

Leslie D. Copan

An inventory of the fonds

in

The Library of the University of British Columbia
Special Collections Division

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Leslie D. Capon Fonds

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Fonds Description

Leslie D. Copan Fonds. – 1957-1988.

0.30 m of textual records

The Leslie D. Copan fonds are made up of the shift record books (time books) and the work record books of Leslie Copan, written during the years 1957-1988. These record books provide detailed information about the working life of a longshoreman in British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

Born in 1926 in Victoria, B.C., Copan moved to the mainland in 1935. In 1942, at nearly 16 years of age, he enlisted in the Canadian Navy. Returning safely from World War II, Copan then worked at a variety of labour jobs, before being employed as a longshoreman by the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) in 1953. He worked primarily for three companies that operated under the umbrella of the BCMEA, including Canadian Stevedoring, Empire Shipping Company, and Western Stevedoring Company Limited. Employment on the waterfront meant being versatile, and Copan was trained in many different positions. These included lift truck operator, winch operator, hatch tender, checker, bull dozer operator, front end loader operator, wheat machine operator, dock gantry crane operator, switchman, locomotive engineer, straddle carrier, and linesman. In 1965 Copan became active in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, and was elected president of Local 501 the next year. He also served on the executive of the Canadian Area section of the same union, serving as vice-president and in 1979, as president. Leslie Copan retired in 1988.

The fonds consists of exercise books, cash books, journals, account books, record books and notebooks, all of which were used for essentially the same purpose. These books detailed Copan's daily activities (including shifts, positions and remuneration), in addition to which company he was working for. Two series have been created to reflect this information, and include time books and work record books. Series names are based on the titles Copan gave them.

The fonds were donated by Leslie D. Copan in October of 2005 and have remained in original order.

File lists available.

There are no restrictions to access.

No further accruals are expected.

Series Description

Time Book Series

The series consists of 15 time books, dating from 1957 to 1988. These books, which all serve the same function, are either exercise books, cash books, journals, account books, record books or notebooks. Copan divided each book up into sections in order to keep a detailed account of his activities throughout the years. Entries include date, company worked for, ship name and/or wharf/dock location, type of shift and payment amounts. Records within the series are arranged chronologically, in keeping with the original order of the donor.

Work Record Series

The series consists of 3 work record books, dating from 1985 to 1988. In August 1985, Copan began keeping more detailed notes on one particular position, that of linesman, and started a new series of notebooks to keep track of this information. Entries include the date, hour in which the shift started, wharf or port name, berth number, ship name, duration of shift, and type of activity (tying up, letting go or lead man). Records within the series are arranged chronologically, in keeping with the original order of the donor.

Legend of Abbreviations

Positions

BD	Bull Dozer
C	Checker
DG	Dock Gantry
FOL	Front End Loader
HT	Hatch Tender
L	Locomotive Engineer
LT	Lift Truck
S	Switchman
SC	Straddle Carrier
W	Winch
WM	Wheat Machine

Stevedoring Companies

C	Canadian Stevedoring
E	Empire Shipping Company
WE	Western Stevedoring Company Limited

Linesman Terminology

L/G	Let Go
L/H	Lead Hand
T/U	Tie Up

Shift Information

D	Day Shift
N	Night Shift, 1700-0800 hours
G	Graveyard Shift, double time shifts
ST	Straight Time (0800-1200, 1300-1700 hours)
OT	Overtime (1200-1300, 1700-0100 hours, Saturdays 0800-1200 hours)
DT	Double Time (Saturday 1700-0100 hours, Sundays and holidays)
SMH	Saturday Meal Hour

File List

Time Book Series

Box 1

- 1-1 Time Book 1 (1957)
- 1-2 Time Book 2 (January 1958 – October 1959)
- 1-3 Time Book 3 (November 1959 – June 1961)
- 1-4 Time Book 4 (June 1961 – December 1962)
- 1-5 Time Book 5 (January 1963 – June 1964)
- 1-6 Time Book 6 (July 1964 – February 1968)
- 1-7 Time Book 7 (March 1968 – November 1969)
- 1-8 Time Book 8 (November 1969 – April 1971)
- 1-9 Time Book 9 (May 1971 – December 1973)
- 1-10 Time Book 10 (January 1974 – November 1975)
- 1-11 Time Book 11 (December 1975 – May 1978)
- 1-12 Time Book 12 (June 1978 – April 1980)

Time Book Series

Box 2

- 2-1 Time Book 13 (May 1980 – March 1982)
- 2-2 Time Book 14 (April 1982 – December 1985)
- 2-3 Time Book 15 (January 1986 – September 1988)

Work Record Book Series

Box 2

2-4 Work Record Book 1 (August 1985 – August 1986)

2-5 Work Record Book 2 (August 1986 – June 1987)

2-6 Work Record Book 3 (June 1987 – August 1988)