

John Calam fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (2024)

University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Fonds Description

John Calam fonds. – 1915-1982.

7 cm of textual records.

Biographical Sketch

John Hellawell Calam was born in 1925 in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England. He emigrated to Canada in 1939. After attending Burnaby South High School, he enlisted as a navigator in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and later earned a BA and did teacher training at UBC. During his teaching and academic career Calam spent time in rural British Columbia in communities such as Forest Grove, Telkwa, and Kitimat, as well as Montreal, New York City, and Vancouver. He worked as a teacher and high school principal; was a graduate and doctoral student at both McGill and Columbia; served as editor with UBC Press and Pacific Educational Press; and was professor of Social and Educational Studies, and head of the Secondary Education Division, in the UBC Faculty of Education, where he was also associate dean and emeritus professor. As a researcher of the history of education, he edited *Alex Lord's British Columbia – Recollections of a rural school inspector, 1915-1936* (1991), and wrote *Affecting Eternity: Origins of the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Education* (2007), among other works. He was also an accomplished writer, poet, musician, rock hound, kite flyer, and handyman/craftsman. Calam and his wife Renee also enjoyed travelling, especially around British Columbia and Yukon. They eventually retired to Salt Spring Island, where Calam continued to write, publish, and mentor students and colleagues. They moved to the Comox Valley in 2016, where he died two years later.

Custodial History

The materials in this fonds were kept by John Calam's daughter Rachelle until 2023, when they were turned over to William Bruneau. Dr. Bruneau, in turn, donated them to the University Archives in November 2023.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists of textual materials acquired or created by John Calam in the course of his research into the early history of education in British Columbia, the origins of the UBC Faculty of Education, and the work of prominent educators and administrators in the field of education in the province. Some documents include annotations, presumably by Calam, and show something of his perspective on those events and personalities. Also included is a hand-written memoir presumably by Alex Lord about his early career as a school inspector, and a set of Normal School reports.

Notes

File list available.

Acquired by UBC Archives in 2023.

Files are arranged roughly chronologically. The physical order of the file contents has not been altered.

Access to the Normal School reports is restricted as they include student teacher assessments.

File List

BOX 1

- 1-1 General 1915-53
- correspondence of A.R. Lord, former B.C. Superintendent of Schools and Principal of the Normal School
- 1-2 [Neville V. Scarfe] 1952-80 [found loose]
- some works by Neville V. Scarfe, first UBC Dean of Education
- 1-3 Dr. Henry Johnson Papers 1953-82
- 1-4 Shapiro Report May-August 1981
- report for Universities Council of B.C. regarding proposals for PhD programmes in education at UBC, SFU, and UVic, with responses

BOX 2

- 2-1 [Vancouver and Victoria Normal Schools – reports to inspectors] 1948-49
RESTRICTED
- 2-2 [Hand-written memoir – Alex Lord?] [n.d.]