# **John Innes fonds**

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

# **MsC 144**

Jennifer Zerkee, 2014

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## Fonds description

#### Title

John Innes fonds

## Date(s) of creation

[after 1880]-1945

### **Extent**

21 drawings and other material

## Biographical sketch

John Clarke Innes was born in London, Ontario on March 17, 1863. He was a painter, illustrator, writer, rancher, surveyor, and inventor. Innes was educated in England before returning to Canada and heading west as a surveyor and mapmaker for the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s. He settled in Alberta for a number of years where he ranched while contributing cartoons, illustrations, and articles to various publications and also publishing a newspaper, *Mountain Echoes*, with Charles Halpin. After serving in the Boer War, Innes returned to Ontario and then moved to New York where he worked as a staff artist for Hearst Newspapers.

Around 1913 Innes settled in Vancouver where he continued to draw and paint, focusing on elements of western Canadian history and industry such as exploration, logging, mining, fishing, agriculture, and transportation. Two series of Innes' paintings were collected and curated for exhibition: *The Epic of Western Canada* and *From Trail to Rail: The Epic of Transportation*. In Vancouver these were exhibited at the Hudson's Bay Company and the David Spencer department store; they were also shown in Europe. Innes continued to do commercial work, including cartoons for newspapers and illustrations for publications and advertisements.

Innes married Ida May Sanford in 1899 and had a family including a son, George Dean Innes. Innes died in Vancouver on January 13, 1941.

## **Custodial history**

The records in the fonds were purchased by Special Collections from MacLeod's Books.

## Scope and content

The fonds consists of records relating primarily to Innes' drawing, painting, and writing. Records include original cartoons, publications containing Innes' work, a chapbook, exhibit programs and reviews, and images of Innes' paintings, as well as photographs of Innes, biographical material, and a patent agreement.

The fonds has been arranged into six series: Records relating to Innes' paintings ([190-?]-1943); Illustrations and cartoons ([between 1880 and 1941]); Publications (1900-[ca. 1934]); Photographs of Innes ([192-?-193-?]); Patent (1 Feb. 1919); and Records relating to Innes created after his death ([1941]-1945).

## Source of supplied title

Title based on contents of fonds.

## Physical description

Includes 7 cm textual records, 16 prints: on postcard, and 6 photographs: prints.

## Arrangement

The material was received with no evident original order. The records were arranged into series by the archivist.

Graphic materials have been numbered consecutively in the format "144.1;" numbers are noted in the file or item description.

## Terms governing reproduction

Reproduction of material is subject to approval by Special Collections staff and any copyright holders.

## Finding aids

File and item level descriptions are available.

## **Associated material**

Simon Fraser University owns 8 Innes paintings, many of which are on permanent display in the Academic Quadrangle.

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Series descriptions

## Series 1: Records relating to Innes' paintings

**Date(s) of creation:** [190-?]-1943

Extent: 2.5 cm of textual records and other material

**Scope and content:** Series consists of postcards of images of Innes' paintings, programs and reviews from exhibits of his work in Vancouver, articles and pamphlets about his work, photographs of paintings, and sketches.

**Source of supplied title:** Title based on contents of series.

**Physical description:** Includes 16 prints: on postcard, 5 drawings, and 2 photographs: prints.

## Series 2: Illustrations and cartoons

Date(s) of creation: [between 1880 and 1941]

**Extent:** 16 drawings. - 1.5 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:** Series consists of editorial cartoons drawn for newspapers, illustrations created for newspapers and other publications, Christmas cards illustrated by Innes, and sketches. The majority of the cartoons pertain to World War I.

Source of supplied title: Title based on contents of series.

## **Series 3: Publications**

**Date(s) of creation:** 1900-[ca. 1934]

Extent: 2 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:** Series consists of publications by Innes as well as publications containing his work. Records include a chapbook of poetry written and illustrated by Innes, an issue of *The Canadian Magazine* containing an article by Innes, newspaper clippings, and layout materials for a short story.

**Source of supplied title:** Title based on contents of series.

## **Series 4: Photographs of Innes**

**Date(s) of creation:** [192-?-193-?]

Extent: 4 photographs : prints

**Scope and content:** Series consists of four photographs of Innes; two are copies of the same portrait and two are candid images.

**Source of supplied title:** Title based on contents of series.

**Series 5: Patent** 

Date(s) of creation: 1 Feb. 1919

Extent: 0.2 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:** Series consists of a patent agreement filed by Innes and John Linkison King in New York City, for a device to be used in the navigation of ships and airplanes.

**Source of supplied title:** Title based on contents of series.

Series 6: Records relating to Innes created after his death

**Date(s) of creation:** [1941]-1945

Extent: 0.5 cm of textual records

**Scope and content:** Series consists of obituaries and newspaper articles relating to Innes' death, correspondence to Innes' wife discussing his work, and a biography of Innes.

**Source of supplied title:** Title based on contents of series.

# File and item descriptions

вох	FILE	TITLE	DATE(S)
Serie	s 1: Rec	ords relating to Innes' paintings	
1	1	Cowboy Race, at the Half Scope and content. Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting.  Arrangement. Postcard is numbered 144.7.	[190-?]
1	2	Stampede of Cattle Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting. Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.8.	[190-?]
1	3	Roping Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a painting by R.A. Davenport. This postcard appears to be from the same series as the Innes postcards.  Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.9.	[190-?]
1	4	Bull Train Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting. Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.10.	[190-?]
1	5	Shooting up the Town Scope and content. Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting. Arrangement. Postcard is numbered 144.11.	[190-?]
1	6	Mounted Police on Winter Patrol - Canadian West Scope and content. Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting.  Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.12.	[190-?]
1	7	Police Camp at Night - Canadian West Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting. Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.13.	[190-?]
1	8	Mounted Police Scouts - Canadian West Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting.  Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.14.	[190-?]
1	9	Stage Coach Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting. Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.15.	[190-?]
1	10	The War Canoe	[190-?]

		Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting.  Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.16.	
1	11	Pack Train Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting. Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.17.	[190-?]
1	12	Red River Carts Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting. Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.18.	[190-?]
1	13	Prairie Schooner  Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting, addressed to Mr. Donald Allen.  Date of creation: This postcard appears to be from the same series as items 1-1 through 1-12, printed [190-?].  Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.19.	11 Mar. [1907]
1	14	The Buffalo Hunter  Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a  John Innes painting, addressed to Donald Allen.  Date of creation: This postcard appears to be from the same series as items 1-1 through 1-12, printed [190-?].  Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.20.	12 Mar. 1907
1	15	The Town Marshall Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting, addressed to Mr. E.D. Allen. Date of creation: This postcard appears to be from the same series as items 1-1 through 1-12, printed [190-?]. Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.21.	20 Mar. 1907
1	16	John Innes: Painter of the Canadian West Scope and content. Item is a pamphlet describing Innes' life and painting career, by "W.H.K."	[192-?]
2	1	[Pencil sketch for painting] Scope and content: Item is a large Vancouver Daily Province layout sheet with a pencil sketch on one side and blueline tracing of it on the other. The drawing shows three cowboys on horseback with a wagon train in the background.  Arrangement: Sheet is numbered 144.22.	[192-?]
1	17	[Page with 3 pencil sketches] Scope and content: Item is a sheet with 3 small pencil sketches. One shows oxen and the other two are rough layout sketches showing trees and mountains with oxen or horses in the foreground. Arrangement: Sheet is numbered 144.23.	[192-?]
1	18	[Newspaper clippings relating to Innes paintings]	[192-]-1947

2 2 Scope and content. File consists of newspaper clippings relating to Innes' paintings. Arrangement. Oversize clippings are located in 2-2. 1 19 "Is Creator of Noted Picture" [1923] Scope and content: Item is a newspaper clipping from *The* Vancouver Sun featuring a photograph of John Innes and a description of his painting "Harding in Canada." Accompanying material: The newspaper clipping is accompanied by a colour illustration of the painting mentioned, inscribed "Harding in Canada' by John Innes. Reproduction by The Vancouver 'Sun.' Return to George Innes. [signed] Geo. Innes." 1 20 [Pencil sketch with notes] [ca. 1927] Scope and content: Item is a sketch for a painting, showing an early settlement in Vancouver with First Nations canoes in the water. The sketch is gridded for scaling and appears to be for a Arrangement. Sketch is numbered 144.24. Related groups of records within the same fonds: See related pamphlet 1-21 David Spencer Limited, Vancouver, B.C. Presents Tableaux of Canadian History and Industry commemorating Canada's Diamond Jubilee of Confederation. 1 21 1927 David Spencer Limited, Vancouver, B.C. Presents Tableaux of Canadian History and Industry commemorating Canada's Diamond Jubilee of Confederation Scope and content: Item is a pamphlet describing a series of murals painted by John Innes for David Spencer department store. Related groups of records within the same fonds: See related sketch 1-20 [Pencil sketch with notes]. 22 1 Reproductions of Epoch Making Incidents in the Early 1927, 1928 History of British Columbia Scope and content. File consists of an illustrated pamphlet describing a collection of 8 Innes paintings on loan to the University of British Columbia, as well as an affidavit by Innes regarding the status of these paintings. Associated material: The paintings described in the pamphlet are now owned by Simon Fraser University. Related groups of records within the same fonds: The paintings in this collection are also featured in 1-23 Souvenir Book of Eight Pictures depicting various phases in the Pioneering History of British Columbia. 1 23 Souvenir Book of Eight Pictures depicting various phases [ca. 1928] in the Pioneering History of British Columbia Scope and content. Item is a book containing reproductions and descriptions of a collection of 8 Innes paintings on loan to the University of British Columbia. Physical condition: Page edges are damaged and pages are

falling out of binding. Some pages have previously been taped back in. Associated material: The paintings depicted in the book are now owned by Simon Fraser University. Related groups of records within the same fonds: The paintings in this book are also featured in 1-22 Reproductions of Epoch Making Incidents in the Early History of British Columbia. 1 24 Announcing "The Epic of Western Canada" Being a series 1928 of thirty Oil Paintings By John Innes on the Sixth Floor September, 1928 Scope and content: Item is a program for an exhibit of Innes' paintings in Vancouver, sponsored by Hudson's Bay Company. The program is inscribed "C.H. French Esq. With the Compliments of John Innes." 1 25 [Newspaper clippings about Innes and arts in Vancouver] [ca. 1929] Scope and content. File consists of newspaper clippings relating to Innes as well as the happenings of the Vancouver Sketch Club and other arts news in Vancouver. 1 26 [Newspaper clipping about Innes' painting "The End"] [193-?] 1 27 Announcing "From Trail to Rail" The Epic of Transportation 1930 : A Story of Man's Achievement in Pushing Back the Frontiers of Canada Told in Twenty-one Oil Paintings by John Innes Scope and content: Item is a program for an exhibit of Innes' paintings in Vancouver, sponsored by Hudson's Bay Company. Physical condition: A top portion of the front cover has been cut off. The cover is inscribed "John Innes." 1 28 1935 George D. Innes Notes D'ly Representing John Innes Scope and content. Item is a notebook tracking discussions and sales of John Innes paintings, as well as strategies for finding prospective buyers. 1 29 [Photograph of "The Buffalo Hunt" painting] [1936?] Arrangement. Photograph is numbered 144.5. 1 30 Announcing "From Trail to Rail" The Epic of Transportation [1936] : A Story of Great Vision, Heroic Enterprise and Splendid Achievement. Told in Twenty-one Oil Paintings By John Innes Scope and content: Item is a program for an exhibit of Innes' paintings held at David Spencer Limited department store in Vancouver. 1 31 [Photograph of "The Builders" painting] 27 Mar. 1936 Scope and content: Item is a photograph of Innes' painting "The Builders," inscribed on the back "To dear Hoppie from Daddy, being a print of the First City Council of Vancouver - with the Civic officials - meeting in June 1886. With love of Ida May Innes

my dear wife. John Innes." *Arrangement*: Photograph is numbered 144.6.

## 1 32 Cowboy Race

9 Jan. 1943

Scope and content: Item is a postcard featuring an image of a John Innes painting, addressed to Mrs. M. Akiyama from Mrs. Innes.

Date of creation: This postcard appears to be from the same series as items 1-1 through 1-12, printed [190-?]. Arrangement: Postcard is numbered 144.25.

## Series 2: Illustrations and cartoons

1 33 [Pen sketch] [between 1880 and Scope and content: Item is an unfinished pen sketch showing a totem pole near water, with a holly leaf in one corner.

Arrangement: Sketch is numbered 144.26.

1 34 [Pen and watercolour sketch of moose]
Scope and content. Item is a pen and watercolour sketch of two moose next to a river, with a campsite across the water.

Arrangement. Sketch is numbered 144.27.

[between 1880 and

1941]

1 35 [Pen and watercolour sketch of canoe]
Scope and content: Item is a pen and watercolour sketch of a
First Nations canoe being paddled by two people.
Arrangement: Sketch is numbered 144.28.

[between 1880 and 1941]

1 36 [Pen and watercolour sketch of Bighorn sheep]
Scope and content. Item is a pen and watercolour sketch of
Bighorn sheep on a mountain.
Arrangement. Sketch is numbered 144.29.

[between 1880 and 1941]

1 37 "Pleasant dreams these cool nights"

[191-?]

Scope and content: Item is a cartoon by Innes showing a man in bed putting coins in a box labelled "Oil Stock," with money pouring out.

Arrangement: Cartoon is numbered 144.30.

2 3 "Militants attention"

[191-?]

Scope and content: Item is a cartoon by Innes showing a sign stating "Militants attention. The tyrants have again resorted to forcible feeding," likely referring to the treatment of hungerstriking suffragettes in Britain. A character named "Indigent Arnold" stands next to the sign and the caption reads "I wish the bloomin' tyrants would get a'old of me."

Arrangement: Cartoon is numbered 144.31.

2 4 "The hold-up season"

[191-?]

Scope and content: Item is a cartoon by Innes showing children aiming toy guns and swords at a man with pockets full of candy and packages.

Arrangement. Cartoon is numbered 144.32.

2	5	"Munitions"  Scope and content: Item is a cartoon by Innes showing David Lloyd George standing over war needs including ammunition and food products.  Arrangement: Cartoon is numbered 144.33.	[191-]
2	6	"The 'Hold-Up' Man"  Scope and content: Item is a cartoon by Innes showing the arm of "Allies' Food Commission" stopping a bandit aiming a gun labelled "high prices" at a woman and her savings.  Arrangement: Cartoon is numbered 144.34.	[191-]
2	7	"Bringing home the bacon"  Scope and content: Item is a cartoon by Innes showing Sir Joe Flavelle walking a pig labelled "\$3,000,000.00 profits on bacon" into a bank with the caption "Sir Joseph: Come into your nice sty, piggy. The kind [?]-Keeper will look after you while I am away doing lots more patriotic work."  Arrangement: Cartoon is numbered 144.35.	[191-]
2	8	"Twisting the lion's tail"  Scope and content: Item is a colour cartoon by Innes showing an "American demagogue" grabbing the tail of a large British lion.  Physical condition: The cartoon is mounted on coloured paper which is fading.  Arrangement: Cartoon is numbered 144.36.	1914
2	9	"Thanksgiving 1914"  Scope and content: Item is a colour cartoon by Innes showing a First Nations woman "British Columbia" with a feast.  Physical condition: The cartoon is mounted on coloured paper which is fading and damaged.  Arrangement: Cartoon is numbered 144.37.	1914
2	10	"The slacker's return"  Scope and content: Item is a cartoon by Innes showing "A.  Slacker" crossing the U.S. border into Canada, away from a sign stating "U.S. at war. Selective conscription," to find a sign stating "Canada rejects voluntary enlistment and adopts selective conscription."  Arrangement: Cartoon is numbered 144.38.	[1917?]
2	11	"The practical view of it"  Scope and content: Item is a cartoon by Innes showing a soldier confronting a man labelled "Bagdad" with the caption "Tommy Atkins (& Harim el Raschid, Bagdad): "'Arim, old sport. You're bloomin well pinched!"  Arrangement: Cartoon is numbered 144.39.	[1917?]
1	38	"The Romance of British Columbia"  Scope and content: File consists of 2 advertisements for Shelly's Bread which include instalments of a serialized story, accompanied by the illustrations "Mackenzie's party descending	1926

the Hudson's Bay fort at Camousun," by Innes. 1 39 Eleventh Annual North West Moose Association 1926 Convention [program] Scope and content: Item is a program for a North West Moose Association convention held in Vancouver. The program is illustrated throughout by Innes. 1 40 [Newspaper clipping with Innes illustration] [1934] Scope and content: Item is a newspaper clipping of an illustration showing individuals in a boat near shore, looking out toward a larger ship. 1 41 [Christmas card illustrated by Innes] 1937 Scope and content: Item is a Christmas card illustrated with an image of a cowboy riding in the snow, inscribed "To Douglas & Mrs. Lane & the boys. Every happiness, this Christmas season of 1937. John & Ida Innes." There is a metal emblem attached to the card. Arrangement. Card is numbered 144.40. 1 42 [1940?] "Half a Century of Progress" [pencil sketch] Scope and content: Item is a pencil sketch by Innes of a figure sitting next to 2 totem poles with a cityscape in the background. There are notes in the margin about the composition from Innes as well as "George." Physical condition: The sketch is badly stained. Arrangement. Sketch is numbered 144.41. Related groups of records within the same fonds: The sketch appears to be an alternate version of the one in 1-43 "Half a Century of Progress" [colour sketch]. Both of these sketches appear to be drafts for 1-44 Our Fifty Years. 43 "Half a Century of Progress" [colour sketch] [1940?] Scope and content. Item is a pen and ink sketch by Innes of small houses and forest with a cityscape in the background. The sketch is mounted on paper with an attached overleaf. Arrangement. Sketch is numbered 144.42. Related groups of records within the same fonds: The sketch appears to be an alternate version of the one in 1-42 "Half a Century of Progress" [pencil sketch]. Both of these sketches appear to be drafts for 1-44 Our Fifty Years. 1 44 Our Fifty Years 1940 Scope and content: Item is a booklet about the history of Vancouver, published by The Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Company to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary. The cover illustration is by Innes. Related groups of records within the same fonds: The sketches in 1-42 "Half a Century of Progress" [pencil sketch] and 1-43 "Half a Century of Progress" [colour sketch] appear to be drafts

for this booklet.

the Bella Coola River in spoon canoes" and "Indians attacking

1	45	["The Pathfinders" Christmas card] Scope and content: Item is a Christmas card with an image of Innes' painting "The Pathfinders" on the front. The card is inscribed "To the Lane family From the Innes family, 1940."  Arrangement: Card is numbered 144.43.	1940
1	46	[Christmas card and drafts] Scope and content: File consists of a Christmas card with an image by Innes of a cowboy in the snow, inscribed "From John Innes, 1940," as well as 3 drafts or unfinished cards.  Arrangement: Cards are numbered 144.44 through 144.47.	1940
2	12	[Christmas illustration] Scope and content: File consists of an original ink drawing of a bright star over a landscape, with a border of holly, as well as a newspaper clipping including the illustration. Arrangement: Drawing is numbered 144.48.	1940
Serie	s 3: Publ	lications	
1	47	The Canadian Magazine, Vol. XVI, no. 1 (November, 1900) Scope and content: Item is an issue of The Canadian Magazine containing the article "A 'round-up.' Described and illustrated by John Innes."	Nov. 1900
2	13	"The Striker"  Scope and content: Item is a card with a title panel, "The Striker by John Innes. Illustrations by the author," and an illustration by Innes captioned "The strike is hon." The short story "The Striker" appeared in <i>The Canadian Magazine</i> , Vol. XXX, no. 2 (December, 1907).  Arrangement: Card is numbered 144.49.	[1907]
1	48	Tragedy of the Sway-Backed Pinto Scope and content: Item is a poetry chapbook written and illustrated by Innes.	1920
1	49	[Newspaper stories by Innes] Scope and content: File consists of newspaper clippings of two short stories written and illustrated by Innes, titled "Wall-eyed Googan" and "Translation of Pig-Eye."	[ca. 1934]
Series 4: Photographs of Innes			
1	50	[Photograph of Innes sitting on the lawn] Scope and content: Item is a photograph of Innes sitting on the lawn in front of an unidentified building. Arrangement: Photograph is numbered 144.1.	[192-?]
1 2	51 14	[Portrait of Innes by P. Bentley] Scope and content: File consists of 2 copies of a portrait of Innes. One is marked "Copyright 1923 P. Bentley."	[1923]

Arrangement: Photographs are numbered 144.2 and 144.3. One oversized photograph is located in 2-14.

1 52 [Photograph of Innes walking with another man] [193-?] Scope and content. Item is a photograph of Innes walking on a sidewalk next to another man. Inscribed on the back by Innes' wife Ida is "Look how they starved John Innes - bowed his head and broke his heart."

Arrangement. Photograph is numbered 144.4.

## **Series 5: Patent**

John Innes and J. Linkison King with Frederick E. Crotois - 1 Feb. 1919
Agreement
Scope and content: Item is a patent agreement relating to a
device for "detecting the direction of motion on a horizontal
plane," filed in New York City.

## Series 6: Records relating to Innes created after his death

- 1 54 [Obituaries] [1941] Scope and content: File consists of newspaper clippings of obituaries and articles relating to Innes' death.
- 1 55 [Unsigned Christmas card to Mr. McLorg and Mrs. John Innes]

  Scope and content: Item is a Christmas card inscribed "And may we, all working together, find a worthy place for John Innes' Great Work, portraying in 21 pictorial chapters the historic conquest, by The Pioneers, of Canada's Vast Spaces!" This likely relates to the "From Trail to Rail" collection of Innes' paintings.
- 1 56 John Innes: Painter of the Canadian West / John Bruce 1945 Cowan (Vancouver: Rose, Cowan & Latta Ltd., 1945) Scope and content: Item is a book about Innes and his work.