

The Vancouver Vagabond Club, 1914-1928
An Inventory of Its Papers
in
The Library of the University of British Columbia

by
Robert Gore
Special Collections Division

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INTRODUCTION

An organization like the Vancouver Vagabonds Club is very difficult to introduce, partially because of the nature of its dealings, and partially because of the era in which it flourished. The Club was basically a literary society. It was not composed of just those who were involved with literature as a career, however. There were men from all fields in the club as one needed only to have an interest in literature to become a member. One could become a member, though, by just being famous.

The initial members were very strict in their choices of new members. They expected a person to possess a high degree of intelligence and wit if he, and it was a men's club, was to be considered for membership. Above all, they felt that a prospective member should be able to " attack " his fellow members in a way which, to them, would seem enjoyable. Thus, it was not the verbal barrage itself which mattered; it was the content and way you delivered the barrage.

Usually, no Vagabond escaped being attacked on a subject close to his heart. In a way it was a show of respect when another Vagabond attacked you. As I stated above, the Vagabond Club is difficult to introduce because of its era. It was formed at a time (1914) when this sort of " verbal jousting " was commonplace. It died in 1928 when it became lost in the new age, strangled by its never changing emphasis on the absurd.

The Vagabond Club was a Vancouver organization, and indeed, it shows through in the constant references we find to new British Columbian and Canadian Literature, in its papers. Many Vancouverites were at one time members of the Vagabond Club. Men familiar to U.B.C. students like Wesbrook, Sedgewick, and Ridington, were also members of the club. Then there were men like Haws, Bursill, Cummings, and MacGregor, ^{who} kept the club running by themselves at times.

There were many associate members who attended very infrequently. Even some of the full-fledged members seemed to be just present at the meetings, often offering little encouragement to the general proceedings. This, I think, is the reason that the club died. Thus, in a way, it is a mirror of the times in which it existed. But it was also based on something else, something which is much more fundamental, more timeless. As A.C.Cummings said in a letter to Jackie Hooper in 1967:

The club was an intellectual stimulus which Vancouver did not otherwise provide. It gave us, writers, artists, musicians, an outlet for whatever small talents we possessed in a city in which the buying and selling of real estate was the preoccupation of the majority of the inhabitants. It kept alive a spark of literary and artistic culture the city so badly needed.

It is difficult to identify the various persons who acquired records of the club and its members. Over the years the records of the Vagabond Club have been donated both to the Vancouver Public Library and the University of B.C. A.C.Cummings has donated many of the papers and Lionel Haweis is also thought to have given some records. In 1967, Jaqueline Hooper of the Vancouver Public Library received a Leon and Thea Koerner foundation grant to research the Vagabonds Club. It was hoped that afterwards a booklet on the history of the club could be written. So, included in this collection are the papers from her research. Some of the correspondence, especially that from A.C.Cummings, is very helpful in piecing together the purpose and atmosphere of the club.

Most of the papers in the collection are manuscripts or copies of manuscripts written by various members of the club for the club meetings. Most of the other material is directly related to the activities of the club or of its members.

There are two subgroups. The first subgroup contains papers from an organization called " The Comrades Club." As far as I can tell, this was a women's club which in some ways resembled the Vagabonds Club. Some of the wives of " Vagabonds " were members of the Comrades Club. But, in one of his 1967 letters to Jaqueline Hooper, A.C.Cummings stated that the Comrades Club was not affiliated in any way with the Vagabonds. Indeed, from the papers it is hard to tell, as, except for the constitution, there is nothing

which gives us an idea of what the Comrades Club was like.

The other subgroup contains papers belonging to, and concerning, Charles Hill-Tout. I have placed them in a subgroup because many of the papers are basically unrelated to the activities of the club.

Folder No. Dates No. of Items

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Compiled in 1967 by Jacqueline Hooper of the Vancouver Public Library. Information cards on each member were acquired after the inventory was prepared and can be found in box 1 - 1a.

Biographical Information: Correspondence

1-1	unidentified - initials " E.N.B. "	1967	1
	Bernard, Frank P.	1967	1
	Boving, Lynette H.	1967	1
	Buckley, E.N.	1967	1
	Clark, Kathleen	1967	1
	Cummings, A.C.	1967 - 68	8
	Dickie, Francis	1967	1
	Foxall, Arthur J.	1967	3
	Grossman, Peter	1968	2
	Hamilton, Madge	1967	1
	Hind, J.R.	1967	1
	Hodgson, Chris G.	1956, 1967	2
	Hooper, Jackie	1968	2
	Lucas, Ed	1956	1
	MacDermot, J.A.	1967	1
	Marquis, G.Welton	1968	1
	Mowat, W.H.	1967	1
	Pelton, G.V.	1967	1
	Read, Stanley E.	1968	1
	Scott, Ethel S.	1967	1
	Stevenson, Lionel	1969	1
	Weston, Garnett	1967	1

Biographical Information: Miscellaneous

(Membership lists compiled by living members and friends of the Vagabond Club; main membership list compiled by J. Hooper; miscellaneous notes - J.Hooper; calculations of pay - J.Hooper.)

CONSTITUTION

Constitution: Pamphlets

1-2 The folder also contains various typed copies of undated fragments of constitution and amendments.

pamphlet outlining constitution; signed by A.C.Cummings.	Feb. 2, 1916
pamphlet outlining constitution: signed by Donald MacGregor.	July 5, 1916
pamphlet outlining constitution of 1921 - 2 copies - 1 belonging to T.M.Ryan and the other to Lionel Haweis.	

LETTERS: INCOMING

1-3 Correspondence pertains to Vagabond Club during time of operation.

Boardman, Charlie	n.d.	1
Mildmay, Aubrey St. John	1917	1
Miller, Leonard	1924	1
Pound, A.M.	1922	1

LETTERS: OUTGOING

1-3 Letters are from the "scribe" of the Vagabond Club, C.B.Boardman.

McQueen, B.	1923	1
Lewthwaite, W.H.	1924	1
Miller, Leonard		1
Noble, John		1
Prowse, A.S.W.		1

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence: Miscellaneous

1-3	Bursill, J.Francis (to F.C.Wade)	1912	1
	Laurier, Wilfred	1916	1
	Robinson, Noel	n.d.	1

MEMBERSHIP LISTS

1-4 For Vagabond Club - compiled during time of operation.
Description of eligibility; classification of members; membership lists arranged chronologically.

MEETINGS

- 1-4 Outline of proceedings - " Gala Night. " July 4, 1917
Unauthorized report of a meeting..... October 13, 1920

FINANCIAL RECORDS

- 1-5 Vagabond's Account Book. 1919 - 1924

PRINTED MATERIAL

Manuscripts: Poetry (Books of:)

- 1-6 Braun, Geoffrey
Magic Casements and Other Verses
Coleman, H. Bromley
Vagabond Thoughts in Rhythm, 2 copies.
Haweis, L.T.J.
Seeds (including a series of watercolor and
ink drawings by Haweis)
Wharton, Lewis
Francis Villon: Blackguard and Immortal

Manuscripts: Prose (Books of:)

- 1-7 Griggs, Robert F.
The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes
Hooton, Henry, ed.
Le Chevalier (Including works by H.Hooton, R.F.Backwell,
W.H.Cowham, and L.T.J.Haweis)

Articles

- 1-8 Robinson, Noel
"Oldest Resident of Vancouver....." (article on Mary Capilano)
Sedgewick, Garnett G.
Tree, Goose, Pudding.

Pamphlets

- 1-8 Vancouver City Museum: Golden Jubilee, 1894-1944.

Announcements

- 1-8 Vancouver Vagabond Club - announcements of meetings.
(Nov. 10, Nov. 24, Dec. 8, Dec. 22, 1915; Dec. 20, 1919)

Programmes

- 1-8 Vagabond Salon March 29, 1916 4
Vancouver Vagabond Club - " Gala " May 21, 1921 5

cont'd 1-8 Vancouver Little Theatre Association Feb. 16, 17, 18, 1922
Midnight Matinee, Allen Theatre March 31, 1922
Inauguration Ceremony, U.B.C. October 16, 1925
One Hundredth Production:
Vancouver Little Theatre Association December 8, 9, 10, 11, 1941

Magazines

1-8 Man - A Record of Anthropological Science Sept.-Oct., 1945

Newspaper Clippings

1-9 Miscellaneous n.d. 4
Miscellaneous 1915-1960 18

EPHEMERA

1-10 (Fragment of an article " Canadians All ", 1945; open letter to Mr. John Francis Bursill; The Abbey Light Song by F.C.Wade and Corysande Fordham; information on Audrey Mildmay; Christmas cards; Post cards; printed copies of poems:

Beeman, Herbert

How to Pronounce Burrard

Buckley, Alfred

Choric Ode on the Opening of the Banff-Windermere Highway

Murison, B.E.H.

George Ham

Penne, Felix

I Shall Not Cease;

poster for B.C.Hilliam and his 1915 follies; cartoon sketch of various members of the Vagabond Club; Noel Robinsons' book plates; menus (4) from Vancouver Vagabonds Club Banquet, December 22, 1915; menu from birthday dinner in honour of the tenth anniversary of the Vancouver Vagabonds Club, Dec. 10, 1924; menu from the Savage Club, Annual Potlach, Dec. 18, 1926; calling card, Arthur J. Foxall; booklet-cover carrying the inscription: The Vancouver Vagabonds Club)

PHOTOGRAPHS

1-11 Miscellaneous: Vagabond Plays; Noel Robinson; Renee Haweis Chipman; J.Francis Bursill; unidentified.

OVERSIZE

0-1 Oversize Vagabond Club Material (mostly photographs and drawings)

MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts: Poetry

2-1 author unidentified
To the Tailor
Cummings, A.C.
A Ballad of Insult
A Club There Was
A High People Dreamt

cont'd 2-1

Downie, Donald
Who's Who

Farmer, H.R.
A Song of the Deep, Deep Sea

Foster, Frank
The Pathology of a Coon's Liver

Goodall, Aubrey
Vagabond Hash

Hamilton, J.H.
Is Music an Art or a Craft?

Haweis, Lionel
Beautiful Brown

[Haweis, Lionel]

(booklet of poems - listed as they appear in the booklet)

A Song of Fresh Flowers

Song

A Song of Bittermen

A Song of Memories

To A.C.W.

A Retrospect

A Hymn to a Good Woman

Love Incontinent

Moonset at Sunrise

Marjory Maid

A Lass and a Lad

Circumstance

Song-

The Lustres of my Lady's Eye - Villanelle

Alas, Poor Flowers - Villanelle

Come, Live, and Lie - Rondeau

A Sucklers Rose - Rondeau

A Domestic Difference - Rondeau

Triolets

Give Me My Book - I

Bid Me Depart - II

There Are No Dreams - III

The Sun and the Dew

The Enchanted Pool

The Soul's Complaint

Song to a Tamil Girl - No.1

- No.2

A Vision of Evening

A Picture of Evening

The Burst of the Big Monsoon

A Bachelor's Bride

Melstink and the Spug

Lucas, E.A.

Platitudinous Poetry or Verities about Vagabonds

MacGregor, D.A.

Thoughts on Vers Libre

Rainier, John L.

I am a Poet

The Vagabond's Song

cont'd 2-1 Wharton, Lewis
The Song of the Vagabond
Soulmates

Manuscripts: Prose

- 2-2 authors unidentified
Cannibalism
Downie Libel Trial
The Knight
Mine Host.....
Notes on the Vagabond Club

various articles by Vagabond Club Members together
in booklet form (in order of appearance)
Some Notions About Art (Lionel Haweis)
Humour
Marriage and Other Foolishness
Why's, What's and How's (Without Answers)
It is Curious.....
Interior (Pirie and Wellwood)
To the Holier Than Thou
Believe Ghost Guards Beads

fragment: page 4 of an article about a young woman
who makes the best of her husband's death
- 2-3 Boardman, C.B.
Vagabonds in Adventure: A Farrago of Nonsense
Vagabonding in the South Seas

Campbell-Johnston, Ronald
A Parable -
Regarding Ghosts

Coleman, H.Bromley
Conversational Traffic

Cummings, A.C., ed.
As-It-Tickleth-Mi-Phanse. A Magazine of One
Evening by the Vancouver Vagabond Club.

Cummings, A.C.
A Paroxysm in a Minor Key
A Welcome on a Gala Night
Here Departeth (to J.L.Rainier)
Vers Libre

Dickie, Francis J.
A Chronicle of the Events of a Day at the
Vagabonds' Club in Hell, In the Year 1986.

Farmer, H.R.
Mr. Pickwick Sees it Through

Foster, Frank
The Bowl and the Bishop
Who's Who?

Hamilton, J.H.
Is Music an Art or a Craft?
Nothing New Under the Sun

- cont'd 2-3 Hardie, F.M.
 Thomas Hardy: An Appreciation
 You Have been elected.....
- 2-4 Hawsis, Lionel
 play with unidentified title, pgs. 35-48
 The Address of Shree Chandrabanda Digamsara Jee,
 Myself Yet Not Myself
 Ad Joannem Ridingtonium
 As The Shadows Pass (Vagabond novel - Chapter vi)
 The Bowl of Arsenic
 The Breath of the Rose: foreword
 By Order
 Chaos
 The Curse of Convention
 Extracts of letters.....
 Free Verse
 I am a Brahman
 The Little Tin Pots
 Mind and Conciousness
 The Nameless One and His Misery
 Oriental Extravagance
 Rubric Ratafia
 Some Notions About Art
 Ten Minutes of Indian Legends
 Ten Minutes of Indian Mythology
 Who's Who
 Ye Abbey of Ye Innocents (3 copies)
- 2-5 To Ye Lady Hawsis
 (book presented to Mrs. Hawsis containing fragments
 from " Ye Abbey of Ye Innocents ")
 Ye Rubric Ratafia Codex Cocktalia (see above -
 " Rubric Ratafia ")
 (Chipman), Hawsis Renee
 Re Vagabonds Club (short history compiled by
 Hawsis' daughter)
- Johnstone, Frank
 Who's Who
- Lamb, Charles
 A Dissertation on Roast Bore
- 2-6 MacGregor, Donald A.M.
 A Day in the life of a Vagabond
 As The Shadows Pass (Vagabond novel - Chapter ii)

cont'd 2-6

The Black Cat
 Farewell to Warde
 Justice in early B.C. (on Matthew Begbie)
 Maciavelli, the Father of Politics
 The Nor'Westers
 On Joseph Conrad
 The Parson of Slocan
 Tricky Aurora
 Vagabond Play
 Who's Who

2-7

Rainier, J.L.
 Who's Who

Ridington, John L.
 Humour
 Outline of Proceedings, Gala Night, July 4, 1917
 (old folder - cover - at end of file)

Robinson, Noel
 Highlights of Vag History

Scott, G.F.Peter
 The Death of Vagabondes
 Story in F
 The text of the Evening.....
 Vagabond Song

Simmonds, H.H.
 Who's Who and How

Sinclair, Bertrand W.
 Fellow Vags.....

Wellwood, Samuel
 Leaves from an Unpublished Diary
 Watch Your Time

SUBGROUPS

3-1

Comrades Club: Constitution
 (ladies club not affiliated with Vagabond Club)

Comrades Club: Miscellaneous

3-2

(correspondence; membership lists; financial
 sttements; bills and receipts)

Charles Hill-Tout: Correspondence(Letters: Incoming)

3-3

Bodington, Alice (copies)	1892-1899	27
<i>(see Hill-Tout papers for originals)</i>		
Cummings, A.C. (fragment)	n.d.	1
Dominion Lands Office	1899	1
Ethnological Survey of Canada	1899	2
Geological Survey Department	1899	1
Roberts, Charles G.D.	1941	1
Tottenham, Agatha	n.d.	1
Tottenham, Marie Alice	n.d.	1

Charles Hill-Tout: Articles

cont'd 3-3 Preamble on talk on " Mind "

Charles Hill-Tout: Printed Material (Books)

3-4 Keble, Reverend John
Keble's Evening Hymn

3-5 Venn, Henry
The Complete Duty of Man

Charles Hill-Tout: Printed Material: Pamphlets

3-6 Biographical Sketch of Charles Hill-Tout (4 copies)

Charles Hill-Tout: Miscellaneous

3-6 (Lay Reader's Lisence; Postcard)