

# Werner Cohn fonds

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# Fonds Description

**Werner Cohn fonds.** - 1959-1993.

181 audio tapes.

75 cm of textual records.

## Biographical Sketch

Born in Berlin in 1926, Werner Cohn received his BSS in Sociology from City College (New York) in 1951. He completed his MA (1954) and PhD (1956) at the New School for Social Research. He joined the University of British Columbia's Department of Anthropology and Sociology in 1960 and remained there until taking early retirement in 1986. Cohn's research focused on the sociology of Jews and small political movements. In particular, Cohn developed an interest in researching Gypsies. He began his research on this topic in 1966/67 during a sabbatical in France. He continued with his studies of the Gypsy culture and language and returned to Europe meeting with Gypsy groups and with many well known scholars of the Gypsies. Over the years Cohn wrote numerous articles on the Gypsies in various scholarly journals and in 1973 he wrote *The Gypsies* which summarized his findings in the field.

## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of two series: Gypsy Research series and a Publications series consisting of copies of Cohn's publications. The first series includes material generated or collected by Cohn in the course of conducting research on Gypsies. It includes: audio taped interviews of Rom with notebooks containing description and analysis of the interviews; a computer-generated inventory of kinship ties among hundreds of North American Rom; a transcript of a New York trial (1962) of a Gypsy fortune teller; miscellaneous printed and published materials about Gypsies collected by Cohn; and materials from a correspondence course for learning Romani (1969/70). The Publications series includes copies of articles by Cohn (1959-1993) and a bibliography of his works (1950-1993).

## Notes

Researchers are strongly advised to check with the University Archives regarding permission to publish or otherwise use materials from this fonds.

Additional information about Cohn can be found at <http://www.wernercohn.com/>.

## Series Descriptions

**Gypsy Research series.** - 1950-1979.

181 audio tapes.

70 cm of textual records.

The series consists of audio taped interviews (UBC AT 1366) of Rom with notebooks containing description and analysis of the interviews; a computer-generated inventory of kinship ties among hundreds of North American Rom; a transcript of a New York trial (1962) of a Gypsy fortune teller; miscellaneous printed and published materials about Gypsies collected by Cohn (1950-1979); and materials from a correspondence course for learning Romani (1969/70).

As per the wishes of the donor the audio tapes and associated notebooks were closed to researchers until January 1, 2000.

**Publications series.** - 1950-1993.

4.5 cm of textual records.

The series consists of a set of off-prints and copies of articles by Cohn (1959-1993) and a bibliography of his publications (1950-1993). Also includes a copy of Cohn's *Early Companions: A Novella* (2005).

# File List

## GYPSY RESEARCH SERIES

### Box 1

Nine notebooks of description and analysis of the interviews conducted by Cohn

### Box 2

Computer-generated inventory of kinship ties among hundreds of North American Rom (n.d.).

### Boxes 3-5

Transcript of 1962 New York court case "People vs Volga Adams" [trial of a Gypsy fortune teller].

### Box 6

Miscellaneous printed and published material (1950-1979) relating to Gypsies collected by Cohn.

## PUBLICATIONS SERIES

Set of off-prints and copies of articles by Cohn (1959-1993) and a bibliography of his publications (1950-1993). Also includes a copy of Cohn's "Early Companions: A Novella" (2005).