

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Leonard G. McCann Santo Tomas Internment Camp collection (RBSC-ARC-1694)

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Leonard G. McCann Santo Tomas Internment Camp collection

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	4
Series descriptions	4
, Pre-internment records, 1938 - 1941	4
, Records and items belonging to internees at Santo Tomas, [between 1942 and 1945]	5
, Ephemera, [between 193- and 1945]	7
, Internment camp administration material, [between 1942 and 1945]	8
, Internment camp newsletters, 1942 - 1945	9
, Post-internment records, 1945-2002	9
, Collected newspapers, [1939 - 1996]	10
, Research material, [1938 - 2008]	11
, Reunion material, [ca. 1981 - 2010]	12

Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Leonard G. McCann Santo Tomas Internment Camp collection
ID:	RBSC-ARC-1694
Date:	1938-2010 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.16 m textual records and other material
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Accrual added and described by student archivist Dennis Michailides in December, 2015.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Leonard G. McCann was born on February 3, 1927 in Shanghai where his family had lived since the 1860s. He spent his childhood years there, attending St. Giles British School.

During WWII, he and his mother, Barbara McCann, were interned in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp at Santo Tomas University in the Philippines from 1942 to 1945. While interned, the McCanns participated in the functioning of the camp's internal administration, Barbara as a Room Monitor and Leonard working in the gardens and hospital. Following liberation, internees were evacuated from the camp beginning on February 11, 1945. The McCanns were taken by ship to San Francisco, California, but quickly relocated to Canada to avoid the US Military draft, to which Leonard would have been susceptible.

After the war, the McCanns came to Victoria, BC based on a sponsorship from Leonard's aunt and uncle. Here, he worked various jobs including ship fitter's apprentice, drapery salesman and Land Registry office clerk before landing work at the new CBC television operation in Vancouver. After briefly working at CBC in Toronto, he returned to the West Coast to work for BCTV. A training course for museum workers and archivists led him to work for the Royal Canadian Engineers Museum in Chilliwack. In 1968, he joined the Vancouver Maritime Museum, where he worked as curator until his retirement in 1993.

Custodial history

The archival records in this collection were collected and preserved by Barbara McCann during her time as in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp during WWII. In her capacity as a Room Monitor, she saved records demonstrating the internal structure and functioning of the camp.

Also collected and preserved by Barbara McCann are records pertaining to life in Shanghai prior to WWII, including the school notebooks of her son, Leonard McCann.

The collection also includes records created by Leonard McCann during select reunions of the survivors of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp.

Leonard McCann maintained the material after his mother's death and select items were the subject of a lecture at the Vancouver Maritime Museum in the 1990's at which point he housed some items in polyurethane covers and created labels to provide explanation and context.

Material in this collection was assembled and donated to the UBC Rare Books and Special Collections by Leonard G. McCann on December 19, 2011.

Scope and content

The contents of this collection pertain to the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in the Philippines during WWII. The camp was active from 1942 to 1945 and housed over 4,000 prisoners-of-war.

Records reflect the internal administrative structure and functioning of the camp, daily life of internees, the political activities surrounding the camp, and the personal experiences of Barbara and Leonard McCann.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title is based on the contents of the collection and the name of the collector

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
 - **Physical description:** Includes 75 photographs, 39 slides, 2 VHS cassette tapes, 1 audio cassette tape, 13 clothing items, and 21 internment prisoner artifacts
-

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Series descriptions

Pre-internment records

Date: 1938 - 1941 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series contains material belonging to the McCanns prior to their evacuation and internment. It includes health records and school work.

The primary contents of this series are exercise books of Leonard McCann during his time at St. Giles British School in Shanghai prior to his internment at Santo Tomas. The exercise books contain notes from classes including geography, history, French, maths, dictation, writing, Latin as well as general notes.

The exercise books in this series were intentionally kept by Barbara McCann and among the items that were brought to the internment camp at Santo Tomas. She continued to keep these books for the duration of the internment and after.

Physical description: 12 cm textual records;
8 photographs

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-01 - 1-03	File - [Exercise books from St. Giles British School]	1938 - 1941		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-02	File - [Public Health Department certificate for L. McCann]	1941		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-03	File - [Photographs of Santo Tomas Unversity]	[193?, 1942]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-09	File - [Pitman's Common-sense English course]	1929, 1930		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-15	File - [Adoremus, Eucharistic worship book]	1938		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-19	File - [Pre-internment camp photographic prints]	[19-]		

Records and items belonging to internees at Santo Tomas

Date: [between 1942 and 1945] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Records in this series includes material or items that were created or used by internees during their internment at Santo Tomas. Textual records include personal writing of internees, blank papers from the internment camp, drawings and designs created by Leonard McCann, and material developed by internees for educational purposes.

A significant portion of the records in this series are handwritten recipes. These recipes were written by and exchanged among internees as a form of distraction and enjoyment during the hungriest times of internment. Internees wrote the recipes from memory, contributing what they knew of specific dishes and foods. The majority of the recipes in this series were written by Barbara McCann, though some were written by Leonard McCann and others.

This series also contains clothing items worn by internees, specifically Leonard McCann. Some items were brought by the McCann's at the time of internment, other were distributed by the Philippine Red Cross to internees and some were made by internees in the camp.

An additional accrual of items to this series was made in December, 2015. This accrual of items included prisoner personal effects, such as toiletries, spectacles, and medical face masks.

<u>Physical description</u> : 12 cm of textual records -- c. 30 objects				
<u>Publication status</u> :				
published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-04 - 1-05	File - [Exercise books containing recipes]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-06	File - [Exercise book containing drawings and personal writing]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-07	File - [Exercise book containing personal writing]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-08	File - [Exercise books containing designs and illustrations]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-09	File - [Small notebook "prep"]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-10	File - [Personal material from Santo Tomas]	1943		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-11	File - ["Internee Song" sheet music]	1943		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-12	File - Artwork by Lester	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-13	File - Recipes - written on the back of camp forms	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-14	File - High school class work for L. G. McCann	1942 - 1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-1-15	File - Recipes - Barbara McCann, mainly	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-01	File - [Loose paper containing writing, drawings and administrative information]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-02	File - [Work assignment forms containing recipes]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-03	File - [Library papers from Santo Tomas]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-04	File - [Loose paper containing personal writing]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-05	File - [Blank papers]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-15	File - STIC Seminar Series, Instruction in music	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-16	File - Educat. gen.	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-17	File - Book from stage show	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-18	File - Msc.	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-19	File - STIC Lecture Series	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-08	File - [ledger notebooks]	1942		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-11	File - [Air mail stationery]	[between 1942 and 1945]		

RBSC-ARC-1694-7-01	File - Khaki button-up shirt of Leonard McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-7-02	File - Purple long-sleeved shirt of Leonard McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-8-02	File - Grey button-up shirt of Leonard McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-9-02	File - Khaki button-up shirt of Leonard McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-9-01	File - White shorts of Leonard McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-8-01	File - Two belts of Leonard McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-9-03	File - Striped t-shirt of Leonard McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-9-04	File - Jean shorts of Leonard McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-10-01	File - Buckled sandals of Leonard McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-10-02	File - Slip-on sandals of Barbara McCann	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-1	File - [Rope]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-2	File - [String]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-3	File - [Lasso]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-4	File - [Tangle of rope]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-5	File - [Ping-pong paddle]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-6	File - [Spectacles]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-7	File - [Fan]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-8	File - [Water canteen]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-9	File - [Tray]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-10	File - [Dishes]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-11	File - [Wallet]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-12	File - [Cups]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-13	File - [Canisters?]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-14	File - [Mask]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-15	File - [Bamboo Cup]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-16	File - [Soap]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-17	File - [Can openers]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-18	File - [Sugar packet]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-19	File - [Vitamin C packets]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1694-12-1	File - [Wicker bag]	[194-?]
Ephemera		
Date: [between 193- and 1945] (date of creation)		

Scope and content:

Records in this series include items of an ephemeral nature created and used during WWII, specifically at or relating to the Santo Tomas Internment Camp. Records include envelopes, sets of cards, examples of daily sanitary paper items, and temporary currency.

Physical description: 2 cm textual recordsPublication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-06	File - [Flower cards]	[194?]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-07	File - [Hong Kong registered letter envelopes]	[194?]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-08	File - [Philippine Government currency and Japanese Government occupation currency]	[193-, between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-09	File - [Issue tissue from Santo Tomas]	[between 1942 and 1945]		

Internment camp administration material

Date: [between 1942 and 1945] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Records in this series include material used in the administration and functioning of the internment camp. Items include work order forms, room assignment forms (as used by Barbara McCann in her role as a room monitor), punched meal ticket cards and drawn maps.

Physical description: 6 cm textual recordsPublication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-11	File - [Records regarding McCann]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-12	File - Meal tickets from STIC	1944, 1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-13	File - [Internment camp records]	[between 1942 and 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-14	File - First aid training course and certification	1942, 1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-20	File - Notices to room monitors	1942		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-21	File - Work assignment forms	1942 - 1943		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-28	File - Notices to Barbara McCann	1943, 1944		

RBSC-ARC-1694-2-29	File - Work assignment record for L. G. McCann	1942 - 1945
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-06	File - [Women's work assignment department forms]	[between 1942 and 1945]
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-07	File - [Santo Tomas map and internee records]	[between 1942 and 1945]

Internment camp newsletters

Date: 1942 - 1945 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Records in this series include editions of newsletters created during the time of internment and during the return voyage.

Internews was created by and circulated among internees during their time at Santo Tomas. Prior to circulation, the newsletters were reviewed and approved by the Japanese to prohibited negative or rebellious discourse. Newsletters reported primarily on the activities of the camp and its internees.

Physical description: 8 cm textual records

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-22	File - Internews publications	1942		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-23	File - [Eberle Echo newsletter]	1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-24	File - [Cockatoo News Summary]	March, 1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-33	File - Internitis - publication	1942		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-34	File - STIC Gazette publication	1942		
RBSC-ARC-1694-5-01 - 5-02	File - [Internews reports]	1942		

Post-internment records

Date: 1945-2002 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Records in this series relate to the life of the McCanns following the years spent at the Santo Tomas Internment Camp. Material includes documentation relating to their release and eventual move to Canada, as well as correspondence with other internees.

Physical description: 11 cm of textual records and other material

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes 3 clothing items, 1 photograph and 1 VHS cassette tape

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-10	File - [Personal correspondence]	February 21, 1948		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-25	File - Brit. Gov. rejection	August, 1954		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-27	File - [U.S. draft documents]	May, 1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-30	File - Passes issued by U.S. Army	1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-31	File - Communications from Brit. Consulate	1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-32	File - Notices from Brit. Gov't in L.A.	1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-38	File - [Correspondence]	1946		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-01	File - US Army - notice of Campaign Ribbon Award	1945, 1946		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-10	File - [Red cross notices]	May, 1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-17	File - [Addresses and correspondence]	[1945, 1957, 19-]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-01	File - [Post-internment writing and research]	[199-]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-02	File - [Correspondence and documents from Beverly]	[ca. 2000]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-03	File - [Log of trip via Trans Canada Highway]	1960		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-06	File - [Wedding anniversary notes and invitations]	1997, 1999		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-10	File - [Correspondence with internees]	1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-20	File - [Manila Liberation Reunion t-shirt]	1999		
RBSC-ARC-1694-11-21	File - [Manila Liberation Reunion t-shirt]	2002		
RBSC-ARC-1694-SPVT-02	Item - San Francisco Maritime Museum, Al Palmer Film Library	[Transferred to VHS ca. 199? (originally created ca. 1940)]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-5-06	File - Military award ribbons of Leonard McCann	[1946]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-5-05	File - New Testament Psalms	[ca. 1945]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-20	File - [Photograph of Leonard McCann]	1995		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-21	File - [Short stories]	[2001]		

Collected newspapers

Date: [1939 - 1996] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Material in this series includes editions of newspapers that hold relation to the events of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp.

Newspapers were saved by Barbara McCann and, later, by Leonard McCann.

<u>Physical description</u> : 7 cm textual records				
<u>Publication status</u> :				
published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-04	File - [Newspaper clippings]	[1939-1946]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-16	File - [Newspaper clippings]	1987, 1990		
RBSC-ARC-1694-5-03	File - [Manila Free Philippines. Vol. I]	1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-5-04	File - [Manila Free Philippines. Vol. II]	1945		
RBSC-ARC-1694-6-01	File - [Philippine News]	January, 1996		
RBSC-ARC-1694-6-02	File - Shanghai Evening Post, American Edition]	March 1945 - October 1946		
Research material				
<u>Date</u> : [1938 - 2008] (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content</u> :				
<p>This series contains records relating to research on the topic of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp and other internment camps. Research was conducted by many but assembled by Leonard McCann. Contents include bibliography lists, photocopied documents and clippings, interviews, photographs and notes.</p> <p>The slides in this series depict images of cartoon drawings that were made by internees during internment and were featured in the internment camp newsletters. Also depicted in the slides are images of the Santo Tomas University and drawn maps of the grounds. Slides were made after internment.</p>				
<u>Physical description</u> : 10 cm of textual records; 1 photograph; 39 slides				
<u>Publication status</u> :				
published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-35	File - Off Internet history	2008		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-36	File - [Santo Tomas materials bibliography]	[ca. 2000]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-2-37	File - [Bibliography research]	1946		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-13 - 3-14	File - ["Volunteer Shanghai Corps" book photocopies]	[1938]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-05	File - [Notes and clippings regarding internment camps]	[ca. 1999]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-08	File - [Betsy McCreary interview]	December, 1993		

RBSC-ARC-1694-4-13	File - [Photocopy of Reprints - Stories from GHQ Advance Echelon]	Photocopied in 199- (originally created in 1945)
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-16	File - [Research regarding internment camps]	[ca. 199-]
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-18	File - [ChinaDirectory]	[ca. 2000]
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-09	File - [Exhibition placards]	[ca. 1999]
RBSC-ARC-1694-5-07	File - [Slides of internment camp images and drawings]	[Slides created in 199- (originals created between 1938 and 1945)]

Reunion material

Date: [ca. 1981 - 2010] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Records in this series pertain to the organization and content of reunions held for the survivors of internment at the Santo Tomas Internment Camp. Materials apply specifically to Leonard McCann's attendance at these reunions and include photographs, travel records, programs and memorabilia.

Physical description: 16 cm of textual records and other material

Publication status:

published

Physical description:

Includes 65 photographs, 1 audio cassette tape and 1 VHS cassette tape

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-05	File - [Santo Tomas reunion documents]	[ca. 1981]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-12	File - [Photograph contact sheets and negative of the 57th Anniversary of Liberation]	February, 2002		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-18	File - [San Antonio reunion and tourist material]	2001, 2002		
RBSC-ARC-1694-3-19	File - [San Antonio reunion material]	1998 - 2002		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-04	File - [Travel documents]	1986		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-07	File - [San Diego reunion material]	1999		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-11	File - [Old China Hands reunion material]	1998 - 1999		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-12	File - [Travel proposal from Jack Chapman]	1986		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-14	File - [57th Manila Liberation Reunion in San Diego]	1999		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-15	File - [Photographs of internee reunions]	[ca. 1999]		
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-17	File - [Old China Hands material and photographs]	2010		

RBSC-ARC-1694-3-20	File - [Legacy of Captivity memoirs]	2002
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-22	File - [40th Anniversary Reunion book]	1985
RBSC-ARC-1694-4-23	File - [Rollcall book]	1957
RBSC-ARC-1694-SPC-01	Item - STIC/LBIC 35th Reunion	[ca. 1980]
RBSC-ARC-1694-SPVT-01	Item - "Telling It Like It Was"	1999