

**Dr. Robert Mathison (1865-1954)**  
**R. Mathison Printing collection (1886-1890)**

**An Inventory of the Collection Held in Rare Books and Special Collections,  
University of British Columbia Library**

**Prepared by:**

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## Description

**Title:** R. Mathison, Printing collection.

**Dates:** (1886-1890)

**Extent:** 2 cm.

**Custodial History:** All items acquired from Stephen C. Lunsford, Rare Books Maps Manuscripts, in February of 2009.

**Scope and Content:** The R. Mathison Printing collection contains examples of printing work in Vancouver. It dates from the years 1886-1890. The collection features stationary material, business cards, and advertisements, for many early businesses in Vancouver. The R. Mathison style is flamboyant; decorative borders, and a multiplicity of fonts, are found throughout the collection. In 1890 Robert Mathison sold the printing business to E. W. Evans and T. W. Hastings who changed the name, and established, the now well known, Evans & Hastings.

**Biography:** Robert Mathison was born in Toronto 20 July 1865. As a young man he moved to Vancouver in March of 1886 and immediately got a job working at the Weekly Herald as a printer. Mathison opened his own printing business in Vancouver in July of 1886. He opened his printing business directly after the fire of June 1886; the fire was responsible for effectively destroyed the fledgling city of Vancouver (including three print shops).

After the sale of R. Mathison, The Printer, business, Mathison travelled to Philadelphia Pennsylvania where he attended the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery. Upon his return to British Columbia Dr. Mathison practiced dentistry in Greenwood and Kelowna from [1901-1944].

While a businessman in Vancouver, Mathison was active in the community, and a member of the Vancouver Board of Trade. In 1949 the Vancouver Board of Trade celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as the only surviving charter member Dr. Mathison was invited to give a speech. He passed away in Vernon in March of 1954.

**Further Research:** Please note that further information can be found on Robert Mathison; see the Dr. Robert Mathison fonds at the Kelowna Museum Archives. At the City of Vancouver Archives the Major Matthews collection contains several photographs of Robert Mathison and a file on Dr. Robert Mathison, dentist, which includes records relating to his early printing business.

Collection consists of the following series:

1. R. Mathison, The Job Printer, promotional material and business stationary (1886-1890)
2. Business cards printed by R. Mathison, The Job Printer (1886-1890)
3. Other materials printed by R. Mathison, The Job Printer (1886-1890)

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

**Finding Aid:** File list available, collection is catalogued. [Call Number: , RBSC Portfolio]

### **File List**

#### **R. Mathison, The Job Printer, promotional material, business stationary and related documents**

- 1-1) Advertisement, Mathison, The Printer (Vancouver: R. Mathison The Job Printer ca. 1888)
- 1-2) Wall calendar, R. Mathison Jr., Practical Job Printer (Vancouver: R. Mathison The Job Printer 1886)
- 1-3) Window advertisement, Mathison, The Printer (Vancouver: R. Mathison The Job Printer ca. 1889)
- 1-4) Black and silver New Years greeting card from R. Mathison, Jr., The Printer (Vancouver: R. Mathison The Job Printer ca. 1888)
- 1-5) Notice: Gentlemen Having Nothing but Ideas to Exchange will Call Later (Vancouver: R. Mathison The Job Printer ca. 1888)
- 1-6) Advertisement, City – Printing – House, A letter to the Citizens of Vancouver (Vancouver: R. Mathison The Job Printer ca. 1886)
- 1-7) Advertisement, R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer, Come and see our water motor at work (Vancouver: R. Mathison The Job Printer ca. 1886)
- 1-8) Blank receipt, R. Mathison, The Printer (Vancouver: R. Mathison The Printer 1890)
- 1-9) Promotional card, City Printing House, R. Mathison, Jr. (Vancouver: R. Mathison The Printer ca. 1887)
- 1-10) Blank letterhead, R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer (Vancouver: R. Mathison Jr. The Job Printer ca. 1887)
- 1-11) Advertisement, R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer (R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer ca. 1887)
- 1-12) Letter dictated by R. Mathison, Jr., on The Job Printer letterhead (R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer 1890)
- 1-13) Another New Firm: Notice of the sale of R. Mathison, The Job Printer business to E. W. Evans and T. W. Hastings; the new business will be called Evans & Hastings (Vancouver: *Vancouver Daily World* Aug. 9, 1890)

#### **Other materials printed by R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer**

- 1-14) Strawberry Festival Poster, June 14 & 15, 1889 (Vancouver: R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer 1889)
- 1-15) The Colonial Hotel Menu and Wine List (Vancouver: R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer ca. 1888)
- 1-16) The Gold House, Dinner Menu (Vancouver: R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer ca. 1888)

- 1-17) The Gold House, blank Breakfast Menu (Vancouver: R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer ca. 1888)
- 1-18) The Hub Dining Room, Short Order Menu (Vancouver: R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer ca. 1887)
- 1-19) Vancouver Wharfage and Storage Company, blank letterhead (Vancouver: R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer ca. 1887)
- 1-20) Coal Harbor Bachelor's Quadrille Club, blank invitation to a meeting (Vancouver: R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer 1887)
- 1-21) The City Music & Fine Art Gallery, advertisement (Vancouver: R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer ca. 1888)
- 1-22) Vancouver Glee and Madrigal Society, concert programme for April 19, 1887 (Vancouver: R. Mathison, Jr., The Job Printer 1887)
- 1-23) Vancouver's Jubilee Celebration July 1 & 2, 1887, program of events (Vancouver: R. Mathison, The Printer, 1887)
- 1-24) The London House, Chas. H. Strutt & Co., announcement of a new dry goods store, Spring 1889 (Vancouver: R. Mathison, The Printer 1889)
- 1-25) The Citizen's Banquet to His Worship Mayor MacLean; includes: invitation, wine list, menu and toast list, December 31, 1887 (Vancouver: Mathison, The Printer 1887)
- 1-26) John S. Adams Professor of Music and City Music and Pianoforte Gallery, advertisement (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1887)
- 1-27) Tait & Gray, receipt (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1887)
- 1-28) Coquitlam Water Works Co'y, draft copy, with revisions, of proposal to the City of Vancouver (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1886)
- 1-29) O'Toole & Ralph, dealers in Stoves and Tinware, printed envelope (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1888)
- 1-30) Henry V. Edmonds' Price List of Lots in the Sub-Division of Lot 301, August 15, 1890 (Vancouver: Mathison, The Printer 1890)
- 1-31) To be raffled, A case of 62 elegant stuffed birds, raffle ticket (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1888)
- 1-32) Raffle, at the City Hotel, raffle ticket, March 10, 1888 (Vancouver: [Mathison] 1888)
- 1-33) Regina Lodge, No. 276, Social Ball and Supper, admittance ticket, December 31, 1888 (Vancouver: [Mathison] 1888)
- 1-34) Regina Lodge, No. 276, Grand Social Ball, announcement of event to be held New Years Eve, Monday December 31, 1888 (Vancouver: [Mathison] 1888)
- 1-35) Ice Cream at Graves Bros' Confectionery (Vancouver: Mathison, The Printer ca. 1888)
- 1-36) Vancouver Electric Illuminating Co'y, notice of share levy, October 8, 1887 (Vancouver: [Mathison] 1887)
- 1-37) Canadian Pacific Railway and Steamship Line Time Table, 1890 (Vancouver: Mathison, The Printer 1890)
- 1-38) Canadian Pacific Steamship Co., Proposed sailings of S. S. Danube (Vancouver: Mathison, The Printer ca. 1890)

**Business cards printed by R. Mathison**

- 1-39)** Hop Yick Drug Store (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1890)
- 1-40)** Tong Yuen Laundry (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1890)
- 1-41)** The West End Meat Market, Broad & Nevard Family Butchers (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1888)
- 1-42)** The Cabinet, choice wines, liquors and cigars, F. McLennan proprietor (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1887)
- 1-43)** Case & Inwood, Real Estate and Insurance (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1887)
- 1-44)** M. W. Freure, Watchmaker and Jeweler (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1886)
- 1-45)** George Inwood, dealer in books, stationary, candies and fruits (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1890)
- 1-46)** Geo. O. Ouellet, agent for the Singer Manufacturing Co. (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1888)
- 1-47)** Pacific Steam Laundry, W. A. Smith & Co., white labor only (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1887)
- 1-48)** Wm. Perkins, Wholesale and Retail Dealer and Commission Salesman of farm and garden produce (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1889)
- 1-49)** Seitz & Co., Real Estate and General Agents (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1887)
- 1-50)** Senate Saloon, A. H. Revsbech proprietor, G. A. Whitehead manager (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1890)
- 1-51)** G. F. Slater, Manufacturer and Wholesale Dealer in Red Cedar Shingles, Red Cedar Lumber (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1890)
- 1-52)** Stringham & Cooper, Sign Writers and Painters (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1888)
- 1-53)** B. E. Teetzel, Merchant Tailor (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1886)
- 1-54)** Abrams & McLean, Vancouver Clothing Store (Vancouver: [Mathison] ca. 1887)