

**LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION:**

Series

**No.:**

AU007.002S

**FORMS PART OF:**

Ruth Gorman fonds

**TITLE:**

John Laurie series

**CREATOR:**

Gorman, Ruth  
Pannekoek, Frits

**DATE RANGE:**

1861-2006

**EXTENT:**

6.24 m of textual records and other material

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:**

In 1944 John Laurie contacted Ruth Gorman to ask her to explain the legalities of the Indian Act to members of the Indian Association of Alberta; in 1946 she agreed to act as their unpaid solicitor. Together with Ruth Gorman and members of the Hobbema Reserve, John Laurie worked to enfranchise Aboriginals to vote without losing their treaty rights. The fight for Aboriginal enfranchisement was commonly called the Hobbema case in newspapers since it was this reserve that brought the case to court. In the 1990's Ruth Gorman decided to write a book about John Laurie and his efforts in enfranchising Aboriginals. She was unable to complete the book; however, in 2002 the records were transferred to Frits Pannekoek who edited and published the *Behind the Man: John Laurie, Ruth Gorman and the Indian Vote* through the University of Calgary press in Calgary, Alberta.

**CUSTODIAL HISTORY:**

After Ruth Gorman's death, custody of the records was transferred to her daughter Linda Gorman who lent the records to Frits Pannekoek at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta, until the records were donated to the Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections and transferred to Athabasca, Alberta in 2008.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The series consists primarily of textual materials pertaining to Ruth Gorman's book about John Laurie and includes correspondence, newspaper and magazine articles about the

Hobbema case and Aboriginal issues in general and typed and handwritten drafts of the manuscript.

**SOURCE OF TITLE:**

Title taken from contents of series.

**DATE NOTE:**

Items dated after 2002 were created by Frits Pannekoek to edit and publish *Behind the Man: John Laurie, Ruth Gorman and the Indian Vote*.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Fonds also includes 85 floppy discs. – 28 sound recordings. – 13 photographs. – 1 compact disc

**CONSERVATION:**

Conservation copies have been made of newspaper clippings.

**ARRANGEMENT NOTE:**

The majority of the records were received in their current order.

**LANGUAGE NOTE:**

The material is in English.

**ACCESS CONDITIONS:**

None.

**USE CONDITIONS:**

Permission for use required. Subject to *The Copyright Act*.

**FINDING AIDS:**

File list and digitized material is available.

**INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACCESSIONS:**

2009.004

Further accruals are not expected.

**RELATED RECORDS:**

Other records that pertain to John Laurie can be found at the Glenbow Archives in Calgary, Alberta in the Donald B. Smith fonds; the Glenbow-Alberta Institute. John G. "Red" Cathcart fonds; Tigerstedt Studio fonds; Sam Bull fonds; John Lee Laurie fonds; Johnny Callihoo fonds; James Gladstone family fonds; and the Indian Association of Alberta fonds.

Further records can be found in the University of Calgary Library Special Collection in Calgary, Alberta in the John Lee Laurie fonds; in the Whyte Museum of the Canadian

Rockies Archives and Library in Banff, Alberta in the John Lee Laurie fonds; and the University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections in Victoria, British Columbia in the Reginald Herbert Roy fonds.

**GENERAL NOTE:**

Information for the administrative history is taken from the records.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Indians— Legal status, laws, etc. – Alberta

Indians—Societies etc.