

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Foon Sien Wong fonds (RBSC-ARC-1628)

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Language of description: English

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Foon Sien Wong fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Foon Sien Wong fonds
Reference code:	RBSC-ARC-1628
Date:	1930-1971 (date of creation)
Physical description:	3.15 m of textual records and 12 photographs
Language:	Chinese
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Processed, arranged, and described by Dennis Michailides in October of 2015. Legacy PDF finding aid was removed on November 2, 2015. Finding aid revised in July 2024 by Jacky Lai.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Wong Foon Sien was a spokesperson for the Chinese Canadian community in Vancouver, serving in influential positions with the Chinese Benevolent Association and the Wongs' Benevolent Association. He was instrumental in advocating for the granting of the franchise to Chinese Canadians in 1947 following their military service in World War II. On many occasions, he travelled to Ottawa to pursue the rights of Chinese Canadians, particularly urging the lifting of immigration restrictions towards reunification of family members following the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act. He also served for a time on the Vancouver Consultative Committee on Redevelopment, and throughout his life, fought unflaggingly to end discrimination against not just Chinese Canadians, but all minority groups.

Scope and content

The fonds consists primarily of clippings and articles relating to international affairs, Chinese customs preserved in Canada, life in Vancouver's China Town and social and political problems confronted by Chinese Canadians. Further, the fonds also contains many complete copies of the Chinatown newspaper, *The Chinese Voice*; records related to Foon Sien Wong's Chinatown activities through the Vancouver Unity Association, the Canadian Centennial Planning Committee, and other related groups.

Notes

Title notes

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

Related material

Chinese and English language published books were removed from the fonds and relocated to the UBC Asian Library and UBC Koerner Library, respectively.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
-

Access points

- Chinese Canadian history (subject)
 - Chinese (subject)
 - Land, settlement and immigration (subject)
 - Organizations (subject)
-

Series descriptions

Social activism and community engagement

Date: 1951-1969 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Records and ephemera gathered by Foon Sien related to his activities as a member, executive, or board member of numerous social activist and goodwill organizations across Western Canada. Foon Sien was an executive of the City of Vancouver Re-Development Consultation Committee where he championed for the residents of Chinatown against developers looking to gentrify the neighbourhood. Foon Sien also acted as a chair of the Inter-Ethnic Committee representing the Chinese-Canadian immigrant group for the Centennial Celebration, which served the greater Canadian Confederation Centennial Committee efforts. Further, Foon Sien was also active in the Vancouver Civic Unity Association, was the president of Chinese Benevolent Association (#####), and was a member of the The Canadian Welfare Council, Chinese Canadian Citizens Association (#####), the Vancouver Film Council, and the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. Lastly, the series contains records related to Foon Sien's teaching career.

Physical description: 31 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- (place)

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1628-08-01	File - City of Vancouver Re-Development Consultation Committee	1954-1967		
RBSC-ARC-1628-08-02	File - The Canadian Welfare Council	1961-1966		
RBSC-ARC-1628-08-03	File - Vancouver Civic Unity Association	1958-1969		
RBSC-ARC-1628-08-04	File - Chinese Benevolent Association = #####	1956-1959		
RBSC-ARC-1628-08-05	File - Chinese Canadian Citizens Association = #####	1967-1968		
RBSC-ARC-1628-09-03	File - Canadian Confederation Centennial Committee	1964-1966		
RBSC-ARC-1628-09-04	File - [Teaching]	1962-1965		
RBSC-ARC-1628-09-07	File - Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism	1963-1971		
RBSC-ARC-1628-10-02	File - Canadian Council of Christians and Jews	1959-1966		
RBSC-ARC-1628-12-02	File - Vancouver Film Council	1951-1962		

Political activismDate: 1938-1966 (date of creation)Scope and content:

The series includes records and ephemera related to the Canadian Citizenship Council, of which Foon Sien was a member.

Further, the series includes records of Foon Sien using media platforms to better inform Canadians about wartime developments between China and Empire of Japan.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual recordsAccess points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1628-09-01	File - [In the media]	1938-1966		
RBSC-ARC-1628-09-02	File - Canadian Citizenship Council	1964-1966		
Personal records				
<u>Date:</u> 1949-1970 (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content:</u>				
Includes records and ephemera related to the personal life of Foon Sien Wong. Items include letters, event invitations, and twenty years worth of day calendar entries.				
<u>Physical description:</u> 30 cm of textual records and 10 photographs				
<u>Access points:</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textual record (documentary form) 				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1628-10-03	File - [Correspondences and ephemera]	1956-1970		
RBSC-ARC-1628-10-03-PH-01 to 12	Item - [Photographs]			
RBSC-ARC-1628-11-01	File - [Appointment calendar sheets]	1949-1959		
RBSC-ARC-1628-12-01	File - [Appointment calendar sheets]	1959-1970		
Published Materials				
<u>Date:</u> 1930-1971 (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content:</u>				
Organized scrapbooks and folders of loose newspaper clippings covering a range of topics including, but not limited to, life in Chinatown, the Pacific War, enfranchisement of Chinese immigrants and their progeny in Canada, and the spread of McCarthyism and the containment doctrine around the globe. The scrapbooks include both English and Chinese articles about and/or authored by Foon Sien Wong.				
The series also includes records from the Chinese Benevolent Association (#####) and other Chinatown based fraternal organizations, as well as copies of the The Chinese Voice newspaper.				
<u>Physical description:</u> 2.5 m of textual records				

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1628-01-01 to 05	File - [Scrapbooks]	1936-1953		
RBSC-ARC-1628-02-01 to 21	File - [Scrapbooks]	1936-1960		
RBSC-ARC-1628-03-01 to 13	File - [Scrapbooks]	1934-1957		
RBSC-ARC-1628-04-01 to 12	File - [Scrapbooks]	1941-1959		
RBSC-ARC-1628-05-01 to 14	File - [Scrapbooks]	1941-1957		
RBSC-ARC-1628-06-01 to 11	File - [Scrapbooks]	1951-1971		
RBSC-ARC-1628-07-01 to 08	File - [Scrapbooks]	1945-1971		
RBSC-ARC-1628-09-05	File - [Newspaper clippings]	1946-1970		
RBSC-ARC-1628-09-06	File - [Journals and magazines]	1938-1968		
RBSC-ARC-1628-10-01	File - [Journals and magazines]	1938-1968		

The Chinese VoiceDate: 1959-1971 (date of creation)Scope and content:

An incomplete, yet substantial collection of a local Chinese Canadian newspaper, The Chinese Voice.

Physical description: 52 cm of textual recordsAccess points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1628-15-01	File - The Chinese Voice 1959	1959		

RBSC- ARC-1628-15-02	File - The Chinese Voice 1960	1960
RBSC- ARC-1628-15-03	File - The Chinese Voice 1962	1962
RBSC- ARC-1628-15-04	File - The Chinese Voice 1963	1962
RBSC- ARC-1628-15-05	File - The Chinese Voice 1964	1964
RBSC- ARC-1628-15-06	File - The Chinese Voice 1965	1965
RBSC- ARC-1628-15-07	File - The Chinese Voice 1967	1967
RBSC- ARC-1628-15-08	File - The Chinese Voice 1968	1968
RBSC- ARC-1628-15-09	File - The Chinese Voice 1969	1969
RBSC- ARC-1628-15-10	File - The Chinese Voice 1970	1970
RBSC- ARC-1628-15-11	File - The Chinese Voice 1971	1971