

University of Toronto Archives



Carl Berger Fonds B2008-0012

Garron Wells, February 2009

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES

Carl Berger

Access: Restricted Textual; graphic [1952]-2006
1.85 metres

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Biographical Note

Professor Carl Berger was born in The Pas, Manitoba on February 25, 1939. He attended the University of Manitoba where he received a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in 1961 and was awarded the Gold Medal for highest standing in the Honors course. During his years at University of Manitoba he was holder of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. Following graduation, he enrolled in the Masters' programme at the University of Toronto with a University of Toronto Open Scholarship of \$2000.00.¹ After completing his Master of Arts degree in 1962, he immediately enrolled in the doctoral programme. His thesis "The vision of grandeur: studies in the ideas of Canadian imperialism, 1867-1914" was supervised by Prof. J.M. S. Careless and completed in 1967. It became the foundation for his first book, *The sense of power: studies in the ideas of Canadian imperialism, 1867-1914* published in 1970.

While undertaking his doctoral research, Prof. Berger was employed as a lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Toronto (1964-1966). In 1966 he was appointed Assistant Professor, and three years later was promoted to Assistant Professor. In 1976 he became a full professor in the Department of History.² Among his colleagues in the Department of History during these years were many of the leaders in Canadian studies such as Kenneth McNaught, Donald Creighton, J. M. S. Careless, W. J. Eccles and others.

During his forty years with the University, Prof. Berger published four books, numerous articles and reviews, and edited and contributed to many more books on Canadian history. His 1976 book *The writing of Canadian history: aspects of English Canadian Historical Writing* won the Governor-General's Award for non-fiction. In 1990 *The sense of power* was named one of twenty best books by the Social Science Federation of Canada published since 1940.

In other academic duties, Prof. Berger supervised many graduate students in the completion of doctoral theses in Canadian history. Some of these students are today prominent members of the Canadian academic community, for example, Prof. Gerald Friesen, University of Manitoba, Prof. Douglas Owsram, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Principal for UBC Okanagan, Prof. Brook Taylor, Mount St. Vincent University, and Prof. Michael Gauvreau, McMaster University.

In addition to the recognition Prof. Berger has received for his publications, he has also been honored by his peers. In 1976 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 1984 the Society gave him the J. B. Tyrrell Historical Medal. In its citation for this award, the Society recognized that "Carl Berger has made an original contribution to our understanding of the Canadian past. Almost single handedly he has opened up and illuminated the intellectual history of modern Canada.... Carl Berger has established himself firmly as an innovative scholar and a leading Canadian historian of his generation."³

He retired in 2003.

¹ UTARMS A1973-0026/0027 (63). *The Pas Northern Mail*, June 27, 1962.

² UTARMS B2008-0012/005 (05) – Curriculum vitae, 1996

³ Royal Society of Canada web site: http://www.rsc.ca/index.php?page_id=61&lang_id=1&award_id=10

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Scope and Content note

Records; textual, graphic, [1952]-2006; 1.84 metres

This fonds consists of one accession covering the four decades of his career as historian, author, teacher and administrator in the Department of History at the University of Toronto. The fonds is arranged in five series. Series 1 consists of chronologically arranged correspondence of both a personal and professional nature dating from his arrival in Toronto in 1961 to a few years after his retirement in 2003. Prof. Berger was a contemporary of many of Canada's leading historians. This series of correspondence documents his professional and personal relationship with such notable historians as Ramsay Cook, Donald Creighton, Kenneth McNaught, and Ray Mclean, as well as former students such as Douglas Owsam, Gerald Friesen, Bob Rae, Brook Taylor and Michael Gauvreau. Additional correspondence relating to various internal and external professional activities are found in Series 2. Series 3 and 4 document his teaching activities and his relationship with selected graduate students from the early 1970s to the mid 1990s. Records relating to his publication activities in Series 5 are, unfortunately, not as complete since many files do not contain manuscripts. In spite of this, the series provides a fairly complete record of his major publications including files on each of his four books, as well as articles, lectures and other academic works. Also in this series will be found a file containing an annotated version of a typescript of Harold Innis' autobiography.

Access: Records in Series 3 and selected records in Series 4 are restricted. See Series descriptions for details. All other records are open.

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Series 1 Correspondence

.75 m; textual, graphic 1961 - 2006

This extensive series contains both personal and professional correspondence received by Prof Berger during his academic career. Some of Prof. Berger's draft replies will be found in later files. The earliest letters document his doctoral education and his appointment to the Department of History at the University of Toronto. Correspondence from the 1970s through the 1990s document his flourishing career as prominent historian, author, teacher and advisor, etc. Later correspondence is dominated by requests from editors and other scholars relating to his publications, requests for review of other manuscripts, as well as his history of the Royal Society (1996)

Correspondents include, among others, prominent academics such as Prof. Ray MacLean, Dept. of History, St. Francis Xavier University (b 1927 d. 2004), Prof. Ramsay Cook, George (now Sir George) S. Bain, a former classmate at the University of Manitoba and member of Board of Bombardier Aerospace, as well as former students such as Doug Owsram (professor, University of Alberta 1976-2006), and colleagues at Canadian and foreign universities. Subjects include personal information about family, friends and colleagues, academic correspondence with students and other academics about research progress, requests for letters of reference and support, comments on recent publications, and other academic activities. Two files at the end of this series contain letters to single correspondents: M. Brook Taylor (1986-2006) former student and faculty member in Department of History, Mount St. Vincent University and Sam Waller, amateur historian and founder of the Sam Waller Museum in The Pas, Manitoba.

Access: Open

B2008-0012/001 - /003 (01)-(04) Chronological files

B2008-0012/003 (05)-(07) Correspondence files for Brook Taylor and Sam Waller.

Series 2 Professional activities

.26 m ; textual; graphic 1964-2003

This series contains primarily correspondence files relating to various topics or events. Among the files are his appointment file for the University of Toronto containing personal information relating to salary and promotion (initially as Lecturer in 1964), as well as a copy of his curriculum vitae. Other files document awards and honours, external activities relating participation in conferences and associations, as well as administrative duties with the University of Toronto. In addition to correspondence, files may contain project proposals, reports, manuscripts of papers and some photographs.

Access: Open

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Series 2 Professional activities (cont'd)

/Box (file)	Title	Dates
B2008-0012		
/004 (01)	British Association for the Advancement of Science	1980-1981
(02)	Canada Council	1969-1974
(03)	Canadian Historical Association – Garneau Prize Committee	1983-1985
(04)	Champlain Society – Chalmers Award	2005-2006
(05)	Commission on graduate studies in the humanities and social sciences – report on history	1974-1975
(06)	Cook, Ramsay – retirement	1996-1998
(07)	Governor-General's Award (photo removed to /001P)	1976-1977
(08)	Governor-General's Award – Jury	1978-1980
(09)	Indian Trip – Indo Canadian History Workshop (photos removed to /001P)	1983-1984
(10)	Japan Trip – Japanese Association for Canadian Studies	1993
/005		
(01)	McGill University – report on history department	1987
(02)	New Zealand Trip – Australian and New Zealand Association for Canadian Studies	1983-1984
(03)	Royal Society of Canada – nomination of Doug Owram	1989
(04)	Royal Society of Canada – election as fellow (photo removed to /001P)	1977-1984
(05)	University of Toronto. Appointment and salary	1964-2003
(06)	University of Toronto. Chair of History Dept. search	1971
(07)	University of Toronto. Chair in Polish History search	1992-1993
(08)	University of Toronto. Claude Bissell Chair in Canadian-American Studies search	1972-1975
(09)	University of Toronto. Creighton Lectures Committee	1984-1990

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Series 3 Letters of Reference

.13 m.; textual 1969-2002

This series contains confidential communications by Prof. Berger in response to requests for references relating to his undergraduate and graduate students who are applying for employment, research grants or other related academic activity. Also included are files of letters of reference for colleagues and former students applying for employment or research grants.

Arranged chronologically.

Access: Restricted: closed for 30 years. Consult University Archivist

B2008-0012/006 (01) Undergraduates
B2008-0012/006 (02) – (05) Graduates
B2008-0012/006 (06)-(08) Colleagues

Series 4 Teaching

.39 metres; textual 1968-2003

This series documents Prof. Berger's teaching related activities including course instruction and supervision of predominantly PhD graduate students. During his career at the University, Prof. Berger taught five undergraduate courses in Canadian history. Three of his undergraduate courses are documented in this series: HIS 261 "Canada since Confederation", HIS 464 "The Prairie West since 1850", and HIS 361 "Twentieth century Canada". Handwritten lecture notes are included for HIS 361 arranged by topic of each lecture. Graduate course files include 1155Y "Topics in the History of Victorian Canada" and a file on PhD field work examination. Also included are copies of some student papers.

This series also contains files for graduate students Prof. Berger supervised between 1968 and 1997, arranged alphabetically by surname. These files contain correspondence, assessments and progress reports on the thesis and other records. In addition there is a file on theses for students he did not supervise. Finally, there are files documenting his graduate students who did not complete their theses (1970-1982).

Access: Restricted: See below. Consult University Archivist for access.

B2008-0012/007 & /008 (01)-(12) Course files - Open
B2008-0012/008 (13-18) Graduate student files - Restricted
B2008-0012/009 (01) – (11) Graduate student files – Restricted

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Series 5 Publication activities

0.32 metres; textual 1969-2003

This series contains records relating to Prof. Berger's scholarly activities as writer, reviewer, assessor and editor over three decades. Prof. Berger published four books and numerous articles and reviews. This series contains files with correspondence, reviews, and notes on all four books. Unfortunately, only the manuscript for *Science, God and nature* will be found. His first book, *The Sense of Power: studies in the ideas of Canadian imperialism 1867-1914* published in 1970 is still considered an essential work for any student of Canadian history. In 1976 he received the Governor-General's Award for Non-fiction for *The writing of Canadian history: aspects of English Canadian historical writing, 1900-1970*. The file containing an original typescript of Harold Innis' autobiography received through Mary Quayle Innis may have been acquired during the research for this book.

In addition to files on his books, this series also contains files on articles, lectures and chapters in books, as well as reviews for such scholarly journals as the *Canadian Historical Review*. Records relating to his editorial work on *The West and the nation: essays in honour of William L. Morton* (1976) with Ramsay Cook, and *Literary History of Canada* Vol. IV (1990) will also be found. See list below.

Access: Records in /011 (07)-(09) are restricted for 30 years. All other files are open.

/Box (file)	Title	Dates
B2008-0012	Books	
/009 (12)	<i>Honour and the search for influence: a history of the Royal Society of Canada</i>	1991-2002
/009 (13)& /010 (01)-(02)	<i>Science, God and nature in Victorian Canada: the 1982 Joanne Goodman Lectures</i> – includes manuscript	1975-1982
/010 (03)	<i>The sense of power: studies in the ideas of Canadian imperialism, 1867-1914</i>	1969-1970
(04)-(07)	<i>The writing of Canadian history: aspects of English Canadian historical writing, 1900-1970</i> -	1970-2003
	Articles and lectures	
(08)	"S. T. Wood". <i>Dictionary of Canadian Biography</i>	1995
(09)	<i>Encyclopedia of Historians and Historical Writing</i> – member of Advisory Board	1995
(10)	"The Other Mr. Leacock". Lecture at Massey College and copy of article in <i>Canadian Literature</i> No. 55 Winter 1973	1970-1973
(11)	"History and historians". <i>Oxford Companion to Canadian History</i> . - includes manuscript.	2001-2002

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/Box (file)	Title	Dates
/011 (01)	“Race and liberty: the historical ideas of Sir John George Bourinot”. <i>Canadian Historical Association. Annual Report.</i> 1965. -includes offprint of article, correspondence with Arthur Bourinot, son of Sir John George Bourinot.	1965
(02)	Reviews of other authors’ works	1965-1982
Chapters in Books; editorial work		
(03)	“The conferences on Canadian American Affairs, 1935-1941” in <i>Road to Ogdensburg.</i> Edited by F.W. Gibson and J.G. Rossie (East Lansing, Michigan, 1993)	1990-1992
(04)	<i>The west and the nation: essays in honour of William L. Morton.</i> Edited with Ramsay Cook. (1976) – includes correspondence, some manuscripts by contributing authors.	1974-1977
(05)-(06)	<i>Literary history of Canada</i> Vol. IV. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990)– correspondence as member of Editorial Board	1977-1982
(07) – (09)	Appraisals of manuscripts – correspondence, drafts of replies to publishers such as University of Toronto Press and also to granting agencies such as Canada Council. Restricted	1971-2006
(10)	Harold Innis typescript of autobiography - annotated. Includes two additional pages not included in copy in B1972-0003/035(13). Annotations not by Innis.	[1952]