

CHOCK ON, 1912-1983
AN INVENTORY OF THE FONDS

IN

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Title: Chock On Fonds

Date of creation: 1912 – 1983

Physical description: 26 cm of textual records, 3 photographs, 1 artifact

Administrative history:

Chock On, shortened from Wo Chock On Fong, was the name given to a house located at 359 East Pender Street, Vancouver, after it was bought by the Si Sing Company in approximately late 1920s. The Si Sing Company was formed by the Wo Surname Association in Vancouver for the purpose of raising funds to buy a house so that the Wo Surname Association members (mostly single men without a family) in Vancouver would have a low-rent place to stay. In 1930s, Chock On was also operated as a labour agency, mainly under the supervision of Wo Shou, contracting Chinese labours to various canneries along the B.C. coast. In 1980, Wo Chock On Fong raised funds among the Wo Surname Association members in Vancouver and published a special commemorative book to celebrate the half-a-century history of Chock On.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of the incoming correspondence of Wo Shou, Wo Sai Jik, and other members of the Wo Surname Association, mainly regarding cannery labour-related business and fundraising activities. It also consists of records and printed material relating to the native place issues in Canton, China, the Wo Surname Association in Canton and in B.C., Chock On business and other activities, and the local Chinese community.

Source of supplied title proper:

Title based on contents of fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition:

Purchased (on trade) from William Hoffer Bookseller, Vancouver, Nov. 27, 1986.

Language:

Most of the material in Chinese.

Series Descriptions

1. Correspondence series. (1929-1967)

Series consists of about 50 letters addressed to Chock On, 31 of which (1929-1933) directed to Wo Shou from Chock On's Chinese contractors (mostly members of the Wo Surname Association) at various canneries including Bones Bay Cannery, Pacific Salmon Cannery, and Oceania Cannery, 16 (1939-1946) directed to Wo Sai Jik relating to a fund-raising activity to help a murder investigation concerning a member of the Wo Surname Association, and a couple of letters (1955-1967) directed to other members of the Wo Surname Association.

2. Records series. (1912-1946)

Series consists of records relating to various issues of the native place of the Wo Surname Association in Canton, China, including landed and public properties, school fund-raising, and conflicts with people from other surname associations; and records relating to the Si Sing Company and Chock On business and other activities, including address books, income and expenses summary lists, fund-raising lists, share-holders' lists, receipts, and other miscellaneous material.

3. Printed material series. (1968-1983)

Series consists of 10 copies of a half-yearly journals published by Gee How Oak Tin Association, Vancouver, from 1973-1983, 1 special commemorative edition by Wo Chock On Fong in 1980, 3 Chinese year books of B.C. Mainland from 1968-1972, and other material relating to the Chinese community in B.C.

4. Photograph series. (1955-1959)

Series consists of 3 photographs, including 2 identical pictures of a Chinese man, dated Aug. 1959, and 1 picture of a three-generation Chinese family taken in Hong Kong, dated July 5, 1955.

5. Artifact series. ([194-?])

Series consists of a traditional Chinese bamboo brush pen with a cap, made in Canton, China.

File List

Box/Folder

Printed material series

1-1	Wo Chock On Fong special edition	1980
1-2	Gee How Oak Tin Association half-yearly journals	1973-1977
1-3	Gee How Oak Tin Association half-yearly journals	1978-1983
1-4	Chinese Year Book of B.C. Mainland	1968-1972
1-5	Coupons for free X-ray, H.S. Simonson Health Institute	[ca. 1960s]
Map Cabinet 13	1935 Calendar	1935
Map Cabinet 13	Name list, Ross Bay Cemetery, Victoria	June 25, 1961

Correspondence series

1-6	Covers	1929 - 1964
1-7	To Wo Shou	Sept. 26, 1929 - June 30, 1930
1-8	---	July 8, 1930 - May 16, 1933
1-9	---	May 18, 1933 - June 19, 1933
1-10	---	June 26, 1933
1-11	---	June 30, 1933 - Sept.18, 1933
1-12	---	Aug. 21, 1933 - Sept.18, 1933
1-13	---	[1929 - 1933]
1-14	---	[1929 - 1933]
1-15	To Wo Fung Tsok	Jan.15, 1930 - June 16, 1934
1-16	To Wo Sau	July 7, 1930 - May 19, 1933
1-17	To Wo Sai Jik	Sept.18, 1939 - Dec.16, 1939
1-18	---	Dec.27, 1939 - Jan.17, 1940
1-19	---	[Dec.1942] - Mar. 21, 1946
1-20	---	Mar.25, 1946 - Mar. 26, 1946
1-21	To Wo Tsiu Gam	Jan. 21, 1955
1-22	To Wo Sai Tsung	Jan. 19, 1967

Records series

2-1	Constitution of Nam On Lei Community Committee	February 1927
2-2	Landed property of the Wo Surname Association	1927
2-3	Public properties and taxes of the Wo Surname Association, Nam On Lei	1928
2-4	Donations for Si Sing School	Jan.- Mar. 1930
2-5	Wo Surname Association conflicts	1935
2-6	Address books	[ca. 1919]
2-7	Donations for Chock On	Sept. 1912
2-8	Share holder list	[191-?]
2-9	Locks and keys sign-out book	1919
2-10	Chock On income and expenses list	[193-?]
2-11	Si Sing Company income and expenses list	1935-1936
2-12	Unemployment relief vouchers	Mar.23 - Aug.17, 1936
2-13	Telephone bills	Nov. 1928 - April 1936
2-14	Invoices	1935-1936
2-15	Electronic power and gas bills	Oct. 1928 - April 1936
2-16	Immigration certificate of Woo Jung Woh	Mar. 6, 1919
2-17	Donation list	[191-?]
2-18	Donations for investigation of Wo Dak's murder	1939 - 1946
2-19	Student exercise books	[193-?]

Artifact series

2-20	Traditional Chinese brush pen	[194-?]
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Photograph series

BC-2003/1
BC-2003/2
BC-2003/3