

Charles Hou Editorial Cartoon Collection

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

MsC 25

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Collection Description

Title: The Charles Hou Editorial Cartoon Collection

Date: Publication dates of the newspapers and magazines from which the collection was copied range from 1846 to 2006. Dates of the events covered by the cartoons range from the mid-eighteenth century to 2006.

Extent: 6 m of graphic materials.

Biographical History:

Charles Hou is a Canadian educator and writer. He was born in North Vancouver in 1940 and earned Bachelor and Master of Education degrees from the University of British Columbia.

Hou is well known as an innovator in education. He taught high school in Burnaby, British Columbia, for thirty-four years, where, in his drive to engage high school students with Canadian history, he regularly incorporated week-long hikes, mock trials, costumed debates, and music video and film production into his courses. He has received a number of teaching awards, including the Hilroy National Award for Great Merit in 1986, and the Governor General's Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Canadian History in 1996.

In 1993, Hou, along with a group of other BC teachers, established The Begbie Canadian History Contest, a competition designed to raise the popularity of Canadian History among high school students and the wider public. The contest has been enormously successful and has expanded from its provincial roots to become an annual national competition that is offered in both French and English. Contest materials are now routinely used in classrooms across Canada.

Early in his career, Hou developed an interest in political cartoons as a vehicle for teaching history. He has spent decades consulting the archives of hundreds of different newspapers and magazines published across Canada and, to a lesser extent, the United States, in an effort to compile a comprehensive collection of Canada's most important political cartoons. The result of this work is a series of books, co-authored with his wife, Cynthia Hou. The first volumes in the series, *Great Canadian Political Cartoons, 1820 to 1914* and *Great Canadian Political Cartoons, 1915 to 1945* were published in 1997 and 2002. A third volume, which will cover the years from 1946 to 1982, is forthcoming.

Hou has written or edited several other books, including *The Helping Hand: How Indian Canadians Helped Alexander Mackenzie Reach the Pacific Ocean* (with Sister Mary Paul Howlitt, 1971), *The Riel Rebellion: A Biographical Approach* (with Cynthia Hou, 1984), *The Art of Decoding Political Cartoons: A Teacher's Guide* (with Cynthia Hou, 1998) and *The Begbie Canadian History Contest: The First Ten Years* (2004). He has also published articles in various Canadian History journals and created print and online lesson aids and other materials to support the study and teaching of Canadian history. Most recently, he created the teacher's

guides to the award-winning 2007 multimedia production, *From The Heart: The Freeman Legacy*, a joint project of the City of Burnaby and SFU's Learning and Instructional Design Centre.

Hou is now retired from teaching and lives in Vancouver, where he continues his research and his involvement with the Vancouver Historical Society and the British Columbian Historical Federation.

Custodial History:

Items in this collection were created or accumulated by Charles Hou and remained in his possession until the time of acquisition by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of copies and a small number of photographs of political cartoons dealing with Canadian and international events that took place from 1759 to 2006. Canadian topics include conscription, immigration, French-language rights, native self-government, imperialism, nationalism, labour conditions, women's suffrage, and prohibition. The cartoons deal with, among many other topics, the Sino-Japanese War of 1894, the French conquest of Algeria, the Cold War, the war in Vietnam, and World Wars I and II.

Source of Title:

Title based on contents of the collection.

Physical Description:

Includes: sixty-eight binders of black and white photocopies and photographs of political cartoons published in newspapers and magazines between 1846 and 2006.

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

The collection was acquired from Charles Hou by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books in two accessions, the first in July 2005, and the second in April 2006. Further accruals are expected.

Arrangement

Photocopies are arranged chronologically in two series according to the year the event they refer to took place. The first series (binders 1 - 34) consists of cartoons on Canadian topics, and the second (binders 35-68) covers cartoons on international topics.

Terms Governing Access:

Reproduction of the material is subject to the approval of the Special Collections and Rare Books librarian.

Finding Aids:

No finding aid is yet available.