

ARNOLD ALEXANDER WEBSTER, 1899-

A Preliminary Inventory of His  
Papers in the Library of the  
University of British Columbia  
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION

Prepared by:

Mary Ann Cantillon  
November, 1978

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**Provenance:** Webster, Arnold Alexander, 1899-1979

**Title:** Arnold Alexander Webster fonds

**Dates:** 1926-1966

**Physical desc.:** 1.4 m of textual records

**Bio/Admin History:** Arnold Webster was born in Vancouver and raised in Agassiz, B.C. He obtained his M.A. from the University of British Columbia. Webster became a teacher and principal in the Vancouver School Division. He joined the CCF in 1932 and became its B.C. provincial president. He also served on Vancouver Parks Board and as a member of the UBC Senate. In 1953 he succeeded Harold Winch as leader of the provincial CCF and was elected MLA for Vancouver East. He served one term as Leader of the Opposition and then retired briefly from politics. his return after the organization of the NDP, he was elected MP for Vancouver Kingsway and served from 1962-1965.

**Scope/Content:** The fonds consists of biographical material, incoming (1926-1964) and outgoing (1945-1965) correspondence, a typescript and published edition of Webster's textbook *Living Together in Canada* and subject files. The fonds also includes pamphlets and clippings relating to various subjects.

**Title source:** Title based on the contents of the fonds.

**Finding aids:** Inventory available.

**Repository:** [University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections](#)

**Names:** Webster, Arnold Alexander, 1899-1979

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## Introduction.

The papers were donated to U.B.C. Archives by Mrs. Daisy Webster. The inventory includes the following series:

Biographical information.

Letters: Incoming: Arranged alphabetically.

Letters: Outgoing: Arranged chronologically and alphabetically within each year.

Manuscripts: Textbooks.

Photographs.

Subject files: Arranged alphabetically, original order preserved and all correspondence removed and included with the letters.

The subject files in folder number 3-2 to 3-6 are particularly interesting. These broadcasts cover a wide range of subject matters. Many reveal Mr. Webster's personal philosophy and intellectual views and show him in several ways to be a man in advance of his time.

A brief form note is included in the subject files which indicates the format of the bulk of the material -- for example, whether clippings or pamphlets etc. Brackets [] indicate assigned information, usually dates or first names. Cross references are given and See Also (S.A.) references for related material. When it was not possible to determine dates the abbreviation n.d. is used.

A file that was obviously created by Daisy Webster has been separated from his subject files and placed in a subgroup entitled, Daisy Webster.

Additional records and papers relating to Arnold Webster may be found elsewhere in the Special Collections Division. The records of the C.C.F. in the Angus MacInnis Memorial Collection contain subject files created when Webster was the provincial party leader as well as other pertinent information. The records of the provincial office of the NDP and private papers of colleagues who have deposited their papers in the Division also contain useful information. Further Arnold Webster Papers, including newsclippings relating to his career, are available in the Provincial Archives of British Columbia.

Biographical notes on Arnold Webster are taken from Growth of the NDP in B.C. 1900-1970 by Daisy Webster with permission of the author. I also wish to thank her for taking the time to discuss with me the material in the collection.

Mary Ann Cantillon

Although Arnold Webster was born in Vancouver in 1899, he was brought up in the small town of Agassiz. He returned to Vancouver to complete his high school and earn a B.A. and M.A. from the University of British Columbia. At university, he was active in drama, college publications and international debating. Several years later, he studied at Toronto University for his Bachelor of Pedagogy.

For the next forty years, he worked for the Vancouver School Board as a teacher and administrator, with principalships in Magee and Killarney Secondary Schools. On a year of teacher exchange to Scotland (1932-33) with his wife, Gladys, he was able to tour the European continent, including Germany and Russia.

Returning to Canada just after the founding of the CCF, he joined the B.C. section of the Movement. After the amalgamation of the CCF clubs and the Socialist Party, he became the first provincial president. Before long, he found himself actively engaged in a political career to parallel his chosen one of teaching. In his first attempt at politics, he opposed Gerry McGeer, the Mayor of Vancouver, in the 1935 federal election, and lost by six votes. He was again defeated in three subsequent elections. In the meantime, he was to serve as provincial president for two more years.

In 1940, Mr. Webster entered civic politics as a commissioner on the Vancouver Parks Board. He acted on the Board for twenty-two years, four of which he was chairman. During those years, he promoted and fought for modernization of recreational facilities, establishment of community centres and public acquisition of beach waterfront, and joint share programs of schools, community centres and libraries for the use of all. He was affectionately known as "Mr. Park Board." He also served for fifteen years on the Senate of University of B.C.

Following the resignation of Harold Winch from provincial politics in 1953, Arnold Webster was chosen to succeed him as Party Leader. He was subsequently elected as MLA for Vancouver East and entered the Legislature as Leader of the Opposition. He was a constant champion for the dignity of the common man, urging the Government to establish a Bill of Rights. He pleaded in the name of human decency for the discontinuation of atomic testing and pile-up.

The untimely death of his wife in 1952 left him with two teenage sons. He remarried in 1955, and at the forthcoming election resigned his seat and the Party leadership to return to teaching.

Arnold Webster's wife Daisy, whom he married in 1955, was active in the CCF women's council. In 1972 she was persuaded to seek the nomination in Vancouver South. She won the seat and was M.L.A. from 1972-75 when she resigned because of her husband's ill health.

With the reconstruction of the CCF into the NDP, Mr. Webster was once again encouraged to enter politics. This time he gained the federal seat of Vancouver-Kingsway in 1962, and was re-elected in 1963. He finally retired completely in 1965 for health reasons. In retirement, he is once

again giving public service as a member of the B.C. Parole Board. The City of Vancouver honored him in 1966 by making him a "Freeman of the City."

Arnold Webster once described his philosophy of democratic citizenship in these words:

"Every thoughtful person knows that building democracy in Canada is unfinished business. Citizens must be aroused to understand that only a strengthened and inspired democracy will survive the 20th century. This condition will not be achieved through the cultivation of individual virtues of kindness, honesty and toleration alone. Enlightened and determined group action is essential."

ARNOLD WEBSTER PAPERS

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
1-1	Biographical information		
	LETTERS: INCOMING: Most of the letters are transcribed. Brackets [] indicate assigned information.		
1-2	Alsbury, Tom	1954	1
	Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans	1955	1
	Aylett, Eva	1957	1
	"Agnes"	1940	1
	B.C.P.C. see: Crosby, T.H.		
	B.C.S.P.C.A. see: Hughes, T.I.		
	B.C.T.F. see: Evans, Stan		
	Baynes, G.E.	1954	1
	Beck, W.J.	n.d.	1
	Bennett, W.A.C.	1953	2
	Blais, J.A.		1
	Board of Parks see: Bowering, E.W.		
	Board of School Trustees see: Worsley, R.L.		
	Boeing. see MacNeil, Grant		
	Boggs, Monire	1957	1
	Bohart, Harry D.	1962	1
	Bowering, E.W.	1962	1
	British Empire Games see: Clark, Ann		
	Brockman, Mac.	1954	1
	Brown, Meta F.	1957	1
	Browne, Gerald J.	n.d.	1
	Buckingham, W.N.	1954	1
	B MISCELLANEOUS (notes)		
	"Buda"		1
	"Bill"		1
	"Buck"		1
1-3	Cain, Bill see: Y Men's Club		
	Cameron, Colin	1937-56	4
	Chilliwack, Rotary Club see: Wilson, James		
	Chisholm, A.D.	1955	1
	Chinese Benevolent Association	1960	1
	Coldwell, M.J.	1956	1
	Community Programme Board See:Wallace, L.J.		
	Connell, Rob. C.	1936	1
	Clark, Ann	1954	1
	Cordova Bay C.C.F. see: Thomas, E.P.		
	Council of Churches see: Rathie, Wm. see: McIlraith		
	Crosby, T.H.		
	Currie, Mr. and Mrs. L.	1956	1
	C MISCELLANEOUS (notes)		
	"Chuck"	n.d.	1

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
1-3 (cont.)	Dawson Creek C.C.F. see: Brockman, Mac Department of Health and Welfare see: Blais Dent, J.M. and Sons (Publishers) Dingman, B.	1949 1951	1 x
	D MISCELLANEOUS "David" [son]	1945-48	3
	Eliason, Magnus	1954	1
	Evans, Stan	1956	1
	E MISCELLANEOUS "E.H."	n.d.	1
1-4	Foon Sien see: Chinese Benevolent Association Forrest, W.H. s.a. Superannuation Board Fredrickson, Frank Friesen, J.K.	1958-62 1956 1963	2 1 1
	Gage, Dean Walter H.	1956	1
	Garland, E.J.	1939	1
	Garrard, Alva B.	1957	1
	Gibson, Bill [Dr. William]	1962	1
	Gillard, James		1 x
	G[orwill], James	1958-59	2
	[Grantham], Ronald	1939	3
	Gregory, George	1956	1
	G MISCELLANEOUS "Graham"	1945	1
	Hanson, Roy H.	1963	1
	Holland, R. Rowe	1953	1
	Houghan, Alf	1954	1
	Hughes, T.I.	1956	1
1-5	Imperial Bank of Commerce see: Chisholm, A.D. Ingle, Lorne Ingley, Agnes Irwin, E.J.	1956 1960 1958	1 1 1
	Jamieson, Laura	1956	1
	Jones, O.L.	1938	1
	J MISCELLANEOUS "John" [son]	1945-46	4
	Keate, Stuart	1956	1
	Kelowna Fan Club	1962	1
	Kerrisdale Community Centre see: Beck, W.J.	1956	1
	King, Harold	1953	1
	Kraemer, Jo	1964	1
	K MISCELLANEOUS "King"	1936	1

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>	
1-5 (cont.)	Laing, Art	1962	1	
	Lee, Miss A.	1955	1	
	Lucas, E.A. [solicitor]	1947	1	
	L MISCELLANEOUS			
	"Leo"	n.d.	1	
1-6	MacCorkindale	1940-54	10	
	MacDonald, Dorothy Ann	1954	1	
	MacInnis, Angus	1936-56	10	
	MacInnis, Grace	1954	1	
	MacKenzie, N.A.M.	1960	2	
	MacLean, H.B.	1956	1	
	MacNeil, Grant	1936-39	4	
	Matthews, J.S. (city archives)	1954-60	5	
	McCarthy, Grace	1965	1	
	McIlraith, G.	1964	1	
	McKenzie, [F.J.] Frank	1956-62	5	
	McVicar, J.W.	1963	1	
	Mendels, Jessie	1963	3	
	Mennie, B.	1953	1	
	Merilees, H.	1957	1	
	Merrit, Cecil	1945	1	
	Miller, Rev. J.H.	1926-34	3	
	Ministry of Transport	see: McIlraith see: Rathie		
	Miron, Charlie	1954	1	
	Morgan, Lorne	1938-55	2	
	Mount Benson C.C.F.			
	see: Grantham, Ronald			
	1-7	Nash, C.W.	1958	1
		Nemetz, Nathan	1960	1
		Newbury, Mrs.	1947	1
		News Herald	19	1 x
		Patterson, Ruth	1956	x
Pennington, R.A.		1953-56	3	
Plommer, R.D.		1954	1	
Rathie, Wm. G.		1964	1	
Rees, Dave		1962	1	
Regier, E[rhart]		1961	1	
Renfrew O.A.P. Organization				
see: Hanson, Roy H.				
Richter, Frank		n.d.	1	
Roddan, Andrew		1935	1	
Rolston, Tilly		1953	1	
Ryerson Press & M. Dent				
s.a. Dent, J.M. & Sons		1947	1	
R MISCELLANEOUS				
"Ron"		n.d.	x	



<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>	
1-7 (cont.)	Scott, Jack	1961	1	
	Sharp, R.F.	1955-62	9	
	Smith, Sidney E.	1953	1	
	Snowsell, Frank	1956	1	
	Southlands Riding Club	1952	1	
	Stanway, Scanlon E.	1938	1	
	Stephen, A.M.	1936	1	
	Strachan, R.M.	1956-62	4	
	Stringer, Jack	1960		
	Superannuation Branch see: Pennington, R.A. s.a.: Sharp, R.F.			
	1-8	Thomas, E.P.	n.d.	1
		Tomslake Club see: Mendels, Jessie		
		T MISCELLANEOUS "Ted"	1939	1
		UNESCO see:Friesen, J.K.		
		Uncles, R.S.	1962-64	2
Uphill, Tom		1960	1	
Vancouver City Archives see: Matthews, J.S.				
Vancouver Civic Theatre Society see: Buckingham, W.N.				
Vancouver School Board		1958	1	
Victoria Daily Times see: Keate, Stuart				
Wallace, L.J.		1953	2	
Watts, J.J		1954	1	
West End Community Council see: Mennie, B.				
Wilson, James		1959	1	
Wingfield, Miss P.L.		1953	1	
Wood, Frederic C.G.	1960	1		
Woodsworth, J.S.	1937	2		
Worsley, R.L.	n.d.	1		
Y Men's Club	n.d.	1		
Y.M.C.A. see: Smith, Dr. Sidney E.				
Young, John	1959	1		
Yule, Frances	1955	1		

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
LETTERS: OUTGOING			
1-9	Burrard C.C.F. News Herald	1945	12
	Vancouver Sun	1946	
	Newbury, Mrs.	1947	
	Vancouver Sun	1949	
	Forrest, W.H. Holland, R. Rowe McCorkindale, H.N. Mennie, B. Stroyan, P.B. Wingfield, Miss P.L.	1953	
1-10	Alsbury, Tom Baynes, G.E. Brockman, Mac Buckingham, W.N. Cameron, Colin Cameron, R.K. Clark, Ann Davidson, John Eliason, Magnus Houghan, Alf MacCorkindale, H.N. MacDonald, Mrs. Alex B. Miron, Charlie Plommer, R.D. Southlands Riding Club Stroyan, P.B.	1954	17
1-11	Army, Navy & Air Force Vets Board of Park Commissioners Currie, Lachlin Forrest, W.H. Gillard, James Lee, Miss A. Sharp, R.F. Yule, J.H. Miscellaneous Reference Letters (3)	1955	12
1-12	Beck, W.J. Board of School Trustees (Vancouver) Crosby, J.H.	1956	14

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
1-12 cont.		(1956)	(14)
	Gage, Dean Walter H. Irwin, E.J. Keate, Stuart McKenzie, F.J. Sharp, R.F. Superannuation Commission Thomas, E.P. Westoby, Miss Florence		
1-13		1957	19
	Douglas, T.C. Hume, F.J. Hughes, S.E. Merilees, Harold Sharp, R.F. Turner, Dr. D.B.		
		1958	
	Irwin, E.J. Nash, C.W. Sharp, R.F. Strachan, R.M. Superannuation Commission Turner, Dr. D.B.		
		1959	
	Sharp, R.F.		
1-14		1962	20
	Gibson, [Dr. William] Bill Mendels, Jessie Sharp, R.F. Uncles, R.S. Vancouver Province Vancouver Sun		
		1963	
	Blais, J.A. Dittrich, Val McIlraith, G. MacVicar, J.W. Mendels, Jessie Motiuk, John		
1-15		1964	
	Kraemer, Jo Rathie, W.G. Uncles, R.S.		
		1965	
	Dept. of Transport (Land Expropriation) S.A.: Toews, A.I. Hall, Ernest Lettice, Mrs. M. McCarthy, Grace Pearson, L.B. Toews, A.I. "Merritt"	n.d.	

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
	MANUSCRIPTS: Textbook		
2-(1-4)	<u>Living Together in Our Modern World.</u> The co-authors of the ts. were F.C. Boyce, T.E. Gibbard, Erice Kelly, and Arnold Webster.		
	PRINTED MATERIAL		
2-5	<u>Living Together in Canada, 1948, 340 pp.</u>		
2-6	Enclosed in this textbook were letters, reviews, and clippings relating to its publication.		
2-7	In addition, a handwritten ms., "The Teacher and Social Progress", subsequently published in <u>CCF News</u> , Jan., 1951, was enclosed in the textbook.		
2-8	PHOTOGRAPHS (4)		
	SUBJECT FILES		
3-1	Articles "Fireside Chat", clippings, notes		
3-2	Broadcasts	1935	
3-3	Broadcasts	1935	
3-4	Broadcasts	1936-1956	
3-5	Broadcasts		
3-6	Broadcasts (extra copies)		
3-7	C.C.F. pamphlets and clippings		
4-1	C.C.F. problems clippings and Cameron vs Alsbury report		
4-2	campaign funds clippings		
4-3	Canada Council clippings and notes		
4-4	Capital punishment clippings, pamphlets and notes		
4-5	China pamphlets and clippings		
4-6	Citizens Forum pamphlets		
4-7	Civil liberties pamphlets and clippings		

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
4-8	Commonwealth clippings and pamphlets		
4-9	Commonwealth Imperial Conferences articles, clippings and a Master's thesis by Webster relating to the conferences		
5-1	Communism notes and clippings		
5-2	Confederation		
5-3	Democracy notes, pamphlets and clippings		
5-4	Education, miscellaneous clippings, notes and essays		
5-5	Education clippings, notes and essays		
6-1	Education pamphlets		
6-2	Elections clippings	1936-1953	
6-3	Elections clippings, notes, campaign literature	1963	
6-4	Elections, civic notes, clippings	1952-60	
6-5	Freedom clippings, notes and pamphlets		
6-6	"H" Miscellaneous: Health, History, Housing clippings		
6-7	Labour clippings, notes		
7-1	Legislature clippings, notes and speeches	1953-56	
7-2	Leisure clippings and notes		
7-3	National Fitness and Amateur Sports press releases, clippings and notes		
7-4	New Democratic Party clippings, press releases		
7-5	Park Board minutes (1888-1941), notes, clippings and memorabilia		

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
7-6, 7-7	Park Board, Lower Mainland pamphlets, brochures, reports, notes and clippings		
7-8	Patronage clippings and pamphlets		
7-9	Peace notes, clippings and pamphlets		
8-1	Planning, general notes, clippings and pamphlets		
8-2	Planning, Vancouver reports and clippings		
8-3	Press releases miscellaneous		
X 8-4	Prison reform clippings (1950- ) and press releases		
8-5	Quotations clippings and notes		
8-6	Quotations (nuclear war, external affairs, employment) pamphlets, clippings and notes		
8-7	Recreation clippings and notes		
8-8, 8-9	Religion "Pacem in Terris" text, notes, clippings		
8-10	Science Council MacKenzie Report, clippings, notes		
9-1	Scientific Secretariat press releases	1964-65	
9-2	Senior citizens pamphlets, clippings and notes		
9-3	Socialism		
9-4	Speech notes clippings (1962-63), quotations and ideas		
9-5, 9-6, 9-7	Speech notes		
9-8	Teaching clippings, notes and pamphlets		
10-1	UNESCO		

<u>Folder No.</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>No. of items</u>
10-2	United Nations charter, press clippings and notes		
10-3	Vancouver history pamphlets, clippings and memorabilia		
10-4	Vancouver Metro clippings and brochures S.A.: Planning		
10-5	Youth notes, clippings (1938-56), broadcast (1950)		
	DAISY WEBSTER		
	SUBJECT FILES		
10-6	Indians		

A list of His Material in the Provincial Archives  
of British Columbia

Add.MSS.  
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ARNOLD ALEXANDER WEBSTER

Originals

1933 - 1966

30 cm.

BOX 1

File

- 1 Speeches in House of Commons
- 2 Transcripts of radio broadcasts
- 3 Clippings re education
- 4 Clippings re Vancouver Parks Board
- 5 Clippings re CCF Party
- 6 Scrapbook of clippings
- 7 Miscellaneous clippings

BOX 2

File

- 1 Correspondence, 1936, 1962-66
- 2 Correspondence, reports, etc. re university education
- 3 Clippings re university education
- 4 Clippings re educational research
- 5 Clippings re federal aid to education
- 6 Clippings re educational finance
- 7 Clippings re adult education
- 8 Clippings re technical and vocational education
- 9 Notes, clippings re Co-op movement
- 10 Clippings re Doukhobours