

James M. Houston fonds
Allison Library Archive
JRA-2015-1



Finding Aid
Prepared by Cindy Aalders
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Fonds Description

Title

James M. Houston fonds

Span Dates

1936–2015

Creator

Houston, James Macintosh (*b.* 1922)

Extent

3,860 items; 11 containers; 11 linear feet

Language

Collection material in English

Location

Allison Library Archives at Regent College, Vancouver, BC

Summary

Correspondence, published and unpublished writings, lectures, and photographs relating to James M. Houston's life and career at Oxford, his work as founding principal of Regent College, his involvement with other evangelical institutions, his teaching and writing careers, and his speaking engagements.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of James M. Houston are owned by the Houston family and were deposited in the John Richard Allison Library at Regent College in 2015. A few items, marked Cameron papers in the catalogue, were donated by Bert Cameron in 2015.

Processing History

The papers of James M. Houston were arranged and described in 2015.

Access and Restrictions

Permission to access the papers of James M. Houston is granted by the Houston family. Please contact Cindy Aalders, Library Director of the John Richard Allison Library, if interested in accessing these papers. Her email is caalders@regent-college.edu.

Scope and Content

The papers of James M. Houston (*b.* 1922) span the years 1936–2015 and contain correspondence, published and unpublished writings, lectures, and photographs relating to his life and work in Oxford and Vancouver, and his engagement with evangelical institutions around the world. Houston worked at the University of Oxford from 1947 to 1970, during which period he was

bursar at Hertford College and had a teaching and writing career as a cultural geographer. He was also connected with the Inklings, including C. S. Lewis. In 1970 he became founding principal of Regent College in Vancouver, BC. The papers include considerable correspondence and other material written at the time of Regent's founding, as well as later accounts of its founding and documents relating to the establishment and ongoing life of the College. Houston has been involved with a range of evangelical institutions around the world, including the C. S. Lewis Institute in Washington, DC (which he co-founded in 1976), the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, and Fuller Theological Seminary. The collection contains correspondence and other material relating to his engagement with these institutions and is particularly rich in documents written during the 1970s. Many of these documents reveal his close connections to leading Christian intellectuals around the world. Houston's teaching and writing career has ranged across topics relating to environmental ethics, classic works of Christian spirituality, friendship and mentoring, and the Psalms. The papers include both published and unpublished writings, as well as lecture material and public addresses given during his itinerant speaking career. A mentor to many across continents and over a period of decades, the collection also contains many letters of personal and spiritual counsel.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged according to subject and chronology. The papers are grouped in subjects relating to James Houston's engagement with various institutions (including Oxford, Regent College, and the C. S. Lewis Institute), and to his careers as a teacher, writer, and speaker. Within these subject groups, the papers are further organized according to chronology, document type, and person.

Series / Subseries descriptions

Container and Contents

BOX 1: Young Men's Bible Study; Oxford; Founding of Regent College

Correspondence, minutes, reports, brochures, press clippings, narrative accounts, 1959–90.

BOX 2: Regent College (post-September 1970); Crux

Correspondence, minutes, reports, brochures, photographs, 1963–2011.

BOX 3: C. S. Lewis Institute / Washington; London Institute / Ernst van Eeghen; Other Institutional Involvement

Correspondence, minutes, reports, 1973–2002.

BOX 4: Teaching

Correspondence, lectures, syllabi, student papers, 1967–2015.

BOXES 5–7: Writing / Editing; Speaking

Correspondence, published and unpublished writings, contracts, lectures / addresses, 1940s–2014.

BOXES 8–9: Personal; Interviews; Other

Correspondence, diaries, photographs, published and unpublished interviews, ephemera, 1930s–2011.

BOXES 10–11: Copied articles / Writings by others