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Finding Aid - Port Albion Cannery fonds (RBSC- ARC-1442)

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Port Albion Cannery fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Port Albion Cannery fonds
Reference code:	RBSC-ARC-1442
Date:	1917-1949 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.5 m of textual records, 7 metal medallions
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Finding aid revised by Malcolm Fish, December 2023.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Port Albion Cannery was located near Ucluelet, BC, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. It was built ca. 1927, possibly by the Banfield Packing Company. The plant operated primarily as a canning and processing station; a modern cannery, reduction plant, and shipyard was built up on the site after the 1936 purchase by the Nootka Packing Company, and as late as 1948 the plant consisted of a cannery, mild cure station, fishing station, and fish meal and oil plant. The plant primarily processed herring and pilchards. The Port Albion cannery was a branch plant of several companies between the 1920s and 1940s. It was likely in operation by the 1926/1927 fishing season. Possibly, the Port Albion cannery was operated by Albion Fisheries Ltd (previously the Albion Fish Reduction and Oil Refining Company). The Banfield Packing Company, which operated in tandem with the Nootka Packing Company, apparently took over operation of an Ucluelet plant owned by Albion Fisheries sometime between 1931 and 1936; the Port Albion Cannery was located in Ucluelet, and while it is unknown whether it is the same as the Albion Fisheries plant taken over by the Banfield Packing Company, it is likely the two plants were at least contemporaneous.

The Port Albion Cannery was definitely purchased by Nootka Packing in 1936 and by British Columbia Packers sometime after 1948. Nootka Packing was incorporated in 1916 and reorganized in 1937, at which time it was renamed the Nootka Packing Company Ltd. At around the time of the reorganization, a sibling company, the Banfield Packing Company Ltd. (1936), was incorporated; the two companies shared an office in Vancouver, their charters imply they were intended to operate in tandem rather than as competitors, and executives of the Nootka Packing Company signed Banfield Packing Company correspondence multiple times. A third company, the Nootka-Banfield Company, was incorporated in 1940 and also operated out of the shared Nootka and Banfield office in Vancouver. The Nootka-Banfield Company, Nootka Packing Company, and Banfield Packing Company were nominally distinct entities but worked very closely, and when the Nootka-Banfield Company was purchased by the Canadian Fishing Company (CFC) in 1945, all three (Nootka-Banfield, Nootka, and Banfield) went into voluntary liquidation within two months of each other. The Port Albion Cannery, as one of the Nootka Packing Company's assets purchased by the Canadian Fishing Company, was transferred to the CFC at the time

of purchase. Despite the liquidations, very little disruption of day-to-day operations at any of the Nootka-Banfield, Nootka, or Banfield plants seems to have occurred as a result of the 1945 CFC purchase. The Port Albion cannery was still in operation in 1948, and BC Packers purchased the plant sometime after that.

Custodial history

The fonds was discovered by a private researcher in the Port Albion plant sometime after its purchase by the British Columbia Packers, Ltd., which had not known the records were there. The fonds was transferred to UBC Library RBSC on 11 August 1980 courtesy of BC Packers. There is no information extant about the custody of the records between their creation and discovery; after their discovery, the records were in the custody of BC Packers, Ltd. until their transfer to UBC Library.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of partial records of the Port Albion Cannery's parent companies. In rough chronological order, these are: the Langara Fishing and Packing Company, Ltd.; Nootka Packing Company, Ltd.; Banfield Packing Company, Ltd.; Nootka-Banfield Packing Company, Ltd.; and the Canadian Fishing Company. Records include: invoices, inventories, correspondence, agreements/contracts, licenses, payroll ledgers, government statistics records and copies of legislation (particularly changes made during WWII to staffing and supply chains), and various reports (predominantly production reports). Correspondence is primarily between branches and "head office" and between the various companies and their suppliers, contractors, and government offices mostly concerned with licensing and equipment inspections. Head office appears to refer both to the offices of the Nootka-Banfield Packing Company, Ltd., and later the Canadian Fishing Company, which purchased Nootka-Banfield in 1945, though the Canadian Fishing Company letterhead appears in the records much earlier than 1945. A set of blueprints for bunkhouses is also included in the fonds, though there are no dates or location information appended; as the bulk of the fonds (physically and chronologically) is the Nootka-Banfield records, the blueprints are filed as part of that series.

Notes

Title notes

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

Arrangement

The fonds is organized into series by company in roughly chronological order of company creation. Within files, records are typically chronological, though files within a given series are not necessarily ordered chronologically.

The series structure of the fonds is based on recommendations for sub-groups made by Trevor Livelton in his 1988 inventory and history of the fonds. Very little is known about the records between their creation, discovery, and transfer to UBC.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

Access points

- Banfield Packing Company (subject)
- Nootka-Banfield Packing Company (subject)
- Canadian Fishing Company
- British Columbia Packers
- Langara Fishing and Packing Company (subject)
- Nootka Packing Company (subject)
- Business and commerce (subject)
- Fishing (subject)
- Fisheries (subject)

Series descriptions

Langara Fishing and Packing Company, Ltd.

Date: 1919-1934 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of administrative records of the Langara Fishing and Packing Company, Ltd., including: asset and liability reports; agreements and charters, predominantly with owners and operators of fishing boats; memos; tax receipts; inspection reports; and insurance papers.

Physical description: 6 cm textual records

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1442-07-04	File - Langara Fishing and Packing Co. Ltd.	1919-1932		
RBSC-ARC-1442-07-05	File - Langara Fishing Co. Ltd.	1928-1934		

Nootka Packing Company, Ltd.

Date: 1937-1945 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of administrative records of the Nootka Packing Company, Ltd., including: daily cannery reports and daily fish meal and oil reports (these in three bound ledgers); invoices; memorandums of agreement; and correspondence with various outside companies, predominantly regarding the purchase and lease of equipment.

Physical description: 3 cm textual records

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1442-06-15	File - Nootka Packing Co. Ltd.	1932		
RBSC-ARC-1442-06-16	File - Nootka Packing Company Limited	1937		
RBSC-ARC-1442-11-01	File - Nootka Packing Company Limited Daily Fish Meal and Oil Report	1938-1939		
RBSC-ARC-1442-11-02	File - Nootka Packing Company Limited Daily Cannery Report	1940		
RBSC-ARC-1442-11-03	File - Nootka Packing Company Limited Daily Cannery Report	1943-1945		

Banfield Packing Company, Ltd.

Date: 1936-1942 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of administrative records of Banfield Packing Company, primarily correspondence with Head Office and between branches.

Physical description: 17 cm textual records

Arrangement:

Please note that some files in this series contain Nootka Packing Company and Nootka-Banfield Packing Company records as they were tandem operations. Files with multiple letterheads were included in this series as the Banfield Packing Company records were by far the most numerous.

Publication status:

published

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1442-08-03	File - Letters from Head Office 1937	1937-1938		
RBSC-ARC-1442-08-04	File - Banfield Packing	1936-1942		
RBSC-ARC-1442-08-05	File - [Banfield Packing Company]	1938-1940		
RBSC-ARC-1442-09-01	File - [Banfield Packing Company, Correspondence]	1938-1940		
RBSC-ARC-1442-09-02	File - [Banfield Packing Company]	1937-1939		
RBSC-ARC-1442-10-01	File - Letters from H.O. from Apl 1938 to Mar 31 1940	1938-1941		
RBSC-ARC-1442-10-04	File - 1937 Copies of Letters to Head Office and Other Plants	1937		

Nootka-Banfield Packing Company, Ltd.

Date: 1917-1947 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of administrative and financial records of the Nootka-Banfield Packing Company, Ltd., including: correspondence; memos; tax receipts; lists of employees and boats; agreements with plant unions; Department of Fisheries statistical records; payroll records (specifically for the Port Albion Cannery); equipment lease and rental records; blueprints for bunkhouses; and numbered brass tool tags, also from the Port Albion Cannery. Unions with which the Nootka-Banfield Packing Company signed agreements include the United Fish Cannery and Reduction Plant Workers' Federal Union Local 89, and the United Fishermen's Federal Union of British Columbia Local 44.

Physical description: 83 cm textual records, 7 metal medallions

Publication status:

published

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1442-01-01	File - Correspondence 1941-42	1941-1942		
RBSC-ARC-1442-01-02	File - Correspondence 1940-41 Mixed	1940-1941		
RBSC-ARC-1442-01-03	File - Correspondence 1942	1942		
RBSC-ARC-1442-01-04	File - Correspondence 1943-44	1943-1944		
RBSC-ARC-1442-01-05	File - Correspondence 1943-44	1943-1944		
RBSC-ARC-1442-01-06	File - Correspondence 1944-45	1944-1945		

RBSC-ARC-1442-01-07	File - Correspondence 1944	1944
RBSC-ARC-1442-01-08	File - Correspondence 1944-45	1944-1945
RBSC-ARC-1442-02-01	File - Correspondence 1944-45	1944-1945
RBSC-ARC-1442-02-02	File - Correspondence 1944-46	1944-1946
RBSC-ARC-1442-02-03	File - Correspondence 1942	1942
RBSC-ARC-1442-02-04	File - Correspondence 1943	1943
RBSC-ARC-1442-02-05	File - Correspondence 1940-1946	1940-1946
RBSC-ARC-1442-02-06	File - Correspondence 1943-44	1943-1944
RBSC-ARC-1442-02-07	File - Correspondence 1945	1945
RBSC-ARC-1442-03-02	File - Correspondence 1942-44 Mixed	1942-1944
RBSC-ARC-1442-04-02	File - Correspondence 1946	1946
RBSC-ARC-1442-04-03	File - Correspondence Head Office 1946-47	1946-1947
RBSC-ARC-1442-04-04	File - Correspondence Misc Years 1941-47	1941-1947
RBSC-ARC-1442-04-05	File - Correspondence Misc 1941-46	1941-1946
RBSC-ARC-1442-04-06	File - Correspondence Misc 1938-43	1938-1943
RBSC-ARC-1442-07-01	File - [Port Albion]	1942-1945
RBSC-ARC-1442-07-02	File - Albion Nets Gear	1937-1946
RBSC-ARC-1442-07-03	File - [Port Albion Misc]	1917-1947
RBSC-ARC-1442-08-02	File - Letters to H.O. from Apl 1938 to Mar 31 1940	1938-1941
RBSC-ARC-1442-09-03	File - Nootka and Banfield Co. Ltd.	1940-1943
RBSC-ARC-1442-09-04	File - Nootka and Banfield Co. Ltd.	1938-1945
RBSC-ARC-1442-09-05	File - [Nootka Banfield Agreements]	1939-1944
RBSC-ARC-1442-10-02	File - [Port Albion 1940-41]	1940-1941
RBSC-ARC-1442-10-03	File - [Nootka Banfield Co. Ltd. Dpt. of Fisheries Monthly Statistical Return]	1939-1943
RBSC-ARC-1442-11-04	File - Time Tickets Payroll Vouchers	1941-1942
RBSC-ARC-1442-11-05	File - [Port Albion brass shipyard tool tags]	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1442-12-01	File - [Port Albion Payroll Yearly 1947]	1947

RBSC-ARC-1442-12-02	File - [Payroll Yearly]	n.d.
RBSC-ARC-1442-12-03	File - Port Albion Cannery	1946-1947
RBSC-ARC-1442-12-04	File - [Blueprints]	n.d.

Canadian Fishing Company

Date: 1927-1948 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of administrative and financial records of the Canadian Fishing Company, including: correspondence with Head Office and various branches; store accounts; Worker's Compensation Board records and incident reports; Unemployment Insurance records; agreements with the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union and the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia, which agreements include sections pertaining to Chinese and women workers; accounts and budget records; records pertaining to the creation of the Western Trollers Co-operative Association; and Wartime Prices and Trade Board (WPTB) records concerning the mess hall operations of the various plants.

Physical description: 47 cm textual records

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1442-03-01	File - Correspondence 1945	1945		
RBSC-ARC-1442-03-03	File - Correspondence 1945-46	1945-1946		
RBSC-ARC-1442-03-04	File - Correspondence 1945	1945		
RBSC-ARC-1442-03-05	File - Correspondence 1946-47 Cdn Fish Co Ltd	1946-1947		
RBSC-ARC-1442-03-06	File - Correspondence Head Office to P.A. 1946-47	1946-1947		
RBSC-ARC-1442-04-01	File - Correspondence Head Office 1946	1946		
RBSC-ARC-1442-05-01	File - A	1942-1948		
RBSC-ARC-1442-05-02	File - B	1947-1948		
RBSC-ARC-1442-05-03	File - C	1947-1948		
RBSC-ARC-1442-05-04	File - D	1947		
RBSC-ARC-1442-05-05	File - G	1946-1948		
RBSC-ARC-1442-05-06	File - H	1947-1948		

RBSC- ARC-1442-05-07	File - Kyuquot - Construction	1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-08	File - To H.O. Accounting	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-09	File - From H.O. to Production	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-10	File - Employees Wage Records	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-11	File - From H.O. Accounting	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-12	File - From H.O. Purchasing	1943-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-13	File - To H.O. Purchasing	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-14	File - To H.O. Production	1946-1949
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-15	File - I	1932-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-16	File - L	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-17	File - LIND	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-18	File - Mc	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-19	File - M	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-20	File - N	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-21	File - To Nootka	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-22	File - From Nootka	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-23	File - O	1947
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-24	File - P	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-05-25	File - Post Office	1944-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-01	File - R	1947
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-02	File - Store Accs	1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-03	File - S	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-04	File - T	1947
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-05	File - Unemployment Insurance	1946-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-06	File - U	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-07	File - V	1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-08	File - W.C.B.	1947-1948

RBSC- ARC-1442-06-09	File - WPTB - Quota Authorisations and Reports	1927-1947
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-10	File - W	1947-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-11	File - Monthly A/Cs and C from April 1946 to 1947	1946-1947
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-12	File - Canadian Fish Co.	1938-1948
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-13	File - 1945 Budget	1946
RBSC- ARC-1442-06-14	File - Western Trollers Co-operative Association	1946
RBSC- ARC-1442-08-01	File - Agreements 1947	1947