

Florence Ann McNeil fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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Fonds Description

Florence Ann McNeil fonds. – 1957-2018.

1.16m of textual materials.

4 photographs.

20 floppy disks.

1 USB drive.

Biographical Sketch

Florence McNeil, a UBC graduate, was a successful writer of poetry and fiction for adults and children. She won many awards for her work. Some of her novels were translated into other languages and adapted for film. Perhaps her most well-known work was "Breathing Each Other's Air." She also wrote for UBC's student newspaper *The Ubyyssey* and for the CBC radio program "Canadian Short Stories." She also taught at a high school and at three Universities – Western Washington, Calgary, and UBC.

Scope and Content

The fonds contains correspondence, contracts and royalty information, reviews, research notes, drafts of various manuscripts and productions, and ephemera from speaking engagements. It consists of the following series; "General Correspondence, contractual information, publicity, and etc.," "Novels," "Plays," "Radio Productions," "Children's Books," "Multimedia", and "Photographs.

Notes

File list available.

The contents of this fonds were donated from the estate of Florence McNeil by her husband David McNeal.

The spelling of David McNeal's last name is different from the spelling of Florence McNeil's last name.

Series Descriptions

General Series. – 1957 – 2018.

18cm textual materials

Series consists of general correspondence with McNeil's editors, publishers, publicists, as well as contracts with the same. It also consists of general conferences and reading programs that she attended or participated in. Correspondence was not re-arranged by the processor due to the possibility it may have been arranged with an arrangement not communicated to the Archives.

Novels Series. – 1971 – 1990.

14cm Textual materials

Series consists of records related to McNeil's novels. It contains drafts, correspondence with McNeil's editors, publishers, publicists, as well as contracts with the same. It also consists of general conferences and reading programs that she attended or participated in.

Plays Series. – [1985] – 1994.

19 cm Textual materials

Series consists of records related to the theatrical production of Barkerville.

Poetry Series. – [1960] – 2011.

40cm Textual materials

Series consists of records related to McNeil's Poetry publications. It contains drafts, correspondence with McNeil's editors, publishers, publicists, as well as contracts with the same. It also consists of general conferences and reading programs that she attended or participated in.

Radio Productions Series. 1980.

1cm Textual Materials

Series consists of records related to the Radio production of Barkerville.

Children's Books Series. 1975 – 2006.

24cm Textual materials

Series consists of records related to McNeil's children's books. It contains drafts, correspondence with McNeil's editors, publishers, publicists, as well as contracts with

the same. It also consists of general conferences and reading programs that she attended or participated in.

Multimedia Series. – 1986 – 2009.

20 floppy disks and one USB drive

Series consists of floppy disks and a USB drive containing drafts, correspondence, business, etc. Files on USB drive were accessible during processing. Files on the floppies were not checked. USB files are from the late 90's. Floppy labels mention documents from 1986 to 2009.

Photographs Series. – n.d.

4 Photographs

Series consists of three publicity photos for reproduction and a slide photograph of a sailboat. The publicity photos were moved from 4-7.

File List

GENERAL Series

Box 1

- 1-1 Can Cow (Canadian Council)
- 1-2 Contracts and correspondence
- 1-3 [Correspondence V1]
- 1-4 [Correspondence V2]
- 1-5 [Correspondence V3]
- 1-6 [Correspondence V4]

Box 2

- 2-1 [Correspondence V5]
- 2-2 [Correspondence V6]
- 2-3 [Correspondence V6]
- 2-4 Bio and Promotion [1983 – 2018]
- 2-5 Conference and Readings Programs
- 2-6 Thistledown Review List

NOVELS Series

- 2-7 Canadian Government Grants – 1977 – 1990
- 2-8 Breathing, [Pt 1 – 1990s]
- 2-9 Breathing, [Pt 2 – 1990s]

2-10 Breathing, [Pt 3 – 1990s]

Box 3

3-1 Emigrants – For Bio Background – Draft of a story never finished based on Florence’s parents (Hebridean Scots emigrating to Canada in 1920) n.d.

3-2 Hamilton [2000 – 2001]

3-3 Notes, ideas, and drafts from 1971 – 1990

3-4 [Readings (invites etc.) 1973-1994]

PLAYS Series

3-5 [Barkerville the Play, Pt 1 – New Play Centre 1986/87]

3-6 [Barkerville the Play, Pt 2 – Barkerville Production Script]

3-7 [Barkerville the Play, Pt 3 – Barkerville – McNeil final script]

3-8 [Barkerville the Play, Pt 4, Script development, ephemera, historical research]

Box 4

4-1 [Barkerville the Play, Pt 5, Script development]

4-2 [Barkerville the Play, Pt 6, Barkerville notes and script adjustment]

4-3 [Barkerville the Play, Pt 7, Script Development - Script Draft 2]

4-4 [Barkerville the Play, Pt 8, Script development]

4-5 [Barkerville the Play, Pt 9, Contract and Early Script Draft 1980’s – 1994]

4-6 Play Contracts [86-89]

4-7 Bios

- 4-8 General reviews [77-84]
- 4-9 [Canadian Literature Quarterly of Criticism and Review 74 and 75 – 1977]
- 4-10 [Canadian Literature Quarterly of Criticism and Review 97 and 104 – 1983 – 1985]

POETRY Series

Box 5

- 5-1 Balancing Act – Reviews [1979 – 81]
- 5-2 Balancing Act Drafts [1979]
- 5-3 Barkerville – (Thistledown book) – drafts, etc. [V1 ~1984]
- 5-4 Barkerville – (Thistledown book) – drafts, etc. [V2 ~1984]
- 5-5 Barkerville – (Thistledown book) – drafts, etc. [V3 ~1984]
- 5-6 Barkerville correction
- 5-7 Barkerville Prose Book from the 1960's
- 5-8 Barkerville Reviews and publishing contract [83-85]
- 5-9 Breathing – Reviews [94 – 96]
- 5-10 Breathing [94-97]
- 5-11 Company of Angels (Contract) [1999]
- 5-12 Company of Angels V1 – Preliminary Proof [~1999]
- 5-13 Company of Angels V2 – Angels Drafts [~1999]
- 5-14 Drafts – Very Early (60's or earlier) – Some from Silent Green Sky – Some Unpublished

- 5-15 [Drafts found without folder]
- 5-16 Emily Drafts etc.
- 5-17 Emily Reviews [75-85]
- 5-18 General/Articles [1972 – 1990]
- 5-19 Ghost Town Reviews [1975-2011]
- 5-20 Later Poems (selected) (some angels?)
- 5-21 Lewis Carroll Drafts
- 5-22 Misc. Drafts from Rim to Ghost Towns – Some unfinished [~1972 – 1975]
- 5-23 New – Family Poems, Barra [~2001]
- 5-24 Old Poems '70's
- 5-25 Overlanders Drafts, etc. [~1982]
- 5-26 Overlanders Reviews and etc. [79 – 84]
- 5-27 Poem Series Submission for 1980 CBC Literary Competition
- 5-28 Poems, Revisions, Uncompleted Poems – Valhaoin etc.
- 5-29 Poetry Juvenilia Drafts from Silent Green Sky and Rim of the Park
- 5-30 Rim – Reviews [72-75]
- 5-31 Selected – New Poems [~1991]
- 5-32 Silent ... Sky reviews 60's
- 5-33 Standing Stones - Barra Drafts [V1 ~1999 – 200]
- 5-34 Standing Stones - Barra Drafts [V2 ~1999 – 2001]

5-35 Standing Stones - Barra Drafts [V3 ~1999 – 2001]

5-36 Standing Stones Drafts and etc. [99-00]

BOX 6

6-1 Swimming [1992 – 98]

6-2 Thistledown, Contracts etc. [1981-82]

6-3 [Various Tables of Content for Poetry Books n.d.]

6-4 Walhachen [~1972]

RADIO PRODUCTIONS Series

6-5 Barkerville Script – Radio [1980]

CHILDREN'S BOOKS Series

6-6 American Submissions

6-7 D&M

6-8 Children's Books Drafts Correspondence, Reviews, and etc. [V01]

6-9 Children's Books Drafts Correspondence, Reviews, and etc. [V02]

6-10 Children's Books Drafts Correspondence, Reviews, and etc. [V03]

6-11 [Correspondence W/ Potlatch Publications]

6-12 [Fan Mail]

6-13 [Poem by student Karen M.]

6-14 [Replies "rain stars" and "kids poetry"]

6-15 [Student book report by Amrita Athwal]

6-16 [Writers Union of Canada Invitation]

6-17 [Story draft mentioning "dad"]

BOX 7

7-1 [Short Stories, Synopses, Correspondence, poetry]

7-2 [Note with translation of Scotch Gaelic Phrase]

7-3 [Notes on a book]

7-4 [All Kinds of Magic – Marketing]

7-5 [Magic – Reviews]

7-6 [Catriona Reviews V1]

7-7 [Catriona Reviews V2]

7-8 [Reviews etc., catalog, Miss P.]

7-9 [Notes on "Pictures from a ..."]

7-10 [Rain Stars for Christmas Draft]

7-11 [Sail Away Reviews]

7-12 [Orca/Sail Away/Publicity]

7-13 [Sail Away Contract]

7-14 [Orca Book Publishers Fall 2000 Catalogue]

7-15 [Sail Away Marketing]

7-16 [Summer Conversion and etc. drafts]

- 7-17 [Squirrels in my Notebook]
- 7-18 [Gillian]
- 7-19 [Reviews – Whales and Sail Away]
- 7-20 [Letter – RE: Whales – play -royalty]
- 7-21 [Scans of Poems]
- 7-22 [Kids Poems]
- 7-23 [McNeil Info package]
- 7-24 [McNeil Appearances]
- 7-25 [Correspondence, Speaking Engagements, Reviews, Marketing]

BOX 8

- 8-1 [Correspondence and Marketing]
- 8-2 [Harper Junior Books Group Spring 1985 Brochure]
- 8-3 [Reviews]
- 8-4 [Kid Lit Reviews]

MULTIMEDIA Series

- 8-5 [Floppy Disks and USB Drive w/ drafts, correspondence, etc.]

PHOTOGRAPHS Series

- 192.1/1 [Photograph slide of a sail boat] 5x5cm; color
- 192.1/2 [Publicity photo 1]; 11.75x17cm; B&W

192.1/3 [Publicity Photo 2]; 12.5x17.5cm; B&W

192.1/4 [Publicity Photo 3]; 12.5x17.5cm; B&W