

P121- Charles Kenneth Leith fonds
ca. 1898-1904
12 cm of textual records and ca 300 maps

Biographical sketch: Charles Kenneth Leith (?-1956) joined the department of Geology and Geophysics of the University of Wisconsin, U.S.A. as a faculty member in 1902, and served as its Chair from 1928 until 1934, retiring from the university in 1945. He died in 1956.

Leith had a distinguished career as a teacher, researcher, and consultant. Even prior to his teaching career, he wrote many geological survey reports, and produced maps on the Sudbury region and Temiscaming, more specifically on the region of Cobalt. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, and received the Penrose Medal of the Society of Economic Geologists in 1935 and of the Geological Society of America in 1942. His reputation was established with his work on the iron ores of the Lake Superior Region.

The research of Van Hise and Leith on Precambrian rocks of the Lake Superior district earned international recognition for the department in the fields of structural and metamorphic geology. The "Wisconsin School of Structural Geology" was introduced to Britain and Europe in the late 1920s by Gilbert Wilson, a Wisconsin alumnus, and carried on by Wilson's students and others. Leith served as the major advisor on minerals to the U.S. government during World War II, and helped in the procurement of uranium and thorium for the Manhattan Project. He was also an exceptional teacher; he received widespread recognition for his book *Structural Geology*, published in 1913, which was the first textbook on this subject.

Scope and content: The fonds attests to C.K. Leith's activities as a surveyor in Northern Ontario, while in the employ of the Ontario government. The records also contain maps and reports of different regions of Canada, as well as around the American side of Lake Superior, that he surveyed. The reports and drafts of mine claim sites, and his correspondence, are informative of the development of the Cobalt region in terms of mining. Many of the printed maps or originals are annotated, and document some of the geological surveys done by C.K. Leith. Some of the correspondence deals with investments or claims made by Leith and his colleagues. The fonds also contains drafts and official reports written by Leith, which appear in the Annual Reports of the Ontario Mining Ministry.

Note: Custodial history: The records were found at the library of MNM, in The Willet Green Miller building, in Sudbury. No documentation or information on the records was found.

The MNM donated the fonds to the LU Archives in August 2004.

: Biographical sketch from: C.K. Leith Fund, website at:
http://www.geology.wisc.edu/alumni/ck_leith_fund.html