

# George F. Curtis fonds

Compiled by Christopher Hives (2004)



University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

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# Fonds Description

**George F. Curtis fonds.** - 1948-1999.

32.5 cm. of textual records.

1 photograph.

## Biographical Sketch

George Frederick Curtis was born in England in 1906. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1927 and was named a Rhodes Scholar. He earned a BA in Jurisprudence in 1930 and a BCL at Oxford in 1931. Curtis came to the University of British Columbia in 1945 from Halifax where he had practiced law and taught at the Dalhousie Law School. He became the founding dean of UBC's Faculty of Law and continued to serve in this capacity until stepping down in 1971. Curtis faced considerable challenges as the Faculty began with a total budget of \$10,000 and two army huts which provided offices, a reading room and lecture space.

During his illustrious career, Curtis made significant contributions to legal education, scholarship and practice in the provincial, national and international arenas. In recognition of these contributions Curtis received many honours and awards. The Universities of Dalhousie, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and UBC (1982) granted him honorary degrees. He was named a member of the Order of the Coif in 1964 and in 1986 the Law Society honoured him as the first recipient of the Law Society Award in 1986. He received the R.J. Hnatyshyn Award for Law by the Canadian Bar Association in 1995. That same year Curtis was inducted into the Order of British Columbia at a convocation held in Vancouver's Law Courts on October 13th to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the UBC Law School. In 2003 he received the Queen's Jubilee Medal and in the fall of that year was appointed an officer of the Order of Canada

## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of biographical material, copies of articles and talks by Curtis, as well as other miscellaneous records created by Curtis in various roles in the Faculty of Law and the University in general.

## Series Descriptions

### **Biographical Series.** - 1980-1996.

4 cm. of textual records.

1 photograph.

Series consists of assorted material pertaining to George Curtis, a list of select papers by Curtis, and a photograph.

### **Articles, Talks and Notes Series.** - 1957-1999.

5 cm. of textual records.

Series consists of articles, talks and notes prepared by Curtis.

### **Correspondence Series.** - 1948-1951, 1976, 1978-1980, 1995.

4 cm. of textual records.

Series consists of copies of incoming correspondence.

### **University of British Columbia Faculty of Law Series.** - 1945-1981.

6 cm. of textual records.

Series consists of miscellaneous records relating to the UBC Faculty of Law.

### **University of British Columbia Series.** - 1948-1958.

7 cm. of textual records.

Series consists of miscellaneous records relating to Curtis participation on the Universitys Committee on Honorary Degrees, Faculty Committee on Student Affairs and the UBC Senate.

### **Miscellaneous Series.** - 1948-1999.

6 cm. of textual records.

Series consists of miscellaneous materials collected by Curtis.

# File List

## Biographical Series

- 1-1 "George Curtis and the UBC Law School: A Crucial Phase in the History of Canadian Legal System" by Christina Parkin ca. 1984 - 53 pp. typescript Essay prepared by Parkin a former student as part of the 40th anniversary of the Law School
- 1-2 Typed transcript of interview with George Curtis by F. Murray Fraser (February 20, 1980), 161 pp.
- 1-3 Article - "George Curtis Awarded Order of British Columbia for UBC's 50th" The Gryphon (Spring 1996)
- 1-4 "Selected Papers" by George Curtis (1987)
- 1-4a Certificate Admitting GFC as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of BC (July 31, 1948)

UBC 74.1/1 [Deans of the Law School] - Colour photograph ; 25 x 20 cm. ca. 1995.  
Left to right: G. Curtis, Ken Lysyk, Lynn Smith, Bertie McClean, Peter Burns.

## Articles, Talks and Notes Series

- 1-5 GFC foreword to Cases and Materials on Income Tax (December 1957)
- 1-6 "The Old Fields and the New Corn - Some Observations on the Common Law and Its Continued Vitality" (July 1964)
- 1-7 "Negotiated Federalism" - paper given at meeting of Australian Law Teachers, Sydney (August 23, 1965)
- 1-8 "Farewell" - Bench and Bar dinner (November 6, 1986)
- 1-9 "By This Shall It be Known" (May 1991)
- 1-10 "A Memory or Two of Leonard W. Brockington" (May 15, 1991)
- 1-11 "Recollections: The Providential Huts" (Winter 1991)
- 1-12 "In the Beginning: Getting Faculty" (Fall 1995)
- 1-13 "The Lord Denning T-Shirt" (ca. 1999)
- 1-14 "A Celebrated Saskatchewan Trial" (n.d.)
- 1-15 "A War, Two Men and a Book" (n.d.)
- 1-16 [Association of Law Teachers] (n.d.)
- 1-17 "Canal Flats" (n.d.)
- 1-18 "The Gates" (n.d.)
- 1-19 [Inns of Court Stone Installed in Law School] (n.d.)
- 1-20 "Judicial Notice" (n.d.)

- 1-21 "The Lawyer's Part in Law Reform" (n.d.)
- 1-22 "St. Anselm's: A Personal Recollection" (n.d.)

### Correspondence Series

- 1-23 Faculty of Law - General (1948-1951)
- 1-24 Correspondence (1976)
- 1-25 Correspondence (1978-1980)
- 1-26 Copies of incoming congratulatory correspondence (1995)

### University of British Columbia Faculty of Law Series

#### Box 2

- 2-1 Viscount Bennett Scholarship Committee - Correspondence, printed material (1945-1951)
- 2-2 Awards (General) - Correspondence, papers (1945-1951)
- 2-3 Outside/Extension, etc. - Correspondence, printed material (1946-1951)
- 2-4 Faculty of Law - Placement - Correspondence (1951)
- 2-5 Law School Enrolment Figures, 1945-1976
- 2-6 Frederick Read Fund - Correspondence (1978-1981)
- 2-6a Printed copy of "The Law Building" - Speech at opening ceremonies by Louis St. Laurent (September 4, 1952)

### University of British Columbia Series

- 2-7 Committee on Honorary Degrees - Correspondence, minutes, reports (1948-1951)
- 2-8 Faculty Committee on Student Affairs - Minutes (1950/51)
- 2-9 Senate - Miscellaneous reports, agenda (1956-1958)
- 2-10 Extension Department - Fisheries programs - Printed and published material

### Miscellaneous Series

- 2-11 Canadian Bar Association , Insurance Law Committee - Minutes, reports, correspondence (1948-1951)
- 2-12 BC Legal Project - Correspondence, reports (1978-1980)
- 2-13 Typed transcript of interview with Diana M. Priestly by Maryla Walters (1988), 140 pp.
- 2-14 Address at the service for Lord Denning] by Lord Bingham (June 1999)