

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Dorse McTaggart fonds (RBSC- ARC-1714)

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Dorse McTaggart fonds

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Summary information

Repository: University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Title: Dorse McTaggart fonds

ID: RBSC-ARC-1714

Date: [1961] – [197-] (date of creation)

Physical description: ca. 1700 photographs and other material

**Dates of creation,
revision and deletion:**

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Dorse McTaggart was a professional photographer best known for his images of British Columbia and his postcard business, active in the 1960s and 1970s. His photographs were also published in magazines, calendars, and similar publications. He won several awards for his photography and was the first accredited “scenic” photographer in North America. As a tribute to his contributions the Professional Photographers of British Columbia established the Dorse McTaggart Memorial Trophy. This trophy is awarded each year to the photographer who takes the best scenic photograph.

McTaggart was born in Saskatchewan and moved to B.C. in 1949. He established his postcard business, Scenes by Dorse, in 1963. Dorse printed the cards on his own printing press.

Custodial history

Materials were previously held by Walter Lanz, a professional photographer who purchased Dorse’s postcard business and other photographic material after Dorse passed away. Walter printed postcards under the name Oak House Publishing.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records relating to the landscape and postcard photography of Dorse McTaggart. McTaggart owned and operated his own postcard business. His photographs and postcards feature scenes from throughout British Columbia, including mountains and other nature scenes, parks, towns, historic sights and landmarks, recreation, bridges, museums, and industrial sites. Dorse’s photography went beyond this subject matter, including portraits and weddings, but this material is not included in the fonds. Materials in the fonds include negatives, transparencies, photographic prints, and published postcards, which represent the various stages of postcard production. It appears that Dorse produced many of his

postcards by shooting on 4x5 film, then creating a 4x5 film positive from which to print the postcard on his own printing press. The fonds also includes a journal kept by Dorse in which he wrote down brief descriptions of photographs that he took, marketing books that he used to show his postcards to potential buyers, and a small amount of correspondence and other textual records.

Items have been arranged into five series that maintain the organization they had when received by Rare Books and Special Collections. It is not clear if this organization was that of Dorse, Walter, or a combination of both.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the contents of the fonds.

Related material

Whistler Museum and Sechelt Community Archives also hold copies of his postcards and photographs.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Physical description:** Includes 769 postcards. - 2.7 cm of textual records. - 12 prints. - 5 booklets
- **Physical description:** Photographs includes negatives, slides, transparencies, and prints.

Series descriptions

Slides

Date: 1965 - 1977 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of color 35 mm slides shot by Dorse throughout British Columbia. Most of the slides have a date stamp on them, in addition to a four digit identification number. Generally, slides with the same four digit number also have the same date. No known documentation exists for these numbers however. The slides came to Rare Books and Special Collections in slide boxes that were mostly grouped by these numbers and by dates, but were not arranged in numerical or chronological order. The slides have been re-housed for preservation purposes, but this original grouping and arrangement has been maintained.

Physical description: 808 photographs : col. slides ; 35 mm

Note:

BC-2169/001-024

<u>Publication status:</u>				
published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-001	File - August 1970: southern BC interior	August 1970		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-002	File - October 1973: Kootenay Trout Hatchery and northern BC	October 1973		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-003	File - July 1974: Vancouver, Fort Steele, and mountain scenes	July 1974		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-004	File - September 1969: Thompson Okanagan region	September 1969		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-005	File - January 1973: Unidentified and North Vancouver mountains	January 1973		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-006	File - August 1971: EC Manning Park and Hell's Gate	August 1971		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-007	File - July 1973: mountain scenes	July 1973		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-008	File - August 1972: Northern BC	August 1972		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-009	File - June 1970: Canim Falls, newborn animals	June 1970		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-010	File - September 1972: Yellowhead Highway and mountain scenes	September 1972		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-011	File - July 1971: Hudson's Hope	July 1971		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-012	File - August 1974: Mountains and Skeena River Boats	August 1974		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-013	File - August 1969: Cariboo region and northern BC	August 1969		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-014	File - August 1973: Northern BC	August 1973		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-015	File - July 1970: Unidentified lake(s) and town	July 1970		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-016	File - June 1972: Town on bay	June 1972		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-017	File - May 1971: Brandywine Falls, mountains, and floral conservatory	May 1971		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-018	File - May 1970: Unidentified town, forest and mountain scenes	May 1970		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-019	File - October 1969: [Kamloops] area	October 1969		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-020	File - March 1977: Stanley Park and mountain scenes	March 1977		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-021	File - February 1970: Oil field, church, city on river	February 1970		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-022	File - March 1973: Vancouver	March 1973		
RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-023	File - November 1974: Historic marker and wildflowers	November 1974		

RBSC-ARC-1714-BC-2169-024	File - Miscellaneous dates	1965 - 1977		
Prints, negatives, and transparencies				
<u>Date:</u> [196-] - [197-] (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content:</u>				
<p>Series consists of negatives, prints, and transparencies of Dorse's images, featuring scenes from around British Columbia. Material is arranged in folders that maintain their original grouping, order, and labeling. It is not clear if this grouping was that of Dorse or Mr. Lanz. Most folders are identified by the place shown in the images.</p> <p>Items have been removed from their original envelopes and re-housed for preservation purposes. Any information that was on the original envelopes is included in the file descriptions.</p>				
<u>Physical description:</u> 930 photographs : negatives, transparencies, and prints. - 16 p. of textual records. - 1 postcard				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
published				
<u>Physical description:</u>				
Photographs and negatives (BC-2169/025-093) are stored in the vault, separate from the textual records.				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-01	File - Hell's Gate	[ca. 197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-02	File - Kootenay Trout Hatchery	[1973]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-03	File - Evans Lake and unnamed lake	1976		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-04	File - B&W prints of cards	[ca. 197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-05	File - Fort Steele Show, 1974	1974		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-06	File - Koot[enay] 5x7	[ca. 1972]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-07	File - Bella Coola 73	1973		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-08	File - Dukhobor	[ca. 197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-09	File - Barkerville	June 25, 1966		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-10	File - Archival negs	December 8, 1965		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-11	File - Bowron Lake Chain	September 12, 1975		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-12	File - [Barkerville]	[ca. 197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-13	File - Watson Lake	[ca. 197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-14	File - Heritage Village	1974		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-15	File - YM and SC 35mm negs	[196-] - [197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-16	File - Wildlife Museum	[ca. 197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-17	File - SC color negs [aerial mountain shots]	[ca. 197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-18	File - Fort George Museum	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-19	File - Kitimat and Babine	[1975]		

RBSC-ARC-1714-1-20	File - Fort St. James	1969
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-21	File - Kitimat 1974	1974
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-22	File - Indian funeral, Fort Babine and Old Fort	1972
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-23	File - Prince Rupert	[1972]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-24	File - Archival – Telkwa	[1971]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-25	File - Reproduction of cartoon	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-26	File - Dawson city letter and negs	[ca. 1972]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-27	File - Queen of Tsawwassen	[1977]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-28	File - Vancouver	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-29	File - Vancouver	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-30	File - Vancouver South Side	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-31	File - PNE 1973	1973
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-32	File - Stock-Useless	[ca. 1969 – 1976]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-33	File - Vancouver Island	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-34	File - 35 mm negs of 4 x 5 [inch negs]	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-35	File - Trees	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-36	File - Hunlen [Falls]	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-37	File - Lonesome Lake	1973 - 1974
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-38	File - [Central BC 1974]	[ca. 1974]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-39	File - Cariboo '74	1974
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-40	File - Barkerville show	June 1972
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-41	File - Balfour	1970
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-42	File - Boston Bar Cable Ferry	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-43	File - Oasis Hotel	September 1975
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-44	File - Prince George City Hall	July 2, 1976
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-45	File - Britannia Mine	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-46	File - Sunshine Coast	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-47	File - Peace River – Bennett Dam	1971
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-48	File - Kitimat, 1974	[ca. 1974]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-49	File - Bowron Lakes	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-50	File - Kootenay Canoes	[ca. 1975]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-51	File - Quesnel archival	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-52	File - Hell's Gate	[ca. 1966 – 1967]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-53	File - Vancouver Mountains	[ca. 197-]
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-54	File - 1976 Productions	1976

Photograph journal

Date: 1961 - 1977 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of pages from a binder which Dorse used to keep track of the photographs that he took. The series is arranged into files based on the physical arrangement of papers within the binder as well as by function. The material has been removed from its original housing (a small leather binder) for preservation purposes. The order of pages in the binder has been maintained.

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-55	File - Photograph journal entries	1961 - 1977		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-56	File - Photograph consent forms and letter	1964 - 1965		

Postcard marketing books

Date: [1961] - [197-] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of three books of postcards that were likely used to show postcards to potential buyers or distributors. Two of them have cards made by Dorse, while one is a book of cards made by a different company. They are all spiral bound.

Physical description: 226 postcards : col. – 3 p. of textual records

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-57	File - Scenes by Dorse postcard book, British Columbia	[1961] – [197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-58	File - Scenes by Dorse postcard book, Kootenay Region	[1961] – [197-]		
RBSC-ARC-1714-1-59	File - Traveltime Stock Post Cards book	[1961] - [197-]		

Postcards

Date: [1961] – [197-] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of postcards from British Columbia. The majority of the postcards have images taken by Dorse and/or printed by Dorse, but there are also some printed by Walter Lance, and some that were collected either by Dorse or Walter. Most of the postcards have an identification number on them which seems to be based on the image used and the size of the card. Similarly formatted numbers can be found on some of the items found in the “Prints, negatives, and transparencies” series of this fonds, and it is likely that these correspond to postcards. The series is arranged into files that reflect Walter’s arrangement and labeling of the cards, generally by town or region.

Physical description: 543 postcards. – 5 booklets. – 12 prints on 1 sheet : col.

Publication status:

published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-01	File - Dorse award winning photo			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-02	File - Fraser canyon			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-03	File - Hope-Princeton			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-04	File - Cariboo-Chilcotin			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-05	File - Barkerville			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-06	File - Prince George			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-07	File - Yellowhead			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-08	File - Prince Rupert			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-10	File - Sunshine Coast			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-11	File - Whistler-Lillooet			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-12	File - West Kootenay			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-13	File - East Kootenay			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-14	File - Fort Steele			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-15	File - Other 1970s photographers			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-16	File - Dorse scenes reproduced [by Walter]			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-17	File - All my [Walter's] 4x6 cards			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-19	File - North Pacific Cannery			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-20	File - Ellis Anderson of Creston			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-21	File - Other			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-22	File - Found in Dorse's stuff			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-09	File - Stewart – Cassiar – Nass			
RBSC-ARC-1714-2-18	File - Dan Lyon, Nelson			