

John M. Turnbull fonds

Compiled by Christopher Hives (1999)



University of British Columbia Archives



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

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Fonds Description

John M. Turnbull fonds. – 1918-1950.

17 cm of textual records and other materials.

Biographical Sketch

From Senate Tributes Committee "Memorial Minute" (January 20, 1982):

John Moncrief "Jake" Turnbull was born in Montreal in 1877. He graduated from McGill University in 1897 and soon after came to British Columbia as a mining engineer. In 1915 he was asked by UBC President F.F. Wesbrook to advise the University on the establishment of a mining education program.

He was offered the post of Head of the Mining Department and in accepting became the second appointment to the University faculty. From that date until 1945 when he retired, Turnbull headed the Department of Mining and Metallurgy in the Faculty of Applied Science. He was a member of Senate for sixteen years, the first twelve of which were from 1915 to 1927.

Turnbull was active in his emeritus years, frequently coming to campus to give special lectures. His last visit to campus was in 1979, when at the age of 101 he lectured on the mining industry in British Columbia at the turn of the century.

With Turnbull's death in 1982, the University lost the last of its original faculty members, the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy its oldest member, the Association of Professional Engineers of British Columbia its registrant number five.

As a distinguished Canadian who played a major role in developing the mining industry of British Columbia, who was responsible for guiding the education of Mining and Metallurgy students for a whole generation, John Turnbull will long be recognized as an outstanding figure in the history of the Province and the University.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists primarily of undated course notes (metal mining, coal and placer mining, mining machinery and mine surveying); printed material; blueprints; and, photographic images. The photographs include class portraits from the Mining Short Courses (1917-1920) and the glass plate negatives include images of the mining industry from around the province in the early 1920s.

Notes

File list available.

Includes ca. 475 photographs: photoprints, glass slides, negatives: 20.5 x 25.5 or smaller;
3 architectural drawings; 1 film reel: 16 mm.

Series Descriptions

Course Notes series. – 19-.

14 cm of textual records.

Series consists of undated handwritten notes and printed material pertaining to Turnbull's classes at UBC.

Printed Material series. – 1918-1950.

3 cm of textual records.

2 architectural drawings.

Series consists of programs, class lists, brochures, reports, notes, and blueprints pertaining to Turnbull's role as Head of the Department of Mining and Metallurgy as well as generally to mining in British Columbia.

Photographs series. – 1916-1934.

ca. 17 photographs: b&w; 20.5 x 25.5 cm or smaller.

Series consists of photographs pertaining to Mining Short Courses (1917-1920).

Glass Slides, Negatives, and Film series. – 1920-1923.

ca. 458 photographs: photoprints, glass slides, negatives; 10 x 14 cm or smaller.

1 film reel: 16 mm.

Series consists of photoprints, glass slides, and negatives used by Turnbull in his teaching. The numbers assigned to the various small boxes have been retained. Series also includes a 16 mm film titled, "Metal Crystals, Microscopic Technique."

Blueprints series. – 1924.

1 architectural drawing.

Series consists of a blueprint of the UBC Mining Building (1924).

File List

BOX 1

COURSE NOTES SERIES

- 1-1 Mining 1 [Metal Mining]
- 1-2 Mining 2 [Coal and Placer Mining]
- 1-3 Mining 3 [Metal Mining]
- 1-4 Mining 4 [Mining Machinery] - Introduction and Power Plants
- 1-5 Mining 4 - Head Framers
- 1-6 Mining 4 - Underground Pumps
- 1-7 Mining 4 - Aerial Tramway
- 1-8 Mining 4 - Underground Transportation
- 1-9 Mining 4 - Signal Systems
- 1-10 Mining 4 - Compressed Air

BOX 2

- 2-1 Mining 4 - Drills
- 2-2 Mining 4 - Deep Well Drilling
- 2-3 Mining 4 - Thermodynamics
- 2-4 Mining 4 - Mechanical Loaders
- 2--5 Mining 4 - Hoisting
- 2-6 Mining 5 [Mine Surveying]

2-7 Miscellaneous Course Notes

PRINTED MATERIAL SERIES

- 2-8 G.M. Dawson Club
Program for 13th Annual Banquet (March 1943)
"Men, Mining, Minerals, Metals" (Vol. 1 No. 1; Vol. 1 No. 2) [No. 2 includes a history of the UBC Mining Dept. 1915-1945 by Turnbull]
- 2-9 Class List - Applied Science 4th Year (1921/22)
- 2-10 Short Courses - Mining - Brochure (1918)
- 2-11 Typescript - "The Rhyme of the Ancient Prospector" (n.d.)
- 2-12 Report - "Premier Gold Mining Company Ltd." [Engineering Dept. Report] (1936)
- 2-13 "Program of B.C. Mining Celebration During Vancouver's Golden Jubilee" (1936)
- 2-14 "Klondike Gold Fields" [Geological Survey of Canada] UBC Congregation Address (1946)
- 2-15 "Notes on the History of Zinc" (1950)
"Wire Rope" (n.d.)
- 2-16 Blueprints
Gallows Frame for Josie Mine (n.d.)
Details Cage Nickel Plate Mines (n.d.)

PHOTOGRAPHS SERIES

- 2-17 Portrait of James B. Campbell (n.d.) [Member of mining short course (1916)
Britannia [Victoria Mines] - 6 prints (1926)
Unidentified class photograph
Members of the Theta Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity (1933/34)

Class Photographs

Short Course in mining (1917) - Lecture Room [2 copies]

Short Course in mining (1917) [2 copies]

Short Course in mining (1918) - Laboratory [2 copies]

Short Course in mining (1918) - Lecture Room [2 copies]

Short Course in mining (1920)

BOX 3

GLASS SLIDES, NEGATIVES & FILM SERIES

- #1 Placer scenes, gold mountain and falls
- #2 Dredges (1920/21)
- #3, #4 Diagrams and models of mining methods (n.d.)
- #5 16 mm. film - "Metal Crystals, Microscopic Technique"
- #6 Mining methods - Diagrammatic
- #7 Mining methods & 2 Porcupine area maps
- #8 Longwall coal, placer, asbestos
- #12 Coal mining (1921)
- #13 Mining subjects old and new

BOX 4

- #14 Lecture on District 4 (including bentonite slides)

#15 Coal mine methods and Porcupine area maps
Box of prints made from glass plates

BLUEPRINTS SERIES

Blueprint of Mining Building [U.B.C.] (1924)
Stored in Map cabinet #8