

# **University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections**

## **Finding Aid - Al Sens collection (RBSC-ARC 1729)**

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Language of description: English

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

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<http://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca/index.php/al-sens-collection>

# Al Sens collection

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Al Sens collection
<b>ID:</b>	RBSC-ARC 1729
<b>Date:</b>	2015 (date of creation)
<b>Date:</b>	1955 - 2011 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	16 cm textual records 9 cm graphic materials (ca. 200 drawings, ca. 20 filmstrips, ca. 15 animation celluloids, ca. 10 prints) 1 audio disk
<b>Language:</b>	Czech
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Language:</b>	French
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Al Sens was born Albert Sens on December 27, 1933 in Vancouver, British Columbia where he remained for the majority of his life. He had his first professional illustration experience while he was in high school, drawing cartoons for local newspapers under a pseudonym. In the early 1950s he went on to attend the Vancouver School of Art, now known as the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. After his studies, Sens illustrated cartoons for a variety of Canadian and American magazines including the Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, Liberty and Macleans.

Concurrently Sens started to make animated films. He produced his first film, "The Puppet's Dream," in 1958. In the same year Sens opened his own animation studio, Al Sens Animation Limited, in Vancouver. He would go on to produce several notable animated films including "Hard Day at the Office," "Problems on an Imaginary Farm," and "Political Animals." Each of these featured political themes, for which Sens became well known. He also produced animations for the National Film Board of Canada, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and BC Hydro. Through his experiences Sens developed the "spit technique," which consists of drawing and erasing directly under the camera.

After working at Parry Films in North Vancouver for five years, Sens accepted a position at Simon Fraser University to produce informational short videos in 1967. He continued working in academic settings through the 1970s and 1980s when he taught animation at the University of British Columbia in the Film and Television Department.

Al Sens continued to produce animated films through to the early 2000s, with one of his most famous works being “Dreamtime,” which he produced in 1999. In 2014 Al Sens received the Vancouver Film Critics Circle Ian Caddell Award for making a significant contribution to British Columbia’s film industry.

## Custodial history

Collection was given to Jason Vanderhill by Al Sens. Vanderhill donated the material to Rare Books and Special Collections in 2015.

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## Scope and content

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Collection consists of Al Sens’ professional records, produced and received in the process of his career in cartoon and animation illustration. Material spans his career from the 1950s to the 2010s. The collection is arranged into two series according to record type: publications series and original illustration series.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on name of collector.

### Immediate source of acquisition

The collection was donated to Rare Books and Special Collections by Jason Vanderhill on April 17, 2015. Jason Vanderhill received the collection from Al Sens.

### Arrangement

Collection is not in original order. Records were arranged by archivist according to record type and specific project and/or publication.

### Accruals

No further accruals expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Draft

## Access points

- Vanderhill, Jason
- Sens, Al (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Animation (subject)
- Vancouver (B.C.) (place)

## Series descriptions

### Original Illustration Work

Date: 1955 - 2011 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series documents Al Sens own illustrative work in animation and cartoons. It contains original illustrations, animation celluloids, paintings, and prints produced by Sens over the course of his career including: "Problems on an Imaginary Farm," "Political Animals," "Hard Day at the Office," and "Dreamtime." Material is arranged by project title where appropriate.

Physical description: 9 cm of graphic material (ca. 200 drawings, ca. 20 filmstrips, ca.15 animation celluloids, ca. 10 prints)

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-20	File - "A Loss of Character"	2000		
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-21	File - "Problems on an Imaginary Farm"	[1979]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-22	File - "Henry"	[196-?]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-23	File - "The Sorcerer"	[1960]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-24	File - "Under the Influence Of"	2002		
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-25	File - "Fowl Play"	[1997]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-26	File - "Political Animals"	[1992]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-34	File - Farmland backgrounds	[19-?]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-01	File - Child-Like Stuff	[19-?]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-02	File - "Hard Day at the Office"	[1978?]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-03	File - "Dreamtime"	[1999?]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-04	File - Untitled Celluloids	[19-?]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-05	File - Man and Woman talking illustrations	[19-?]		

RBSC-ARC 1729-3-06	File - Backgrounds and Characters	1955 - 2001
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-07	File - "If you want to get a job with our company you'll have to go green"	[19-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-08	File - Variation in Graphic Techniques	[19-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-09	File - "Fatcat" backgrounds	[19-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-10	File - Factory interior background	[19-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-11	File - Forest background	[19-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-3-12	File - Comic book heroes	[19-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-4-01	File - "Run! The Internet is down."	[2011?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-4-02	File - Proposal for an Environmental PSA - Rejected	[198-]
RBSC-ARC 1729-4-03	File - Various Illustrations	[19-?]

## Publications

Date: 1961 - 2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series documents AI Sens textual involvement in the animation community. Material includes periodicals, programmes, bulletins, brochures, correspondence, and catalogues. Series is arranged by publication or event title and date.

Physical description: 16 cm of textual records

1 audio disk

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)

### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-01	File - ASIFA newsletters 1961 – 1972	1961 - 1972		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-02	File - ASIFA newsletters 1992 – 2004	1992 - 2004		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-03	File - ASIFA Canada newsletters	1971 - 1983		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-04	File - Top Cel Union newsletters	1967 - 1968		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-05	File - Cantrills Filmnotes	[19-?]		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-06	File - Canada on Location	1995		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-07	File - American Cinematographer	1971		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-08	File - Squawk! Winter 1991	1991		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-09	File - CIPS Computer Magazine	1973		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-10	File - Reel West	1984		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-11	File - Annecy Festival	1971 - 1985		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-12	File - Ottawa '76 International Animated Film Festival	1976		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-13	File - Ottawa 94 International Animation Festival	1994		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-14	File - 49th Sydney Film Festival	2002		
RBSC-ARC 1729-1-15	File - 6e Festival international du film de Montreal	1965		
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-01	File - Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival	1983		

RBSC-ARC 1729-2-02	File - Provincial Animation Festivals	1982 - 1999
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-03	File - National Film Board of Canada	1978 - 1983
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-04	File - la cin#math#que canadienne	1966 - 1967
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-05	File - Pannonia Film	1976
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-06	File - Making it Move	1973
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-07	File - Czechoslovak Cartoon and Puppet Films 1965	1965
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-08	File - Holland Animation	[1976?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-09	File - Screenings – Pacific Cinémathèque Pacifique Schedule	1984
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-10	File - Computer-Generated Key-Frame Animation	1971
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-11	File - Premiere July 1988	1988
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-12	File - Pegbar Summer 1984	1984
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-13	File - Cinema Canada / Pay-TV 1976	1976
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-14	File - Notes on the filmmakers	[197-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-15	File - Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution West Catalogue 1983	1983
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-16	File - Gremlins: Modern Photography's Dictionary of Camera	[197-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-17	File - Pyramid 90 and Cinema 90	[197-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-18	File - Man-Computer Communications Seminar booklet	1973
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-19	File - "I'm Popeye the Sailor Man" audio disk	1978
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-27	File - AI Sens Animation Ltd.	1965 - 2007
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-28	File - Unknown publications	[197-?]
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-29	File - Golden Elephant Festival	2000
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-30	File - Canadian Cartoonist	1990
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-31	File - Learning Corporation of America Catalogue	1971
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-32	File - Toronto Film Society	1965
RBSC-ARC 1729-2-33	File - 5e Biennale de Paris	1967