

University of Victoria Special Collections

Russell, Lawrence, 1941-

SC107

Title

Lawrence Russell fonds

Dates

1965-1972

Extent

30 cm of textual records

2 posters

Biographical Sketch

Lawrence Russell has been a professor in the University of Victoria Department of Creative Writing since the mid-1960s. His first volume of plays, "Penetration", was published in 1972. Russell has also co-written plays with Ray Logie and Robert Sward.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of material relating to book reviews by Russell, including Russell's correspondence with Howard Gerwing and Russell's articles about George Cuomo, Robin Skelton, Stanley Cooperman, John Newlove, and Liam O'Flaherty; and, drafts of Russell's unpublished novels and short stories.

Finding Aids

Inventory available with series and file level control.

Title Source

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

INVENTORY OF THE RECORDS OF

LAWRENCE RUSSELL

Prepared by: Anne Maclean

University of Victoria Archives

January 1991

INTRODUCTION

The records of Lawrence Russell were donated to the University Archives in 1977 and 1986. They document Russell's creative activities from the mid-1960's to the early 1970's, and include drafts of plays he co-wrote with Ray Logie, as well as a drawing by Judith Sward for the Soft Press (Victoria, B.C.). Russell's records therefore reveal his collaborations and association with other Victoria writers and artists, and give some insights into the local creative community.

Researchers may also wish to consult the records of Robert Sward, which include drafts of a play co-written by Sward and Russell, and the records of Robin Skelton, which include drafts of six plays written by Russell and sent to Skelton for his editorial comments.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lawrence Russell was born in 1941. He began teaching in the University of Victoria Dept. of Creative Writing in the mid-1960's. In addition to his teaching Russell has written numerous plays and novels. His plays have been produced in Vancouver, Toronto and Ottawa, and published in such periodicals as *The Malahat Review* and *Canadian Fiction Magazine*.

Russell's first volume of plays, *Penetration*, was published by Sono Nis Press in 1972. Other volumes followed, including *Mystery of the Pig-Killer's Daughter*, published by the Angst World Library, Seattle, in 1975. Russell has also been interested in music and developed a stereo tape system called DNA. His tapes, *Camouflage* and *Geometry and Dream* have been broadcast on American FM stations.

Lawrence Russell continues to teach Creative Writing at U. Vic.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I REVIEWS, 1966-1972
Accession 77-86, Box 1, Files 1-4
5 cm.
Arranged chronologically.

Correspondence with Howard Gerwing relating to book reviews by Russell; article and background information by Russell on his Theatre of the Invisible; Russell's reviews of works by George Cuomo, Robin Skelton, Stanley Cooperman and John Newlove; article on Liam O'Flaherty.

II PROSE FICTION, 1965-ca. 1972
Accession 77-86, Box 1, Files 5-7; Boxes 2-3
Accession 86-43, Box 1
40 cm.
Arranged chronologically.

Drafts of Russell's prose fiction works, including the novels "The European Lover" and "Mumps", along with a diary used as the basis for "The European Lover"; the plays "Pictures of Me", "The Widow [Woodbine]" or "Miramichi", "The Deserter", "The Forgery", "The Robbery", "Ruth", "The Shoemaker", all written in collaboration with Ray Logie; and the play, "A Blow for Freedom".

III GRAPHIC MATERIALS, n.d.
Accession 77-86, Box 4
2 drawings; 46 cm. x 31 cm. or smaller.
No arrangement

1 drawing advertising Russell's play, "Magic Juice"; drawing by Judith Sward for Soft Press, Victoria, B.C., c/o Robert Sward, U. Vic. Dept. of English. n.d.

Accession 77-86

Box 1

- 1.1 Correspondence with Howard Gerwing, 1966-1968.
- 1.2 Theatre of the Invisible. Article; plays. 1969. Tss. and mimeographs, ca. 75 leaves.
- 1.3 Book reviews: George Cuomo, *Among Thieves*; Robin Skelton, *Inscriptions*; Stanley Cooperman, *Owl Behind the Door*; John Newlove, *Black Night Window*. 1968.
- 1.4 "The Man from Aran: A Study of Liam O'Flaherty". Carbon ts.; newspaper clipping of article on Lawrence Russell and DNA, his stereo tape system, 1972.
- 1.5 Diary, 1965-1966. Used as the basis for Russell's novel, "The European Lover". Tss. with hol. rev., 113 leaves.
- 1.6 "The European Lover", novel. Background material - typed notes, fragments of manuscript.

- 1.7 "The European Lover". 1st draft. Tss. with hol. rev., 50 leaves.
1.8 "The European Lover". 2nd draft. Tss., 93 leaves.

Box 2

- 2.1 "Mumps", novel. Fragments, dummy sheets.
2.2 "Mumps". Complete top copy, January 1966. Ts. with hol. rev., ca. 200 leaves.
2.3 "Mumps". Carbon draft, Malaga, 1966. Ca. 200 leaves.
2.4 "Mumps". Incomplete variant draft, n.d. Tss. and carbons, ca. 75 leaves.

Box 3

- 3.1 "Pictures of Me", play. n.d. Carbon ts., 47 leaves.
3.2 "The Widow [Woodbine]" or "Miramichi". Ts. with hol. rev., 53 leaves.
3.3 "The Deserter". Play by Lawrence Russell and Ray Logie. Tss. with hol. rev., 23
leaves.
3.4 "The Forgery". Play by Russell and Logie. Tss. with hol. rev., 21 leaves.
3.5 "The Robbery". Play by Russell and Logie. Tss. with hol. rev., 22 leaves.
3.6 "Ruth". Play by Russell and Logie. Tss. with hol. rev., 27 leaves.
3.7 "The Shoemaker". Tss. with hol. rev., 32 leaves.

Box 4

- 4.1 2 posters - 1 advertising "Magic Juice" by Russell; 1 drawn by Judith Sward for
Soft Press, c/o Robert Sward, U. Vic. Dept. of English. n.d.

Accession 86-43

Box 1

- 1.1 "A Blow for Freedom". Play by Russell, n.d. Copy of ts., 19 leaves.