

Laurence Meredith fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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Fonds Description

Laurence Meredith fonds. – 1863-1990.

8 cm textual records.

19 photographs, B&W, various sizes.

1 clothing item.

Biographical Sketch

John Laurence Russell Meredith (1907-1990) was known as “Laurence,” “Laurie,” and “Larry.” Before attending UBC, he worked for a lumber camp. This gave him an opportunity to interact with the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation. He wrote four articles about the nation that were published by the Library of Congress. The publishing fees allowed him to attend UBC. He graduated in October 1929 with 2nd class honors in English and Latin. While at UBC he was literary editor of *The Ubysey*, president of the Letters Club, winner of the University Prize, English honour student, member of the Players' Club, and member of the Publications Board. After graduation he moved to London and became a teacher. He soon joined United Press International. He joined the RAF during WWII and had an interesting career. After the war he returned to UPI and had a long and impressive career that brought him friends in high places. Larry never married and lived with his semi-invalid mother until she apparently was invited to live in a “grace and favor cottage” by the Queen.

Custodial History

Materials received from Tim Stanley of London, in April, July, and August 1991, which he acquired from the estate of Laurence Meredith.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records and ephemera pertaining to John Laurence Russell Meredith and his family from 1863 to 1990. Records and ephemera pertaining to his father's life are of genealogical interest as they provide insight into who he was. Records pertaining to his sister's death show the painstaking detail the family took in providing a meaningful burial for her. The UBC ephemera provides a glimpse into Laurence's social life at UBC. The music and theatre programs show his interest in the arts from a young age. The photographs provide valuable information on who his family was, what Laurence liked to do, and the activities in which he participated. His diary, letters received by him, and a list containing the translation of various words and phrases of the language of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation provide insight into who he was as a person.

Notes

File list available.

The bulk of the fonds was acquired from Tim Stanley, "Ottomanist", of London, UK, from the estate of Laurence Meredith due to regional interest.

Some items written in French and German.

File/Item List

BOX 1

- 1-1 Francis Meredith 1863-1917
- birth certificate, occupational history, letters of recommendation, documentation of the family's move from Perth, Australia, to Vancouver, and death and internment records for Laurence's sister Monica.
- 1-2 Photographs 1914-64
- Laurence Meredith, his family, and associated individuals. Also includes photographs he took of totem poles, boats, docks, and fishing crews.
- 1-3 Three poems, two of which are handwritten by unknown authors [n.d.]
- 1-4 JLM – Life History 1990
- 1-5 JLM – Kwakwaka'wakw language words and phrases translated [n.d.]
- 1-6 JLM – Letters 1928
- 1-4 Music and theatre programs from Vancouver area 1923-29
- 1-5 John Laurence R. Meredith – UBC Social 1923-29

BOX 2

- Laurence R. Meredith – UBC jacket [n.d.]
- stored separately in UA/RBSC vault

BOX 3

- 3-1 Diary 1924-32
- includes some clippings and other enclosures