

Security

Blanche Howard, 1923-
An Inventory of her fonds
in
The Library of the University of British Columbia
Special Collections

Prepared by:
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April, 1998

Title: Blanche Howard Fonds [textual records, graphic]

Dates of Creation: 1955-1997

Physical description: 1.26m of textual records (8 boxes)
8 photographs

Biographical sketch:

Born Blanche Machon on Nov. 7 1923, in the town of Daysland, Alberta. She attended the University of Alberta and graduated in 1944 with a Bachelor of Science with majors in chemistry, physics and mathematics. In 1945 Blanche Machon married Bruce Howard. The couple lived in Toronto, where between 1946-1948, Blanche worked as an assistant chemistry lecturer at the University of Toronto. In 1949 the couple moved to Penticton raising three children. It was in Penticton that Blanche began her writing career as well as attaining her chartered accountant's degree in 1958. From 1958-1968 Blanche worked in Penticton for Desbrisay Hack & Company and its successor company, Peat Marwick Mitchell and Company, as a public accountant.

In 1968 she moved to Ottawa when her husband was elected to Parliament. From Ottawa she began writing the newspaper column, "Report From Ottawa" (1968-1972) about life as a politician's wife, for an audience in the Okanagan Valley. Her column was published in various Okanagan newspapers, primarily *The Penticton Herald*, but also *The Summerland Review* and *Kelowna Courier*.

Blanche Howard had her first short story published in *Macleans* in 1957, but writing as a vocation did not begin until 1968. Howard had her later short stories published in *Chatelaine* and various other periodicals; in addition, she contributed articles and opinions to numerous newspapers such as *The Ottawa Citizen*, *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Vancouver Province*. Howard is perhaps best known as the author of several novels such as: *The Immortal Soul of Edwin*

Carlyle (1977), *Pretty Lady* (1976), and *The Manipulator* (1972). *The Manipulator* won the Canadian Booksellers' Award for outstanding first novel. Her career covers a wide range of writing, such as short stories, novels, plays, essays and speeches written for both herself and others. In addition to her literary life, Howard also maintained an active correspondence with Carol Shields (1974-1997).

Blanche Howard also participated in a variety of volunteer activities between 1954-1997. These include serving as director of the Vanier Institute of the Family and treasurer for the Moodyville Theatre in North Vancouver.

Scope and Content:

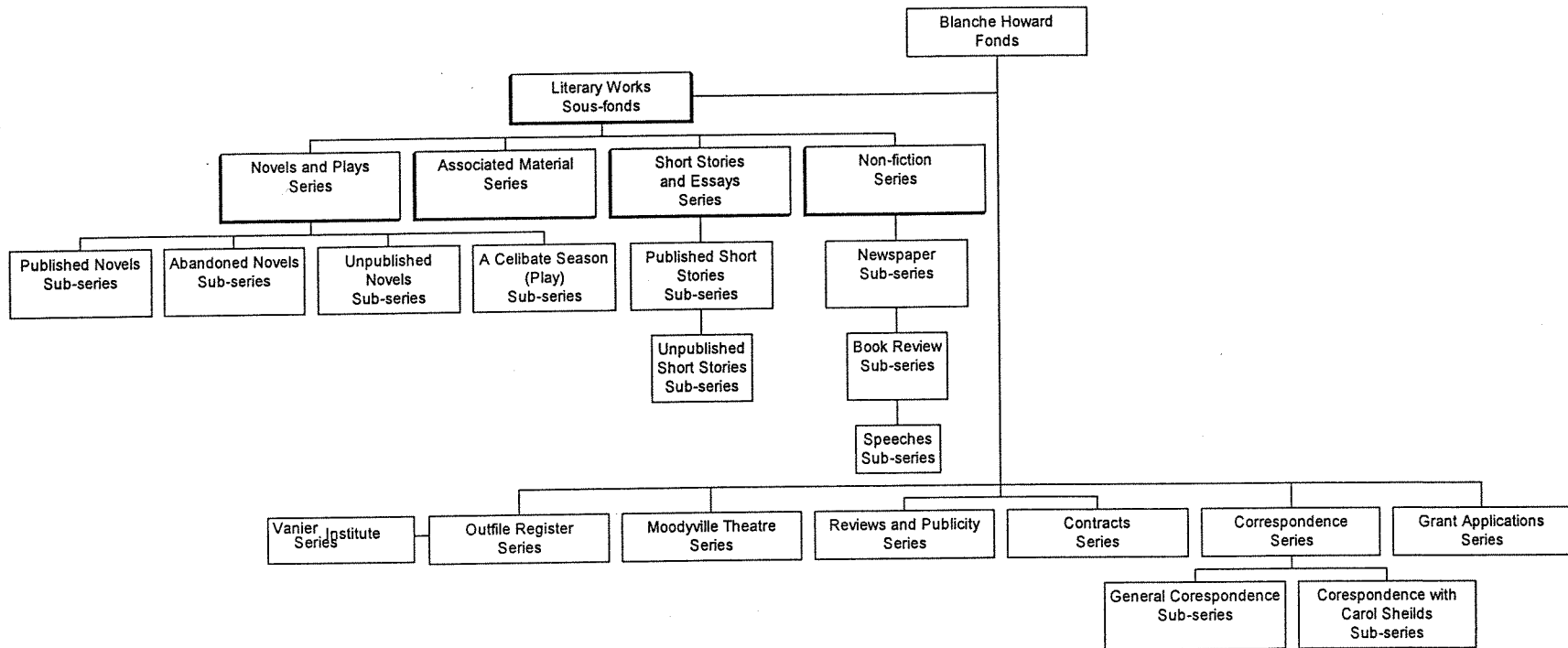
The fonds consists of correspondence, literary work in both draft and finished form, reviews of Blanche Howard's work, correspondence with publishers, as well as grant applications, contracts, printed material including newspaper clippings of Howard's work, and publicity photographs. In addition to Howard's literary life, she also sat of the executive board of the Vanier Institute of the Family and was the treasurer for the Moodyville Theatre, which is, reflected the series of financial and committee records of both of these organisations. The Blanche Howard fonds consists of the following series: Correspondence, Grant applications, Contracts, Review and Publicity, Moodyville Theatre, Vanier Institute of the Family as well as an Out file register series. In addition, the fonds also contains the sous-fonds, Literary work which contains the following series: Novels and Plays, Associated material, Short Stories and Essays, and Non-Fiction series.

Notes:

Source of supplied title proper: Title based on creator of the fonds

Immediate source of acquisition: Donated by Blanche Howard in July 1997

Blanche Howard Fonds



Arrangement: Howard organised her fonds by form and subject. Materials were arranged to reflect Blanche Howard own files' organisational structure

Restrictions on access: Some restrictions apply

Finding aids: Dated file list and series list available

Fonds' series

1. General Correspondence series. - 1974-1996. - 11cm of textual records

Scope and content:

The series is divided into two sub-series: correspondence with Carol Shields and general correspondence. The Carol Shields sub-series contains typescript and email correspondence between Carol Shields and Blanche Howard. The letters span a period of over twenty years (1974-1996), and the topic is generally around writing.

The general correspondence sub series covers a range in subject from thank-you letters from Iona Campangola's political campaign office to correspondence about *The Manipulator*, to publicity and promotion from various publishers on literary works, to letters from Capalano College.

Notes:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

Restrictions on access: Restrictions apply on correspondence with Carol Shields.

Access will be granted to see Carol Shields letters by permission of the author.

Associated groups of records: Correspondence between Howard and her publishers can be found in the Literary Works sous-fond and subordinate series.

2. Grant applications series. - 1990-1992. - 2cm of textual records

Scope and content:

The grant application series contain three files that carry Howard's applications for financial assistance between the years 1990-92.

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

3. Publisher's contracts. - 1971-1982. - 5cm of textual records.

Scope and content:

Publisher's contract series contains five files that contain correspondence with the publisher, McClelland & Stewart as well as contracts for *The Manipulator*, *Pretty Lady*, and *The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle* and statements of royalties.

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

4. Out file register. -1955-1985. - 2cm of textual records.

Scope and Content:

The single file is an out-file register (stainless steel personal telephone/address book) of when and where Howard's manuscripts and short

stories were sent for publication. It includes a tally of what work was rejected or accepted by date and recipient.

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

5. Reviews and Publicity records. - 1970-1990. - 10cm of textual records

8 photographs

Scope and Content:

The series contains newspaper clippings, jacket designs and hand-written annotations by Howard of when and where reviews of her work appeared. The series spans a twenty-year period 1970-1990; the file also contains eight, 5cm x 5cm publicity photographs of Howard.

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

6. Vanier Institute of the Family records. - 1980-1984. - 12cm of textual records.

Scope and Content:

Governor General Georges Vanier and Madame Pauline Vanier founded the Vanier Institute of the Family in 1965. Vanier Institute of the Family is a National charitable organisation

The organisation funds research on demographic, economic social and health issues that effect contemporary Canadian life. In 1980,

Blanche Howard was the Prime Minister's nomination for placement on the executive board of directors, for which she was duly elected.

The series contains two files, which include correspondence and board meeting minutes. The predominant subject of the series is a dispute involving members of the executive.

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

7. Moodyville Theatre records. - 1990-1992. - 2cm of textual records.

Scope and Content:

Don Williams (producer of the 1970's television series, "The Beachcombers") created the Moodyville Theatre in 1990. William wished to forge a North Vancouver based professional theatre. The theatre put on numerous plays, which included Blanche Howard's, "A Celibate Season" in 1990 before closing permanently in 1992.

Series contains one file of correspondence, minutes (March 1990-Aug. 1990), flyers and programs and financial information including bank statements, receipts, invoices and cancelled cheques. Howard was a member of the board of directors and acted as treasurer for the theatre.

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

Sous-Fonds

Literary work sous-fonds. - 1955-1997. - 90cm of textual records.

Scope and Content:

The Literary work sous-fonds consists of a variety of Blanche Howard's writings, such as typescript and computer generated manuscripts of published, unpublished and abandoned novels, essays, short stories (most include hand-written annotations), and research material. In addition, the sous-fonds contains a newspaper column and letters-to-the-editor written for various newspapers in the Okanagan, Vancouver and Ottawa. The sous-fond contains newsprint and photocopies of newspaper clippings of Howard's column, and her various letters-to-the-editor. The sous-fonds also accommodates book reviews written by Howard, speeches written for herself and others and a single play, ("A Celibate Season"). Most of the series contain correspondence with publishers. The sous-fonds is comprised of the following series: Novels and Plays, Associated Material, Short stores and Essays and Non-fiction series, as well as the single play, "A Celibate Season" (Play).

Sous-fonds' series

1. Associated material. - [199?]. - 8cm of textual records.

Scope and Content:

The series contains three of Howard's books: *The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle*, *Pretty Lady*, and *The Manipulator*, as wells as literary work by Carol Shields in both draft and manuscript form for which Blanche Howard was editor (includes hand-written annotations).

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

2. Novels and plays. - [198?]. - 56cm of textual records.

Scope and Content:

Series consists of novels and plays in draft and finished form. The series contains publisher's copies of *The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle* and *Pretty Lady*. Series also contains both hand-written annotations and correspondence with publishers.

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series.

3. Short stories and Essays. - 1955-1980. - 18cm of textual records.

Scope and Content:

The series contains material that spans a twenty five-year period, and a range of writing styles. It contains typescript and computer generated published and unpublished material. The series includes research material, newspaper clipping, photocopies of newspaper clipping, typescript and computer generated material, and the series also contains hand-written annotations and correspondence with publishers.

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

4. Non fiction. - 1968-1997. - 16cm of textual records.

Scope and Content:

The series contains a variety of forms of writing and span nearly a thirty-year period. The series includes research material, newspaper clipping, photocopies of newspaper clipping, typescript and computer generated material, the series also contains hand-written annotations and correspondence with publishers. The series is split up into sub series according to form, which include; Newspaper sub series which includes "Report from Ottawa" and letters-to-the-editor (1968-1997), book reviews (1970-1981) and speeches (1968-1976). The speeches sub series covers a range of topics but focuses on the different competencies in which Howard acted, thus writing is featured, but also subjects like tax reform are also represented. Howard also wrote speeches for others (1974-1990) which include speeches made for Liberal Party politicians such as, Honourable Marc Lalonde (Minister of Health and Welfare, 1973), and John Dyck (Liberal candidate for Okanagan Boundary).

Note:

Source of title: Title based on the content of the series

Files listed by series

Correspondence series: [1972-1996]

Correspondence with Carol Shields sub series: 1974-1996

Box 2, file 5, Correspondence with Carol Shields [1974-1990]

Box 2, file 6; Correspondence with Carol Shields [1990-1994]

Box 2, file 7; Correspondence with Carol Shields [1991-1996]

General Correspondence sub series: [1972-1985]

Box 3, file 2; Capalano College [1980 & 1985]

Box 4, file 2; Campagnola campaign [1984]

Box 4, file 7; Manipulator congratulations [1972-1976]

Box 8, file 7: Biography to 1977 [1997]

Grant application series: [1991-1993]

Box 3, file 6: Cultural services [1993]

Box 3, file 7: Canada Council [1992]

Box 3, file 8: Canada Council [1991]

Contract series: [1971-1980]

Box 5, file 1: McClelland and Correspondence, Contract - The Manipulator.
[1971-1982]

Box 5, file 2: Royalties, The Manipulator. [1971-1985]

Box 5, file 3: Pretty Lady. [1974-1982]

Box 5, file 4: Royalties, The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle (Contract). [1975-1980]

Out file register series: [1955-1985]

Box 8, file 5: Out file register

Reviews and Publicity series: [1970-1990]

Box 1, file 7: Pretty Lady Reviews. [1976-1986]

Box 2, file 2; The Manipulator, Reviews, 1973

Box 2, file 3: Publicity and promotion [197?]

Box 4, file 1: The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle, Reviews. [1977-1978]

Box 4, file 1: Reviews and Publicity. [1970 - 1990]. [Includes photographs]

Vanier Institute of the Family: 1980-1984

Box 1, file 1; Vanier Institute dispute. [1982-1987]

Box 8, file 5; Vanier Institute Material 1980 [to 1984]

Moodyville Theatre Series: [1990-1992]

Box 3, file 1: Moodyville Theatre

Associated Material series: [199?]

Box 5, file 8: Larry's Party, m/s edited by B. Howard 1996-1997

Box 7, file 1: Early Draft of Carol Shields Novel, A Fairly Conventional Woman, m/s edited by B. Howard. [n.d.]

Novel and Play series: [197?]

Published Novels sub series. [197?]

Box 1, file 6: The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle [1977]

Box 8, file 1: Publisher's Copy of m/s, The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle,
Pretty Lady

Unpublished novels sub series [197?]

Box 1, file 5: A Friend and His Money. [n.d.]

Box 4, file 5: Unpublished Novel. [n.d.]

Box 5, file 6: The Disciples of Pierre (unpublished novel) [n.d.]

Box 5, file 7: The Disciples of Pierre, Unpublished

Box 6, file 3: A Friend and His Money [n.d.]

Box 7, file 2: The Disciples of Pierre [n.d.]

Abandoned Novels sub series, [19?]

Box 3 file 3: Abandoned novel started with Carol Shields [198?]

Box 6, file 4: An Ordinary Sort of Fellow (abandoned m/s) [197?]

Box 6, file 5: A Life For the Asking (abandoned m/s) [197?]

Box 7, file 3: Sleepwalker, incomplete [197?]

Box 7, file 4: Early draft of Random Access [abandoned] [197?]

Box 7, file 5: Trudeau's Coat tails [198?]

Box 8, file 3: A failed beginning of a Science Fiction Novel [198?]

A Celibate Season (play) sub series, [198?]

Box 8, file 2: Early draft of A Celibate Season, as sent between Carol Shields
and Blanche Howard [199?]

Box 8, file 4: Early draft of A Celibate Season, edited by Carol Shields
[199?]

Short Stories and Essays series: [1955-1987]

Published short stories and essays sub series: 1955-1987]

Box 1, file 2: Material accepted prior to 1980 [1955-1957]
Box 1, file 3: Unpublished Material 1950's & 1960's [1956-1980]
Box 4, file 3;;Short stories accepted 1980 [1986-1987]
Unpublished short stories and essay sub series, 1955-1980
Box 4, file 6: Early Unpublished Writing, 1950's -1980 [1956-1980]
Box 5, file 9: Short Stories Written During the 1950's [1955-1967]
Box 6, file 1: Old Short Stories and Essays [1969-1977]
Box 6, file 2: Old Short Stories and Essays [1969]

Non Fiction series: 1968-1997

Newspaper sub series 1968-1997
Box 3, file 4: Letters-to-the-Editor [1984-1997]
Box 3, file 5: Newspaper Column, 1968-1972
Book reviews sub series, 1970-1981
Box 3, file 9: Book Reviews
Speeches sub series, 1968-1976
Box 1, file 4: Speeches Made [1978-1997]
Box 2, file 4: Speeches written for others [1974-1990]
Box 4, file 4: Speeches and Letters, Ottawa 1968-1972, others to 1976

File List of the Blanche Howard Fonds

Box 1

- 1) Vanier Institute [of the Family] Dispute 1980-1983
- 2) Material Accepted Prior to 1980
- 3) Unpublished Material 1950's & 60's
- 4) Speeches Made 1978-1997
- 5) *A friend and His Money* [197?]
- 6) *The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle* [1977]
- 7) *Pretty Lady*, Reviews [1976-1986]

Box 2

- 1) *The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle*, Reviews [1977-1978]
- 2) *The Manipulator*, Reviews [1973]
- 3) Publicity and Promotion [197?]
- 4) Speeches written for others [1974-1990]
- 5) Letters to Carol Shields 1974-1990
- 6) Letters to Carol Shields, 1990-1994,
- 7)[Letters to Carol Shields, 1991-1996,

Box 3

- 1) Moodyville Theatre [1990-1992]
- 2) Capalano College [1980 & 1985]

- 3) Abandoned Novel Started With Carol Shields [n.d.]
- 4)[Letters-to-the-Editor, 1983- 1997]
- 5) Newspaper Column written 1968-1972
- 6) Cultural Services, 1991
- 7) Canada Council, 1992
- 8) Canada Council, 1993
- 9) Book Reviews written by B. Howard 1970's [to 1981]

Box 4

- 1) Reviews & Publicity 1970-1990 [includes photographs]
- 2) Campagnola Campaign 1984
- 3) Short Stories Accepted 1980's [includes correspondence with publisher]
- 4) Speeches and Letters, Ottawa 1968-72 (other to 1976)
- 5) Unpublished Novel [Correspondence with publishers]
- 6) Early Unpublished Writing, 1950-1980 [includes correspondence with publishers]
- 7) *Manipulator* – Congratulations [1972-1974]

Box 5

- 1) McClelland and Stewart, Correspondence, Contract –*Manipulator* [1977-1978]
- 2) Royalties – *Manipulator* [1971-1985]
- 3) *Pretty Lady* [correspondence, publicity] [1974-1982]
- 4) Royalties – *The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle* (Contract) [1975-1980]
- 5) Royalties – *Pretty Lady* (Contract) [1974-1982]

6)[*The Disciples of Pierre* (Unpublished Novel) [197?]

7)[*The Disciples of Pierre*- correspondence with publishers] [197?]

8) *Larry's Party*, M/S edited by B. Howard 96/97

9) Short Stories Written During 1950's [1955-1967]

Box 6

1) Old Short Stories and Essays [1969-1977]

2) Old Short Stories and Essays [1969]

3) *A Friend and His Money*, Unpublished [197?]

4) *An Ordinary Sort of Fellow* (Abandoned M/S) [197?]

5)[*A Life For the Asking*, (Abandoned M/S)] [197?]

Box 7

1) Early Draft of Carol Shields Novel, [n.d.]

A Fairly Conventional Woman, Edited by B. Howard

2) *The Disciples of Pierre*, Unpublished

3)[*Sleepwalker*] [Later called *Random Access*] [n.d.]

4) Early Draft of *Random Access* [includes annotations][n.d.]

5) *Trudeau's Coattails* [included letter from publisher]

6)[Telephone book registry of manuscript out list, 1955-1983]

Box 8

1) Publisher's copy of M/S

The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle

Pretty Lady [1977]

2) Early Draft of *A Celibate Season*, [198?]

as sent between Carol Shields and Blanche Howard

3) Failed Beginning of Sci Fiction Novel [198?]

4) Early Draft of Play, *A Celibate Season* [198?]

Edited by Carol Shields

5) Vanier Institute [of the Family] Materials 1980 [to 1984]

6) Biography to May 1977 [1997]

7)[three signed novels: *The Immortal Soul of Edwin Carlyle*, *Pretty Lady*, *The Manipulator*] 1972-1977