University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Maurice Rush fonds (RBSC-ARC-1478)

Maurice Rush fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Maurice Rush fonds
ID:	RBSC-ARC-1478
Date:	1935 - 1998 (date of creation)
Physical description:	45 cm of textual records and other material.
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Maurice Rush was born in Toronto in 1915. After he and his family moved to Vancouver in the late 1920s, Rush left school at the age of fifteen to find work in the midst of the Depression. In 1934 he worked in a cannery and helped to organize British Columbia. Rush also joined the Canadian Communist Party (CCP) in 1934, and was elected as the secretary of the Young Communist League in 1935. Rush helped to organize unemployed workers and was involved in the famous post-office sit-down strike by unemployed workers in Vancouver in 1938.

When the CCP changed its position to support of the Second World War, Rush joined the Canadian Army and served as an artillery instructor from 1942-1944. Following this he was sent to Europe and fought in Holland and Germany. He was taken prisoner in February of 1945, and later liberated by British forces. Upon his return to Canada in 1945, Rush became provincial organizer for the CCP in British Columbia. Following this, he also served as the partys labour secretary, its Vancouver regional organizer and the national education director. In 1960, Rush was appointed as an associate editor of the partys west-coast newspaper the Pacific Tribune. In 1977, Rush became provincial leader and the secretary of the CCP. During this time, the party campaigned against the arms race and was active in various labour struggles, but also became involved in Vancouver civic politics and Rush helped to organize what would later become the Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE).

Also during this post-war period, Rush made a number of overseas trips to various socialist countries for Pacific Tribune and as part of his duties within the CCP. The countries he travelled to the USSR, East Germany, North Vietnam, and China. Despite the declining fortunes of communist parties worldwide, Rush continued as an activist, writer and leader of the Communist Party in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1995, Rush published his political memoir We Have a Glowing Dream.

Scope and content

Fonds consists primarily of material related to Rush's activities as a leader of the CCP, political activist and writer in Vancouver from 1935 to 1996. There is also a personal/biographical series of records which detail the events of Rush's life. Other textual series in this fonds contain drafts of Rush's writings and public speeches, his correspondence, his reports and speeches to party conventions, and his published materials. There is a photographs series which details Rush's various editorial political trips to socialist countries during the Cold War. The memorabilia series also contains material related to Rush's trips abroad. There are pins, medals and commemorative coins from China, Vietnam and the Soviet Union. Finally, an audiocassette series contains recordings of some of Rush's speeches during the 1970s and 1980s.

Notes

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

Finding aids

Inventory available. PDF document attached.

Other notes
- **Publication status**: published
- **Physical description**: Fonds includes 7 audiocassettes, 2 videocassettes, 56 photographs and approximately 40 memorabilia objects.

Access points

- Canadian Communist Party (subject)

Series descriptions

Writings and speeches
Date: 1960 - 1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of annotated drafts of Rush's writings and public speeches from 1960 to 1996. Subjects covered in these items include Canadian history, British Columbia labour struggles and foreign affairs dealing with Cold War issues. This series also includes an annotated draft of Rush's 1995 political memoir, "We Have a Glowing Dream."

Physical description: 8 cm of textual material.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-1	File - Writings and speeches	1960 - 1977		
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-2	File - Writings and speeches	1977 - 1988		
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-3	File - Writings and speeches	1989 - 1993		
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-4	File - Draft articles	1980 - 1990		
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-5	File - Manuscript of We Have a Glowing Dream	[199-?]		

Communist Party election and public statements

Date: 1955, 1978-1992 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material produced for the public by the CCP either as part of an election campaign, a political activity or a statement to the press. The material was primarily created in the 1980s.

Physical description: 3 folders of textual material.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-6	File - Election material	1955 and [1989?]		
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-7	File - Press releases and statements	1978 - 1988		
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-8	File - Leaflets	[1991?]		

Reports to CCP meetings and conventions

Date: 1965 - 1987 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of annotated reports and presentations made by Rush to various CCP events from 1965-1987. The notebooks and unbound files which make up this series also contain his personal annotations made during these events.

Physical description: 7 cm of textual material.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-9	File - Unbound reports to party meetings and conventions	1965 - 1980		
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-10	File - Unbound reports to party meetings and conventions	1982 - 1998		
RBSC-ARC-1478-1-11	File - Bound reports to party meetings and conventions	1981 - 1983		
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-1	File - Bound reports to party meetings and conventions	1986		
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-2	File - Bound reports to party meetings and conventions	1986 - 1987		

Correspondence

Date: 1967 - 1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of some of Rush's correspondence between the years of 1967 and 1998. Files in this series include correspondence with newspapers and correspondence with the IWA regarding Rush's reinstatement as a member in the mid 1990s.

Physical description: 3 folders of textual material.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-3	File - Correspondence with newspapers	1967 - 1988		
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-4	File - General outgoing correspondence	1966 - 1996		
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-5	File - IWA correspondence	1997 - 1998		

Personal and biographical

Date: 1965 - 1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records and published materials detailing the life and personal activities of Maurice Rush. Files in this series include an extensive newspaper clipping collection of articles about Rush as well as a transcript and videocassette of an interview with Rush entitled Maurice Rush: 55 Years in the Communist Party.

Physical description: 6 cm of textual material and 2 videocassettes.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-6	File - Annotated transcript of Maurice Rush interview entitled 55 Years in the Communist Party of British Columbia	1989		
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-7	File - Newspaper articles about Maurice Rush	1965 - 1998		
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-8	File - Awards and certificates	1965 - 1998		
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-9	File - Greeting cards	1965 - 1998		
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-10	File - Videocassette entitled Maurice Rush: 55 Years in the Communist Party of British Columbia	[1989?]		
RBSC-ARC-1478-2-11	File - Videocassette entitled Inform, "Maurice Rush with Ernie Crist," (Shaw Cable 4)	21 May 1992		

Published materials

Date: 1955 - 1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of published material written by Maurice Rush. Included in this series is a file of newspaper articles written in the Pacific Tribune from 1955-1999. This series also contains pamphlets written by Rush in the 1970s and 1980s and his 1996 political memoir We Have a Glowing Dream.

Physical description: 10 cm of textual material.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-1	File - Clippings of newspaper articles by Maurice Rush	1955 - 1999		
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-2	File - Western Bulletin [SPAM 1346A]	1992-02-01 - 1993-01-01		
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-3	File - Pamphlets and books	1966 - 1996		

Photographs

Date: 1955 - 1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists primarily of photographs created by Rush while travelling to socialist countries such as China, the USSR, East Germany and Vietnam for his political newspaper activities during the Cold War. The series also contains one file of photographs taken in Vancouver.

Physical description: 56 photographs.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-4	File - USSR Photographs	[195-, 1980-1985]		
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-5	File - East Germany Photographs	[1955, 1958]		
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-6	File - Vietnam Photographs	1965		
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-7	File - Vietnam Photographs	1965		
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-8	File - People's Republic of China Photographs	1987		
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-9	File - Canada Photographs	[1950-1990?]		

Memorabilia

Date: 1960 - 1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of items collected by Rush during his trips to socialist countries. These items include invitation cards, programs, medals, pins and commemorative coins. Of particular note are pins he received from the Vietminh in the 1960s and a medal he received to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the end of World War Two from the government of the USSR.

Note:

The majority of this series consists of unfilled objects that are located in box 4..

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1478-3-10	File - Invitations and Programs	1974-1990		

Audiocassettes

Date: 1977 - 1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists primarily of audio recordings of Rush's political speeches. Subjects covered in these speeches include the international arms race and social democracy.

Physical description: 7 audiocassettes.

Arrangement:

The audiocassettes in this series are unfiled and are located in box 4.

Publication status:

published

	File / item list			
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1478-4-SP87/1	Item - Maurice Rush, "Crises of Confederation"	1977		
RBSC-ARC-1478-4-SP87/2	Item - Maurice Rush, "Stop the Arms Race"	1978		
RBSC-ARC-1478-4-SP87/3	Item - Maurice Rush, "What Happened to the Soviet Union"	[199-]		
RBSC-ARC-1478-4-SP87/4	Item - Maurice Rush, "Office Xmas Social"	1992		
RBSC-ARC-1478-4-SP87/5	Item - Maurice Rush "Year End Toast"	1992		
RBSC-ARC-1478-4-SP87/6	Item - Maurice Rush, "Social Democracy in Crisis"	1993		
RBSC-ARC-1478-4-SP87/7	Item - G. Bannerman and Maurice Rush, "Maurice Rush interview with G. Bannerman"			