

Esther Birney fonds

Compiled by Anna Johnston (1979), Laurenda Daniells (1986), Christopher Hives
(1989, 1999), and Pat Rorick (1994)

Last revised September, 2010

University of British Columbia Archives



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Table of Contents

- **Fonds Description**
 - Title / Dates of Creation / Physical Description
 - Biographical Sketch
 - Scope and Content
 - Note
- **File List**
- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

Fonds Description

Esther Birney fonds. – 1943-1999.

39 cm of textual records.

Biographical Sketch

Esther Birney (nee Bull) was born in 1908 in London, England where she was active in a Trotskyist group. She met Earle Birney in London while he studied at the University of London (1935/36) and returned to Canada with him and they were married in 1940.

Esther Birney received a degree in Social Work from the University of Toronto and she remained active in this field until 1978. She and Earle Birney were divorced in 1977.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of correspondence with family, friends and with Earle Birney (1952-1994). It also includes articles, notes and miscellaneous papers. In addition there is a file of correspondence generated by Earle Birney to other correspondents.

Note

Researchers are strongly advised to check with the University Archives regarding permission to publish or otherwise use materials from this fonds.

Related materials can be found in the [Earle Birney fonds](#).

File List

Correspondence

BOX 1

1-1	Bull, E.M. (Father), 1952-67	33 items
	Birney, William (Son), 1965-67	4
1-2	Bull, Donald (Brother), 1966-78	21
1-3	Eckstein, Felix, 1965-77	12
1-4	Lon, Lily, 1973	1
1-5	Aiken, Marie, 1973	1
	Anderson, Allen, 1943	1
	Bannister, J.C., 1970	1
	Barry, Brenda, n.d.	1
	Baumgaertner, John, 1976	3
	Black, Duncan, 1971	1
	Brooks, Reva, 1975-77	2
	Canada-Health and Welfare, 1972	1
	Constabarris, Kit, 1976-78	4
	Fabiani, Dolores, 1970-78	5
	Friedson, Carolyn, 1968	1
1-6	Hagon, Corrine, 1970-75	5
	Harlow, Marge, 1970	1
	Hayes, Dana, 1973	1
	Hennes, Nancy, 1975	1
	Hieger, Lois, 1969-74	4
	Hutzler, Bea, 1966-71	2
1-6a	Miscellaneous - H n.d.	1
1-7	Hillyar, Edith, 1969-78	17
1-8	La Marche, Philip, 1972	1
	Long, Ken, 1976	1

	McClung, Nellie, 1972	1 item
	National Film Board, 1974	1
	Newman, Christina, 1977	1
	Pike, Edith, 1969-76	7
	Raine, Ken, 1978	1
	Read, Ruth, n.d.	1
	Rose, Madge, 1976-77	3
	Rossaut, Naima, 1978	1
	Salem, Annette, 1975	1
	Slavin, Jeanette, 1976-78	2
	S Miscellaneous, 1974	1
1-9	Saunders, Jessie, 1969-78	23
1-10	Webster, Claire, 1975-76	4
	Wise, Carmen, 1975-77	12
	Yandle, Anne, 1978	1
1-11	Birney, Earle, 1969-73	43
1-12	Birney, Earle, 1974-78	37
1-13	Divorce Papers, 1975-77	21
1-14	Published Article, notes	
1-15	Photographs of Earle Birney	18
1-16	Journal (Log), 1973	1
	Journal (Log), 1961-63	1
	Journal (Log). 1978	1
Earle Birney Papers		
	Correspondence in and carbons out - various dates and items	48
BOX 2		
2-1	Birney, Esther (open letter), 1982	1

2-2	Birney, Earle, 1984-85	13 items
2-3	Bull, Donald (brother), 1978-85	13
	Bull, Richard (nephew), 1983	1
2-4	Allen, Bobby, 1982	1
	Ateah, Aman & Jo, 1979-81	4
	Benson, Myra, 1980	1
	Brunette, Mac & Margaret, 1980	1
	Cadge-Dolman, Janet, 1982	1
	Constabarris, Kit, 1985	1
	Cumming, G. [George], 1985	1
	Doyle, Mike, 1978	1
	Eckstein, Felix, 1979	1
	Fabiani, Dolores, 1980	1
	Grimshaw, Anna, 1985	3
2-5	Clairchild, Lillian, 1980-85	10
2-6	Hagon, Corrine, 1978-82	4
	Hayes, Claire, 1982	1
	Hayes, Geoffrey, 1980-82	9
	Hayball, Gwen, 1979-80	3
	Hieger, Lois, 1982-85	8
	Hillyar, Judith, 1981	1
2-7	Hillyar, Edith, 1978-85	21
2-8	Jordan, Jean, 1979	1
	K.V.O.S. B.C., 1982	2
	Kildetoft, Ena, 1985	1
2-8	Kim, Suzanne, 1984	1
	Manheim, Pearl, 1981	2
	Partridge, Kate, 1984-85	3
	Paz-Prisant, Fanny, 1985	1
	Peterson, Josef, 1980	1
	Pfefferkorn, Elvin, 1984	1
	Roberts, John, 1979	1
	Robertson, Sheila, 1982	1

	Rose, Madge, 1979	1 item
	Rossaut, Naima, 1979	3
2-9	Pike, Cathy, 1979-82	6
	Pike, Edith, 1981-84	4
2-10	Sandler, Margot, 1979	5
	Slavin, Irving & Jeanette, 1979	2
	Sylvan, Kathy, 1981-84	5
	Tiessan, Paul, 1981	1
	Todd, Sally Nelson, 1980	1
	Vancouver Health Dept., 1980	1
	Waddington, Miriam, 1978-80	3
	Watt, Alison, 1982	1
	Webster, Claire, n.d.	1
	Wise, Carmen, n.d.	1
2-11	Unidentified Correspondence:	
	Dorothy N., 1980	1
	Lenta, 1982	1
2-12	Journal (log), 1977-82	1
2-13	Greer, Allen & Rita (includes Exhibition folder), 1985	2
	Bull, Donald, 1985-86	3
	Burns, Dr. Robert, E., 1986	1
2-14	Constabarris, Kit	7
2-15	Hayes, Geoffrey (includes magazine clipping, press release, customs forms, invoices) 1983-85	16
2-16	Howard, Irene, 1986	1
	Hunt, Ian, 1985	1
	Kendrick, John, 1986	1
	Pike, Cathy, 1985	1
	Pike, Edith, 1985	3

	Rossaut, Naima, 1985	2 items
2-17	Sylvan, Kathy & Sol, 1985	4
	Waddington, Miriam, 1986	1
	Watt, Alison, 1985	1
	Watt, Alison and Robb, 1986	1
	Heather - includes photograph, 1985	1

BOX 3

3-1	Correspondence A - M, 1985- 89	
	Adams, James	
	Allen, Bob and Rita	
	Antinelli, Alice	
	Best, Diana	
	Bingham, Janet	
	Birney, Earle	
	Bowker, Gordon	
	Brock House Society	
	Bull, Donald	
	Bursill, Hilary	
	Carter, Kay	
	Clairchild, Lillian	
	Constabarris, Kit	
	Cumming, George	
	Easton, Sylvia	
	Fabiani, Dolores	
3-1	Geddes, David	
	Grube, John	
	Hayes, Geoffrey	
	Heiger, Lois	
	Howard, Irene	
	Hunt, Ian	
	Koch, Eric	
	Low, Wailan	
	Luteyn, Bessie	
	McDermot, Valerie	

- 3-2 Correspondence R - W, 1978 – 88
Rossaut, Naima
Partridge, Kate
Pike, Edith
Rumer, Lynn and Betty
Sandler, Margot
Shaw, Grace Lydiatt
S, Peter
Sylvan, Kathy
Waddington, Miriam
- 3-3 Hillyar, Edith, 1985 - 88
- 3-4 Unidentified, 1982 - 83
- 3-5 Incoming cards
- 3-6 Notes on trip to France & England, 1984

BOX 4

- 4-1 Correspondence A - B, 1990 - 91
Adamson, Basil
Allen, Rita & Bob
Best, Diana
Bingham, Janet
- 4-2 Correspondence, 1989 - 94
Birney, Chris (grandson)
Birney, Earle (grandson)
Birney, William (son)
- 4-3 Correspondence B , 1990 - 93
Brunette, Mac & Margaret
Bull, Donald (brother)
Bull, Richard (nephew)
Bursill-Hall, Cinzia & Piers
Bursill-Hall, Hilary

- 4-4 Correspondence C - G, 1990 - 93
Clairchild, Lillian
Crampton, Cynthia
Cumming, George
Fraser, Corry
Gilmour, Barbara
Grube, John
- 4-5 Correspondence J-P, 1987 - 90
Johnstone-Easton, Sylvia
Kildetoft, Ena
Lawrence, Mary Alice
Morrant, Kelly Ablog
Partridge, Kate
Pike, Edith
- 4-7 Correspondence S - W, 1988 - 93
Sandler, Margot
Sylvan, Kathy & Sol
Taylor, Helen
Waddington, Miriam
Waldman, Marcella
Watson, David
- 4-8 Correspondence, Outgoing Mail, 1982 - 92
- 4-9 Correspondence, 1980 - 1993
Birney, Esther (open letter)
Fabiani, Dolores Millar
Hayball, Gwen
Hillyar, Edith
Hieger, Lois?
Watt, Alison and Rob
- 4-10 Correspondence, 1994-1995?
Birney, Chris
Birney, Earle
Birney, Esther
Brunette, F.M.

BOX 5

- 5-1 Correspondence, 1994
Birney, Chris
Birney, Cynthia
Birney, Esther
Bull, R.S.
Clairchild, L.
Coucill, Irma
Darney, Grace
Fabiani, Dolores Millar
Hillyar, Rosemary
McNeill, Judith
Meilicke, Wilhelmine Henriette
Nagata, Ken and Kay
Sandler, Margot
Sylvan, Katherine
Pike, Edith
- 5-2 Correspondence, 1995
Barman, Roderick and Jean
Birney, Chris
Birney, Esther
Birney, William
Best, Diana
Brock House Society
Bull, R.S.
Bursill-Hall, Hilary
Butler, June
Cameron, Elspeth
Chadbourne, Elizabeth S.
Clairchild, Lillian
Crosland, Margaret
Dobroslavic, Terry
Fabiani, Dolores Millar
Hillyar, Rosemary
Imredy, Peggy
James, Mavis
McIntosh, Pat
Mack, Viola

- Mary
Rita
Stevenson, Warren and Mary
Sylvan, Katherine and Sol
Woodcock, Inge
Yandle, Ann
- 5-3 Correspondence, 1996
Birney, Earle
Low, Wailan
- 5-4 Correspondence, 1997
Best, Diana
Birney, Chris
Bull, Judith
Bursill-Hill, Hillary
Norman, Chad
Raguz, Jennifer
Ray, Melanie
Raynor, Kate
Stevenson, Warren
Sylvan, Sol and Kathy
Wilson, Louise
- 5-5 Correspondence, 1998
Birney, Earle
Bringham
Bull, Judith, Richard and the boys
Clairchild, Lillian
Dunbar, Helen
Fraser, Corry
Gustafson, Betty
Pike, Edith
Raynor, Kate
Skinner, M.A.
- 5-6 Correspondence, 1999
Ajello, Peter and Pat
Birney, Bill and Marsha

- Birney, Earle
Raynor, Kate
- 5-7 Correspondence - Undated
Birney, Earle
Birney, Marsha and Bill
Bull, Jonathan
Cameron, Elspeth
Fabiani, Dolores
Norman, Chad
Sylvan, Kathy and Sol
- 5-8 Esther Birney - Gleanings of 1996
- 5-9 Biographical Information from "Alder Bay Tidings" (September 1997)