

Frank Read fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

Table of Contents

- **Fonds Description**
 - Title / Dates of Creation / Physical Description
 - Biographical Sketch
 - Scope and Content
 - Notes

- **Series Descriptions**
 - Scrapbooks, Miscellaneous Clippings and Photographs
 - Correspondence
 - Speeches/Lectures/Publications
 - Awards
 - Diary
 - Miscellaneous

- **File List**

- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

Fonds Description

Frank Read fonds. - 1932-1986..

32.5 cm. of textual records.

145 photographs.

Biographical Sketch

In the early 1930s, Frank Read was an accomplished oarsman with the Vancouver Rowing Club. Following a back injury that ended his rowing career he went into the hotel industry. In late 1949, Read agreed to coach the University of British Columbia rowing team which, at that time, began a formal co-operation with the Vancouver Rowing Club. In recognition of both institutions, it was decided to call these new members "V.R.C./U.B.C." oarsmen. Despite very limited resources for UBC's fledgling rowing program, Read focussed on the importance of training and conditioning and instilling in his athletes dedication to the sport. His intensive training program soon produced results. Read's eight-oared crew represented Canada at the British Empire Games in 1954. There the team won Canada's first ever gold medal for the eights. The following year the students returned to England to compete against the world's best at the Hedley Regatta where they scored an upset victory over the world champion Russians. In 1956 Read led his rowing teams to the Melbourne Olympics where the coxless four won a gold medal and the eights came a very close second to capture a silver medal. Following his retirement from coaching which lasted from 1957 to 1960, Read returned to coach the rowing team. At the Rome Olympics of that year, his eights finished second earning Canada's only medal at the games. Following the Olympics, Read once again retired, bringing to a close an important era in this country's rowing history. John Carver in "The Vancouver Rowing Club: A History, 1886-1980" offered the following assessment of Frank Read's accomplishments.

Starting with almost nothing, operating on the most meagre budgets, he took his crews to the top international competition and, incidentally put himself among the top rowing coaches in the world. He had the drive, and the patience to stand the rugged twice daily grind in all kinds of weather; he demanded discipline and condition, and got them, and he had the knowledge and knew how to impart it to his crews. He will say to himself that it is the horses in the boats that win races and of course he is right. But no sport demands more coaching than crew rowing and Read supplied it beyond measure.

Frank Read died in Vancouver in 1994.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of scrapbooks, clippings, photographs, correspondence, speeches, publications and awards that chronicle Reads career as a rower and, more particularly as a rowing coach.

Notes

File list available.

Series Descriptions

Scrapbooks, Miscellaneous Clippings and Photographs. - 1932-1981.

20 cm of textual records.

145 photographs.

Series consists of seven scrapbooks of clippings, correspondence, printed material and photographs created by Read (1932-1962) and seven individual photographs, most of rowing teams and rowing team reunions (1956-1981).

Correspondence. - 1956-1984.

1.5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence (1956-1984).

Speeches/Lectures/Publications. - 1954-1962.

4 cm of textual records.

Series consists of copies of speeches (1957-1962), lectures (1960) and publications (1954, 1957).

Awards. - 1966-1980.

4 items.

Series consists of four awards given to Frank Read.

Diary. - 1955.

0.5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of single diary created during the trip to the Hedley Regatta (1955).

Miscellaneous. - 1956-1986.

6.5 cm of textual records.

2 drawings.

Series consists of miscellaneous material created or collected by Frank Read.

File List

Scrapbooks, Miscellaneous Clippings and Photographs

- OS Scrapbook #1 - Newspaper clippings, programs, printed material and 137 photographs, 36 pp. (1932-1956)
[Oversize: stored in University Archives storage area in Rare Books and Special Collections vault]
- OS Scrapbook #2 - Newspaper clippings and cablegrams from Melbourne Olympics, 50 pp. (1956)
[Oversize: stored in University Archives storage area in Rare Books and Special Collections vault]
- Box 1
- 1-1 Scrapbook #3 - Cablegrams from Melbourne Olympics, 22 pp. (1956)
- 1-2 Scrapbook #4 - Newspaper clippings, programs and printed material, 17 pp. (1956-1959)
- 1-3 Scrapbook #5 - Newspaper clippings and printed material, 12 pp. (1959/60)
- 1-4 Scrapbook #6 - Newspaper clippings from Rome Olympics, 33 pp. (1960)
- 1-5 Scrapbook #7 - Newspaper clippings and cablegrams, 38 pp. (1960-1962)
- 1-6 Miscellaneous newspaper clippings
- 1-7 Miscellaneous Photographs:
Canadian Olympic Rowing Team (1956)
Canadian Olympic Rowing Team (1956) 25th Anniversary Reunion (1981)
UBC - VRC Rowing Team Reunion - Group shot (1965)
UBC - VRC Rowing Team Reunion - Group shot (1969)
UBC Rowing Team (n.d.)
- 1-8 Two unidentified photographs

Box 2

Correspondence

2-1 Correspondence (1956-1984)

Speeches, Lectures and Publications

2-2 Speech - Recruiting Drive (January 30, 1957)

2-3 Speech - Vancouver Olympic Club (March 14, 1957)

2-4 Speech - Sports Celebrity Dinner - Toronto (1957)

2-5 Speech - Unidentified Event (October 26, 1960)

2-6 Speech - UBC Alumni Association Panel "Athletics as Education" (October 29, 1960)

2-7 Speech - Address to the Canadian Sports Advisory Council - Ottawa (January 19, 1962)

2-8 Speeches/ Lectures - Miscellaneous

2-9 Lecture (December 5, 1960)

2-10 Lecture (n.d.)

2-11 Publication - "Facts about Rowing" (1954)

2-12 Publication - "Frank Read's Teaching" (May 1957)

Awards

OS BC Sports Hall of Fame Scroll of Honour (1966)
[Oversize Box 19-1: stored in University Archives storage area in Rare Books and Special Collections vault]

OS Canadian Confederation Committee of BC - Certificate of Merit (1967)
[Oversize Box 19-1: stored in University Archives storage area in Rare Books and Special Collections vault]

2-13 Canadian Amateur Association - Centennial Award (1980)

2-14 Olympic Club Canada - Certificate (n.d.)

Diary

2-15 Diary (June 8 - 25, 1955)

Miscellaneous

Drawings

OS Sixteen Oared Coaching Barge - Designed by G Pocock (December 12, 1925)
Redrawn: February 1957
[Oversize Box 19-2: stored in University Archives storage area in Rare Books and Special Collections vault]

OS Crate for Pocock Eight (n.d.)
[Oversize Box 19-2: stored in University Archives storage area in Rare Books and Special Collections vault]

OS Miscellaneous Coaching Notes (n.d.)
[Oversize Box 19-3: stored in University Archives storage area in Rare Books and Special Collections vault]

2-16 Miscellaneous Coaching Notes (n.d.)

2-17 Published/Printed Material re: UBC Rowing (1956/57, 1981)

2-18 "My Memories" by Glen Smith [1955 Royal Henley Memories] – Typescript (n.d.)

2-19 Crew Roster (Spring 1956)

- 2-20 "The Boys from Nowhere" by Danica d'Hondt - Script and correspondence (1983-1986)
- 2-21 Published/Printed Material re: Rowing - General
- 2-22 Miscellaneous material
Book - "The Vancouver Rowing Club" by John Arthur Carver (1980)