

Keith Ralston fonds

Compiled by Erwin Wodarczak (2012)



University of British Columbia Archives



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library

Table of Contents

- **Fonds Description**
 - Title / Dates of Creation / Physical Description
 - Biographical Sketch
 - Scope and Content
 - Notes
- **Series Descriptions**
 - Department of History series
 - Thesis series
 - Dictionary of Canadian Biography series
 - Cowichan Fishing Case series
 - Public Record Office series
 - Hudson's Bay Company Research series
 - Research series
 - Associations series
 - Personal series
 - Day Books series
- **File List**
- **Catalogue entry** (UBC Library catalogue)

Fonds Description

Keith Ralston fonds. – 1948-1997.

1.12 m of textual records.

Biographical Sketch

Harry Keith Ralston was born in Victoria, B.C. on 3 September 1921. Graduating from Victoria High School in 1938, he earned the Royal Institution Scholarship for Victoria District. He then attended Victoria College and the University of British Columbia, receiving his BA in 1942 with 1st Class Honours in History. Ralston entered the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1942 – beginning as an Ordinary Seaman, he worked his way up the ranks to Lieutenant, and served on the Atlantic Coast, before being discharged in 1945. He was the legislative correspondent for the left-wing weekly *Pacific Tribune* from 1952 to 1955, and also wrote for *The Fisherman* and other labour periodicals – he was a life-long supporter of socialist and labour causes. Turning to teaching, Ralston entered the Vancouver Normal School, graduating in 1956 “with distinction”, in the top ten among 500 graduates. He taught at Templeton High School in East Vancouver from 1956 to 1960. In 1960 he was hired as the first curator of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, where he assembled its original collections and mounted the first exhibits. Returning to UBC, he completed his MA in History in 1965; his dissertation was entitled *The 1900 strike of Fraser River sockeye salmon fishermen*. He joined the the UBC Department of History in 1967. His teaching focussed on the history of British Columbia and the Canadian West. Ralston retired in 1986 with the rank of Assistant Professor, although he continued to write and conduct research. He published articles on B.C. and labour history in *B.C. Studies* and *The Beaver*, as well as a number of articles for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. He died 20 June 2009.

Custodial History

Originally acquired by UBC Rare Books and Special Collections as part of a donation from the Ralston family in 2012, together with a selection of books and other published materials. RBSC retained the publications and transferred the textual records to the University Archives in April 2012.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists of textual records and published materials produced or acquired by Keith Ralston primarily through his historical research and other professional activities, along with a small selection of personal materials. It is arranged in the following ten series, which largely reflect how the records arrived in their original order: Department of History, Thesis, Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Cowichan Fishing Case, Public

Record Office, Hudson's Bay Company Research, Research, Associations, Personal, and Day Books.

Notes

File list available.

Related records may be found in the [B.C. Fisheries Research Collection](#), and in the [Ralston Family fonds](#) in UBC Rare Books and Special Collections.

Series Descriptions

Department of History series. – 1973-1996.

7 cm.

Series consists of textual records arising from Ralston's teaching and other activities in the UBC Department of History, and includes course handouts, correspondence, minutes, and Ralston's obituary of former department head Margaret Ormsby.

Thesis series. – 1958-1965.

11.5 cm.

Series consists of Ralston's original proposal for his MA thesis, along with various drafts and related documentation.

Dictionary of Canadian Biography series. – 1964-1997.

30 cm.

Series consists of materials related to biographical articles written by Ralston for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography (DCB)*, and includes research notes, drafts, finished articles, and lists of historical individuals considered for inclusion in the *DCB*.

Cowichan Fishing Case series. – 1974-1975.

3.5 cm.

Series consists of textual materials relating to a First Nation fishing rights case which Ralston researched and wrote about, and includes correspondence, written notes, newspaper clippings, and typewritten manuscripts.

Public Record Office series. – 1975-1976.

2 cm.

Series consists of textual records relating to Ralston's Canada Council-funded leave to conduct research at the Public Records Office in London, UK, and includes correspondence and written notes.

Hudson's Bay Company Research series. – 1981-1991.

12 cm.

Series consists of textual records relating to Ralston's research at the Hudson's Bay Company archives in Winnipeg, and includes correspondence, written notes, copies of original documents, typewritten manuscripts, and copies of published articles.

Research series. – 1948-1995.

22 cm.

Series consists of textual records relating to Ralston's research activities and written articles on various topics, and includes correspondence, written notes, typewritten manuscripts, and copies of published articles.

Associations series. – 1961-1980.

6 cm.

Series consists of textual records documenting Ralston's relationships with various historical and political organizations, and includes correspondence, newsletters, minutes, and conference materials.

Personal series. – 1961-1997.

7 cm.

Series consists of textual records relating to Ralston's personal life and interests, and includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, and minutes.

Day Books series. – 1972-1991.

12 cm.

Series consists of day books and similar bound volumes which Ralston used to track his activities and appointments.

Of twenty items originally received, five day books were retained as a sampling to illustrate how Ralston organized his life and activities.

File List

BOX 1

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY SERIES

- 1-1 History 404 Handouts 1973-77
- 1-2 History 404 Handouts 1977-79
- 1-3 Course material 1979-1980
- 1-4 History 404 1979-1980 – syllabus, lecture schedules, correspondence
- 1-5 Course preparation – History 404 1982-87
- 1-6 Course materials (student handouts) 1983-84
- 1-7 History 404 – handouts 1984-85
- 1-8 Correspondence (book orders) 1983-84
- 1-9 Department minutes, memos 1975
- 1-10 Margaret Ormsby – obituary 1996
- 1-11 Reading booklet – History 140 [n.d.]
- 1-12 British Columbia 1700-1979 – readings [n.d.]
- 1-13 Items for the Department newsletter [n.d.]

THESIS SERIES

- 1-14 Proposal for Thesis Topic and Working Bibliography – Ralston 1964-65
- 1-15 Abstract, preface, table of contents [drafts] 1958-64
- 1-16 Working and final drafts bibliography 1958-64
- 1-17 Chapters 1 [draft] 1958-64
- 1-18 Chapters 2 [draft] 1958-64
- 1-19 Chapters 3 [draft] 1958-64
- 1-20 Chapters 4 [draft] 1958-64
- 1-21 Chapters 5 [draft] 1958-64
- 1-22 Chapters 6 [draft] 1958-64

DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY SERIES

- 1-23 Leonard McClure biography 1973-75
- 1-24 Leonard McLure for DCB
- 1-25 Correspondence and drafts DCB – McClure
- 1-26 Ewen, Alexander – DCB

- 1-27 File on Amor de Cosmos
- 1-28 De Cosmos, Amor – draft with editor’s notes
- 1-29 Mowat, Thomas - DCB
- 1-30 Correspondence with Blanche Mowat
- 1-31 Carter-Cotton, Francis Lovett 1997
- 1-32 Carter-Cotton, Francis Lovett 1997
- 1-33 Carter-Cotton, Francis Lovett 1997
- 1-34 Rogers, Benjamin Tingley [n.d.]
- 1-35 Robert Beaven – French version
- 1-36 DCB – Beaven 1993
- 1-37 Robert Beaven – drafts 1995

BOX 2

- 2-1 Beaven, Robert – research, index, notes 1996
- 2-2 Higgins, David Williams 1995
- 2-3 James Syme – MSS [n.d.]
- 2-4 Syme – San Francisco 1978
- 2-5 Syme – DCB correspondence 1978
- 2-6 Syme – obits [n.d.]
- 2-7 Syme – Victoria 1874-1881 [n.d.]
- 2-8 Syme – New Westminster 1863-1867 [n.d.]
- 2-9 Syme – Cariboo [n.d.]
- 2-10 Syme – Edinburgh 1978
- 2-11 [John Sullivan] Deas – DCB – Copy submitted and revisions 1970
- 2-12 [Deas] – Victoria – Frances Woodward memos 1964-69
- 2-13 [Deas] Fraser River [n.d.]
- 2-14 [Deas] Portland 1969
- 2-15 [John Sullivan Deas – typescript] [n.d.]
- 2-16 [Deas] Correspondence – South Carolina 1970
- 2-17 Deas Island 1960-68
- 2-18 Deas Island 1970
- 2-19 [Deas] Victoria-Yale sources 1964
- 2-20 John Sullivan Deas – drafts & revisions [n.d.]
- 2-21 [Deas] San Francisco – James deT. Abijian correspondence 1969-74
- 2-22 Deas for DCB [n.d.]
- 2-23 [Samuel H.] Myers – DCB correspondence 1978-79
- 2-24 Samuel Myers – research 1978
- 2-25 Kealey Correspondence re. Myers 1974-77
- 2-26 Myers-Kealey Correspondence 1977

- 2-27 D.C.B. – Correspondence 1967-72
- 2-28 DCB – Correspondence 1969-70
- 2-29 Correspondence regarding CBD 1972-75
- 2-30 List of names for BC 1988
- 2-31 Name List – Vol. XV (1921-1930) 1996
- 2-32 Dictionary of Canadian Biography Lists [n.d.]

COWICHAN FISHING CASE SERIES

- 2-33 [Newspaper articles] 1974
- 2-34 [Correspondence between Ralston and Douglas Sanders – legal advisor Union of BC Indian Chiefs] 1974-75
- 2-35 [Notes and newspaper clippings] 1975
- 2-36 [Early Legislation, written submission, and letter] 1975
- 2-37 “Fraser River Salmon Fishermen and License Limitation, 1888-1892” by Ralston [n.d.]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE SERIES

- 2-38 Correspondence and clippings [ca. 1975]
- 2-39 Canada Council Leave Fellowship 1975-76
- 2-40 Public Record Office correspondence 1976
- 2-41 Data on British direct investment in Canada 1890-1914 [n.d.]

HUDSON’S BAY COMPANY RESEARCH SERIES

- 2-42 Coal Miners’ Contracts with the Hudson’s Bay Company, 1848-1854 October 1981
- 2-43 Coal Miners’ Contracts with the Hudson’s Bay Company – annotated copy, related correspondence 1981-83
- 2-44 HBC and coal miners – notes and drafts 1981-91
- 2-45 Correspondence with Chile on “Colinda” 1981-92
- 2-46 Mines and Managers – The organization of coal production on Vancouver Island by the HBC 1848-1862 March 1982
- 2-47 Correspondence re. research at HBC Archives 1983-89
- 2-48 Working draft and correspondence – The Hudson’s Bay Co. and the Grant of Vancouver Island... 1983-91

- 2-49 PSA minute book, correspondence, contracts 1989
- 2-50 The Hudson's Bay Company and the Grant of Vancouver Island, 1849 – Frontier Policy or Resource Policy? May 1991

BOX 3

- 3-1 Ship "Colinda" – notes 1992-93
- 3-2 Fort Rupert, Vancouver Island paper [n.d.]
- 3-3 Grant of V.I. article – drafts [n.d.]
- 3-4 HBC statistics – charts and graphs [n.d.]
- 3-5 Revision – V.I. [n.d.]

RESEARCH SERIES

- 3-6 Trade Union History Lectures 1948-54
- 3-7 Pacific Tribune articles – typed 1952-56
- 3-8 Pacific Tribune – Correspondence and articles 1953
- 3-9 Articles on Fish 1954-55
- 3-10 "Real Story of 1900 Strike" – Ralston 1958
- 3-11 Correspondence 1958-59
- 3-12 BC Fisheries Commissions 1905-22 1964-67
- 3-13 Sketch of Scottish Cannery 1900 by E.K. DeBack 1965
- 3-14 Fishery documents 1888-93 – photocopies and correspondence 1965
- 3-15 Correspondence – Public Archives of Canada 1966
- 3-16 Correspondence – UBC Special Collections 1966
- 3-17 Correspondence – Department of Fisheries 1967

BOX 4

- 4-1 Letter & Article "Salmon Canning" 1967
- 4-2 BC Studies article on salmon canning – Patterns of Trade and Investment on the Pacific Coast 1867-1892 1968
- 4-3 The British Columbia Salmon Canning Industry, 1867-1892 [Santa Clara paper?] 1968
- 4-4 Companies Office – transcribed 1968
- 4-5 Ashcroft Manor – Johnson 1970
- 4-6 Research on the ship "Ellen Lewis" 1972-73
- 4-7 Contract, NFB [BC and Confederation] 1978
- 4-8 National Film Board of Canada 1978-79

- 4-9 Time and Pattern in BC History October 1979
- 4-10 Article and letter on "Thrasher" case 1995
- 4-11 Review of The Institutionalized Cabinet by Christopher Dunn 1995
- 4-12 "Guide to Sessional Papers of Canada 1870-1885" – Graduating essay and rough notes [n.d.]
- 4-13 Keystones [NFB project BC and Confederation] [n.d.]
- 4-14 "Salmon Wars" article for *The Beaver* [n.d.]
- 4-15 Notes and research on Salmon Wars article [n.d.]
- 4-16 "The Framework of Government in the United Colony of BC" [n.d.]
- 4-17 Original letters from canneries – 1882 [n.d.]

ASSOCIATIONS SERIES

- 4-18 Vancouver's 75th Anniversary Committee 1961

BOX 5

- 5-1 BC Historical Association 1961-62
- 5-2 Pacific Northwest Labor History conference – transcripts May 8-9 1975
- 5-3 Pacific Northwest Labor History Association 1976
- 5-4 Labor Memorial Committee 1976-78
- 5-5 Committee on Socialist Studies 1978-79
- 5-6 People's Cooperative Bookstore 1978-79
- 5-7 BC Studies Conference Oct. 1979
- 5-8 Socialist Organizing Committee 1979
- 5-9 Labour History Association 1979-80

PERSONAL SERIES

- 5-10 Ralston with model of "Empress of Asia", clipping 1961
- 5-11 A Bibliography of BC 1900-1950 – Correspondence 1975
- 5-12 Electoral Boundaries Commission 1975
- 5-13 Correspondence from Mollie [wife] 1978-79
- 5-14 Gertrude M. Ralston Bursary – UVic 1979
- 5-15 Directed Study Abroad in Italy 1979
- 5-16 National Archival Appraisal Board May 1980
- 5-17 National Archival Appraisal Board – minutes June 1980
- 5-18 Richard Mackie – notes and letters – outgoing 1988-92

- 5-19 Correspondence with Richard Mackie 1989
- 5-20 Class of 1942 reunions 1992-97
- 5-21 NAAB 1997
- 5-22 Correspondence from children [n.d.]
- 5-23 Child's sketchbook [n.d.]

BOX 6

DAY BOOKS SERIES

- 6-1 1972 – daybooks, six-year planer
- 6-2 1977 – daybooks, address book
- 6-3 1982 – daybooks
- 6-4 1987 – weekly planner, 6 year planner, address and phone
- 6-5 1991 – address book, 6-year planner, weekly planner