

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Hanne Wassermann Walker fonds (RBSC- ARC-1810)

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Language of description: English

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

1961 East Mall

Vancouver

British Columbia

V6T 1Z1

Telephone: 604-822-2521

Fax: 604-822-9587

Email: rare.books@ubc.ca

<http://rbsc.library.ubc.ca/>

<http://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca//index.php/hanne-wassermann-walker-fonds>

Hanne Wassermann Walker fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Hanne Wassermann Walker fonds
ID:	RBSC-ARC-1810
Date:	11 November 1887-[1986] (date of creation)
Physical description:	80.6 cm of textual records and other materials
Language:	English
Language:	French
Language:	German
Language:	Italian
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Hanne Wassermann Walker was born on May 13, 1893 to Jewish parents Rudolf Herrmann (23 February 1846-31 May 1922) and Hedwig Herrmann née Heller (3 January 1863-28 December 1940) in Vienna, Austria. Her father worked as an architect for the city and her mother did not work outside the home, instead looking after Hanne and her one other daughter, Elizabeth Fischer née Herrmann (11 December 1887- 1981).

As a teenager, Hanne studied at Hermine Brabbée's Civic School for Girls, a private school which would have offered an education for people pursuing jobs in the commercial or trade sectors rather than for those planning to get a traditional university degree. She went on to study at the "Lehr- und Versuchsanstalt für Photographie und Reproduktionsverfahren" (Teaching and Research Institute for Photography and Reproduction Processes) in Vienna from 1912-1914. Here Hanne studied such subjects as portrait photography, freehand drawing, chemistry, commercial/business math and writing, and more. Hanne would go on to become a prolific amateur photographer, however, her true calling was in the field of health and fitness.

After completion of her studies in photography and graphic reproduction, Hanne attended the Röntgen Institute, Vienna's first x-ray institute, where she learned about human anatomy and physical wellness. She completed her time there around 1917. During this period, Hanne married Dr. Gustav Wassermann, however their union was short-lived; the couple wed in July 1914 and in January 1915 Gustav died from a heart-related condition.

Hanne pioneered a series of stretches and exercises for women she called The Hanne Wassermann Method, which she described as a form of gymnastics. She focused not only on physical "improvements"

but also the psychology of fitness, describing her method as “The First Psychologically Based Gymnastic System with Movement Control”. She documented these routines through written publications and extensive photo series. Her exercises were designed to help practitioners lose weight, tone figures, and reduce the “effect of age” while also improving one’s overall mental and physical wellbeing. She was also a proponent of winter sports, physical education for children, and swimming lessons, the latter which she also taught.

Hanne worked as a personal trainer, teacher, and fitness advocate at a time when the concepts of physical culture and education were only just beginning to take hold on a wider scale. She opened a school (“Gymnastikschule”) in Vienna, taught at an upscale resort in Italy, worked as a personal trainer, and sought to advance her philosophy and fitness techniques through lectures, books, pamphlets, and newspaper/magazine articles. These works featured titles like: “Daily Gymnastics”, “Everywoman The Sculptor of Her Own Body”, “Nice on the Outside, Ugly on the Inside”, and “Movement and Figure Control”. Her list of friends and clients was comprised of some of the most elite members of Austrian/European society during the interwar period, including Princess Helen of Greece, Princess Marguerita of Aosta, Baron Louis Rothschild, and actress Hedy Lamarr.

During the summer, Hanne often traveled throughout Europe – travels she documented with her camera. Much of the resulting photographs depict the landscapes and architecture of Austria, France, Italy, and Greece. Hanne spent lots of time on the Italian islands of Brioni (which later became part of Croatia). Brioni had long been a popular travel destination for the upper classes of Europe, especially Vienna, and it was to here that Hanne brought her physical fitness method in the summertime, offering her classes and swimming lessons at the Hotel Brioni.

Featured in many of Hanne’s travel photographs from between 1926 and 1938 is a man who appears to have been her boyfriend/lover. However, his name is not identified on any of the photographs in this fonds, nor do there appear to be letters or other records that shed light on his identity and relationship with Hanne. Around 1934, Hanne met her future husband George Dickson Walker (19 July 1889-11 July 1981). George was a Presbyterian minister with a background in psychology. It is unclear from the records in this fonds exactly how they met or what the early years of their relationship were like, however, George did visit Austria occasionally as a tourist and it may have been during one of these trips that he and Hanne met. George, who was born in Northern Ireland, was living and working in Manchester, England, in 1934. He moved with his wife, Rachel, and daughter, Norah, to the Channel Islands in 1936; according to U.S. immigration paperwork filled out by George years later, in 1936 his wife deserted him. (He lost track of them when Germany occupied the Channel Islands in 1940, although according to correspondence with his brother years later, George appears to have had some knowledge of his daughter’s life after the war.)

Following Nazi Germany’s 1938 annexation of Austria, Hanne and her family began making preparations to emigrate from Europe. However, she did not depart immediately from Austria. Hanne traveled, worked, and lived in other parts of Europe (Britain and Italy in particular) during this time. It was not until December 1939 that Hanne left England for New York, followed shortly afterwards by her mother and George. Hanne’s journey to the U.S. was made possible thanks in part to her friend and client Marie Louise Wanamaker, a Philadelphia department store heiress who wrote letters on Hanne’s behalf and helped her navigate the American immigration system.

For the next three years, Hanne worked as a fitness instructor and lecturer at various hotels and studios across the country, making La Jolla, California, her temporary home. During this time she also developed a product called the “Wassermann Rescue Sling,” which was designed to more safely lift and transport injured bodies in the event of a disaster or military attack; she offered training courses on the sling’s use and issued “Modern Rescue & Transportation” certificates to successful participants.

On June 15, 1943, Hanne married George in Los Angeles and the two relocated to British Columbia, ultimately settling on the North Shore of Burrard Inlet, first in North Vancouver and then in West Vancouver. They resided here for the rest of their lives. Hanne taught private fitness classes to some of Vancouver's wealthiest and most influential citizens, although she did not share with them stories or details of her earlier life in Europe. In addition to fitness classes, Hanne also provided some physiotherapy services such as massages.

During her 43 years in British Columbia, Hanne was a prolific amateur photographer, documenting her life with George (which included several pet dogs over the years) and much of the travel they did together. (Both were avid campers.) Hanne's landscape photography captures many B.C. lakes and mountains during the mid-20th century. The subjects of her portrait photography include members of the Koerner, Prentice, Molnar, and other Vancouver families, as well as George and friends of theirs. In addition to photography, Hanne was also a talented sculptor.

Hanne died May 28, 1986 at the age of 93.

Custodial history

In April 1986, following Hanne's death, Gerry Davie was hired to dispose of items from her property at 2905 Marine Drive in West Vancouver. Dealing with a man he believed to be Hanne's nephew, Davie removed two loads of materials on the understanding that he could keep them or try to sell anything of value. All the records — photographs, documents, ephemera, etc. — had been stuffed into plastic garbage bags to be thrown out. Davie held onto these materials until 2018, when Victoria bookseller Bjarne Tokerud approached RBSC later that year on behalf of Davie with an offer of sale. The sale was finalized in 2019.

A portion of the photographs and negatives in this fonds (taken by Hanne) was originally donated to the West Vancouver Memorial Library (WVML) following Hanne's death in 1986. The library's records indicate these photos and negatives were received in October 1986. The donor was someone, likely Davie, who had been clearing out Hanne's unoccupied house and thought these photos might be of value to the library. They were stored at WVML until spring 2019 when they were donated to RBSC.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of documents, archival records, photographs, ephemera, and artifacts pertaining to the life and work of Hanne Wassermann Walker. These materials relate to several broad themes: health and fitness, travel, friends and family, immigration to North America, and art/photography. Hanne's collection provides a window into the early 20th century physical culture movement; the experience of Jewish Europeans in the lead-up to, during, and after World War II; and the landscapes of British Columbia between the 1940s and 1970s. The fonds is comprised of manuscripts and published materials, correspondence, government records, photographs (including negatives, metadata, and albums), and more. In addition to Hanne's extensive collection of letters, postcards, personal and official records, and assorted odds and ends (e.g. household receipts, business cards, recipes, etc.), the fonds also contains the records of her husband, George Dickson Walker.

Notes

Title notes

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Physical description:** 80.6 cm of textual records ; 2213 small b&w photographs ; 105 small colour photographs ; 209 medium b&w photographs ; 144 large b&w photographs ; 649 b&w negatives ; 47 colour negatives ; 93 small photographs affixed to posters ; 1 large photo album ; 834 envelopes containing combinations of negatives, metadata information, and photo prints ; and 51 artifacts

Access points

- George Dickson Walker (subject)
- Trude Fleischmann (subject)
- Hedy Lamarr (subject)
- Marie Louise Wanamaker Munn (subject)

Series descriptions

Fitness Instruction and Innovation

Date: [1925?]-[31 December 1984] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of materials pertaining to Hanne's lifelong work as a fitness instructor and innovator, especially in the field of women's health and physical fitness. Hanne developed a range of workouts, stretches, and exercise methods, many of which she chronicled in essays, newspaper/magazine articles, and lectures. This series includes manuscripts, writing drafts, and clippings by Hanne and others related to the topic of health and fitness. In addition to her role a fitness pioneer in the early half of the 20th century, Hanne also worked as an instructor, personal trainer, and massage therapist. This series includes the client ledgers Hanne kept during her time in Europe and North America.

Physical description: 22.7 cm of textual and other materials

Language of the material:

English
French
German

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Series includes 22.7 cm of textual materials and 6 b&w photographs

File / item list

Writing

Date: 20 December 1926-8 August 1971 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of textual materials, most of which were written by Hanne, however, this subseries does include some items written/created by other individuals. There are unpublished articles, draft versions of published articles, and newspaper/magazine clippings of articles — many written by Hanne, some written by other writers but featuring Hanne. There are also articles on the subject of health/fitness but which were written neither by Hanne nor about her. Other materials include pamphlets describing Hanne's fitness method, pamphlets related to the rescue and transportation program she developed in the U.S., and artists' mock-ups of possible covers for Hanne's book "Methode Hanne Wassermann." (It is unclear whether this book was ever published; however, typed copies are available as part of this subseries.)

Physical description: 14.7 cm of textual materials

Language of the material:

English

French

German

Physical condition:

Good

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-01-01	File - Manuscripts and drafts [1 of 3]	[1926]-[1940]		

RBSC-ARC-1810-01-02	File - Manuscripts and drafts [2 of 3]	[1926]-[1939]
RBSC-ARC-1810-01-03	File - Manuscripts and drafts [3 of 3]	10 December 1929-24 July 1940
RBSC-ARC-1810-01-04	File - Mock-ups for "Methode Hanne Wassermann" book	[Pre-1938]
RBSC-ARC-1810-01-05	File - Articles by or featuring Hanne Wassermann	20 December 1926-April 1937
RBSC-ARC-1810-01-06	File - Pamphlets and printed materials [1 of 3]	1934-1934
RBSC-ARC-1810-01-07	File - Pamphlets and printed materials [2 or 3]	1934-1942
RBSC-ARC-1810-01-08	File - Pamphlets and printed materials [3 of 3]	[ca. 1926]
RBSC-ARC-1810-01-09	File - Other fitness-related written materials	May 1927-8 August 1971

Work as a health and fitness instructor

Date: [ca. 1925]-December 1984 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of materials related to Hanne's work as a health/fitness educator and trainer. Most of these records are from her time in North America, first leading workshops and hosting lectures in the United States (1940-1943) and later in Vancouver, where she worked as a fitness instructor, personal trainer, and massage therapist. This subseries also includes materials used to promote and advertise her gym and schools in Austria, her work as a fitness instructor and trainer, her fitness method, and other services she offered.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual records and other materials

Language of the material:

English
German

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 8 cm of textual records and 6 medium b&w photographs.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
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RBSC- ARC-1810-01-10	File - Teaching in Austria and Italy	5 December 1927- [November 1939]
RBSC- ARC-1810-01-11	File - Teaching in the United States	1 February 1940-18 August 1942
	Item - PH-0001 to 0006 - Photographs	
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-01	File - Teaching in Canada [1 of 2]	1 July 1947-28 February 1983
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-02	File - Teaching in Canada [2 of 2]	20 April 1962-31 December 1984
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-03	File - Promotion and advertising ephemera	[ca. 1925]- [1940]

Photography

Date: [1920]-[1986] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of photography pertaining to the life of Hanne, her friends, and her family. Hanne's early career as an influential figure of the physical culture movement during the interwar period in Europe is captured in this series through photographs by Trude Fleischmann and Edith Boeck, among others. These images depict Hanne demonstrating the fitness poses she developed, as well as group exercises she designed and taught. In addition to fitness-related photography, this series contains pictures of Hanne's travels throughout Europe and later in North America. Her European photos feature architecture, urban and rural locales, social gatherings, and lots of time spent at the beach in places like the resort islands of Brioni, Italy. An avid hiker and camper, Hanne produced an extensive collection of landscape photography, with emphasis on mountains, lakes, and glaciers, particularly throughout the Rocky Mountains. This series also offers a look at her home life in British Columbia, her affinity for dogs and plants, her talent as an amateur sculptor, and the meticulous detail with which she recorded information about the pictures she took from 1940 to 1970. Additionally, this series includes portraits of members of a number of Vancouver families (the Koerners, Molnars, and Prentices to name just a few) between the 1940s and the early 1960s. There are also self-portraits and portraits of Hanne's husband, George.

Physical description: 2693 photographs and other materials

Access points:

- Trude Fleischmann (subject)
- Koerner (family) (subject)
- Koerner, Iby (subject)
- George Dickson Walker (subject)

Physical condition:

Condition of these materials range from very good to very poor. A large number of the negatives in this collection have experienced minor-to-severe vinegar syndrome, some to the point at which they had to be destroyed.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 5.8 cm of textual materials, 2206 small b&w photographs, 105 small colour photographs, 197 medium b&w photographs, 144 large b&w photographs, 93 photographs affixed to poster-size papers, 649 b&w negatives, 47 colour negatives, and 834 envelopes containing negatives, prints, and textual information.

File / item list**Trude Fleischmann photography**

Creator: Trude Fleischmann

Date: [ca. 1920], [ca. 1950] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Trude Fleischmann was a renowned portrait photographer in Vienna whose rise to prominence coincided with that of Hanne Wassermann. Both women had studied photography at the "Lehr- und Versuchsanstalt für Photographie und Reproduktionsverfahren," their time at the school overlapping for at least one year. The two were friends, with Hanne posing as a model for Trude, including at least one nude photo in the early 1920s. When Hanne opened her 'gymnastics' school, it was Trude who photographed her for publicity materials such as posters and cards. Similarly, Trude photographed Hanne (sometimes accompanied by other models) demonstrating the various stretches and poses associated with the fitness method she had developed.

This subseries consists of photographs by Trude, the majority of which depict Hanne's fitness programs (e.g. stretching, holding poses, and ring exercises). There are also portraits taken of Hanne and photos of Hanne apparently modeling clothes. While Hanne is the primary subject of these images, there are also portraits of two unidentified men, one of whom was Hanne's boyfriend. There is also a small quantity of textual materials associated with Trude such as a newspaper clipping featuring one of her photos, materials related to Hanne's lectures at her New York studio, and a single piece of correspondence to Hanne.

Physical description: 227 photographs : b&w

Language of the material:

German

Note:

Source of information on Trude Fleischmann's education: Silverman, Lisa. "Trude Fleischmann." Jewish Women's Archive - Encyclopedia. <https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/fleischmann-trude> (accessed September 5, 2019). For print-out, please see RBSC file for Wassermann fonds.

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition. The glue affixing some of the prints to heavy card stock in loosening in some cases.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-04	File - Stretches, poses, and fitness	[1924]-[1934]		
	Item - PH-0007 to 0199, 0267 - Photographs			
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-05	File - Portraiture	[1920]-[1934]		
	Item - PH-0200 to 0231 - Photographs			
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-06	File - Fleischmann textual records	[1925]-[1950]		
	Item - PH-0232 - Photograph			

Photographs taken by various European photographers

Date: 1913-[pre-1939] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of portraits of Hanne (and another woman, possibly her sister Elizabeth) taken by European photographers. At least five photographs of Hanne were taken by Grete Weissenstein (known professionally as Ingret) and at least two by Madame D'Ora, a famed Austrian fashion and portrait photographer. Those photographers responsible for the remaining pictures in this subseries are unknown.

Physical description: 34 photographs and other materials

Language of the material:

German

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 19 small b&w photographs: 8 medium b&w photographs, 7 large b&w photographs, and 1 envelope. Photographs by Ingret and Madame d'Ora bear the photographers' signatures and/or studio imprints.

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-07	File - Photographs taken by various European photographers	1913-[pre-1939]		
	Item - PH-0233 to 0266 - Photographs			
Other fitness photographs				
<u>Date:</u> [1920]-[1938] (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content:</u>				
<p>Subseries consists of photographs and photographic negatives depicting Hanne as she demonstrates the various athletic stretches/poses she developed. There are also many photos of her engaged in other physical activities like diving, swimming, and group fitness exercises, as well as images of Hanne teaching swimming lessons, of her ring exercise demonstrations, and of exercises enacted with another model. The photographers responsible for taking most of these pictures are unknown, however some photos may have been taken by Trude Fleischmann. This subseries also includes photographs and corresponding to negatives taken by Edith Boeck from "Sport-Illustrationen" — these photographs are stamped on verso with Boeck's name, company, and address as well as a reproduction notification. Boeck's photographs capture Hanne stretching and posing on a rocky shoreline, as well as diving and swimming. Some the images in these series were taking in Brioni, Italy, however, most photo settings are not identified.</p>				
<u>Physical description:</u> 396 b&w negatives and other materials				
<u>Language of the material:</u>				
German				
<u>Physical condition:</u>				
Most materials are in good condition, although a small number of the negatives have a washed out appearance.				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
published				
<u>Physical description:</u>				
Includes: 396 b&w negatives, 273 small b&w photographs, 5 medium b&w photographs, 1 flip book, and 0.1 cm of textual records (two small envelopes).				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-08	File - Other fitness photographs	[1920]-[1938]		
	Item - PH-0268 to 0940 - Photographs			
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-09	File - Flip book of Hanne stretching	[ca. 1925]		

Photographs by Hanne Wassermann Walker

Date: 1926-September 1970 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of photographs, negatives, and associated materials (envelopes, metadata papers), most of which were created by Hanne. These images document aspects of her life in Europe prior to immigrating to the United States and eventually Canada. There are photographs from her travels in Austria, France, Italy, and other countries, which reveal an interest in hiking, landscape photography, and architecture. There are also many photographs taken of Hanne's friends, family, and even an apparent boyfriend/lover with whom she travelled extensively in the 1920s and 1930s. After arriving in North America, Hanne's photos capture her life with husband George Walker — their hiking trips, the home they made for themselves in Vancouver, the many dogs they owned and loved over the years, and their friends and family in North America. Hanne's interest (not to mention her education as a young woman) in portrait photography is also reflected in this subseries through the many pictures taken of herself, George, and the members of several local families, including the Koerners. Hanne also photographed the many sculptures she produced while living in Vancouver — sculptures which are not part of this fonds and are likely impossible to ever locate/recover.

Physical description: 2080 photographs and other materials

Language of the material:

English

German

Physical condition:

Some materials are in moderate-to-poor condition. Some photographic negatives exhibit signs of deterioration such as blue discoloration and a vinegary odour. (These have been stored separately from the rest of the collection to prevent further contamination.) Most of the envelopes containing negatives are quite dry and brittle. Some negatives had already decayed substantially at the time of their donation to RBSC and ultimately had to be thrown out.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 1715 small b&w photographs, 64 small colour photographs, 169 medium b&w photographs, 91 large b&w photographs, 231 b&w negatives, 47 colour negatives, 810 envelopes containing negatives, prints, and textual information, and 5 cm of textual materials.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-10	File - European travels, landscapes, architecture, and boyfriend	1926-28 September 1938		

	File - PH-0941 to 2372, 4134 - Photographs	
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-11	File - Large photo album containing European travel pictures	28 May 1928-30 May 1928
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-12	File - Friends, family, and other subjects from Europe	[1890]- December 1938
	Item - PH-2373 to 2613, 3144 to 3145, 4161 - Photographs	
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-13	File - Travels in North America with George	June 1940- September 1966
	Item - PH-2614 to 2940, 2941, 2944, 2946, 2963, 2969, 3420, 3500, 3924 to 3935 - Photographs	
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-14	File - Landscape photography in British Columbia and Alberta [1 of 2]	1948-8 August 1970
	Item - PH-2942, 2943, 2945, 2947 to 2951, 2953 to 2955, 2957, 2971 to 2975, 2979 to 2997 - Photographs	
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-15	File - Landscape photography in British Columbia and Alberta [2 of 2]	1948-8 August 1970
	Item - PH-2998 to 3143, 3470, 3472 to 3479, 3484 to 3486, 3496 to 3499, 3501 to 3508, 3510 to 3511, 4183 - Photographs	
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-16	File - Portraiture	6 November 1948-23 November 1960
	Item - PH-2965 to 2968, 2976 to 2978, 3412 to 3419, 3420 to 3469, 3512 to 3753, 3757, 3758, 3761, 3763, 3764, 3766, 3771 to 3779, 3781, 3782, 3787 to 3796, 3798 to 3813, 3815 to 3821, 3825 to 3829, 3832 to 3835, 3837, 3838, 3840 to 3855, 3857, 3860 to 3863, 3869 to 3873, 3875, 3878 to 3885, 3890 to 3893, 3900 to 3905, 4014 to 4016, 4163 - Photographs	
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-17	File - Portraiture	6 November 1948-23 November 1960
	Item - 3759, 3760, 3762, 3765, 3767 to 3770, 3780, 3783 to 3786, 3797, 3814, 3822 to 3824, 3830, 3831, 3836, 3839, 3856, 3858, 3859, 3864 to 3868, 3874, 3876, 3877, 3886 to 3889, 3894 to 3899, 4164 to 4170, 4172 to 4182, 4184 to 4187, 4190 to 4201, 4203 to 4204 - Photographs	
RBSC- ARC-1810-02-18	File - House and home photography, including dogs and local flora	30 April 1950-29 August 1970
	Item - PH-2952, 2964, 3146 to 3411, 3471, 3482 to 3483, 3490 to 3494, 3906 to 3923, 4202 - Photographs	

RBSC-ARC-1810-02-19	File - Photographs of Hanne's sculpture work	July 1943-September 1970
	Item - PH-3936 to 4007, 4160 - Photographs	
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-20	File - Holiday greeting cards featuring Hanne's photography and art	1948-[pre-1971]
	Item - PH-4008 to 4013, 4159 - Photographs	

Miscellaneous photographs

Date: [1947]-[1986] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of an assortment of photographs taken by Hanne or sent to her by family and friends. These images depict people and locations (many of which are unidentified), events and gatherings such as birthday parties, framed artwork by other creators, silverware, religious art, and several pictures in which George is wearing his pulpit gown and may be presiding over a child's baptism. Some of the photographs have messages or notes written on verso in English and German. There are many photos of children, including Michael and Stephen Fairweather (whose parents regarded Hanne and George as grandparent figures). Other photographs of note include one of Hedwig Herrmann's grave marker (PH-4133) and what may be the last image of Hanne (PH-4083 and 4084), taken with Jane Vaughan and two other women.

Physical description: 120 photographs and other materials

Language of the material:

English

German

Physical condition:

While most of the file in this file are in good condition, some exhibit signs of vinegar syndrome. Three of the envelopes (PH-4298, 4315, and 4316) containing negatives, prints, and metadata were so severely impacted by vinegar syndrome that the envelopes and negatives had to be destroyed, however, the prints and metadata were preserved. Five envelopes were so badly affected they and their contents had to be destroyed; they were not assigned PH numbers.

Immediate source of acquisition:

Some of the items in this file (PH-4085 to 4087 and 4106 to 4133) were donated by the West Vancouver Public Library.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 28 small b&w photographs, 41 small colour photographs, 4 medium b&w photographs, 1 large b&w photograph, 22 b&w negatives, 0.5 cm of textual records, and 27 envelopes containing

negatives, prints, and/or textual information. Items PH-4106 to 4129 are each made up of 2-3 composite parts: an envelope with a handwritten title and identification number assigned by the creator; a piece of paper containing handwritten image metadata; and/or one or more b&w cellulose acetate negatives.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-21	File - Miscellaneous photographs	[1947]-[1986]		
	Item - PH-2956, 2958 to 2962, 2970, 3480 to 3481, 3487 to 3489, 3495, 3509, 4106 to 4133, 4162, 4171, 4188, 4189-Photographs			
RBSC-ARC-1810-02-22	File - Miscellaneous metadata information	10 June 1950-1 December 1950		

George Dickson Walker

Creator: George Dickson Walker

Date: 1 January 1939-16 July 1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of materials related to the life of George Dickson Walker immediately preceding his immigration to North America and the rest of his time spent living both in the U.S. and Canada. The bulk of these materials is correspondence, however, other records include paperwork and ephemera related to his immigration process, official records (e.g. divorce application, official affidavit, etc.), and some research he had done, likely pertaining to his own personal writing.

Physical description: 15 cm of textual materials and other materials

Language of the material:

English

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition, although a number of records were torn into large pieces and consequently needed to be housed in mylar sleeves

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 15 cm of textual materials and 5 small b&w photographs.

File / item list

George Walker correspondence

Date: 24 December 1939-17 December 1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of correspondence mailed to George Walker since his coming to North America, except for two letters written to George by his wife, Hanne, during her transatlantic crossing several days before his. The subseries includes a large collection of letters from George's older brother William ("Billy") Orr Walker in Northern Ireland.

Physical description: 12.5 cm of textual records and other materials

Language of the material:

English

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Subseries consists of 163 pieces of correspondence, including 5 small b&w photographs.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC- ARC-1810-03-01	File - Correspondence with brother in Northern Ireland [1 of 4]	6 January 1953-19 February 1962		
	Item - PH-4135 to 4136 - Photographs			
RBSC- ARC-1810-03-02	File - Correspondence with brother in Northern Ireland [2 of 4]	12 September 1962-23 November 1967		
	Item - PH-4137 to 4139 - Photographs			
RBSC- ARC-1810-03-03	File - Correspondence with brother in Northern Ireland [3 of 4]	12 January 1968-20 November 1973		
RBSC- ARC-1810-03-04	File - Correspondence with brother in Northern Ireland [4 of 4]	5 February 1973-11 February 1975		
RBSC- ARC-1810-03-05	File - Other letters to George Walker	24 December 1939-17 Dec 1980		

George Walker personal records

Creator: George Dickson Walker

Date: 21 December 1939-16 July 1981 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of records pertaining to the life of George Walker, including his immigration from Britain, official documentation (such as an application for divorce from his first wife or a photocopy of his death certificate), and personal papers such as notes for a sermon.

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-06	File - Immigration to Canada via the U.S.	[1 January 1939?]-[1 January 1941?]		
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-07	File - Personal records	21 December 1939-16 July 1981		
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-08	File - Other materials pertaining to George Walker	[ca. 1943]-[ca. 1980]		

Correspondence

Date: 9 April 1915-27 August 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence pertaining to the life and family members of Hanne. These materials take the form of letters, postcards, greeting cards, notes, and envelopes. There is also a small assortment of photographs. The majority of this correspondence was sent to Hanne, however, there are some letters that belonged to her mother, Hedwig Herrmann. The materials in this series cover a range of subjects including immigration during World War II, compensation for Jews persecuted during the war, Hanne's career as a pioneering health and fitness professional (including letters of appreciation for her services), and personal correspondence from her friends and acquaintances. The series also includes correspondence and files related to the sale of a property in Vienna that was owned by Hanne and her sister, Elizabeth Fischer, and extensive correspondence between the sisters during the 1960s and early 1970s.

Physical description: 20.2 cm of textual records and other materials

Language of the material:

English

German

Physical condition:

Materials are generally in good condition.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 20.2 cm of textual records, 2 small b&w photographs, 10 medium b&w photographs, and 5 small colour photographs.

File / item list

Correspondence with family

Date: 24 September 1939-14 January 1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of correspondence to Hanne from Hedwig Herrmann (her mother), Elizabeth Fischer (her sister), and Peter and Fritz Fischer (her nephews). There is also correspondence from Ilse, Peter's wife.

Physical description: 5.2 cm of textual records and other materials

Language of the material:

English

German

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 4.9 cm of textual records, 2 small b&w photographs, and 1 small colour photograph.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC- ARC-1810-03-09	File - Hedwig Herrmann correspondence [1 of 2]	24 September 1939-27 October 1940		

	Item - PH-4140 - Photograph	
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-10	File - Hedwig Herrmann correspondence [2 of 2]	5 June 1940-13 December 1940
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-11	File - Elizabeth Fischer correspondence	2 January 1955-10 August 1973
	Item - PH-4141 - Photograph	
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-12	File - Correspondence from other family members	23 April 1957-14 January 1982
	Item - PH-4142 - Photograph	

Correspondence regarding sale of Vienna property

Date: 26 March 1946-28 March 1966 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of materials related to a building in Vienna (62 Keiserstrasse) that was owned by the Wassermann family when they fled Europe. Records in this subseries document their efforts to appraise and sell the property; most of these records are pieces of correspondence between Hanne and her brother-in-law, Otto Fischer; the building's property manager, Anton Drexler; and Hanne's lawyer in Vienna, Dr. Gustav Rinesch.

Physical description: 1.4 cm of textual materials

Language of the material:

English
German

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-13	File - Otto Fischer correspondence re: sale of Vienna property	26 March 1946-20 November 1960		
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-14	File - Anton Drexler files	5 July 1954-23 February 1961		
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-15	File - Gustav Rinesch correspondence re: sale of Vienna property	7 May 1946-28 March 1966		

Correspondence related to fitness profession

Date: 1 January 1931-15 June 1978 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of correspondence pertaining to Hanne's career as a fitness professional in both Europe and North America. This correspondence includes notes of appreciation from former clients, letters of recommendation, letters related to programming Hanne offered in various countries, and more. There are also several letters from professional associations she was a member of, such as the Association of Physiotherapists and Massage Practitioners and the Canadian College of Massage and Hydrotherapy.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

German

Italian

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-16	File - Correspondence related to activities in Europe	1 January 1931-6 June 1939		
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-17	File - Correspondence related to activities in the U.S.	19 February 1940-17 September 1942		
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-18	File - Letters of recommendation and appreciation	3 August 1936-15 June 1978		
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-19	File - Professional associations correspondence	7 September 1939-1977		
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-20	File - Other fitness-related correspondence	5 March 1940-10 April 1959		

Personal and miscellaneous correspondence

Date: [ca. 1930]-27 August 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of correspondence pertaining to certain topics (such as health, travel, anniversaries, and day-to-day events) or sent by specific individuals. This correspondence takes the form of letters, cards, personal notes, and postcards. Some of the senders include Hedy Lamarr, Marie Louise Wanamaker, John Martin Gilbert, Adolf Ludwig Mandl, and many other friends and acquaintances.

Physical description: 9.1 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English
German

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-21	File - Immigration-related correspondence	6 December 1938-20 November 1940		
RBSC-ARC-1810-03-22	File - Correspondence related to postwar compensation	8 November 1957-28 March 1966		
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-01	File - John Martin Gilbert	18 March 1964-29 June 1973		
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-02	File - Adolf Ludwig Mandl	[Pre-1938]-27 August 1985		
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-03	File - Hedy Lamarr	17 December 1947-4 January 1952		
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-04	File - Marie Louise Wanamaker Munn	11 February 1939-1940		
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-05	File - Postcards from friends	18 August 1922-17 August 1981		
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-06	File - Blank postcards	[ca. 1930]-[ca. 1984]		
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-07	File - Miscellaneous correspondence [1 of 2]	1936-25 June 1985		
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-08	File - Miscellaneous correspondence [2 of 2]	1936-25 June 1985		
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-09	File - Empty envelopes	9 April 1915-10 October 1980		

Charles H. Lansborough correspondence

Date: 27 March [1954]-26 December 1974 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of letters and photographs sent to Hanne by her friend and fellow Austrian, Charles Lansborough (born Carl H. Landsbergh/Landsberger). Charles fled to London during the Second

World War, where he established himself as an art expert/valuer. Charles and Hanne corresponded until his death in 1974. This subseries also includes two letters from Charles' partner, Mina, who wrote to Hanne telling her of her friend's death. The photographs in this subseries feature interior shots of a well appointed home. There are also photographs of Charles and Mina.

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records and other materials

Language of the material:

English

German

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 2.5 cm of textual records, 10 medium b&w photographs, and 4 small colour photographs.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-04-10	File - Charles H. Lansborough correspondence	27 March [1954]-26 December 1974		
	Item - PH-4143 to 4156 - Photographs			

Personal Records

Date: 11 November 1887-14 May 1980 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of personal records belonging to Hanne and various members of her family including Hedwig Hermann, Elizabeth Fischer, and Otto Fischer. There are records pertaining to Hanne and Hedwig's immigration process, recipes they collected, and Austrian government records. (These government include birth certificates, baptismal records, police documents, and more.) There are records pertaining to Hanne's first marriage to Dr. Gustav Wassermann, her education, and material related to Hanne's last will and testament.

Physical description: 8.3 cm of textual records and other materials

Language of the material:

English

German

Physical condition:

Some documents were torn and consequently are being stored individually in mylar sleeves. Other records are falling apart.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 8.3 cm of textual records and 2 medium b&w photographs.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC- ARC-1810-04-11	File - Hedwig Herrmann personal records	[3 May 1939]- [ca. 10 January 1941]		
RBSC- ARC-1810-04-12	File - Education records	26 June 1900-15 May 1917		
	Item - PH-4157 to 4158 - Photographs			
RBSC- ARC-1810-04-13	File - Marriage to Gustav Wassermann	7 July 1914-15 April 1938		
RBSC- ARC-1810-04-14	File - Immigration to the U.S.	4 July 1938-22 December 1939		
RBSC- ARC-1810-04-15	File - Houses/properties in Canada	31 March 1951-13 April 1971		
RBSC- ARC-1810-04-16	File - Recipes	[ca. 1900]- [1940]		
RBSC- ARC-1810-04-17	File - Miscellaneous personal records	11 November 1887-14 May 1980		

Ephemera

Date: [ca. 1930]-8 June 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of materials created or collected by Hanne throughout her adult life. Items include household notes, lists, ledgers, bills, and receipts; documents pertaining to her hobbies as a photographer and sculptor; newspaper/magazine clippings and photocopies; and materials related to Hanne's interests in religion, health, and wellness. There is also an assortment of business cards and address cards, some of which have handwritten notes on them.

Physical description: 8.6 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

German

Physical condition:

Materials are in good condition.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC- ARC-1810-04-18	File - Ephemera - Household	1938-24 August 1961		
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-01	File - Ephemera - Hobbies and pastimes	[1938]-[1970]		
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-02	File - Ephemera - Business/address cards	[between 1925 and 1965]		
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-03	File - Ephemera - Religion	[between 1938 and 1986]		
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-04	File - Ephemera - Newspaper/magazine clippings	19 December 1939-April 1980		
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-05	File - Ephemera - Health and wellness	[between 1940 and 1986]		
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-06	File - Ephemera - Other	[ca. 1930]-8 June 1985		

Artefacts

Date: 1910-1975 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of an assortment of what remains of Hanne's non-textual, non-photographic belongings, acquired throughout her life and kept until the time of her death. These artefacts pertain to her career, her work as a writer, and her everyday life. They include metal stamps (featuring photographs of Hanne and headings used in some of her pamphlets), administrative rubber stamps (featuring the address of her gymnastics school in Vienna), and a small leather change purse containing Italian currency. There is another leather purse containing keys and key chains. Other personal effects include two makeup applicators, a small cloth bag, two trinkets on a small chain, two porcelain coins from Germany, a metal Comité pin on green ribbon, and a plastic key chain in the shape of a British Columbia license plate.

Physical description: 20 Italian coins, and other items

Language of the material:

English
German
Italian

Physical condition:

Condition of these artefacts varies from good to fair.

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes: 20 Italian coins, 6 10-lire bills, 1 coin purse, 8 stamps, 3 keys, 3 key chains, 1 small leather pouch for keys, 9 other assorted items (including old cosmetics, trinkets on a small chain, a cloth bag, and porcelain coins).

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-07	File - Artefacts - Metal engravings (for printmaking) and stamps	[1920]-[1938]		
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-07-01	Item - Copper engraving on wooden block for printmaking			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-07-02	Item - Metal engraving for printmaking			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-07-03	Item - Small copper engraving on wooden block for printmaking			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-07-04	Item - Copper engraving for printmaking			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-07-05	Item - "Gymnastik" metal engraving for printmaking			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-07-06	Item - "Hanne Wassermann" metal engraving for printmaking			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-07-07	Item - Stamp featuring address of Hanne's gymnastics school			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-07-08	Item - "Bezahlt" stamp			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-08	File - Artefacts - Coin purse	1910-1938		
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-09	File - Artefacts - Leather pouch containing keys	[ca. 1920]-[ca. 1939]		
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-09-01	Item - Leather pouch and key			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-09-02	Item - Metal key			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-09-03	Item - "Hangekoffer Klein" key			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-09-04	Item - "Schreibmaschine" key tag			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-09-05	Item - "Sofrankkoffer Innen" key tag			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-09-06	Item - Key tag with illegible label			
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-10	File - Artefacts - Other	1921-1975		
RBSC-ARC-1810-05-10-01	Item - Silver retractable powder brush "The Poudrella"	[1920]-[1930]		

RBSC- ARC-1810-05-10-02	Item - Metal retractable make-up appliqué	[1920]-[1930]
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-10-03	Item - Small cloth bag	
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-10-04	Item - "Comité" metal pin	
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-10-05	Item - Trinkets on a small chain	
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-10-06	Item - German porcelain coin (2 marks)	1921
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-10-07	Item - German porcelain coin (50 pfennig)	1921
RBSC- ARC-1810-05-10-08	Item - British Columbia license plate key tag	1975