

# George Bulhak fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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# Fonds Description

**George Bulhak fonds.** – 1945.

1 bound volume with enclosures.

## Biographical Sketch

Anthony George Bulhak was born in Poland in 1898, where he was studied drawing, painting, and photography. One of his teachers was his cousin, the noted Polish photographer Jan Bulhak. During the First World War he served with the Russian Army, first as an artilleryman, then as a radio operator, and finally as a cavalry officer where he was wounded. After his recovery and after the war Bulhak studied political science and agricultural economy at the University of Warsaw. A 1927 visit with his cousin Jan Bulhak at the University of Vilno re-kindled his interest in photography. He and his wife were forced to flee Poland at the start of the Second World War when Germany invaded. They escaped to Lithuania, then journeyed across the Soviet Union to Japan, where they waited three months to board a ship to Canada, arriving in Vancouver on Christmas Eve 1940. To learn English, Bulhak enrolled at UBC, and also took a laboratory job with the Department of Agronomy. Two years later he took a position with a company which manufactured precision instruments for the Navy. During this period he continued to develop his artistic photography skills and occasionally display his work at exhibitions. His book *U.B.C. Panorama*, featuring his photographs and sketches, was published with the support of the University in 1945. He continued as a student at UBC, graduating with a degree in Agricultural Economics in 1947. Bulhak also chaired of the UBC Art and Culture Centre, based at “The Gables” in University Village, which sponsored art exhibitions at the Campus Corner Café there. In 1950 Bulhak joined the Real Estate Department of Bell-Irving Insurance, although he continued with his artistic photography hobby. He also published the *Recreational Almanac of British Columbia* (1959), and gave occasional presentations on photography on campus. He died in 1977.

## Scope and Content

Fonds consists of the handwritten manuscript for George Bulhak’s book *U.B.C. Panorama*, published in 1945. Included as enclosures are photographs and sketches by Bulhak intended for inclusion in the book, and UBC President N.A.M. MacKenzie’s handwritten “Foreword”. The manuscript was written in what was originally a bound ledger – isolated ledger entries can be found on the otherwise blank back pages, indicating that it may have been left as surplus at Burhak’s place of employment when he used it for his manuscript.

## Notes

Includes 40 8"x10" b&w photographic prints, 41 pen-and-ink drawings, 1 pencil sketch, and the hand-written "Foreword" by UBC President N.A.M. MacKenzie.

Stored in UA/RBSC vault.

Information in the Biographical Sketch is derived from back issues of *The Ubysey*, *Alumni Chronicle*, and the *British Columbia Artists* website (<http://www.sim-publishing.com/bca/bcahome.htm>).