

AYA PRESS PAPERS

LMS-0120

1985-09

Finding Aid

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Introduction to AYA Press

A member of the Literary Press Group of the Association of Canadian Publishers, Aya Press has published 21 titles in 7 years, 1977-1984. Although this Toronto-based publishing house is one of the smallest of Canada's small literary presses, Aya Press is renowned for both the outstanding quality and the eclectic nature of its publications.

Glynn Davies, founded Aya Press from scratch with his own funds and launched his publishing programme in 1978 with Itzy Borenstein's Ancient Music. Shortly after, Davies acquired and distributed the stock of Basilike Press, his brother Paul's small but short-lived literary press. Glynn Davies' interest in contemporary Canadian poetry continued; Aya Press has published the works of experimental poets such as bp Nichol and Steve McCaffery and of lesser-known Canadian poets. Interest in contemporary Canadian poetry culminated in the Aya Press Poetry Series which has grown to six titles to date. Aya Press has also undertaken a number of volumes of fiction by such writers as Leon Rooke, Rikki, Susan Kerlake and Sharon Drache. Perhaps the most commercially successful books have been the three short-fiction anthologies edited by Geoff Hancock of Canadian Fiction Magazine: Magic Realism and the two-volume set Illusion: Fantasy, Fables, Metafiction.

Aya Press has been fortunate in its collaboration with designer Paul Davies and with Tim Inkster of Porcupine's Quill, a printer distinguished by his pleasing designs and meticulous care in their execution. Jane and Tony Urquart's I am Walking in the Garden of His Imaginary Palace is not the only Aya Press publication to receive recognition for its excellent design. While most books are published in limited editions of five hundred or fewer copies, many are also released in deluxe editions. Among book collectors, as among aficionados of contemporary Canadian literature, Aya Press has found a definite niche.

It is significant that Aya Press contended with and survived a harsh period in the history of Canadian publishing. Aya's success can be attributed to the acumen of its publisher-editor, Glynn Davies. In order to ensure survival, few publishing projects were undertaken without a guarantee of external financial support, usually through the federal or provincial governments. Aya Press was also careful with its sales and distribution. Most books were sold directly through the mail while the rest were sold through the Literary Press Group Catalogue or through selected specialty book stores such as This Aint the Rosedale Library. Since 1977, Aya Press has grown to a comfortable size; averaging four titles a year, Aya is a small but vital literary press.

Aya Press Papers 1977-1985

27 Boxes 4.5 cm.

Scope and Contents

The Aya Press collection covers virtually every publishing project undertaken since 1978, a total of 21 titles. The collection is of particular interest to anyone examining small press publishing in Canada. As well as correspondence about solicited and unsolicited manuscripts, these papers thoroughly record the process of publication for each title. Those interested in book design will also be rewarded; correspondence between Porcupine's Quill and Glynn Davies as well as much of the artwork used to illustrate Aya Press publications is included. The financial records of Aya Press have been meticulously kept, providing an exact record of the business of small press publishing in Canada.

In sum, the papers of Aya Press document one of Canada's important small literary presses through a volatile and exciting period in the history of Canadian publishing and letters.

Detailed Description of Series

Series A. Legal Documents

Box 1 f.1 Registration papers

Series B. Professional Correspondence. Includes letters of acceptance and letters of rejection. Correspondence with authors about individual publishing projects are filed in Series C. See index to Correspondence on pp. 10-11.

General

f.2 1978
f.3 1979
f.4 1980
f.5 1981
f.6 1982
f.7 Jan.-Aug. 1983
f.8 Sept.-Dec. 1983

Box 2 f.1 Jan.-Sept. 1984
f.2 Oct.-Dec. 1984
f.3 Jan.-May 1985

Canada Council

f.4 1978-1980
f.5 1981-1982
f.6 1983-1984
f.7 1985

Box 3 Ontario Arts Council

f.1 1977-1979
f.2 1980-1981
f.3 1982
f.4 1983
f.5 1984
f.6 1985

Association of Canadian Publishers

f.7 1980-1983

Literary Press Group

f.8 1978-1979

f.9 1980-1985

Canadian Book Information Centre

f.10 1981-1985

Canadian Books in Print (Quill and Quire)

f.11 1978-1985

New York State Small Press Association

f.12 1978-1983

International Books in Print

f.13 1982-1984

Canadian Telebook Agency

f.14 1983

E.C.W. Press

f.15 1984-1985

Series C. Aya Press Publications. Arranged chronologically by project. Samples of published books are located together in Series G, Boxes 23-27.

1978

I. Borenstein, Itzy. Ancient Music.

Box 4

f.1 Correspondence. Mar. 28, 1978

f.2 Publicity, promotion

f.3 First proofs

f.4 Reviews

II. Henderson, Brian. The Viridical Book of the Silent Planet.

f.5 Correspondence. Sept. 1, 1978-Oct. 15, 1980

f.6 Publicity, promotion

f.7 Original ts. (1978) 68 pp.

f.8 "Artist's working copy" ts. photocopy 81 pp.

- f.9 Galleys with corrections. photocopy 86 pp.
- f.10 Proofs
- f.11 Reviews

III. Nichol, bp. Craft Dinner.

- f.12 Correspondence. Aug. 14, 1978-June 27, 1979.
- f.13 Publicity, Promotion
- f.14 Printer's ts. (1978)
- f.15 Proofs with corrections. ts. photocopy 71 pp.
- f.16 Reviews

1979

IV. McCaffery, Steve and bp Nichol. In England Now That Spring.

- Box 5
- f.1 Correspondence. July 2, 1979-June 23, 1981
 - f.2 Publicity, promotion
 - f.3 Original working ts.
 - f.4 Reviews

V. Rikki. (Erica Ducornet) The Illustrated Universe.

- f.5 Correspondence. July 18, 1978-Aug. 31, 1980
- f.6 Publicity, promotion
- f.7 Printer's ts. with corrections. 64 pp.
- f.8 Photographs and negatives. (Nov. 14, 1978)
- f.9 Reviews

VI. Vale, Florence. Florence Vale: Selected Drawings and Verse.

- f.10 Correspondence. Oct. 25, 1979-Nov. 21, 1979
- f.11 Publicity, promotion
- f.12 Verse with revisions
- f.13 Printer's ts. 60 pp.
- f.14 Printer's Dummy
- f.15 Proofs
- f.16 Drawings and reproductions
- f.17 Reviews

1980

VII. Hancock, Geoff, ed. Magic Realism.

- Box 6 f.1 Correspondence. Jan. 14, 1979-June 3, 1981.
 Includes correspondence with:
 Amprimoz, Alexander
 Bauer, William A.
 Crowell, Peter
 Ferron, Madelaine
 Kingstone, Basil
 Ledbetter, Ken
 Matthews, Lawrence
 Ritter, Erika
 Rochon, Esther
 Rooke, Leon
 Ross, James
 Shroeder, Andreas
 Tinkhaus, Marilyn
 Yates, J. Michael
 f.2 Publicity, promotion
 f.3 Introduction "first draft, not used" ts. 13 pp.
 Ferron, Madeleine "The Tamed Coffin" ts. 6 pp.
 Hodgins, Jack "The Plague Children" Weekend
 Magazine. Aug. 15, 1979
 f.4 Reviews
- Box 29 Book jacket (5 copies)

VIII. Riddell, John. Transitions

- f.5 Correspondence. June 20, 1980-Aug. 14, 1980
 f.6 Publicity, promotion
 f.7 Printer's copy. ts. photocopy
 f.8 Cancellations
 f.9 Illustrative material

IX. Rikki. (Erica Ducornet) The Butcher's Tales.

- f.10 Correspondence. July 4, 1979-July 22, 1982
- f.11 Publicity, promotion
- f.12 Printer's copy ts. 144 pp.
- f.13 Proofs. ts. printout
- f.14 Reviews

X. Singer, Peter. Ariel and Caliban.

- Box 7
- f.1 Correspondence. July 7, 1980-July 26, 1983
 - f.2 Publicity, promotion
 - f.3 Reviews

1981

XI. Rooke, Leon. The Magician in Love.

- f.4 Correspondence. Jan. 7, 1980-Dec. 29, 1982
- f.5 Publicity, promotion
- f.6 Early Canadian, a novel. ts. 13 pp.
The Magician in Love. ts. 115 pp.
- f.7 Proofs
- f.8 Reviews

XII. Bassani, Giorgio. Rolls Royce and other Poems.

- f.9 Correspondence. Oct. 7, 1979-Sept. 3, 1984
- f.10 Publicity, promotion
- f.11 Selected Poems in Translation

XIII. Itwaru, Arnold. Shattered Songs.

- f.12 Correspondence. Jul. 10, 1980-Aug. 22, 1982
- f.13 "First final draft"

XIV. Joyce, Dianne/Tihanyi, Eva. Stone Wear/A Sequence of the Blood. This volume was originally proposed as a four-poet volume, A Four-Pointed Glass, poems by Dianne Feser, Eva Tihanyi, Dianne Berkeley, and Kathryn Deneau MacDonald which was revised and proposed as two two-poet volumes, one of which was accepted for publication.

- Box 8
- f.1 Correspondence. Nov. 3, 1980-July 1, 1983
 - f.2 Publicity, promotion
 - f.3 A Four-Pointed Glass. ts. 131 pp.
 - f.4 Stone Wear/A Sequence of the Blood. Aya Press

- Poetry Series no. 3. ts. photocopy 72 pp.
f.5 Stone Wear/A Sequence of the Blood. Printer's
copy. ts. photocopy 78 pp.
f.6 Proofs
f.7 Reviews

XV. Savoie, Paul. Acrobats

- f.8 Correspondence. Apr. 9, 1982-Oct. 8, 1982
f.9 Publicity, promotion
f.10 Printer's copy ts. photocopy 69 pp.
f.11 Proofs
f.12 Reviews

XVI. Urquhart, Jane and Tony Urquhart. I am Walking in the Garden of His Imaginary Palace.

- Box 9 f.1 Correspondence. Apr. 8, 1982-Oct. 8, 1983
f.2 Publicity, promotion
f.3 2 ts. photocopy 55 pp.
f.4 Author's proofs and Artist's proofs

1983

XVII. Hancock, Geoff, ed. Illusion One and Illusion Two.

- f.5 Correspondence Nov.10, 1980-Mar.26, 1984.
Includes correspondence with:
Bowering, George
Bullock, Michael
Gallant, Mavis
McKevitt, Garry
McNamara, Eugene
McWhirter, George
O'Hagan, Howard
Page, P.K.
Payerle, George
Priest, Robert
Ross, James
Sharpe, David
Sutherland, Fraser
Taafe, Gerald
Virgo, Sean
Wynand, Derk
f.6 Publicity, promotion
f.7 "Introduction" to Illusion Two. First draft
"Preface" to Illusion Two. ts. 5 pp.

- f.8 Illusion One. "Final draft" ts. photocopy
- f.9 Illusion Two. (Final draft) ts. photocopy
- f.10 Artwork
- f.11 Reviews

XVIII. Moritz, Albert F. The Visitation.

- Box 10
- f.1 Correspondence. Dec. 27, 1981-Dec. 8, 1983
 - f.2 Publicity, promotion
 - f.3 ts. photocopy
 - f.4 Proofs with corrections
 - f.5 Reviews

XIX. Sward, Robert. Half a Life's History.

Contains correspondence and tss. for both Half A Life's History and a proposed book 15 Interviews prepared by Robert Sward and Patricia Keeney-Smith.

- f.6 Correspondence. Nov. 19, 1982-Aug. 1, 1984
- f.7 Printer's ts. photocopy 78 pp.
- f.8 Galleys with corrections
- f.9 15 Interviews. ts. printout
- f.10 Reviews of Half a Life's History

1984

XX. Ahearn, Catherine. Luna-Verse.

- Box 11
- f.1 Correspondence. May 26, 1981-Mar. 28, 1984
 - f.2 Publicity, promotion
 - f.3 Printer's ts. (1981) photocopy 84 pp.
 - f.4 "Author's revised ms. 1983" ts. photocopy 84 pp.
 - f.5 Proofs "received Mar. 28, 1984"
 - f.6 Reviews

XXI. Drache, Sharon. The Mikveh Man and Other Stories.

- f.7 Correspondence. July 4, 1983-Nov. 6, 1984
- f.8 Publicity, promotion
See also Tape Box for interviews with Sharon Drache.
- f.9 "Final ms." ts. 125 pp.
- f.10 "Final ms." Printer's copy. ts. 125 pp.
- f.11 "Early dummy"
- f.12 Proofs

- Box 12
- f.1 Reviews

f.2 Other writings by Sharon Drache including short stories and book reviews

XXII. Hancock, Geoff, ed. Shoes and Shit: Stories for Pedestrians.

f.3 Correspondence (1) Mar. 30, 1931-May 3, 1984

f.4 (2) June 1, 1984-Feb. 9, 1985.

Includes correspondence with:

Atwood, Margaret

Bowering, George

Bullock, Michael

Burnett, Virgil

Carrier, Roch

Davies, Robertson

Fischman, Sheila

Garn, Aimee

Hawkes, John

Heath, Terrence

Kingston, Maxine Hong

Kingstone, Basil

Kovacs, Steven

Lobdell, David

Lynch, Gerald

McWhirter, George

Nichol, bp

Rikki

Riley, Wilma

Rooke, Leon

Sepulveda, Ramon

Sutherland, Fraser

Tremblay, Mildred

Zellers, Anne

f.5 Publicity, promotion

f.6 Portfolio containing assorted stories and quotations collected by Geoff Hancock

f.7 "Original submission early 1985 included these stories subsequently dropped most for lack of permissions."

f.8 Dropped story. Kogawa, Joy. "I'm Always Dreaming about Shit"

f.9 "A Musing" by Geoff Hancock. Dec. 15, 1983 "not for publication" 2 ts.

f.10 "A Musing" ["Geoff's copy"]

Box 13

f.1 "Final selection"

- f.2 ts. for printer's estimate
 - f.3-5 Proofs with corrections
 - f.6 "First sheets"
 - f.7 "Penultimate sheets"
- Box 14
- f.1 Printer's corrected copy
 - f.2 Preliminary pages (second draft)
 - f.3 Preliminary pages from printer
 - f.4 Final proofs (grey)
 - f.5 Final proofs (bermuda pink)
 - f.6 Photographs and story by Martha Rosler
 - f.7 Artwork, photographs
 - f.8 Reviews
- Box 29
- Book jacket (2 copies)
- XXIII. Kerlake, Susan. Penumbra.
- Box 15
- f.1 Correspondence. Oct. 4, 1983-April, 1985
 - f.2 Publicity, promotion
 - f.3 "ts. sent to Canada Council Dec. 19, 1983." photocopy 163 pp.
 - f.4 ts. for printer. photocopy 163 pp.
 - f.5 Page proofs with corrections. Aug. 9, 1984 137 pp.
 - f.6 Aug. 9, 1984 2nd copy
 - f.7 Aug. 9, 1984 3rd copy
- Box 16
- f.1 Page proofs. Oct. 1, 1984
 - f.2 Final proofs
 - f.3 Cover design
 - f.4 Reviews

Series D. Unpublished Works

These manuscripts were considered for publication but were turned down for lack of external funding. See also C XIII and C XVIII.

- I. Boyarsky, Abraham
 - f.5 Correspondence. Sept. 10, 1979-May 23, 1980
 - f.6 A Number of Time. ts. photocopy 139 pp.
 - f.7 Peter Pfeiffer
- II. Roiter, Howard.
 - f.8 Correspondence. Jan. 16, 1981-Jan. 8, 1982

f.9 His Streets Were Paved With Hymie. ts. 223 pp.

III. Cohen, Joseph.

f.10 Correspondence. Oct. 13, 1982-Dec. 1, 1982

f.11 Major Arcana. ts. photocopy 22 pp.

Index to Correspondence

Dates refer to General Correspondence, Series B I. For correspondence about particular works, the researcher is directed to the appropriate series.

Ahearn, Catherine. April 17, 1984; May 18, 1984; June 23, 1984; Oct. 14, 1984; Dec. 9, 1984. Also C XIX.

Avery, Martin. Jan. 18, 1984.

Barbour, Douglas. Jan. 9, 1980.

Berkeley, Dianne. C XIII.

Birney, Earle. Mar. 28, 1978.

Bonnie, Fred. July 28, 1983.

Borenstein, Itzy. C I.

Boyarsky, Abraham. D I.

Burnett, Virgil. April 10, 1984; May 6, 1981; June 1, 1981.
Also

Cohen, Joseph. D III.

Colombo, John Robert. Aug. 6, 1980; Aug. 30, 1980.

Dabydeen, Cyril. Dec. 4, 1980; Dec. 7, 1982; April 10, 1984.

Deneau, Kathryn. C XIII.

Drache, Sharon. C XX.

Ducornet, Erica see Rikki

Fertig, Mona. June 18, 1981.

Feser, Dianne see Joyce, Dianne

Frye, Northrop. C XII.

Gatenby, Greg. Aug. 31, 1979. C XII.

Hancock, Geoff. Aug. 8, 1984; Aug. 20, 1984. Also C VII, C XVI,
C XXI.

Helwig, David. July 10, 1979.

Henderson, Brian. Oct. 28, 1981. Also C II.

Inkster, Tim. Dec. 16, 1983; Dec. 5, 1983.

Itwaru, Arnold. Nov. 14, 1983; Oct. 27, 1984. Also C XIII.

Joyce, Dianne. Sept. 17, 1984. Also C XIII.

Kerslake, Susan. C XXII.

The Malahat Review July 12, 1983.

Marchaelle, Ilona. May 3, 1983.

McCaffery, Steve. C IV.

McNamara, Eugene. Aug. 19, 1979; Oct. 25, 1984.

Moritz, Albert. Feb. 22, 1984; Aug. 27, 1984; Sept. 14, 1984;
Mar. 14, 1985. Also C XVII.
Musgrave, Susan. Oct. 12, 1979.
New, W.H. June 3, 1983; Sept. 16, 1984.
Nichol, bp. C III, C IV.
Nuttall, Jeff. Nov. 6, 1978.
Purdy, Al. Dec. 11, 1978; Dec. 7, 1978.
Riddell, John. C VIII.
Rikki. C V, C IX, C XXI.
Roiter, Howard. D II.
Rooke, Leon. June 8, 1983. Also C XI.
Savoie, Paul. C XIV.
Singer, Peter. C X.
Skelton, Robin. Sept. 1, 1983.
Sutherland, Fraser. Dec. 22, 1981.
Sward, Robert. Feb. 18, 1983; Apr. 1, 1985; April 4, 1985; May
4, 1984; May 7, 1985. Also C XVIII.
Tihanyi, Eva. C XIII.
Urquhart, Jane. Sept. 15, 1982; Oct. 16, 1982. Also C XV.
Urquhart, Tony. April 29, 1982. Also C XV.
Vale, Florence. C Vi.
Whiten, Clifton. Feb. 27, 1984; Oct. 1, 1984.
Zenik, Robert. Nov. 12, 1984.

Series E: Publicity, Promotion

- Box 17
- Aya Press Catalogues
 - f.1 1978, 1979, 1980-1981, 1983, 1984.
 - Promotional Materials
 - f.2 Includes postcards and flyers. See also individual publicity, promotion files in Series C.
 - f.3 Business Card. Design and correspondence.
 - Interviews
 - f.4 Interview with Glynn Davies by M.K. Williams. Jan. 18, 1983. ts. 2 pp.; ts. photocopy 3 pp.; "Aya Press: An Interview with Glynn Davies" in Publishing: Advice From Those Who've Done It. Maxville, Ontario: Ahnene Publications, 1984. 97-106. See cassettes for CBC radio interview.
 - Articles
 - f.5 Article featuring Aya Press. Quill and Quire, Aug. 1981.

The rest of this box contains Catalogues of the Literary

Press Group (1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, Spring 1985) and the New York State Small Press Association Catalog and Supplements (Fall 1979, Spring 1980).

Box 29 Publicity poster for Tony Urquhart exhibition, 1981.

Series F: Aya Press Financial Records

- Box 18 Annual Financial Statements
- f.1 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985
 - f.2 Working papers for the above
- Banking Records
- f.3 Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
 - June 1977-Sept. 1978
 - Sept. 1978-Mar. 1979
 - Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
 - Oct. 1978-Aug. 1979
 - Aug. 1979-Jan. 1980
 - Jan. 1980-Nov. 1980
 - f.4 Nov. 1980-Dec. 1981
 - Jan. 1982-Dec. 1983
 - f.5 Cheque Stubs
 - June 1977-Dec. 1978
 - Jan. 1979-Dec. 1979
 - Jan. 1980-Dec. 1980
 - Jan. 1981-Dec. 1981
 - Jan. 1982-Dec. 1982
 - Jan. 1983-Dec. 1983
 - Jan. 1984-Dec. 1984
 - Jan. 1985-May 1985
- Box 19 Business Expenses: Receipts
- June 1977-Dec. 1977
 - Jan. 1978-Dec. 1978
 - Jan. 1979-Dec. 1979
 - Jan. 1980-Dec. 1980
- Box 20 Jan. 1981-Dec. 1981
- Jan. 1982-Dec. 1982
 - Jan. 1983-Dec. 1983
 - Jan. 1984-Dec. 1984
 - Jan. 1985-May 15, 1985

Paid Invoices

Box 21 June 1977-Dec. 1981

Box 22 Jan. 1982-May 1985
Consignment Sales: General
July 1981-Mar. 1985

Consignment Sales: This Aint the Rosedale Library
Nov 1981-Aug. 1984

Unpaid Invoices
June 1980-Dec. 1983

**Series G: Aya Press Publications Box 23-27 transferred to
general collections**

Box 23 Aya Press Poetry Series

- No.1 Itwaru, Arnold. Shattered Songs. pb. (one of 500)
No.2 Savoie, Paul. Acrobats. pb. (one of 500)
No.3 Joyce, Dianne/Tihanyi, Eva. Stone Wear/A
Sequence of the Blood. pb.
No.4 Sward, Robert. Half a Life's History. pb.; hc.
(72/100)
No.5 Moritz, A.F. The Visitation. pb.
No.6 Ahearn, Catherine. Luna-Verse. pb.

Box 24 Henderson, Brian. The Viridical Book of the Silent Planet.
2 pb. (462/600, 156/600)
Nichol, bp. Craft Dinner. pb. (one of 500)
Bassani, Giorgio. Rolls Royce and Other Poems. pb. (one
of 500)
McCaffery, Steve and bp. Nichol. In England Now That
Spring. (first printing, 1979) pb. (420/600); (second
printing, 1984)
Vale, Florence. Florence Vale: Selected Drawings and
Verse. pb. (431/500)
Singer, Peter. Ariel and Caliban. pb.

Box 25 Rikki. The Illustrated Universe. pb. (one of 605); hc.
Rooke, Leon. The Magician in Love. pb. (one of 750)
Borenstein, Itzy. Ancient Music. pb. (312/400); deluxe

edition, case only.

Drache, Sharon. The Mikveh Man. pb. (one of 750)

Riddell, John. Transitions. pb. (one of 500)

Kerslake, Susan. Penumbra. pb.

- Box 26 Hancock, Geoff, ed. Shoes and Shit: Stories for Pedestrians. (bermuda pink) pb.; pb.; hc.
Rikki. The Butcher's Tales. pb. (136/231, 157/231, 193/231); hc.
- Box 27 Hancock, Geoff ed. Magic Realism. pb. (one of 1000)
Basilike Press Publications
- Nuttall, Jeff. Anatomy of My Father's Corpse. pb. (one of 675)
Nuttall, Jeff. The House Party. pb.
- Box 28 Urquhart, Jane and Tony. I am Walking in the Garden of His Imaginary Palace. pb. (reviewing copy); deluxe edition, casebound and boxed.

Cassette Tapes

Tape 1 [CASS-5]:

Interview with Glynn Davies by Stephen Bourne
CFNY "Almanach" Nov. 29, 1981

Tape 2 [CASS-6]:

Interview with Sharon Drache by Bob Clipperton
CBC "Saturday Matinee" May 5, 1984
Includes a reading from "Let's Make Music"

Tape 3 [CASS-7]:

Interview with Sharon Drache by Annette Leung
CBC "Radio Noon" June 5, 1984
Includes a reading from "The Mikveh Man"