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JOAN GIVNER

BY BOBBI JUN WANG  
JULY 10, 2006

MARCH 2010  
BY JESSICA BROWN

REVISED  
MARCH 2016

BY ELIZSBETH SEITZ

**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 Literary Awards in Non-fiction member in 1991 and 1999 and Chair in 1992 and Saskatchewan Book Awards in Non-Fiction in 2001.

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.

**Custodial History:** The donor transferred the records to the archives.

**Legal Agreement and Access Restrictions:** The correspondence files are closed for 10 years and require permission of the donor for access, other files are closed in compliance with 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, 99-19 and 2000-55, 2001-48, 2002-22, 2005-14.

- Box 1
- Paper Written by Emily Givner  
"Neighbours"  
"Swarm"
- Writing by Joan Givner  
Ellen Fremedon, Journalist  
Draft
- Magazine  
Prairie Fire  
Volume 14, No.4, Winter, 1993-94  
Room of One's Own  
Volume 18:1, Spring, 1995  
The Malahat Review  
Fall, 1998  
Winter, 1998  
Spring, 1999  
Summer, 1999  
Summer, 2001  
Summer, 2003
- Book  
Imagining Women, 1988
- Box 2
- Year Books  
Triton  
1962  
Oaklore  
1960  
1961  
Ypsilanti  
1963
- Writing by Emily Givner  
A Heart in Port and Other Stories
- Booklet  
The Autobiography of Emily Jane Givner  
Halifax, July 2004
- Article Written by Joan Givner  
"The Short Fiction of Emily Givner"  
Draft  
"Elegy for Emily"  
Draft
- Material Sent to Neutral Ground Gallery  
November 2005
- Box 3
- Mazo de la Roche Project  
Photographs#1-111  
Negatives#1-20  
Research Material
- Correspondence  
Correspondence-Joan Shaw

**CLOSED**

Correspondence-Herbert Orr  
Correspondence-Variou

## Writing by Others

Donald Atwell Zoll

"Two Views of Student Protest: The Student as Trade  
Unionist and Sport and The Agitators"

Joan May Bogg (An Earlier Name for Joan Givner)

"A Study of the Reeve's Tale"

August 1963

Diana Cooper-Clark

"A Story Waiting to be Told: Narratives of Teaching,  
Scholarship and Theory"

1996

"The Child's Body in the Canadian Body Politic"

Merrill Joan Gerber

"This is a Voice From Your Past"

1991

"The Treasures We Held"

1995

"The Lost Airman"

Sylvia Plath

"The Magic Mirror"

1995

Nicholas Ruddick

"The Future of the Book"

"When Wolves were Lords"

## Dorothy Livesay

Papers and Additions

Material for Biography of Dorothy Livesay, 1/2

Material for Biography of Dorothy Livesay, 2/2

## Article Written by Joan Givner

"The Christmas Turkey"

## Booklet

Book for Spring and Summer 1987

## Birthday Card for Joan Givner

## Box 4

## Book Review Workshop

## Mazo de la Roche Project

Research Material regarding H.R. Macmillan  
(contains photograph #112)

## Dorothy Livesay

Material for Biography of Dorothy Livesay

## Research Material regarding Play and Movie

## Writing by Joan Givner

Ellen Fremedon, Journalist

Chapter-Endings

Joan Givner  
"Lady of Letters"

Correspondence

Correspondence-John Hicks  
Correspondence-Carol Shields  
Correspondence-Daniel Bratton  
Correspondence-Chinese Students  
Correspondence-Julia Moodie

Box 5

Mazo de la Roche Project  
Research Material

Correspondence

Correspondence-Julia Moodie  
Correspondence-Merrill Joan Gerber  
Correspondence-BC Book Prizesk

Writing by Joan Givner

Ellen Fremedon, Volunteer

Draft, 1/4  
Draft, 2/4  
Draft, 3/4  
Draft, 4/4  
Correspondence  
Research Material

Box 6

Writing by Joan Givner

Ellen Fremedon, Journalist

Publication  
Draft, 1/2  
Draft, 2/2

Ellen Fremedon, Volunteer

Draft, 1/5  
Draft, 2/5  
Draft, 3/5  
Draft, 4/5  
Draft, 5/5  
Correspondence

Box 7

Correspondence

Correspondence-Merrill Joan Gerber, 1/2  
Correspondence-Merrill Joan Gerber, 2/2  
Correspondence-Regina Writers  
Correspondence-Sandra Djwa  
Correspondence-Various  
Correspondence-Email Book Club (EBC)  
Correspondence-Carol Shields  
Correspondence-Heather Hodgson  
Correspondence-Sharon Butala  
Correspondence-Connie Gault  
Correspondence-Saros Cowasjee  
Correspondence-Marlis Wesseler

**CLOSED**  
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Magazine

Texas Libraries

Volume 45, No. 4, Winter, 1984

Brochure

The Martensville Nightmare  
CD-ROM Edition

Newspaper Clippings regarding Joan Givner

Book Review Written by Joan Givner

"Painter Shadow: The Life of Vivienne Eliot"

"Flint and Feather: The Life and Times of E. Pauline Johnson"

Draft

"Closer Apart"

Draft

"Agnes Alfred, Qwiqwasutinuxw Noblewoman"

Draft

"Zarathustra's Sisters: Women's Autobiography and the Shaping  
of Cultural History"

Draft

"Strongman"

"The Amateur Marriage"

Draft

"The Hours"

Draft

"Madeleine Thien: Simple Recipes"/ "Terence Young, Rhymes  
with Useless"

Draft

"Victoria School of Writing Talk on Book Reviewing"

Draft

"Ethel Wilson"

Draft

"A Tendency to Saintliness"

"The Half-Lives of Pat Lowther"

Draft

"Why I Live at the P.O."

Draft

"Sinclair Ross"

Draft

"Sheila Watson"

Draft

"Maryse Conde"

Draft

"Tong Louie"

Draft

Book Review

TONG

Book: Flint and Feather

Newspaper Clippings and Book Review

Article Written by Joan Givner

Draft

Unknown Book Review Draft

Miscellaneous

Box 8  
**CLOSED**  
**CLOSED**

Correspondence  
 Correspondence-Various Writers  
 Correspondence-Writers in B.C.

Correspondence  
 Correspondence-Joan Givner

Short Story Written by Joan Givner  
 "Unfortunate Incidents"

Unknown Paper

Dorothy Livesay  
 Material for Biography of Dorothy Livesay  
 Unknown Paper Draft regarding Dorothy Livesay

**CLOSED**

Correspondence  
 Correspondence-Joan Givner

Paper Written by Joan Givner  
 "Scherzo"

Book Review Written by Joan Givner  
Elusive Subject: A Biographer's Life

Research Material regarding Elly Danica

Paper: [Ex-Husband Story] Written by Joan Givner  
 Draft  
 Research Material

Jean Rhys Commemorative Colloquium  
 Correspondence  
 Unknown Paper  
 Papers  
 "Shortened Version of Rhys Paper"  
 "Jean Rhys and Ford Madox Ford, What Really  
 Happened?"  
 "Jean Rhys: The Genesis of Myth"  
 Research Material  
 Brochure-Information for Prospective Readers

Newspaper Clipping-Various

Box 9

Merrill Joan Gerber  
 Personal Information  
Contemporary Authors Autobiography Series-Merrill Joan Gerber  
 Volume 20  
 Offprint by Friends and Colleagues  
 "The Scene of Seeing: Perception and Perversion in the Ravishing  
 of Lol V. Stein"

Karen Smythe

"The Poor Kitty and the Padrone and the Tortoise-Shell Cat in Cat in the Rain"

Warren Bennett

"The Brood of Mary"-Appendix

Nicholas Ruddick

Book Review

"On the Pitfalls of Literary Biography: The Case of Joan Givner and Katherine Anne Porter"

**CLOSED**

Correspondence

Correspondence-Joan Givner

Unknown Draft

Unknown Author

"Katherine Anne Porter's Place in American Literature"

"Feminist Issues in Modern Literature"

"The Feminist Critical Revolution"

Paper Written by Others

"A Seminar on Susan S. Lanser's Essay 'Feminist Criticism', 'The Yellow Wallpaper', and the Politics of Color in America"

"Pornography, Power and the Notion of a ale Fantasy"

Paper Written by Joan Givner

"Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronty and Jean Rhys" What Rhys' Letters Show about the Relationship"

"Some Orts and Thoughts on the Uear 1925"

" 'A Distant Mirror', The Biographer's Relationship with her Subject"

Willa Cather and Nebraska

Correspondence

Brochures

Notes

Newsletters

Research Material

Newspaper Clippings

Paper Written by Other

"Working Draft of the Symbolic Narrative Art of Willa Cather's A Lost Lady"

Miscellaneous

Magazine

Ascent

Volume 18, No 3, Spring, 1994

Book

On The Threshold

Taking the Stage

The American Voice, No 41

Out of Place-Stories and Poems