

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Stefan Arnason fonds (RBSC-ARC-1680)

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Stefan Arnason fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Stefan Arnason fonds
ID:	RBSC-ARC-1680
Date:	1899 – 1956 (date of creation)
Physical description:	25 cm of textual material.
Language:	English
Language:	Icelandic
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
Note [generalNote]:	Files completely or predominantly in Icelandic are noted in the file list.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Stefan Arnason, son of Arni Jonatansson and Gudrun Jonsdottir, was born August 17, 1882 at Fagriskogur in Eyja Fjordur, Iceland. The eldest of 12 children, he was educated at the Gagnfraedaskoli at Mofurvollum in 1900. He immigrated to Canada in 1904 and spent time in Tantallon, Saskatchewan and Winnipeg, Manitoba, before homesteading in Pine Valley (Piney), Manitoba in 1908. He married Gudrun “Sigurbjorg” Einarsdottir (born 1889, Hallson, North Dakota) in 1911, who had settled in the Pine Valley area with her parents.

The Arnasons took over Sigurbjorg’s father’s farm at Piney and had 12 children. Amongst the first settlers in the area, they were active in the community, helping build the first high school and hall. Stefan Arnason was on the school board, and worked for the municipality. The Arnason family were forced to move to the Vancouver area during the depression due to lack of employment opportunities. They moved thirteen family members (the eldest daughter stayed in the Piney area for 2 more years) in a one and a half ton Dodge truck to Burnaby, in April-May 1937.

Stefan Arnason passed away in 1956.

Sources:

Biographical information provided by Richard Arnason. Available for consultation in the accession file

Custodial history

Material was donated by the Arnason family, and was transferred to Rare Books and Special Collections by Richard Arnason.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of personal documents created and kept by Stefan Arnason, mostly in the form of diaries which document his family's life from 1936 until his death in 1956. Some earlier diary entries, from 1906-1912, document Arnason's life before his marriage, in Winnipeg and Piney. Diary entries pay particular attention to employment, family occasions and important events, and the weather. Fonds also contains some loose correspondence and notes, and several notebooks which appear to have been used during Arnason's school days (including one "Nokkur sönglög," containing Icelandic songs).

Notes

Title notes

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

Finding aids

File list available.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Accompanying material:** A transcription of the diaries is available in print and on CD ROM in boxes 2 to 4 (see file list). Transcription includes translation from Icelandic to English of early diary entries (1906-1912). Digital files from CD-ROM are available upon request.

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1680-1-1	File - Diary	1906-1937, predominant 1936-1937		
RBSC-ARC-1680-1-2	File - Diary	Oct. 1935- Feb. 1936		

RBSC-ARC-1680-1-3	File - Diary	Dec. 1937- Nov. 1938
RBSC-ARC-1680-1-4	File - Diary	Nov. 1938- July 1940
RBSC-ARC-1680-1-5	File - Diary	July 1940- July 1942
RBSC-ARC-1680-1-6	File - Diary	July 1942- Dec. 1944
RBSC-ARC-1680-1-7	File - Diary	Dec. 1944- Dec. 1948
RBSC-ARC-1680-1-8	File - Diary	Dec. 1948- Dec. 1951
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-1	File - Diary	Jan. 1952- Dec. 1954
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-2	File - Diary	Jan. 1955- June 1956
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-3	File - Notebooks	[ca. 1901]
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-4	File - Notebook	1899-1900
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-5	File - Ný kynslóð by Johann Skjoldborg	1918
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-6	File - Nokkur sönglög	1903
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-7	File - Correspondence and notes	1908-1945
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-8	File - Stefan Arnason's diary translated from Icelandic by Páll Ásgeirsson, with CD ROM	Transcribed 2008
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-9	File - Diary transcription, 1935-1939	Transcribed 2008
RBSC-ARC-1680-2-10	File - Diary transcription, 1940-1943	Transcribed 2008
RBSC-ARC-1680-3-1	File - Diary transcription, 1944-1948	Transcribed 2008
RBSC-ARC-1680-3-2	File - Diary transcription, 1949-1952	Transcribed 2008
RBSC-ARC-1680-4-1	File - Diary transcription, 1953-1954	Transcribed 2008
RBSC-ARC-1680-4-2	File - Diary transcription, 1955-1956	Transcribed 2008