

Frank Charnley fonds

RBSC-ARC-1120

Finding aid

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Rare Books and Special Collections
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Fonds description

Frank Charnley fonds.

1936, 1958-1976.

37 cm of textual material.

12 photographs.

Biographical sketch: Frank Charnley was born on July 15, 1895 in Rishton, England. He graduated from King Edward High School in Vancouver, BC. On August 12, 1915 he enlisted in World War I and served as a signaller until he was wounded at Ypres. After the war, Frank attended the University of British Columbia (UBC) where he graduated in 1924 with a Bachelor of Science. He was fluent in both English and French. Frank married Beatrice Chadwick in 1926 in Vancouver; they had two daughters, Beth and Frances. He worked for the BC Sugar Refinery and later the Federal Department of Fisheries in Prince Rupert and Vancouver as Chief Research Chemist. Frank retired from the Department of Fisheries in the 1950s and moved to Barnston Island, BC where he built a home on 50 acres he had inherited from his father. At Barnston Island, Frank took part in sheep ranching and beekeeping in addition to working on mathematical projects and creative writing. Beth died at the age of 32 (of jaundice) in 1960 and Beatrice died in 1964. Sometime after 1974, Charnley moved from Barnston Island back to Vancouver where he lived until his death in 1978.

Sources:

Ancestry.com. *Canadian Soldiers of World War I, 1914-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Images reproduced courtesy of Library and Archives Canada. Original data: *Soldiers of the First World War (1914-1918)*. RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 4930 - 35. Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Canada.

Ancestry.com. *1911 Census of Canada* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Original data: Library and Archives Canada. *Census of Canada, 1911*. Ottawa, Canada: Library and Archives Canada. Microfilm reels T-20326 to T-20460.

British Columbia Archives. *Vital Events Records – Search*. Province of British Columbia, BC. Accessed 30 November, 2009. Available from http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC_Our_Collections/BC_Vital_Rrd_Collect.aspx.

Custodial history: Frank Charnley's records were recovered from Barnston Island by his son-in-law, Charles Christopherson, and sent to UBC's Special Collections Division in 1982 for safekeeping. The records were officially gifted to UBC Library by Charnley's daughter in 1987 along with an additional accrual of records (box 3).

Scope and content: Fonds illustrates Frank Charnley's career and interests as a mathematician, sheep rancher, beekeeper and writer as well as records relating to his family, predominately from his retirement years. Photographs showcase Charnley at his Barnston Island home, presumably in the 1960s. Fonds is organized into the following

series: Correspondence; Mathematical notes; Creative writing; Beekeeping records; Sheep ranching records; Miscellaneous records; Photographs; University records; and Reports authored by Frank Charnley.

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

Arrangement note: It is uncertain whether or not original order was preserved by the donor or receiving archivist. The intellectual and physical arrangement of the records recorded in the original 1986 inventory has not been changed to date. The 1986 inventory consisted of box lists arranged primarily by subject headings. Series and file titles were renamed in the creation of this finding aid to adhere to the Rules for Archival Description.

Language note: Fonds consists of materials in English, German, and French.

Rights note: Literary rights retained by Frances Christopherson until her death at which time they revert to UBC.

Finding aids note: File list available. Original finding aid re-described according to the Rules for Archival Description (RAD) in 2009 by students from the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS), UBC.

Accruals note: No further accruals are expected.

General note: Biographical information supplied by Charles Christopherson in a letter addressed to Special Collections in 1982.

Series descriptions

Correspondence.

1956-1976.

17.5 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Files include letters sent to Frank Charnley from Viola, Annie and Lane Vlag, Nora Reardon-Parker, Evelyn Fleischman, Frances Christopherson, and copies of letters written by Charnley to various organizations regarding his scientific research and writing, to his daughter Frances, and to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Series is arranged primarily in alphabetical order by sender. Correspondence files also contain greeting cards and general correspondence from other family, friends, and organizations. Intermingled within a file of Father's Day cards is a small notebook containing mathematical calculations.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Mathematical notes.

1958-1976, predominant 1972-1976

4 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Series consists of mathematical calculations and project notes as well as several unpublished articles in draft form. Topics featured within this series include quantum mechanics and binomial distribution.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Related groups of records within the same fonds: Other records relating to Frank Charnley's mathematical interests can be found within the correspondence and sheep ranching series.

Creative writing.

[197-?]

4 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Series consists of unpublished manuscripts written by Frank Charnley including typescripts of three short stories, "St. Gamand Ridge", "Clouds Over Zeda", "The Magazines Reader Murder" and three poems, "The Immigrants", "Confederation Blues" and "Poisson's Law."

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Beekeeping records.

[196-?]

4 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Series consists of notes, catalogues, information brochures and other items on beekeeping.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Sheep ranching records.

1970-1972.

1 v.

Scope and content: Series consists of a daily log of Frank Charnley's sheep ranching activities on Barnston Island, November 20, 1970 – August 6, 1971. The log book also includes mathematical calculations.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Miscellaneous records.

1927-1974

3 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Series consists of miscellany collected by Frank Charnley including various brochures, publisher lists, constitution and by-laws of the Surrey Co-Operative Association, a bumper sticker, vehicle insurance records, scientific reports, and other miscellaneous items.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Photographs.

[ca. 1956-196-?]

12 photographs : b&w

Scope and content: Series consists of photographs taken of Frank Charnley, Beth Charnley, his daughter Frances, and an unidentified man at the Barnston Island home.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

University records.

1916-1924.

3 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Series consists of examinations and an essay (“The manufacture of sulphuric acid in the chamber process”) written by Frank Charnley while attending University of British Columbia.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Reports authored by Frank Charnley.

1933-1943.

1.5 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Consists of published reports authored by Frank Charnley on the subjects of fisheries, mathematics, and progress reports of the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo and the Pacific Fisheries Experimental Station in Prince Rupert. Several reports are published by the National Research Council of Canada.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

File list

Series: Correspondence

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-1	General correspondence (A-C)	1962-1974
1-2 to 3	Correspondence with Frances Christopherson	1959-1967
1-4	Christmas cards	[197-?]
1-5	Father's Day cards	[197-?]
1-6 to 7	Correspondence with Evelyn Fleischman	1966-1976
1-8	General correspondence (G-R)	1966-1973
1-9	Correspondence with Nora Reardon-Parker	1960-1976
1-10	Correspondence with Viola and Vlag family	1966-1976
1-11	Correspondence with publishers and other material	1960, 1975
3-5	Letters to daughter Frances	1956-1958
3-7	Correspondence	1961-1975
3-8	Correspondence, including a copy of <i>Le Devoir</i>	1962-1965
3-10	Correspondence	1956-1974
3-11	Correspondence	1961-1965

Series: Mathematical notes

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
2-1 to 2	Notes and calculations	1958-1976, predominant 1972- 1976
2-3	Unpublished articles	[197-?]

Series: Creative writing

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
2-5 to 6	Prose	[197-?]
2-7	Poetry	[197-?]

Series: Beekeeping records

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
2-8 to 9	Notes and information	[196-?]

Series: Sheep ranching records

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
2-4	Logbook	1970-1972

Series: Miscellaneous records

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
2-11	Assorted miscellany	1936, 1960-1974
3-3	Assorted reports related to work as a chemist	1927-1944
3-9	Receipts and vehicle insurance papers	1963-1965

Series: University records

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
3-1	Copies of examinations at the University of B.C.	1916-1924
3-2	“The manufacture of sulphuric acid by the chamber process.”	1923

Series: Reports authored by Frank Charnley

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
3-4	7 reports authored by Frank Charnley	1933-1943

Photograph list

Series: Photographs

Identifier	File (Box-file)	Title	Date
BC-2131-1	2-10	[Frank Charnley in front of hay barn]	[196-?]
BC-2131-2	2-10	[Frank Charnley pushing wheelbarrow]	[196-?]
BC-2131-3	2-10	[Frank Charnley working outside]	[196-?]
BC-2131-4	2-10	[Frank Charnley standing next to apiary]	[196-?]
BC-2131-5	2-10	[Frank Charnley standing with daughter Frances outside]	[196-?]
BC-2131-6	2-10	[Frances Christopherson sitting with man outside]	[196-?]
BC-2131-7	2-10	[Frank and man looking at barn]	[196-?]
BC-2131-8	2-10	[Frank and man standing next to barn]	[196-?]
BC-2131-9	2-10	Nora Reardon-Parker	[196-?]
BC-2131-10	3-6	Beth Charnley at work at table, Barnston Island	1957
BC-2131-11	3-6	Frank Charnley and daughter Frances on Barnston Island	[ca. 1956]
BC-2131-12	3-6	Frank Charnley at work, Barston Island	1957