

J. Lewis Robinson fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Fonds Description

J. Lewis Robinson fonds. -- 1939-2005.

57 cm of textual records.

22 photographs.

Biographical Sketch

John Lewis "Lew" Robinson was born in 1918 in Leamington, Ontario. He completed his BA at the University of Western Ontario in 1940. He went on to study geography earning an MA from Syracuse University (1942) and a PhD from Clark University (1946). At the request of President Norman Mackenzie Robinson came to the University of British Columbia to establish a Geography Division within the Department of Geology. He became chair of the division and, in 1958, established a separate Department of Geography. Robinson served as head of the department until 1968. In addition to his contributions as an administrator, Robinson also remained very active as an academic, particularly in the geography of British Columbia and northern Canada. His extensive publication list includes contributions to both important academic journals and as well as more popular publications such as magazines and encyclopedias. His textbooks, particularly the *Geography of Canada*, are used in university and secondary schools throughout the country. Throughout his career, Robinson earned a reputation as an outstanding teacher. He was able to consistently communicate his enthusiasm for geography to graduate and undergraduate students alike and to groups within the general public through his lectures and writings. In recognition of these contributions UBC awarded him a "Master Teacher Award" in 1977. Following his retirement from UBC in 1984, Robinson remained a very active force at the institution. He played a significant role in organizing services for alumni of the Geography Department and for establishing the Alumni Association's Professors Emeriti Division, the first organization of its kind in Canada. He has also been an avid supporter of UBC sports programs.

In recognition of his significant accomplishments Lew Robinson has received numerous honours and awards. Some of these include the Centennial Medal and the Silver Jubilee Medal from the Government of Canada, the Massey Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Service and the Distinguished Teaching Award for Canada of the National Council for Geographic Education. He has also received honorary degrees from the University of Western Ontario (1984) and the University of British Columbia (1994).

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of biographical material that documents Robinson's distinguished career, his publications, as well as information about the historical development of UBC's Department of Geography.

Notes

File list available.

File 4-9 donated by Robinson in June 2006.

Series Descriptions

Biographical Materials series. -- 1939-2004.

14 cm of textual records.

Series consists of copies of Robinson's CVs, articles and other information about his distinguished career, awards he received, and other assorted material pertaining to his professional and personal life.

Publications/Reports series. -- 1943-1999.

31 cm of textual records.

Series consists of lists of publications by Robinson, as well as copies of some of those publications and correspondence with various publishers.

Department of Geography series. -- 1946-1994.

13 cm of textual records.

Series consists of copies of histories of the UBC Geography Department written by Robinson as well as miscellaneous records created by or about the department. The series also includes significant statistical information about undergraduate and graduate students in the Geography Department.

Photograph series. -- 1948-1980.

22 photographs.

Series consists of 10 aerial views of UBC campus (1948, 1952, 1970, 1980), and various views of Department of Geography faculty members.

Selected photographs have been scanned and included in UBC Archives' [Historical Photograph Database \(UBC 94.1\)](#).

File List

BOX 1

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS SERIES

- 1-1 CVs (1972-1999)
- 1-2/3 Articles, clippings re: J.L. Robinson (1939-1996)
- 1-4 Military Service - Correspondence (1943/43)
- 1-5 Work in the North West Territories - Contract, correspondence (1943, 1946)
- 1-6 UBC Appointment/Career - Appointment notices, correspondence, salary information (1946-1984, 1988-1993)
- 1-7 Canadian Association of Geographers - Award for Service to the Profession of Geography - Correspondence, printed material, clippings (1975/76)
- 1-8 University of Hong Kong - External Examiner - Correspondence (1966-1969)
- 1-9 Massey Medal (Canadian Geographical Society) - Correspondence, clippings, printed material (1966, 1971, 1987)
- 1-10 Master Teacher Award (UBC) - Correspondence (1977/78)
- 1-11 Robinson Memorial Volume [Studies in Canadian Regional Geography: Essays in Honor of J. Lewis Robinson] - Correspondence with Brenton Barr (1983)
- 1-12 Congregation Address [UBC] (May 30, 1984)
- 1-13 Honorary Degree [University of Western Ontario, October 26, 1984] - Correspondence, address, printed material (1984)
- 1-14 Canadian Association of Geographers - Starkley/Robinson Award - Correspondence (1986-1999)

- 1-15 Honorary degree [UBC] - Correspondence, address, printed material (1993/94)
- 1-16 National Council for Geographic Education - Correspondence (1955-1968, 1982)
- 1-17 Department of Energy, Mines and Resources - National Advisory Committee on Geographical Research and a National Atlas - Correspondence (1974-1980)
- 1-18 BC Ministry of Education - Geography 12 Revision Committee - Correspondence (1986/87)
- 1-19 Personal Correspondence (1967-2004)
- 1-20 Friends of J. Lewis Robinson Bursary - Correspondence (1971-1983)

[\(Continued\)](#)

BOX 2

PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS SERIES

- 2-1 Listing of Publications by J.L. Robinson (1943-1998)
- 2-2/8 Copies of miscellaneous publications, article off-prints and reports by J.L. Robinson (1939-1999)
- 2-9 Encyclopaedia Articles and Correspondence (1955-1993)
- 2-10 Correspondence with various publishers (1951-1986)
- 2-11 Heartland Hinterland Book - Prentice Hall - Correspondence (1998/99)

[\(Continued\)](#)

BOX 3

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY HISTORY SERIES

- 3-1 "A History of the Geography Department at the University of British Columbia to 1946" by J. Lewis Robinson (1990)
- 3-2 "Geography at the University of British Columbia" by J. Lewis Robinson (1991)
- 3-3 List of Faculty in the Dept. of Geography [from UBC Calendars] (1946-1991)
- 3-4 Geography Department Meetings - Minutes (1966-1968)
- 3-5 Geography Department Brochures (1965-1970)
- 3-6 Geography Department - Alumni Newsletters (1952-1954, 1956, 1958, 1959)
- 3-7 Geography Department [before 1946] - Miscellaneous
- 3-8 Geography Department [after 1946] - Miscellaneous
- 3-9 Map and Air Photo Library - History (1974-1996)
- 3-10 Employment of UBC Geography Graduates (1947-1986)
- 3-11 Geography Student Enrolment Statistics (1966-1982)
- 3-12 Geography Majors - Lists and Statistics (1947-1994)
- 3-13 Lists of Geography Graduates (1946-1988)
- 3-14 Lists of Geography Graduates (1947-1971)

PHOTOGRAPH SERIES

Selected photographs have been scanned and included in UBC Archives' [Historical Photograph Database \(UBC 94.1\)](#).

- /1 Robert Steiner
Aerial view of UBC campus (ca. 1948)
Photoprint : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /2 Aerial view of campus (ca. 1952)
Photoprint : 19.5 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /3 Vancouver Sun
Aerial view of campus (ca. 1970)
Photoprint : 27.5 x 35 cm. [OVR 1: University Archives storage area, Rare Books and Special Collections vault]
- /4 Burnett Resource Surveys Ltd.
Aerial view of campus [seven views] (ca. 1980)
Photoprint : 22.5 x 23 cm. [OVR 1: University Archives storage area, Rare Books and Special Collections vault]
- /5 UBC sprint champion Lewis Robinson in track uniform at UBC stadium (April 1939): 8 x 5.5 cm.[Small Print]
- /6 Group photograph of first four heads of UBC Geography Dept. (n.d.) [Left to right: Robert H.T. Smith, John Lewis Robinson, H. Olav Slaymaker, John D. Chapman : 9 x 13.5 cm. [Small Print]
- /7 Group photograph of heads of UBC Geography Dept. and its Predecessors (ca. 1959) [Left to right: John Lewis Robinson, Merton Yarwood Williams, Henry Cecil Gunning, Vladimir Joseph Okulitch] 10 x 15 cm. [Print]
- /8 Group photograph of members of the Dept. of Geology and Geography (ca. 1946) [Left to right: Vladimir Joseph Okulitch, Harry Verney Warren, Merton Yarwood Williams, Henry Cecil Gunning, Thomas R. Weir] : 11 x 16 cm. [Print]

- /9 Photocopy of group photograph of members of the UBC Dept. of Geology and Geography, 1958/59 (ca. 1959) : [Left to right - seated - John Lewis Robinson, Merton Yarwood Williams, Henry Cecil Gunning, Mrs. Paul, Valdimir Joseph Okulitch. Standing - Archie MacPherson, John Stagger, John Ross, Richard Ruggles, Glen Rover, Harry Varney Warren, William White, William Henry Mathews, John Ross MacKay] : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /10 Group photograph of UBC Geography Dept. faculty and some graduate students (Spring 1960) [Left to right - back row - John Ross MacKay, Albert L. Farley, John Lewis Robinson, Richard Ruggles, ??, ??. Front row John Stager, John D. Chapman, ??, ??, ??] : 10 x 15 cm. [Print]
- /11 Group photograph of UBC Dept. of Geography faculty (April 1972) (Left to right - back row - Albert L. Farley, H. Olav Slaymaker, Kenneth G. Denike, Robert N. North. Middle row - Walter G. Hardwick, Julian V. Minghi, Timothy Oke, John Ross MacKay. Front row - K. Sandhu, John Lewis Robinson, John Stager] : 10 x 15 cm. [Print]
- /12 Group photograph of faculty and staff of the Dept. of Geography (1975) : 10 x 16.5 cm. [Print]
- /13 Group photograph of faculty and staff of the Dept. of Geography (198-) : 9 x 13 cm. [Small Print]

BOX 4

- 4-1 Collection of 35mm slides of various geographical sites in St. John, N.B.; Saskatchewan; Alberta [N.D.]

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS SERIES (cont.)

- 4-2 Certificates of achievement [1942-1973]

PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS SERIES (cont.)

- 4-3 Publications/Reports (1940s)
- 4-4 Publications/Reports (1960s)

- 4-5 Publications/Reports (1970s)
- 4-6 Publications/Reports (1980s)
- 4-7 Publications/Reports (1990s)
- 4-8 Publications/Reports (Regional Geography) [N.D.]
- 4-9 Japanese balloon bombs (1997-2005)
[some articles by others besides Robinson]