

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Rolf Knight fonds (RBSC-ARC-1306)

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Rolf Knight fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Rolf Knight fonds
Reference code:	RBSC-ARC-1306
Date:	1961-2019 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.35 m of textual records
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Finding aid updated by Ashlynn Prasad in 2018 to reflect new accruals. Finding aid updated by Claire Williams in 2019 to reflect new accruals. Finding aid updated by Gabriella J. Cigarroa in Summer 2024 to reflect 2019 accrual.
Note [generalNote]:	Content warning: Some fonds material, including that related to “Not a Philosophical Atheism” (2012) and “Fascism, Jewish Chauvinism and the Holocaust Revival” (2007), contains antisemitic content.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Rolf Knight (1936-2019) was a Canadian author who wrote regional and working class histories of British Columbia. Rolf Knight obtained his B.A. from the University of British Columbia in 1959. He completed graduate work in anthropology at UBC (M.A., 1962) and Columbia University (Ph.D., 1968). He went on to teach at Simon Fraser University and the University of Toronto.

Since 1972, he has published several books pertaining to working class history. Honours received by Knight include a Certificate of Merit from the Canadian Historical Association for work concerning regional history, an award from the British Columbia Historical Federation for his autobiography of Homer Stevens in 1992, and the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for B.C. Literature received in 2017. He passed on 22 June 2019.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of manuscripts, research files, and printed material relating to Knight's activities as a student and university professor in the field of anthropology, as well as his writing as a Canadian historian. Included are: correspondence with and applications to publishers and universities; a typescript

copy of Knight's memoirs and manuscript copies of "A Very Ordinary Life" (1974), "Indians at Work" (1978), "Along the No. 20 Line" (1980), "Homer Stevens" (1992), "Not a Philosophical Atheism" (2012), and "Nativism and Americanism" (2013), among Knight's other publications; research data and bibliographies gathered as part of Knight's research and writing; book reviews of Knight's works, as well as Knight's reviews of others' publications; transcripts and sound recordings of Knight's interviews with Bob Chestnut, Harvey Murphy, and John Smith; and photographs used in Knight's "Along the No. 20 Line" (1980).

Notes

Title notes

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

Immediate source of acquisition

The fonds was received from Rolf Knight in several donations, occurring in 1980, 1981, 1985, 1992, 1998, 2018, and 2019.

Arrangement

Records received in 1998 were arranged by Knight prior to donation, and their original order has been maintained.

Restrictions on access

Access restrictions apply to some of the material.

Finding aids

Inventory available.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
-

Access points

- Murphy, Harvey, d. 1977 (subject)
- Smith, John (subject)
- Chester, Bob (subject)

- Stevens, Homer (subject)
- Multiple media (documentary form)
- Education (subject)
- First Nations (subject)
- Fishing (subject)
- Labour (subject)
- British Columbia (place)

Series descriptions

Personal papers and correspondence

Date: 1961-1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of private papers of Knight, including correspondence with his publishers and various universities, a curriculum vitae, and research grant and job applications.

Physical description: 13.7 cm textual records.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-01	File - Curriculum vitae of Rolf Knight	1978		
RBSC-ARC-1306-10-03	File - Fishing and taxi driving licenses; correspondence, mainly with Royal Ontario Museum	1961-1965		
RBSC-ARC-1306-09-02	File - Rejected research grant application forms, job and teaching applications	1972-1979		
RBSC-ARC-1306-09-01	File - Letters of recommendation for Knight's students	1969-1978		
RBSC-ARC-1306-09-07	File - Letters and requests regarding changing social and economic organization among the Rupert House Cree	1964-1972		
RBSC-ARC-1306-09-05	File - Letters and requests regarding sugar plantations and labour patterns in the Cauca Valley, Columbia	1968-1974		
RBSC-ARC-1306-09-03	File - "A Very Ordinary Life": letters of praise and letters of inquiry to publishers	1973-1979		
RBSC-ARC-1306-09-06	File - Letters and requests regarding "Indians at Work"	1976-1980		
RBSC-ARC-1306-09-04	File - Letters relating to "A Man of Our Times"	1978-1980		

RBSC-ARC-1306-10-01	File - Letters to Knight relating to his publications	1983-1984
RBSC-ARC-1306-10-02	File - Letters of appreciation	1983-1985
RBSC-ARC-1306-08-06	File - Correspondence and reviews	1980-1981
RBSC-ARC-1306-10-04	File - Correspondence	1985-1986
RBSC-ARC-1306-10-06	File - Correspondence with publishers, universities and others regarding work	1982-1992
RBSC-ARC-1306-13-01	File - Correspondence with universities, publishers and others	1986-1989
RBSC-ARC-1306-10-07	File - Correspondence regarding work and related topics	1986-1993

Manuscripts and published works

Date: 1965-2019 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of manuscripts, some in draft form, and copies of some of Knight's published works . Includes a manuscript of Knight's thesis "Why don't you work like other men do: labour patterns and sugar plantations in the Cauca Valley, Columbia" (1968), and manuscripts of "A Very Ordinary Life" (1974), "Along the No. 20 Line" (1980), "Indians at Work" (1978), "Stump Ranch Chronicles" (1977), "Homer Stevens" (1992), "Fascism, Jewish Chauvinism and the Holocaust Revival" (2007), "Not a Philosophical Atheism" (2012), "Nativism and Americanism" (2013), "Mort Breimberg: The Reminiscences of a Canadian Radical" (2014), and "Vancouver Speaking: A City's Novelized Biography" (2017). Series also includes a typescript of Knight's memoirs.

Physical description: 92.5 cm of textual records.

Restrictions on access:

Access restrictions apply to the memoirs.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-01	File - "Eleven interviews from Cauca Valley Cane Country"; "Fascism in Chile, the first forty days"	1965, 1974		
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-02	File - Journal articles by Knight	1965-1977		
RBSC-ARC-1306-05-01-02	File - Typescript of "Why Don't you work like other men do: Labour patterns and sugar plantations in the Cauca Valley, Columbia" (thesis)	1968		

RBSC-ARC-1306-12-10	File - "Ecological factors in changing economy and social organization among the Rupert House Cree"	1968
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-11	File - Sugar Plantations and Labour Patterns in the Cauca Valley, Columbia	1972
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-02	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - second draft, notes for introduction and editorial comments	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-03	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter one draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-04	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter two draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-05	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter three draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-06	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter four draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-07	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter five draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-08	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter six draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-09	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter seven draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-10	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter eight draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-11	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter nine draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-12	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter ten draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-13	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter eleven draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-14	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - chapter twelve draft	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-01-15	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" - footnotes	[ca. 1973]
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-05	File - "A Very Ordinary Life"	1974
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-09	File - Work camps and company towns in Canada and the United States	1975
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-08	File - "A Man of Our Times"	1976
RBSC-ARC-1306-02-01	File - Manuscript: "Stump Ranch Chronicles"	[ca. 1976]
RBSC-ARC-1306-06-01-12	File - "Indians at Work" - draft chapters	[ca. 1977]
RBSC-ARC-1306-06-13-15	File - Footnotes for "Indians at Work"	[ca. 1977]
RBSC-ARC-1306-06-16-18	File - Original notes: "Indians at Work"	[ca. 1977]
RBSC-ARC-1306-06-19-20	File - Original notes: "Indians at Work" - Fishing	[ca. 1977]
RBSC-ARC-1306-06-21-27	File - Original notes: "Indians at Work"	[ca. 1977]
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-07	File - "Stump Ranch Chronicles"	1977

RBSC-ARC-1306-07-01-06	File - "Along the No. 20 Line"	
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-06	File - "Along the No. 20 Line"	1980
RBSC-ARC-1306-11-01	File - Typed manuscript of Rolf Knight's memoirs	[1985]
RBSC-ARC-1306-13-02	File - Homer Stevens autobiography draft manuscript - index, letter of explanation, and pages 1-54	1989
RBSC-ARC-1306-13-03	File - Homer Stevens autobiography draft manuscript – pages 55-114	1989
RBSC-ARC-1306-13-04	File - Homer Stevens autobiography draft manuscript pages 115-144 and Appendices 1-2	1989
RBSC-ARC-1306-14-04	File - Nativism and Americanism (Part 1 of 3)	
RBSC-ARC-1306-14-05	File - Nativism and Americanism (Part 2 of 3)	
RBSC-ARC-1306-14-06	File - Nativism and Americanism (Part 3 of 3)	
RBSC-ARC-1306-15-01	File - Mort Breimberg: The Reminiscences of a Canadian Radical	2014
RBSC-ARC-1306-15-02	File - Nativism and Americanism	2013
RBSC-ARC-1306-15-03	File - Vancouver Speaking: A City's Novelized Biography	2017
RBSC-ARC-1306-15-04	File - Not a Philosophical Atheism	2012
RBSC-ARC-1306-15-05	File - Facsism, Jewish Chauvinism and the Holocaust Revival	2007
RBSC-ARC-1306-15-06	File - No Redeeming Qualities--Reviews of a tawdry new age	2002
RBSC-ARC-1306-15-07	File - Not a Philosophical Atheism	2012
RBSC-ARC-1306-16-01	File - Nativism and Americanism	[2006?]-2019

Research data and bibliographies

Date: 1951, 1961-[199-?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of research data, statistics, and bibliographies gathered by Knight for his thesis and other published works and articles . Research data includes notes, proposals, outlines, glossaries of terms, and reviews concerning various topics, including native peoples of Canada and the Cauca Valley, Columbia.

Physical description: 35 cm of textual records.

Publication status:

published

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-04	File - Miscellaneous - cartoons	1951		
RBSC-ARC-1306-02-02-04	File - Rupert House, East St. James Bay: notes, daily journal interviews, and additional data	1961		
RBSC-ARC-1306-03-06	File - Eastmain, East James Bay, Quebec: band list, statistical	1961		
RBSC-ARC-1306-03-01-05	File - Wunnummin Lake Settlement and Big Beaver House, Kenora District : research notes, interviews, and statistical data	1962		
RBSC-ARC-1306-03-07	File - Nemiscau, West Central Labrador: kinship charts, statistical data, and interviews	1962		
RBSC-ARC-1306-04-01	File - Cauca Valley, Columbia : interviews, questionnaires, and notes on sugar cane production	1964-1966		
RBSC-ARC-1306-04-02	File - Cauca Valley, Columbia: employment and income interviews and statistics	[1964-1966]		
RBSC-ARC-1306-04-03	File - Cauca Valley, Columbia: statistics	[1964-1966]		
RBSC-ARC-1306-04-04	File - Cauca Valley, Columbia : domestic budgets data	[1964-1966]		
RBSC-ARC-1306-04-05	File - Cauca Valley, Columbia : census data, Chikarro and surrounding area	[1964-1966]		
RBSC-ARC-1306-05-03-05	File - Notes regarding a study of sugar and other plantations	[1964-1966]		
RBSC-ARC-1306-08-05	File - Bibliographies, reading lists, and reviews	1969-1974		
RBSC-ARC-1306-14-01	File - Notes entitled "A Little Golden Treasury of Witch Hunting in Canada : A Practical User's Guide"; proposal for booklet; glossary of terms	[199-?]		
RBSC-ARC-1306-14-02	File - "No Redeeming Qualities"; Reviews of A Tawdry New Age			
RBSC-ARC-1306-14-03	File - Notes on Nativism and Americanism	[199-?]		

Book reviews

Date: 1976-1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of book reviews, including reviews of Knight's publications and Knight's reviews of other authors' books. Includes related correspondence and other material.

Physical description: 3.5 cm of textual records.

Publication status:

published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1306-07-09	File - Book reviews: miscellaneous, articles and bibliographies	1976		
RBSC-ARC-1306-10-05	File - Book reviews and related correspondence	1978-1983		
RBSC-ARC-1306-12-03	File - Book reviews by Rolf Knight	1979		
RBSC-ARC-1306-09-08	File - Reviews of books and other press cuttings	1982-1983		
RBSC-ARC-1306-07-07	File - "A Very Ordinary Life" and "A Man of Our Times"	1977		
RBSC-ARC-1306-07-08	File - "Indians at Work" and "Stump Ranch Chronicles"	1979		
RBSC-ARC-1306-07-10	File - "Along the No. 20 Line" and "Indians at Work"	1980		
Interview transcripts and sound recordings				
<u>Date:</u> 1975-1994 (date of creation)				
<u>Scope and content:</u>				
Series consists of transcripts and sound recordings of interviews conducted by Rolf Knight. Includes transcripts of interviews with Harvey Murphy and John Smith, and transcripts and sound recordings of interviews with Bob Chestnut.				
<u>Physical description:</u> 3 cm of textual records and 9 audio cassettes.				
<u>Publication status:</u>				
published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1306-08-01	File - Bob Chestnut transcripts	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306-SP 12:04	Item - Interview with Bob Chestnut, January 8, 1975 - Tape one	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306-SP 12:05	Item - Interview with Bob Chestnut, January 8, 1975 - Tape two	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306-SP 12:06	Item - Interview with Bob Chestnut, January 8, 1975 - Tape three	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306-SP 12:07	Item - Interview with Bob Chestnut, January 8, 1975 - Tape four	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306-SP 12:08	Item - Interview with Bob Chestnut, January 8, 1975 - Tape five	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306-SP 12:09	Item - Interview with Bob Chestnut, January 8, 1975 - Tape six	1975		

RBSC-ARC-1306-SP 12:10	Item - Interview with Bob Chestnut, January 8, 1975 - Tape seven	1975
RBSC-ARC-1306-SP 12:11	Item - Interview with Bob Chestnut, January 8, 1975 - Tape eight	1975
RBSC-ARC-1306-SP 12:12	Item - Interview with Bob Chestnut, January 8, 1975 - Tape nine	1975
RBSC- ARC-1306-08-02	File - Harvey Murphy transcripts	1977
RBSC- ARC-1306-08-03	File - John Smith transcripts	1980
RBSC- ARC-1306-08-04	File - John Smith transcripts	1992
RBSC- ARC-1306-08-07	File - Addenda to John Smith interviews – complete and combined text	1994

Photographs

Date: 1969-1982 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of photographs used as illustrations in Knight's book *Along the No. 20 Line*.

Physical description: 154 photographs.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/01-(01-16)	Item - Houses and other structures in southern interior mine towns of Greenwood, Grand Forks, and New Devon	1975-1976		
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/02-(01-15)	Item - Houses in Fairview area	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/03-(01-16)	Item - Houses on Powell Street to the CPR	[ca. 1972]		
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/04-(01-17)	Item - Houses in Strathcona area	1976		
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/05-(01-11)	Item - Houses in Seymour School Woodlands area	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/06-(01-17)	Item - Arco Hotel and Niagara Hotel	1972-1973		
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/07-(01-07)	Item - Houses along the No. 20 line	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/08-(01-07)	Item - Wall Street to Strathcona	1972		
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/09-(01-08)	Item - Capitol Hill to Boundary Road, North Burnaby	1975		
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/10-(01-05)	Item - Cassiar to Wall Street	1969-1976		

RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/11-(01-09)	Item - Beach Avenue	1982
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/12-(01-12)	Item - Houses, stores along firehill along No. 20 Line	1976
RBSC-ARC-1306- BC1945/13-(01-14)	Item - Strathcona (West)	1972