

Document-7.1.4-Commerce des fourrures, fondements de l'économie

The “A” photographs represents an artificial collection of photographs selected for their potential interest to researchers of the Provincial Archives of Alberta’s photographic collection. The “A” photographs are an amalgamation of nearly 1000 distinct fonds that covers the province’s entire geographic area. The original photographs remain in the vaults with their original donation, but reference prints provide easy access to these images in the Reading Room, with a selection of the photographs from the collection searchable in the HeRMIS database, <https://hermis.alberta.ca/paa/Search.aspx>.

The photographs in this collection range in date from the late 1880s to 1981 and are of industry, agriculture, cities, towns, landscapes, transportation, prominent Albertans, First Nations people, and buildings.

The “B” photographs are part of the Ernest Brown fonds (PR0043).

Ernest Brown was born in England on September 8, 1877. While in England, he began to study photography. In 1904, Brown moved to Edmonton, North-West Territories (later Alberta) with his wife Mary Carr. Brown worked as an assistant to C.W. Mathers, Edmonton’s first photographer. Three months later on July 1, 1904, Brown bought the rights to Mathers’ portrait studio. In 1905, Brown expanded the studio to form the Ernest Brown Company Ltd. In 1912, Brown built the Ernest Brown Block, a structure to house his studio, workshops and offices at 9760 Jasper Avenue. After WWI, the demand for photographic services declined and Brown’s business was seized in 1920. In 1926, he moved to Vegreville where he ran a small photographic studio. During his lifetime, Brown bought other photographers’ collections including Calgary photographers Boorne and May. Brown also had a close personal and business relationship with photographer Gladys Reeves, some of whose photographs appear in the Ernest Brown fonds. Ernest Brown died on January 5, 1951.

Ernest Brown’s photographs range in date from the late 1880s to the late 1940s and include images of First Nations people, homesteaders, agriculture, cityscapes, buildings, special events, and portraits.

A selection of the photographs from the fonds are searchable in the HeRMIS database. For additional photographs and other material relating to Ernest Brown, please refer to the Ernest Brown fonds, <https://hermis.alberta.ca/paa/Details.aspx?ObjectID=PR0043&dv=True&deptID=1>.