

Laura Holland fonds

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Fonds Description

Laura Holland fonds. – 1886-1956.

24 cm of textual materials.

12 photographs.

Memorabilia.

Biographical Sketch

Laura Holland (1883-1956) was both a nurse and social worker and assumed an active leadership role in both professions at national and provincial levels. She received numerous honours and awards for her contributions. Holland was born in Toronto and, after briefly considering a career in music as a concert pianist, she studied nursing, and graduated from the Montreal General Hospital School of Nursing in 1914. She joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1915 and served with distinction in the active theatres of war in France and Greece from 1915-1918. In recognition of her dedicated service, Holland was awarded the Royal Red Cross medal. Following her release from the Army in 1919, she went to Boston and qualified in social work at Simmons College. For the next nine years Holland worked in Ontario, first as Director of Nursing Services for the Ontario Red Cross and before moving to become Director of Social Work for Toronto Public Health Department. In 1927 she accepted an invitation to move to British Columbia to reorganize and coordinate the Vancouver Children's Aid Society, which was responsible for overseeing child welfare throughout the province. With the assistance of Zella Collins and Kay Whitman, Holland converted the institution into a modern child welfare agency, with an emphasis of foster rather than institutional care. Despite enduring criticism Holland persisted and she reorganized the system of child welfare and helped initiate the Infants Act, the Adoption Act, and the Children of Unmarried Parents Act. In the early 1930s, the University of British Columbia began offering courses in social work and Holland lectured in that program as well as the public health certificate program in UBC's nursing program.

In 1932 she was appointed Deputy Superintendent of Neglected Children for the provincial government and, in 1933, Deputy Superintendent of Child Welfare. In the mid-30s she helped implement the provincial Welfare Field Service and in 1938 the post of Advisor to the Minister of Health and Welfare on Social Welfare Policy was created for her. Although Holland retired in 1945, she remained active in a variety of community ventures. In 1950, the University of British Columbia awarded Holland an honorary degree and her citation in part read "... whose compassion for the unprotected, made effective by abundant common sense and great executive ability, has been responsible in large measure for our provincial child welfare program and has

contributed greatly by thought and action to the increasing efficiency of our national welfare services." Laura Holland died in January 1956 at the age of 72.

Scope and Content

Fonds consists of biographical material, diaries, correspondence, photographs and memorabilia. Of particular interest is the large volume of letters written by Holland to her mother from June 1915 to July 1917 from overseas.

Notes

File list available

Selected photographs have been digitized and added to UBC Archives' [Historical Photograph Database \(UBC 123.1\)](#)

Series Descriptions

Biographical Series. -- 1931-1956.

1 folder.

Series consists of clippings and articles about L. Holland, a brief CV (1931), UBC honorary degree citation, a copy of her will and some copies of published obituaries added to the collection following her death.

Diary Series. -- 1907/08, 1946/47, 1949.

3 volumes.

Series consists of three volumes of Holland's diary entries.

Correspondence Series. -- 1915-1916.

23 cm of textual records.

Series consists of outgoing correspondence from Laura Holland to her mother from London and from the boat of fellow nurses going to different camps during World War I. She talks mostly of her physical surroundings and sightseeing. She also talks of people (family & friends) she knows back home (Mildred, Temple, Cyp (?), Harry, and Jack), but also sometimes speaks of privacy (censorship of letters, etc.) and other political conditions affecting the nurses during the war.

Miscellaneous and Memorabilia Series. -- 1918, 1950.

1 folder.

Series consists of some unidentified notes, war medals and UBC honorary degree.

File List

Box 1

BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES

1-1 Miscellaneous biographical information (1931-1956) - Includes clippings and articles about L. Holland, a brief CV (1931), UBC honorary degree citation, a copy of her will and some copies of published obituaries added to the collection following her death.

DIARY SERIES

1-2 Diary (August 1907 - July 1908)
1-3 Diary (September 1946 - March 1947)
1-4 Diary (May - October 1949)

CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

Outgoing letters from L. Holland to her mother

1-5 1915-06-04
1-6 1915-06-09
1-7 1915-06-15
1-8 1915-06-20
1-9 1915-06-25
1-10 1915-06-??
1-11 1915-07-03
1-12 1915-07-09
1-13 1915-07-12
1-14 1915-07-16
1-15 1915-07-21
1-16 1915-07-25
1-17 1915-07-20
1-18 1915-07-31
1-18a 1915-08-08
1-19 1915-08-14
1-20 1915-08-26
1-21 1915-09-01
1-22 1915-09-06

1-23	1915-09-20
1-24	1915-09-25
1-25	1915-10-04
1-26	1915-10-08
1-27	1915-10-18
1-28	1915-10-27
1-29	1915-10-29
1-30	1915-11-04
1-31	1915-11-14
1-32	1915-11-19
1-33	1915-11-23
1-34	1915-11-28
1-35	1915-12-11
1-36	1915-12-13
1-37	1915-12-20
1-38	1915-12-28
1-39	1916-01-07
1-40	1916-01-??
1-41	1916-01-22
1-42	1916-01-25
1-43	1916-01-31
1-44	1916-02-03
1-45	1916-02-11
1-46	1916-02-12
1-47	1916-02-14
1-48	1916-02-19
1-49	1916-02-24
1-50	1916-03-05
1-51	1916-03-02
1-52	1916-03-08
1-53	1916-03-11
1-54	1916-03-22
1-55	1916-03-29
1-56	1916-04-05
1-57	1916-04-08
1-58	1916-04-19
1-59	1916-04-26
1-60	1916-04-28

Box 2

Outgoing letters from L. Holland to her mother (Cont'd)

2-1	1916-05-01
2-2	1916-05-02
2-3	1916-05-07
2-4	1916-05-12
2-5	1916-05-21
2-6	1916-05-29
2-7	1916-05-31
2-8	1916-06-04
2-9	1916-06-04
2-10	1916-06-08
2-11	1916-06-13
2-12	1916-06-24
2-13	1916-07-05
2-14	1916-07-20
2-15	1916-07-20
2-16	1916-07-29
2-17	1916-08-06
2-18	1916-08-17
2-19	1916-09-03
2-20	1916-09-09
2-21	1916-09-14
2-22	1916-09-22
2-23	1916-09-30
2-24	1916-10-04
2-25	1916-10-10
2-26	1916-10-16
2-27	1916-10-25
2-28	1916-10-30
2-29	1916-11-09
2-30	1916-11-13
2-31	1916-11-20
2-32	1916-11-29
2-33	1916-12-01
2-34	1916-12-09
2-35	1916-12-11
2-36	1916-12-15

2-37	1916-12-17
2-38	1916-12-24
2-39	1916-12-20
2-40	1916-12-27
2-41	1917-01-01
2-42	1917-01-03
2-43	1917-01-13
2-44	1917-01-20
2-45	1917-01-25
2-46	1917-01-31
2-46a	1917-01-??
2-47	1917-02-03
2-48	1917-02-07
2-49	1917-02-10
2-50	1917-02-17
2-51	1917-02-23
2-52	1917-02-24
2-53	1917-03-02
2-54	1917-03-04
2-55	1917-03-13
2-56	1917-03-19
2-57	1917-03-30
2-58	1917-04-08
2-59	1917-04-26
2-60	1917-04-30
2-61	1917-05-08
2-62	1917-05-13
2-63	1917-05-20
2-64	1917-05-23
2-65	1917-05-29
2-66	1917-05-31
2-67	1917-06-04
2-68	1917-06-05
2-69	1917-06-08
2-70	1917-06-01
2-71	1917-06-17
2-72	1917-06-21
2-73	1917-06-28
2-74	1917-07-05
2-75	1917-07-12

- 2-76 Miscellaneous pages of L. Holland's correspondence with her mother that is undated or pages have become unattached from identifiable sections of letters.
- 2-77 Miscellaneous incoming correspondence (1927-1945) - Includes a personal letter from Prime Minister R.B. Bennett (1935)

MISCELLANEOUS AND MEMORABILIA SERIES

- 2-78 Material includes a few unidentified notes, war medals and UBC honorary degree.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Images have been scanned and added to UBC Archives' [Historical Photograph Database \(UBC 123.1\)](#)

- /1 Laura Holland as a child (April 1886) 14 x 10 cm. Print
- /2 Laura Holland in nursing uniform (n.d.) 14 x 6 cm. Print
- /3 Portrait of Laura Holland (n.d.) 8.5 x 6.5 cm. Small Print
- /4 Laura Holland (n.d.) 11.5 x 4.5 cm. Small Print
- /5 Portrait of Laura Holland (n.d.) 10 x 8 cm. Small Print
- /6 Portrait of Laura Holland (n.d.) 22 x 13.5 cm. Print
- /7 Portrait of Laura Holland (n.d.) 14.5 x 9.5 cm. Print
- /8 Group photograph of social workers in Victoria? including Laura Holland (seated third from left) 17 x 24 cm. Print
- /9 Laura Holland (second from left) in group photograph with other UBC honorary degree recipients (May 12, 1950) 20 x 21 cm. Print
- /10 Laura Holland (n.d.) 6.5 x 5 cm. Small Print
- /11 Laura Holland in group photograph (second from left) n.d. 17.5 x 12.5 cm. Print
- /12 Laura Holland (n.d.) 5 x 5 cm. Small Print