



W. L. Holland Papers

1907-2008 (*Bulk:* 1930-1990)

6 boxes (9 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 782

Collection overview

Born in New Zealand in 1907, Bill Holland first traveled to Japan at the age of 21 to take part in the conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations, beginning over thirty years of association with the organization. During his time at IPR, Holland held a number of leadership positions, including Research Secretary (1933-1944), Secretary-General (1946-1960), and editor of its periodicals *Far Eastern Survey* and *Pacific Affairs*. He took leave from the IPR twice: to study for a MA in economics under John Maynard Keynes at Cambridge (1934) and, during the Second World War, to become acting director of the Office of War Information in Chungking, China. Founded on an internationalist philosophy as a forum to discuss relations between Pacific nations, the IPR was targeted under the McCarthy-era McCarran act during the 1950s, accused of Communist sympathies. After political pressure led the IPR to disband in 1960, Holland accepted a position on faculty with the newly created Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia (1961-1972), helping to lead that department to international prominence. He remained in BC until the death of his wife Doreen in 1990, after which he settled in Amherst to live with his only child, Patricia G. Holland. Holland died in Amherst in May 2008.

The Holland Papers are a dense assemblage of correspondence of Bill Holland, his wife Doreen, and their family, from his first trip abroad in the 1920s through the time of his death. Although largely personal in nature, the letters offer important insight into Holland's travel in pre-war Asia, his work with the IPR, the war, and the of the 1950s. The collection also includes a wealth of photographs, including two albums documenting trips to Japan, China, and elsewhere 1929-1933.

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Background on William L. Holland

William Lancelot Holland was born in South Malvern, New Zealand in 1907, the oldest of four sons. He came from humble beginnings: his father was a railroad worker and he worked on sheep stations to support himself. While at Canterbury College, a professor recommended that he work at a conference put on by the Institute of

Pacific Relations (IPR) in Japan. So began a more than thirty year association with the organization, serving in various roles: as Research Secretary (1933-1934), Secretary-General (1946-1960), and editor of its periodicals *Far Eastern Survey* and *Pacific Affairs*. Holland twice took leave from the organization: in 1934 to pursue a degree in economics at King's College, Cambridge University under the tutelage of John Maynard Keynes, and from 1944-1945 to serve as acting director of the Office of War Information in Chungking, China.



W.L. Holland, 1938

The IPR was immensely important as a forum to discuss the internationalist approach to understanding political relations of the countries around the Pacific Rim. Long before the Far East became a part of the common consciousness as a result of the Pacific Theater in World War II, the IPR advocated increased understanding of Asian-North American relations through rigorous scholarly pursuit. Because of its internationalist philosophy and supposed pro-Communist leanings, the IPR came under attack by Alfred Kohlberg and Joseph McCarthy and was formally investigated under the McCarran act in the 1950s. In 1955, the institute lost its tax exempt status, and it subsequently engaged in a five-year political battle to regain its status. Though the IRS eventually ruled that the IPR was not guilty of spreading any partisan-propaganda, the drain on funds due to taxes and legal fees caused the IPR to disband in 1960. However, they continued to separately publish *Pacific Affairs*, the institute's journal, with Holland serving as editor until 1978. *Pacific Affairs* is published to this day.

Upon leaving the Institute in 1960, Holland became head of the newly-created Asian Studies department at the University of British Columbia. Holland led the growth of the department into one of the pre-eminent Asian Studies departments in America. In 1972 he achieved the title of Professor Emeritus, while in 1989 the University Awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Laws due to his contributions to the field of International Law. Holland lived in British Colombia until 1990, when he left after the death of his wife, Doreen. He relocated to Amherst, Massachusetts to live with his only child, Patricia G. Holland. William L. Holland died at the age of 100 in 2008.

Scope of collection

The Holland papers are a rich assemblage of materials from the life of William Holland, largely correspondence between William and his wife Doreen, as well as the rest of their family. The collection spans from his first trip abroad in the late 1920s until the time of his death. Largely personal in nature, this collection offers insight into the personal aspirations and motivations of William Holland, as well as frank recollections and descriptions of his experiences as leader of the Institute of Pacific Relations. Topics that receive particular attention are Holland's travel in pre-war Asia, day-to-day work at the IPR, the Second World War and the war in Korea in the 1950s.

The collection also includes a wealth of photographs, including two albums documenting trips to Japan, China, and other countries later in Holland's life, as well as some photos from his first trip to Asia between 1929-1933. Of particular note are two photograph albums of tours of Japan and China in the early 1930s, and a packet of personal images taken at the Japanese surrender of Nanjing, 1945. The collection also includes an album composed of farewell notes given to Holland on occasion of his departure from the IPR in 1960; contributors to this album include Abe Fortas (Supreme Court Justice), Ralph Bunche (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate) and Phillips Talbot (U.S Ambassador to Greece), among others.

Valuable audio recordings focused on Holland's career and his experience with the Institute of Pacific Relations include personal reminiscences, extensive interviews with historians Paul F. Hooper and John F. Howes in the late 1980s, and an oral history of Holland and his wife Doreen conducted by their daughter Patricia G. Holland. Also recorded are lectures delivered by Holland at the University of British Columbia in 1973.

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Photograph album: China and Japan	1931-1933		Box 5
Photograph album: Holland family	1940-1960		Box 4
Pollard, Myra	ca.1928		Box 3: 89
Round the world trip (Japan, Rome, Vienna)	1969		Box 3: 90
Unidentified and miscellaneous	ca.1935-1990		Box 3: 91
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Unidentified man (studio portrait by Carlyle, N.Y.)	ca.1940	Silver gelatin print	Box 5
University of British Columbia, honorary degree	1989		Box 5
Upton, Tamar	1988		Box 3: 93
Vancouver, B.C.	1989-1990		Box 3: 94
Will Jewell and horse, New Zealand	ca.1914	Silver gelatin print	Box 5
William L. Holland Scholarship in Asian Studies: certificate of award	1973		Box 5
Young, Ruth and Hobart	1949		Box 3: 95
Sound recordings	1973-1988		

Holland, W. L., Institute of Pacific Relations activities (reminiscences)	1973-1988	10 audio cassettes	Box 6
Holland, W. L., Institute of Pacific Relations reunion	1984	2 audio cassettes	Box 6
Holland, W. L., American Institute of Pacific Relations and the Institute of Pacific Relations International Research Program, 1936-1949	undated	3 audio cassettes	Box 6
Holland, W. L.: China, 1945	undated	Audio cassette	Box 6
Holland, W. L., interview	undated	4 audio cassettes	Box 6
Holland, W. L.: lecture on Japan and World War II	1973	Audio cassette	Box 6
Holland, W. L.: lecture on Japan and China in World War II	1973	Audio cassette	Box 6
Holland, W. L.: lecture on the Institute of Pacific Relations and I	1988	Audio cassette	Box 6
Holland, W. L., oral history with Paul F. Hooper	undated	Audio cassette	Box 6
Holland, W. L., oral history with John F. Howes	1980	Audio cassette	Box 6
Holland, W. L. and Doreen P. Holland, oral history with Patricia Holland	1982	5 audio cassettes	Box 6
Holland, W. L., recollections of Edward C. Carter	1984	Audio cassette	Box 6
Holland, W.L., remarks on Institute of Pacific Relations National Councils	1984	Audio cassette	Box 6
Moseley, Eva S.	undated	Audio cassette	Box 6
Short history of the Institute of Pacific Relations (interview with John F. Howes)	1986	2 audio cassettes	Box 6

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Access

The collection is open for research.

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Gift of Patricia Holland, May 2013.

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Additional materials on William L. Holland and his career can be found in several archives, including:

- Institute of Pacific Relations Archives, **Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University** (MS 0645)

- Institute of Pacific Relations, San Francisco Bay Region Division Records, **Hoover Institution** (55003)
- Institute of Pacific Relations Records, **Archives and Manuscripts, University of Hawaii Manoa** (M004 and M021)
- Institute of Pacific Relations Records, **University Archives, University of British Columbia**

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- Japan--Description and travel
- Japan--Photographs
- World War, 1939-1945

Contributors

- Holland, W. L. (William Lancelot), 1907- **[main entry]**
- Belshaw, Cyril S.
- Hooper, Paul F., 1938-
- Institute of Pacific Relations

Genres and formats

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