

An inventory to the
Robert Jackson fonds
In
Special Collections and Rare Books
Simon Fraser University

MsC 49

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FONDS DESCRIPTION

Jackson, Robert, 1914-2000.

Robert Jackson fonds. - 1933-2000.

90 cm textual records and other material.

Biographical Sketch:

Robert "Bob" Jackson was born March 18, 1914 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The first of four children, he left his parent's home at age 13 to work. In the 1930s Jackson helped organize men in government-run labour camps for the On to Ottawa Trek of 1935. Jackson and Agnes "Aggie" Martin married in December 1938 and the couple had three children: Roberta Carol (born 1939), Kenneth William (born 1942), and Larry Steven (born 1948). Jackson served in the Canadian Navy during the World War Two and worked for decades in wood mills in Vancouver. He was a member of the Communist Party and of the Industrial Wood and Allied Workers of Canada until he supported a failed attempt to split that union in 1948. Jackson and his wife enjoyed travel after their children were grown, journeying to Europe, the U.S.S.R., and Cuba, hi 1972 Agnes Jackson was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and Bob Jackson cared for her in their home, which was by then located in Powell River, B.C., for many years. Jackson devoted much of his time later in life to educating younger Canadians about labour history based on his first-hand experiences. Jackson was a socialist and an advocate of workers' rights and he supported these causes until his death from cancer June 27, 2000, just two months after his wife's passing.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists primarily of records related to Robert Jackson's political interests and activities. The fonds includes many original and reproduction documents from labour events in the 1930s, particularly the On to Ottawa trek but including information on other labour related events and figures, including the Spanish Civil War and the unionism in primary resource industries. The fonds also includes many records gathered by Jackson in the 1980s and 1990s in his work commemorating the On to Ottawa trek and participating in labour related events. The fonds contains newsletters, bulletins and other publications, newspaper clippings, essays, and articles, correspondence, recollections and testimonials, obituaries, notes from speaking engagements, leaflets, posters, press releases, petitions, minutes, financial records, project proposals, a script, work documents, certificates, legal documents, photographs, and other records related to Jackson's political life. The file level arrangement of this fonds is based on an arrangement established in 2001 by David Yorke who undertook to order Jackson's paper by subject. The order in which Jackson kept his records is unknown. The fonds is arranged in four series: On to Ottawa Trek (1934-2000); Labour history subject files (1933-2000); Memorials (1985-2000); and Photographs ([193-?]-2000).

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

Immediate source of acquisition: Acquired by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books Division from Roberta, Kenneth, and Larry Jackson in 2002.

Finding aids: Series descriptions and file list are available. A preliminary inventory prepared by David Yorke in 2001 explains the arrangement of the fonds.

SERIES/SUB-SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

On to Ottawa Trek

1934-2000.

35 cm textual records and other material.

Series consists of reproductions of newsletters and newspaper clippings contemporary to the On to Ottawa Trek, and records from the 1980s and 1990s related to the original Trek and Jackson's participation in its commemoration in various incarnations. Records consist of correspondence, recollections and testimonials, obituaries, Jackson's notes from speaking engagements, essays and articles. The series includes two sub-series: On to Ottawa Trek Committee (1938; 1985; 1996); On to Ottawa Historical Committee (1986-1999).

Title based on contents of series.

On to Ottawa Trek Committee

1938;1985;1996.

10 cm textual records and other material.

Sub-series consists of correspondence, notes, lists, sign-in sheets, press releases, leaflets, posters, newspaper items, petitions, proclamations, and other records generated in the course of the work of this Committee dedicated to commemorating the 50th anniversary of the On to Ottawa Trek.

Title based on contents of sub-series.

On to Ottawa Historical Society

1986-1999.

10 cm textual records.

Sub-series consists of minutes, correspondence, financial records, newspaper articles, a script, a project proposal, and other records related to the activities and projects of the On to Ottawa Historical Society including the production of a video documentary about the On to Ottawa Trek.

Title based on contents of sub-series.

Labour history subject files

1933-2000.

38 cm textual records and other material.

Series consists of newspaper clippings, typescripts, articles, and essays, correspondence, photographs, and other records related to historical events and figures. These records reflect Jackson's activities as a union member and supporter, as a member of the Communist Party of Canada, and as a supporter of the Spanish Civil War and other left wing political causes.

Title based on contents of series.

International Woodworkers of America

1937-1999.

15 cm textual records and other material.

Series consists of articles and essays, work documents, certificates, correspondence, newsletters, clippings, legal documents, and other records related

to forestry and woodworkers, Jackson's membership in the IWA union, and his participation in the splinter Woodworkers Industrial Union of Canada.
Title based on contents of sub-series.

Memorials

1985-2000.

2 cm textual records.

Series consists two files, one containing memorials and tributes to friends of Robert and Agnes Jackson and participants in the On to Ottawa Trek, the other containing memorials and tributes to Robert and Agnes Jackson upon their deaths.

Title based on contents of series.

Photographs

[193-?]-2000.

15 cm of photographs.

Series consists of photographic images of labour conditions and political activities during the 1930s, and photographs of commemorations of the On to Ottawa trek, as well as a slide presentation with an accompanying script.

Title based on contents of series.

FILE LIST

BOX/FOLDER	DATE(S)
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Series: On to Ottawa Trek

1	1	Strikes and demonstrations	1934-1985
1	2	Newspaper articles : Reproductions	1935
1	3	<i>The unemployed worker</i> : Reproduction	1934
1	4	<i>BC relief camp worker</i> : Reproductions	1934-1935
1	5	<i>Project news</i> : Reproduction	1938

Sub-series: On to Ottawa Trek Committee

1	6	Retrospective of activities	1996
1	7	Meeting sign-in sheets	1985
1	8	Correspondence : Outgoing and incoming	1985
1	9	Correspondence : Incoming and outgoing	1985
1	10	Press release and public relations	1985
1	11	Events : Planning notes	1985
1	12	Newspaper articles : 1985 trek	1985
1	13	Petition	1985
1	14	Proclamations and names for scroll	1985
1	15	Armbands	1938; 1985
1	16	1935 Trek participant lists	1985

Sub-series: On to Ottawa Historical Society

2	1	Minutes, correspondence, and financial records	1987-1998
2	2	Slide show script and program	1986-1990

2	3	Video project proposal and newspaper articles	1990-1992
2	4	Video project financial records	1989-1995
2	5	Commemorative events and activities	1989-1997
2	6	Commemorative events and activities : Saskatchewan	

Federation of Labour

Series: On to Ottawa Trek

2	7	Recollections by Trek participants	[198-?]
2	7a	<i>Recollections of the On-to-Ottawa Trek, 1935, by Ronald</i>	
			<i>Liversedge</i>
2	8	In Memoriam: Trek participants and supporters	1993-2000
2	9	Correspondence regarding On to Ottawa Trek	1985-1999
2	10	Speaking engagements: notes	[198-?-199-?]
3	1	Essays about the Treks	1986-1997
3	2	Articles and essays about the Treks	1982-1995
3	3	On to Ottawa conference transcript	1985

Series: Labour history subject files

Sub-series: International Woodworkers of America

3	4	Work documents	1947-1979
3	5	Articles about forestry	
3	6	International Woodworkers of America (IWA): general 1937-1948	
3	7	Woodworkers Industrial Union of Canada	1944-1980
3	8	Reinstatement to IWA and Powell River District	
			Labour Council activities
3	9	Parkin, Al: "Labor and timber: A brief history of trade unionism in British Columbia's lumber industry" : photocopy	1946
4	1	Parkin, Al: "Labor and timber: A brief history of trade	

		Unionism in British Columbia's lumber industry" : original typescript: laminated	1946-1947
4	2	IWA history in <i>Lumberworker</i>	1995-1997

Series: Labour history subject files

4	3	Arthur Evans	1933-[19-'
4	3a	<i>'Work and wages '! A semi-documentary account of the life and times of Arthur H. (Slim) Evans, 1890-1944, carpenter, miner, labor leader</i>	
4	4	Ginger Goodwin and Miners' Memorial Days	1990-1999
4	5	1931 Estevan coal strike commemoration	1997
4	6	General labour history	[1970s- 1990s]
4	7	Saskatchewan labour history : typescript	1985
4	8	Spanish civil war material	1936-1938
5	1	Spanish civil war veterans' newsletters	1974-1996
5	2	Spanish civil war monuments	1995-2000
5	3	Communist Party of Canada	1965-1998
5	4	William "'ol Bill" Bennett	1948-1978
5	5	Paul Robeson	1952-1998
5	6	Cuba	1961-1981

Series: Memorials

5	7	In Memoriam : Comrades	1985-1995
5	8	hi Memoriam: Agnes Jackson and Robert Jackson	2000

Series: Photographs

6	1	Photo album: Filming the On to Ottawa video	1991
6	2	On to Ottawa Trek Commemoration and other events	1985-1999

6	3	Robert Jackson and other On to Ottawa participants	1980-2000
6	4	Relief camp strike, On to Ottawa Trek, and unemployed conditions	1935
6	5	Unemployed demonstrations, Vancouver Post Office occupation	1935-1938
6	6	Labour related events	[193-7-194-?]
6	1	Slideshow presentation.	
6	8	Miscellaneous	
6	9	Spanish Civil War	
6	10	History of Saskatchewan Labour	
6	11	International Woodworkers of America	

Oversize items

7	1	Large green scrapbook	
7	2	On to Ottawa Trek and 1930s	
7	3	On to Ottawa Trek commemoration and other events	
7	4	Spanish Civil War	
7	5	General left and labour history	

Map Case 1, Drawer H: Oversize poster and photograph