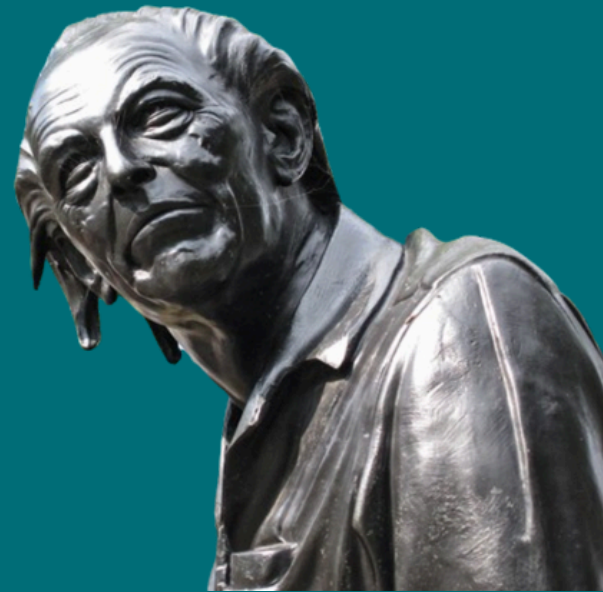


Illuminating Al Purdy

The Process of Archival Selection



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THE POET



Before writing, I spent time reading Purdy's poetry and becoming familiar with criticism.

- Canadian poet
- 1918–2000
- Geographical and nationalist themes
- Mentor and letter-writer

THE ARCHIVE



I made several passes on the archive, taking notes and drawing connections between the images and my primary and secondary sources.

- Taken in 2016
- Images from Purdy's home, the University of Toronto, and Queen's University
- Letters, manuscripts, books, poems, paperwork, and personal belongings

SELECTION



I became especially interested in versioning: tracing the various published and unpublished iterations of the same poem, and exploring the differences.

- Does the object help to contextualise an anecdote, biographical period, or relationship?
- Does it clarify existing biography?
- Does it raise questions about published works?
- Is it rare?

WHY PURDY?



He influenced generations of artists during his lifetime and remains a landmark figure in the development of Canadian Literature.

- Case study: Purdy preserved and donated the majority of his papers
- Central, influential presence
- Interpreting his title of "The Voice of the Land"

WHAT'S NEXT?



There remains a significant amount of research to be undertaken. This project serves as a launching point for myself and future scholars.

- Biography
- Revitalisation
- Scholarly editions of poetry
- Unexplored correspondence
- Further archival research

