

# Willard Ernest Ireland

b. 4 Jan. 1914, Vancouver, BC; d. 27 Jan., 1979, Victoria, BC

## Education

1933 BA University of British Columbia  
1934 Teaching certificate, University of British Columbia  
1935 MA University of Toronto

## Positions

1937–1940 Teacher, South Burnaby High School  
1940–1942 Provincial Archivist, British Columbia  
1942–1945 Served in Royal Canadian Air Force  
1946–1974 Provincial Librarian and Archivist, British Columbia

## Publications (selected contributions)

Ireland, Willard E. (1935). British Columbia, the United States, and British American union. MA thesis, University of Toronto).

Ireland, Willard E. (1939). "The evolution of the boundaries of British Columbia." *British Columbia Historical Quarterly* 3 (4): 263–282.

Ireland, Willard E. (1941). "Pre-Confederation defence problems of the Pacific colonies." *Canadian Historical Association Annual Report*, 20 (1): 41–54.

Ireland, Willard E. (1941). "James Douglas and the Russian American Company, 1840." *British Columbia Historical Quarterly* 5 (1): 53–66.

Ireland, Willard E. (1947). "Librarian of Congress in Seattle [Luther Evans]." *British Columbia Library Association Bulletin* 10 (2): 7.

Ireland, Willard E., ed. (1948). "Gold-rush days in Victoria, 1858-1859." *British Columbia Historical Quarterly* 12 (3): 231–246

Ireland, Willard E. (1948). "British Columbia's American heritage." *Canadian Historical Association Annual Report* 27 (1): 67–73.

Ireland, Willard E., et al. (1948). *Preliminary Report on Legislative Libraries in Canada*. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association.

Ireland, Willard E., chair (1950). *Programme for library development in British Columbia, 1950: Being a condensation and revision of the "Programme for library development in British Columbia, 1945."* Victoria, B.C: Joint Committee of the British Columbia Library Association and the Public Library Commission.

Ireland, Willard E. (1953). "The Provincial archival scene." *Canadian Historical Association Annual Report* 32 (1): 69–76.

Ireland, Willard E. (1955). "The Year Ahead [1955-1956]." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 12 (2): 17–19.

Ireland, Willard E. (1956). "Promoting Library Service." [Presidential Address]. In *Proceedings of the Canadian Library Association 11th Annual Conference Meeting, Niagara Falls, 11–15 June 1956*, pp.

1-5. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association.

## Associations

President, British Columbia Library Association, 1948-1949  
President, Pacific Northwest Library Association, 1953-1954  
President, Canadian Library Association, 1955-1956  
Victoria College Council, BC, 1950-1963  
University of Victoria Board of Governors, executive member, 1963-1971  
Social Science Research Council, member

## Honours

Awarded a Canadian Centennial Medal, 1967  
LL.D. University of Simon Fraser, 1971  
LL.D. University of Victoria, 1978  
Voted "Man of the Year" by British Columbia press, 1966

## Comments

"Nicknamed 'The Oracle,' Ireland was known for his ability to come up with an answer to almost any query." — Ann Lindsay, 2011.

"When he rose to speak, his audiences always knew they would never be bored. He gave history a touch of class and more than a touch of humor." — Vancouver Province, March 9, 1974.

"Few men deserve so full the appellation 'a gentleman and a scholar.' I wish to thank Willard Ireland for his years of devoted service in the government and people of this province." — Ernie Hall, B.C. Provincial Secretary in the Vancouver Sun, December 29, 1973.

## Sources

Canadian Who's Who, 1961-1963.  
"Provincial Librarian becomes Provincial Archivist and Provincial Librarian." British Columbia Library Association Bulletin 10 (3) 1946: 6.  
Aileen Campbell, "Archivist Ireland plans no exposes." Vancouver Province, March 9, 1974, p. 5.  
Ann Lindsay (2011). "Archives and justice: Willard Ireland's contribution to the changing legal framework of aboriginal rights in Canada, 1963-1973." Archivaria 71 (spring): 35-62.

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