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JOAN GIVNER

JANUARY 2001  
BY SELINA COWARD

REVISED  
MARCH 2016

BY ELIZABETH SEITZ

### Scope and Content

This collection is composed of .83 meters of textual records relating to Joan Givner's writing, reviews of others' writing and correspondence. The date range is 1997 to 2000.

### Biographical Sketch

Joan Givner (nee Short) graduated from the University of London with a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in 1958 and a Ph.D. in 1972. She earned a Masters degree in Arts from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri in 1965. While in the United States she taught high school from 1959 until 1961. She then taught English at Port Huron Junior College (now St Clair County Community College) from 1961 until 1965. Givner joined the predecessor of the University of Regina, the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, as a Lecturer of English in 1965 and in 1972 became an Assistant Professor, in 1975 an Associate Professor and in 1981 she became a Professor of English. Joan retired from the University of Regina in 1995 to Victoria, British Columbia and taught creative writing at Malaspina College – Cowichan Campus during the spring of 1997.

She has participated on numerous committees. A select group includes: Social Sciences, Humanities Research Council of Council Adjudication Committee member in 1989 and 1990 and Chair in 1991, Adjunct Professor of the Union Institute of Cincinnati while Doctoral Committee in Women's Studies in 1990 and Governor-General's Award in Non-fiction member in 1991 and 1999 and Chair in 1992.

She has received many grants: Canada Council in 1973, 1974 and 1975, President's Fund at the University of Regina in 1974 to 1979, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for 1978-79, Mary Ingraham Bunting Fellowship, Radcliffe College 1978-79, Herbert M. Umbach Award for best essay in *Descant 1* in 1979, Ontario Arts Council Award for Playwriting in 1992, CBC Literary Award Competition First Prize for Short Stories in 1992, University of Regina Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Research Inaugural Recipient in 1992 and Short list for Van City Prize in 1999.

She has published several books: *Katherine Anne Porter: a Life* (1982), *Tentacles of Unreason*, (1985), *Katherine Anne Porter: Conversations*, Introduction, 1987; *Unfortunate Incidents* (1988), *Mazo de la Roche: the Hidden Life* (1989), *Katherine Anne Porter: a Life (Revised Edition)* (1991), *Scenes from Provincial Life* (1991), *The Self-Portrait of a Literary Biographer* (1993), *In the Garden of Henry James* (1996), *Thirty-four Ways of Looking at Jane Eyre: Essays and Fiction* (1998) and *Half Known Lives* (2000). She has also published numerous short stories. She has published articles in *Studies in Short Fiction*, *Genre*, *International Fiction Review*, *Southwest Review* and *Descant* to name a few. She has contributed chapters for several books and delivered many papers and readings on Katherine Anne Porter and other topics across Canada and the United States. She has reviewed others' works extensively for various journals including *Quill and Quire*, *Books in Canada*, *International Fiction Review*, *American Literature* and numerous newspapers.

She has provided consultative work with American Masters/WNET for *Katherine Anne Porter: the Eye of Memory* in 1986, PBS series "Wonderworks" for Katherine Anne Porter's stories *The Jilting of Granny Weatherall* and *The Fig Tree*, CBC "Ideas" Series in 1989 and with the Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre spring festival in 1992.

### Legal Agreement and Access Restrictions

This accrual to the Joan Givner fonds was accessioned December 8, 2000. The donor agreement is dated 1990. Future accruals are expected. Personal correspondence is closed for ten years and requires permission of the donor for access. Teaching materials are closed as per Freedom of Information legislation.

Other accessions forming this fonds are: 84-4, 85-92, 86-61, 87-84, 88-13, 89-72, 90-93, 92-25, 93-72, 94-79, 95-32, 98-2 and 99-19.

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 Correspondence: Merrill Joan Gerber

*Half Known Lives*

Background Information

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Confinement

Ending

Essay

Exodus

Genesis Two

In the Stable/In the Church

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Lena Stone: a Life

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*The Foetus*

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Manuscript

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Edits

Final Edits

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Box 4 Incompletes  
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*The Last Day at the Beach*

*A People's Biography of the People's Poet*

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Reviews of Others' Writing 2/2

Box 6 Saskatchewan Writers' Guild  
 Course Material  
 Course Material – Correspondence 1/2  
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**Closed** Teaching Materials