

E. Tilford Fenton Fonds

Rare Books and Special Collections
University of British Columbia Library

Prepared by W. Wang Apr. 2009

Title: E. Tilford Fenton Fonds

Dates of creation: [between 1906 and 1915], predominant 1912-1915

Physical description: 30 cm of textual records

Biographical sketch:

E. Tilford Fenton was member of the Local 213 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and served as the Executive Board representative of the First District of the Pacific District Council of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers from March 1912 to October 1913. Fenton lived in Mission City, B.C. for some years. Fenton had been Local 213 President in 1911. On 26 October 1912, Fenton was re-elected as Executive board member. During Fenton's term of office, the Local 213 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was mostly devoted to improve working conditions and fight for the rights of local electrical workers.

Custodial history:

The fonds was collected by David Yorke who arranged for the transfer of the E. Tilford Fenton papers to the UBC Rare Books and Special Collections with the curator, George Brandak in November 2007. Some papers were acquired from a commercial source by David Yorke. The donation of papers is with the permission of Rich Dowling, the financial secretary of Local 213 of the I.B.E.W. A small number of the papers remain in the custody of David Yorke. In those cases, photocopies are kept in the archive files.

Scope and content:

Fonds consists of records reflecting Fenton's activities as the president of the Local 213 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in B.C. and the Executive Board representative of the First District of the Pacific District Council of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, spanning approximately from 1912 to 1913. These records are arranged in chronological order. Textual records in the fonds primarily consist of incoming correspondence from the U.S. to E. Tilford Fenton as the president of the I.B.E.W. in B.C., general circulars and reports from Pacific District Council, and administrative documents of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Personal correspondence of E. Tilford Fenton spans primarily from 1914 to 1915. These records are also arranged in chronological order.

The fonds is arranged into the following four series: office correspondence; general circulars; administrative documents; and personal correspondence.

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

Arrangement note: The documents were received in no specific order. Correspondence has been arranged in chronological order.

Language: Materials are in English.

Physical conditions: Some of the correspondence is illegible due to water damage.

Conservation: Paper clips and needles were removed. Partial of the personal letters of E. Tilford Fenton Fonds has water damage. Please handle all documents with care, especially the correspondence.

Finding aids: File lists available.

Associated material: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 213 Fonds at the UBC Rare Book and Special Collections.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Sources:

Yorke, David, "E. Tilford Fenton archive (IBEW Local 213)." (Available in accession file).

McDonald, Ian, "Class Conflict and Political Factionalism: A History of Local 213 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 1901 – 1961," M.A. thesis, Simon Fraser University, 1986.

Series Descriptions

A. Office correspondence. - 1912-1913. - 3 cm of textual records

Series consists of correspondence between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and E. Tilford Fenton of Local 213 union, documenting Local 213 union's involvement in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which primarily includes Fenton's participation in conducting the proceedings of the Executive Board by mail votes and considering requests of local and US unions for financial assistance. Series is arranged into two files: correspondence to E.T. Fenton 1912; correspondence to E.T. Fenton 1913.

Source of title proper: Title based on the contents of series

B. General circulars. - 1912-1913. - 20 cm of textual records

Series consists of the general circulars and reports from Pacific District Council to E. T. Fenton, president of the Vancouver, B.C. union, documenting the activities of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers primarily in the U.S., which includes reports of officials, decisions of the Executive Board and political campaigns in the U.S. and some activities in the BC locals. Series is arranged into two files: general circulars from P.D.C. 1912; general circulars from P.D.C. 1913.

Source of title proper: Title based on the contents of the series

C. Administrative documents. - [between 1912 and 1913]. - 5 mm of textual records

Series consists of administrative documents of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which contains a membership application form; an I.B.E.W. diagram; letterhead; and handwritten financial **documents**. Series is arranged into one file: administrative documents of the I.B.E.W.

Source of title proper: Title based on the contents of the series

D. Personal correspondence. - [between 1906 and 1915]. - 6.5 cm of textual records

Series consists of correspondence received by E. Tilford Fenton, which includes incoming personal letters that are mostly written from acquaintances in the US. One of the acquaintances requests information regarding land pre-emption. Series are arranged into two files: Undated personal correspondence; personal correspondence.

Source of title proper: Title based on the contents of the series

E. T. Fenton Fonds File list

Box #	Series	File title	File #	Dates	
1	A	<u>Correspondence to E.T. Fenton 1912</u>	1	Jan. 23 – May 22, 1912	
			2	May 27 – Dec. 27, 1912	
			<u>Correspondence to E.T. Fenton 1913</u>	3	Jan. 20 – Oct. 22, 1913
	B	<u>General circulars from P.D.C.1912</u>	4	[Mar. 28 – May 06, 1912]	
			5	May 27 – Aug. 02, 1912	
			6	Aug. 09 – Oct. 09, 1912	
			7	Oct. 21 – Dec. 12, 1912	
2		<u>General circulars from P.D.C. 1913</u>	1	Jan. 07 – Feb. 15, 1913	
			2	Feb. 18 – Apr. 4, 1913	
			3	Apr. 08 – Aug. 20, 1913	
			4	Sept. 1 – Oct. 20, 1913	
	C	<u>Administrative documents of the I.B.E.W.</u>	5	[between 1912 and 1913]	
	D	<u>Undated personal correspondence</u>	6	[between 1906 and 1915]	
				<u>Personal correspondence</u>	7
				8	Oct. 15 – Dec. 30, 1914
				9	Jan. 06 – June 17, 1915