

SAFA 622

**A Guide to the Records of the
Regina Little Theatre Society fonds
(F 174)**

**Saskatchewan Archives Board
2011**

PRIVATE RECORDS AUTHORITY DESCRIPTION

**Saskatchewan Archives Board
Authority Record**

**Corporate (PA 174)
Regina Little Theatre Society, Inc., 1926-**

About this records creator:

Authorized Heading Regina Little Theatre Society, Inc., 1926-

**Brief Bio./Admin.
History** The Regina Little Theatre Society was established in Regina, Saskatchewan, in 1926. Its mandate was to foster the development of the spoken drama, to instruct amateurs in the art and technical aspects of drama, and to produce plays. Performances of one-act and full-length plays have occurred since 1926 at various venues in Regina, as well as participation in provincial and national theatre competitions. Currently (2011) the Regina Little Theatre Society continues as a non-profit community theatre company.

**Biographical
Sketch/Administrative
History** A provisional meeting of the Regina Little Theatre Society was held at the office of Read, Smith & Co. in Regina, Saskatchewan, on May 21, 1926. Those present were Capt. G.R. Chetwynd, H.E. Jones, A. Hall, A.J. Haggert, G. Meldrum and W.T. Read, who acted as chair. The purpose of the meeting was to decide if the formation of a new dramatic society was in the interests of the city and was feasible. A provisional executive was formed of those present along with E.A. Matthews.

The first general meeting of the Society was held at the Kitchener Hotel on June 7, 1926. At this meeting, an executive was formed comprised of Col. F.B. Ware - president, H.E. Jones - vice-president, W.T. Read - secretary, F.H.H. Smith - treasurer, and Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Middlemas and Mr. Haggert as additional members. It was determined that the objective of the Society was the development of the spoken drama; training and instruction of amateurs in the art of drama and in its technical branches; and the production of plays. Membership to the Society was set at two dollars per person.

The inaugural performance of the Regina Little Theatre (RLT) occurred on November 29, 1926, at the Regina College Auditorium. This performance was open to members only and featured two one-act plays. The first performance of a play open to the general public took place at the Grand Theatre in February 1927. In 1928, the newly-built Darke Hall became the site of performances for the Society. Darke Hall remained as the venue for numerous RLT productions until the 1988-1989 performance season.

Along with its local performances, the RLT also participated in the provincial Dominion Drama Festival in 1933 and annually thereafter until the Festival's end ca. 1971. The RLT won numerous awards for acting, directing and production at these festivals.

In 1956, the Society established the Regina Little Theatre Building Company Ltd. to provide facilities required for the accommodation of its activities. This company was incorporated under The Companies Act on March 5, 1956. Through the company, the Society acquired a building on South Railway Avenue for the purposes of rehearsals and storage. In 1988, the Society became a tenant of Theatre Regina Inc., the body that operates the Regina Performing Arts Centre. The Regina Little Theatre Building Company Ltd. was amalgamated with the Regina Little Theatre Society, Inc. on June 30, 1998.

The Regina Little Theatre Society, Inc. continues (2011) as a non-profit community theatre company. It produces five full-length main stage plays and two sets of one-act plays per year. It participates annually in Theatre Saskatchewan Inc.'s annual drama festival. It also holds drama workshops, play writing contests, and fundraising events, and provides scholarship opportunities for members who are studying performing arts. It receives funding through local government and corporate sponsorship and is affiliated with Theatre Saskatchewan Inc. and Theatre Regina Inc.

Variant Name(s)

Regina Little Theatre

RLT

Rule(s)

Rules for Archival Description (RAD).

Source(s)

AMICUS Authorities - no entry found.

Content of the fonds.

Archival records linked to this records creator:

F 174

Regina Little Theatre Society fonds

F 226

Regina Lyric Light Opera Society fonds

FONDS DESCRIPTION

**Saskatchewan Archives Board
Records Description**

F 174

Regina Little Theatre Society fonds

About these records:

Unique Identifier F 174

Title of Records Regina Little Theatre Society fonds

Level of Description Fonds

Descriptive System Private

Dates of Creation 1923-2004

Dates of Accumulation 1926-2004

Physical Description 78.4 cm of records

109 photographs : prints, b&w

10 photographs : negatives, b&w

Link to Authority The Regina Little Theatre Society was established in Regina, Saskatchewan, in 1926. Its mandate was to foster the development of the spoken drama, to instruct amateurs in the art and technical aspects of drama, and to produce plays. Performances of one-act and full-length plays have occurred since 1926 at various venues in Regina, as well as participation in provincial and national theatre competitions. Currently (2011) the Regina Little Theatre Society continues as a non-profit community theatre company.

See: Regina Little Theatre Society, Inc., 1926-

**Direct Acquisition
from Records Creator** W.T. Read donated some of these records to the Regina office, Saskatchewan Archives in one accession in 1956: 175 (R) (August or September 1956).

Mrs. M.A. Burgess donated some of these records to the Regina office, Saskatchewan Archives in one accession in 1961: 282 (R) (April to June 1961).

Margaret Fielden of the Regina Little Theatre Society donated some of these records to the Regina office, Saskatchewan Archives in two accessions between 1983 and 1987: R83-048 (January 12, 1983); and R87-243 (May 14, 1987).

Scope and Content	<p>This fonds consists of records created, accumulated and used by the Regina Little Theatre Society in its operations from 1926 to 2004 as a non-profit community theatre company in Regina, Saskatchewan. It includes records relating to productions of the Regina Little Theatre, and competition at the provincial and national Dominion Drama Festival. It also includes issues of the Society's monthly newsletter "Masks & Faces". A small volume of records pertains to other theatrical organizations in Saskatchewan.</p> <p>The types of records included are newsletters; minutes of meetings and conventions; clippings; programmes; membership lists; publications; reports; financial records; scrapbooks; and photographs.</p> <p>No series assignment has been applied to the records in this fonds.</p>
Access Restrictions	Records are open for research use.
Terms Governing Use	Use, publication and/or reproduction of records are subject to terms and conditions of the Copyright Act. Please consult reference archivist for assistance.
Reference Tools	<p>SAFA 622 (old guide GR 398) consists of a fonds description, file listings of some of the textual records and item descriptions of photographs.</p> <p>J:\Description Finding Aid Link\GR 398 (ReginaLittleTheatreSociety) (2011-05)0001.pdf</p>
Related Records (Records held by SAB)	<p>F 226 Regina Lyric Light Opera Society fonds – contains records of the Regina Little Theatre Society from 1929 to 1977.</p> <p>F 37 Lyn Goldman fonds - includes records of the Regina Little Theatre from 1976 to 1992.</p> <p>R-969 Musical and Theatre Productions - includes issues of "Masks & Faces" from 1946 to 1960; and programmes for various Regina Little Theatre productions from 1926 to 1935.</p> <p>R-E1348 Programmes and Invitations - includes a Regina Little Theatre programme for the production of "Charley's Aunt".</p> <p>R-E2923 Regina Tornado - includes the Regina Little Theatre programme and the script for "The Play of the Cyclone" written by William Chadwick.</p>
Physical Condition	Records are in good physical condition.

Conservation Note	Conservation standards in place at the time of arrangement were applied to records in old guide GR 398.
Accruals	Further accruals are expected.
Source of Description	Content of the fonds.
Former Code(s)	Textual Records: Old guide GR 398 (R-135); R-665; R-E2485; R-F125a. Photographs: R-A8089 (1)-(4) to R-A8091 (1)-(3); R-A19431 (1)-(3) to R-A19432 (1)-(6); R-A19433 (1)-(3) to R-A19437 (1)-(34); R-B10317 (1)-(3); R-B10318 (1)-(3) to R-B10322.
Consulting the Records	To consult the records, visit or contact the Regina office.
Arrangement Note(s)	The factors determining arrangement of the records in this fonds have not been documented during the description process.
General Note(s)	Location for retrieval - Regina-Hillsdale.

OLD GUIDE

GR 398

A CHECKLIST
OF THE RECORDS OF THE
REGINA LITTLE THEATRE SOCIETY

Saskatchewan Archives Board, Regina
1987

Introduction

The Little Theatre movement, inaugurated by Sir Barry Jackson in Birmingham, England, came into operation in Regina in 1926 with the formation of the Regina Little Theatre Society. Prior to this, amateur dramatic work had been fostered by the Regina Amateur Dramatic Society in 1912-1913, and afterwards by the Community Players. The objectives of the Society were the development of spoken drama, the training and instruction of amateurs in the art of the drama and in its technical branches and the production of plays. For a complete history see file no. I.9.

This checklist covers Accession Nos. 175, 282, and R87-243.

Regina Little Theatre Society Records

I. Regina Little Theatre Society

1. Clippings, c. 1939-1987. 1 cm
 See also box 5.
2. Constitution, n.d. 4 mm
3. Curtain Call, 1940-1961. 2 cm
4. Masks and Faces, 1939-1961. 6 cm
5. Meetings and Conventions, 1926-1959. 11 cm
 - a. Annual General Meetings, 1928-1980. 2 cm
 Incomplete.
 - b. Executive Meetings, 1926-1980. 9 cm
 Incomplete.
6. Organization Announcement, 1926. 2 mm
7. Programmes, 1933-1963. 4 cm
8. "Publicity-Writeups," 1942-1961. 9 cm
9. "Regina Little Theatre in Retrospect," 1926-1961. 1 cm
10. Scrapbooks, 1923-1947. 12 cm
 See also box 5.
11. Set Designs by J. H. Lee-Grayson, 1942. 3 mm
12. Statement of Income and Expenditures, 1957-1962. 3 mm

II. Miscellaneous

1. Elrose District Homemakers: Convention, 1939. 1 mm
2. Regina Amateur Operatic Society, n.d. 2 mm
3. Regina Collegiate Institute: Tech Echo, n.d. 2 mm
4. Regina Elementary Schools: Convention, 1938. 1 mm
5. Saskatchewan Drama League, 1936-1945. 2 mm

**FOR ADDITIONAL TEXTUAL
RECORDS IN THIS FONDS
SEE R-665; R-E2385;
and R-F125a**

**PLEASE CONSULT GR 390
FOR LISTING OF TEXTUAL
RECORDS IN R-F125a**

**SEE THRESHOLD FOR
DESCRIPTIONS OF
PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS FOND**

**R-A8089 (1)-(4) to R-A8091 (1)-(3);
R-A19431 (1)-(3) to R-A19432 (1)-(6);
R-A19433 (1)-(3) to R-A19437 (1)-(34);
R-B10317 (1)-(3);
R-B10318 (1)-(3) to R-B10322**

LOCATIONS: F 174

Regina Little Theatre Society fonds
(SAFA 622)

Collection R-135, Boxes 1 to 5:	462.5.6
Collection R-665, Boxes 1 to 2:	634.5.3
Collection R-E2485:	1287.5.2
Collection R-F125a:	1296.4.4

R-A8089 (1)-(4) to R-A8091 (1)-(3):	PC-1.7
R-A19431 (1)-(3) to R-A19432 (1)-(6):	PC-3.3
R-A19433 (1)-(3) to R-A19437 (1)-(34):	PC-3.3
R-B10317 (1)-(3):	PC-10.3
R-B10318 (1)-(3) to R-B10322:	PC-10.3