

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - W.G. Swan fonds (RBSC-ARC-1540)

Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.2.1 Printed: May 11, 2016

Language of description: English

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, 1961 East Mall Vancouver BC Canada V6T 1Z1 Telephone: 604-822-8208

Fax: 604-822-9587 <http://www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/>

<http://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca/index.php/w-g-swan-fonds>

W.G. Swan fonds

Table of contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Summary information | 3 |
| Administrative history / Biographical sketch | 3 |
| Scope and content | 3 |
| Notes | 4 |
| Series descriptions | 4 |
| , Diaries, 1927-1947 | 4 |
| , Photograph Albums, [1910-1940?] | 4 |
| , Certificates and Gifts, 1906-1968 | 5 |
| , Handbooks and Journals, 1903-[1956] | 6 |

Summary information

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

Title: W.G. Swan fonds

ID: RBSC-ARC-1540

Date: 1903-[1970?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1.3 m of textual records; 485 photographs

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

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Engineer W.G. Swan played a significant role in the design and construction of bridges, railways and harbour works for more than six decades in British Columbia. He was born in Kincardine, Ontario and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1906. He joined Canadian National Railways as an engineer and came to British Columbia. After serving overseas during World War I, Swan returned to B.C. and established his own consulting firm. His firm was retained to work on the Pattullo Bridge (1938) and the Lion's Gate Bridge (1939). In 1945 Swan entered into partnership with H.A. Rhodes and Hiram Wooster.

Custodial history

The fonds were received as a gift from the Swan and Wooster Engineering Firm, November, 1983. Additional gifts were received from Mr. Hugh Welch of Sandwell Engineering, Inc., in August 2007.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of photographs, documents and unpublished material relating to Swan's career and achievements, to the construction of light railways overseas during World War I, and to the construction of bridges, grain elevators, railway branch lines and other facilities in British Columbia.

Notes

Title notes

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

Finding aids

Inventory available.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

Series descriptions

Diaries

Date: 1927-1947 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains business diaries written by William G. Swan that record details of his meetings and contracts with people and organizations he worked with through his career.

Physical description: 21 cm of bound Diaries

File / item list

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------|---------------|-----------|
| RBSC-ARC-1540-1-1 | File - Daily Journal 1927 | 1927 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-1-2 | File - Daily Journal 1928 | 1928 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-1-3 | File - Daily Journal 1929 | 1929 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-1-4 | File - Daily Journal 1930 | 1930 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-1-5 | File - Daily Journal 1931 | 1931 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-1-6 | File - Daily Journal 1932 | 1932 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-1-7 | File - Daily Journal 1933 | 1933 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-1-8 | File - Collins Royal Diary 1939 | 1939 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-2-1 | File - Daily Journal 1945 | 1945 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-2-2 | File - Daily Journal 1946 | 1946 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-2-3 | File - Daily Journal 1947 | 1947 | | |

Photograph Albums

Date: [1910-1940?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains photograph albums of various railways, elevators, and bridges associated with Swan's career as an engineer. Series also holds two other photographs outside of albums containing Swan and his associates and military Battalion.

Physical description: 6 photo albums, 58 photocopies, 2 photographs, and 1 negative.

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|-------------------|--|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| RBSC-ARC-1540-3-2 | File - Railway construction in Canada prior to W.W.I on Canadian National as well as general prints unidentified | [1900-1914?] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-3-3 | File - Vancouver Grain Elevators, Vancouver Harbour Commissioners Elevator #1 | 1923-1924 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-3-4 | File - Lions Gate Bridge Construction Photographs | 1938 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-3-5 | File - Colby cranes and elevators, Seattle | [1900-1940?] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-3-6 | File - A Memento of His Year in Office | 1950 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-4-1 | File - Railway in France near Ypres during W.W.I | [1914-1918] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-4-2 | File - Photocopies of prints from Railway in France | [1959-1989?] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-1 | File - Print of Phil Galardi and W .G . Swan | (1920-1940?) | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-2 | File - Newspaper Clippings | [1920-1940?] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-6-1 | Item - Photo of No.4 Company, B.C. Universities 196 Overseas Battalion, C.E.F. | [1918?] | | |

Certificates and Gifts

Date: 1906-1968 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains certificates of memberships and degrees for William G. Swan and his associate Hiram Ferris Wooster. Series also contains other gifts to Swan throughout his career.

Physical description: 10 items and 1 folder of scan printouts.

File / item list

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|--------------------|---|-------|---------------|-----------|
| RBSC-ARC-1540-3-1 | Item - Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of British Columbia [Plaque] | 1921 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-12 | Item - Stanford University Bachelor Degree for Hiram Ferris Wooster | 1922 | | |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------|
| | <u>Note:</u> Hiram was Swan's business partner. | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-6-3 | Item - Association of Consulting Engineers Membership | 1946 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-6-4 | Item - Engineering Institute of Canada Life Membership | 1947 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-6-5 | Item - Association of Consulting Engineers Life Membership | 1968 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-6-6 | Item - UBC Honorary Doctorate of Science | 1956 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-6-7 | Item - University of Toronto Civil Engineering Degree | 1911 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-6-8 | Item - Engineers Services Pacific Command Generally Unfinished Business | 1941-1968 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-6-9 | Item - Bachelors of Applied Science from University of Toronto | 1906 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-6-10 | File - Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of British Columbia Life Time Membership | 1920 |

Handbooks and Journals

Date: 1903-[1956] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains several handbooks regarding Swan's field of engineering, including one handbook with Swan as one of the authors. Also contains journals, pamphlets, and news clippings related to Swan.

Physical description: 12 books/journals and 1 binder.

Arrangement:

Contained in box 5

File / item list

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|-------------------|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-3 | Item - Locomotive Hand-Book | 1917 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-4 | Item - Carnegie Steel Company Pocket Companion | 1903 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-5 | Item - By-Laws of the Corporation of the Harbour Commissioners of Vancouver, B.C. | 1922 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-6 | Item - Profile Book | (1920?) | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-7 | Item - Nominal Roll and Attendance at Drill | 1918 | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-8 | Item - Officer's Record of Services Army Book 439 | [1916-1918] | | |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-9 | Item - Nature's Fury | May.-Jun. 1948 | | |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-10 | File - Light Railways. Second Army | [1918] |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-5-11 | Item - General Specifications for Steel Superstructures of Bridges and Viaducts All Previous Specifications Annulled | 1908 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-7-1 | File - Lions Gate Bridge Vancouver Canada | 1939 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-7-2 | File - Lions Gate Bridge Abstracts/"Engineering Journal" | Apr.-Jul. 1942 |
| RBSC-ARC-1540-7-3 | File - Suspension Bridge Technical Papers, Blueprints, Plans. | [1943-1956] |