

# Edwin Pulleyblank fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (2022)



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## Fonds Description

**Edwin Pulleyblank fonds.** – 1940-2013.

82 cm of textual records.

3 volumes.

6 photographs.

### Biographical Sketch

Edwin G. "Ted" Pulleyblank was a Canadian sinologist and professor at UBC's Department of Asian Studies, known particularly for his work on the history of the Chinese T'ang Dynasty and on the historical phonology of the Chinese language. He was born in 1922 in Calgary, Alberta. A bright student, he taught himself Ancient Greek while still in high school. He attended the University of Alberta from 1939 to 1942, majoring in Latin and Greek while also tutoring other students in math and physics.

After graduation, his aptitude for both mathematics and languages led one of Pulleyblank's professors to recommend him to the "Examination Unit", Canada's civilian code-breaking office during World War II. In 1943 Pulleyblank was sent to England to train with the British Code and Cipher School at Bletchley Park. He returned to the Examination Unit in Ottawa later that year, where he joined the Japanese Diplomatic Section, and began studying Chinese at Carleton University. He married Winona Relyea in 1946.

In 1946, Pulleyblank received a Chinese government scholarship to study Chinese at the School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London. In 1948, the School made Pulleyblank a lecturer in Classical Chinese, even though he later claimed that his command of Japanese at that time was still better than his Chinese. He taught while pursuing doctoral studies at the University of London, and received his Ph.D. in 1951 for a dissertation entitled "The Background and Early Life of An Lu-shan" – published by Oxford University Press in 1955 as *The Background of the Rebellion of An Lu-shan*. He spent a year doing further research in Japan, and also did additional studies in Chinese at Cambridge, receiving an M.A. in 1953. That year he was hired as Chair of the Chinese programme at Cambridge, where he remained for 13 years.

As Pulleyblank and his wife wanted to return with their family to Canada, in 1966 he left Cambridge to join the Asian Studies department at UBC, where he remained until his retirement in 1987. He served as department head from 1968 to 1975, succeeding William L. Holland. During his time at UBC Pulleyblank continued his research in Chinese linguistics and Chinese history, publishing extensively in both fields. He returned as acting department head in 1985-86, and hosted the 1987 International

Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics at UBC. After his retirement he continued with a number of research projects. Pulleyblank's first wife Winona had died in 1976, and he married his second wife Pan Yihong in 2002. Pulleyblank was still regularly publishing papers and attending conferences until 2008, when Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases made that impossible. He died in 2013.

### **Custodial History**

After Edwin Pulleyblank's death his papers were kept by his family. The materials were donated to the University Archives by his son David in 2022.

### **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of materials documenting Edwin Pulleyblank's life and career. Records include correspondence, manuscripts, article offprints, books, notebooks, rubbings of Chinese historical inscriptions, and personal items including photographs. They are arranged in the following series: Publications, Correspondence, Research, and General.

### **Notes**

File list available.

Donated to the University Archives in February 2022.

Within each series, most files are arranged in chronological order.

More biographical information about Edwin Pulleyblank is available through this [UBC Asian Studies memorial page](#).

## Series Descriptions

**Publications series.** – 1950-2006.

40 cm of textual records.

Series consists of materials documenting Edwin Pulleyblank's scholarly publications, and includes both manuscripts and off-prints of his journal articles.

**Correspondence series.** – 1951-2004.

33 cm of textual records.

Series consists of Pulleyblank's professional and personal correspondence.

**Research series.** – 1968-2002.

8 cm of textual records.

Series consists of documentation of some of Pulleyblank's research activities, and includes notebooks, rubbings taken from ancient Chinese monuments, notes, and correspondence.

**General series.** – 1940-2013.

1 cm of textual records.

3 volumes.

6 photographs.

Series consists of materials from Pulleyblank's life and career, and includes 3 published books, including a copy of Aristophanes' *Clouds* that he received as an academic prize; an edition of *T'ang Studies* dedicated to him; several untranslated Chinese documents and publications; several personal items; and photographs (catalogued as series UBC 202.1).

# File List

## BOX 1

### PUBLICATIONS SERIES

#### Manuscripts sub-series

- 1-1 Unpublished lectures, papers, reports, etc. [ca. 1950-51]
- 1-2 Linguistic reconstruction: An historical problem October 1969
- 1-3 Sound change – Phonologically abrupt and lexically abrupt 1971
- 1-4 Late Middle Chinese and southern dialects October 1973
- 1-5 The nature of the Middle Chinese tones and their development to Early Mandarin 1978
- 1-6 An additional note on Middle Chinese dentilabialization October 1980
- 1-7 The beginnings of duality of patterning in language August 1981
- 1-8 Vowelless Chinese? An application of the three tiered theory of syllable structure to Pekingese September 1983 [2 versions]
- 1-9 Tonogenesis as an index of areal relationships in East Asia 1984, 1986 [2 versions]
- 1-10 The meaning of duality of patterning and its importance in language evolution August 1985
- 1-11 The Indo-European connection December 1985
- 1-12 The role of coronal in articulator based features April 1989
- 1-13 Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan April 1991
- 1-14 The Ganzhi as phonograms [original paper and emendation] 1991, [n.d.]
- 1-15 Pharyngeal glide: Tongue-root as an articulator 1991-93 [2 drafts]
- 1-16 Type A and B syllables in Middle Chinese and their origin in Old Chinese October 1992
- 1-17 From Archaic Chinese to Mandarin March 1993
- 1-18 Articulator-based distinctive features for vowels and consonants: The role of dorsal and radical June 1993
- 1-19 The historical relationships of Chinese July 1994 [2 versions]
- 1-20 Pharyngeal glides and zero initials in Chinese 1994 [2 versions]
- 1-21 The role of glottal stop in Old Chinese 1995-96 [2 versions]
- 1-22 Early contacts between Indo-Europeans and Chinese 1996 [3 versions]
- 1-23 The morphology of demonstrative pronouns in Classical Chinese 1998
- 1-24 “Only” in Old Chinese 2001 [2 versions]
- 1-25 Trial and error in the reconstruction of Chinese historical phonology June 2001

- 1-26 Language and history – Creel Lecture May 2003
- 1-27 Some preliminary comments on the symposium abstracts [n.d.]

## BOX 2

- 2-1 Minimal vowel systems [n.d.]
- 2-2 Linguistic affinities of the peoples to the north, northwest and northeast of the Chinese, 1000 B.C. to 200 A.D. [n.d.]
- 2-3 Cantonese vowels – penultimate version [n.d.] [incomplete]
- 2-4 Aspects of aspect in Classical Chinese [n.d.]
- 2-5 The Middle Korean and Old Japanese vowel systems in the light of Sino-Korean and Sino-Japanese [n.d.]
- 2-6 Reply to Baxter's reply [n.d.]
- 2-7 Sino-Indo-European cognates – Supplement to Chinese and Indo-European [n.d.]
- 2-8 Chinese dialect studies [n.d.]
- 2-9 Language as digital [n.d.]
- 2-10 Linguistic articles [partial bibliography?] [n.d.]

## Offprints sub-series

- 2-11 Offprints – various articles 1950-59 [2 folders]
- 2-12 Offprints – various articles 1960-69 [2 folders]
- 2-13 Offprints – various articles 1970-79 [2 folders]

## BOX 3

- 3-1 Offprints – various articles 1980-89
- 3-2 Offprints – various articles 1990-99 [3 folders]
- 3-3 Offprints – various articles 2000-06

## CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

- 3-4 Correspondence – A 1955-59
- 3-5 Correspondence – B 1951-66
- 3-6 Correspondence – C 1949-68

## BOX 4

- 4-1 Correspondence – D 1952-67
- 4-2 Correspondence – E 1945-66
- 4-3 Correspondence – F 1949-66
- 4-4 Correspondence – G 1948-65
- 4-5 Correspondence – H 1945-66
- 4-6 Correspondence – I J 1953-66
- 4-7 Correspondence – K 1946-67
- 4-8 Correspondence – L 1950-66
- 4-9 Correspondence – M 1947-66

## BOX 5

- 5-1 Correspondence – N 1951-66
- 5-2 Correspondence – O 1947-66
- 5-3 Correspondence – P Q 1951-66
- 5-4 Correspondence – R 1951-66
- 5-5 Correspondence – S 1949-66
- 5-6 Correspondence – T 1953-66
- 5-7 Correspondence – U V 1948-65
- 5-8 Correspondence – W 1947-66, 1998
- 5-9 Correspondence – X Y Z 1947-66
- 5-10 Documents regarding books and other publications 1951-65
- 5-11 Correspondence – general 1959-77
- 5-12 Correspondence – general 1965-2004
- 5-13 Correspondence – Christmas cards [n.d.]

## RESEARCH SERIES

- 5-14 Notebooks (3) [n.d.]
- 5-15 Notebooks (3) [n.d.]

## BOX 6

- 6-1 Rubbings [n.d.]
- 6-2 Rubbings [n.d.]



- 6-3 Alisal – Dr. Pulleyblank’s paper March 1968  
- Council on Religious and International Affairs seminar, “After Mao and Chiang: Two Chinas?”, at Alisal Ranch, California
- 6-4 Hersak [Emil] 1998
- 6-5 ASIA 503 2002

## GENERAL SERIES

- 6-6 Aristophanes – Clouds 1915, 1940  
- University of Alberta bookplate: “The Monica Jones Aamodt Prize in Classics in English 50 awarded to Edwin George Pulleyblank May 1940”  
- book originally published in 1915
- 6-7 T’ang Studies – Number Seven 1989  
- tribute issue for Pulleyblank
- 6-8 Outline of Classical Chinese Grammar 2003  
- Chinese translation of 1995 book by Edwin Pulleyblank  
- includes letter from Jingtao Sun dated 12 May 2006
- 6-9 [Chinese language textbook by Hanyu Fangyin Zihui [n.d.]
- 6-10 Chinese language publications [n.d.]  
- may include some of Pulleyblank’s works
- 6-11 Miscellaneous Chinese language works [n.d.]
- 6-12 Personal – miscellaneous 1945-2013  
- marriage announcement 1945  
- Point Grey Secondary School Talent Show programme 1967  
- E.G. Pulleyblank business cards (2) [n.d.]  
- Memorial programmes (2) 2013  
- Newspaper clipping – Edmonton Journal – profile of Pulleyblank, “Making connections between Asian and Western cultures” 22 June 1996

## Photographs

- UBC 202.1/1 Edwin Pulleyblank seated with guest. – 12 x 9 cm colour print. – 31 October 1991
- UBC 202.1/2 Edwin Pulleyblank with three guests. – 12 x 9 cm colour print. – 31 October 1991
- UBC 202.1/3 Edwin Pulleyblank at Great Wall. – 13 x 9 cm colour print. – [n.d.]
- UBC 202.1/4 Edwin Pulleyblank. – 13 x 9 cm colour print. – [n.d.]
- UBC 202.1/5 Edwin Pulleyblank with three colleagues. – 15 x 10 cm colour print. – [n.d.]

UBC 202.1/6

1969 CIC Summer Far Eastern Language Institute, Indiana  
University. – 25.5 x 20 cm b&w print. – 1969.  
- Edwin Pulleyblank back row 3<sup>rd</sup> from left