

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Irene Simmons Stephen fonds (RBSC- ARC-1533)

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Irene Simmons Stephen fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Irene Simmons Stephen fonds
ID:	RBSC-ARC-1533
Date:	1948-1955 (date of creation)
Physical description:	169.3 cm of textual records and other materials
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Description updated by James Goldie, April 2019.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Born May 18, 1897 in Ottawa, Irene Simmons Phelan moved to Vancouver as a child and lived in British Columbia for the rest of her life, with the exception of two years spent in England. Her written work appeared in various magazines and newspapers over the course of her career, but her greatest professional focus was as a radio reporter and producer. She wrote and worked under the name Pamela Stephen. Her show "Indian Trails" was aired across the country and her show "Story Time" was sponsored by the British Columbia Parent Teachers' Federation and featured on on radio station CKMO in Vancouver (ca. 1948-1950). Her book of short stories "Winged Canoes at Nootka and Other Stories of the Evergreen Coast" was published in 1955. First Nations and British Columbia history were two of her primary interests as a writer and educator. She also wrote some radio plays and even took an interest in television writing later in her life. Stephen died in 1968.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of drafts, research notes, galley proofs, and other materials related to Stephen's book "Winged Canoes at Nootka and Other Stories of the Evergreen Coast," as well as typed transcripts from her radio programs "Indian Trails," "Story Time," and other pieces of reporting. The fonds also includes creative writing drafts - short stories, radio dramas, and plays adapted for radio - and research related to an unpublished book about Alberta. Personal files include photographs, correspondence, and historical family records dating back to the 19th century. Materials related to Stephen's involvement with the Canadian Women's Press Club and the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Authors Association are also part of this fonds.

Notes

Title notes

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

Finding aids

Handwritten list available which offers an item-level description of the fonds, however, this list does not correspond to the collection's physical or intellectual arrangement.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
 - **Physical description:** Fonds contains 169.3 cm of textual records, 28 photographs, and 13 b&w negatives
-

Access points

- Stephen, Pamela (subject)
 - Phelan, John (subject)
 - British Columbia Writer's Association (subject)
 - First Nations (subject)
-

Series descriptions

Correspondence, personal papers, and misc. publications

Scope and content:

Series consists of the personal papers of Stephen, including correspondence, family photographs, historical family records, memorabilia, and an assortment of publications (magazines, newspapers, clippings, brochures, pamphlets, program guides, and more). These materials reflect the life of the creator, her family, friendships, interests, and work as a writer and educator. Series also includes materials related to Stephen's involvement with the Canadian Women's Press Club and the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Authors Association.

Physical description: 47 cm of textual records and other materials.

Publication status:

published

<u>Physical description:</u>				
Series contains 47 cm of textual records, 28 photographs, and 13 b&w negatives				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-02	File - List of things done to date	16 August 1963		
RBSC-ARC-1533-07-01	File - Christmas Cards	1959-1960		
RBSC-ARC-1533-07-02	File - Personal Papers	1957		
RBSC-ARC-1533-07-04	File - Notes, correspondence	1959-1961		
RBSC-ARC-1533-07-06	File - Notes, CWPC booklet	March 1956		
RBSC-ARC-1533-07-07	File - Christmas Cards	1962-1966		
RBSC-ARC-1533-07-08	File - Personal Papers	1930-1961, predominate 1953-1963		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-01	File - MISC	1953-1961		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-02	File - Book lists, correspondence with library, archives	1958-1960		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-03	File - Correspondence	1948-1960		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-04	File - Correspondence	17 July 1952		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-05	File - Corresp., book outlines	1952-1957		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-06	File - Correspondence, notes re: C.A.A.	1957-1958		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-14	File - Oct. Westways Mag	October 1966		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-15	File - Application for a copyright	1965		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-17	File - Notes, mag on selling stories	1949-1951		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-03	File - T.V. Play by Frank Galen	[ca. 1952]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-06	File - Memorabilia	1950		
RBSC-ARC-1533-10-01	File - Magazines, Programs	1946-1967		
RBSC-ARC-1533-10-02	File - [Photographs and postcards]	[1900-1960]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-10-02-PH-01 to PH-41	Item - Photographs of Stephen, her family and her friends			
RBSC-ARC-1533-11-01	File - [Toronto Star, 4 December 1937]	4 December 1937		

RBSC-ARC-1533-11-15	File - [Copy of Cariboo and Northwest Digest]	[ca. 1950]
RBSC-ARC-1533-12-01	File - Correspondence, Notes	1933-1957
RBSC-ARC-1533-12-02	File - Correspondence	1960-1964
RBSC-ARC-1533-12-03	File - J. Phelan papers, Rosie Russel/ Harold McD	1884-1925
RBSC-ARC-1533-12-04	File - [Vancouver Branch of Canadian Authors Association guest book]	1955
RBSC-ARC-1533-12-05	File - CAA Stuff	1958-1960
RBSC-ARC-1533-12-06	File - Booklets of "B.C. School Broadcasts"	1923-1961

Written works, manuscripts and drafts

Scope and content:

Series consists of the written work of the creator, who published and worked in radio using the name Pamela Stephen. Materials include proofs and illustrations from Stephen's book "Winged Canoes at Nootka and Other Stories of the Evergreen Coast," drafts of stories included in the books; drafts of short stories (including revisions and marginalia); re-tellings of Indigenous stories and histories; and some attempts at fiction.

Physical description: 60.5 cm of textual materials

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1533-01-01	File - Winged Canoes at Nootka proofs (some corrections)	[ca. 1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-01-02	File - Winged Canoes at Nootka – Proofs	[ca. 1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-01-03	File - Winged Canoes at Nootka T.S.	[pre-1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-01-04	File - Capt. Cook	[pre-1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-01-05	File - The Adventurous Bride	1951		
RBSC-ARC-1533-01-06	File - Treachery at Friendly Cove	[pre-1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-02-02	File - John Jewett, Maquinna	[pre-1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-02-03	File - Alexander MacKenzie	[pre-1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-02-04	File - First Lady of B.C. / Snowbird / Mrs. Douglas	[pre-1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-02-05	File - Ned McGowan's War	[pre-1955]		

RBSC-ARC-1533-02-06	File - Mrs. Robb / Comox Valley / Forbidden Plateau T.S.	[pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-02-07	File - Chilcotin Massacres	[1951-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-02-08	File - New Westminster / May Day T.S.	[pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-02-09	File - Wildhorse	[pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-02-10	File - The Lone Woman of the Overlanders / The Long Trail	[pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-03-02	File - Service First / Yukon Telegraph Line	[1949]
RBSC-ARC-1533-03-03	File - Beet Steak on Hoof – Story of the Moore Bros.	[pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-03-04	File - The Stolen Church	[pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-03-05	File - Sea Wolf / Captain Morano T.S.	[pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-03-06	File - The Birth of a City – Prince Rupert	[pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-03-07	File - Simon Gun-a-noot	[pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-03-08	File - Bill Miner T.S.	[Pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-03-09	File - Destruction by Fire – The Fernie Fire	[ca. 1947-1957]
RBSC-ARC-1533-03-10	File - The Chinese & B.C. / The Glow of Chinese Lanterns	[Pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-01	File - The Komagata Maru	[1951-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-02	File - The Remittance Man	[Pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-03	File - Sternwheeler Story	[Pre-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-10	File - Camels / Cariboo Gold Rush	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-16	File - How Bruno became a white bear	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-18	File - Jerry/Joey fights his first prairie fire	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-20	File - Peter & the Haida Indians	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-21	File - Pierre de La Verendrye	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-22	File - R.C.M.P. T.S.	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-23	File - Story of the Greedy Indian Who was turned into a serpent in Burrard Inlet	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-27	File - Wilderness Revenge	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-30	File - Two articles – The West End Breeze	26 January 1933 – 14 September 1933

RBSC-ARC-1533-05-31	File - Totems in B.C. – T.S.	15 August 1953
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-03	File - [Mix of written work]	18 October 1944
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-06	File - Misc Fiction	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-07	File - Collection of T.S.	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-08	File - [Prose, radio scripts, and other written materials]	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-09	File - Fiction Attempts	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-11	File - No more jokes	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-12	File - Fiction Attempts	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-13	File - Collection of fables, stories (retold, not original)	[1935-1960]
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-11	File - [First Ladies of B.C.]	[1935-1960]

Reporting and writing for radio

Scope and content:

Series consists of the materials produced by Stephen as part of her work as a radio reporter and producer. Most of the records are transcripts and drafts of stories written and presented by Stephen on her show "Story Time", which was sponsored by the British Columbia Parent Teachers' Federation and aired on the radio station CKMO. The main focus of this show was Indigenous stories and British Columbia history. Also included are transcripts of segments written for another show of Stephen's called "Indian Trails," as well as news and current events stories researched and reported by Stephen for other radio programs. This series also includes radio dramas written by Stephen.

Physical description: 30.4 cm of textual materials

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1533-02-01	File - Robert Service Interview – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1939-1960]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-04	File - Storytime T.S. (some rough copies) Alexander MacKenzie	[ca. 1948-1952]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-05	File - Buffalo Hunt – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-06	File - Storytime T.S. – The Burning of Nootka	[ca. 1948-1952]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-07	File - Cariboo Gold Rush – Chinese in B.C. – Story Time T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]		

RBSC-ARC-1533-04-08	File - Cook's Arrival at Nootka – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-09	File - The Deadly La Cross Game – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-10	File - Esquimo's – The Phantom Ship	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-11	File - The Factor – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-12	File - First Woman of the Overlanders – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-13	File - Storytime T.S. – How Ducks got their colours	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-14	File - How John Todd Saved For Kamloops (with medicine bag instead of guns) – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-15	File - James Murray Yale & Fort Langley	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-16	File - John Jewett, Slave to an Indian Chief	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-17	File - John McClure, Walter Moberly, Paul Kane – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-18	File - The Story of Raven – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-19	File - R.C.M.P. – Storytime T.S. (not all the same story)	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-20	File - Reindeer in the North – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-21	File - Sailor Bill's Adventure – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-22	File - Sam & Ben Moore – Cattle Ranchers in the Nicola Valley – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-23	File - Samuel De Champlain – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-24	File - Sealing days on the Pacific – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-04-25	File - Simon Gun-a-noot – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-01	File - The Stolen Church – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-02	File - Surveyors – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-03	File - Victoria – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-04	File - Whale hunt	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-05	File - Wildhorse – Storytime T.S.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-06	File - Women Pioneers in B.C.	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-07	File - Byer's Mills – Thunderbird Radio T.S.	[pre-1950]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-08	File - Thunderbird T.S. for radio – not used in book	[pre-1950]

RBSC-ARC-1533-05-09	File - Buchart Gardens T.S., notes, research – misc show	[pre-1950]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-11	File - David Thompson	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-12	File - DeCoursey, Soldier of Fortune	[ca. 1948-1952]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-13	File - Fort Camosan Opens its Gates/ Victoria	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-14	File - T.S. – The Gibson Family	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-15	File - Anthony Hendey – 1st White man to hunt buffalo w/ the Cree Blackfoot T.S.	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-17	File - Jacques Cartier & his discovery of Canada	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-19	File - “Leif the Lucky”	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-24	File - T.S. – Trippers to England	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-25	File - T.S. on Voyageurs	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-26	File - White Buffalo	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-28	File - Parts of 2 scripts – (1) Voyageurs (2) Professor	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-29	File - Adaptations of 2 plays – “Rainbow” and “Kidnapped”	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-07-03	File - Interview with Ellen Neal, totem carver	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-07	File - Research, clippings, T.S. for a debate with Vancouver Police Department	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-08	File - T.S., slipping on “Women’s Division, City Police”	November 1949
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-09	File - National Council of Women Convention T.S.	25 May 1949
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-10	File - Canadian Educators Conference	10 October 1950
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-12	File - Income Tax Time in Canada – T.S.	1950
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-13	File - Korea – Notes, T.S.	November 1950- December 1950
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-01	File - New Canadian Citizens	1950
RBSC-ARC-1533-11-13	File - Notes, clippings, drafts, T.S. (story time) of Indian Opera Tzinquaw	1950

Notes and research materials

Scope and content:

This series consists of handwritten notes and materials related to Stephen's research for her short stories, books (including a book about Alberta), and radio reporting. There are several files containing research on First Nations of B.C., as well as newspaper and magazine clippings. Some of these notes

and materials are related to an interest in Hollywood and television writing that Stephen developed later in life.

Physical description: 31.4 cm of textual materials

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1533-05-32	File - Short Stories, T.S., M.S. and outlines, notes	[ca. 1950-1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-01	File - Notes on Scouting	1949		
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-04	File - [Handwritten notes]	[ca. 1930-1960]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-05	File - Notes for Alberta	1957-1959		
RBSC-ARC-1533-06-10	File - Notes on stories finished, outlines	[Pre-1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-07-05	File - Notes for book	1951		
RBSC-ARC-1533-08-16	File - Misc. from reporter days, court cases, clippings	1922-1961		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-02	File - Notes on Book on T.V. Writing	27 June 1952 – 22 July 1952		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-05	File - ? Note book & pencil script	[ca. 1952]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-07	File - Clippings, research	1912-1964		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-08	File - Loose pencil/typed notes on stories	1957		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-09	File - Clippings, notes, corresp.	1950-1952		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-10	File - Research on Edmonton	[ca. 1957-1960]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-11	File - T.S., pencil notes, clippings – not necessarily by Stephen	1949		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-12	File - Notes, lists of stories sent	[ca. 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-13	File - Notes on book publicity, lists of names	1955		
RBSC-ARC-1533-09-14	File - Research, correspondence, notes re: book	1954-1955		
RBSC-ARC-1533-11-02	File - M.S. – Random & Chaotic Impressions of Hollywood	[ca. 1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-11-03	File - Notes on Cree, Piegan Indians	[ca. 1930-1955]		
RBSC-ARC-1533-11-04	File - Notes on Tsimshian Indians	[ca. 1930-1955]		

RBSC- ARC-1533-11-05	File - Notes on Indians (Sekani)	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-06	File - Notes on Kwakuitl Indians	[ca. 1930-1955]
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-07	File - The Haida – Notes, T.S., Whaling	[ca. 1948]
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-08	File - Peace River Area Notes	[ca. 1950]
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-09	File - Notes for article on whales & the article	1948
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-10	File - Notes on Indians, format of Indian Book	[ca. 1940-1950]
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-11	File - Research, photo, etc. about the S.S. Beaver	1951
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-12	File - Notes on Nootka, Jewett, Cook	[ca. 1945-1955]
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-14	File - R.C.M.P. Research Notes	[ca. 1940-1950]
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-16	File - Clippings, notes for Alberta book	1959-1960
RBSC- ARC-1533-11-17	File - Alberta Book	[1959-1960]