

# George Woodcock fonds

Originally compiled 1958  
Last revised October 2010



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# Fonds Description

**George Woodcock fonds.** – 1933-1949, 1954-1956, 1976, 1992.

8 cm of textual records.

## Biographical Sketch

George Woodcock (1912-1995) was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He was raised and educated in England where, in the late 1930s, he met many members of London's literary circle including Dylan Thomas, Roy Campbell, Herbert Read and George Orwell. Woodcock returned to Canada in 1949 and joined UBC's Department of English seven years later. He became editor of the newly-formed journal *Canadian Literature* and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1977. In Canada Woodcock is best known as a poet, critic, dramatist and social commentator, while in England he is recognized as an author of travel books, political commentator and biographer. Throughout his career, Woodcock received numerous awards and honorary degrees.

## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of copies of radio scripts from Woodcock's radio broadcasts, correspondence with George Orwell and poet Lance Godwin, and examples of Woodcock's early poetry.

## Notes

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

The radio scripts and Orwell correspondence were acquired directly from George Woodcock in the 1970s. The remaining materials were purchased from Kent Godwin in 2019.

File list available.

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

Related records can be found in the [James Campbell fonds](#). The majority of George Woodcock's papers are held at [Queen's University Archives](#).

## Series Descriptions

**Scripts.** – 1954-1956.

6.5 cm.

Series consists of copies of 46 scripts prepared by George Woodcock for radio broadcast, most for the CBC.

**Correspondence.** – 1933-1949, 1976, 1991.

0.5 cm.

Series consists of correspondence, and includes photocopies of incoming correspondence from George Orwell. Also included is correspondence from George Woodcock addressed to Lance Godwin. Godwin was a poet and writer, who studied and taught English at Manchester University prior to the Second World War, where he was editor of *The Serpent* magazine and a contemporary of Anthony Burgess and Ian Stuart Black, amongst others. Woodcock and Godwin were childhood friends and both grew up in small Shropshire villages. Their friendship was maintained after Woodcock moved back to Canada.

**Poetry.** – 1939, [n.d.].

1 cm.

Series consists of examples of George Woodcock's early poetry, and includes one published work and eleven manuscripts (typewritten and handwritten).

# File List

## BOX 1

### SCRIPTS

- 1-1       Copies of Radio Scripts - CBC (1954)
- Script 1 - "Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, the Man of Paradox"  
          Script 2 - "A Parisian's Diary"
- 1-2       Copies of Radio Scripts - "London Reminiscences" (ca. 1955)
- Script 1 - "The London Poets"  
          Script 2 - "Some London Publishers"  
          Script 3 - "On Literary Editors"  
          Script 4 - "The Literary Haunts of London"
- 1-3       Copies of Scripts - "The Four-Dimensional Journey" - CBC (ca. 1955)
- Script 1 - "The Odyssey"  
          Script 2 - "Don Quixote"  
          Script 3 - "War and Peace"
- 1-4       Copies of Radio Scripts - CBC - "Mexico and the English Novelists" (1956)
- Script 1 - "D.H. Lawrence" (April 29, 1956)  
          Script 2 - "Graham Green" (May 6, 1956)  
          Script 3 - "Malcolm Lowry" (n.d.)
- 1-5       Copies of Radio Scripts - "As Their Wives Saw Them" - Trans-Canada  
          Matinee (1956)
- Script 1 - "The Wife of a President" (July 4, 1956)  
          Script 2 - "Lord Byron's Wife" (July 11, 1956)  
          Script 3 - "Countess Tolstoy Views the Dark Side of Her Husband" (July 18,  
          1956)  
          Script 4 - "The Wives of Napoleon" (July 25, 1956)  
          Script 5 - "The Two Wives of Shelley" (August 1, 1956)

- Script 6 - "Jane Carlyle" (August 8, 1956)  
Script 7 - "Victoria and Albert" (August 15, 1956)
- 1-6 Copies of Radio Script - "Critically Speaking" (July 15, 1956)
- Reviews of Red, Black, Brown and Olive by Edmund Wilson and The White Kepi by Walter Kanitz.
- 1-7 Copies of Radio Scripts - Speaker's Choice (1956)
- "Death of a Gypsy Chieftan" (June 29, 1956)  
Script 1 - "Journey into the Andes" (November 3, 1956)  
Script 2 - "Journey into the Jungle" (November 10, 1956)  
Script 3 - "The Land of the Incas" (November 17, 1956)  
Script 4 - "The Land of the Chimu" (November 24, 1956)
- 1-8 Copies of Radio Scripts - "Offbeat" - CBC (1956)
- Script 1 - "Caleb Williams"  
Script 2 - "Nightmare Abbey" by Thomas Peacock  
Script 3 - "Oblemov" by Ivan Goncharov  
Script 4 - "The Green Child" by Robert Read
- 1-9 Copies of Radio Scripts (n.d.)
- "Oscar Wilde"  
"George Bernard Shaw"  
"Henry James"  
"H.G. Wells"  
"Joseph Conrad"  
"Ford Madox Ford"  
"James Joyce"
- 1-10 Copies of Radio Scripts - Survey of Restoration Drama and Prose Fiction [6 CBC talks] (n.d.)
- Script 1 - "The Restoration Drama - Introductory"  
Script 2 - "The Hayday of the Restoration Comedy"  
Script 3 - "The Rise of Criticism"  
Script 4 - "The Fiction of the Early Restoration"

Script 5 - "Aphra Behn and the Beginning of the Novel"  
Script 6 - Defoe and the Eighteenth Century Novelists' Debt to the  
Restoration"

1-11 Copies of Scripts - "Towns (Rural)" (n.d.)

Script 1 - "A Shropshire Market Town"  
Script 2 - "Llanybri, A Village of the Welsh Countryside"  
Script 3 - "Thun - A Swiss Lakeside Town"  
Script 4 - "Arles"  
Script 5 - "Paris - Rue St. Jacques"

## CORRESPONDENCE

1-12 Photocopied incoming correspondence from George Orwell (1945-1949)

## BOX 2

2-1 Lance Godwin correspondence  
- 5th March 1976  
- Christmas card, with envelope December 1991

2-2 Empty envelopes (11), addressed to Lance Godwin 1933-42

## POETRY

2-3 "Ballad of an Orphan Hand" – printed/published 1939  
- printed on back: "Blue Moon Poem for Christmas 1939 – 100 signed copies  
for sale. No. ...."  
- handwritten on back: "To John Lance Godwin, with fraternal good wishes –  
from George Woodcock"

2-4 Poems – typed [n.d.]  
- "Canto" – 2 pp.  
- "Elegy" – 1 p.  
- "For Esther Rosenfeld" – handwritten comment – includes fragments of 2  
other poems – 1 p.  
"Nocturne", signed "GW" – handwritten notes on back – 1 p.

"Ode", signed "GW" – 1 p.

"The Panther" – 2 pp.

"Waterloo Bridge" – handwritten notes on back of last page – 5 pp. and title page

2-5 Poems – handwritten [n.d.]

- "Lines in the Vein of Omar Khayyam" – 1 p.

- 3 poems – 2 untitled, one titled "Statement" – 1 p.