

Northrop Frye insert collection

INTRODUCTION TO THE COLLECTION

Victoria University Library holds over 2000 monographs containing annotations by Northrop Frye. Over the course of several years, as the collection was processed and added to the University of Toronto Libraries Catalogue, various materials were found inserted between the pages of several books. As the number of inserts continued to grow, plans were made to organize them into a formal collection in order to establish intellectual control and preserve their research value. A Material Culture student was hired in 2023 to arrange the inserts according to document type and order them chronologically. Descriptions were written to provide contextual information. The titles and call numbers of the monographs where the inserts were originally found have been included where possible.

ABOUT THE COLLECTION

The Northrop Frye insert collection is comprised of textual and graphic records and artifacts that were found inserted between the pages of the Northrop Frye annotated monograph collection. The records are personal in nature and consist of letters, cards, photographs, locks of hair, news clippings and a square piece of decorative paper.

Box	File No.	Item No.	Title	Date	Document Type	Book Title	Call Number	Notes
1		1	1	[Invitation to Shakespeare's Macbeth]	1977	Invitation	Astrology and religion among the Greeks and Romans	Frye annotated, no. 1637 The insert is an invitation from The Director of the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama to attend the opening night of Shakespeare's Macbeth at Hart House.
		2	2	[Invitation]	1983	Invitation letter	Autobiography	Frye annotated, no.332 The insert is an invitation from Anne Weldon to attend meetings of the Liberal

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								Arts Club and the Writers' Group.
		3	3	[Letter to David Hoeniger]	1970	Letter	Northrop Frye in modern criticism: selected papers from the English Institute: [review]	PN75.F7 K75 The insert is a letter from Northrop Frye to Professor David Hoeniger.
		4	4	[Handwritten letter to Norrie]	1971	Letter	The princess and Curdie	Frye annotated, no. 588 The insert is a note from H about cleaning the piano. H could be Frye's wife, Helen. Norrie is Frye's nickname.
		5	5	[Handwritten note]	1986	Letter	Roman Poems	Frye annotated, no. 1502 The insert is a short handwritten note to Northrop Frye about leaving for Italy. The words "With the compliments of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura" are at the top of the notecard.
		6	6	Letter from Janine Zend to Mrs. Widdicombe	1991	Letter	Daymares	PR9199.3. Z44 D3 1991 A letter from Janine Zend expressing her sadness

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								and sympathy following Frye's death. Mrs. Widdicombe was Frye's assistant.	
		7	7	[Photo of a small child]	1948	Photograph	The cantos of Ezra Pound	Frye annotated, no. 485	The photograph is a studio portrait of a child in a white outfit leaning against a table with their chin in their hand.
		8	8	[Photo of Frye and Helen]	1982	Photograph	Wagner nights	Frye annotated, no.125	The photograph depicts Northrop and Helen Frye standing outdoors in front of a miniature village.
		9	9	Hambourge-Hollinshed Recital postcard	1908	Postcard	Burke's speeches & letters on American affairs	Frye annotated, no. 424	
		10	10	Instruction Package	n.d.	Note	Zen in the art of archery	Frye annotated, no. 985	A handwritten note listing financial information.
		11	11	[Greeting card from Irene Clarke]	2022	Greeting card	The arts in Canada: a stock-taking at mid-century	N6545.R57 1958	The card includes artwork by Emily Carr ("Stumps").

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		12	12	[Marcel Aymé publisher's advertisement]	1950	Publisher's advertisement	The barkeep of Blemont	Frye annotated, no. 1694	The insert contains a biography of writer Marcel Aymé.
		13	13	[Locks of hair / news clipping]	n.d.	Artifact	The Holy Bible	Frye annotated, no. 1871	Three locks of hair, one light blonde and tied with a ribbon, one dark blonde, and one light brown tied in a knot. Also includes a news clipping of an article detailing events in Lennoxville in Sherbrooke, Quebec.
		14	14	[Paper square]	n.d.	Artifact	The last days of Pompeii	Frye annotated, no. 1928	A paper square, possibly Japanese paper, decorated with two figures on a column against a red background.

Last updated: August 30, 2024

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https://library.vicu.utoronto.ca/collections/special_collections/f11_northrop_frye/insert_collection