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MANSON, Donald

MG 30, E 344

Finding Aid No. **1148** / Instrument de recherche no **1148**

Prepared by Margaret Mattson,
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Canada

MG 30
E 344

MANSON, Donald (1887-1962). Public Servant.

Originals, 1906-1962. 20 cm. Finding Aid No. 1148.

Born in Wick, Scotland, Donald Manson emigrated to Canada in 1907 where he joined the Marconi Company of Canada. For three years he worked with Guglielmo Marconi on transatlantic communications between Glace Bay, Nova Scotia and Clifden, Ireland. From 1915 to 1916 he was Inspector of Radio for the government; from 1916 to 1918 he was a commissioned radio officer with the Royal Canadian Navy. After the war he resumed his work of inspecting, controlling, and initiating radio services for the Government. He served on the Royal Commission on Radio Broadcasting (Air Commission) in 1929 and was a counsellor to the Department of Justice in the Supreme Court case regarding federal jurisdiction of radio in 1931.

Manson was instrumental in the drafting of practically all radio legislation in Canada during the pioneering years. From 1936 to 1944 he was the Chief Executive Assistant of the CBC. In 1944 he became assistant general manager and in 1951 general manager of the Corporation. Manson was a frequent Canadian delegate to international conferences on broadcasting, especially those on technical issues. After retiring from CBC in 1952 he continued to carry out special consultative work for the Corporation.

Presented in 1979 by Mrs. L.G. St. Laurent of Sidney, B.C. and in 1984 by Marjorie Pigeaud.

Photographs were transferred to the National Photography Collection and medals to the National Medal Collection.

Finding Aid No. 1148 is a descriptive file list.

Several letters regarding Manson's employment with Marconi International Marine and Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, 1906-1914; correspondence and a few memoranda, largely congratulatory, relating to Manson's career with the C.B.C.; assorted pamphlets and directories regarding radio legislation and international radiotelegraphy conferences; personal certificates of wireless proficiency, military service, letters of credence and honours obtained for achievements in the field of radiotelegraphy and broadcasting development.

Donald Manson

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<u>Vol.</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	Certificate appointing Manson to Chief Wireless Operator in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve	1919
	Certificate of membership in CBC Pioneers Club, Ottawa Chapter	1958
	Certificates of Discharge from position of telegraphist on ship "Dominion", Mercantile Marine	1910-1911
	Certificate of Proficiency in Radiotelegraphy, First Class, issued by Department of the Naval Service. Certificate No. 17	1913
	Conference Radiotélégraphique Internationale de Washington - pamphlet, limited edition no. 327, and showing photographs of delegates and outlining the program	1927
	Congratulatory letters (typed copies) received by Donald Manson while with CBC (208 items) - document his promotions, particularly to General Manager of CBC, and his retirement	1937-1956
	Correspondence and memos relating to issues while at CBC - 3 items 1937-1939, 2 regarding telegraphic conference in Habana; 8 items, 1952-1962	1937-1939, 1952-1962
	Correspondence while with Marconi International Marine and Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of Canada (8 items)	1906-1914
	Manson, Donald - biographical articles (English and Spanish)	1943-1946, 1961
	Manson, Donald - biographical clippings	c.1922-1962
	Manson, Donald - letter confirming Manson as delegate to Telegraph and Radio - Telegraph Conference, Madrid (2 items, Spanish and English)	1932

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1 (cont'd)	Manson, Donald, "Prelude to National Broadcasting in Canada" (draft article)	1961
	<u>Marconi Telegraphy: A Short History of its Invention, Evolution, and Commercial Development</u>	n.d.
	Radio Stations of Canada (supplement to official list)	1922
	Radiotelegraph Act and Regulations issued thereafter (annotated by Manson)	1923
	Report of the Royal Commission on Radio Broadcasting - secretary, Donald Manson	1929
	Script for Donald Manson's memorial broadcast by Peter Stursberg	1962
	Third North American Regional Broadcasting Conference, Washington - Directory	1950
	Wireless Service, Department of Naval Service - Manson's appointment as Chief Wireless Operator of the Canadian ship "Niobe", 1917, and memorandum of appreciation 1919	1917, 1919
	Deuxième conférence internationale de radiodiffusion à hautes fréquences - liste des participants, Firenze	1950
	Honourary Degree of Doctor of Science from Laval University - acceptance speech. For degree see horizontal file in Manuscript division	1952
2	International High Frequency Broadcasting Conference (International Telecommunication Union), Mexico - pamphlet	1948
	International Telecommunication Conferences - Directory, Atlantic City pamphlet	1947
	<u>International Telecommunication Convention together with Radiocommunication regulations, Madrid - publication</u>	1932

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2 (cont'd)	International Telecommunication Union, Region 2, Fiar Conference, Washington - list of participants	1949
	Letters of credence issued to Donald Manson first in 1927 to travel abroad to study broadcasting methods and secondly in 1928 to act as technical advisor to the Canadian Delegation to the International Radiotelegraph Conference in Washington	1927-1928
	Manson, Donald - commission as an Admiral of the Flagship Fleet, American Airlines, Inc.	1941
	Operating Instructions for Marconi A.C. Receiver Model 252 FM and Marconi A.C. Combination Radio-Phonograph Model 253 FM	n.d.
	<u>Radio-Staff Magazine</u>	1951

Items in the horizontal file in Manuscript Division

Radio Pioneers Award 1953

Illuminated personal tribute on retirement from
CBC in 1953

Honorary Doctorate of Science from Laval University
in 1952

Honorary membership with a Mexican Broadcasting
Association

Illuminated manuscript commemorating audience with
Pope Pius XII

Honorary certificate from Mexico City