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KEN MITCHELL

By SELINA COWARD

MAY 1995

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By ELIZABETH SEITZ

Biographical Sketch: Kenneth Ronald Mitchell was born at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Since 1969, he has resided in Regina.

He attended the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus and earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1965 and a Masters of Arts in 1967.

As well as teaching Introductory English, Canadian Literature and Creative Writing workshops, he has conducted senior and Honours classes in Modern Canadian Literature and Creative Writing.

Besides his professorship in the Department of English at the University of Regina, he has been appointed Visiting Professor, University of Victoria 1975-76; Instructor, Banff School of Fine Arts 1977, 1978 and 1980; Scottish-Canadian Exchange Fellow, University of Edinburgh, Scotland 1979-80; Foreign Expert, University of Nanking, China 1980-81; and Foreign Expert, Foreign Affairs College, Beijing, China 1986-87; he was also Director of Creative Writing at the Saskatchewan Summer School of the Arts from 1970 to 1975.

His published works include *Wandering Rafferty*, *The Meadowlark Connection*, *Cruel Tears*, *Sinclair Ross: a Reader's Guide*, *Ken Mitchell Country*, *The Shipbuilder*, *The Plainsman*, and *Stones of the Dalai Lama*. His poems, interviews, stories, articles and plays have been published in over 45 anthologies and collections. He has produced over 20 plays. They include *Heroes* (produced over 50 times in Canada, United States, England, Germany, New Zealand, Turkey and Scotland), *Cruel Tears*, *Davin*, *The Politician*, *The Great Cultural Revolution* and *Gone the Burning Sun* (produced in Canada, China, Scotland and Ireland). Besides writing the *The Hounds of Notre Dame*, *The Shipbuilder*, *The Giant*, *The Dream Seekers* and other film scripts, he has lectured and presented papers in Canada, United States, Germany, Scotland, China, Mexico, England, Finland, Ireland and India. He has given numerous literary readings throughout the world. He has performed over 15 roles in Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, India and China.

His roles in professional associations are: Founding Chairman, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild 1969 to 1971; Founding Editor, *Grain* 1973; Member, National Council, Writers' Union of Canada, 1974-75; Founding Member, Saskatchewan Writers' Colony 1978; Edinburgh Playwright's Workshop 1980 and Saskatchewan Playwright Centre 1982; Mexico-Canada Writers' Colloquium, Guanajuato, Mexico 1982; member, National Board, Guild of Canadian Playwrights, 1982 – 1984; member, National Board, Playwrights Canada, 1983 – 1984; and Vice-president, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild 1987 – 1989.

Scope and Content: This collection consists predominately of material from 1988 to 1993 but some does exist from as early as 1976 and as late as 1993. This collection totals 2.1 meters of textual records consisting of eight series: Correspondence, Personal, Professional Activities, Professional Association, Teaching Career, Writing, Writing about Others and Writings by Others. Of particular note are the scripts, manuscripts and background research for his plays, books and radio plays.

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