

The Limners fonds

AR440

Limners Society

Acc. No.: 2010-043

12 May 2011

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The Limners fonds
Limners Society
Acc. No.: 2010-043

Fonds level description

Title: The Limners fonds

Date: 1972-2008

Extent: 14.5 cm of textual material

30 photographs : b&w and col., 25 x 20 cm or smaller
3 monographs

Administrative history: The Victoria Limners Society, commonly referred to as The Limners or The Limner Group, was a collective of painters, potters, sculptors and other visual artists that formed in 1971 in Victoria British Columbia. The name “limner” comes from travelling journeymen painters from the Middle Ages who painted portraits and signs. The Victoria Limners Society incorporated as a non-profit society under the Societies Act of British Columbia in October 1972 and it was dissolved in 2008. Many of their group shows were held at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and Winchester Gallery in Victoria, but they also showed in other venues from Vancouver, to Edmonton, to the Atlantic Provinces.

The Limners did not create a formal artists’ manifesto. Each Limner’s art was individualistic, but all shared a common focus on the human figure. Their informal mandate was to provide artistic, material and moral support to the members, which included promotion of the artists and arts to the public. This was accomplished through meetings and group exhibitions; a book and video were also created about the group.

1996 marked the 25th anniversary of the Limners and was celebrated with a series of exhibitions at various venues in Victoria, including the Winchester Gallery, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and Emily Carr House. This year also saw the publication of a book by Patricia Bovey of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria called *A Passion for Art: The Art and Dynamics of the Limners* by Sono Nis Press. This book examined the contribution of the Limners to the Victoria arts scene since the 1970s, both at a group and individual level, as well as the Limners’ relationships with other Canadian artists.

In the late 1990s, Agustin Luviano-Cordero produced a video about the Limners, which was funded in part by Employment and Immigration Canada’s Job Development Programme. It was likely titled “The Limners: Art and Friendship” and it aired on the Knowledge Network, Rogers, Shaw Cable and possibly the Bravo Channel.

Over the years, Limners members have included Maxwell Bates, Pat Martin Bates, Richard Ciccimarra, Robert De Castro, Walter Dexter, Nita Forrest, Colin Graham, Helga Grove, Jan Grove, Leroy Jensen, Elza Mayhew, Myfanwy Pavelic, Nikola Pavelic, Carole Sabiston, Herbert Siebner, Robin Skelton, Sylvia Skelton, Karl Spreitz and Jack Wilkinson.

Honorary Limner members have included Dennis Bowen, Ann Mayhew, Dick Morris, Peter Pollen, Bernie Ruffo, Martin Segger and Montcrieff Williamson.

Scope and content: This fonds documents the activities of the Victoria Limners Society from 1972-2008 and includes correspondence, meeting minutes, financial records and society filings. It also contains records related to various group exhibits, including the Limners' 25th anniversary exhibition in 1996, as well as records related to a book and video produced about the group. A small number of newspaper clippings, exhibition pamphlets, various editions of a booklet on the Limners Society artists and black and white photographs showing Limner members at exhibitions and meetings can be found in this fonds.

This fonds has been arranged into six series:

1. Letters. -- 1972-1981, 1984-1998
2. Minutes. -- 1972-2008
3. Financial records. -- 1972-2008
4. Society Act filings. -- 1972-2008
5. 25th anniversary exhibition. -- 1972-2004
6. Publications and graphic materials. -- 1972-1991

Title source: Title based on contents of fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition: Material deposited by Limner members Carol Sabiston, Jan Gove, Helga Grove, Pat Martin Bates via the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery on 20 August 2010.

Custodial history: It appears that the records in this fonds were largely held in the custody of Limner secretary Sylvia Skelton and subsequent secretaries until their donation. Many of the records are reproductions.

Associated material: Robin Skelton fonds
Herbert Siebner fonds
Martin Segger fonds

The University of Victoria Library carries several monographs on the Limners, including the items listed below. Consult the library catalogue for details:

Bovey, Patricia E. 1996. *A Passion for Art: The Art & Dynamics of the Limners*. Sono Nis Press, Victoria, BC.

The Limners. 1972. Pharos Press, Victoria, BC. Introduction by Robin Skelton,

The Limners. 1975. Pharos Press, Victoria, BC. Introduction by Robin Skelton,
The Limners. 1978. Pharos Press, Victoria, BC. Introduction by Robin Skelton,
The Limners. 1981. Pharos Press, Victoria, BC. Introduction by Robin Skelton,
Skelton, Robin. [1967]. *Inscriptions*. Morriss Printing Co., Victoria, BC. Drawings by Herbert
Siebner
Whittakker, Julia Fredericka. 1989. *Limners: Art in Victoria, 1920-1989*. Master's thesis.

Accruals: Further Society accruals are not expected.

Finding aids element: Series descriptions and file list available.

Record no.: AR440

Repository: University of Victoria Archives

Provenance access points:

Limners (Group of artists)
x Victoria Limners Society
x Limner Group

Subject access points:

[from MemoryBC subject terms]
Arts and culture
Cultural groups

[from LCSH]

Limners (Group of artists).
Artists--British Columbia--Victoria.
Art, Modern--20th century--British Columbia--Victoria.

Related names:

Bates, Maxwell, 1906-1980
Bates, Pat Martin
Ciccimarra, Richard Mathew, 1924-1973
De Castro, Robert
Dexter, Walter
Forrest, Nita
Graham, Colin
Grove, Helga
Grove, Jan
Jensen, LeRoy, 1927-2005
Mayhew, Elza

Pavelić, Myfanwy Spencer, 1916-

Pavelić, Nikola

Sabiston, Carole

Siebner, Herbert, 1925-

Skelton, Robin, 1925-1997

Skelton, Sylvia

Sprietz, Karl

Wilkinson, Jack

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Series level descriptions

1. Letters series

Title: Letters

Date: 1972-1981, 1984-2008

Extent: 4 cm of textual material. -- 9 photographs : b&w and col., 25 x 20 cm or smaller

Scope and content: This series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Victoria Limners Society from 1972 to 2008, excluding the years 1982-1983 which appear to be missing. The records relate to group exhibitions; memberships; the video about the Limners produced by Agustin Luviano-Cordero; and the book about the Limners entitled *A Passion for Art: The Art and Dynamics of the Limners* written by Patricia Bovey. There are also a number of meeting minutes on the same subjects interspersed in this series.

The exhibition correspondence relates to the arrangement, promotion and carrying out of various Limner shows, including the Limners' 25th anniversary exhibition in 1996, and contains correspondence with various art galleries, financial records, shipping lists, invitations, and some marketing materials (e.g. information on individual Limner artists, press releases and some press clippings). There are also nine photographs from the Limner exhibition that travelled on the Atlantic Provinces Art Circuit in 1975 from Confederation Art Gallery in Charlottetown, PEI, to Universite de Moncton, New Brunswick Museum, Memorial University Art Gallery, and the University of New Brunswick Art Centre.

The membership correspondence relates to the arrangement of society meetings, briefings on members' activities, incoming and outgoing members, including one color photograph and *curriculum vitae* of Jack Wilkinson upon his acceptance into the Limners.

Correspondence also relates to a video about the Limners which was produced by Agustin Luviano-Cordero. In particular, the letters relate to the production, marketing and airing of this video, and includes a post-production contract and copyright agreements signed by individual Limner members.

Correspondents include individual Limner members, especially Sylvia Skelton, who acted as secretary for the Limners for several years, as well as the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria; Winchester Gallery in

Victoria; Agustin Luviano-Cordero, Patricia Bovey, Confederation Centre for the Arts (Charlottetown, PEI), and several others.

Arrangement: This series is arranged chronologically

Finding aids: File list available

Conservation: Photocopies made of letters printed on fragile, fax-like paper and interfiled with originals

2. Minutes series

Title: Minutes

Date: 1972-2008

Extent: 3 cm of textual material. -- 1 photograph : col. photocopy, 21.5 x 28 cm

Scope and content: This series consists of minutes from meetings held by the Victoria Limners Society from 1972 to 2008, excluding any minutes from 1983, 1986 and 1992 which are missing. These records document the activities around group exhibitions, including the Limners' 25th anniversary exhibition, the production, marketing and airing of Agustin Luviana-Cordero's video on the Limners; and Patricia Bovey's book on the Limners *A Passion for Art: The Art and Dynamics of the Limners*,

Additional subject matter includes treasurer's reports and possible sources of government funding, memberships, various Limners' individual activities and the Limners' tree and stone plaque planted in Oak Bay Park in 2001 (as seen in a colour printout of the Limners with the tree and plaque).

Arrangement: This series is arranged chronologically

Finding aids: File list available

Conservation: Photocopies made of letters printed on fragile, fax-like paper and interfiled with originals

3. Financial records series

Title: Financial records

Date: 1972-2008

Extent: 2 cm of textual material

Scope and content: This series consists of records related to the Victoria Limners Society's financial accounts and date from 1972 to 2008. It includes a ledger entitled "Journal of the Victoria Limners Society" kept by society secretaries Niki Pavelic (1972-?), Sylvia Sketon (1980-?) and Jan Grove (1986-), as well as bank statements from the Society's account.

Arrangement: This series is separated into one ledger and one folder containing bank statements. Within these two items, the records are arranged chronologically.

Finding aids: File list available

Conservation: Photocopies made of receipt on fragile, fax-like paper and interfiled with original

4. Society Act filings series

Title: Society Act Filings

Date: 1972-2008

Extent: 3 cm of textual material

Scope and content: This series consists of records related to the Victoria Limners Society's status as a non-profit society under the the Societies Act of British Columbia dating from 1972 to 2008. It includes a receipt book for membership dues, annual reports with financial information attached which were submitted yearly to the government of British Columbia, the certificate of incorporation and the Victoria Limners Society's constitution. Also, miscellaneous minutes and financial records can be found in this series.

Arrangement: This series is separated into two files: (1) annual reports, and (2) constitution, as per original order. Within these files, the records are arranged chronologically

Finding aids: File list available

Conservation: Photocopies made of receipts on fragile, fax-like paper and interfiled with originals

5. 25th anniversary exhibition series

Title: 25th Anniversary Exhibition

Date: 1972-2004

Extent: 0.5 cm of textual material

Scope and content: This series consists of records created in the planning and carrying out of the Limners' 25th anniversary at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in 1996. It includes planning records and a photocopy of the exhibit guest book.

Arrangement: This series is arranged chronologically

Finding aids: File list available

6. Publications and graphic materials series

Title: Publications and Graphic Materials

Dates of creation: 1972-[1991]

Extent and material: 2 cm of graphic material
3 monographs
20 photographs : b&w and col. ; 21.5 x 28 cm or smaller

Scope and Content: This series consists of publications and graphic material by and about members of the Victoria Limners Society. Included in this series are three different editions of the publication "The Limners" published by Pharos Press in 1972, 1978 and 1981 which was sold at Limners exhibitions and elsewhere. These booklets begin with an introduction by Robin Skelton on the Limners as a whole, then turns to describing each artist individually, with a sketch of each artist made by Myfanwy Pavelic, a short biography, and an image of one of the artist's works. This series also contains a print proof of a 1967 monograph called *Inscriptions* written by Robin Skelton with drawings by Herbert Siebner. Additionally, several newspaper clippings related to the Limners can be found in this series.

Amongst the graphic materials are photographs and promotional material like posters and invitations to Limner exhibitions. Twenty photographs can be in this series including photographs showing various Limner exhibitions and events, including the inaugural Limner exhibition at the Art Gallery of Greater

Victoria in 1973, Max Bates' birthday party in 1974. Some of these images also appear in Patricia Bovey's book on the Limners, *A Passion for Art: The Art and Dynamics of the Limners*

System of arrangement: This series is arranged according to original order.

Preservation notes: The photographs were originally attached to large sheets of paper with captions handwritten in the margins. These sheets were photocopied to retain original order and their captions. The photographs were then removed and placed in archival-safe enclosures.

Box list

Box 1:

- 1.1 Letters, 1996-1998 (1)
- 1.2 Letters, 1990-1995 (2)
- 1.4 Letters, 1981-1989 (3)
- 1.5 Minutes, 2000-2004 (1)
- 1.6 Minutes, 1990-1999 (2)
- 1.7 Minutes, 1980-1989 (3)
- 1.8 Minutes, 1972-1979 (4)
- 1.9 Financial Statements -- Society Amendment Act, 1972-2008
- 1.10 Correspondence -- Minutes -- General, 1993-1996, 2008
- 1.11 Certificate of Incorporation -- Annual Reports -- Financial Statements, 1974-2008
- 1.12 Constitution, 1972
- 1.13 25th Anniversary of Limner Group -- Shows schedule -- Guest book (photocopy), 1996

Box 2: Oversize

- Newspaper clippings, 1972-1977
- Exhibition pamphlets, [1972-1994]
- Photographs of Limner Group -- Art show -- Miscellaneous, 1961, 1973-1990's
- Poster - The Limners Recent Work - Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery, Dec. 20 - Jan. 20
no year

Publications:

Inscriptions by Robin Skelton and drawings by Herbert Siebner, [1967] - multiple duplicate pages -- Published copy in SC call # PR6037 K38 I57

The Limners, 1972, 1978, 1981 Copies in (SC) PR6037 K38L56

The Limners, 1986 was transferred to SC to be catalogued as a part of the set