

JAMES BOW BARCLAY
PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

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Prepared by
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Provenance: Barclay, James Bow, 1903-1964

Title: James Barclay fonds

Dates: [ca. 1904]-1956

Physical desc.: 92 cm of textual records ; 1,741 photographs

Bio/Admin History: James Barclay was born in Gourock, Scotland. After receiving his education in Scotland he worked in Shanghai, China as an engineering assistant. In 1928 Barclay decided to join his parents in North America. Leaving China, he arrived at the port of Seattle and from there made his way to Vancouver, B.C. After working in Trail as a draughtsman for Consolidated Mining and Smelter Company of Canada, Barclay moved to Vancouver where he became a member of the Canadian Professional Engineers. Thereafter, he worked on a number of construction projects in the city, including the Burrard Street bridge.

Scope/Content: The fonds consists of photographs, mainly pertaining to Barclay's activities in China (1900s-1920s), Oregon (1920s), and B.C. (1930s-1950s) as well as related correspondence, memorabilia and clippings.

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

Finding aids: Photograph inventory available.

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

Names: Barclay, James Bow, 1903-1964

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BIOGRAPHY

March 18, 1903 - born at Gourrock, Scotland

- nickname "Bim"

James Barclay's father was also James Bow Barclay. He was a ship's engineer by trade and spent some time working on board the ship "S. S. Shuntien". He also owned a fruit farm in Roseburg, Oregon (Garden Valley) and went to live there from time to time (just he and Mrs. Barclay while the children were at school in Scotland). Finally sold his fruit farm in 1926.

- James had a sister "Sheina" who was close to him in age. In 1927 she married Andrew Carmichael.
- James' mother's name was Annie Harkness Barclay

c. 1904 - 1910 Barclay family living in Tongku, China

1914 Mr. & Mrs. Barclay, Sr. living in Roseburg, Oregon.

c. 1912 - c. 1921 James and Sheina going to school in Scotland

1917 James (age 14) a member of the 1st Dunoon Boy Scout Troop in Scotland. His address at that time was 3 Elgin St., Dunfermline.

c. 1918-20 Attended "Daniel Stewart's College" in Edinburgh

1921-27 James working in Shanghai, China as an engineering assistant

1923 working as a 2nd yr. apprentice engineer for Palmer & Turner, an architectural firm. Bldgs. worked on included the "Customs" and the "Sassoon" bldgs.

Nov. 6, 1924 took a job as Junior Draughtsman with Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels Ltd.

1925 signed a contract to be an engineering assistant with Palmer & Turner again.

1926 James' parents taking a year off to run their fruit farm in Roseburg.

1927 his parents are back in China, living aboard the S. S. Shuntien.

1927 James learns that his father plans to retire in February of 1928 and go to live in America. James decides to move there as well. He was 24 years old at this time.

1927 a letter states he has an aunt and cousin living in Victoria, B. C.

1928 James left China for the U. S., arriving at the port of Seattle, Wash., and from there made his way to Vancouver.

1928 worked in Trail, B. C. (Feb. 21 - July 30) as a draughtsman for Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. of Canada

1929 James in Vancouver. Two jobs: worked for Chas. T. Hamilton, B. C. Land Surveyor, and also worked for Stuart Cameron & Co. for 6 mos.

1930 wrote and passed the examinations for Canadian Professional Engineers.

- 1930's working on various construction projects in Vancouver (e.g. Burrard St. Bridge and elsewhere in B. C.)
- Sept. 2, 1930 reference letter from J. R. Grant, structural engineer saying that James Barclay had been one of his principal assistants on the design of the Burrard St. Bridge.
- 1929-36 James B. living at 3937 West 37th Ave., Vancouver
- c. 1936 J. B. Barclay, Sr. died. City Directory for 1936 states that Annie Harkness Barclay is a widow. (The 1935 Directory still lists J. B. Barclay, Sr.)
- 1937-39 James Barclay no longer listed in Vancouver Directory. Not in Victoria Directory
- 1939 A legal paper dated May 29 states that he lives in Victoria. As well, in 1939, he spent some time in Prince Rupert working for Northern Construction Co.
- 1940 March 14 - James Barclay married Mary Isobel Stiles. Vancouver City Directory for 1940 lists James B. as married to "Marybelle" (sic) and living on 3749 W. 38th St. Must have moved to 5480 Collingwood Street later that year as an insurance policy dated May 28, 1940 gives the Collingwood address.
- On his 1940 Income Tax Return, James B. states that he is also the sole support of his widowed mother who lives at 6 Vale Rd., Bournemouth, England. He gives her age at this time as 69.
- Feb. 19, 1941 daughter Ann Christine born
- Apr. 4, 1943 daughter Josephine Susan born
- c. 1950 son "Bill" born (?) A postcard sent to Master Bill Barclay from "Aunt Sheina in October of 1962 from Scotland states "Your Daddy used to live in Hunter's Quay when he was a boy - not much older than you."
- 1942 Vancouver City Directory lists James Barclay as an estimator for Northern Construction, and he and his wife Mary live at 5480 Collingwood.
- Feb. 9, 1952 - bought a house at 2925 Oak St., Vancouver. At that time, they were still living at 5480 Collingwood St.
- 1963 Vancouver Directory lists James B. Barclay as an engineer working for Northern Construction and J. W. Stewart. He and his wife Mary I. live at 3392 West 37th Avenue.
- 1964 James Barclay died in 1964 or possibly late 1963 as the City Directory gives the information that Mary I. Barclay, widow of J. B. Barclay, lives at 3392 West 37th Avenue.

INVENTORY TO THE J. B. BARCLAY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Box 1

ALBUM NO. 1 : [c.1899 -1928]

181 photos of Britain, China, travels by steamer, and Oregon, U.S.A.

ALBUM NO. 2 : [c.1914-1924]

415 photos of Britain, China, travels through Egypt, Ceylon, Arabia, and Malaysia, travels on board steamers, and Oregon, U.S.A.

ALBUM NO. 3 : [c.1920-1928]

450 photos of Scotland, China, travels by steamer, and travels in Europe (Switzerland and Denmark)

ALBUM NO. 4 : [c.1905-c.1920]

187 photos of Scotland, China, travels by steamer, and Oregon, U.S.A.

ALBUM NO. 5 : [c.1905-c.1927]

239 photos of Scotland, China, travels by steamer, and Oregon, U.S.A.

ALBUM NO. 6 : [c.1904-c.1920's]

139 photos of China, and travels by steamer

ALBUM NO. 7 : n.d.

20 "Views of Bramshott" - not photographs (lithographs?)

In addition to the albums the collection contains the following:

Box 2 and 3

1. 1120 loose photos [sizes vary, duplicates not included in count]

Box 3

2. A large number of loose negatives, as well as several boxes of glass plate negatives

1. BRITAIN - People
 - Gus Godby [Bristol, n.d.], "Uncle John, Aunt Millie, John and Cathie [Glasgow, 1899], Jack Wilson Jr. [Strathaven, 1914], James Barclay's grandparents [c.1890's], James Barclay's grandmother [c.1915], Sheina, James, "D.S.W." [1914-16], Susie, May, Sheila [n.d.], Cathie, Mrs. Hunter, Lily [n.d.], John Wilson, Cathy Wilson [n.d.], Peter Young, [n.d.], Jean Whyte [n.d.], Lindsay Barclay [1904]
2. CHINA
 - a) Tongku [1904-1910] - Sheina and James Barclay as children
- family friends
 - b) Chefoo [1915]
 - c) Shanghai [1924-1928] - James Barclay, Sheina Barclay, Andrew Carmichael, Leonard Carrier, Molly Godby
 - d) Chinese Boats [1908-1924] - The "Mary Ann" [Hsin Chen, 1908], S.S. Fook Yu [1924], S.S. Mei Chuen [1924], the "A. H. Kwan" [n.d.], various photos of Chinese barges and junks
3. TRAVELS BY STEAMER
 - dinner party on board an unidentified ship [c.1920's]
4. OREGON, U. S. A.
 - a) Roseburg, Oregon [1914-1926] - Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Barclay, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Hess & family, P. Sinclair
 - b) Fruit Farm at Garden Valley near Roseburg [1914] - spraying trees, picking fruit
 - c) Motor Trips in Oregon [1922-1926] - Crater Lake, McKenzie River Highway, N. Umpqua River, Cascade Mountains, Auto Camp at Ashland, Pacific Highway, Klamath River, Prospect, Diamond Lake Lodge

SUBJECTS

1. BRITAIN - family and friends [Scotland, c.1914-1921], photos of English cathedrals [n.d.]
2. CHINA
 - a) Shanghai [c.1918-c.1924] - friends and family of James Barclay [1922-1924], Shanghai street scenes, harbour scenes [c. early 1920's], "Victoria Parade" [Nov.23, 1918]
 - b) Chinese People [n.d.] - agricultural workers, elderly people, construction workers, villagers
 - c) Chinese boats [n.d.] - junks, sampans, barges
 - d) Other Chinese Cities - Hong Kong [1921], Canton [n.d.], Singapore [n.d.]
3. TRAVEL - GENERAL - Egypt (Suez Canal, Port Said) [1921], Ceylon (Mont Lavinia, Colombo) [1921], Arabia (Aden) [1921], Malaysia (Penang) [n.d.]
4. TRAVEL BY STEAMER [c.1921] - photos of J. B. Barclay, Sr. on deck of unidentified ship, party on board the S. S. Manela [1921], wreck of the S. M. S. Emden, the "Trautenfels" [n.d.]
5. OREGON, U. S. A. [c.1918] - fruit trees in Garden Valley, near Roseburg, photos of Mr. & Mrs. Barclay, Sr. and their friends in Oregon

SUBJECTS

1. SCOTLAND [c.1920-1921] - Bute, Bibury, Bascastle, Lunan Bay, Edinburgh Zoo, Kirkmichal, Strathaven
- the Whyte family
2. CHINA
 - a) Shanghai [1924-1927] - friends and family of James Barclay [1924-1927], Shanghai street scenes [1926-1927], military activity in Shanghai [1927]
 - b) Chefoo [1928] - photos of Dr. & Mrs. Malcolm, and Mary Malcolm
 - c) Chinese people [c.1925-1927] - Chinese "flappers" [1927], Joss man on the Shanghai wharf [1927], food seller [1926], two Chinese children [n.d.], eight photos of young Chinese women [c.1927], Chinese military officer Wu-Pei-Fu [1925]
 - d) Tientsin [1924] - photos of James Barclay, Mrs. Martin, and Francie Martin
 - e) Travels through China [June, 1924] - approach to Ming Tombs, Chinese Summer Palace, Winter Palace at Peking, Temple of Heaven, Altar of Heaven, The Great Wall of China, Chung Kuan Pass the Observatory at Peking, the Sleeping Buddha at Western Hills, the Suiyan Railway near Nankow, camel caravan coming through gate in Great Wall.
3. TRAVELS BY STEAMER [c.1918-1928] - S. S. Shuntien [1925], S. S. Yunnan in typhoon off the China coast [1918], Empress of Asia [1928], S. S. Shuntien in Chefoo Harbour [1928]
4. TRAVEL - EUROPE [1925-1926] - view of Montreux, Lausanne [1926], Denmark

SUBJECTS

1. SCOTLAND [c.1912-1914] - Barclay family and friends
2. CHINA
 - a) Tongku [c.1905-1910] - James Barclay and his sister Sheina as small children
Mr. & Mrs. Barclay, Sr. and their friends
 - b) Chinese People [c.1920's] - villagers, fishermen, elderly people, beggars
 - c) Travels through China [n.d.] - Hot Springs, unidentified village, woman
being carried in sedan chair
 - d) Chinese boats - the "Mary Ann" [Hsin Chen, c.1908], tugboat the "Shanghai"
[n.d.]
3. TRAVELS BY STEAMER [n.d.] - groups of unidentified people on deck (e.g. women,
ship's officers, schoolboys), six photos showing
different views of a ship (all photos marked "Ray T.
Hartigan")
4. OREGON, U. S. A. [c.1914] - Mr. Barclay, Sr. in his orchard, views of fruit trees
in Garden Valley, Mr. & Mrs. Hess and family, group of
schoolchildren in front of school

SUBJECTS

1. SCOTLAND [c.1914-1916, and c.1925] - James Barclay and his sister Sheina
2. CHINA
 - a) Tongku [c.1905-1910, c.1920's] - Barclay family and friends
 - b) Chefoo [n.d.]
 - c) Shanghai [c.1920's] - street scenes, buildings, Chinese people, military activity [c.1927]
 - d) Chinese boats [n.d.] - junks, sampans
3. TRAVELS BY STEAMER [c.1920's] - costume party aboard the S. S. Manela [1921], group of schoolboys on the S. S. Huichow [n.d.], groups of unidentified people on deck, views of ships from afar
4. OREGON, U. S. A. [c.1914] - the Hess family, houses and streets in Roseburg, fruit trees, boating, hunting

SUBJECTS

[N.B. album belonged to Mrs. A. H. Barclay (James Barclay's mother)]

1. CHINA [c.1904-c.1920's]

- a) Tongku [c.1904-1908] - James Barclay and Sheina Barclay as children, Mrs. A. H. Barclay, friends of the Barclay's
- b) Hsin-Cheng [c.1908] - divers from boat, Hsin-Cheng Creek, village of Hsin-Cheng
- c) Chefoo [c.1920's] - C. I. M. Boy's School
- d) Shanghai [c.1927] - street scenes, military activity
- e) Chinese boats [n.d.] - sampans, barges
- f) Chinese people [n.d.] - agricultural workers, chain gang, fishermen
- g) Travels through China [n.d.] - trip to Hot Springs

2. TRAVELS BY STEAMER [n.d.] - groups of unidentified people on deck, deck recreation steamships - e.g. "Kinling", "Undaunted", "Hankow", and "Pakhoi"

ALBUM NO. 7 [n.d.]

Total no. of "photos": 20
[not photographs, perhaps
lithographs (?)]

1. "Views of Bramshott" [n.d.] - 20 views of the village

INVENTORY OF PRINTS IN THE J. B. BARCLAY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Box 2

BC HIST. PHOTO NO.	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF PHOTOS	DATE
BC1613/1	Mrs. Annie Harkness Barclay as a young woman	1	n.d.
/2	Sheina Barclay and James Barclay	1	[c.1906]
/3	J. B. Barclay, Sr. (?) - Tongku, China	1	[Nov., 1906]
/4	Small boat, the "Mary Ann". Taken at Hsin Chen	1	[1908]
/5	James Barclay and Sheina Barclay	1	[c.1907]
/6	Cathie and John, children of Uncle John & Aunt Millie (Glasgow)	1	[1899]
/7	Mr. & Mrs. Hess and family. Roseburg, Oregon	1	[1914]
/8	Postman on his mail route in Garden Valley, near Roseburg, Ore.	1	[c.1914]
/9	1st Dunoon Scout Troop, Dunoon, Scotland	1	[1915]
/10	Group shot of James Barclay with his schoolmates at school in Edinburgh	1	[c.1916]
/11	James Barclay, age about 14, with Donald McDonald. Dunoon	1	[1920]
/12	Sheina Barclay, age about 16, with Lily Hunter	1	[1917]
/13	A friend of James Barclay's, identified only by the initials "D. S. W." (last name possibly Whyte). Nuhu [China?]	1	[Feb. 1919]
/14	James Barclay. Dunoon, Scotland. Caption on back reads, "Bim, 17 years"	1	[c.1920]
/15	Sheina Barclay. Dunoon, Scotland.	1	[c.1920]
/16 to /27	Sports Day at C. I. M. Boy's School, Chefoo	12	[c.1921]
/28 to /29	James Barclay	2	[c.1927]
/30	Sheina Barclay and Andrew Carmichael, Shanghai	1	[c.1927]
/31	"D. S. W." (Whyte?)	1	[c.1920's]
/32	"New Sassoon House" by the architects Palmer and Turner, Shanghai	1	[c.1928]
/33	Unidentified photos	4	[c.1900-1910]
/34	James Barclay's parents' fruit farm in Garden Valley, near Roseburg, Oregon	19	[c.1918-1926]
/35	Motoring trips in Oregon - Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Barclay, Sr.	29	[c.1926-1929]
/36	Photos of China, mainly Shanghai (street scenes, bldgs., Chinese people)	52	[c.1920-1928]
/37	Military Parades. Shanghai.	25	[c.1927]
/38	Unidentified photos.	49	[c.1920-1929]
/39	James Barclay's drawing of a house (was included with a photo of a young woman which was taken in Prince Rupert, B. C.)	1	[Sept. 1933]
/40	James Barclay, family and friends. B. C.	30	[c.1930's]
/41	Unidentified photos	13	[c.1930's]
/42	Unidentified mounted photos - B. C. photographers	3	[c.1930-1940]

INVENTORY OF PRINTS IN THE J. B. BARCLAY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION - continued

Box 2

BC HIST. PHOTO NO.	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF PHOTOS	DATE
BC1613/43	James Barclay's daughters (?)	3	[c.1940's]
/44	Prince Rupert, B. C. Progress Photos. Morse Creek Fuel Oil Installation	13	[1943 & 1944]
/45	Postcards - B. C. Scenes	13	[c.1930's - c.1950's]
/46	Postcards - Oregon, California, Europe, China, & India	28	[1920, c.1921-1962]
/47	J. B. Barclay, Sr., and friends or relatives	4	[c.1917-1920]
/48	Photos taken on board a ship. Many of the photos include Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Barclay, Sr.	32	[c.1920's]
/49	James Barclay, his family and friends. Most photos taken in China	30	[c.1921-1922]
/50	James Barclay, his family and friends. Most photos taken in China	33	[c.1921-1922]
/51	James Barclay, his family and friends. Most photos taken in China	19	[c.1921-1922]
/52	Building sites. Construction of "Sassoon House" and "Shai. Cotton Mfg. Co." Shanghai, China	27	[c.1927]
/53	Shanghai. Views of the waterfront. "Sassoon House" bldg. in progress	9	[c.1928]
/54	Japan	24	[1920 & 1921]
/55	"Eek's House. Victoria. Dec. 1927"	7	[1927]
/56	[Locale - B.C.?] Photos of Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Barclay, Sr., alone or posing with other people, unidentified	6	[c.1930's]
/57	[Locale - B.C.?] Photos of James Barclay, alone or posing with other people, unidentified	45	[c.1930's]
Box 3 /58	[Locale - B.C.?] Photos of James Barclay, alone or posing with other people, unidentified	36	[c.1930's]
/59	Unidentified photos	50	[c.1930's]
/60	Unidentified photos	32	[c.1930's]
/61	Unidentified photos	50	[c.1930's]
/62	Unidentified photos	50	[c.1930's]
/63	Unidentified photos	50	[c.1930's]
/64	Unidentified photos	50	[c.1930's]
/65	Unidentified photos	50	[c.1930's]
/66	Unidentified photos	50	[c.1930's]
/67	[Locale - Vancouver, B.C.?] - photos of James Barclay, his family and friends	40	[c.1940's]
/68	[Locale - Vancouver, B.C.?] - photos of James Barclay, his family and friends	37	[c.1940's]

INVENTORY OF PRINTS IN THE J. B. BARCLAY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION - continued

Box 3

<u>BC HIST.</u> <u>PHOTO NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>NO. OF</u> <u>PHOTOS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
BC1613/69	Photos from an envelope marked "Snapshots of Ocean Falls". Most concern gravel pits and damsites.	19	[c.1940's]
/70	[Locale - B.C.?] - photos of the construction of a hotel	2	[1947]
/71	Unidentified photos	22	[c.1940's]
/72	Unidentified photos	16	[c.1940's]
/73	Family photos	14	[c.1956-1960]
/74	Construction of "New Sassoon House", Shanghai. Panoramic view.	1	[May 25, 1927]
/75	"New Sassoon House", Shanghai. Panoramic view from Jinkee Rd., corner looking south west.	1	[May 19, 1927]

Total no. of prints

1120

JAMES BOW BARCLAY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

NEGATIVES

BOX 3

Most of the negatives were in original envelopes (sometimes 30 or more to an envelope). These groups of negatives were kept together and put into acid-free envelopes. No attempt was made to sort and identify individual negatives at this time. The subject areas represented within the negative collection are: J. B. Barclay's years in Scotland, China, and B.C.; his parents' fruit farm in Oregon; and steamship travel c.1900-1920s.

As well, there are three boxes of glass plate negatives in Box 3 of the Barclay Photograph Collection.