

Jacob Zilber fonds

Originally compiled 1985
Revised by Chris Samraj (2011), and Shane Parmar (2011)



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Fonds Description

Jacob Zilber fonds. – 1950-2003.

2.55 m of textual records.

1 16 mm film.

36 photographs.

13 audiotapes.

Biographical Sketch

Professor Jacob Zilber taught creative writing at the University of British Columbia from 1957 to 1989. Jacob Zilber served as chairman of the University of British Columbia's Creative Writing Committee prior to the establishment of UBC's Department of Creative Writing in 1965. Jacob Zilber was also one of the founders of UBC's *Prism* magazine and served as its editor from 1966 to 1973.

Jacob Zilber was born on May 15, 1924 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He completed his undergraduate education at the University of Wisconsin in 1948 where he earned Honors in General Scholarship. Jacob Zilber went on to earn a Masters of Arts from the University of Washington in 1957.

Professor Zilber joined UBC's Department of English in 1957 as a Lecturer until 1962 when he became an Assistant Professor. In 1965 Jacob Zilber held the position of Associate Professor and became a full Professor by 1975.

Professor Zilber held memberships in various professional and learned societies such as CAUT and the UBC Faculty Association. He was also a member of the Industrial Workers of the World, the first director of the B.C. Writers Service and served as a judge for the ACTRA awards.

As a prolific writer, Professor Zilber's literary work has appeared in various Canadian and American magazines while his plays have been presented in Vancouver and off-Broadway in New York. A co-written screenplay, 'The Inbreaker' (1974), became a feature film produced by the Bob Elliott Film Company of Vancouver.

Professor Jacob Zilber retired from teaching in 1989 and remains active in the field of creative writing.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of personal and professional materials created and collected by Professor Jacob Zilber. The fonds consists of screenplays, manuscripts, drafts, notes, and correspondences relating to Jacob Zilber's published and unpublished materials. The fonds also includes biographical and autobiographical material, clippings, teaching records and course materials. It also contains manuscripts by students, materials related to musician and composer Michael Zilber, Department of Creative Writing administrative records as well as various UBC committee records.

The fonds is divided into five series: Manuscripts, Screenplays, Monologues series (1950-1999); Administrative and Teaching Materials series (1964-1989); Personal Materials series (1950-1997); Photographs series (1947-1989); and Audiovisual Materials series (196?-1985).

Notes

Materials were acquired in two separate accruals and were donated by Julie Zilber.

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

File list available.

[The Prism International](#) and [The November House](#) fonds may contain additional information relating to Jacob Zilber.

Series Descriptions

Manuscripts, Screenplays, Monologues series. – 1950-1999.

1.75m of textual material.

Series consists of manuscripts, screenplays, monologues, miscellaneous writings created by Jacob Zilber. Some of the works have multiple versions and drafts that were created over time. Major works present in the series include materials from “Sister Roxy”; “The Inbreaker”; and Jacob Zilber’s autobiography: “Boxing and Other Reflections”.

Box: 1 (1-7 to 1-18); 2 (2-1 to 2-17); 3 (3-1 to 3-27); 4 (4-1 to 4-30); 5 (5-1 to 5-22); 6 (6-1 to 6-11).

Administrative and Teaching Materials series. – 1964-1989.

35 cm of textual material.

Series consists of materials from UBC Creative Writing courses and from the UBC Fine Arts and Creative Writing departments. Materials include scholarship and bursary applications, student’s writing workshop feedback, committee memorandums, minutes, and correspondences.

Box: 6 (12-17); 7 (7-1 to 7-8).

Personal Materials series. – 1950-1997.

45 cm of textual material.

Series consists of diaries, planners, letters of recommendation, correspondences, and materials related to Michael Zilber.

Box: 7 (7-9 to 7-15); 8 (8-1 to 8-26).

Photographs series. – 1948-1989.

36 photographs.

Series consists of 36 photographs. The photographs include depictions from when Jacob Zilber was a student at the University of Wisconsin in 1948 and a trip to Wisconsin for the Kewaunee Class of 1942 reunion in 1989.

Physical photographs are catalogued as part of the photograph holdings under 160.1.

Audiovisual Materials series. – 196?-1985).

1 16 mm film.

13 audiotapes.

Series consists of reel-to-reel audio recordings, audiocassettes, and one 16 mm film. Materials include interviews, plays and other works created or collected by Jacob Zilber.

Physical audiovisual materials are shelved separately.

File List

Box 1

Manuscripts, Screenplays, Monologues series

- 1-1 "A Cup of Hemlock" [n.d.]
- 1-2 "A Note from the Underground" [n.d.]
- 1-3 "The Award a play for film" [n.d.] (2 copies)
- 1-4 "The Award a play in one act" [n.d.] (2 copies)
- 1-5 "The Award" [matinee theatre] Feb. 1964
- "The Award a one act radio play" [n.d.]
- 1-6 "Bleep a radio play" 1976 (2 copies)
- 1-7 [Draft] "Bleeping" 1968 (2 copies)
- 1-8 "Blister a stage monologue" 1983
- 1-9 "Blue Whale a short film" 1975 (2 copies)
- 1-10 "Boxer's a short story" [n.d.]
- 1-11 "Boxing" [n.d.] (2 copies)
- 1-12 "Boxing a short story" [n.d.] (3 copies)
- 1-13 "Boxing and other reflections an unorthodox autobiography" [n.d.]
- 1-14 "Burns" 1967
- 1-15 "Buzzer" 1968 (2 copies)
- 1-16 "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.]
- 1-17 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 1/14
- 1-18 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 2/14

Box 2

- 2-1 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 3/14
- 2-2 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 4/14
- 2-3 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 5/14
- 2-4 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 6/14
- 2-5 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 7/14
- 2-6 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 8/14
- 2-7 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 9/14
- 2-8 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 10/14
- 2-9 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 11/14
- 2-10 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 12/14
- 2-11 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 13/14
- 2-12 Draft and notes for "Campaign of the Century" [n.d.] 14/14
- 2-13 "Cherry Tree" 1974 (2 copies) 1/4

- 2-14 "Cherry Tree" 1974 (2 copies) 2/4
- 2-15 "Cherry Tree" 1974 (2 copies) 3/4
- 2-16 "Cherry Tree" 1974 (2 copies) 4/4
- 2-17 "Cherry Tree" 1997

Box 3

- 3-1 "Cranston" 1976
- 3-2 "Custer's Last Stand" [n.d.]
- 3-3 "Dada" 1970-1976 (6 copies)
- 3-4 "Difference Between Willie Hatton and a Bear" [n.d.]
- 3-5 "Emile" [n.d.] (2 copies)
- 3-6 "The Famous Black Snow of New York" Mar. 1978
- 3-7 "The Famous Black Snow of New York" Apr. 1978
- 3-8 "The Famous Black Snow of New York" by Seth Feldman [n.d.]
- 3-9 "Feldafing" by Simon Schochet [n.d.]
- 3-10 Script for Feldafing [n.d.]
- 3-11 "Family Circle" [n.d.]
- 3-12 "Fixing It" 1988 (2 copies)
- 3-13 "Geraldine" [n.d.]
- 3-14 "Getting Down to Business" 1982
- 3-15 "The Great Cloakroom Mystery or How Holmes Solved It" 1974
- 3-16 "The Great Cloakroom Mystery or How Holmes Solved It" 1976 (4 copies)
- "War" 1976
- 3-17 "The Great Cloakroom Mystery or How Holmes Solved It" 1982
- 3-18 "Hotline" 1967
- 3-19 "How to Make a Decent Revolution" 1982 [n.d.]
- 3-20 "How to Make a Decent Revolution" 1982 (3 copies)
- 3-21 "Hunting" [n.d.]
- 3-22 "I Candidate for Governor" [n.d.]
- 3-23 "The Inbreaker an original feature length screenplay" 1972
- 3-24 "The Inbreaker" 1973 (2 copies)
- 3-25 "The Inbreaker original screenplay and shooting script" 1973
- 3-26 "The Inbreaker a treatment of a feature length screenplay" 1973
- 3-27 Notes and contract for "The Inbreaker" 1973

Box 4

- 4-1 "The Island is Green" [n.d.] (2 copies)
- 4-2 "Jenny" [n.d.] (2 copies)
- 4-3 "Jerry Adams" [n.d.]

- 4-4 "Joe Taylor" [n.d.] (2 copies)
- 4-5 "Jolly Jumpers" 1977
- 4-6 "Justice" [n.d.]
- 4-7 "The Kid a stage play" 1977
- 4-8 "The Kid a stage play" 1978
- 4-9 "The Kid a screenplay" [n.d.]
- 4-10 "The Kid a screenplay" 1977
- 4-11 "The Kid from the novel by John Seelye" 1977 (2 copies)
- 4-12 "King of the Jungle" [n.d.]
- 4-13 "The Kreiss Case" [n.d.]
- 4-14 "Linda" [n.d.]
- 4-15 "Mr. Block" [n.d.]
- 4-16 Mrs. Jones [n.d.]
- 4-17 "On The Take" [n.d.]
- 4-18 [Draft] "On The Take" [n.d.]
- 4-19 "Our Lady" [n.d.]
- 4-20 "Our Lady" Jan. 1990
- 4-21 "Pamela" [n.d.]
- 4-22 "Pamela Two" [n.d.]
- 4-23 "Pamela Two" May 1990
- 4-24 [Draft] "Picking Up" [n.d.]
- 4-25 "Der Furst" [German version of "The Prince"] [n.d.]
- 4-26 "The Prince" 1960 (3 copies)
- 4-27 [Revisions of] "The Prince" 1960-1967
- 4-28 [Draft] "The Prince" [n.d.]
- 4-29 "Report on the Nature of Rigorous Proof in the Mathematics Education" [n.d.]
- 4-30 "Riddle for Children" 1972

Box 5

- 5-1 "Rings" [n.d.]
- 5-2 "Roberta" [n.d.]
- "Rosalie" [n.d.]
- "How do you do good?" [n.d.]
- "You think they're dumb 'cause they ain't got a college education" [n.d.]
- 5-3 "Rumination" Aug. 1967
- 5-4 "Sister Roxy stage play" 1991
- 5-5 "Sister Roxy stage play" 1992
- 5-6 "Sister Roxy" [screenplay] [n.d.] (3 copies)
- 5-7 "Sister Roxy" [screenplay] 1989 (2 copies)
- 5-8 "Sister Roxy" [n.d.] (2 copies)

- 5-9 "Sister Roxy" [synopsis and illustrations] [n.d.]
- 5-10 "Summer Fear" 1973
- 5-11 "Summer of the Black Sun" [synopsis] [n.d.]
- 5-12 "Summer of the Black Sun" [screenplay] 1973 (2 copies)
- 5-13 "Summer of the Black Sun" [screenplay] 1988
- 5-14 "Summer of the Black Sun" [musical drama] 1988
- 5-15 "Summer of the Black Sun" [musical drama] 1990
- 5-16 "Summer of the Black Sun" [musical drama and correspondence] 1999
- 5-17 "Smart Money" [n.d.]
- 5-18 "Theme and Variations a one act play" 1983
- 5-19 "Toivo Kansanen" [n.d.]
- 5-20 "Tricks" [n.d.] 1/3
- 5-21 "Tricks" [n.d.] 2/3
- 5-22 "Tricks" [n.d.] 3/3

Box 6

- 6-1 "Tricks of the Trade" [n.d.] 1/2
- 6-2 "Tricks of the Trade" [n.d.] 2/2
- 6-3 "Tricks of the Trade" screenplay] [n.d.]
- 6-4 "Valley Lane Prep" [n.d.] (2 copies)
- 6-5 "Verbrennte Soup" 1969 (2 copies)
- 6-6 "We Will Listen in a Kindly Spirit" [n.d.]
- 6-7 Miscellaneous manuscripts 1950-1990 1/5
- 6-8 Miscellaneous manuscripts 1950-1990 2/5
- 6-9 Miscellaneous manuscripts 1950-1990 3/5
- 6-10 Miscellaneous manuscripts 1950-1990 4/5
- 6-11 Miscellaneous manuscripts 1950-1990 5/5

Administration and Teaching Materials series

- 6-12 Channel 10 workshop 1969-1971
- 6-13 Creative Writing and Fine Arts department committee meetings 1968-1971
- 6-14 Creative Writing department memorandums, notes, minutes 1964-1969
- 6-15 Creative Writing department memorandums, notes, minutes 1970-1978
- 6-16 Creative Writing department memorandums, notes, minutes 1979-1982
- 6-17 Creative Writing department memorandums, notes, minutes 1983-1989 ½

Box 7

- 7-1 Creative Writing department memorandums, notes, minutes 1983-1989 2/2
- 7-2 Creative Writing department's writing workshop materials 1970-1983 1/3
- 7-3 Creative Writing department's writing workshop materials 1970-1983 2/3
- 7-4 Creative Writing department's writing workshop materials 1970-1983 3/3
- 7-5 Student awards and registration materials 1970-1983
- 7-6 Creative Writing department teaching materials 1970-1983
- 7-7 Jacob Zilber's teaching performance evaluation and CV 1974
- 7-8 Jacob Zilber's thesis evaluation for Melvin Kero Apr. 1970

Personal Materials series

- 7-9 Press clippings 1950-1977
- 7-10 Application for support of research Mar. 1976
- 7-11 Social Security notice of change in benefits Aug. 1989
- 7-12 Cherry Lawn School notes 1952-1956
- 7-13 Diary notes 1950-1956 1/2
- 7-14 Diary notes 1950-1956 2/2
- 7-15 Columbia Teacher's College notes 1955-1956

Box 8

- 8-1 Michael Zilber 1977-1982
- 8-2 Israel and Jewish issues 1989
- 8-3 Greenbay Highschool / Kewaunee Class '42 Reunion 1989-1997
- 8-4 Rafe Mair's interview of Jacob Zilber [n.d.]
- 8-5 "Icarus" contracts 1972
- 8-6 "Roxy" contracts 1987-1997
- 8-7 Industrial Workers of the World membership card 1969
- 8-8 Screenplay application correspondence 1980-1986
- 8-9 Screenplay application correspondence 1987-1988
- 8-10 Manuscript submission letters [n.d.]
- 8-11 Manuscript submission letters 1983-1986
- 8-12 Miscellaneous correspondence 1950-2003
- 8-13 Correspondence between Earle Birney and Jacob Zilber 1950-1978
- 8-14 Correspondence between Harris and Jacob Zilber 1955-1956
- 8-15 Correspondence between Phil Barnard and Jacob Zilber 1969-1989
- 8-16 Correspondence between Bill T. O'Brien and Jacob Zilber 1970
- 8-17 Correspondence between Ted Rouse and Jacob Zilber 1973

- 8-18 Correspondence between Ted Rouse and Jacob Zilber 1975
- 8-19 Correspondence and questionnaire 1977
- 8-20 Correspondence and recommendation letter for Ernest David Brown 1978
- 8-21 Correspondence for "The Kid" 1979
- 8-22 Correspondence between H. Richard Weiner and Jacob Zilber 1981
- 8-23 Correspondence between Cathy Ford and Jacob Zilber 1982
- 8-24 Correspondence between June Harrison and Jacob Zilber 1986
- 8-25 Correspondence for "Summer of the Black Sun" and "Fixing It" 1988
- 8-26 Correspondence between David Marcus and Jacob Zilber 1989

Photographs series

- UBC 160.1/1OVRp Annotated portrait of Jacob Zilber. [n.d.] b&w print, 28cm x 35cm.
- UBC 160.1/2p Annotated men's hall house fellows. 1948 b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/3p M.H.A. team with Jacob Zilber sitting bottom row second left. 1948 b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/4p Team standing in gymnasium with Jacob Zilber standing third from the left. 1948 b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/5p Jacob Zilber sitting second row centre in Madison, Wisconsin. 1948 b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/6p Jacob Zilber standing with children. 1952 b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/7p Jacob Zilber sitting second row fourth from left. 1948 b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/8p Jacob Zilber sitting second row fifth from left. 1948 b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/9p Jacob Zilber sitting second row fourth from the left. 1948 b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/10p Jacob Zilber standing third row second from the left. 1952 b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/11p Jacob Zilber standing second row left 1952. b&w print, 25cm x 20cm.
- UBC 160.1/12p Jacob Zilber sitting first row fourth from right. 1948 b&w print, 24cm x 15cm.
- UBC 160.1/13p Jacob Zilber with baseball team sitting second row left. 1950 b&w print, 15cm x 10cm.
- UBC 160.1/14p Rolas 13 Pleasantville baseball team. 1950 b&w print, 17cm x 12cm.
- UBC 160.1/15p Jacob Zilber sitting bottom row third from left. 1950 b&w print, 17cm x 12cm.

UBC 160.1/16p	Jacob Zilber standing third row center with football team. 1950 b&w print, 17cm x 12cm.
UBC 160.1/17p	Jacob Zilber with football team crouched second row third from right. 1950 b&w print, 17cm x 12cm.
UBC 160.1/18p	Jacob Zilber sitting second row left. 1950 b&w print, 17cm x 12cm.
UBC 160.1/19p	Young blonde boy. [n.d.] b&w print, 12cm x 17cm.
UBC 160.1/20p	Gaston Bart. 1960 b&w print, 10cm x 15cm.
UBC 160.1/21sp	Drinking while sitting at a table. [n.d.] b&w print, 11cm x 8cm.
UBC 160.1/22sp	Not 2401 like you remember. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/23sp	Walter and Bob Mach. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/24sp	The original Mach home. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/25sp	Walter and Bob. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/26sp	Carl Kuel at home. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/27sp	Jim Hlinak. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/28sp	Jim Hlinak in retirement clothes. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/29sp	Close up of old side entrance. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/30sp	The old Salkowski station. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/31sp	Jim Hlinak and his new home. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/32sp	Bob Mach. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/33sp	Kewaunee harbour. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/34sp	Car ferry. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/35sp	The old homestead. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.
UBC 160.1/36sp	A view of Kuel's bar. 1989 colour print, 9cm x 11cm.

Audiovisual Materials series

Audiocassette Tapes

UBC AT 3691	"Bleep" 196?
UBC AT 3692	"Bleep a radio play" 196?
UBC AT 3693	"The Prince" 196?

Reel-to-Reel audio recordings

UBC AT 3694	"The Prince" [CBC interview of Jacob Zilber for <i>Introducing</i>] 196?
UBC AT 3695	"Zilber a radio play" [n.d.]
UBC AT 3696	"Thurs. #2" [Bleep theatre rehearsal] 1969
UBC AT 3697	"68 Bleep Vancouver Theatre" 1968
UBC AT 3698	"68 The Prince G. Jonas" 1968

UBC AT 3699 "64 The Award J. Zilber" [n.d.]
- [Side B] Jacob Zilber interview [n.d.]
UBC AT 3700 "Medicine show jokes" [n.d.]
UBC AT 3701 International Workers of the World interview [n.d.]
-[Side B] Hank Williams [n.d.]
UBC AT 3702 International Workers of the World interview [n.d.]
-[Side B] Piano lesson [n.d.]
UBC AT 3703 Radio wrestling program [n.d.]
-[Side B] Radio wrestling program [n.d.]

Film recordings

UBC Film 86 The Alchemist Trial. 1985 colour 16mm.