

Stefan Arnason fonds

RBSC-ARC-1680

Finding aid

Sarah Romkey, October 2010

Rare Books and Special Collections
University of British Columbia Library



Table of contents

Fonds description..... 3

File list..... 5

Fonds description

Stefan Arnason fonds.

1899 – 1956.

25 cm of textual material.

Biographical sketch: Stefan Arnason, son of Arni Jonatansson and Gudrun Jonsdottir, was born August 17, 1882 at Fagriskogur in Eyja Fjordur, Iceland. The eldest of 12 children, he was educated at the Gagnfraedaskoli at Mofurvollum in 1900. He immigrated to Canada in 1904 and spent time in Tantallon, Saskatchewan and Winnipeg, Manitoba, before homesteading in Pine Valley (Piney), Manitoba in 1908. He married Gudrun “Sigurbjorg” Einarsdottir (born 1889, Hallson, North Dakota) in 1911, who had settled in the Pine Valley area with her parents.

The Arnasons took over Sigurbjorg’s father’s farm at Piney and had 12 children. Amongst the first settlers in the area, they were active in the community, helping build the first high school and hall. Stefan Arnason was on the school board, and worked for the municipality. The Arnason family were forced to move to the Vancouver area during the depression due to lack of employment opportunities. They moved thirteen family members (the eldest daughter stayed in the Piney area for 2 more years) in a one and a half ton Dodge truck to Burnaby, in April-May 1937.

Stefan Arnason passed away in 1956.

Sources:

Biographical information provided by Richard Arnason. Available for consultation in the accession file.

Custodial history: Material was donated by the Arnason family, and was transferred to Rare Books and Special Collections by Richard Arnason.

Scope and content: Fonds consists of personal documents created and kept by Stefan Arnason, mostly in the form of diaries which document his family’s life from 1936 until his death in 1956. Some earlier diary entries, from 1906-1912, document Arnason’s life before his marriage, in Winnipeg and Piney. Diary entries pay particular attention to employment, family occasions and important events, and the weather. Fonds also contains some loose correspondence and notes, and several notebooks which appear to have been used during Arnason’s school days (including one “Nokkur sönglög,” containing Icelandic songs).

Source of title proper: Title based on the provenance of the fonds.

Accompanying material note: A transcription of the diaries is available in print and on CD ROM in boxes 2 to 4 (see file list). Transcription includes translation from Icelandic to English of early diary entries (1906-1912).

Language note: Some records are in Icelandic. Files completely or predominantly in Icelandic are noted in the file list.

Finding aids note: File list available.

Accruals note: No further accruals are expected.

File list

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-1	Diary Language note: Early entries (1906-1912) in Icelandic	1906-1937, predominant 1936-1937
1-2	Diary	Oct. 1935- Feb. 1936
1-3	Diary	Dec. 1937- Nov. 1938
1-4	Diary	Nov. 1938- July 1940
1-5	Diary	July 1940- July 1942
1-6	Diary	July 1942- Dec. 1944
1-7	Diary	Dec. 1944- Dec. 1948
1-8	Diary	Dec. 1948- Dec. 1951
2-1	Diary	Jan. 1952- Dec. 1954
2-2	Diary	Jan. 1955- June 1956
2-3	Notebooks Language note: In Icelandic	[ca. 1901]
2-4	Notebook Language note: Predominantly in Icelandic	1899-1900
2-5	Ný kynslóð by Johann Skjoldborg Language note: In Icelandic	1918
2-6	Nokkur sönglög Language note: In Icelandic	1903
2-7	Correspondence and notes Language note: Predominantly in Icelandic	1908-1945

2-8	Stefan Arnason's diary translated from Icelandic by Páll Ásgeirsson, with CD ROM	Transcribed 2008
2-9	Diary transcription, 1935-1939	Transcribed 2008
2-10	Diary transcription, 1940-1943	Transcribed 2008
3-1	Diary transcription, 1944-1948	Transcribed 2008
3-2	Diary transcription, 1949-1952	Transcribed 2008
4-1	Diary transcription, 1953-1954	Transcribed 2008
4-2	Diary transcription, 1955-1956	Transcribed 2008