

John Lewis Knox fonds

Compiled by Paul Knox (2007) and Myshkaa McKeen (2008)
Last revised November, 2010

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Fonds Description

John Lewis Knox fonds. – 1918-1997.

2.5 m of textual materials.

Biographical Sketch

John Knox graduated from the University of Toronto in 1939 with a BA in Mathematics and Physics. John Knox then received a MA in Physics (Meteorology) from Toronto in 1948. For 35 years John Knox was a meteorologist and senior administrator with the Meteorological Branch, Canada Department of Transport, and Atmospheric Environment Service. After taking early retirement from the federal civil service, he obtained a PhD from the University of British Columbia in 1981 and spent the next two decades as a climate scientist and meteorological consultant. His research focused on the reinterpretation of twentieth-century weather and climate data to deepen understanding of large-scale atmospheric phenomena. His work includes a doctoral thesis and several papers on atmospheric blocking in the Northern Hemisphere, as well as publications on extended-range and analogue forecasting, climate trends and variability, Prairie drought patterns, the climate of the Red River Basin and Pacific Ocean precipitation.

Custodial History

The papers of John Knox came into the possession of his son Paul Knox after his death. Paul Knox sorted through the papers and provided an inventory and biographical information before donating them to the University Archives in November, 2007.

Scope and Content

Fonds consist almost entirely of materials created or acquired by John Knox over the course of his studies and professional life. The fonds is organized in the following series: Atmospheric blocking and Northern Hemisphere anomalies, Extended-Range and Analogue Forecasting, Climate Trends and Variability, Ocean Weather Station "Papa", Prairie drought ("Dry/Wet"), Cli-Red, and Miscellaneous Professional Activities.

Notes

Further biographical and other information can be found in the original inventory by Paul Knox, available on-line [here](#) and in hard-copy at the University Archives office.

Series Descriptions

Atmospheric Blocking and Northern Hemisphere Anomalies series. -- 1946-1982.

84 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of a variety of information relating to his doctoral thesis including: correspondence, seminar notes, drafts, and data. Much of the data was analyzed using computers and programs of the time. Some of the notes and correspondence are handwritten or typed with handwritten additions.

Extended-Range and Analogue Forecasting series. -- 1975-1985.

25 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of seminar notes, data and research notes both typewritten and handwritten. Also included is correspondence and transparencies relating to seminars.

Climate Trends and Variability series. -- 1987-1995.

9 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of handwritten and typewritten notes for journal articles and well as finished papers and contracts.

Ocean Weather Station "Papa" series. -- 1965-1994.

19.4 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of research notes, charts, data, drafts of papers, finished papers and correspondence related to gathered data. Most of which is handwritten but occasionally typewritten.

Prairie drought ("Dry/Wet") series. -- 1987-1990.

19.4 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of workshop notes, finished papers, drafts, maps, charts and data as well as legal-size dot-matrix tractor-paper data printouts with annotations.

Cli-Red series. -- 1946-1998.

23.9 cm of textual materials.

Series consists of transparencies in cardboard frames as well as drafts, notes finished papers, charts, data, and published articles.

University and other Educational Activities series. -- 1976-1978.

35.4 cm of textual materials.

Series includes PhD notes, course notes and assignments, presentation notes, and professional correspondence.

Miscellaneous Professional Activities series. -- 1946-1996.

69.8 cm of textual materials.

This series contains a variety of textual materials relating to: background material, teaching and learning, service to profession, reviews of papers for refereed journals, seminars and presentations, contract bids and research proposals as well as professional correspondence.

File List

Box 1

ATMOSPHERIC BLOCKING AND NORTHERN HEMISPHERE ANOMALIES

- 1-1 6th CDW 1981
- 1-2 U Reading meeting Aug. 3-7/81
- 1-3 "Anom" Contract -- Knox -- 1982
- 1-4 Contract Sci. Subv. JE Hay -- 1981 -- UBC
- 1-5 Vol. 1 Zonal Harmonics N.H.
- 1-6 Atmospheric Blocking in the Northern Hemisphere [1981].
- 1-7 NMC
- 1-8 Waves Time Fourier Series
- 1-9 CMOS Congress May 1982
- 1-10 Scripps Workshop -- Blocking 1981-82 & other winters.
- 1-11 Knox -- NMC seminar May 23, 1980.
- 1-12 Knox: frequency of 5-day Mean 500 mb hght anom centre's...
- 1-13 Freq/dist'n anom centres.

Box 2

- 2-1 Vol. 2 Zonal Harmonics.
- 2-2 Atmospheric Blocking in the Northern Hemisphere PhD dissertation [1981-82]
- 2-3 Knox CMOS May 1979 Atmospheric Blocking Patterns.
- 2-4 Correspondence -- thesis 1979.
- 2-5 Correspondence -- thesis 1976-77-78.
- 2-6 Corresp. 1975-1980.
- 2-7 Thesis defense (background notes for)...
- 2-8 Correspondence -- thesis 1980-81-82.
- 2-9 Working Data -- thesis.

Box 3

- 3-1 Time Series Plots Waves 1 to 4.
- 3-2 Plots (by printer) Zonal Harmonics 500 mb daily gph...1946-47 to 1954-55.
- 3-3 Selected winters...harmonic analysis.
- 3-4 Hovmoller 500 md daily gph Waves 1 to 4.
- 3-5 Frequency 50kPa Anom Centres >or< prescribed thresholds.

- 3-6 Digital Listing II Zoning Harmonics [500 mb height (daily) Nrn Hem Winter 1956-57 to 1966-67].
- 3-7 Plots (by printer) Zonal Harmonics 500 mb daily gph...1965-66 to 1967-68.
- 3-8 Atlas Moffat-Ratcliffe...
- 3-9 Harmonics Printout Dating Strips.

Box 4

- 4-1 Digital Listing I Zonal Harmonics [500 mb height (daily) Nrn Hem Winter 1946-47 to 1955-56.
- 4-2 Digital Listing III Zonal Harmonics [500 mb height (daily) Nrn Hem Winter 1966-67 to 1978-79].
- 4-3 Winter 1981-82 Digital Harmonics NMC CMC.
- 4-4 Knox-Hay Paper for J. of Climatology.
- 4-5 York U Oct/1990 lectures (2).
- 4-6 Knox-Hay A-O Paper.
- 4-7 BS Catalogue '82.
- 4-8 Anom Catalogue '82.
- 4-9 Harmonics -- for N.H. Data Set.
- 4-10 Blocking -- York U -- 3 lectures Nov 1984.
- 4-11 Corresp. 1983-84.
- 4-12 Corresp. 1981-82.
- 4-13 Thesis reference & Other topics.

Box 5

- 5-1 Atlas: Knox -- Skewness and Kurtosis ...
- 5-2 Atlas: Frequency of Anom Centres ... by season, varying thresholds.
- 5-3 Two catalogues.

EXTENDED-RANGE AND ANALOGUE FORECASTING

- 5-4 8th CDW 1983.
- 5-5 Seminar re NMC visit ...
- 5-6 "Extended range forecasting ..."
- 5-7 Knox "Forecasting beyond NWP..."
- 5-8 Fellowship NSERC.
- 5-9 Documentation 500mb -- 1000 mb ...
- 5-10 Analogue Selection Experiment Vol.3.

- 5-11 Analogue Selection Experiment Vol. 2.
- 5-12 Analogue Selection Experiment Vol. 1.

Box 6

- 6-1 Anom Catalog Update 1979-1985.
- 6-2 Shabbar-Knox Analog for WMO Clim Diag Workshop.
- 6-3 Analogue Seminar Mar. 25/85.
- 6-4 Contract -- AES-DSS 1985 Xtnd Range Fests.
- 6-5 Seminar Oct. 15/84 -- Analog Project.
- 6-6 Analogs -- CMC.
- 6-7 Analogue Papers.

CLIMATE TRENDS AND VARIABILITY

- 6-8 Higuchi-Knox.
- 6-9 Contract: Canadian Polar Trough.
- 6-10 Trend & Var. Paper #2.
- 6-11 Trend & Var 1st paper Working Notes.

Box 7

OCEAN WEATHER STATION "PAPA"

- 7-1 Papa Precip. Paper 1.
- 7-2 IPCC Report.
- 7-3 Precip. At OWS "P" data and graphs
- 7-4 Papa -- corresp.
- 7-5 Precip. @ OWS "P" Documentation, correspondence etc.
- 7-6 Precip. At Ocean Weather Station "P" Jenkins, Wong, Higuchi, Knox.
- 7-7 The ocean precipitation issue: an analysis of the northeast Pacific.
- 7-8 Precip. At Ocean W Stn "P" Review May 20/93.
- 7-9 Precipitation at Ocean Weather Station "P" in the northeast Pacific Ocean.

Box 8

PRAIRIE DROUGHT ("DRY/WET")

- 8-1 Drought Can. Prairies.
- 8-2 Proceedings of the Prairie Drought Workshop, Oct. 11-13, 1988.
- 8-3 An Applied Climatology of Drought in the Prairie Provinces.
- 8-4 Precip-Circulation Relationships.
- 8-5 Secular Variation Pcpn Can. Prairies (Knox).
- 8-6 Digital Data Prairie D/W Study
- 8-7 Periodograms.
- 8-8 Prairie Precipitation Studies.
- 8-9 Saskatoon Employment.
- 8-10 Prairie D/W CCC Rpt.
- 8-11 Dry/Wet For A-O.
- 8-12 Prairie D/W Paper Slide Commentaries.

Box 9

CLI-RED

- 9-1 Cli-red report Vol.1 Wiche Apr. 1993.
- 9-2a/2b Cli-Red report Vols. I & II 1992.
- 9-3 Untitled
- 9-4a/4b Teleconnection Indices 1946-89; Bonsal & Knox 1991.
- 9-5 The Synoptic Climatology of the Red River Basin.
- 9-6 Flooding
- 9-7 Clired task report on the production of case study mean and anomaly charts for the six Red River Sub-basins.

Box 10

- 10-1 Clired task report on the production of case study mean and anomaly for the Red River Basin.
- 10-2 Clired task report on the production of the mean, composite mean and anomaly charts for the six Red River sub-basins.
- 10-3 Clired task report on the production of case study mean and anomaly charts for the Red River basins.
- 10-4 Clired task report on the calculation of 50 kPa teleconnection indices.

10-5 Prairie Precipitation Studies.

UNIVERSITY AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

10-6 The Genetic Code
10-7 U of Washington
10-8 Phys 312 ... assignments
10-9 Phys 312 ... lectures
10-10 Storm of the Century Jan. 26, 1978.
10-11 Winter 1978-79 seminars.
10-12 UBC Geography Dept.
10-13 Water Balance Etc.

Box 11

11-1 PhD Oral Comprehensive Topics.
11-2 Prompter Cards -- My Geog 312 lectures -- UBC, Fall 1978.
11-3 Geog. 312 -- Knox- I.
11-4 Geog. 312 -- Knox -- II.
11-5 Geog. 312 -- Knox -- III.

MISCELLANEOUS PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

11-6 Holton, An Introduction to Dynamic Meteorology, Ch. 1-6.
11-7 Holton, Dynamic Meteorology, Ch. 7-11.

Box 12

12-1 Shabbar -- EOFs.
12-2 Workshop Gen'l Circulation.
12-3 Winter 1981-82.
12-4 7th CDW 1982.
12-5 El Nino 82-83.
12-6 Climate of the Great Lakes Basin...
12-7 A-O book reviews.
12-8 CMOS AMS & RMS.
12-9 Knox 1984 Patterson Medal
12-10 Patterson Medal -- Penner Nomination.

12-11 Thomson Prize 1982.
12-12 Treidl et al Blocking -- A-O.
12-13 National Science Foundation.
12-14 Roger Smith forecasts (Future Weather Inc.).
12-15 Review of Dole Paper
12-16 Oct/85 Quiroz

Box 13

13-1 Lin-Gough -- A-O Review
13-2 NAO & El Nino relationships.
13-3 CMOS Papers for Review by JLK.
13-4 Reviews of Journal Papers.
13-5 Contract proposal 1986.
13-6 CEA proposal 1992
13-7 Corresp. Professional 1985-1997.