

MS-0498

Guy Houghton Blanchet

Originals 1904-1970 1.73 m

Guy Blanchet was born in Ottawa on February 12, 1884, and was educated in Ottawa and at McGill University, from which he received in 1905 a B.Sc. degree in engineering and mining. In 1910 he received his commission as a Dominion Land Surveyor and joined the Topographical Survey Branch of the Department of the Interior. From 1910 until 1920 he was mainly engaged in surveying base lines and township outlines in the northern prairie provinces. During the 1920s he worked in the Northwest Territories, exploring, surveying and mapping in the vicinity of Great Slave Lake, along the Mackenzie River and in the Coppermine River area. From 1921 to 1923 he completed the federal survey of draining from Great Slave Lake to the Arctic Ocean and to Hudson Bay. He was the first person to establish the headwaters of the Coppermine River. Blanchet's position with the Department of the Interior was abolished in 1931, but he continued to work for the department on a contract basis.

In 1928 and 1929, Dominion Explorers Ltd., a group of mining promoters lead by Colonel C.D.H. MacAlpine, attempted the first mineral survey work in the north to make use of aeroplanes. Blanchet was the leader of the expedition organized to supply the MacAlpine party, and, when the party was thought to have been lost between Baker Lake and Bathurst Inlet, organized the search for it, which involved the first widespread use of aeroplanes in the north. He wrote a book describing his experiences with the MacAlpine party, *Search in the North*, which was published by Macmillan of Canada in 1960.

In 1942 and 1943, Blanchet located the route for the Canol oil pipeline from Norman Wells to Whitehorse. From 1951 to 1953, he was the chief surveyor for Trans Mountain Pipeline. Mr. Blanchet died in Victoria on August 17, 1966. He was survived by his wife Eileen, who died in 1971.

In addition to articles on his experiences in the north, Blanchet wrote both poetry and short stories. The collection consists of correspondence, journals describing his work in the Northwest Territories and with Canol, drafts of *Search in the North* and of an autobiography which was never published, and of manuscripts of articles, short stories and poetry. There are also clippings, mainly on the search for the MacAlpine party, various notebooks, and published articles written by, or owned by, Blanchet.

A large collection of photographs, negatives, postcards and thirteen photo albums have been transferred to Visual Records accession 97901-4. The albums are annotated and relate to the north and the Peace River District.

Biographical information from Corporation of Land Surveyors of British Columbia, Report of Proceedings of the sixty-second annual general meeting, 1967, pp. 51-52 and Don W. Thomson, Men and Meridians, volume 3, Ottawa, 1969.

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
		Correspondence [6 cm]	
1	1	General	1904-1966
1	2	Re Canol	1942-1945
1	3	Re Trans Mountain Pipeline	1951-1965
1	4	From friends in New Zealand	1941-1966
		Personal business papers [6 cm]	
2	1	Insurance policies, conveyances, recommendations, correspondence re pension, etc.	
2	2	Diplomas	
3	1-3	Taltson journals (entries take the form of letters to Mrs. Blanchet)	1925
3	4-6	Dubawnt journals (entries take the form of letters to Mrs. Blanchet)	1926
3	7-8	Letters to Mrs. Blanchet, re Dominion Explorers Ltd. (letters are written in diary form)	1928-1929
3	9	Letters to Mrs. Blanchet	1941-1943
		Canol diaries [8 cm]	
4	1-10	Ten diaries	1942-1943
5	1-11	Notebooks and diaries [6 cm], 1919, 1920, 1923, 1924, 1939, [1940?], 1947, 1949-1950, 1951-1952	1919-1952
		Papers re publication of <i>Search in the North</i>	
6	1	Correspondence with publishers	1932-1959
6	2	Correspondence with Macmillan of Canada	1958-1963
6	3	Notes re editing of <i>Search in the North</i>	
6	4	Reviews of <i>Search in the North</i>	
7-8		Drafts of <i>Search in the North</i> (the first title was <i>Aeroplanes and Igloos</i>)	
9-10		Drafts of <i>Beyond the Ranges</i> and <i>These Fifty Years</i> [17 cm] -unpublished autobiographies	

- 11 A series of numbered manuscripts [4 cm]
- 11 1 Great Slave Lake Crossing (3)
- 11 2 To the editor of *The Beaver* re Mackenzie's track across Great Slave Lake (4)
- 11 3 Ships and arctic (5)
- 11 4 Arctic landing (7)
- 11 5 The buffalo return home (8)
- 11 6 The Coppermine reaches the Ice Sea (9)
- 11 7 Letters from editor of *The Beaver*, enclosing manuscript of *The letter*, story re John Hornby (10)
- 11 8 Wm. Ogilvie Spring of 1887 To Chilkoot (11)
- 11 9 When Bytown became Ottawa (13)
- 11 10 Waterways (15)
- 11 11 Sousi and Black Basil (16)
- 11 12 Lake to the Whitestone (24)

Manuscripts and notes

- 12 1 Note on the Blanchet family
- 12 2 Review by G.H.B. of *The legend of John Hornby* by George Whalley
- 12 3 Typed notes on Hornby and obituary by Captain Critchell-Bullock in *The Explorers Journal* Jul - Sep 1928
- 12 4 Draft manuscript on exploration of Canadian North and Northwest
- 12 5 Impressions of an Arctic winter
- 12 6 Barren ground travel
- 12 7 Mackenzie River Basin
- 12 8 Hay River
- 12 9 The Eskimos
- 12 10 Kaliktee
- 12 11 Taltson
- 12 12 The stone age clothing to the Eskimo
- 12 13 Can you build an igloo
- 12 14 The land of the Caribou eaters
- 12 15 Man overboard - Slave Lake
- 12 16 Partial manuscript of feelings while waiting for a plane in the north during World War II
- 12 17 Wreck of the Morso
- 12 18 The ice sails to sea
- 12 19 Caribou
- 12 20 Samuel Hearne
- 12 21 Through Snowdrift Canyon
- 12 22 Last canoe exploration

12	23	Muskeg
12	24	Tuktoo the Caribou
12	25	The mission farm
12	26	Notes re winter conditions, Tavane. Months of the year (vocabulary)
12	27	The Beaulieu family
12	28	Sketches (ink) of Eskimos, igloos; muskets, muskox, Pikes Portage, the diary of James Mackinlay, the aeroplane goes north, Hearne's Thelewey Aza Yeth, caribou of the barren grounds, Tuktee and Nulie, re travel in the barren grounds
13	1	Notes re old forts, including Chippewyan, Cumberland, Isle a la Crosse, York Factory
13	2	Buffalo
13	3	Man packing
13	4	Hudson's Bay Company brigades; last of the voyageurs
13	5	River patterns of western Canada
13	6	Eastern water crisis and western solution manuscript of article submitted to Victoria <i>Colonist</i>
13	7	The Northwest Territories
13	8	Canada North and West - manuscript of article submitted to the <i>Beaver</i>
13	9	Canol
13	10	Re Canol
13	11	Oil across the mountains
13	12	The Frank Slide
13	13	The volcano Asama
13	14	A Japanese inn
13	15	The Bula Bula boom
13	16	The South Seas
13	17	Discovering Fiji
13	18	Hockey
13	19	When is one lost?
13	20	Clothes and the man
13	21	Manuscripts of poems
13	22	Manuscripts of short stories, essays
13	23	Notes; indexes to collection drawn up by Blanchet
13	24	Sketch map of Great Slave Lake
13	25	Fragments of manuscript
Scrapbook and notebooks [11 cm]		
14	1	Scrapbook of clippings re McAlpine search
14	2	Notebooks containing drafts of manuscripts (7)

14	3	Research notebooks (4)	
14	4	Rough notebooks (4)	
14	5	Indexes to collection by Blanchet	
15		Manuscripts, notebooks, and pamphlet re trip to Fiji [6 cm]	1939
		Published material by G.B.H.	
16	1	G.H.B., "Northern Canada - a heritage," <i>The Canadian Surveyor</i> , Vol. III, no. 11, pp. 6-8	Jan 1931
16	2	G.H.B., "In the land of the 'Caribou eaters' : an exploration into the country southeast of Great Slave Lake," <i>Saturday Night</i>	
16	3	G.H.B., "Barren Lands' geography," <i>Journal of the Dominion Land Surveyors Association</i> , Vol. 1, pp 4-7	Jan 1925
16	4	G.B.H., "The Canol project," <i>The Canadian Surveyor</i> , Volume VIII, pp 2-7	Jul 1944
16	5	G.H.B., "Transcontinental transportation," Paper no. 216, Canadian Society Civil Engineers [?]	[1904]
16	6	G.H.B., "Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay navigation," Paper no. 182, Canadian Society Civil Engineers [?]	
16	7	G.H.B., "An exploration into the Northern plains north and east of Great Slave Lake, including the sources of the Coppermine River," <i>The Canadian Field-Naturalist</i> , Vol. 38, pp 183-187	Dec 1924
16	8	G.H.B., "New light on forgotten trails in the far Northwest," <i>The Canadian Field-Naturalist</i> , Vol. 40, pp 96-99 (concluded from April issue)	May 1926
16	9	S.E. Read, "Living on the edge," <i>Canadian Literature</i> number 6, Autumn , pp. 84-86 (Review of <i>Search in the North</i>)	1960
16	10	"Narrative of a journey to the source of the Coppermine River," <i>The Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia</i> , XXIV, pp 3-7	Oct 1926
16	11	<i>Great Slave Lake area Northwest Territories</i> , Ottawa, 58 p (Department of the Interior, Northwest Territories and Yukon branch)	1926
16	12	"Search the Arctic by aeroplane," <i>Canadian Geographical Journal</i> , I, pp 641-662	Dec 1920
16	13	"In the land of the Muskox, " <i>Canadian Geographical Journal</i> , I, pp 249-258	Jun 1934
16	14	"The Caribou of the Barren Grounds," <i>The Beaver</i> , pp 21-25	Sep 1936

16	15	"The letter," <i>The Beaver</i> , Spring, pp 41-44.	1963
16	16	"Oil over the mountains," ed. Don W. Thomson, <i>North</i> , XVII, March-April, pp 14-23; May-June, pp 38-44	1970
Published material belonging to G.H.B.			
17	1	"An expedition to Sub-Arctic Canada, 1924-1925," by Captain J.C. Critchell-Bullock, <i>The Canadian Field-Naturalist</i> , Vol. 44, pp 81-87	Apr 1930
17	2	S.C. Ells, <i>Recollections of the development of the Athabasca oil sands</i> , Canada, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys	Jul 1962
17	3	"Canol" a saga by C.C. Wilcox [mimeographed]	
17	4	C.V. Myers, <i>Oil to Alasca</i> , Edmonton, Douglas Printing Co.	
17	5	J. MacKintosh Bell, <i>Great Slave Lake</i> , Ottawa, for the Royal Society of Canada	1929
17	6	Carl Lausen, "A geological reconnaissance of the east end of Great Slave Lake," reprinted from the <i>Canadian Mining and Metallurgical Bulletin</i>	Feb 1929
17	7	Criddle, Norman, <i>The habit and economic importance of wolves in Canada</i> , Canada. Department of Agriculture, Bulletin no 13	1925
17	8	Canada. Department of Mines, <i>Summary report</i> , part B	1921
17	9	Canada. Department of Mines, <i>Summary report</i> , part B	1922
17	10	Douglas, George M. "A summer journey along the Southeast Shore of Great Slave Lake," reprint from the <i>Canadian Mining and Metallurgical Bulletin</i>	Feb 1929
17	11	G.S. Andrews, <i>The land surveying profession in British Columbia</i> , reprinted from fiftieth annual general meeting to the corporation of land surveyors of the province of British Columbia	1955
17	12	<i>The unexploited west</i> .by Ernest J. Chambers, Canada. Department of the Interior.	1914
17	13	Canada. Department of Mines, <i>Geological Survey Summary Report</i> , part B	1923
17	14	Camsell, Charles, <i>An exploration of the Tazin Taltson Rivers North West Territories</i> , Canada Geological Survey, Memoir 84, Ottawa	1916
17	15	Alex M'Aulay, <i>Five figure logarithmic and other tables</i> , London	1918

Manuscripts collected by G.H.B.

18	1	C. Critchell-Bullock diary - transcript	1924
18	2	James McKinley diary 1890 - transcript	
18	3	Memo re fur trade transcript endorsed "Sgd. J.K. Cornwall. The original is in the Archives at Ottawa. E.B.C."	
18	4	A.G. Huntsman Fishery prospects for Hudson and James Bay typescript	
19		Clippings relating to Dominion Explorers Ltd. expedition	