

William Tansley fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

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Fonds Description

William Tansley fonds. – 1916-1933.

13 cm of textual records.

1 painting : watercolour on paper.

Biographical Sketch

William “Bill” Tansley (1859-1957) was born in Staffordshire, England. Apprenticed in a lawyer’s office and as a coach-builder, he later took up drawing and sign-painting. He emigrated to Canada in 1903, living first in Dundurn, Saskatchewan. The following year Tansley moved to British Columbia and worked at a series of jobs before coming to the University of British Columbia as a night watchman in 1916. He later assumed responsibility for general maintenance, repairs and janitorial services at the Fairview campus. Well-read and a natural story-teller, he was well-liked by students and respected by faculty. He later became curator of the Burnett Ethnological Museum located in the Library Building.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of handwritten and typed manuscripts of short stories (un-dated), a painting of a seascape (1933), and a scrapbook filled with assorted University memorabilia gathered between 1916 and 1933.

Notes

Title based on the contents of the fonds.