd Tanner. It includes correspondence sent to Dorothy and Charles from Harry during his many years in Cuba, as well as material from his early schooling. Also includes a small amount of material from Dorothy's early life.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F3050-S2-f1	File - Letters from Harry	1952-1957	1 folder of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains correspondence.</p> <p><i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-6</p>		
F3050-S2-f2	File - [Letters from Harry to Parents]	1961-1979	2 folders of textual records
	<p><i>Scope and content:</i> File contains correspondence.</p>		

	<i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-7		
F3050-S2-f3	File - [Letters from Harry to Parents] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains correspondence. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-8	1980-1984	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f4	File - Dorothy Tanner Correspondence <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains correspondence. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-9	[1919-1960]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f5	File - Dorothy Tanner Poetry Clippings <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains undated poetry clippings. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-4-10	[19--]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f6	File - Personal Papers of D.T.T <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains personal documents. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-5-1	[1921-1942]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f7	File - [Baby Book/ Scrapbook] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains scrapbook. <i>Physical location:</i> F3	1934-1947	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f8	File - [Essay by D.T.T. in Cuba] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains essay. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-5-2	1927	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f9	File - [Harry Memorabilia collected by Dorothy Tanner- Childhood] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains personal documents. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-5-3	[194-]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f10	File - [Phillips School - report cards] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains school documents.	[194-]	1 folder of textual records

	<i>Physical location:</i> 2453-5-4		
F3050-S2-f11	File - [School work] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains school documents. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-5-5	1944	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f12	File - D.T.T. Talks to Groups (Dorothy Tanner) <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains talks. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-5-6	[195-]-[197-]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f13	File - [Photo of Charles E. Tanner and Certificate for Charles E. Tanner - Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photograph and certificate. <i>Physical location:</i> (302) Map 66	[ca. 1966]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f14	File - [Dorothy Todd Tanner Ephemera] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains ephemera. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-5-7	[1969-1980]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f15	File - [Purchases for Harry By Dorothy Tanner] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains invoices and foot outlines. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-5-8	[197-]-[198-]	1 folder of textual records
F3050-S2-f16	File - [Dorothy T. Tanner Photo's] <i>Scope and content:</i> File contains photographs, negatives and slides of Dorothy's family and life in Cuba. <i>Physical location:</i> 2453-5-9	[19--]	2 folders of textual records