

Albert E. Richards fonds

Compiled by Christopher Hives (1998)

University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Fonds Description

Albert E. Richards fonds. - 1921-1928.

13 cm of textual records.

132 photographs.

Biographical Sketch

Albert Edward "Ab" Richards earned his B.A. (1923) at the University of British Columbia, M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, and Ph.D. from Cornell University. As president of the UBC's Alma Mater Society in 1922, Richards was one of the organizers of the Student Publicity Campaign of 1922/23 which culminated in the "Great Trek" from the old Fairview Shacks, through the streets of Vancouver, to the University's unfinished site at Point Grey. This demonstration and other organized student activities were undertaken to protest the overcrowded conditions at Fairview and delays in moving the University to Point Grey. Richards went on to work for the federal Department of Agriculture and achieved distinction as an agricultural economist. He received an honorary degree from UBC in 1949.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of correspondence, speeches, photographs, petitions, and clippings pertaining to the Student Publicity Campaign (1922/23). It also includes copies of speeches delivered on other occasions, memorabilia from Richards' graduation in 1923 and other miscellaneous material.

Notes

File list available.

File List

Box 1

- 1-1 Draft of address to student body at annual Alma Mater Society meeting (April 7, 1922) - reference to "petition" p. 3 and 4 and to "our biggest task" p. 5.
- 1-2 Draft of preamble to "petition" - by Professor Henry Angus - early April 1922.
- 1-3 Draft letter to influential citizens - early April 1922.
- 1-4 Letter to UBC students containing a copy of the resolutions launching the Student Publicity Campaign (April 1922).
- 1-5 Copies of letters written by vice-chairman of the Campaign Committee, P.M. Barr to Lord, Clyne, Finlay, Robers, Fraser, Grant (May 2, 1922) and letter from Jack Grant (May 27, 1922).
- 1-6 Letter to B.C. Manufacturers' Association from the Secretary of the Student Publicity Campaign Committee (May 22, 1922).
- 1-7 Memorandum on "conditions" at the University of British Columbia and the proposed University cost (Summer 1922).
- 1-8 Copy of A.E. Richards' letter to students to "make special efforts to GET signatures" (Summer 1922).
- 1-9 Petition with 13 signatures (Summer 1922).
- 1-10 Petition with 12 signatures (Summer 1922).
- 1-11 Letter from Professor Paul A. Boving in response to Richards' request for assistance in selecting and erecting a structure at Point Grey that would symbolize the students' efforts to build the University (September 16, 1922). [Ultimately, the it was decided to construct a stone cairn]
- 1-12 Draft of speech by A.E. Richards to the student body at the beginning of fall term in 1922 dealing with Campaign policy pp. 8 and 9 and Ian McKenzie's resolution p. 10 (September 1922).

- 1-13 Copy of "A Definite Policy" presented by the Students' Council with a statement of Council's "attitude toward Publicity Campaign" with attached rough notes dealing with policy to the campaign – organization into groups of 10 and Pilgrimage to Point Grey (September 1922).
- 1-14 Draft of A.E. Richards' reply to M.L.A. M.A.D. Patterson's criticism of UBC and Faculty of Agriculture (October 1922).
- 1-15 Draft of A.E. Richards' address to student body prior to city canvass with petitions and plans for Varsity Week (October 1922).
- 1-16 Draft of A.E. Richards' address at Cairn ceremony (October 28, 1922).
- 1-17 A.E. Richards' notes for meeting with Premier John Oliver and the Cabinet (November 1922).
- 1-18 Draft of A.E. Richards' address to members of the British Columbia Legislature (November 1922).
- 1-19 Notes for meeting with Board of Governors and prominent businessmen at University (November 1922).
- 1-20 Miscellaneous notes - A.E. Richards (1922/23).

Seven letters from Marjorie Agnew, Secretary reporting to A.E. Richards, Chairman of the Committee, on the progress of the Publicity Campaign during the summer of 1922:

- 1-21 May 16, 1922, from Vancouver - 8 pp.
- 1-22 June 9, 1922, from Dewdney - 12 pp.
- 1-23 August 1, 1922, from Vancouver - 8 pp.
- 1-24 August 22, 1922, from Vancouver - 10 pp.
- 1-25 August 25, 1922 from Vancouver - 2 pp.
With notes from Brick McLeod and Hunter Lewis and signatures of five other students.
- 1-26 September 1, 1922, from Vancouver - 3 pp.
With letter to M. Agnew from Lyle Atkinson (August 30, 1922).
- 1-27 September 8, 1922, from Vancouver - 4 pp.

Box 2

- 2-1 Speeches, Notes (1921-1923)
- 2-2 Incoming correspondence
 - From Jack Grant - 3 (1923)
 - From M. Agnew - 1 (n.d.)
- 2-3 Homecoming
 - Richards' speech and program (1926)
 - Correspondence (1924)
- 2-4 Reunion of Students' Council members (1923, 1928) - Correspondence, minutes
- 2-5 Pacific Association of Collegiate Student Body Presidents - Reports, correspondence, photograph (1923)
- 2-6 Miscellaneous memorabilia (1921, 1923)
- 2-7 Photograph - UBC Arts, Science and Agriculture graduating classes (1923)

Photograph album

Includes images from the Great Trek, students at UBC Fairview campus, and members of the Players' Club (1920-1923)

Album stored separately. Also available in [digitized form](#). Individual images also [available](#) on-line in the [UBC Historical Photograph database](#).