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ANTHONY THORN

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BY IRENE ZADNIK

**Biographical Sketch** Anthony Thorn is the pseudonym of Arthur Goldman, the son of Leon and Dorothy Goldman, born in Regina in 1927. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan (BA, 1947) and pursued graduate studies in English literature at the University of Chicago.

Thorn began to paint in 1948. His first studies in painting were in Regina with Kenneth Lochhead followed by studies in figure drawing at the Chicago Art Institute, studies in oil painting techniques with Frederic Taubes at the Banff Centre, studies in stained glass design at the Centre d'Art Sacré, Paris, and drawing at the Academie de la Grande Chaumière, Paris. In 1955 Thorn was apprentice to the muralist David Alfaro Siquéiros in Mexico and studied in acrylic technique with Jose Gutierrez. In later years he studied watercolor and sumi painting with Mataichiro Isoda in Kyoto, Japan, and metal-smithing in Corfu, Greece.

His work has been exhibited with galleries across Canada but also in France, Mexico, the Canary Islands and the United States. About 40 of his works are in corporate and public collections in Canada. Notably in the collections of the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and the Greater Victoria Public Library; they consist of paintings and carved works in gold leaf, ivory and other precious materials. Eight of his works in public collections have been honored with the designation "of outstanding significance and national importance" by the Canadian Cultural Review Board.

As an educator, along with various teaching in Toronto, Thunder Bay and Victoria art classes, his main academic teaching was as a Lecturer in Fine Arts at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay (1977 to 1979) and an Instructor in painting for the Department of Extension of the University of Victoria (1981 to 1984). He wrote as an art reviewer and critic for the publication *Toronto Citizen* (1971 to 1972)

Anthony Thorn and his wife Jacqueline live in Victoria, British Columbia.

The original file titles and their order have been maintained.

#### **THE ETCHEN FILES #23, #24 and #25.**

Anthony Thorn and Eric Etchen have been friends since the 1950's. They met in Regina, continued their friendship in Toronto, and maintained correspondence over two main periods, 1959 to 1980, and 1992 to the present. The letters from Thorn also included many photographs of his work, invitations, a Paris diary, and other material.

The Etchen Files were very kindly offered to the University of Regina by Mr. Etchen via Anthony Thorn

- Box 1
1. Diplomas, degree, Identification 1944-'55 (13 items)
  2. Letters to his parents 1949-'90
  3. Convocation - University of Saskatchewan 1948
  4. Masters paper - University of Chicago 1949
  5. Exhibition catalogues 1955-'84
  6. Publication - Living in Canada (Spanish ed.) 1971
  7. Brochures, invitation, curriculum vitae. 1972-2002
  8. Canadian artists in exhibition 1972-'73 (book)
  9. Leader Post article on new city hall 1976
  10. Brochure. Creative artists in schools. Thunder Bay 1976
  11. Saskatchewan Arts Board collection 1978
  12. Notebooks of Anthony Thorn (publication) Lakehead Univ. 1978-'79
  - 12b New material and lecture notes.
  13. Research material on the art of gilding 1980's
- Box 2
14. Catalogues - University of Victoria (extension dept.) 1983-'85
  15. Studio interview video tape for T.V. Victoria 1984
  16. Arts Calendar (magazine) Victoria 1985
  17. James Bay Journal 1984
  18. Red Cross Show poster 1993
  19. Genesis Show poster 1993
  20. Four certificates- Canada Cultural Property Review Board 1997, 1998, 1999,
- 2001
21. Saskatchewan Arts Board reports 1996-'97, 1997-'98
  22. Nuvo Magazine - 2001

#### **The Etchen Files**

23. Letters and other materials sent to Eric Etchen
  - A. early biography with enclosures, caricature self portrait 1954, form of a will 1965, price list Tygesen Gallery 1965, article 1969, invitations, newspaper clipping, 1960.
  - B. letter from Las Palmas, Canary Islands, May 1959
  - C. letter from Regina, Nov. 1959
  - D. letter from Cascais, Portugal, Mar. 1965
  - E. brochures
  - F. article, Regina Leader Post
  - G. article-Creative Artists in Schools
  - H. letters from Corfu, Greece, Jan. to Aug. 1970
  - I. letters from Toronto, June and Dec. 1971
  - J. article, Regina Leader Post, 1976
  - K. letters from Thunder Bay, Jan. 1979, July 1980. article
 (all of the following are letters from Victoria, which include other material)
  - L. Oct. 1992
  - M. Jan. 1993
  - N. April 1993 July 1993. articles
  - O. Aug. 1993
  - P. Dec. 1993
  - Q. Feb. 1994
  - R. Mar. 1994
  - S. April 1994
  - T. May 1994
  - U. June 1994. article
  - V. July 1994. menorah design
  - W. Sept. 1994
  - X. Aug. 1994
  - Y. Dec. 1994
  - Z. Jan. 1995
  - AA. Feb. 1995

- BB. Mar. 1995. Paris diary (1953, with sketches, ideas)
- CC. April 1995
- DD. May 1995. Etchen's memoir
- EE. June 1995
- FF. July 1995
- GG. Aug. 1995. Successful Senior Magazine, early Bio. (probably 1978, repro. of photo in Victoria Times-Colonist of Thorn holding his ivory carving "SHEMA").
- HH. Sept. 1995
- II Nov. 1995
- JJ. Dec. 1995
- KK. Mar. 1996
- LL. June 1996
- MM. July 1996

24. Photos and other material sent to Etchen

- Two portraits taken of Elias Wolf Mandel, the poet, and one of Fran Hyland, actress, taken in Saskatoon, University of Saskatchewan 1947.
- Publicity photos of Thorn taken by John Reeves, Toronto circa 1965, one with model Ann Barlow.
- "THE ETCHEN BODHISATTVA" mosaic on panel 1967, (two photos)
- "ANCIENT DRAGON" 18x22 in. owned by Greater Victoria Public Library 1994
- "THE HEBREW LETTER AYIN" carved and gilded walrus ivory. Underhill collection 1995
- "THE GUARDIANS" wall jewel
- "ANCIENT DRAGON" on easel
- "CROWN FOR SARAJEVO". sculpture, free-cast tin and opals, later gilded, Jewish Community Centre of Victoria.
- "CALLIGRAPHIC STUDY-TOWHEED". Dr. Nancy Micklewright
- "IVORY MENORAH", carved ivory, gold inlays. Evelyn Shaw. Studio corner. 636 Simcoe St. Victoria. (attic studio).
- "RISEN", enamel and oil on panel. Later reworked, gilded, walnut inserts  
Name changed to "STARGATE". Mackenzie Gallery Collection, Regina.
- "CHRYSANTHEMUM MIRROR", (two photos), gilded scraperboard. Lyn Goldman
- "ISLAMIC INSCRIPTION", sgraffito on gilded panel. Lyn Goldman. A much larger version of the same subject, later destroyed. Works in progress circa 1994, on studio windowsill, a wonderful period, carvings gilded by dewaxed shellac technique, a very rare technique, laborious but great burnish).
- "ANCIENT WALL - JERUSALEM". "ANTHROPOS" MENORAH". "CONSTRUCT".
- "THE DARK STONES". "DRAGON'S HOARD" "AND THE OPHANIM" (later reframed)
- Invitation, Winchester Gallery
- Model for design of menorah. Business card.
- Source material-towheed, (Turkish)
- "CONSTRUCT"
- Invitation, Winchester Gallery, two works illustrated.
- Work in progress, later disassembled. Central portion "SPHERE - AMBER AND GOLD". owned by Goldberg/Goltzman.
- "THREE PANEL SCREEN". Saskatchewan Arts Board Collection. Gilded panel. Nocturnal Figures.
- "HEBREW LETTER SHIN". gilded gesso carving.
- Invitation Vanderleelie Gallery, Edmonton. wall jewel in metals, with whalebone.

25. 24 photos taken by Eric Etchen, of the artist in his studio, and some of his work. II Yorkville Ave. A couple of the paintings are identified. 1963.

26. Letters - Thorn to Etchen (one early letter April 1960, the rest are

- from 1981 to 2002 with photos, brochures etc.)
- Box 3 27. 25 Letters from Etchen to Thorn June 1988 to December 1998
- Box 4 28. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE for the years 1975 to 2000 (folder 1 of 2)  
28. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE for the years 1975 to 2000 (folder 2 of 2)  
Includes brochures, letters, photos, price lists, inventories, consignment contracts.
29. PUBLICATION  
"ART IN VICTORIA 1960 Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.  
biographical information, including an accidentally truncated list  
of collections. A very fine illustration of the wall jewel "HOMAGE  
TO ICARUS".
30. Ink drawing on panel – Geraniums (Oversize Folder 1)
- 30a. Photograph – "White Clematis" – Painting
  - b. Photograph – "Messenger" – Carving
  - c. Photograph – "Ammonite" – Carving
  - d. Photograph – "Ammonite (detail)" – Carving
  - e. Photograph – "Book of Daniel" – Painting
  - f. Photograph – "And the Ophanim" – Painting
  - g. Photograph – "Shema" – Carving
  - h. Photograph – "Figures in a Landscape" – Carving
  - i. Photograph – "Ancient Wall – Jerusalem" – Carving
  - j. Photograph – "Geranium on studio Table" – Painting
  - k. Photograph – "Small Abstract City – Spanish City (1954)" – Painting
  - l. Photograph – "The Aleph" – Bronze Casting with Gold Leaf
  - m. Photograph – "Ramshorn" – Gilded Carving, inlay
  - n. Photograph – "Ramshorn" – Gilded Carving, inlay
  - o. Source Material – Islamic Inscription (Arabic)
  - p. Source Material – Hebrew Word "Hear"
  - q. Article – Robert Amos 1997
  - r. Invitation
  - s. Article – Lora Burke 1976
  - t. Artists statement 1991
  - u. Doodles with Trial Signatures
  - v. Article with Comment
31. sketches, design, menorah project. aborted.
32. child's drawing, Thorn and class, Thunder Bay 1976
33. 87 slides of work of various periods
34. brush painting in Chinese ink and watercolor "JONAH AT NINEVEH" 1991  
(Oversize Folder 1)
35. ideas, sketches 1970
36. sampling of letters from Helen Hawley (England) correspondence file
37. sampling of letters to Robert Amos (Victoria), art critic, correspondence file.