

# University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Peter Faminow fonds (RBSC-ARC-1663)

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University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, 1961 East Mall Vancouver BC Canada V6T 1Z1 Telephone: 604-822-8208

Fax: 604-822-9587 <http://www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/>

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# Peter Faminow fonds

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

**Title:** Peter Faminow fonds

**ID:** RBSC-ARC-1663

**Date:** 1925 - 2002 (date of creation)

**Physical description:** Fonds contains 95.5 cm of textual records; 14 photographs; 14 audio reels; 4 audio cassettes.

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Peter Faminow (1917-2002) was born in Alberta to Russian-born Doukhobor parents, Sam and Elizabeth Faminow. He received his grade school and high school education in Lundreck, Alberta, and attended Willamette University in Oregon before studying law at University of Saskatchewan and University of Alberta. He met his wife, Frances Sopp, at Willamette. While studying law, Faminow became actively involved in the Doukhobor youth movement. He would later help organize the 1958 Conference on Peace through Non-violence, author a column called 'Dasha' in the Doukhobor publication *Mir*, and serve as the secretary-treasurer of the Union of Doukhobors in Canada. He was also a member of a fact-finding mission to the Doukhobor residential school in New Denver, and was part of a committee of Doukhobors to recommend a resolution to that issue. After relocating with his wife and daughters (Sarah, Polly and Megan) to North Vancouver to practice law, Faminow served as a councillor and alderman for the District of North Vancouver between 1960 and 1974 and ran once for Reeve. He also ran once as a New Democrat in the Federal election of 1963. In 1987, Peter Faminow filed a case in the B.C. Supreme Court regarding the issue of secondary suites in North Vancouver, B.C. and succeeded in having the bylaws for allowing the rental of secondary suites changed.

### Custodial history

Records were gathered by Faminow's daughter Polly Faminow. They were initially packaged and shipped to the Royal B.C. Museum and Archives before being transferred to Rare Books and Special Collections in the spring of 2009.

## Scope and content

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Fonds consists of personal and business records of Peter Faminow, related to his personal and family life, career as a lawyer and a politician, and his interests and involvement in the Doukhobor community. Records include correspondence, clippings and scrapbooks, photographs, audio recordings, papers, speeches, and other textual records. The fonds is arranged into the following series: Family records, Records related to education, Records related to law practice and career, Doukhobor related files, Scrapbooks and clippings, and Audio recordings.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Arrangement

Records were prepared for transfer and in some cases organized into files by family members. This general arrangement has been retained, and grouped into series by the archivist according to either aspect of life or type of material as appropriate.

### Related material

See also the Doukhobor Research Collection at Rare Books and Special Collections.

A number of publications related to the Doukhobors were also donated with the fonds. They can be found by searching the UBC Library catalogue.

### Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
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## Access points

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- Textual record (documentary form)

## Series descriptions

### Family records.

Date: [ca. 1930-1959], 2002. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of Faminow family records, related to schooling, the family farm and other personal records. Contains a file of letters related to military mobilization during the Second World War and the Faminow sons' attempts to gain exemptions. Series consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, certificates, a farm account book and other textual records and are arranged by type of record. Also contains a file of obituaries and memorials of Peter Faminow compiled by Polly Faminow.

Physical description: 7.5 cm of textual records.

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-1	File - Children's school certificates	1933-1937		
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-2	File - Visa, medical and mobilization records	1939-1944		
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-3	File - Family farm letterhead	[193-?]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-4	File - Paul Faminow death records	1948		
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-5	File - Newspaper clippings	1953-1968		
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-6	File - Farm account book	1928-1959		
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-11	File - Peter Faminow obituaries and memorials	2002		

### Records related to education.

Date: [ca. 1940-1953]. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records related to Faminow's university education and law articling. Records include correspondence, essays (some written by people other than Faminow) and short stories and poems, some of which reference the Doukhobors. Also includes certificates from Willamette University, Law Society of British Columbia, Law Society of Alberta, Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, University of Saskatchewan and the Province of Alberta. Files are arranged by type of record.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual records.

1 photograph : b&w.

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-7	File - Correspondence	1940-1953		
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-8	File - Correspondence	1940-1953		
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-9	File - Essays	[ca. 1948]		

RBSC-ARC-1663-1-10	File - Short stories and poems	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-11	File - Photograph of a group of university aged men, possibly at Willamette University [BC-2132-1]	[194-?]
RBSC-ARC-1663-1-12	File - Certificates	1943-1953, 1981

### Records related to law practice and career.

Date: 1942-1999, predominant 1987. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence, clippings and other records related to Faminow's legal practice and career interests, as well as a series of Supreme Court of British Columbia documents related to Faminow's court case against the District of North Vancouver over secondary suites. Also contains a file of information on watershed issues in West and North Vancouver.

Physical description: 19 cm of textual records.

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-1	File - Early career correspondence	1963		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-2	File - Business correspondence	1974-1989		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-3	File - Political issues	1949-1962		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-4	File - Clippings regarding secondary suites	1987-1997		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-5	File - Faminow v. North Vancouver : Appellant's factum	1987		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-6	File - Faminow v. North Vancouver : Reply to the factum	1987		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-7	File - Faminow v. North Vancouver : Authorities of the respondent	1987		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-8	File - Task force on illegal suites	1987		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-9	File - Faminow v. North Vancouver : Appeal book	1987		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-10	File - Faminow v. North Vancouver : Respondent's factum	1987		
RBSC-ARC-1663-2-11	File - Faminow v. North Vancouver : Combined book of authorities	1987		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-1	File - Watershed	1996-1999		

### Doukhobor related files.

Date: 1925-1998 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of Faminow's files and documents related to the history of the Doukhobors and his own involvement in the Doukhobor community and related issues such as pacifism, multiculturalism and human rights. Series contains correspondence with others in the Doukhobor community such as Koozma Tarasoff and Eli Popoff, writings about the Doukhobors by Faminow and others, and records generated by societies and conferences such as the Sons of Freedom, Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, 1958 Peace Through Non-violence Conference and various other Doukhobor organizations.

Several files consist of documents related to Faminow's fact-finding activities into the Doukhobor children who were removed from their families to the New Denver residential school (known as "Operation Snatch") in the 1950's. Two files contain historical documents have originated from and/or were circulated within the Doukhobor community in the 1920's – 1950's, such as circulars distributed by Peter P. Verigin (file 3-7).

Physical description: 39 cm of textual records.

4 photographs : b&w

Language of the material:

English

Russian

### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-2	File - Speeches and open letters	1969-1975		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-3	File - Speeches and open letters	1977-1987		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-4	File - Correspondence	1971-1973		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-5	File - Correspondence	1951-1953		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-6	File - Correspondence	1950-1954		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-7	File - Collected historical Doukhobor documents	1925-1957		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-8	File - Collected historical Doukhobor documents	[ca. 1930-1950]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-9	File - Dasha	1973-1977		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-10	File - Correspondence [contains photo: BC-2132-2]	1954-1959		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-11	File - Doukhobor related writings	[ca. 1970-1987]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-12	File - Messages, speeches, letters and reports	[ca. 1932-1975]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-13	File - Clippings from Russian newspapers	[ca. 1952-1953]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-14	File - Clippings from Vestnik	1962-1968		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-15	File - Correspondence regarding New Denver school	1957-1958		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-16	File - New Denver children and school	1958		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-17	File - Documents related to "Operation Snatch"	1954-1984		
RBSC-ARC-1663-3-18	File - Reports regarding New Denver school	1958		
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-1	File - Canadian Doukhobor Youth workshop	1961		
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-2	File - Symposium	1971, 1982		
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-3	File - Human rights papers	1952-1991		
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-4	File - Pacifism papers	1965-1995		
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-5	File - Doukhobor related writings	1951-1997		
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-6	File - Canadian Council of Christians and Jews conference	1972		
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-7	File - Speeches and letters of Doukhobor leaders (photocopies)	1950-1987		

RBSC-ARC-1663-4-8	File - Koozma conference, symposium	1982
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-9	File - Multiculturalism	1971-1973
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-10	File - Oral history transcripts	1972
RBSC-ARC-1663-4-11	File - Biographical information	[ca. 1953-1975]
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-1	File - Interviews with Koozma Tarasoff	1973-1976
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-2	File - Correspondence with Koozma Tarasoff	1961-1992
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-3	File - Correspondence with Koozma Tarasoff	1994-1995
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-4	File - Correspondence with Koozma Tarasoff	1995-1996
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-5	File - Correspondence with Koozma Tarasoff	1996-1998
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-6	File - The Doukhobor saga	1970
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-7	File - Miscellaneous clippings	1953-1971
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-8	File - Photograph of group in front of Russian Canadian Hall on St. Peter's Day [BC-2132-3]	29 Dec. 1969
RBSC-ARC-1663-O/S	File - Peace through non-violence conference at Vancouver, B.C. [photograph BC-2132-4]	June 1958
RBSC-ARC-1663-O/S	File - Peace through non-violence conference at University of British Columbia, Vancouver B.C. [photograph BC-2132-5]	June 1958

### Scrapbooks and clippings

Date: 1953 – 1998, predominant 1953-1973 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of loose and scrapbooked newspaper clippings regarding Faminow's political career, local and provincial politics, family, and Doukhobor related events. One scrapbook contains a series of photographs of Doukhobor children at New Denver School; one scrapbook contains a series of photographs from a Doukhobor gathering.

Physical description: 22 cm of textual records  
9 photographs : b&w

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-9	File - Miscellaneous clippings	1953-1998		
RBSC-ARC-1663-5-10	File - Miscellaneous clippings	1960-1973		
RBSC-ARC-1663-6-1	File - Scrapbook, contains photographs of Doukhobor children at New Denver [BC-2132-6 – 9].	1956-1958		
RBSC-ARC-1663-6-2	File - Scrapbook	1963		
RBSC-ARC-1663-6-3	File - Scrapbook	1963		
RBSC-ARC-1663-6-4	File - Family photos [scrapbook]	1961-1963		
RBSC-ARC-1663-6-5	File - Liberal [politics]	1962-1963		
RBSC-ARC-1663-6-5	File - Liberal [politics]	1962-1963		
RBSC-ARC-1663-6-6	File - Civic gov[ernment]	1969-1972		



RBSC-ARC-1663-6-7	File - Political career scrapbook	1959-1961
RBSC-ARC-1663-7-1	File - Legal	1969-1971
RBSC-ARC-1663-7-2	File - Scrapbook	1959-1961
RBSC-ARC-1663-7-3	File - Scrapbook, containing photographs of Doukhobor gatherings [BC-2132-10 – 14].	1957-1960
RBSC-ARC-1663-7-4	File - Scrapbook	1960-1961
RBSC-ARC-1663-7-5	File - Political career scrapbook	1958-1959

### Audio recordings.

Date: [ca. 1957-1982] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of audio recordings made by and for Faminow such as recordings at Doukhobor conferences and festivals, and recordings of Faminow's election ads, speeches and interviews.

Physical description: 15 audio reels.

4 audio cassettes.

### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPSR-1	Item - Speech by Peter Faminow ; speech by William M. Papove, Grand Forks B.C.	28 Dec. 1957		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPSR-2	Item - Interview with Peter Faminow by Don Thomas, CFCN Calgary			
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPSR-3	Item - Election talk, CKLS	14 Dec. 1959		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPSR-4	File - Non-violence conference held in Vancouver, B.C.	June 1958		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPSR-5	Item - Home music recordings	[196-?]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPSR-6	Item - Election radio jingle for Peter Faminow	[196-?]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPSR-7	Item - [Christian?] Fellowship Calgary Xmas vacation at the meeting Haba Temple	[195-?]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPSR-8	Item - J.J. Verigin speech on 29 youth festival Grand Forks B.C.	23 May 1976		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPSR-9	File - Peter Faminow for mayor (North Vancouver District)	15 Nov. 1982		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPC-1	Item - Peter Faminow for mayor (North Vancouver District)	15 Nov. 1982		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPC-2	Item - Doukhobor Festival, Grand Forks	[198-?]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPC-3	Item - Boris Delmar and Peter Faminow	[198-?]		
RBSC-ARC-1663-SPC-4	Item - Fred and Luba Rezansoff, Grand Forks	Dec. 1982		