

Abraham Rogatnick fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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Fonds Description

Abraham Rogatnick fonds. – 1936-2009.

1.44 m of textual records.

21 photographs; B&W and colour prints; various sizes.

1 box of index cards.

Biographical Sketch

Abraham Jedidiah Rogatnick was born November 27, 1923 in Boston, Massachusetts. He interrupted his undergraduate studies to serve in the armed forces in WWII, fighting on the Western Front. He later studied in Germany on a Fulbright Fellowship. In 1948, he completed a master's in architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Rogatnick arrived in Vancouver in 1955, initially only to visit a friend but instead settling permanently. He and Alvin Balkind opened the first commercial gallery in Vancouver for contemporary art called The New Design Gallery. It was the beginning of Rogatnick's advent of contemporary west coast art for Vancouver, which also included being a founding member of the Arts Club Theatre in 1958 and serving as the interim director of the Vancouver Art Gallery from 1974-1975.

In 1959 Rogatnick was appointed to the School of Architecture at UBC, where he helped start a Study Abroad Program for students to have learning opportunities around the world. He expanded his own interests by specializing in Venetian architecture and learning Italian. He retired from UBC as Professor Emeritus in 1985.

Rogatnick served on several juries for art awards, and acted as architectural advisor for the National Gallery of Canada and the Philadelphia Museum of Fine Art. He contributed to a book regarding [B.C. Binning](#), with whom he collaborated in the sixties and early seventies to arrange the Festivals of Contemporary Art at UBC. Rogatnick received numerous awards and honours including the Barbara Dalrymple Award for Community Service as well as an honorary doctorate from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 1999. He did some television and stage acting starting about 1998 at the age of 74. He is also memorialized with the Abraham Rogatnick Library at the Vancouver Contemporary Art Gallery, named after him for his work on the Board of Directors and his bequest to the institution. Rogatnick died August 28, 2009 at the age of 85.

Custodial History

Some of the materials were initially transferred to the Belkin Art Gallery at UBC by Scott Watson, a close friend of Rogatnick. The Belkin, in turn, transferred them to the University Archives early in 2010, with an additional box being transferred in

September 2010 but not included with the rest of the fonds until April 2023. The remainder was donated directly to the Archives by the executor of Rogatnick's estate.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists of materials that document the personal and professional activities of Abraham Rogatnick and includes handwritten notes and notebooks on historical and architectural subjects, index cards, typewritten speeches, writings, correspondence, and photographs. There are four series: Notes and Architectural Sketches, Photographs, Notebooks and Binders, and Personal Materials and Writing.

Note

File list available.

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

Series Descriptions

Personal Materials and Writings. – 1936-2009.

68 cm of textual records.

Series consists of correspondence, legal papers including discharge papers from the U.S. Army, speeches delivered at various events, posthumous tributes to Rogatnick's partner Alvin Balkind, and other written materials.

Notes and Architectural Sketches. – 1967-1982, [n.d.].

71 cm of textual records.

1 box of index cards.

Series consists of handwritten notes, some of which appear to be pulled from spiral notebooks and often include architectural sketches. Most of them are on the history of Venetian architecture. Folders are numbered by the order they were found in.

Notebooks and Binders. – [n.d.].

5 cm of textual records.

Series consists of handwritten notebooks on various subjects that often include architectural sketches, as well as the materials removed from a binder.

Photographs. – 1948-2006, [n.d.].

21 photographs; B&W and colour prints; various sizes.

Series includes several portraits of Rogatnick as well as group photographs.

File List

BOX 1

PERSONAL MATERIALS AND WRITINGS SERIES

- 1-1 [Honorable Discharge Papers from the U.S. Army, 1945]
- 1-2 [Correspondence Regarding Early Retirement from UBC, 1985]
- 1-3 ["Stories That Couldn't Be Told" 3 Acts, Copy 1, n.d.]
- 1-4 ["Stories That Couldn't Be Told" 3 Acts, Copy 2, n.d.]
- 1-5 ["Stories That Couldn't Be Told" 3 Acts, Copy 3, n.d.]
- 1-6 ["A Real Artist"-Jack Shadbolt, n.d.]
- 1-7 [Introducing Daniel Libeskind, Vancouver, 4 April 2005]
- 1-8 [Jews in Architecture]
- 1-9 [Presentation of Arthur Erickson for Honorary Doctorate]
- 1-10 [Address by Abraham Rogatnick to the August 1985 School of Architecture Workshop, Ladysmith, B.C.]
- 1-11 [UBC Interdepartmental Memorandum from Abraham to Doug, December 19, n.d.]
- 1-12 [UBC Christmas Examinations-December 1950,1952]
- 1-13 [Resume for Abraham Jedidiah for Booking Agent, 199?]

(Continued)

NOTES AND ARCHITECTURAL SKETCHES SERIES

- 1-14 [Folder 1 of Handwritten Notes and Sketches, n.d.]
- 1-15 [Folder 2 of Handwritten Notes, n.d.]
- 1-16 [Folder 3 of Handwritten Notes, from notebooks, n.d.]
- 1-17 [Folder 4 of Handwritten Notes, from notebooks, n.d.]
- 1-18 [Folder 5 of Handwritten Notes, n.d.]
- 1-19 [Folder 6 of Handwritten Notes, from notebooks and book page replications, n.d.]
- 1-20 [Folder 7 of Handwritten Notes and translation work on Italian article, n.d.]
- 1-21 Illustration & References to Check [Handwritten Notes]

(Continued)

NOTEBOOKS AND BINDERS SERIES

- 1-22 [Grid-lined notebook with handwritten notes and sketches, 15 cm x 20 cm, n.d.]
- 1-23 [Handwritten notebook-City Planning, 20 cm x 24 cm, n.d.]
- 1-24 [Unlined notebook-History and the Study of History, 22 cm x 28 cm, n.d.]
- 1-25 [Palladio in the New World, Abraham Rogatnick-Binder, n.d.]

(Continued)

PHOTOGRAPHS SERIES

- UBC 147.1/1 Rogatnick on stage with two unknown individuals. Black and white print, 20 cm x 12.5 cm, n.d. [p]
- UBC 147.1/2 Group photo in cap and gowns of Rogatnick and two unknown individuals. Colour print, 10 cm x 15 cm, n.d. [p]
- UBC 147.1/3 A.J.R. with former Mayor Philip Owen at a dinner honoring Mayor Sullivan, 2006. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm. [p]
- UBC 147.1/4 Portrait of Rogatnick in army uniform. Black and white print, 10 cm x 15 cm, n.d. [p]
- UBC 147.1/5 Outdoor photograph of Rogatnick in possible military garb. Black and white print, 9 cm x 10.5 cm. [sp]
- UBC 147.1/6 Abraham Rogatnick, Harvard Grad 1948. Black and white print, 12.5 cm x 17.5 cm. [p]
- UBC 147.1/7 "Abraham Jedidiah" as King Lear. Black and white print, 28 cm x 20.5 cm, n.d. [p]

(Continued)

BOX 2

NOTES AND ARCHITECTURAL SKETCHES SERIES (cont.)

- 2-1/10 [Venetian architecture – lecture notes and images] [n.d.]

BOX 3

- 3-1/16 [Venetian architecture – lecture notes and images] [n.d.]

BOX 4

- 4-1 [Venetian architecture – lecture notes and images] [n.d.]
- 4-2 [Lectures on architecture of Venice] [n.d.]
- 4-3 [Venice – notes, clippings, correspondence] 1967-68 [2 folders]
- 4-4 [Venice] [n.d.]
- 4-5 [Venice – notes] [n.d.]
- 4-6 Hist. of Am. Arch. [Notes on Venice] [n.d.]
- 4-7 [Venetian architecture] 1969
- 4-8 [Venetian architecture] 1969-73
- 4-9 [Venetian architecture] 1981-82
- 4-10 [Venetian architecture – summer programme] 1969
- 4-11 [Venetian architecture] [n.d.]
- 4-12 [Venetian architecture] [n.d.]

(Continued)

BOX 5

NOTEBOOKS AND BINDERS SERIES (cont.)

- 5-1 Notebooks (4) [n.d.]

PERSONAL MATERIALS AND WRITINGS SERIES (cont.)

- 5-2 Harvard Alumni Bulletins [and other documentation] 1936-52
- 5-3 [Awards] 1942-90
- 5-3a [Correspondence] 1945-2001
- 5-4 [Correspondence] 1948-2002
- 5-5 [Lectures] 1958-78
- 5-6 [Correspondence] 1960-73
- 5-7 [Correspondence – Canadian art and architecture] 1961-76
- 5-8 [Shaughnessy Design Panel] 1964-82
- 5-9 [clippings] 1964-99
- 5-10 Medium is the Message [presentation at Festival of the Contemporary Arts] 1965
- 5-11 Memorabilia #2 1970-2000
- 5-12 [Misc.] 1970-2002

5-13 [Clippings] 1975-2000

BOX 6

- 6-1 [Misc.] 1976-2008
- 6-2 [Essays and addresses – various topics] 1976-2009
- 6-3 [Curriculum vitae] 1982-2000
- 6-4 [Correspondence, clippings, notes] 1983-2007
- 6-5 [Vancouver Art Gallery – Director] 1984
- 6-6 [Correspondence re. architecture] 1984-89
- 6-7 [Misc.] 1985-92
- 6-8 [Keynote address – “Wood & Water” Association of Preservation Technology annual conference] September 1987
- 6-9 [Family tree] 1988
- 6-10 [Alvin Balkind tributes] 1992-98
- 6-11 [Alvin Balkind tributes] 1998-2004
- 6-12 [Misc. – correspondence, courses, events] 1999-2009
- 6-13 [Correspondence] 2001-07
- 6-14 [Correspondence] 2002-03
- 6-15 Last will and testament 2005
- 6-16 [The Architecture of Douglas Cardinal – essay] [n.d.]
- 6-17 Christmas Student Show [n.d.]
- 6-18 Papa’s writings [n.d.]
- 6-19 Process Group – Original [architecture / urban development] [n.d.]

(Continued)

BOX 7

NOTES AND ARCHITECTURAL SKETCHES SERIES (cont.)

Index cards – Comments on Italian Renaissance architecture [n.d.]

(Continued)

BOX 8

PERSONAL MATERIALS AND WRITINGS SERIES (cont.)

- 8-1 Travel Diary, June 20 – August 7, 1949
- 8-2 Travel Diary Entry [Paris, France], May 5, 1960
- 8-3 [Manuscript on Venice- Introduction, [196-?]]
- 8-4 [Manuscript on Venice from its Beginnings to 1172, [196-?]]
- 8-5 [Manuscript on Venice from 1172-1267, [196-?]]
- 8-6 [Manuscript on Venice circa 1200s-1300s, [196-?]]
- 8-7 [Manuscript on Vincenzo Scamozzi [Venetian Architect, 1548-1616], [196-?]]
- 8-8 Manuscript on Venice circa 1797- 1814, [196-?]]
- 8-9 [Manuscript on Venice from 1814-1849, [196-?]]

BOX 9

- 9-1 [Manuscript on Venice from 1849-1866, [196-?]]
- 9-2 [Manuscript on Venice from 1866-1945, [196-?]]
- 9-3 [Manuscript on Venice from 1945-today [196-?], [196-?]]
- 9-4 [La Piazza [San Marco] sotto il Fascismo e il Nazismo [The Square under Fascism and Nazism] [Draft Paper and Related Notes], [197-?]]
- 9-5 [Manuscript Notes Surrounding an English Translation of Venezia Minore, August 1980]

NOTES AND ARCHITECTURAL SKETCHES SERIES (cont.)

- 9-6 [Miscellaneous Research Notes [And a Copy of a Venice Building List], [196-?]]
- 9-7 [Miscellaneous Research Notes on Venetian Architecture [With Photographs], [196-?]]

BOX 10

- 10-1 [Miscellaneous Notes [and Photographs] of Architecture in Saint Mark's Square, Venice, [196-?]]
- 10-2 [Slides of Bath, United Kingdom [24] and Index Cards Notes, [196-?]]
- 10-3 [Transcriptions [in Italian] of Petition Judges Inventories from the State Archive of Venice, n.d.]

PHOTOGRAPHS SERIES (cont.)

UBC 147.1/8	Abraham Rogatnick posing on stairs [at his home?] with unknown woman. Colour print, 10 cm x 15 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/9	Abraham Rogatnick sitting with unknown woman [same woman from 147.1/8]. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/10	"Shabbat – 15-12-2000 – Beck Family" [Abraham Rogatnick posing with friends]. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, 15 December 2000.
UBC 147.1/11	"Shabbat – 15-12-2000 – Beck Family" [Abraham Rogatnick posing with friends]. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, 15 December 2000.
UBC 147.1/12	Abraham Rogatnick sitting with two unknown women [older woman is Doris Shadbolt?]. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/13	Abraham Rogatnick posing with three unknown individuals. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/14	Abraham Rogatnick chatting with two women. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/15	Abraham Rogatnick chatting with woman at party, view looking down. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/16	Abraham Rogatnick with unknown man at party. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/17	Abraham Rogatnick with unknown man and woman at party. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/18	Abraham Rogatnick with two unknown women at party [woman on left is same from 147.1/17]. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/19	Abraham Rogatnick with four unknown individuals at party. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/20	Abraham Rogatnick seated. Colour print, 10 cm x 15 cm, n.d.
UBC 147.1/21	Abraham Rogatnick seated with two unknown individuals. Colour print, 15 cm x 10 cm, n.d.