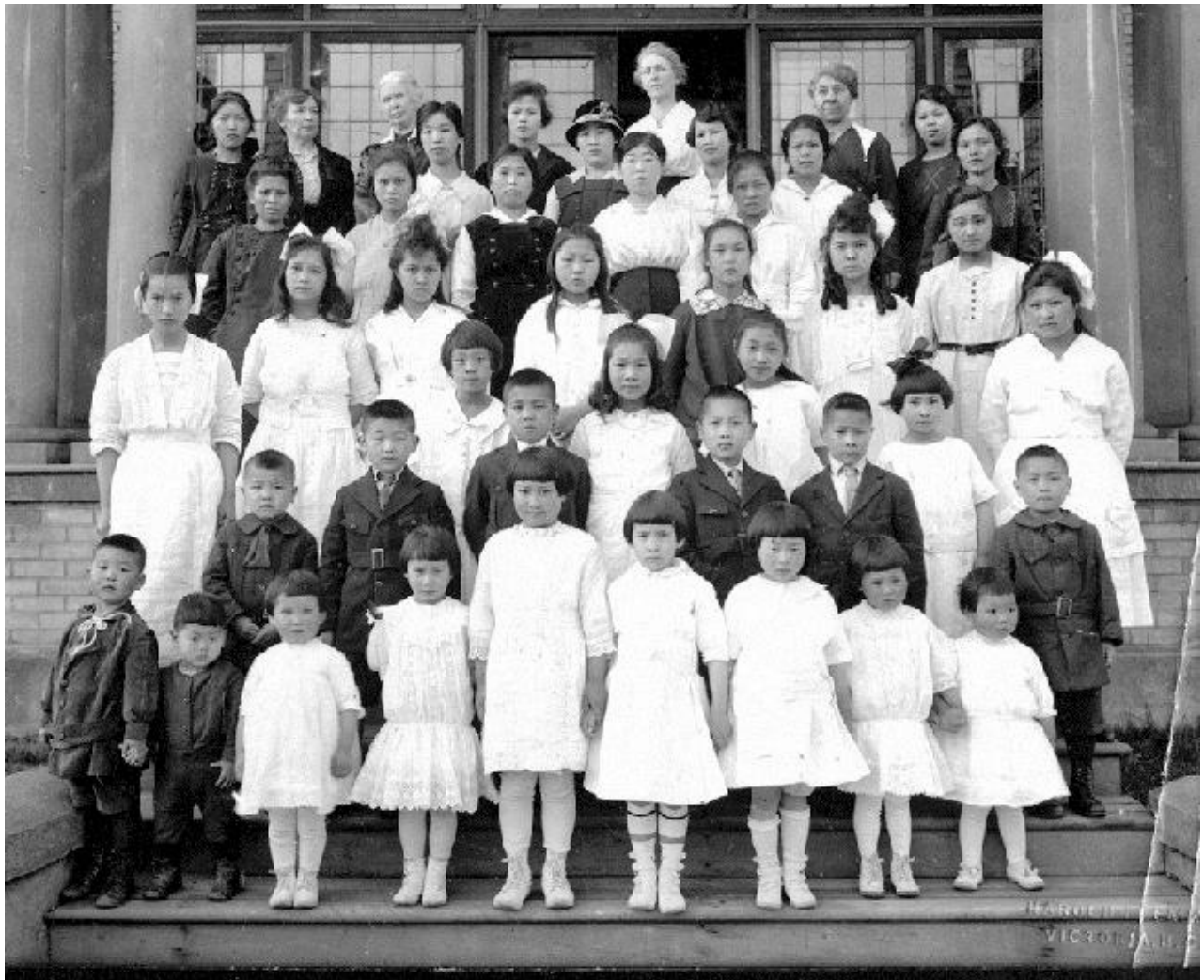


BC Archives Research Guide

TRANS-PACIFIC RECORDS



The Oriental Home family, Victoria, 1908 C-07921

## INTRODUCTION

British Columbia has been the gateway to the Pacific for hundreds of years. Records of trans-Pacific crossings date back to the 1700s. Indigenous or mixed-race inhabitants from the Pacific Northwest<sup>1</sup> traveled to Asia in the 1840s, and sailors from China and Japan landed in the Pacific Northwest from earliest times. Chinese settlers arrived in the 1850s and were among the original settlers in the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples. This research guide provides a brief overview of some of the trans-Pacific holdings of the BC Archives: holdings related to Asia-Pacific Coast relations including migration, immigration and settlement, travel records, transportation, trade and diplomacy.

This guide was produced with the assistance of TransPacific History students from the University of Victoria and their instructor John Price.

## PUBLISHED SOURCES

The BC Archives has a significant collection of published material related to trans-Pacific history. It consists of books, pamphlets, journal articles and sometimes theses (which may also be treated as manuscripts—see note under Primary Sources below). These sources are useful in gaining an understanding of historical developments and overall context, as well as in providing leads to further material.

Search the [BC Archives Library](#) catalogue using keywords, subjects, names, authors, or titles that you have identified as being of interest to your research. Note that too broad or general a word (e.g., “pacific”) can yield a large number of references, many of which will not be relevant for your purposes. It is a good idea to start with the most specific terms and broaden your search if necessary.

When looking for information about a particular cultural group, check under the name, e.g., “Sikh” or “East Indians”, as well as any geographic locations particularly associated with the community. If you have found relevant citations, look at the subject headings for those references. They may be useful in looking for further material.

*Doing a paper for school and have limited time? Look for a book, scholarly article, or thesis on your topic and check the bibliography, especially for journal articles and unpublished material.*

The following selected titles are available at the [BC Archives Library](#), but will also be available through most public and university libraries.

- Adachi, Ken. *The enemy that never was: a history of the Japanese Canadians*. 1976. [NW 325.71 A191](#)
- Anderson, Kay. *Vancouver's Chinatown: racial discourse in Canada, 1875-1980*. 1991. [NW 305.8951 A547](#)
- Jagpal, Sarjeet Singh. *Becoming Canadians: pioneer Sikhs in their own words*. 1994. [NW 305.62946 J24](#)
- Roy, Patricia. *The Oriental question: consolidating a white man's province, 1914-41*. 2003. [NW 971.1 R687 2003](#)

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<sup>1</sup> The “Pacific Northwest” is loosely defined as that area of North America bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west and the Rocky Mountains on the east. The northern boundary may or may not include the Yukon and southeast Alaska and the southern boundary northern California. The term is now commonly used to refer to British Columbia, Washington State, and Oregon.

- Roy, Patricia. *The triumph of citizenship: the Japanese and Chinese in Canada, 1941-67*. 2007. [NW 971.1004 R688 2007](#)
- Roy, Patricia. *A white man's province: British Columbia politicians and Chinese and Japanese immigrants, 1858-1914*. 1989. [NW 305.895 R888](#)
- Ward, Peter W. *White Canada forever: popular attitudes and public policy toward Orientals in British Columbia*, [NW 301.4519 W264 1990](#)
- Wickberg, Edgar, ed. *From China to Canada: a history of the Chinese community in Canada*. 1982. [NW 325.71 F931](#)

## PRIMARY SOURCES

The majority of the holdings at the BC Archives are unpublished, textual records. They can be government or non-government (sometimes referred to as “private”) records and can be typed as well as handwritten. They are primary sources which you will need to analyse and interpret in order to make them useful to your research.

*Note: A number of theses have been catalogued as manuscripts, others as library material. Search both the [BC Archives Library](#) and [BC Archives Collection](#) if you are looking for a particular thesis.*

## SEARCH TIPS

There is both a card and an online catalogue for searching records:

- Textual records indexed online ([BC Archives Collection](#)) are catalogued as either a government record accession (GR) or a non-government record accession (MS). Many have finding aids attached to their catalogue webpages. Finding aids can be box lists, file lists, volume lists, microfilm reel lists or indexes and should be consulted to help identify specific records.
- The pre-1974 (“Old MS”) card catalogue located within the BC Archives reference room uses alpha-numeric classifications (e.g., E/D/L58) and can be searched by subject, title, and creator. Some of these records have been described and can also be searched online using the [BC Archives Collection](#).

When searching either [BC Archives Collection](#) or card catalogues, use a variety of keywords. Some terms used within the catalogues use older spellings or are words which are no longer in contemporary use. The catalogues, online descriptions, and finding aids may also contain words which are not considered appropriate now, but which may be useful as search terms. For example, in addition to standard terms such as “Chinese”, “Japanese”, or “Sikh”, you should also check for references such as “Japs”, “Hindus”, “Hindoos”, “East Indians” or “Orientals”.

Be aware that the [BC Archives Collection Search](#) automatically treats multiple keywords as a phrase. Thus, if you wish to search for records relating to Chinese in Vancouver, use the word “and” between the search terms (i.e., “Chinese and Vancouver”). This search will locate any catalogue entries or finding aids that contain both the terms “Chinese” and “Vancouver”. The wild card symbol is ?, and it may be used effectively to search for both singular and plural terms. For example, using the keyword “Jap?” will locate catalogue and finding aid entries that include the words Jap, Japan, Japs, and Japanese.

When using the [BC Archives Collection Search](#), it can also be useful to use the name of the record creator as the search term. This applies whether the creator is an individual or an organization.

Search results will be presented as a list of accessions which have matches to the keywords. Some of the accessions have an attached finding aid, which will provide further information about the accession, and provide microfilm reel numbers, box numbers or a file or item list. Use the finding aid to determine the call number (GR/MS-xxxx) and the number of the box or microfilm reel you need.

For a comprehensive orientation on searching and accessing records via the [BC Archives Collection](#), see the *Research Orientation Guide* available from our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#) and [Instructional Films](#) webpage.

### **ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

The contents of some government records and private records will be restricted for a variety of reasons. For example, government records 100 years old or less are subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (BC). Check the Notes field of a series' description for access information.

In addition, many records are stored off-site and cannot be made immediately available.

Please speak to staff, email [access@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:access@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca), or call 250-387-1952 for information about the access status and location of records.

### **GOVERNMENT TEXTUAL RECORDS**

Government records provide a wealth of information on living conditions, demographics, and state perceptions of trans-Pacific peoples as well as many other topics. The following list identifies some of the BC Archives' principal holdings, arranged by relevance to a topic area. It is not an exhaustive list and the finding aids for each accession will need to be consulted in order to locate specific box and file numbers.

#### Chinatown (Victoria)

- [GR-0429](#) Attorney General correspondence, 1872–1950
- [GR-0441](#) Premier's Records, 1883–1933
- [GR-0784](#) Commission on Victoria Police Commissioners, 1910
- [GR-1548](#) Heritage restoration project files, 1977–1982
- [GR-2940](#) Heritage Conservation Branch administrative and site files, 1960–1983

#### Crime, Drugs, Prostitution, And Alcohol

The principal source of information about these topics will be court records, and records created by the Attorney General's office. Court records include civil and criminal case files, orders, and judgements. The records are arranged by registry (i.e., court district) and court level (i.e., Supreme or County) and some have nominal indexes. For example:

- [GR-1949](#) Cumberland County Court civil case files, 1897–1941

- [GR-1960](#) Ashcroft County Court criminal case files, 1886–1942

Attorney General records will include preliminary hearings and correspondence about specific cases, the development of legislation, and policy decisions regarding law and order issues:

- [GR-0419](#) Attorney General document series, 1857–1966
- [GR-0429](#) Attorney General correspondence, 1872–1950
- [GR-0996](#) Correspondence inward of the Attorney General, 1883-1888
- [GR-1323](#) Attorney General correspondence, 1902–1937
- [GR-1723](#) Attorney General correspondence, ca. 1938–1952
- [GR-1724](#) Attorney General correspondence, ca. 1952–1959
- [GR-1725](#) Attorney General correspondence inward and outward, ca. 1959–1965
- [GR-1726](#) Attorney General correspondence inward and outward, 1956–1972

Other potentially relevant accessions include:

- [GR-0216](#) Cariboo Government Agent correspondence and other material, 1860–1938
- [GR-0784](#) Commission on Victoria Police Commissioners, 1910
- [GR-1547](#) Central registry of the Immigration Branch (Canada), 1873–1968
- [GR-1328](#) Inquisitions/inquests, 1859-1871
- [GR-0431](#) Coroner's inquiries/inquests, 1865-1937
- [GR-1327](#) Inquisitions/inquests conducted by coroners, [1862], 1872–1937
- [GR-1502](#) Inquisitions/inquests conducted by coroners, 1938-1967

### Health

- [GR-0129](#) Tuberculosis Control Division director's records, 1940–1959
- [GR-0429](#) Attorney General correspondence, 1872–1937, 1950

### Immigration (Including Exclusion, Head Tax, And Natal Act)

- [GR-0429](#) Attorney General correspondence, 1872–1950
- [GR-0441](#) Premier's Records, 1883–1933
- [GR-1222](#) Premiers' papers, 1917–1952
- [GR-1547](#) Central registry of the Immigration Branch (Canada), 1873–1968
- [GR-1665](#) Correspondence and reports from the Dept. of Provincial Secretary, 1887–1953
- [GR-1918](#) Immigration Branch border entry lists (Canada), 1908–1918
- [GR-1970](#) Commission on Hindu claims following refusal to allow over 300 Hindus aboard the S.S. Komagata Maru to land at Vancouver (Canada), 1914

### Japanese Internment

- [GR-1222](#) Premiers' papers, 1917–1952
- [GR-1219](#) Files relating to courses taken by interned Japanese students and displaced persons, 1942–1951

- [GR-0470](#) Correspondence School administrative records, 1919–1969

### Labour, Mining, And Industry

- [GR-0166](#) Indigents Fund applications, 1939–1941
- [GR-0429](#) Attorney General correspondence, 1872–1950
- [GR-0441](#) Premier's Records, 1883–1933

### Population Statistics

- [Federal Censuses](#) in 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 included British Columbia
- City Directories, located within the [BC Archives Library](#) or at [BC City Directories \(1860-1955\)](#), may also be used to identify trans-Pacific populations within communities

### Provincial Policy

These executive level records contain information about high-level policy decisions on a range of topics.

- [GR-0441](#) Premier's records, 1883–1933
- [GR-1222](#) Premiers' papers, 1917–1952
- [GR-0429](#) Attorney General correspondence, 1872–1950
- [GR-0996](#) Correspondence inward of the Attorney General, 1883-1888
- [GR-1323](#) Attorney General correspondence 1902–1937
- [GR-1723](#) Attorney General correspondence, ca. 1938–1952
- [GR-1724](#) Attorney General correspondence, ca. 1952–1959
- [GR-1725](#) Attorney General correspondence inward and outward, ca. 1959–1965
- [GR-1726](#) Attorney General correspondence inward and outward, 1956–1972

### Race Riots, Strikes, and Civil Unrest

- [GR-0441](#) Premier's records, 1883–1933
- [GR-0518](#) Commission on claims arising out of riots on Vancouver Island, 1913-1916
- [GR-0996](#) Correspondence inward of the Attorney General, 1883-1888
- [GR-1695](#) Strikes and lock-out files, 1907–1945

### Trans-Pacific Aid

- [GR-2040](#) Legislative Assembly committee transcripts, 1977–1978 (includes records of a Special Committee on Medical Aid to Vietnam)

### Trans-Pacific Trade

- [GR-1028](#) Customs and Excise memoranda and circulars (Canada), 1911–1949
- [GR-2957](#) Custom House returns, 1859–1869

## **NON-GOVERNMENT TEXTUAL RECORDS**

Also referred to as “private” or “manuscript” records, these accessions were created by private individuals, organizations, or companies. The following is a selection of some of the non-government accessions which might be used as primary sources for trans-Pacific research topics:

- [MS-0003](#) [Thomas Dufferin] Pattullo papers, 1892-1956  
Includes private and official correspondence, speeches, accounts, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, reports, memoranda, correspondence regarding Chinese and Japanese enfranchisement, and Japanese immigration, civil rights, service during war, and involvement in the B.C. economy.
- [MS-0006](#) Francis Joseph Dickie papers, 1932-1952  
Includes correspondence, manuscripts, accounts, photographs, newspaper clippings, and documents pertaining to Japanese immigrants in B.C.
- [MS-0007](#) Price Ellison papers, 1884-1966  
Includes correspondence, accounts, agreements, and newspaper clippings with documents pertaining to trans-Pacific Canadians in B.C.
- [MS-0012](#) [Halford Wilson] correspondence and papers, 1938-1942  
Alderman Wilson's correspondence and papers pertaining to his anti-Asian stand in 1938–1942.
- [MS-0023](#) James William Jones, 1869–1954  
Includes documents pertaining to Japanese Canadians and immigrants in B.C, trade relations between Japan and B.C., and reports on trans-Pacific immigration and exclusion.
- [MS-0084](#) Speech by Mitsuo (Frank) Imai, 1974  
Includes text of a speech given by Mr. Imai, in Japanese, at the dedication of Imai Park, Scotch Creek and a typescript translation in English.
- [MS-0101](#) [Wing Chong Company] account books, 1882-1920  
Includes six business account books, in Chinese.
- [MS-0103](#) Ng family, n.d.  
Twenty volumes pertaining to the history of the Ng family, in Chinese.
- [MS-0256](#) Suter, James K., 1823-1899. New Westminster; Printer, 1869-1945  
Includes a journal of voyages on The Empress of Japan in 1922.
- [MS-0264](#) [Findlay, Durham and Brodie] commission agent records, 1864-1886  
Includes receipts and receipted bills, landing warrants, customs documents, correspondence, and a labour contract with Fong Oui, Hawaiian Islander.
- [MS-0415](#) Stephenson, Albert Thomas, 1883?-1968. New Westminster; Provincial Constable, 1915  
Contains tickets admitting Stephenson to the Provincial Gaol to witness the executions of Mawa Singh, Mario Montanari, and Ragmal.
- [MS-0446](#) Rockingham, John M., 1911-1988. Soldier, 1975  
Contains *Recollections of Korea* by Major General John M. Rockingham, First Commander, 25 Canadian Infantry Brigade Group.
- [MS-0448](#) Star Shipyard (Mercers) Ltd. records, 1910-1970  
Includes correspondence, files pertaining to fishing boats, and documents pertaining to Japanese Canadians and immigrants in B.C.
- [MS-0455](#) Cecil Henry Meares papers, 1910-1961  
Contains documents describing experiences in China, Siberia, Antarctica, and Japan.
- [MS-0537](#) [James Murray Yale] correspondence, 1851-1858  
Contains letters pertaining to the Hudson's Bay Company in Hawaii.
- [MS-0596](#) Correspondence and other material, 1845-1847  
Contains one Honolulu Hudson's Bay Company receipted invoice.

- [MS-0608](#) Roderick C. MacDonald personal and official papers, 1911-1973  
Includes speeches, clipping books, and other documents, some pertaining to Japanese Canadians and immigrants in B.C.
- [MS-0646](#) Lee Quong, Fl. 1870-1890. Centreville; Miner, 1879-1887  
Includes Free Miners Certificates, one of which is made out in the name of Dree Quong.
- [MS-0649](#) [Yep Sing and Company] receipts for water rights and mining licenses, 1891-1908
- [MS-0654](#) Letters to John Gowans, 1879-1881  
Contains letters from Alfred H. Cadoux and Catherine Lillico pertaining to Australians in B.C.
- [MS-0721](#) Macdonald, Alastair Douglas, 1874-1948. Victoria; Major, Royal Artillery, 1897-1913  
Includes a letter from the Maharajah of Cooch Behar.
- [MS-0807](#) Joseph Colebrook Harris personal papers, 1919-1951  
Includes personal correspondence, letters to editors, essays, articles, lectures, poems, songs, and documents pertaining to Japanese Canadians and immigrants in B.C.
- [MS-0828](#) Records of Ebenezer Dorr's shipping business, 1790–1819  
Contains documents regarding the maritime fur trade business between Boston, the west coast of North America, and China.
- [MS-1027](#) Lim, Li Bang, 1880-1974. Victoria; Businessman, 1911  
Letter from Dr. Sun Yat-sen regarding fund-raising for Nationalist China, in Chinese.
- [MS-1039](#) Mackenzie, John Peter. Military Engineer, 1946  
Letter from Sam L. Bedson about efforts by Vancouver Chinese merchants to export goods to China, offering comments about strikes and rumors of strikes in the Vancouver area.
- [MS-1053](#) Knowlton, Willson E. Kamloops; Collector, 1858-1887  
Contains business records of Kwong Lee and Co. and Hopkee and Co., including shares of B.C. companies and agreement to transport Chinese immigrants to Victoria.
- [MS-1075](#) William A. Scott personal papers, ca. 1924-1975  
Includes subject files reflecting Scott's interest in philosophy, civil liberties, and local politics; correspondence, reports, and diaries regarding his life and work in China; family papers; and correspondence.
- [MS-1079](#) Memoirs / Robert Frost, ca. 1979  
Includes reminiscences of life in China as a ship's officer and as cargo superintendent with Jardine Mathesons, *To Russia with love from the Persian Gulf*, and *My Affair with Kuan Yin: The memoirs of Robert Frost*.
- [MS-1201](#) Kwong Lee and Co., 1885  
Contains statement of accounts and receipts for Kwong Lee and Company.
- [MS-1249](#) Malcolm McLeod family papers, 1821-1899  
Includes documents pertaining to Ranald Macdonald, the first English teacher in Japan; correspondence with Macdonald; reminiscences and Japanese glossaries by Macdonald; and manuscripts by McLeod entitled *Japan, story of adventure of Ranald Macdonald*.
- [MS-1304](#) Harrison, Eli, 1852-1930. Victoria; Judge, 1886  
Letter from Caspar Phair, Sheriff of Lillooet, to Mr. Justice Harrison regarding the sitting of County Court and the gold discoveries made by Chinese miners at Cayoosh Creek.
- [MS-1641](#) Macmillan Bloedel Limited. Alberni Pacific Division, 1930-1979  
Includes a schedule showing wages paid to apprentices, equipment operators, laborers, tradesmen, etc. at the Alberni operations of Macmillan Bloedel and its predecessors, including wage scale surveys and nominal lists of Chinese, South-Asian, and Japanese employees at Great Central Sawmill.
- [MS-2056](#) [James Bissett] diaries, letters, and notes, 1854-1914  
Includes diaries for travels from Lachine to Honolulu, to Victoria, journeys to Europe, travel from Montreal, and a journey to Japan and China.



- [MS-2107](#) Lee, Jack H. Victoria, 1957  
Includes draft transfers, bank money orders, and receipts for money sent to family in China.
- [MS-2119](#) [Winifred Awmack] Papers relating to the Japanese relocation centre at Tashme, 1944-1983  
Contains papers relating to the Japanese relocation centre at Tashme during WWII, letters from students taught at Tashme camp, and government documents regarding Japanese-Canadian deportation.
- [MS-2429](#) Cornish, Clive Grierson, 1908-. "Condition Yellow", ca. 1946  
Typescript of *Condition Yellow*, an unpublished novel concerning the internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II.
- [MS-2439](#) Oriental Home and School (Victoria, B.C.) Advisory Committee, 1896-1915  
The minute book of the Advisory Committee of the Oriental Home and School, initially called the Chinese Girls' Rescue Home until Aug 24, 1909.
- [MS-2537](#) [Yee Lun Ark Kee Ltd.] correspondence and other material, 1924-1969  
Includes correspondence, notes, and letters in English and Chinese; a bank draft to Chiang Kai Shek; a Victoria road and poll tax receipt for inhabitants of 534 Fisgard as well as records pertaining to food and items imported by Yee Lun Ark Kee Ltd.
- [MS-2562](#) Tye Chung Lung and Company bankruptcy records, 1875  
In Chinese.
- [MS-2794](#) Marian Wesley Smith collection, ca. 1922-1958  
Copies from the Royal Anthropological Institute includes notes, papers, maps, charts, and photographs regarding Salish and Kwakiutl communities, Sikh Canadians, and fieldwork in the Punjab and Bengal regions.

### PHOTOGRAPHS, PAINTINGS, AND PRINTS

Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword for photographs, paintings, drawings, and prints. Try variant names and spellings, truncation, and wild cards (e.g., chin?). Filter results by clicking on Advanced Search and selecting "graphic material" within the General Material Designation drop-down menu. Filter further by selecting "Yes" from the Digital Object Available drop-down menu or by entering a date range.

The following are only a sample of images that may be of interest, all of which have been digitized:

- [A-01615](#) HMS Rainbow and SS Komagata Maru in Vancouver harbour; the Rainbow was called in to aid in deporting British Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims, 21 Jul. 1914
- [A-02916](#) and [A-02917](#) Hindu cremation [for Tar Gool Singh], Victoria, [12] Apr. 1907
- [A-03129](#) Luncheon Party Given by Mr. George Philips, for Officers of the Japanese Navy, At the Naval Store Officer's House, Esquimalt Naval Yard, 15 May 1909
- [A-05762](#) Chinese Women's Committee tag day for war victims in China; northeast corner of Douglas and View Streets, Victoria, 1938
- [B-01010](#) Group in front of Victoria Chinese United Church on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary (1885-1935), 6 Sep. 1935
- [B-01016](#) Japanese and Chinese [Mission United] Church, New Westminster, n.d.
- [B-01080](#) Kaslo United Church Japanese Sunday School Group, [ca. 1943]
- [B-01082](#) Japanese United Church Group, Lemon Creek, 1 Apr. 1945
- [B-07117](#) Miss Ruth Akagawa, Port Essington Nurse, [193-]
- [B-08405](#) Capt. John Newby, Captain of the barque "Tiger", and the crew of a Japanese fishing junk rescued in the China Sea and brought by the Tiger to Victoria, 20 Apr. 1883

- [C-05267](#) Seized fishboats of Japanese-Canadians near Robson Island, New Westminster, 1942
- [C-07907](#) Girls of the Chinese United Church Canadian Girls in Training (C.G.I.T), Victoria, [1946]
- [C-07934](#) First Chinese Auxiliary, Victoria, BC, [ca. 1900]
- [C-07944](#) Musical Group in Chinese Church, Victoria, [ca. 1892]
- [C-07985](#) The Reverend C.Y. Chow, Metropolitan Church, Victoria, n.d.  
Rev. Yee Jing Chow (b. 1899) was a Chinese Christian Missionary who immigrated to British Columbia in 1912. Also see oral history interviews with C.Y. Chow, [AAAB4128](#).
- [D-05577](#) Sikh delegation returning to the SS Komagata Maru, Jul. 1914
- [D-06736](#) Sightseers in Vancouver Harbour; the Komagata Maru is the point of interest, Jul. 1914
- [D-07570](#) HMCS Rainbow and SS Komagata Maru leaving Vancouver Harbour, 23 Jul. 1914
- [D-09117](#) Sikhs, Hindum and Muslims aboard the SS Komagata Maru, Vancouver Harbour, Jul. 1914
- [D-09120](#) Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims aboard the SS Komagata Maru, Vancouver Harbour, Jul. 1914
- [E-01420](#) Lim Bang as a young man, with his family, n.d.
- [E-05027](#) BC canneries, Hindu [man] unloading salmon, Richmond, 1913
- [E-05041](#) Richmond canneries, Japanese women with babies on their backs, filling cans, 1913
- [E-05065](#) Richmond, BC, cannery, just a whiff, 1913
- [E-05069](#) Richmond, BC canneries, Japanese quarters, 1913
- [E-05076](#) Richmond canneries, two little Japanese girls play on the wharf, 1913
- [E-09910](#) Japanese internment camp [possibly Agassiz or Princeton], 1942
- [E-09913](#) Japanese internment camp [Tashme], 1942
- [F-05161](#) Victoria, portrait of a Chinese woman, [187?]
- [F-06583](#) Sikhs photographed on steps of a Victoria temple before boarding The Empress of Australia to return to India to fight for independence, 20 Jul. 1924
- [F-07385](#) Chinese Methodist Mission Sunday school, Cranbrook, [ca. 1930]
- [H-03213](#) Lemon Creek, Slovan, [from the W.G. Funamoto album], 1942
- [I-68717](#) Sikh parachute jump, Lansdowne Road, Ishar Singh, Victoria, B.C., 14 Apr. 1930
- [I-68722](#) The Sikh Temple, Victoria, 17 Jul. 1924
- [PDP02161](#) "Cook Street, Chinese Farm"; farm between Cook and Moss Streets; in 1913 became the site of the Hampton Court Apartments, Jul. 1895

### SOUND RECORDINGS

Sound recordings include oral histories as well as radio broadcasts. The following are only a sample of recordings likely to have relevance for trans-Pacific research.

Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword. Try variant names and spellings, truncation, and wild cards (e.g., chin?). Filter results by clicking on Advanced Search and selecting "Sound Recording" within the General Material Designation drop-down menu. Filter further by entering a date range.

View the Notes area of a catalogue entry to determine available recording formats (e.g., reference cassette, digital copy, preservation compact disc). Digitized copies are not available online due to file-size limitations. Such recordings can be accessed within the BC Archives

Reference Room. Some recordings are held within cold storage for preservation purposes and are restricted.

## Oral Histories

Selected oral history collections:

- [GR-3376](#) Sound Heritage Series sound programs, 1976-1983  
Comprises 20 documentary sound programs produced to accompany publications in the Sound Heritage Series, a historical quarterly published by the BC Archives. Also see *Sound Heritage Series* ([NW 902 S725](#)) and *Sound Heritage: Voices from British Columbia* ([NW 902 S726](#)), available in the Archives Library.
- [GR-3377](#) Provincial Archives of British Columbia audio interviews, 1974-1992  
Interviews conducted by staff members and research associates of the BC Archives, including with several Chinese and Japanese Canadians.
- [PR-1789](#) [Coal Tye Society] history of coal mining collection, 1978-1984  
Some of the interviews deal with the Japanese and Chinese workers who participated in the Vancouver Island mining industry.
- [PR-1858](#) Downtown Eastside Women's Centre oral history collection, 1979  
Consists of oral history interviews with women who lived and worked in the downtown core of Vancouver, including a number of Chinese-Canadian women.
- [PR-1905](#) Strathcona Project collection, 1977-1978  
Interviews by Daphne Marlatt and Carole Itter with residents of Vancouver's Strathcona neighbourhood, recorded for the book *Opening Doors in Vancouver's East End: Strathcona*, available in the Archives Library ([NW 971.133 O64 2011](#)).
- [PR-1993](#) - Reynoldston Research and Studies oral history collection, 1972-1974  
Includes oral history interviews with Japanese-Canadian and Ugandan-Canadian immigrants. Also see *Reynoldston Research and Studies Publication*, available in the Archives Library ([NW 902 R466p](#)) and [online](#).

Selected oral history interviews:

- [AAAB0070](#) Kiyō Goto interview, 1972  
Kiyō Goto was a Japanese 'picture bride' who came to Canada in 1915. She talks about her experience working as a housekeeper, then running a restaurant and brothel in Vancouver, and opening a gambling house while interned at Greenwood camp during the Second World War. Interview is conducted in Japanese.
- [AAAB0108](#) and [AAAB4829](#) Tatsuro 'Buck' Suzuki interviews, ca. 1972–1977  
Tatsuro Suzuki (b. 1916) was a second generation Japanese-Canadian, who was prominent in the Japanese Fisherman's Union and the Japanese-Canadian Citizen's Association. He discusses the Japanese community in the twentieth century, including the fishing industry, Japanese rituals and festivals, race relations, the internment of Japanese Canadians, and the struggle for the enfranchisement of Japanese Canadians.
- [AAAB2606](#) Edward Banno interview, ca. 1976  
Edward Banno was a member of a delegation of Japanese Canadians who traveled to Ottawa in 1936 to plead for the right to vote.
- [AAAB2995](#) Yun Ho Chang interview, 1977  
Yun Ho Chang discusses the Chinese community within the Strathcona neighbourhood during the 1920s-1930s.
- [AAAB3439](#) Gordon (Won) Cumyow interview, 1977  
Gordon (Won) Cumyow's grandfather ran a supply store for gold rush miners in Fort Douglas and later moved to New Westminster. His father was possibly the first Chinese Canadian born in Canada and was the first Chinese court interpreter. He also spoke Chinook.

- [AAAB4107](#) Koo Shee Chan interview, 1980  
Koo Shee Chan immigrated to Canada in 1911 as a 'picture bride.' She talks about her experiences raising a family in Victoria, the Chinese Christian Church, indentured waitresses in restaurants in Chinatown, and the Oriental Girl's Mission. Interview was conducted in Chinese.
- [AAAB4128](#) Rev. Yee Jing Chow interviews, 1980  
Rev. Yee Jing Chow (b. 1899) was a Chinese Christian Missionary who immigrated to British Columbia in 1912. He discusses Chinese communities in Nelson, Vancouver, and Victoria, and the Oriental Girl's Mission in Victoria. Interview was conducted in Chinese.
- [AAAB5328](#) Dick Mah interview, 1979  
Dick Mah discusses Vancouver Island's coal mining industry and mining communities, Bing Kee coal rights, origins of the Mah family, racial discrimination, the head tax, origins of Chinatown, opium, early cars, and electricity.

### Radio Broadcasts

The BC Archives holds many sound recordings from private radio stations as well as the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC). A number of CBC radio producers have also donated material, which may contain material relevant to trans-Pacific research.

Selected radio broadcast collections:

- [AAAB2801](#) Jurgen Hesse immigrant interviews, 1974-1975  
Consists of short interviews with immigrants, who discuss their experiences and what Canada means to them.
- [PR-0374](#) Imbert Orchard Fonds, 1898-[1950s]; 1959-1985; predominant 1959-1979  
Consists of oral history interviews, radio programs, and other sound recordings, as well as scripts, notes, correspondence, photographs, two amateur films, and a drawing created or accumulated during the production of interviews and documentary radio programs for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Vancouver and as a university professor and freelance radio producer.
- [PR-2263](#) - Robert Chesterman fonds, 1959-1987; predominant 1963-1987  
Consists of 524 audio reels, the majority of which (484 reels) contain radio programs produced by Chesterman at CBC Vancouver.
- [PR-2257](#) Don Mowatt fonds, 1959 ; 1965-1987; predominantly 1965-1987  
Includes concerts, documentaries, radio plays, most of the programs from the series "The Hornby Collection", several programs from "Testament", and many examples of his work for other series, including "Heritage Theatre", "The Bush and the Salon", "Ideas", "CBC Stage", and others.

Selected radio broadcasts:

- [AAAC2198](#) Hon. Lee Chow, 1945  
Lee Chow was the Chinese Consul General in Vancouver. This a recording of his speech about the end of the Pacific War in 1945.
- [AAAC2084](#) Prime Minister Nehru in Vancouver, 1949  
News coverage of the visit of Indian Prime Minister Jawharlal Nehru to Vancouver in 1949. Includes Hindustani language material.
- [T0327:0001 – 0002](#) H.H. Stevens interview, 15 Jul. 1966  
H.H. Stevens (1878 – 1973) was a B.C. Member of Parliament and cabinet minister between 1911 and 1940. He discusses his political career as well as his opposition to trans-Pacific immigration in B.C.
- [AAAB1482](#) Roy Mah interview, [1970?]

Roy Mah was director of the Vancouver Chinese Publicity Bureau and editor of the "Chinaman News." He talks about Chinese-white relations, Chinese education in Vancouver, and the race riots of 1907.

- [T1959:0001](#) Venture 64: The Komagata Maru affair, 1964  
Radio documentary about the Komagata Maru incident in Vancouver Harbour in 1914.

### MOVING IMAGES

Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword. Try variant names and spellings, truncation, and wild cards (e.g., chin?). Filter results by clicking on Advanced Search and selecting "Moving Images" within the General Material Designation drop-down menu. Filter further by entering a date range.

View the Notes area of a catalogue entry to determine available recording formats (e.g., VHS reference copy, digital copy, preservation compact disc). Digitized copies are not available online due to file-size limitations. Such recordings can be viewed within the BC Archives Reference Room. Some recordings are held within cold storage for preservation purposes and cannot be accessed.

Two useful guides to films produced in British Columbia are *Motion Picture Production in British Columbia, 1898-1940: A brief historical background and catalogue* ([NW 069 H546 no. 6 1979](#)) and *Camera West: British Columbia on Film, 1941-1965* ([NW 791.43 D858](#)).

Selected moving image recordings:

- [AAAA2699](#) Secrets of Chinatown, 1933  
A murder mystery set in Victoria's Chinatown.
- [MS-3203](#) Clough family films, [1937-1944]  
Consists of amateur footage of Clough family activities in Slocan City and area, including a sports day at the Japanese internment camp at Bay Farm.
- [AAAA1119](#) Chinese theatre performance [Vancouver], 1944  
Contains scenes from a Cantonese opera performance in Vancouver's Chinatown, filmed from a seat in the theatre auditorium.
- [V1991:01/0001.01](#) Chinese funeral parade, Victoria, 1918
- [AAAA3672](#) Heritage Buildings, Lai at Immigration Building, ca. 1977  
Television stock footage, including tour of Immigration Building in Victoria by Dr. David Lai. He talks about Chinese immigration, the head tax, and transcribes Chinese writing on the walls of holding cells.
- [V2007:02/014](#) Where's Winston?, Mar. 1989  
Instructional video loosely based on the real-life story of a Chinese-Canadian youth who became involved in criminal gang activities.

### MAPS AND PLANS

Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword. Try variant names and spellings, truncation, and wild cards. Filter results by clicking on Advanced Search and selecting "Cartographic Material" within the General Material Designation drop-down menu. Filter further by selecting "Yes" from the Digital Object Available drop-down menu or by entering a date range.

Digitized copies are often not available online due to file-size limitations. They must be viewed on microfiche in the BC Archives Reference Room.

A large portion of the BC Archives' maps and plans have not be catalogued online. They must be searched using the cartographic materials card catalogue the BC Archives Reference Room and then viewed on microfiche.

Selected maps and plans:

- [CM/B44](#) Plan of Chinatown [Cumberland, B.C.], 1939
- [21735B](#) Walking tour: Chinatown: Victoria: illustrated guide & map of historic Chinatown, 1981
- [19416B sh. 378](#) Plan of subdivision of part Blk. IV: suburban lots: Lillooet, 1900  
Includes a Chinese cemetery.
- [PR-2268](#) BC Archives fire insurance plan collection, 1885-1970  
Some show the location of a Chinatown within a community. Victoria fire insurance plans have been digitized and are available [online](#).

### NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers can be a useful source of local information as well as a source for public response to events and issues. See the *BC Newspapers* inventory on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#) for a list of newspapers available on microfilm within the BC Archives Reference Room. Many of them are also available online:

- [BC Historical Newspapers](#) (1859-1995), for smaller, community-based publications
- [British Colonist](#) (1858-1980), which was published in Victoria but included stories from across the province
- [Victoria Daily Times](#) (1884-1944)

The Legislative Library of BC also has a unique collection of historical newspapers. See their [Guide to Historical Newspaper Holdings](#).

### VERTICAL CLIPPING FILES

The BC Archives' vertical files (ca. 1930-1981) contain newspaper articles and other records about noteworthy individuals or subjects, arranged alphabetically. Files are available on microfilm in the BC Archives Reference Room. Search the *Vertical File Index* on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#) for standard subject headings such as "Chinese", "Japanese", "Komagata Maru", "Vancouver Race Riots", or individual names.