



Guide to the George R. Howsam Papers, 1920-1981

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Summary

Collection Title:

George R. Howsam papers, 1920-1981

Creator:

Howsam, George R.

Extent:

9 Linear Feet

6,750 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

RL.00579

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/howsam/>

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Background

Scope and Content

The George R. Howsam Papers span the years 1920-1981, although the bulk of the material dates from 1930-1948. They consist of correspondence, legal papers, photographs, printed materials, writings and speeches, clippings, and miscellaneous. The collection principally relates to Howsam's career as Air Vice-Marshall in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and has a few items regarding Howsam's employment as a manager for Sicks' Breweries Ltd. and his service as Co-Ordinator of Civil Defense in Alberta. Subject areas represented within the collection include: Alberta Civil Defense, Royal Canadian Air Force Training before and during World War II, and Royal Canadian Air Force lectures.

Although the Correspondence Series primarily relates to Royal Canadian Air Force activities, personal letters are included within the series. The series offers

insight into the professional life of a Canadian airman in the 1930's and 1940's, and also the network of people Howsam worked and associated with before, during, and after World War II.

The Pictures Series documents Howsam's professional military life, ranging from several personal military photographs of Howsam as a young man to photograph albums detailing such subjects as awarding of medals, "presentation of wings" for Canadian Airmen in 1941, and building of the Royal Canadian Air Force Station at Yorktown, Saskatchewan (the No. 11 Service Flying Training School, 1941). Also included is Howsam's report titled, "Some Continental Flying Boats," 1932, which includes photographs and descriptions of seaplanes designed to take off from the water.

Howsam served as a lecturer and speaker for the Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College, and these activities are reflected in the many folders of lectures and speeches that Howsam prepared for use in the Staff College courses from 1930-1944. These lectures are included in the Printed Materials Series and the Writings and Speeches Series.

The Clippings Series offers insight not only into World War II but also to Alberta Civil Defense, and the threat and precautions of nuclear war, 1959-1961. Howsam's work at Sicks' Brewery is documented in the Legal Papers Series, which includes a printed brochure from the brewery, letters, balance sheets, and also information regarding oil and gas investments.

Biographical/Historical

Chronology

Date	Description
1895, Jan. 29	Born, Lake Scugog, Ontario
1916-1918	Enlisted in 116th South Ontario Battalion, Accepted into Royal Canadian Expeditionary Force, Promoted to Lieutenant
1918, Sept.	Joined Canadian Air Force, stationed in France and Belgium flying bombing missions for various government departments

Date	Description
1921	Worked with Royal Canadian Air Force photographic survey, NW Canada
1923-1926	Worked for Canadian Air Board (mapping early radio communications, aircraft and radio equipment, flying)
1929	Senior member, Royal Canadian Air Force 1st Aerobatics Team, (Siskin) Display, Cleveland, OH
1930	Joined the Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College, England, Director of Civil Administration
1931-1932	Staff member CGAO Operations at Air Force Headquarters
1933-1936	SASO, MD2 Toronto
1937	OC 2, Army Co-operation Squadron, Ottawa
1938-1940	SASO, No.4 Training Command, Regina Director of Training for Royal Canadian Air Force, Ottawa
1941	Directed and organized the funding of the building of the Service Flying School, Yorktown, Saskatchewan
1942-1943	AOC Air Staging Route to Alaska
1942-1944	AOC No.4 Training Command, Calgary
1945	Chairman, Organization Committee, AF HQ, Ottawa

Date	Description
1946	Retired from the Royal Canadian Air Force as Air Vice-Marshal
1948-1949	Director, Sicks' Breweries Ltd. and Sicks' Edmonton Brewery, President of the United Services Institute of Edmonton
1950-1951	Co-Ordinator of Civil Defense, Alberta
1960, Oct.	Canadian Delegate to Emergency Measures NATO Assembly, Paris

George R. Howsam was awarded the following awards of merit: Legion of Merit in Degree of Commander (United States, 1945), Order of White Lion (Czechoslovakia, 1946), and Commander de l'orde de la Couronne (Belgium, 1948). His works include: " Rocky Mountain Foothills Offer Great Chance to Guilders" (1923), and " Industrial and Mechanical Development: War" (1931).

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in the George R. Howsam papers have not been transferred to Duke University. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library and consult a Reference Archivist.

Acquisition Information

The George R. Howsam papers (1920-1981) were donated to the Duke University. David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library in 1990 by Peter Howsam.

Processing Information

Processed by: John Gribble; Assisted by Dave Daily and Sandra Hack Polaski

Completed July 10, 1993

Encoded by Stephen D. Miller

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Names and Subjects

- Air Pilots, military -- Canada -- Education
- Air forces -- Canada
- Canada -- Air defenses, Military
- Alberta -- Civil defense
- Canada -- Royal Canadian Air Force
- Canada. Royal Canadian Air Force -- History -- World War, 1939-1945
- Howsam, George R.
- Sicks' Breweries

Collection Inventory

Correspondence Series, 1931-1978, undated (bulk 1936-1948).

Arranged chronologically, followed by four topical folders.

1931-1943, Mar. Physical Description: 18 folders	Box 1
1943, Apr.-1947, June Physical Description: 17 folders	Box 2
1947, July-1978, undated Physical Description: 6 folders	Box 3
Chief Electoral Officer, 1962	Box 3
du Park, Vicomte, 1948-1949	Box 3
Roy, R.H., 1965-1967, 1971-1972	Box 3
Royal Canadian Air Force Project, 1967-1975, undated	Box 3

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Legal Papers, 1945-1977, undated (bulk 1951-1963).

Oil and Gas Properties, 1951-1977, undated Physical Description: 2 folders	Box 3
Sicks' Breweries Ltd., 1945-1954, undated	Box 3

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Pictures Series, 1917-1960 (bulk 1941).

Scope and Contents note

Includes loose photographs and bound photograph albums chiefly regarding Howsam's military duties. Also includes a report by Howsam titled, "Some Continental Flying Boats."

Arranged by subject or title.

Alberta Civil Defence	Box 3
Graduating Classes Nos. 25, 28, 1941	Box 3
Howsam personal photographs	Box 3
Progressive photographs, 1917-1918	Box 3
Royal Canadian Air Force, B.C.A.T.P. Gates Ceremony, 1949, Sept.	Box 3
"Photographic Operation of the Belcher Islands," 1932	Box 3
"Some Continental Flying Boats," 1930	Box 4

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Printed Material Series, 1923-1981 (bulk 1930, 1958-1960).

Scope and Contents note

Includes Alberta Civil Defence reports, published texts, Royal Canadian College course lectures and training manuals, and serials.

Arranged by topic, then chronologically.

Alberta Civil Defence, Reports, 1923, 1951-1960 Physical Description: 6 folders	Box 4
Minutes of Meetings, 1942-1945	Box 4
Published, "Canadian War Museum Papers No. 2," 1972-1981, undated	Box 4
Published, "Spitfire-The Story Of A Famous Fighter," 1961	Box 4
Royal Canadian Air Force, Photocopied documents, 1918-1919	Box 4

Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College, course lectures, 1928-1930	Box 5
Physical Description: 6 folders	
Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College, training manuals, 1924, 1934 1938-1939	Box 5
Physical Description: 5 folders	
Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College, training manuals, "Defence Forces List," 1934	Box 5
Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College, training manuals, 1938	Box 5
Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College, training manuals, "The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan," 1939	Box 5
Royal Canadian Air Force Staff College, training manuals, 1943-1944	Box 5
Serials: Air Force Officers' Association of Vancouver Island, 1957-1971	Box 5
Serials:	
The Circular, 1951-1961	Box 5
Royal Canadian Air Force List, 1945	Box 5
Wings, 1941-1974	Box 5

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Writings and Speeches Series, 1935-1979

Scope and Contents note

Contains written speeches that Howsam gave while a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Also included are cassette recordings of Howsam giving interviews.

Interviews, cassette recordings, 1971-1972, 1977-1979	Box 6
Physical Description: 3 folders	

Speeches: Howsam, 1935-1969	Box 6
Physical Description: 2 folders	
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Speeches: Howsam, notebook, 1940-1942, 1948-1953	Box 6
Physical Description: 2 folders	
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Speeches, miscellaneous, 1959-1967	Box 6

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Clippings Series, 1942-1961, undated (bulk 1958-1961).

Scope and Contents note

Consists of four folders of photocopied clippings.

Calgary Civil Defence, 1958	Box 6
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Nuclear War, 1959-1961, undated	Box 6
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World War II, 1942-1946, undated	Box 6
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Miscellaneous, 1962-1967	Box 6

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Miscellaneous Series, 1945-1967 (bulk 1964-1967).

Scope and Contents note

Includes one scrapbook, "Americana and Canadiana," personnel evaluations, and road maps.

Miscellaneous, 1930-1945, 1964-1965	Box 6
Physical Description: 2 folders	
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Miscellaneous: Scrapbook, "Americana and Canadiana," 1964-1967	Box 6

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OVERSIZE MATERIALS

PRINTED MATERIAL SERIES

Royal Air Force, photocopied documents, 1918-1919,Restricted	Box 7
Wings, 1941-1974	Box 7
Serials, miscellaneous, 1941-1943	Box 7
Maps, Royal Automobile Club, undated	Box 7
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CLIPPINGS SERIES	
World War II, 1942-1946, undated	Box 7
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MISCELLANEOUS SERIES	
Scrapbook, Americana and Canadiana, 1964-1967	Box 7

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