

1. Fonds-level description

Title

AR044 – Alan Drengson fonds

Dates

1945; 1968-2016

Extent

1.2 m of textual records. 2 cm of graphic material.

Biographical sketch

Alan Rodney Drengson was born in Wahpeton, North Dakota on November 9, 1934. As a descendent of farmers, and having grown up during the dust bowl years in the prairies, he became aware of environmental issues early on in his life. After moving to the West Coast in the 1940s and living among the mountains and forests, his appreciation for the natural world grew into a passion for environmental advocacy. In college, he became involved with various groups such as the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and Friends of the Earth.

Drengson received a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Washington in 1958, and returned there to complete his M.A. in 1960. He received his doctorate from the University of Oregon in 1971. He joined the Philosophy Department at the University of Victoria in 1968. While at UVic, he championed environmentalism, and became one of the founders of the Environmental Studies program. Drengson was also the founder of the Ecoforestry Institute. He started two journals, *The Trumpeter: Journal of Ecosophy* in 1983, and later *The Ecoforestry Journal*. After his retirement in 1995, he remained active as an Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and an Adjunct Professor in Environmental Studies at UVic.

Drengson had broad interests, but focused principally on environmental philosophy throughout his career. He was inspired by the Norwegian Philosopher, Arne Naess, and became an avid supporter of his philosophy of Deep Ecology. Additional areas of interest included Eastern philosophy, comparative religion, and interdisciplinary technology studies. He also had a deep appreciation for the arts. He played guitar, wrote poetry and fiction, and was a stained-glass artisan. He also regularly practiced the martial art, Aikido.

Alan Drengson died on March 6, 2022.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of two accessions of material primarily related to Alan Drengson's academic career. These include drafts of papers, books, and poems, as well as university course materials, grant applications, professional correspondence, and documents for The Ecostery Foundation and The Trumpeter Journal. The fonds also includes some personal records.

Arrangement note

Materials for accession 2022-029 were originally ordered alphabetically in sparsely populated files. The archivist amalgamated most files and arranged them into series. The original alphabetical arrangement within each series was maintained.

2. Structure

Accession 1995-044

No structure.

Accession 2022-029

Series 01. Professional writing. 1974-2015; predominant 1975-1995. 21 files.

Series consists of academic writing for journals, books, talks, and other professional activities. The series includes drafts, notes, papers regarding publication, publicity and reviews of his writings, and Alan Drengson's Ph.D. dissertation. The series also includes two subseries. The first consists of referee reports written for student's Ph.D. dissertations, honorary degree recommendations for Merv Wilkinson, and reviews of articles and manuscripts considered for publication. The second subseries consists of professional correspondence.

Series 02. Teaching. [ca. 1985]-2008; predominant 1986-1990. 6 files.

Series consists of lectures, course outlines, and notes created by Alan Drengson for several courses he instructed.

Series 03. Grants. 1982-1985; 1991-1994. 2 files.

Series consists of correspondence, grant applications, summaries of project expenditures, and project reports. The material is regarding funding for Drengson's projects as a UVic faculty member and researcher, as well as funding for the Ecoforestry Institute (also referred to as the Ecostery Foundation).

Series 04. The Ecostery Foundation of North America. 1989-2016. 3 files.

Series consists of materials pertaining to The Ecostery Foundation of North America (TEFNA) both in Washington State and in BC. Materials include incorporation documents, images and lists of land parcels for sale, TEFNA constitution and bylaws, annual reports, lists of directors, and correspondence.

Series 05. The Trumpeter. 1983-1997. 13 files.

Series primarily consists of correspondence related to the Trumpeter, including subscription requests and cancellations. The series includes some material related to the promotion and distribution of the journal.

Series 06. Writing. 1975-1999. 4 files.

Series consists of Alan Drengson's fiction writing and poetry. The series includes several proposals and related material for films that feature ecological content.

Series 07. Personal papers. 1945; 1968-2014. 5 files.

Series consists of personal papers, including a letter Alan Drengson wrote to his father in 1945, certificates regarding the Drengson surname, Washington land title and survey papers, collected documents and pamphlets for activities such as concept-therapy, meditation, shamanism, and a copy of the First Earth Battalion Operations Manual by Jim Channon. The series also includes citizenship papers, post-secondary school transcripts, employment records, curriculum vitae (2001), and some materials related to his publishing business, Light Star Press and Glass Art.

Series 08. Graphic materials. [ca. 1983?]; 1991; [1993?]. 2 files.

Series includes 6 photos of Alan Drengson, drawings for a comic strip titled "Oats and Goats," and illustrations created for *The Adventures of Felix: A Fable for the New Millennium*.

3. Inventory

Accession 2022-029

Box 1

- 1.1 Professional writing (1)
- 1.2 Professional writing (2)
- 1.3 Professional writing (3)
- 1.4 Professional writing (4)
- 1.5 Professional writing (5)
- 1.6 Professional writing (6)
- 1.7 Beyond Environmental Crisis -- publication material, 1989-1988
- 1.8 The Passions: Review, 1978
- 1.9 Philosophy of Appropriate Design, 1982
- 1.10 Philosophy of EcoAgriculture, 1985
- 1.11 Practice of Technology (1) – Drafts, notes, 1988-1994
- 1.12 Practice of Technology (2) – Publication, 1993-1995
- 1.13 Writing – Publicity and reviews, [ca. 1983]; 1989-1991
- 1.14 Shifting Paradigms [ca. 1982-1983]
- 1.15 Socrates, Morita, and Self-Transformation, 1990

Box 2

- 2.1 Task Force – Alternatives for Washington, 1984
- 2.2 What's Wrong with Science?: A Discussion, 2005 – FRAGILE
- 2.3 Wild Way of Journeying/ The Wild is my Dwelling, ca.1994-1995
- 2.4 Wilderness Travel as an Art, ca.1980-1983
- 2.5 Wittgenstein on Understanding
- 2.6 Work Study Project, 1982-1983
- 2.7 References and Reviews (1), 1974-2005
- 2.8 References and Reviews (2), 1992-2007
- 2.9 Honorary degree recommendations – Merv Wilkinson
- 2.10 Professional correspondence, 1988-1998
- 2.11 Canadian Studies 391 (SFU), 2007-2008
- 2.12 Interdisciplinary Technology Studies, 1989-1990
- 2.13 Liberal Arts 306 & 307, 1986-1987
- 2.14 Phil 333: Philosophy of Environment, 1987-1988
- 2.15 Phil 324: Philosophy of History, 1986-1987
- 2.16 Phil 332: Philosophy of Technology, ca. 1985, 1987
- 2.17 Research Grant Material, 1982-1985
- 2.18 Grant and Funding Requests, 1991-1994
- 2.19 Ecostery Foundation - Washington, 1989-1997
- 2.20 Ecostery Foundation - British Columbia, 1989-2016 (1)
- 2.21 Ecostery Foundation - British Columbia, 1989-2016 (2)

Box 3

- 3.1 Journal ideas – Correspondence, 1983
- 3.2 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, 1984

- 3.3 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, 1985
- 3.4 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, Jan-Aug 1986
- 3.5 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, Sept-Dec 1986
- 3.6 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, Jan-May 1987
- 3.7 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, Sept-Dec 1987
- 3.8 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, Jan-Feb 1988
- 3.9 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, Mar-July 1988
- 3.10 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, June-Aug 1989
- 3.11 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, Sept-Oct 1989
- 3.12 The Trumpeter – Correspondence, Nov-Dec 1989; 1995
- 3.13 The Trumpeter – Promotion and Distribution 1986-1997

Box 4

- 4.1 Fiction writing, 1975-1999
- 4.2 Ecofilms, 1989-1990
- 4.3 Poetry (1)
- 4.4 Poetry (2)
- 4.5 General personal papers, 1945; [ca. 1980s -1990s]
- 4.6 Personal papers -- First Earth Battalion Operations Manual by Jim Channon
- 4.7 Employment and school records, 1968-2010 [includes C.V.]
- 4.8 Citizenship records 1969, 1981, 1989 - *Restricted*
- 4.9 Light Star Press and Glass Art, 1975-1977, 2014
- 4.10 Illustrations [ca. 1993?] and Cartoons [ca. 1983?]
- 4.11 Photographs, 1991
- 4.12 Ph.D. Thesis – “Self-Deception”, 1971 [bound]

Accession 1995-044

- 4.13 Drengson curriculum vitae, October 1995
- 4.14 Manuscript -- The adventures of Flelix. 55 pp.
- 4.15 Manuscript -- The practice of technology, rough proofs, pp. 1-92, 1995.
- 4.16 Manuscript -- The practice of technology, rough proofs, pp. 93-213, 1995.
- 4.17 Manuscript -- Wise dwelling: nurturing individual and local diversity in a global world. 364 pp., 2002.
- 4.18 Manuscript -- The wild way home, 238 pp., 2002.

OS folder

11 prints by Jenus Friesen for *Doc Forest and Blue Mountain Ecostery*, 1993.

Lists of Writings

[Titles reflect original file titles, with some clarifications made]

Series 01: List of Professional Writing

Files 1.1 – 1.6

(1)

Critique of William Grey (1992)
The Relevance of the Humanities to Environmental Studies (1977)
Humanities – Aims of Education (1974/75)
Contemporary Environmental philosophy
Four Laws of Information
Mastery and Masters (1982)
Philosophy of Society
Philosophy of Religion
Policy Institute for BC (1983)
Projects – papers and books [Draft excerpts, notes, and drafts of “Self-Deception and Awareness”]

(2)

Pacifism
Peace drafts [Letters to U.S. politicians] (ca. 1984)
Perspectives on the Environmental Crisis (1978)
Socially Appropriate Technology (ca. 1982)
Philosophy prose and style
Recursive Processes, Complementary Relationships and Ecosophy (1991)
Revision Paper – Transpersonal Extension of Identification (1991)

(3)

Remembering the Moral and Spiritual Dimensions of Forests (1992)
Symmetries of Community (1975/76)
Systems and Frameworks for Comparative Cross-cultural Research (2014)
Self-Deception and Paradox (1980)
Review of Mike Martin’s “Self-Deception and Morality” (1987)
Comments on Michael Assels’ “Saving the Superman from Eternal Recurrence” (ca. 1979)
Review of Mervyn Sprung’s “The Magic of Unknowing” (ca. 1987)
Symmetries of Community (1978)
The Taking Issue (1975)
Teaching Philosophy: Thoughts out Walking (1981)

(4)

Taoism: The Watercourse Way (Lecture)
Philosophy of Technology (Talk) (1984)
Toward a Philosophy of Community (ca. 1978)
Understanding Sacred Teachings
Understanding Nature Through the Ethic of Love: Wittgenstein and the Aesthetic Model
Ways to Love Wild Nature (2001)

(5)

Wild Journeying (1995) [Mapping to the Mapless Wild]
Review of James C. Edwards' "Ethics without Philosophy" (ca. 1982)
Wilderness Travel as an Art (ca. 1980)
Wisdom, Mysticism, and the Passions (1975/76)
What is Appropriate Technology? (1983)

(6)

Wild Journey papers (1995)
The Reflective Ebb and Flow of the Wild (1993/94)
Wittgenstein and Buddhism (1981?)
Wild Way Art (2015) [Includes images of stained glass artwork]
Yakima Valley Community College lecture – "Forests, Beasts, and Humans" (1979)

Series 07: List of Fiction Writing

File 4.1

Aikido – notes
Casper – notes for story
Horseman (1987)
The Land of Nine
Mt. View Stinkers/ Troop 95 (1979/83/99)
Pagan in the City
Ranger Bill (1984)
Red Elk Series (1983/84)
A Tree in the Forest (1988)
Thoughts out walking (July 11, 1985)
War on Drugs etc. - notes