

Ms.
Coll.
00626

Charles Stewart Almon Ritchie, 1906-1995

Charles Ritchie diaries, 1940-1994, 82 holograph notebooks

Gift of Judith Robertson, January 2011

Extent: 9 boxes (1.5 metres)

Biographical information:

Charles Stewart Almon Ritchie, CC (September 23, 1906 – June 7, 1995) was a Canadian diplomat and diarist.

Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Ritchie was educated at University of King's College, Pembroke College, Oxford, Harvard University, and Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1934 eventually becoming Canada's ambassador to West Germany (1954-1958), Permanent Representative to the United Nations (1958-1962), ambassador to the United States during the presidencies of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson (1962-1966), ambassador to the North Atlantic Council (1966-1967) and from 1967 to 1971 was Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom in London.

While Ritchie's career as a diplomat marked him as an important person in the history of Canadian foreign relations, he became famous through the publication of his diaries, first *The Siren Years*, and then three follow-ups. The diaries document both his diplomatic career and his private life, including the beginning of his long love affair with the Anglo-Irish writer Elizabeth Bowen, which began in 1941 when he was still single and she married, survived through his marriage in 1948 and long periods of separation, lasting until Bowen's death in 1973.

In 1969 he was made a Companion of the Order of Canada "for services in the field of diplomacy". He received honorary doctorates from Trent University (1976), York University (1992) and Carleton University (1992).

Ritchie came from a long-prominent family in Nova Scotia. His brother, Roland Ritchie, continuing a family tradition in the law, was a justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

--from Wikipedia entry

Charles Stewart Almon Ritchie

Charles Stewart Almon Ritchie, diplomat, author (b at Halifax 23 Sept 1906; d at Ottawa 8 June 1995). Ritchie joined the Dept of External Affairs in 1934, rising to assistant (later deputy) undersecretary 1950-54.

Ritchie, Charles Stewart Almon

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Charles Stewart Almon Ritchie, diplomat, author (b at Halifax 23 Sept 1906; d at Ottawa 8 June 1995). Ritchie joined the Dept of External Affairs in 1934, rising to assistant (later deputy) undersecretary 1950-54. Restless in Ottawa, he escaped to Germany as ambassador 1954-58, and subsequently held the top posts in Canada's diplomatic service - ambassador to the United Nations 1958-62, to the United States 1962-66, to NATO and the EEC 1966-67, and high commissioner to the UK 1967-71.

Ritchie had grown up wanting to be an author, and he kept diaries from an early age. Four volumes have been published since his retirement: *The Siren Years* (1974; Gov Gen's Award), *An Appetite for Life* (1977), *Diplomatic Passport* (1981) and *Storm Signals* (1983). The diaries, like the man, are cool, elegant and cynical about human nature but generous to individuals. *My Grandfather's House* (1987) is a memoir of his youth.

■ From The Canadian Encyclopedia

Box 1 5 items	Holograph diaries Volumes 1-5 1940-1946
Box 2 10 items	Holograph diaries Volumes 5B-14 1946-1961
Box 3 9 items	Holograph diaries Volumes 15-23 1960-1975
Box 4 14 items	Holograph diaries Volumes 24-37 1976-1980
Box 5 8 items	Holograph diaries Volumes 38-45 1981-1982
Box 6 8 items	Holograph diaries Volumes 46-53 1982-1983
Box 7 15 items	Holograph diaries Volumes 54-68 1983-1986

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Box 8 13 items	Holograph diaries Volumes 69-81 1986-1991
Box 9 4 items	Holograph diaries Volumes 82-85 1991-1994