

THOMAS MOORE WHAUN FONDS

INVENTORY

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES DIVISION
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY

Beth Pidblado, August 1991

Michele Hope, March 1996 (addition)

INTRODUCTION

Thomas Moore Whaun was born in Kwangtung, China on October 22, 1894. He emigrated to Canada in 1907, anglicizing his name from the Chinese Tung Mow Wong and becoming a Canadian citizen in 1950. Whaun led a career with the newspaper industry most of his life, being the advertising manager of the Canada Morning News from 1923 until its demise in 1929 and PR and Advertising Officer for the New Republic Daily from 1933 to 1973.

Whaun is best known for his work against racism. In 1923 he led a nation-wide letter writing campaign in the Vancouver Sun protesting the Canadian government's discriminatory legislation against Chinese immigration, the Chinese Exclusion Act. Whaun was the first non-white resident of West Vancouver, settling there in the 1930s. He was also the first Chinese-Canadian graduate of the University of British Columbia, receiving a bachelor's degree in humanities in 1927.

His letter writing protests to politicians, "bigwigs" and others continued throughout his life. Incidents of racism at the American border involving his daughter, June, and others of Chinese descent with Canadian citizenship fueled a wave of correspondence.

T. Moore Whaun died in 1985.

Scope: 26 cm

The Thomas Moore Whaun Papers (1914-1984) consist almost entirely of correspondence with "bigwigs", such as John Diefenbaker, Hugh Keenleyside, and Douglas Jung, friends, family and others. The correspondence is generally accompanied by newspaper clippings regarding the correspondent or the situation at hand. Diaries from the late 1970s and several photographs are also included.

THOMAS MOORE WHAUN PAPERS

BOX 1 [13 cm]

CORRESPONDENCE

Whaun's correspondence was found in several albums, portfolios, and files generally grouped together by correspondent or situation, although not kept strictly alphabetically. He filed both incoming and outgoing correspondence together, but no chronology was observed. Because some of the correspondence was filed in the pages of magazines and much of it was accompanied by newspaper clippings and notes, the original order has been retained rather than grouping it all together by correspondent. Some of the correspondence with "bigwigs" was not kept in the album labelled as such and can be found in the other files.

- 1-1/2 Correspondence re: world bigwigs
- 1-3 to Correspondence album #1
1-5
- 1-6/7 Correspondence album #2
- 1-8 Correspondence portfolio #1

BOX 2 [13 cm]

- 2-1 Correspondence portfolio #2
- 2-2 Correspondence file
- 2-3 Mainstream Fall 1981 with correspondence
Quarterly publication of the Chinese Cultural
Centre of Vancouver.

THOMAS MOORE WHAUN FONDS

An Inventory to

ADDENDA #1

March, 1996

Thomas Moore Whaun fonds.- 1955-1984; (predominant 1981-1983)
20 cm. of textual records (predominantly 20.5 x 28 cm. single leaf)
5 Oriental prints

Thomas Moore Whaun, 1893-1985, was born in Toi-Shan County, Kwangtung province in China on October 22, 1893. Whaun emigrated to Canada in 1907. He anglicised his name (from Tung Mow Wong) and became a Canadian citizen in 1950. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of British Columbia in 1927, the first Chine-Canadian to graduate from the university. His wife, Diamond, and he had three daughters (June, Patricia and Mayling). Whaun was employed as the advertising manager for The Canada Morning News from 1923 until its demise in 1929. He became the public relations manager and advertising officer of The New Republic Daily and worked there from 1933 until his retirement in 1973. Whaun was the first non-white to live in West Vancouver.

Consists primarily of correspondence of Thomas Whaun. Includes school notes and correspondence of his daughter, June Whaun, and oriental wall hangings.

The papers were donated to UBC Special Collections by Dr. June M. Whaun in 1995.

This material has been rearranged into strict chronological order as there was no evident internal organisation of the papers. There was no particular thematic or topical cohesion to the papers. Whaun writes letters on the reverse side of those which he has received and, also, on the back of apparently discarded papers and flyers. There are several duplicate letters within the collection. Further, many of the letters which Whaun wrote refer directly to the one that he is replying to either by an identification number or by the date. If these letters are not found within the same file folder, they will be found in the immediately adjacent file.

File Inventory available.

17 cm of textual material .- 1955 to 1984

This is the largest series within the fonds and consists of correspondence (both sent and received) that can be attributed to Thomas Moore Whaun. The letters are predominantly personal exchanges between Whaun and his friends and family.

This material was apparently gathered by his daughter June from Whaun's friends and family. It includes that which was in his possession at the time of his death.

June Mordina Whaun records

3 cm. of textual material .- 1950-1984; (predominant 1950-1951)

June M. Whaun is Thomas Whaun's eldest daughter. She received her MD at the University of British Columbia in 1960 and was admitted into the College of Physicians and Surgeons (FRCP) in 1966. During the 1970's, she was a professor and director of the oncology program at the University of Calgary. Sometime during the early 1980's, June was appointed to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the United States army. With this appointment, she started work as a pediatrician-hematologist at the Walter Reed Institute of Research in Washington, D.C.

The series consists of school notes and a few letters created by June.

10 cm. of graphic material .- [198-?]; China

4 scrolled wall hangings; 3 colour 1 b & w

1 reproduction segment; colour

The series consists of five oriental prints, four of which are scrolled wall hangings, the fifth print is a segment of a larger piece.

The wall hangings may have been purchases by Thomas Whaun during his trip to the People's Republic of China during the fall of 1981. It is possible that the segment has been cut from a calendar. The first three scrolls have been supplied a title based on the subjects depicted on the scrolls themselves. The fourth scroll had a title written in pencil on verso. The physical condition of the scrolls is deteriorating - there are tears in the paper and the wooden dowels/scrolls are becoming separated from the artwork itself.

Correspondence for the year January 1984 to December 1984 .- 42 leaves

Consists of 42 letters to and from Whaun on diverse subjects, including Whaun's views on racial and sexual inequalities and prejudices.

UBC Alumni Chronicle .- vol. 34, no. 3 .- textual material .- Autumn 1979 .-The Alumni Association of the University of British Columbia .- 24 page magazine

This magazine was found among the donated T. Whaun papers. It has been designated as a sub-series of June Whaun as the issue highlights her appointment to the Walter Reed Army Institute.

ISSN 0041-4999

THOMAS MOORE WHAUN - FILE INVENTORY

Box 3

- 3-1 Correspondence (1955-1967)
- 3-2 Correspondence (1968-1969)
- 3-3 Correspondence (1970-1973)
- 3-4 Correspondence (1974-1977)
- 3-5 Correspondence (1978-1979)
- 3-6 Correspondence (1980)
- 3-7 Correspondence (1981)

Box 4

- 4-1 Correspondence (1982)
- 4-2 Correspondence (1983)
- 4-3 Correspondence (1984)
- 4-4 Correspondence (Re: Kuomintang; 1969-1973)
- 4-5 Correspondence (Chinese, undated)
- 4-6 Correspondence
 - sub-series: printed material
 - UBC Alumni Chronicle (Winter 1979)
- 4-7 June Mordina Whaun
- 4-8 June Mordina Whaun
 - sub-series: printed material
 - UBC Alumni Chronicle (Autumn 1979)

Box 5

- 5-1 Oriental prints - Chinese lady with vendor
- 5-2 Oriental prints - Genie with young boy
- 5-3 Oriental prints - Two Genies
- 5-4 Oriental prints - Herb Gatherers
- 5-5 Oriental prints - Kapok Scene