

Vernon C. Brink fonds

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Fonds Description

Vernon C. Brink fonds. – 1944-1994.

5.4 m of textual records.

15 photoprints: b&w; 16 x 20 cm or smaller.

Biographical Sketch

Vernon Cuthbert "Bert" Brink earned his MSc from UBC in 1936 and then a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1940. He joined the Department of Agronomy at UBC as an assistant professor in 1940, and in 1946 was promoted to associate professor. In 1955 he was promoted to full professor and became chair (1955-1967) of the newly formed Division of Plant Science. In 1970, V.C. Runeckles became chair, but Brink continued to teach in the newly formed Department of Plant Science until 1978.

Brink was active in many organizations related to agronomy and plant science. They include the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC), the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA), the Canadian Society of Agronomy, the American Society of Agronomy, the Genetics Society of Canada, the American Society of Range Management, the Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute, the Western Canada Turfgrass Association, the BC Parks Committee, the BC Fertilizers and Agricultural Poisons Board, and the BC Foundation Seed Committee. In 1969, Brink chaired the BC Indian Agriculture and Lands Committee, a joint effort of the BCIA and AIC. All of these organizations had close links to the Division of Plant Science.

Vernon Brink was also active in many UBC committees. They include the Sub-Committee to study the organization of Soil Science in 1953, the Genetics Committee, the Committee on Sports Turf Research, the Climatological Committee, the President's Committee for the Electron Microscope (installed in 1959), and the Advisory Committee on Botanical Garden Policy.

Brink's research interests encompassed several areas. Before becoming chair of the division, he collaborated on a Diffuse Knapweed project with one of his graduate assistants, T.G. Atkinson. In 1959, he began a study of Gibberellin, an alfalfa growth regulator. He also was involved in various genetic experiments on *Rhizoma* alfalfa. Brink also continued to develop his interest in the study of barley. His Master's thesis examined the chemical process carried out by barley extracts. Other interests included the care and improvement of turf grass, climate effects, crop genetics, and the ecological use of land. Brink also promoted the development of the division's University Research Farm at Oyster River as a teaching and research facility. Throughout his career, he contributed to *Crop Science*, *Ecology*, *The Journal of Plant Science*, and *Canadian Field*

Naturalist. Brink served on the Environmental Assessment Panel, which studied the potential impact of reactivating the Boundary Bay Airport and the addition of a third runway at Vancouver International Airport. In 1984, he became a member of the Directors of The Nature Trust, a non-profit organization established to conserve areas of ecological significance in the province.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists of records which reflect Brink's participation on the Environmental Assessment Panel (1973-1983) and The Nature Trust (1984-1987). The papers also include material arranged in the following series: correspondence, teaching and research. The papers also include reference booklets and pamphlets. Each series is arranged in chronological order. Because Brink rarely identified titles of files, each series is arranged in chronological order. Where file titles do exist, they are arranged in alphabetical order within the appropriate chronological sequence. The records primarily contain one large correspondence series from 1953 to 1975, with bulk dates of 1961 to 1971. The correspondence appears to contain Brink's faculty papers intermingled with the Division of Plant Science's central office files. In 1964, the classification system used by the division appeared to have been discontinued. The vast majority of files were stored by Brink in un-labelled file folders, most of which exhibit no internal coherence. Many documents were never placed in file folders at all. Because of the presence of Brink's faculty papers in the files, and because of the absence of the division's classification system, the records from 1961 to 1971 have been arranged with Brink's papers. The correspondence has been arranged in chronological order by year.

Notes

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

File list available.

For a fuller understanding of Brink's career, the fonds of the [Division of Plant Science](#) should be consulted.

The term "Indian" is now outdated and is considered by many Indigenous Peoples to be offensive. However, it is retained in some places in this inventory to reflect historical naming conventions.

Series Descriptions

Environmental Assessment Panel series. – 1973-1983.

1.24 cm of textual records.

Series consists of correspondence, minutes, clippings and printed reports generated and/or collected by V.C. Brink as a member of the Panel. Series contains two subseries: Boundary Bay Airport and Vancouver International Airport subseries.

The Nature Trust series. – 1976-1994.

43 cm of textual records.

Series consists of correspondence, minutes, reports and financial statements pertaining to Brink's membership in the Board of Directors of the Nature Trust, which he joined in 1984.

Series is arranged chronologically.

Correspondence series. -- 1954-1975.

1.9 m of textual records.

Series consists of incoming and copies of outgoing correspondence from a wide variety of organizations and individuals regarding agronomy and plant science. Includes a mixture of general office correspondence for the Division of Plant Science, letters of reference, research proposals, committee reports, exam papers, research results, student work, reports and pamphlets.

Most files appear to lack intellectual coherence. Usually, the subject of smaller file folders can be identified. Brink only occasionally titled files. Whenever he did so, titles have been retained. Brink has apparently removed several of the folders from the defunct classification system used by the Division of Plant Science, and has stroked the titles out.

Series is arranged in chronological order by year.

Teaching series. – 1956-1974.

10 cm of textual records.

Series consists of student essays, course outlines, lecture and seminar notes, correspondence regarding courses, examination questions and answers, and several course outlines. The records document only a fragment of Brink's teaching career.

Research series. – 1944-1969, 1993.

24 cm of textual records.

15 photoprints: b&w; 16 x 20 cm or smaller.

Series consists of materials documenting limited aspects of a small number of Brink's various research projects. Series contains seven subseries: Diffuse Knapweed, Pao Confinis, General Projects, Barley, Projects About Potatoes and Cereals, Turf, and Shaughnessy Golf Course subseries.

Series is arranged in chronological order by last date represented in each subseries.

Indian Land Committee series. – 1968-1970.

9 cm of textual records.

Series consists of correspondence, committee meeting minutes, notes and reference material used by Brink in the work of the committee.

Reference Pamphlets series. – 1925-1950, 1990-1993.

1.31 m of textual records.

Series consists of pamphlets and brochures that describe judging competitions, Boys and Girls Clubs, and 4-H Clubs. New pamphlets relating to The Nature Trust and other publications included as well.

Environmental Partners Fund series. – 1991.

5 cm textual records.

Series consists of project proposals and applications for the Environmental Partners Fund. Includes 10 proposals, project plans, memorandums, and correspondence.

File List

BOX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PANEL

Boundary Bay Airport

- 1-1 Clippings (1973-1978)
- 1-2 Clippings (1979)
- 1-3 Written Submissions - published by Government Canada (1978-1979)
- 1-4 Written Submissions - published by Government Canada (1979)
- 1-5 Additional Submissions and Correspondence Unpublished (1978-1980)

BOX 2

- 2-1 Memoranda - Government of Canada (1974-1979)
- 2-2 Reports and Proposals (1976-1979)
- 2-3 Reports and Proposals (1979)
- 2-4 Environmental Impact Statement - Transport Canada (1978)
- 2-5 Environmental Impact Statement - Transport Canada (1978)

BOX 3

- 3-1 Proceedings of Public Hearings (1978)
- 3-2 Proceedings of Public Hearings (1979)
- 3-3 Proceedings of Public Hearings (1979)
- 3-4 Miscellaneous (1977-1979)
- 3-5 "Camping with the Vancouver Natural Historical Society" – Typed, bound, photocopy of manuscript by V.C. Brink [ca. 1986]

[\(continued\)](#)

BOX 4

THE NATURE TRUST

- 4-1 National Second Century Fund of British Columbia - "Letters Patent", "By-Laws" and "Provincial and Federal Leases" (1971)

- 4-2 N.S.C.F.B.C. (1983)
- 4-3 N.S.C.F.B.C./ The Nature Trust (February-April 1984)
- 4-4/10 T.N.T. (May-August 1984 – January-October 1987)

(continued)

BOX 5

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PANEL (cont.)

Vancouver International Airport

Correspondence/Minutes/Clippings

- 5-1 March - December 1982
- 5-2 January - March 1983
- 5-3 April - June 1983
- 5-4 July - November 1983

Reports of the Airport Planning Committee (10 vols.)

BOX 6

Miscellaneous Reports Generated or Collected by the Panel (1976-1983)

CORRESPONDENCE SERIES, 1954-1975

BOX 7

Correspondence (1954-1963/64)

BOX 8

Correspondence (1963/64-1964/65)

BOX 9

Correspondence (1964/65-1966)

BOX 10

Correspondence (1966-1971)

BOX 11

Correspondence (1971-1975)

TEACHING

- 11-16/19 Correspondence, 1959-74
(includes correspondence to individuals and organizations about Brink's students)
- 11-20/28 Course Work, 1956-64
(includes course outlines, lecture and seminar notes and a student's graduating essay)
- 11-29/32 Examination Papers, 1959-66

BOX 12

RESEARCH

- 12-1/5 Diffuse Knapweed, 1952-53
- 12-6/7 Pao Confinis, 1956-58
- 12-8/12 General Projects, 1944-64
- 12-13/17 Barley, 1953-65
- 12-18/26 Projects About Potatoes and Cereals, 1946-67
- 12-27/31 Turf, 1958-69
- 12-32 Shaughnessy Golf Course, n.d.

[\(continued\)](#)

INDIAN LAND COMMITTEE

- 12-33 Correspondence, 1968-70
- 12-34 Minutes, 1969
- 12-35/38 Reference Pamphlets

REFERENCE PAMPHLETS

12-39 Pamphlets

(continued)

BOX 13

NATURE TRUST (cont.)

13-1/9 T.N.T (January-September 1990 – January-December 1994)

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS FUND

13-10/12 E.P.F. (1991)

RESEARCH (cont.)

13-13 Research -- Turfgrass (1993) and Purple Loosestrife Monitoring and Research Trials (1992)

REFERENCE PAMPHLETS (cont.)

13-14 Pamphlets (1990-1993)