



MG 7 – George W Simpson fonds

Dates: 1930-1960 (inclusive); 1938-1957 (predominant).

Extent: 38 cm of textual records

Biographical Note: Born in Chatsworth, Ontario on 24 March 1893, George Wilfred Simpson received his early education in Owen Sound before taking up a homestead in southern Saskatchewan. In 1915 he entered the University of Saskatchewan and received a BA (1919) in English and History; in 1920 he received an MA from the University of Toronto. The first Saskatchewan recipient of the IODE overseas scholarship, Simpson was able to attend the University of London for postgraduate studies. He also did postgraduate work at the University of Berlin (1931-1932), and in 1947 received an honorary doctorate from the Free Ukrainian University in Munich, Germany. In 1959, Simpson was given an LL.D from the University of Saskatchewan. His teaching career at the University of Saskatchewan started in 1922, with an appointment as Instructor in History. By 1928 he had been promoted to full professor; in 1940, Simpson was appointed Head of the History Department, a position he held until his retirement in 1958. Upon retirement, Simpson was named Professor Emeritus. During his career at the University of Saskatchewan, Simpson initiated the department of Slavic Studies, was the first Canadian historian to learn Ukrainian, and edited the first history of the Ukraine published in English: "Ukraine, An Atlas of Its Geography and History." He helped shape the policy of the Saskatchewan Archives Act, was the first Provincial Archivist (1945-1948), and afterward served on the Archives Board. As chair of the Committee on Historic Sites and Publications, he made a major contribution to the success of Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1955. Simpson died in Saskatoon on 6 March 1969, at the age of 75.

Scope and content: This fonds contains material relating to the Ukrainian community in Canada (1930-1957); the Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee committee (1953-1955); the Provincial Archives [Saskatchewan Archives Board] (1942-1947); the department of Slavic Studies (1943-1957); and the Citizenship Division, Department of National War Services (1941-1946).

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on access.

Title based on provenance of the fonds.

Guide prepared by S.D. Hanson, April 1972, edited for formatting by Amy Putnam, 2018.

1. **Memorandum: “Ukrainian Files.”** - 1960.

Dr. Simpson’s brief summary of the more important subjects discussed in the “Ukrainian Files” (below).

2. **“Ukrainian Files.”** - 1930-1957. - 4 folders.

These files contain correspondence, news clippings, programs, and miscellaneous material pertaining to the Ukrainian community. Owing to his interest in and involvement with this community, Simpson corresponded with a variety of associations and societies, newspaper publishers, scholars, writers and other individuals. Topics included: publication of Ukrainian histories, poetical works, dictionaries, and grammar books; the plight of the Ukraine immediately prior to and during World War II; relief programs for Ukrainian refugees; the escape of a number of Ukrainian intellectuals - notably D. Doroshenko - from Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. Also included is material relating to the establishment of a non-credit Ukrainian language class and a proposed museum for the permanent display of Ukrainian artefacts at the University of Saskatchewan; strained relations between various Ukrainian groups; and anti-German and anti-Soviet Russian propaganda. Also included: Dr. Simpson’s greetings to the Alpha Omega Society; introductions to Doroshenko’s Taras Shevchenko and S.A. Pidhainy’s White Book about the Black Deeds of the Kremlin resolutions of a number of Ukrainian associations; a copy of J-A. Sabourin’s “L’Eglise de Rome en face des Eglises orientales”; “Report of the Proceedings and Addresses of the Ukrainian Teachers Convention” at Mundare, Alberta (1940); and information pertaining to the official opening of the Ukrainian Museum and Archives of the Basilian Fathers at Mundare (1957).

3. **Golden Jubilee Sub-Committee on Historic Sites and Publications.** – 1948-1955.

In addition to the minutes of the sub-committee’s meetings held between April 15, 1953 and September 8, 1955, this file contains a report of an historic sites survey (1948), “A Letter to the People of Saskatchewan” (1954), a memorandum pertaining to the municipal trail program (1955), and a letter from John H. Archer regarding an inscription for the marker at “Old Ferry Crossing”, Saskatoon (1955).

4. **Memorandum: Establishment of Archives.** - 1960.

Dr. Simpson’s brief summary of the development of the Provincial Archives between 1942 and 1946.

5. Provincial Archives. - 1942—1947.

In addition to correspondence with L.H. Thomas pertaining to his courses of study at the University of Minnesota and visits to a number of archival institutions in the United States, this file contains information relating to a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to the University of Saskatchewan in aid of western Canadian studies; a memorandum to President J.S. Thomson regarding archive work undertaken by Dr. A.S. Morton and a report of his visits to Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton concerning the disposal of documents created by the [Old] Department of the Interior; information pertaining to the Shortt Library of Canadiana; and L.H. Thomas' memorandum on the promotion of the study of provincial and community history in Saskatchewan.

6. Memorandum: Establishment of the Department of Slavic Studies. - 1960.

Dr. Simpson's brief summary of the development of a Slavic Studies department at the University of Saskatchewan.

7. Department of Slavic Studies. - 1943-1957.

In addition to correspondence with Dr. C.H. Andrusyshen, first head of the department, pertaining to his courses of study at Harvard University, development of a Slavic Studies library, classes to be offered, texts to be used, etc., this file contains a memorandum to President J.S. Thomson recommending the establishment of a Department of Slavic Studies, information relating to a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation to enable Dr. Andrusyshen to study at Harvard, a copy of J. St. Clair-Sobell 's "Slavonic Studies in Canadian Universities" (1954); and correspondence with officials of similar departments at other universities concerning course outlines and the introduction of Ukrainian language and literature classes.

8. Memorandum: Citizenship Division. - 1960.

Dr. Simpson's brief summary of the activities of the Citizenship Division of the Department of National War Services during the years 1939-1945.

9. Citizenship Division. - 1941-1946. – 2 folders.

This file contains a sample correspondence from Dr. Simpson's file created during the period of his association with the Advisory Committee on Co-operation in Canadian Citizenship (Nationalities Branch). In addition to the correspondence with government officials, ethnic associations, and individuals pertaining to the role played in the war effort by foreign-born Canadians, this file contains minutes and reports of meetings which led to

the formation of the Advisory Committee; releases pertaining to the establishment and activities of the Committee; a list of foreign language newspapers published in Winnipeg; a memorandum relating to the establishment of a Polish Canadian Committee; a report for the information of the Minister on the origin, aim, and functions of the Nationalities Branch; a note regarding administrative changes affecting the Committee; and finally, the report of the Advisory Committee.

Box 2

10. Saskatoon Campus Committee.

In two volumes.

11. Joint Committee on Higher Education Volume 2.