

# Wilhelm J. Maier fonds

Compiled by Jean Beck (1987)  
Revised by Erwin Wodarczak (2004)

University of British Columbia Archives



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



# Table of Contents

- **Fonds Description**
  - Title / Dates of Creation / Physical Description
  - Biographical Sketch
  - Custody History
  - Scope and Content
  - Notes
- **File List**
- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)]

# Fonds Description

**Wilhelm J. Maier fonds.** - 1919-1976.

36 cm of textual records.

## Biographical Sketch

Wilhelm J. Maier was born in Innsbruck, Austria, on January 17, 1893. Educated in Austria and Germany, he received an engineering diploma in 1914. He served in the First World War from 1914 to 1918 in the Tiroler Kaiserjäger Regiment of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Married in 1917, Maier and his first wife Melanie had a son (who would later die in the Second World War) and a daughter. He was divorced in 1928, and re-married the following year. He worked in Dresden for several years before joining camera-makers Voigtländer & Sohn in 1926, where he did optical work which resulted in a patent being granted in 1929. In 1932 Maier joined I.G. Farben in Munich, later worked with an optical firm in Munich, and from 1938 to 1946 returned to work for Voigtlander. He emigrated to Canada in 1949, and later that year joined the Department of Physics at the University of British Columbia. He was employed as a technician in that department until his retirement in 1961, building some excellent equipment and earning a reputation as a skilled technician. In 1951 he earned a second patent for a *Kamera mit gekuppelten Entfernungsmesser* (camera with coupled rangefinder). After his retirement he moved to Galiano Island, where he lived with his wife Alice until his death in 1986.

## Custodial History

The materials were donated to the University Archives by Maiers widow Alice Louise Maier in 1986.

## Scope and Content

Fonds consists of textual materials which document Wilhelm Maiers professional activities and interests, along with some related to his activities after his retirement. It includes technical manuals, journals and other publications, correspondence, technical diagrams, patent drawings, home workshop information, and correspondence school materials. Much of the material is written in German.

## Notes

File list available.

# File List

## Box 1

- 1-1 Publications (German)  
Mathematik-Skelett, Leipzig; Technisches Taschenbuch Allgemeines, Baurat;  
Mikroskopie für Jedermann, Stuttgart; Wirklichkeit und Marschenzauber,  
Salzburg 1947
- 1-2 Publications (German)  
Die Hirt-Methode, Zürich; Bayer-Berichte; Tätigkeitsbericht, Düsseldorf  
1975-78
- 1-3 Publications (German)  
25 Wohnlauben und Kleinlaufer, Berlin; Voigtlander Post [company  
magazine]; Photo Prisma 1950-63
- 1-4 Publications (German)  
Tiroler Tageszeitung, Innsbruck [commemorating 800-year anniversary of the  
founding of Innsbruck, Austria] 1980
- 1-5 International Correspondence Schools - Freelance Writing for Fun and Profit  
– Exercises 1969-70
- 1-6 International Correspondence Schools - Radio and Television Servicing -  
Exercises [n.d.]
- 1-7 Laboratory Exercises in Geometrical Optics [n.d.]
- 1-8 Voco El nenio - Novelo de W.J. Maier [story written in Esperanto] 1975
- 1-9 Home workshop patterns, diagrams, formulae [n.d.]
- 1-10 Material regarding Galiano Is. cottage - diagrams, printed material, clippings,  
notes [n.d.]
- 1-11 Correspondence re. Canada, other correspondence and official records,  
clippings, diagrams (most in German) 1940-73
- 1-12 Diagrams, photos of equipment, photocopies [n.d.]

- 1-13 Correspondence, etc. (German) 1945-46
- 1-14 KFW Nachrichten - clippings, diagrams, typescripts, blueprint 1929-47
- 1-15 Patentschrift - copies and reprints; Patentbeschreibung - diagrams, list 1924-47
- Box 2
- 2-1 Patentschrift, Wilhelm Maier, Vancouver (Kanada) - diagrams, table photos of equipment, metal template 1936-51
- 2-2 Diagrams, blueprints - Designs, University of B.C. 1949-61
- 2-3 Diagrams, lists, typescripts, reprints, clippings, photocopies, formulae - Techn. Unterlagen / Allg. Abhandlungen 1941-48
- 2-4 Photograph album containing labelled clippings and photographs of equipment 1919-42
- 2-5 Diagrams of camera equipment [originally inside back cover of album] 1948
- 2-6 Diagrams of camera equipment [originally in a tube with label: Obering. Wilhelm Maier/Braunschweig-GI/Berlinerstraße 49] 1948