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Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

Finding Aid - Richard (Dick) Chambers alpine photograph collection (MsC-134)

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Richard (Dick) Chambers alpine photograph collection

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Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	Richard (Dick) Chambers alpine photograph collection
Reference code:	MsC-134
Date:	1947-1968 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.5 m of photographic material and 1 notebook
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created January 13, 2016. SS

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Richard (Dick) Chambers was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, but raised in Vancouver. An active and respected member of the B.C. Mountaineering Club (BCMC) from 1946 until his death in 1999, Chambers made approximately twenty first ascents of mountains and new routes in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia between 1951 and 1967. He is most renowned for first ascents of: Mt. Matier and Joffre Peak (1957), the north summit of Mt. Fee (1958), and Ossa Mountain (1960). Other significant accomplishments include: first ascents of Siva Mountain and other summits in the Pantheon Range (1966), Camel, Rusty, and other peaks in the Niut Range (1967), and explorations in the Nahatlatch area. Chambers was an avid photographer who documented his excursions on film.

Custodial history

Records were in the custody of Richard (Dick) Chambers' niece and nephew, Barbara and Jim Diggins, prior to their acquisition by Simon Fraser University Library Special Collections and Rare Books in 2010.

Scope and content

Collection consists of photographs and an accompanying notebook documenting Chambers' and the BCMC's pioneering mountaineering activities and exploration during the period 1947 to 1968. Unlike the Rocky Mountains of Canada, the Coast Mountains were late in being explored by mountaineers. During the period recorded in these photographs, much of the region remained little visited, and the exploration lasted into the 1980s. As a result, the photographic record of mountain exploration in the Coast Mountain region is relatively poor and fragmentary, especially for the period from the late 1930s through the 1950s. The Chambers collection fills several gaps in this record.

Chambers was meticulous in recording the details of each image he captured with his Zeiss Ikon camera – every slide is identified with the location, names of individuals, and the date. An accompanying notebook lists the photographs taken on each roll of film and includes additional technical information. Further documentation of many of these trips is available in BCMC newsletters and issues of the Canadian Alpine Journal.

Notes

Title notes

Alternative form available

Digitized materials are available for research in SFU Digitized Collections: <https://digital.lib.sfu.ca/richard-harwood-dick-chambers-alpine-photograph-collection>

Conditions governing use

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Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
 - **Status description:** Published
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Access points

- Chambers, Richard Harwood (Dick) (subject)
- BC Mountaineering Club
- Photographic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Exploration, discovery and travel (subject)