

Geoffrey Riddehough fonds

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Fonds Description

Geoffrey Riddehough fonds. – [1904]-1978.

1.45 m of textual records and other materials.

Biographical Sketch

Geoffrey Blundell Riddehough was born on March 18, 1900, in Bramhall, Cheshire, England. Educated in Penticton, B.C., he went on to become a UBC Fairview graduate, earning a first class honours B.A. (1924) in Latin and English in addition to being awarded the Governor General's gold medal as head of his graduating class.

Riddehough obtained his M.A. in English from the University of California, Berkeley (1925). After teaching in the English Department at the University of Alberta for several years on a contract basis, the Nichol Scholarship enabled Riddehough to pursue his studies and research interests in London and at La Sorbonne in Paris (1929-1932).

Returning to Canada in the autumn of 1932, he set aside his PhD. studies at the University of Toronto to become a classics instructor at UBC. Riddehough joined the UBC faculty in 1933 and remained a member of the Department of Classics for the next thirty-eight years. While at UBC, he continued to pursue his education, obtaining a M.A. (1939) in classics and a Ph.D. from Harvard (1951) with a thesis on the medieval poet Joseph of Exeter. While studying at Harvard, his dissertation essay "De Medeae In Iasonem Odio" won the Bowdoin Latin Prize (1950). At UBC, Riddehough specialized in Medieval Latin and was noted for his satirical verse.

Riddehough was a prolific writer and a number of his essays, poems, and short stories were published in a variety of journals and newspapers. Two of his better known works were his collection of verse, *Dance to the Anthill* (1972) and the posthumously published *Rueful Rhymes: The Satirical Verse of a Couple of Anti-Bodies* (1994) that was co-authored by Geoffrey A. Spencer. Riddehough was familiar with several languages, including French and Cornish, as well as being versed in ancient Greek and Latin. An interest in the paranormal led Riddehough to participate in a Wicca witch-naming ceremony on the Isle of Man. He wrote numerous short stories about his female witch persona, "Anaitis", and the majority of the correspondence from Riddehough within the Pegeen Brennan and Doreen Nalos sous-fonds are signed with the Anaitis symbol. Riddehough died suddenly on April 6, 1978, in London, England, while returning to Vancouver after a holiday in Malta.

Custodial History

Riddehough donated certain materials on Joseph of Exeter in 1976 (files 5-1/7 and 6-1/4), and the offprint of the poem "Pig Ascending" (file 6-5) was donated by Marianne Brender à Brandis, from the papers of her mother, a former student and later a personal

friend of Riddehough. The remaining materials were in the custody of Geoffrey Riddehough until they were transferred to his executor and long-time friend, Pegeen Brennan. When Brennan transferred Riddehough's records to the UBC Archives, she included the materials contained within the two sous-fonds, Pegeen Brennan and Doreen Nalos. The material in the Murray and Marian Cowie sous-fonds was donated to the University Archives in 2007 by Joseph J. Richter, a long-time friend of the Cowies.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of a variety of materials, but the focus is on the literary works of Geoffrey Riddehough and includes drafts, manuscripts, and publications of his poetry and short stories. The fonds also contains a number of academic essays, research materials on Joseph of Exeter, and papers that Riddehough presented to various groups. There is also correspondence of both a professional and personal nature. Fonds consists of 3 sous-fonds and 14 series: Pegeen Brennan sous-fonds, Lemuel Robertson sous-fonds, Doreen Nalos sous-fonds, Murray and Marian Cowie sous-fonds, Personal Information series, Published Materials series, Manuscripts and Unpublished Materials series, Assorted Poems: Miscellaneous series, Assorted Short Stories: Miscellaneous series, Lecture Notes and Papers Presented series, Joseph of Exeter Research Materials series, Coursework series, Notebooks and Scrapbooks series, Diaries series, Expense Ledgers / Accounts series, Correspondence series, Photographs series, and Miscellaneous series.

Notes

File list available.

Also includes 3 microfilm reels; 2 matted prints; 15 photographs.

No further accruals are expected.

Series Descriptions

Personal Information series. – 1925, 1929-1974.

0.5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of a true copy of Geoffrey Riddehough's birth certificate, French Carte D'Identite, Biblioteque Nationale card, and passport.

Published Materials series. – 1946-1963, 1974, 1994.

2.5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of offprint copies of poems, essays, translations and review articles that were published in various journals. Also includes a copy of *Dance to the Anthill: Verses chiefly light and satiric* (1974), and the posthumously published *Rueful Rhymes: The Satirical Verse of a Couple of Anti-bodies* (1994).

Manuscripts and Unpublished Materials series. – 1942-1972.

12.5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of manuscripts that were sent to publishers and personal copies. A number of these are annotated and signed. The series also contains two manuscripts which are accompanied by publisher rejection letters.

Assorted Poems: Miscellaneous series. – 1930-1978.

20 cm of textual records.

Series consists of assorted poetry. Some of the poems composed by Riddehough have been annotated with the names of acquaintances who received copies and several poems have been translated.

Assorted Short Stories: Miscellaneous series. – 1929-1969.

6 cm of textual records.

Series consists of an assortment of short stories. A number of the stories were written in Paris, London and Vancouver as evidenced by the inscription of the author's address of residence.

Lecture Notes and Papers Presented series. – 1935-1977.

10 cm of textual records.

Series consists of classics lectures that Riddehough presented to his students, academic peers, University clubs and outside associations; notes taken in preparation for these lectures; and notes taken at lectures he attended personally.

Joseph of Exeter Research Material series. – 1934-1974.

19.5 cm of textual records.

3 microfilm reels.

Series consists of photostatic copies of medieval poetry manuscripts of Joseph of Exeter, microfilm copies of the poet's works, Latin and English translation notes, correspondence, book reviews, and published articles and manuscripts written by Riddehough relating to this topic.

Coursework series. – 1920-1961.

14 cm of textual records.

Series consists of notes, exercises and assignments from numerous university courses that Riddehough completed. Series also includes a certificate and copy of the Bowdoin Latin Prize-winning essay (1950).

Notebooks and Scrapbooks series. – 1930-1964.

8.5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of notebooks and scrapbooks that record Riddehough's interest in classical music, gardening, and World War II and classical literature.

Diaries series. – 1923-1978.

22 cm of textual records.

Series consists of annual diaries containing notes on Riddehough's daily activities, personal reflections, newspaper clippings, and contact information for friends and acquaintances.

Expense Ledgers / Accounts series. – 1959-1978.

5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of ledgers/accounts which record monthly tabulations of Riddehough's mortgage payments, bills, groceries, purchases, travel costs, and other expenses incurred.

Correspondence series. – 1928-1978.

5.5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of personal and professional correspondence that Riddehough received throughout the years. The personal correspondence includes letters and cards from acquaintances that include Lieutenant A. Germot, Geraldine Raymond, Reverend W.J. Smallhorne, and Lynette Webb. The professional correspondence reflect Riddehough's efforts to have his selection of verse, "Dance to the Anthill," published.

Some of the personal correspondence is in French.

Photographs series. – [190-]-1966.

15 photographs: b&w and col.; 20.5 x 25.5 cm or smaller.

Series consists of fifteen photographs that include photographs of Geoffrey Riddehough from childhood to adulthood. Photographs have been removed and filed with the UBC Historical Photographs (UBC 77.1).

Miscellaneous series. – 1936-1937, 1975.

2 cm of textual records.

2 matted prints: 27 x 28 cm and 21.5 x 27.5 cm.

Series consists of a letter concerning travel to Cornwall, a sales receipt for Cornish books, a three-part supplement to "Cornish Simplified," and two Cornish publications. Series also includes two prints, one of UBC's Main Library, by John Ridington.

Sous-fonds Descriptions

Pegeen Brennan sous-fonds. – 1970-1978.

25 cm of textual records.

Pegeen Brennan was born on December 20, 1928. She received her BEd (Honours English, 1964) and MA (English, 1965) at UBC. Brennan was a faculty member of the UBC English Department from 1968 until her retirement in 1988. Brennan and Geoffrey Riddehough were colleagues at UBC and had offices in the same building. They became acquainted in the academic year of 1967-1968.

Sous-fonds consists of correspondence to Brennan from Riddehough and to Brennan and Doreen Nalos from Riddehough. These often included copies of his poetry. The series also consists of correspondence to Brennan from Riddehough's acquaintances after his death and from the trust company concerning his estate.

Lemuel Robertson sous-fonds. – 1927-1932.

1 cm of textual records.

Lemuel Fergus Robertson was born in 1878 on Prince Edward Island. Robertson studied at McGill University where he received both his BA and MA (1902). He first came to Vancouver in 1899 to teach Classics at the Vancouver College where he was influential in guiding its evolution into the McGill University College of BC (1906). Robertson continued to teach Classics when the University opened its Fairview campus in 1915 and by 1920, as the department's senior member, Robertson became Professor and Head, a position he held until 1941.

Robertson would have met Geoffrey Riddehough while he was studying English and History at the Fairview campus. Robertson was noted for his paternalistic teaching approach at a time when many undergraduates were still in their teens. Riddehough wrote to Professor Robertson seeking academic and professional advice.

Robertson was also responsible for establishing the Classics Club, of which Riddehough was a member, which was maintained until the early 1990s.

Robertson passed away in 1956.

Sous-fonds consists of Riddehough's correspondence to Robertson during the years he studied overseas in London and Paris.

Doreen Nalos sous-fonds. – 1971-1978.

10 cm of textual records.

Doreen Nalos was born on September 26, 1921. She received her BA and MFA at UBC in the mid-1970s. During the 1960s she taught private voice lessons while raising her two sons. After completing her Masters degree she taught in UBC's Fine Arts Department for a brief time. Nalos was introduced to Geoffrey Riddehough by Pegeen Brennan in 1968.

Sous-fonds consists of Riddehough's letters and copies of his poetry sent to Nalos.

Murray and Marian Cowie sous-fonds. – 1960-1976.

17 cm. of textual material.

Murray Aiken and Marian L. Cowie came to the University of British Columbia in the mid-1940s and remained at the University until 1959 when they went to the United States. The Cowies taught languages in the German Department. While at UBC they befriended Geoffrey Riddehough and that relationship continued after they left Vancouver.

The sous fonds consists of approximately 17 cm. of outgoing letters and poetry sent by Riddehough to the Murray and Marian Cowie (1960-1976).

The material was donated to the University Archives in 2007 by Joseph J. Richter, a long-time friend of the Cowies.

File List

BOX 1

Personal Information series

- 1-1 Birth Certificate (true copy) 1925
- 1-2 Passports and identification cards 1929-1974

Published Materials series

- 1-3 Articles 1946-1963
- 1-4 *Rueful Rhymes: The Satirical Verse of a Couple of Anti-Bodies* 1994
Dance to the Anthill: Verses chiefly light and satiric 1974

Manuscripts and Unpublished Materials series

- 1-5/6 "La Médée d'Euripide: drame de paradoxe" [n.d.]
- 1-7 "The Medea of Euripides: Tragedy or Melodrama?" 1942
- 1-8 Dance to the Anthill and Other Poems 1954
- 1-9 "An Exchange of Views" [ca. 1954]
- 1-10 "Some Adventures of the Witch Anaitis" 1956
- 1-11 "Adventures of the Witch Anaitis" 1972
- 1-12 "My First Witch" [n.d.]
- 1-13 "Dance to the Anthill" [n.d.]

BOX 2

- 2-1 "The Plaything" [n.d.]
- 2-2 "Debtor to the Bats and Other Verse" [n.d.]

Assorted Poems: Miscellaneous series

- 2-3 1930-1972
- 2-4 1931-1977
- 2-5 1955-1962
- 2-6 1955-1973

2-7 1955-1977

BOX 3

3-1/3 1971-1977

3-4 1971-1978

3-5/8 [n.d.]

Assorted Short Stories: Miscellaneous series

3-9 1929-1932

3-10 1933-1940

3-11 1950-1969

BOX 4

Lecture Notes and Papers Presented series

4-1 "Greek Drama" 1935-1953

4-2 "Catterel" 1958

4-3 "Lecture (Extension) Horace" 1961-1962

4-4 "Menander's Dyscolus (Classics Club)" 1962-1963

4-5 "Lecture on Greek Religion" 1963

4-6 "Extension Lecture on Orosius and Boethius" 1963-1964

4-7 "A Last Lecture" 1964

4-8 "Euripides: Extension Lecture, Dec. 1964" 1964

4-9 "Sophocles: Extension Lecture, Dec. 1964" 1964-1969

4-10 "Sophocles" 1968

4-11 "The Calypso-Episode in the Odyssey" [n.d.]

4-12 "The Nausicaa-Episode in the Odyssey" [n.d.]

4-13 Lectures Attended 1964-1977

4-14 Extracts from lectures 1938-1975

4-15 Miscellaneous lecture notes 1944-1972

4-16 Miscellaneous notes 1970-1971

4-17 Miscellaneous notes 1950-1971

Joseph of Exeter Research Material series

- 4-18 Correspondence 1934-1950
- 4-19 Correspondence 1950-1972

BOX 5

- 5-1 Digby Ms. 157 [B.P. 5086]
- 5-2 Paris Ms. - Biblioteque Nationale 15015 fonds latin
- 5-3 Paris Commentary - Biblioteque Nationale
- 5-4 Westminster Abbey Ms. 18 - Chapter Library
- 5-5 Corpus Cristi College, Cambridge Ms. 406
- 5-6 3 microfilm manuscripts: British Museum 996a; Ms. "A" from the Benedictine Library, Austria; British Museum #44
- 5-7 Unpublished manuscript - "Joseph of Exeter Bellum Troianum" ed. By Geoffrey B. Riddehough - 2 vols. (n.d.)

BOX 6

- 6-1 Published articles by Riddehough "A Forgotten Poet: Joseph of Exeter" The Journal of English and Germanic Philology (July 1947) "Joseph of Exeter: The Cambridge Manuscript" Speculum (July 1949)
- 6-2 Book Reviews by Riddehough
- 6-3 Misc. Correspondence (1953-1974)
- 6-4 Miscellaneous Material
- 6-5 Poem: "Pig Ascending" (off-print from "The Dalhousie Review", vol. 42, no. 2) n.d.
- 6-6 Latin translation notes of "Joseph of Exeter-The Paris Commentary" 1947
- 6-7 English Translation of "Joseph of Exeter-The Paris Commentary" 1949
- 6-8 Notes of Joseph of Exeter" 1949-1951
- 6-9 The Victorine Commentary on Joseph of Exeter [n.d.]

Coursework series

- 6-10 Notebook: Miscellaneous studies 1931
- 6-11 Class notes on John of Salisbury and Hildebert 1949
- 6-12 Classical Philology 225a & 225b 1949-1950
- 6-13 Classical Philology 225a, 225b and 245; and Latin 114b 1949-1950
- 6-14 Bowdoin Prize documentation 1949-1950

- 6-15 "Tragic Isolation in Greek Drama": An essay submitted for the Bowdoin Prize by Alice Thurston 1950
- 6-16 "De Medeae in Iasonem Odio": Bowdoin Latin Prize Essay 1950
- 6-17 Examination booklet for Latin Khf 1950
- 6-18 Notes from "Cambridge Medieval History" 1950-1951
- 6-19 Greek Translation Notes 1950-1961
- 6-20 Latin Composition Notes 1956

BOX 7

- 7-1 Miscellaneous Notes 1920-1957
- 7-2 Miscellaneous Notes 1930-1931
- 7-3 Miscellaneous Notes 1945-1961
- 7-4 Greek study notes / Flashcards [n.d.]

Notebooks and Scrapbooks series

- 7-5 Gardening [n.d.]
- 7-6 Music [n.d.]
- 7-7 World War II bound books and pocket books [n.d.]
- 7-8/9 Miscellaneous 1930-1964

BOX 8

Diaries series

- 8-1 1924-1924
- 8-2 1925
- 8-3 1926-1929
- 8-4 1929-1934
- 8-5 1934-1943
- 8-6 1944-1951
- 8-7 1948
- 8-8 1952-1956

BOX 9

- 9-1 1957-1967

- 9-2 1967-1971
- 9-3 1971-1974
- 9-4 1973-1974
- 9-5 Journal Notes 1978

Expense Ledgers / Accounts series

- 9-6 1959-1963
- 9-7 1967-1971
- 9-8 1971-1976
- 9-9 1976-1978

BOX 10

Correspondence series

- 10-1 1928-1973
- 10-2 Lieutenant A. Germot 1939, 1941, 1949
- 10-3 Helen 1941
- 10-4 Geraldine Raymond 1946-1947
- 10-5 Rev. W.J. Smallhorne 1957, 1972
- 10-6 1969
- 10-7 Re: "Dance to the Anthill" 1972-1974
- 10-8 Lynette Webb 1977-1978

[Photographs series](#) (removed and filed with UBC Historical Photographs)

- UBC 77.1/1 Geoffrey Riddehough : photoprint : 10.5 x 7.5 cm. [190-] Small Print
- UBC 77.1/2 Geoffrey Riddehough standing with cricket bat in front yard : photoprint : 10.5 x 8 cm. [190-] Small Print
- UBC 77.1/3 Geoffrey Riddehough on horse : photoprint : 10.5 x 8 cm. [190-] Small Print
- UBC 77.1/4 Group photograph taken of the 1924 UBC graduating class in front of the Wigwam Inn : photoprint : 20.5 x 25.5 cm. (1924) Print
- UBC 77.1/5 Geoffrey Riddehough : photoprint : 9.5 x 7 cm.[ca. 1930] Small Print
- UBC 77.1/6 Geoffrey Riddehough paddling a canoe on the Thames river : photoprint : 8.5 x 6.5 cm. (1930) Small Print
- UBC 77.1/7 Geoffrey Riddehough's profile : photoprint : 7 x 5 cm. [193-] Small Print

- UBC 77.1/8 Geoffrey Riddehough standing in the snow : photoprint : 6.5 x 4.5 cm.
(1938)
- UBC 77.1/9 Geoffrey Riddehough in cap and gown : photoprint : 14.5 x 9.5 cm [194-?]
Print
- UBC 77.1/10 House on Prescott Street with arrows pointing to Geoffrey Riddehough's
room : photoprint : 8 x 11.5 cm. (1949) Small Print
- UBC 77.1/11 Geoffrey Riddehough sitting in front of Leavenworth, WA sign :
photoprint : 8.5 x 13 cm. [196-?]] Small Print
- UBC 77.1/12 Geoffrey Riddehough and unidentified man in flower garden : photoprint
: 8.5 x 13 cm. [196-?] Small Print
- UBC 77.1/13 Geoffrey Riddehough : photoprint : 12.5 x 8.5 cm. [196-?] Small Print
- UBC 77.1/14 Geoffrey Riddehough standing beside a red Volvo : photoprint : 8.5 x 13
cm. [196-?] Small Print
- UBC 77.1/15 Geoffrey Riddehough standing beside a car : photoprint : 8.5 x 12.5 cm.
(1966) Small Print

Miscellaneous series

- 10-9 Cornish Language Research 1975
10-10 Prints 1936-1937

PEGEEN BRENNAN SOUS-FONDS

BOX 11

Correspondence: Geoffrey Riddehough

- 11-1/2 1970
11-3/4 1971
11-5/7 1972
11-8 1973

BOX 12

- 12-1 1970-1971, 1976
12-2 1973
12-3 To Pegeen Brennan and Doreen Nalos 1974
12-4 1974

12-5 1974-1978
12-6 1978
12-7 1977
12-8 Re: Returned Riddehough letter 1978
12-9 Re: Geoffrey Riddehough estate 1978-1979
12-10 [n.d.]

LEMUEL ROBERTSON SOUS-FONDS

BOX 13

Correspondence: Geoffrey Riddehough

13-1 1927-1932

DOREEN NALOS SOUS-FONDS

Correspondence: Geoffrey Riddehough

13-2 1971-1972
13-3 1973
13-4 1974
13-5 1975
13-6 1976
13-7 1977
13-8 1978

MURRAY AND MARIAN COWIE SOUS-FONDS

BOX 14

14-1/18 Outgoing correspondence from G. Riddehough to Murray and Marian Cowie
(1960-1976)
14-19/20 Published and typescript copies of Riddehough's poetry
14-21 Inscribed copy of "Dance to the Anthill" (1972)