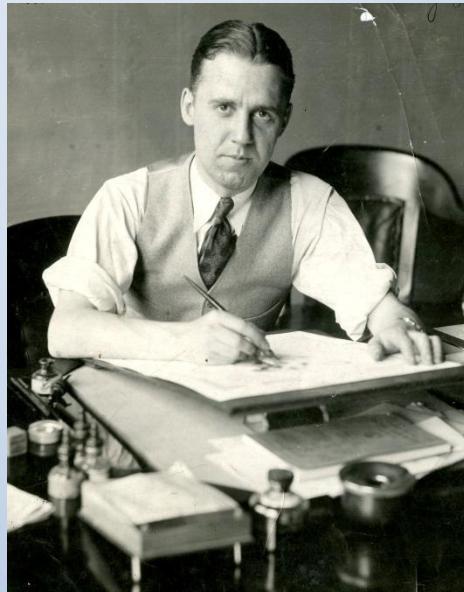


ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

ROBERT (BOB) CHAMBERS FONDS

Accession 1900.005-CHA



Compiled by Wendy Robicheau

Fall 2011

Robert (Bob) Chambers fonds. – [textual records, graphic material]. – [19--], 1920-1994; predominant 1931-1943. – 21 folders of textual records and graphic material. – 21 photographs

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Scope and Content

The fonds consists of personal papers, photographs, and cartoon compilations for Bob Chambers. Many items in the fonds contain Chambers' handwriting and appear to have been collected during his career. The fonds consists of two series:

1. Papers and photographs ([19--], 1933, 1935, 1993, 1994)
2. Cartoons ([19--], 1920, 1923, 1931, 1932, 1938-1943, 1948-1955)

1. Papers and photographs. – [19--], 1933, 1935, 1993, 1994. – 1 folder of textual records. – 21 photographs

Series contains personal correspondence and personal and professional photographs. Three photographs of Bob Chambers at work are included.

Note:

Supplied title based on contents of series
File list below

File List

- 1900.005-CHA/13 correspondence (1993, 1994) being four letters written by Chambers
- 1900.005-CHA/4 "Bob" Chambers / JCM Hayward, photographer [1933]. - 1 photograph : b&w ; 16cm x 20cm. - Image of Chambers working at a desk. – Included in the 31 July 1933 *Eastern Chronicle*
- 1900.005-CHA/5 unidentified girl [19--]. - 1 photograph : sepia toned ; 15cm x 10cm. - Posed image of a young girl
- 1900.005-CHA/6 unidentified graduation portrait of a woman [19--]. - 1 photograph : sepia toned ; 10cm x 15cm
- 1900.005-CHA/7 unidentified man / Robert Norwood, photographer [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 20cm x 26cm. – Image of a man reviewing images and maps of Western Europe
- 1900.005-CHA/8 naval ships at sea / Royal Canadian Navy [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 20cm x 25cm. – Image of several naval ships at sail
- 1900.005-CHA/9 two men, shaking hands [19--]. – 1 photograph : sepia toned ; 22cm x 17cm. – Image of two men, shaking hands, standing on the deck of a ship. May be Dr. D.E. Robertson and his wife following the Moose River Gold Mine disaster. – Related to the image in folder 10

- 1900.005-CHA/10 two men and one woman standing on the deck of a ship [19--]. – 1 photograph : sepia toned ; 17cm x 22cm. – May be Dr. D.E. Robertson and his wife following the Moose River Gold Mine disaster. – Related to the image in folder 9
- 1900.005-CHA/11 candid camera studies by Bob Chambers [1935]. – 12 photographs on one sheet : b&w ; sheet 28cm x 28cm. – Images of the staff of the Chronicle Herald. - Torn along top of sheet
- 1900.005-CHA/14 portrait of Bob Chambers [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 18cm x 13cm
- 1900.005-CHA/15 Bob Chambers cartooning [19--]. – 1 photograph : b&w ; 22cm x 28cm. – Image of Chambers sitting at a desk, cartooning as one of his characters looks on

2. Cartoons. – [19--], 1920, 1923, 1931, 1932, 1938-1943, 1948-1955. – 20 folders of textual and graphic material

Series consists of published cartoons and original sketches. Some of the cartoons are separate; many others are compiled in scrapbooks

Note:

Supplied title based on contents of files
A number of the scrapbooks are oversized
File list included below

File List

- 1900.005-CHA/1 charcoal by Chambers [19--]. Image is a portrait of an unknown person.
Fragile
- 1900.005-CHA/2 *The Oriole* (1920 January 16) being a hand-written newsletter out of Wolfville and with a cartoon image. Fragile
- 1900.005-CHA/3 drawings. File divided into three folders,
- A: drawings [1931?] includes the original folder with Chambers' signature, a cover page with the title "Robert W. Chambers '31 WASH DRAWINGS PEN & INK DRAWINGS", clipping of the Four Horsemen, clippings of cartoons, and cartoons on cards
 - B: drawings [1931?] includes cartoons in *The Road Back*, selected pages only. Fragile
 - C: drawings (1923, 1931, 1932) includes cartoons from *The Toronto Weekly Star* (1932), *The New York Evening graphic Magazine* (1931), *Life Class* (1932), and *The Morning Chronicle* (1923 May 2). Fragile
- 1900.005-CHA/12 Creamery Comments (1948-1955). File divided chronologically into eight folders and labelled A to H. Each issue includes a Chambers cartoon. Chambers himself had divided the issues chronologically and his dividers are included

- 1900.005-CHA/16 sheet of cartoon images [19--]. – 60 prints on one sheet : b&w ; 23cm x 31cm. – All miniatures of Chambers cartoons in a compilation
- 1900.005-CHA/17 scrapbook [19--], includes articles and cartoons. Inscriptions seem to be in Chambers' handwriting
- 1900.005-CHA/18 scrapbook [1935], includes clippings of cartoons. Front cover includes Chambers' handwriting
- 1900.005-CHA/19 scrapbook [1940], includes clippings of cartoons about the first 365 days of the war against Hitlerism. Front cover includes Chambers' handwriting: "One Year After"
- 1900.005-CHA/20 scrapbook [1941], includes clippings of cartoons reviewing the decline and fall of fascism. Front cover includes Chambers' handwriting: "The Grandeur That Was Rome"
- 1900.005-CHA/21 scrapbook (1940-1941), includes clippings of cartoons. Front cover entitled "WAR Cartoons 1940-41 by Bob Chambers / Halifax Herald". Includes Chambers' handwriting
- 1900.005-CHA/22 scrapbook (1941), includes clippings of cartoons. Front cover entitled "WAR Cartoons 1941 by Bob Chambers". Includes Chambers' handwriting
- 1900.005-CHA/23 scrapbook (1942-1943), includes clippings of cartoons. Includes Chambers' handwriting
- 1900.005-CHA/24 scrapbook (1943), includes clippings of cartoons. Includes Chambers' handwriting
- 1900.005-CHA/25 o/s scrapbook [19--], includes clippings of new articles and cartoons as well as biographical and reference material printed in magazines and editorials. Includes Chambers' handwriting. Front cover handwritten notes "1975 #4". Poor condition. Oversized
- 1900.005-CHA/26 o/s scrapbook (1935-1936), includes clippings of cartoons. Includes Chambers' handwriting. Front cover: "The Mammoth Scrap Book". Oversized
- 1900.005-CHA/27 o/s scrapbook (1940-1941), includes clippings of cartoons. Includes Chambers' handwriting. Front cover: "SCRAP BOOK" and map of Europe. Oversized
- 1900.005-CHA/28 o/s scrapbook (1938, 1939), includes clippings of cartoons. Includes Chambers' handwriting. Front cover handwritten notes "CHAMBERS/HALIFAX HERALD". Oversized
- 1900.005-CHA/29 o/s scrapbook (1938, 1939), includes clippings of cartoons. Includes Chambers' handwriting. Front cover handwritten notes "CHAMBERS/HALIFAX HERALD". Oversized

Biographical Sketch

Robert William Chambers (Bob) was born in Wolfville in 1905. His father, John Daily Chambers from Wisconsin, was at one time the mayor of Wolfville. His mother was Fanny May (Woodman) Chambers. Bob Chambers attended public school but was enrolled in Horton Academy as part of the Manual Training Program. At an early age, he was the writer, illustrator, printer, and distributor of *The Weekly Oriole*. His first cartoon to be published more widely was included in the 2 May 1923 issue of *The Morning Chronicle*. Chambers left for New York in 1924 to study at the Art Students League, but he returned to Nova Scotia in 1932 or 1933. Chambers was hired as a photographer for *The Chronicle* and *The Star* during the 1930s and slowly became the paper's cartoonist. One of his first assignments for the paper was to photograph the Moose River Mine disaster in 1936. Throughout the Second World War, his cartoons also helped sell War Bonds. Chambers received the National Newspaper Award for cartooning in 1954 and 1967 and an Honourary Doctorate from St. Francis Xavier University in 1965. He became a Fellow of the Nova Scotia College of Art and design in 1966. Bob Chambers died in Nova Scotia in 1996.

Custodial History

Unknown

Notes

Supplied title based on contents of fonds.

Records subject to the *Copyright Act*.

For reasons of historic authenticity, all file titles provided by the author and captions provided by the photographer are transcribed unedited. The spelling of both peoples' and places' names has changed with time, so inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the titles are unavoidable. Files and captions may also contain inaccuracies or terms that would now be considered offensive.

Accompanying material: index cards compiled by former Acadia University librarian, Miss Freeman. These have been kept because they provide an index to Chambers cartoons in various publications.

Related records at the Nova Scotia Archives.

Related records at the Acadia University Art Gallery.

Related records at the Wolfville Historical Society.

See also Bob Chambers exhibit collection.

See also Donald M. McRitchie fonds. McRitchie was also a political cartoonist for the Halifax newspapers.

See also Margaret Conrad, "The Battle of the Cartoonists: The Cartoon Art of Donald McRitchie and Robert Chambers in Halifax Newspapers, 1933-1937" in Myth and Milieu: Atlantic Literature and Culture 1918-1939. Fredericton: Acadiensis Press, 1993: 17-36

See also Glen Hancock, "Robert Chambers: Dean of Cartoonists", *Atlantic Advocate* (November 1981): 42-46

Citation for this electronic finding aid:

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

Title: Robert (Bob) Chambers fonds

Date: 2011

Author: Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University

Access Points

Chambers, Robert (1905-1996)

Canadian wit and humor, Pictorial—History

Cartoonists—Canada

Canada--Politics and government--Caricatures and cartoons

Caricatures and cartoons--Canada