

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - George Gee fonds (RBSC-ARC-1210)

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University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

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George Gee fonds

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Summary information

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

Title: George Gee fonds

ID: RBSC-ARC-1210

Date: 1940-2013. (date of creation)

Physical description: 82 cm of textual material.
40 photographs
.2 cm. micrographic copies

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

**Note
[sourcesDescription]:**

Biography and custodial history found in the accession record. Additional information taken from the finding aid: George Gee, 1908 – 1987: An inventory of records and papers in The Library of the University of British Columbia Special Collections and University Archives Division. Prepared by James Bowman, January 1993.

Note [generalNote]:

A new finding aid was prepared in November 2009 by graduate students in the MAS/LIS at SLAIS, UBC. The arrangement was kept as it was found except for the omission of the first series, which contained two files: a biographical sketch created by the archivist, and a newspaper clipping about the passing of George Gee. This finding aid was then updated in October 2017 by MAS/MLIS graduate student Claire Williams to reflect the new accrual.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

George Gee was born on July 22, 1908 in Virden, Manitoba, where he lived with his parents and 9 brothers and sisters. After his father's death in 1909, the family's financial situation worsened until foreclosure forced the family to scatter across Canada in search of employment. Gee stayed in Manitoba working as a labourer until the stock market crash of 1929 forced him into the ranks of the unemployed. He then moved to Princeton, British Columbia to join his brothers. While in Princeton, Gee and his brothers supported themselves with odd jobs and George increasingly came under the influence of his brother Bill, who had joined the communist party in 1932. He also became affiliated with well-known communist organizer Arthur "Slim" Evans while helping with the Tulameen Coal Miner's Strike in 1933. In March of 1934, Gee married Lillian Smith-Mitchell of Princeton, B.C. Gee left Princeton in 1935

and took a job with Peterson Electric in Vancouver, B.C. Soon after, Gee was laid off and joined the communist party. In 1936, he left Vancouver for Seattle, Washington where he found steady work and joined the Local 77 chapter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.). In 1937, Gee moved back to Vancouver and worked for B.C. Electric. This same year, George and Lillian had their first daughter, Joyce. The Gee family welcomed their second daughter (Shirley) in 1939. On August 4, 1939, he began his career with the Local 213 of the I.B.E.W, where he went on to serve as a business agent from 1946-1955. During these years, the Gees had two more children, a daughter (Bonnie) and a son (James). Gee was expelled from the union in 1955 due to his political affiliation, where after he returned to his job at B.C. Electric (from which he had taken a leave of absence from 1946 on). After only working a half-day, Gee was fired because of his expulsion from the I.B.E.W. Five days later, close to 300 electrical workers walked off the job in protest to Gee's dismissal. From the date of his firing in 1955 until 1957, Gee made a series of attempts within the I.B.E.W. to be reinstated. The attempts all failed and were eventually followed by a trial in the Supreme Court, which rejected Gee's charges against the I.B.E.W. After Gee's defeat in The Supreme Court, he ran a small heating business called G&B Heating until 1960, when he, his wife Lilian, and their son James moved to Edmonton, Alberta. He worked there as the western representative for The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (U.E.). In 1967 Gee moved back to Vancouver, B.C., and continued to fulfil this position until his retirement in 1974. By 1974, The Gees purchased property in Davis Bay, Sechelt. Gee was actively involved in political affairs, civic affairs and was one of the founding members of the Sechelt Communist Party.

Custodial history

Fonds was donated by Joyce F. Gee, daughter of George Gee, in July of 1992. The second accession, an accrual, was also donated by Joyce Gee in the fall of 2016, after she obtained the files from Library Archives Canada in 2013.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of correspondence, financial records, legal documents, subject files, surveillance files, and printed material relating mainly to the union activities of George Gee as a business agent for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Vancouver Local 213, his expulsion from the union by an international representative of the union, and his attempts to be re-instated.

Notes

Title notes

Physical condition

Handwritten, mimeographic, and typewritten documents have faded. Several documents have become embrittled due to paper acidity.

Immediate source of acquisition

Both accessions were immediately acquired from Joyce Gee, daughter of George Gee.

Arrangement

The fonds comprises two accessions, the first of which was donated in 1992. This accession spans boxes 1 to 3. The finding aid is available in this database and is a re-description of the original 1993 finding aid. There is no indication in the original finding aid or accession material regarding order. It is conjecture that the arranging archivist, except where it is noted at the series level, imposed order on the files. The second accession, an accrual, was donated in 2016, and the finding aid in this database has been updated to reflect this. In the 2016 accrual, physical order has been maintained by the archivist, and is reflected in the intellectual order described in the above series.

Finding aids

File list available.

Related material

See also the Arthur H. Evans fonds and the Lily Greene fonds

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

Access points

- Communist Party of Canada (subject)
- Labour (subject)
- Unions (subject)

Series descriptions

Printed materials: pamphlets and broadsides.

Date: 1955 – 1987. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series consists of pamphlets, brochures, cartoon fliers and mass addressed letters relating to the charges against George Gee, his dismissal from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.), and the public reaction to the events.

Physical description: 0.7 cm of textual records.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-1	File - In defense of my right to work	1955		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-2	File - Union wreckers linked to RCMP	1956		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-3	File - 2 cartoons	[1955-1957?]		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-4	File - To the delegates to the Canadian Labour Congress	[1956?]		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-5	File - The case of George Gee	1955		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-6	File - Dear friends and brothers	1956-1957		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-01	File - [Biographical sketch, timeline, newspaper articles]	1955-1987		

Financial records.

Date: 1945 – 1974 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series consists of financial records for the businesses that George Gee represented as a Business Agent for the Union. This series consists of bank and taxation receipts, court documents, Northern Gem Mining Corporation shareholder documents, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers notices and shareholder documents, G. & B. Heating Ltd. documents and financial statements, electrical contractor certificate documents, letters, forms, property assessment and sales agreement, Workmen's Compensation Boards claim documents, and British Columbia Electric Co. pension documents.

Physical description: 7.8 cm of textual records.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-7	File - Personal: miscellaneous	1955-1958		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-8	File - Northern Gem Mining Corporation Ltd.	1955-1957		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-9	File - Live Wire Publishing Co. Ltd. and Electrical Estates Ltd.	1961		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-10	File - G&B Heating Ltd. and George Gee Construction	1956-61		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-(11-15)	File - 4248 McGill Street, agreement for sale 2641 E. 46th Ave, tax notices (Coquitlam)	1945-1974		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-16	File - Workmen's Compensation Board	1956-1971		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-17	File - B.C. Electric Co. pension	1955-1960		

Correspondence.

Date: 1951 – 1973. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains correspondence pertaining to various labour-related union issues, including notes, notifications and attachments. Correspondents include British Columbia Labour Relations Board, Fred W. Smelts Associates Ltd., International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Board of Directors of Electrical Estates Limited, Wireman, Copper Mountain Miners' Union, Vancouver Civic Employees Union, United Fisherman and Allied Workers' Union, International Association of Machinists Lodge No. 876, International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union Local 507 British Columbia, and the Brotherhood of Paper Mill Workers.

Physical description: 2.6 cm of textual records.
0.4 cm of micrographic records.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-18	File - Letter from labour relations board	1951		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-19	File - Correspondence, re: trusteeship of IBEW	1955-1956		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-20	File - Correspondence with unionists	1955		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-21	File - Correspondence with lawyers	1957-1959		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-22	File - Correspondence, re: retirement	1973		

Acme plumbing and heating services and I.B.E.W. union records.

Date: 1952 – 1970. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series consists of the collected records pertaining to George Gee's activities acting in the capacity of union business agent for Acme Plumbing and Heating Service and The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in the United States and Canada. The series contains correspondence, employer lists, reports, clippings and leaflets, contract amendments, union bulletins and other related documents. Correspondents and subjects include: Department of Labour, The Canadian Labour congress, correspondence with RCA, Rankin, Dean & Simons: Barrister, Solicitors, and Notaries Public, and Maxwell Construction Ltd.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-23	File - Acme Plumbing & Heating Services et al. Vs. Plumbers & Pipefitters	1958		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-(24-26)	File - Collected material re: IBEW, miscellaneous papers, miscellaneous clippings and pamphlets	1952-1970		

Photographs.

Date: [195-?]. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series consists of photographs of the interior and exterior of the Press Club in British Columbia, and photographs, negatives and a contact sheet of railway construction.

Physical description: 17 photographs : b&w

22 photographs : b&w negatives

1 photograph : contact sheet

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-(27-28)	File - Press Club photographs, railway construction photographs	[195?]		

Litigation files.

Date: 1948 – 1962. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series documents the court cases of Gee v. Walpington, Gee v. Freeman, and Gee v. the IBEW as part of Gee's attempts to be re-instated into the union. The series contains lawyers' notes on evidence, memoranda, lists of jurors, affidavits of service, statements of claim, correspondence, defendant's statements, and various other court documents.

Physical description: 16.7 cm of textual records.

Arrangement:

The files in this series regarding Gee v. Walpington and Gee v. Freeman were arranged by Gee's lawyer's office.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-29	File - Gee v. Walpington et. al.: statement of claim	1955-1956		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-30	File - Gee v. Walpington et. al.: draft of statement by J.D. McSorley	1958		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-31	File - Gee v. Walpington et. al.: lawyers notes evidence	1949-1957		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-32	File - Gee v. Walpington et. al.: evidence, re: E.A. Doigneoult	1953		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-33	File - Gee v. Walpington et. al.: lawyers file	1955-1957		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-34	File - Gee v. Walpington et. al.: lawyers notes	1956-1958		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-35	File - Gee v. Walpington et. al.: legal documents	1955-1957		
RBSC-ARC-1210-1-36	File - Gee v. Walpington et. al.: Exhibit "B"	1955		

RBSC-ARC-1210-2-1	File - Gee v Freeman et. al.: 3846: documents	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-2	File - Gee v Freeman et. al.: lawyers' notes, etc.	1951-1958
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-3	File - Gee v Freeman et. al.: exhibits	[1955?]
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-3a	File - Gee v Freeman et. al.: transcript of examination for discovery of Gee	1957
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-4	File - Gee v IBEW et. al.: George Gee file	1951-1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-5	File - Gee v Freeman et. al.: miscellaneous papers	1954-1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-6	File - Gee v IBEW et. al.: 2900: miscellaneous correspondence and documents	1955-1957
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-7	File - Gee v IBEW et. al.: 2903: evidence	1958
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-8	File - Gee v IBEW et. al.: 2905: miscellaneous paper, correspondence, etc.	1948-1958
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-9	File - Gee v IBEW et. al.: 2906: miscellaneous notes & micrographic files	1949-1958

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers business manager's files.

Date: 1948-1960. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series consists of George Gee's office files from the years he spent acting as business manager for the IBEW. This series contains exhibits from the IBEW internal trial of George Gee, IBEW constitutions from 1950 and 1954, wage agreements, financial statements, correspondence, grievances, and related documents.

Physical description: 25.1 cm of textual records.

Arrangement:

When George Gee was dismissed from his position as business manager for the IBEW, Local 213, he took with him a transfer case containing his office records. Other IBEW documents were then later added to the files. They are arranged in accordance with the office's filing system.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-10	File - PX6: exhibits in IBEW trial	1955		
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-11	File - PX8: exhibits in IBEW trial	1953-1955		
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-12	File - PX9 & 10: exhibits in IBEW trial	1948-1955		
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-13	File - IBEW constitution	1950		
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-14	File - IBEW constitution	1954		
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-15	File - Agreement, B.C. Electric Co. and IBEW	1951		
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-16	File - IBEW Local 344: financial statements	1952, 1954		
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-17	File - IBEW Local 213: financial statements	1958-1962		

RBSC-ARC-1210-2-18	File - B.C. Electric Co.	1953-1954
RBSC-ARC-1210-2-19	File - George Gee - MSA	1948-1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-1	File - Charges against George Gee	1954-1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-2	File - From Milne, v. Scott	1952-1957
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-3	File - From 8 to: Raymond, John H.	1952-1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-4	File - T: Tracy, international president	1953-1954
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-5	File - Vancouver Local #213	1952-1954
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-6	File - W-444: wage notes	1952-1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-6a	File - 1955: B.C. Electric Railway Company	1949-1950
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-7	File - B.C. Electric Co. negotiations	1953
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-8	File - B.C. Electric Co. negotiations	1953-1954
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-9	File - Crampton, L.G., personal	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-10	File - Crampton, L.G.	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-11	File - Keenan, V.	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-(12-13)	File - Keenan, Joseph D.	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-14	File - Matthias, F.T.	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-(15-16)	File - Milne, V. Scott	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-(17-18)	File - Raymond, John H.	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-19	File - Reports, expense	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-20	File - Ross, Jessie M.	1955
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-21	File - Stenographer's note book	[1955?]
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-22	File - A - miscellaneous - 9 records	1956
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-23	File - K Kitimat, miscellaneous	1956
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-24	File - R Raymond, J.H.	1955-1956
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-25	File - R Ross, J.H.	1956
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-26	File - V Vancouver Local 213	1956
RBSC-ARC-1210-3-27	File - E - members correspondence and other correspondence	1950-1960

Surveillance files.

Date: 1940-2013 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains the personal subject file and related files to George Gee. The series is comprised of entries created by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Security Service, and span over thirty years of surveillance and information gathering on the subject, including his affiliation with the Communist Party of Canada, his involvement in, and ultimate expulsion from the Union, and his general activities while he was under surveillance. It also contains Joyce Gee's correspondence with Library Archives Canada requesting access to the files.

Access points:

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police Security Service (subject)
- RCMP Special Intelligence Branch (subject)
- Canadian Security Intelligence Service (subject)

Arrangement:

The archivist has preserved the original order, described by Joyce Gee as such: The file is 1,939 pages in length, and covers the period July 25th 1940 to March 23rd 1983. It is divided into 18 sections called Stacks. The Stacks themselves are in chronological order, but within the Stacks the events are in reverse chronological order. There are parts that are censored in that some portions of the reports are obscured. In other cases there are some pages withheld pursuant to sections of the Access to Information Act. The information in the file was compiled by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Security Service, also known as the Special Intelligence Branch (S.I.B.). This information is now under the mandate of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-02	File - [Library Archives Canada correspondence and file index] <u>Note:</u> 1 CD. RBSC-ARC-1210-SPCD-01	2012-2013		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-03	File - [Stack-18]	1969-1983		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-04	File - [Stack-17]	1968-1969		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-05	File - [Stack-16]	1967-1968		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-06	File - [Stack-15]	1966 - 1967		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-07	File - [Stack-14]	1966-5-1 - 1966-8-1		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-08	File - [Stack-13]	1966-5-1 - 1966-8-1		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-09	File - [Stack-12]	1965-7-29 - 1965-10-5		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-10	File - [Stack-11]	1965-4-1 - 1965-7-1		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-11	File - [Stack-10]	1965-1-30 - 1965-4-15		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-12	File - [Stack-09]	1964-9-9 - 1965-1-22		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-13	File - [Stack-08]	June 19, 1964 to September 21, 1964		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-14	File - [Stack-07]	January 22, 1964 to June 18 1964		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-15	File - [Stack-06]	1962-12-12 - 1964-1-21		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-16	File - [Stack-05]	1961-5-30 - 1962-12-14		
RBSC-ARC-1210-04-17	File - [Stack-04]	1959-6-6 - 1961-5-29		

RBSC- ARC-1210-04-18	File - [Stack-03]	1955-4-21 - 1959-1-10
RBSC- ARC-1210-04-19	File - [Stack-02]	1952-7-10 - 1956-3-16
RBSC- ARC-1210-04-20	File - [Stack-01]	1940-7-25 - 1952-10-10