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# **Arne Rudolph Michael Ritari**

## **MG 31, H 36**

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Prepared by Arthur Grenke for the Social and Cultural Archives Section

Préparé par Arthur Grenke pour les Archives sociales et culturelles.

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## INTRODUCTION

A.R. M. Ritari, a third generation Finnish Canadian, was born in 1906 to a family that had emigrated in the mid-1890's to settle in Copper Cliff, Ontario. Because he originally intended to follow in the footsteps of his father, who had risen to the rank of shift boss in the nickel mines there, Ritari the younger attended the Sudbury Mining School. After his graduation in 1926 he became a draughtsman for the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. From 1929 to 1934, he worked as an insurance agent for the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada. In 1934, Ritari established his own independent insurance agency, which he sold in 1969. At the behest of the Swedish - American Lines, Ritari founded the Ritari Travel Service in 1936, which he sold in the mid-1970's.

Throughout his life, Ritari has been active in local business associations and service clubs. For example, he founded the Sudbury Insurance Agents' Association in 1939 and served as its first president. He was twice elected director of the Ontario Insurance Agents' Association, and in 1950 served as president of the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce. He is a long-standing member of the Elbetian Legion. Since joining the Lions Club of Sudbury in 1933, Ritari has worked to forward the ideals of Lionism both in Canada and Europe. In 1950, he founded the first Lions Club in Finland. Largely as the result of his efforts, Finland now has more than 500 Lion Clubs, with some 15,000 members.

The papers, donated in 1977, relate to A.R.M. Ritari's business career and his involvement in community life, in particular to his involvement in Lions International and the Elbeetian Legion. Publications of these organizations were transferred to the National Library.

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11	3	Elbeetian Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana, Sept 9-12, 1974 - Correspondence, program and other related material	n.d., 1974
11	4	Elbeetian Legion - Ontario Rally, Rush View, Ontario, Sept. 1-3, 1972 - Correspondence and other related material	n.d., 1972
11	5	Elbeetian Legion - Ontario Rally, Niagara Falls, Sept. 7-9, 1973 - Correspondence and other related material	n.d., 1973
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11	7	Elbeetian Legion - Memory Lodge - Tree planting - Correspondence and other related material	n.d., 1971-1972
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