

H.R. MacMillan Personal Papers

Inventory

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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Biographical Note

Harvey Reginald MacMillan was born September 9, 1885 in Ontario and grew up there. In 1908, he obtained a Master of Science degree in Forestry at Yale University. In 1912 he became British Columbia's first Chief Forester. During World War I he was appointed Assistant Director of the Imperial Munitions Board. He married Edna Mulloy (1911), and had two children: Edna Marion (Lecky) in 1912 and Gertrude Jean (Southam) in 1915.

In 1919, he left government employ and established the H.R. MacMillan Export Company Ltd. From then until he retired in 1956, he worked to establish the forestry and paper giant known today as MacMillan-Bloedel Ltd. During World War II however, he did take time to act first as Timber Controller, then as Chairman of the Wartime Requirements Board and finally as President of Wartime Merchant Shipping Ltd. Following the war his own business expanded greatly. In 1951 he merged with Bloedel, Stewart and Welch Ltd. and acted as Chairman of the Board until 1956. In 1959 Powell River Company Ltd. was added to incorporate all aspects of the forestry and paper industry. HRM served as Honorary Chairman from 1960 - 1961 and as a member of the executive council until 1969 when he requested his name not be put forward again. Apart from these interests he also acted as chairman of B.C. Packers Ltd. and served as director on the boards of numerous companies and institutions.

HRM was also known as a great philanthropist and was involved in many community related projects and activities. His greatest interest was in education, especially forestry and forest engineering which he funded through grants, scholarships, books and facilities at UBC.

HRM died at 90 years of age, February 9, 1976.

Scope and Contents

The collection of HRM's personal papers was transferred from ten filing cabinets in storage at the MacMillan-Bloedel head office in Vancouver to the UBC Library, Special Collections and University Archives Division, in May, 1991. There are 14.3 meters of material currently stored in 110 - 13 cm boxes. The numerous photographs, artifacts, and Christmas cards are not included in this inventory. Prior to acquisition, the family had access to the collection and removed files regarding settlement of the estate and other confidential matters.

Material included in the collection spans HRM's entire life. The bulk however, comes from the period 1930 to 1965. Aside from the Chronological Correspondence series, the filing system appears to have been based on subject. If there was no date put on a file, one was not added unless it was miscellaneous material and there was no other way to arrange it. As well, just as there appears to be an overlap between HRM's personal and corporate lives, this collection and his corporate papers contain elements of each. There does not appear to have been only one filing system either, as there were several secretaries employed by HRM over his life.

While sound archival theory establishes the need to re-create the original order, in this case one was not always visible. It also appears that there may have been earlier attempts to order the collection but these were not completed. The most clearly defined series is the Chronological Correspondence and after that the pieces became harder to put together. Some of this "randomness" is reflected in the current order of the collection as not all material on one subject is necessarily in one series.

There are three guidelines that this inventory is based on. First, the units of files with related subject and/or date were kept together regardless of the series label on the file. This is indicated on the file and in the description. It was unclear whether these units were part of an original order or were the result of subsequent re-organization. Secondly, if a unit was impossible to discern, files were ordered into series indicated by the label (the files were not read to confirm the title). Often files were gathered from the entire collection. These are artificial series but do provide the possibility of an original order and certainly easier access to the information. Lastly, within the files, incoming correspondence is placed first and outgoing at the end. Any loose pages in the file are placed between these. Thus, it should be possible to re-create the original appearance of the files themselves.

According to the agreement with the University of British Columbia and the Executors of the will and trustees of the estate of H.R. MacMillan, the Papers are closed until June 21, 1993, without the written permission of the Executors.

H.R. MacMillan Personal Papers

A. Chronological Correspondence 1-1 to 13-5

This series was mostly intact although some scattering and disruption of chronology had occurred. It covers 1924 - 1956 with some gaps.

B. Geographical Correspondence 13-6 to 23-17

This series was created to contain all information that was filed by country. There were many scattered files as well as units which have been left together.

1. Canada

a) Alphabet letter (A, B, C) 13-6 to 14-14
The filing system is quite consistent however, the dates are very arbitrary.

b) Accordion File 14-15 to 15-7
There were files within the folds and these are filed at the end of each respective folder.

c) Alphabetical Files 15-8 to 18-5
These files were largely grouped together and used the same labelling system. They were filed alphabetically originally. This order was restored.

d) Assorted 1962-1963 18-6 to 19-6
This unit was left intact. It contains mostly Canadian files but has one from the U.K. and one from the U.S.A. units.

2. U.S.A.

a) Miscellaneous 19-7 to 20-4
A collection of undated files labelled "Misc" originally.

b) Alphabetical Files 20-5 to 20-21
A varied collection of person and company files that were scattered in small groups through the collection.

c) Alphabet letter (A, B, C) 21-1 to 21-3
An incomplete unit from files that were scattered through the collection.

3. U.K.
 - a) Miscellaneous 21-4 to 21-13
 This unit was either labelled "Misc" or was designated such due to its varied contents. Many of these were simply labelled "U.K.".
 - b) Alphabetical Files 22-1 to 23-14
 A collection of files arranged alphabetically in small units and restored into a larger unit.
4. Other 23-15 to 23-17
 Contains two files on Australia and one on Mexico.
- C. HRM Miscellaneous Correspondence 24-1 to 36-2

This series contains files labelled "Misc" originally. The "HRM" designation is meant to distinguish an original system from the Miscellaneous odds and ends described at the end of this inventory. Units 1 - 3 are differentiated by label type. There was a clear division of organization and method.

1. 1934 - 1943 24-1 to 24-21
 These files used a white label and were numbered. The sequence was restored but is incomplete.
2. 1944 - 1956 24-22 to 28-18
 Contains alphabetical units that were scattered throughout the collection including the J.H. Lane unit. In that case there are "Finance" files left in the original order.
3. 1954 - 1977 28-19 to 35-10
 A collection of all "Misc" files left regarding persons and a few files on Vancouver found with these files and kept together.
4. Miscellaneous 1938 - 1976 35-11 to 35-16
 Displayed no other label and were arranged chronologically based on file contents.
5. Alphabet Letter (A, B, C) 35-17 to 36-2
 An incomplete unit but clearly of the same type.

D. Early Correspondence

36-3 to 37-1

The material in this series was filed together. There is a broad range of subjects and dates within the box files and Assorted Correspondence. The pamphlets had been placed in ring binders. Only one copy of each has been kept in this collection.

1. Miscellaneous Personal, 1910 - 1919 36-3 to 36-12
This is an alphabetical box file that was taken apart.
2. Miscellaneous Personal, 1912 - 1919 36-13 to 36-19
This box file contains material on Adams Powell Timber Company Ltd. One file "1912 - 1916" was in the box file and has been filed separately.
3. Assorted Correspondence 36-20 to 36-23
4. Pamphlets 36-24 to 37-1
See also series J.3, 91-1 to 91-3, for other pamphlets by HRM.

E. Accordion Files

37-2 to 41-10

Three large accordion files were found together and contain material of assorted dates and subjects. The files were taken apart and are now arranged alphabetically.

1. Canadian 37-2 to 37-19
2. #2 37-20 to 39-11
3. #3 39-12 to 40-10

F. Community Associations

40-11 to 55-15

This is a large collection of units representing HRM's relationship with the community at large. It is an artificial series however, it serves to organize the material into an accessible form.

1. Universities

a) UBC

40-11 to 46-16

In the initial order, there were large units that were arranged alphabetically. These have been assembled as a complete unit. Files on donations and finance were left with the UBC files rather than removing them and placing them into the Finance unit.

- b) Others 47-1 to 48-5
 All other files on other universities including Yale. Donations and finance files are included here.
 - 2. Miscellaneous Committees and Directorships 48-6 to 51-19
 This unit contains files originally labelled with this title along with any files that bear the same subject headings as those with this title. There are files with this title scattered in other series which were left there as they appeared to be part of a subject order.
 - 3. Alphabetical Files 52-1 to 54-7
 This unit contains all other files of the same subject matter as Misc. Comm. and Dir. but these were not part of the original filing system.
 - 4. Memberships 54-8 to 55-2
 These files were scattered through the collection but were labelled by this title.
 - 5. Medals and Honors 55-3 to 55-12
 These files were loosely grouped together and were labelled as a unit originally.
 - 6. Subscriptions 55-13 to 55-15
 These three files were scattered and brought together for easier access.
- G. Business Matters 55-16 to 81-1

Due to the overlapping nature of HRM's personal and corporate affairs, there are many files in the personal collection of a financial nature. These have been arranged in one series for easy access. Please see also HRM's Corporate Papers.

- 1. B.C. Packers 55-16 to 61-14
 These files were found in six sealed packages. The alphabetical order was restored and loose pages from between the files were filed at the end.
- 2. Donations
 - a) Alphabetical Files 61-15 to 67-13
 Smaller units with this title were assembled into one larger unit excluding the files on donations contained in the series F. Universities, 40-11 to 55-15.

b) Chronological Files 67-14 to 68-4
This is an original unit labelled "Finance -
Donations" kept intact.

3. Finance 68-5 to 74-22
This is an original filing system arranged alphabetically from scattered units through the collection. It includes files that fit the subject matter but were not labelled that way originally.
4. HRM Export Co. Ltd. 75-1 to 75-9
These files had a unique yellow label and were scattered in the collection.
5. Office Memos 75-10 to 76-11
The majority of this unit of files were grouped together and the few scattered files were added for easy access.
6. Banks 76-12 to 79-9
This unit includes files on the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Canada Trust, British American Bank Note Co., Lloyds, London and Western Trust, and a few others. It is an artificial unit assembled for easy access.
7. Imports and Acquisitions 79-10 to 81-1
This unit contains one larger group of files and the few scattered files regarding purchases made overseas and at home by HRM and his family.

H. Family 81-2 to 88-10

This series was artificially created to encompass aspects of HRM's family life both past and present.

1. Stuart B. MacMillan 81-2 to 81-4
This unit was found as a single package containing three files.
2. Biographical 81-5 to 82-1
This unit contains material from two accordion files as well as other files scattered through the collection.
3. Obituary 82-2 to 82-7
This unit contains copies of sympathy letters received and sent after the death of HRM in 1976.
4. Genealogy 83-1 to 88-10
This is an assemblage of three larger units. It contains information on HRM's ancestors including the family involvement with the Quakers.

I. Social Correspondence

88-11 to 90-11

This is an artificial series created to include correspondence of a social or leisure nature. There is, of course, some overlap with other series.

1. Get Well and Thank You Letters 88-11 to 88-18
This correspondence relates to HRM's stroke in 1966.
2. Invitations 88-19 to 89-10
The last three files of this unit come from a package of "Misc. Invitations 1957 - 1975". The others were scattered throughout the collection.
3. Luncheons and Dinners 89-11 to 90-7
This is a unit of files that were scattered through the collection regarding dinners given for and by HRM.
4. Christmas Lists 90-8 to 90-9
These two files are lists of cards sent in 1974 and 1975.
5. Telegrams 90-10 to 90-11
These two files contain an assortment of dates and subjects.

J. Speeches and Publications

90-12 to 92-1

This is an artificial series designed to include all of HRM's public statements and appearances.

1. Speeches 90-12 to 90-16
These files were scattered through the collection and represent a variety of years and topics he spoke on. They have been arranged chronologically.
2. T.V. Appearances 90-17
3. Pamphlets 91-1 to 91-3
See also D. 4, Early Correspondence, 36-24 to 37-1, for other pamphlets.
4. Fishery and Forestry Lectureships 91-4 to 92-1
This unit contains copies of UBC lectures funded by M on these two subjects from 1955 to 1975.

K. Government Correspondence

92-2 to 92-11

This brief series includes all files that were scattered through the collection with this specific title and is limited to correspondence with Canadian officials. There are of course many other references within the other series.

L. Trips and Vacations

92-12 to 99-2

Again the cross over between personal and corporate activities means that there is a mix of both pleasure and business in this series.

1. Alphabetical Files

92-12 to 93-19

These files were found as a unit and kept as such.

2. Chronological Files

93-20 to 95-25

These files were scattered in the collection and brought together for easy access.

3. Marijean

96-1 to 98-11

This unit regarding his yacht was found as five sealed packages and left in the original order.

4. D.H. Bates - Trips

98-12 to 99-2

This unit was found as one sealed package and left in original order.

M. World War II

99-3 to 100-17

This series contains files on HRM's participation in Government committees during the second World War.

1. Timber Controller

99-3 to 100-10

This unit was found together and kept intact.

2. Wartime Merchant Shipping Ltd.

100-11 to 100-17

These files were scattered but added to the series for easy access.

N. Books

100-18 to 102-6

This series includes records of books HRM sent, received, or donated. See also J.H. Lane in C. 2, HRM Misc. Corr., 24-2 to 28-18.

O. NATO 102-7 to 103-3

This series contains one original unit and other files that were scattered through the collection. They have been arranged chronologically according to the order followed by the larger unit.

P. Smith, Davis & Wright 103-4 to 103-20

This series was found as two sealed packages that included two files "SD & Lecky" at the end.

Q. Arrowsmith Farms 103-21 to 105-6

This series was found as three sealed packages containing financial records and correspondence from the 1930s and 1940s.

R. Fairbridge Farm Schools 105-7 to 107-10

This series was found as four sealed packages containing numbered files. The sequence is restored but is incomplete.

S. Miscellaneous Correspondence 107-11 to 110-11

This series is an odd assortment of files that do not fit with any other series and all loose pages found between the files of the entire collection.

1. Alphabetical Files 107-11 to 108-7

These files did not fit with any other series either by chronological label or subject matter.

2. Chronological Files 108-8 to 109-1

These files have only a date on the file label.

3. Mixed Correspondence, 1952 - 1970 109-2 to 109-11

Most of the material in this unit is from 1958.

4. Unsorted Loose Pages 109-12 to 110-11

The incoming correspondence is filed alphabetically and any outgoing correspondence is filed chronologically. When the two were stapled together they were filed with the incoming correspondence.