

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
THE DR JOHN ARCHER LIBRARY

2012-59

JOAN GIVNER

SEPTEMBER 2012

REVISED  
MARCH 2016

BY ELIZABETH SEITZ

Material within this collection must not be scanned or reproduced  
in any way for any researcher without prior consent from the donor.

**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.

Joan Givner's Ph.D. thesis is titled *A Critical Study of the Worlds of Katherine Anne Porter* (1972), since then, Joan was chosen by Katherine Anne Porter to undertake the task of writing Port's biography. *Katherine Anne Porter: A Life* was published in 1982. Other publications by Givner are *Tentacles of Unreason* (1985), *Katherine Anne Porter: Conversations* (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

Givner currently resides in a small seaside town north of Victoria, B.C. Although she is retired from teaching, Joan still continues to write fiction books such as *Half Known Lives* and *Ellen Fremedon* as well as reviewing books for *B.C. Bookworld*, *The Toronto Star*, *Books in Canada* and other publications.

**Scope and Content:** This collection consists of approximately 13 centimetres of textual records and 27 photographs.

The records in this collection primarily concern the research and writing of Joan Givner's biography *Katherine Anne Porter: A Life* (1982). Katherine Anne Porter (May 15, 1890 to September 18, 1980) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist, essayist, short story writer, novelist, and political activist; Katherine Anne Porter chose Givner to be her literary biographer. Joan Givner's Ph.D. thesis is titled *A Critical Study of the Worlds of Katherine Anne Porter in 1972*. This collection is comprised of correspondence and photographs relating to Joan Givner's writings on Katherine Anne Porter. It includes several correspondences from Katherine Anne Porter to Dr. Givner

The date range is from 1914 to 2012

**Custodial History:** The collection was transferred to Archives and Special Collections by Joan Givner in September 2012.

**Note on Arrangement:** Preservation photocopying was required and carried out on newspaper clippings and the scrapbook, the photographs were numbered and sleeved.

**Legal Agreement:** A legal agreement was signed on June 8, 2012.

**Future Accruals:** Future Accruals are expected.

**Related Accessions:** 84-4, 85-92, 86-61, 87-84, 88-13, 89-72, 90-93, 92-25, 93-72, 94-79, 95-35, 98-2, 99-19, 2000-55, 2001-48, 2002-22, 2005-14, 2005-33, 2006-24, 2010-10, 2012-35.

		Correspondence	
Box 1	1.	Apt, William	1990
	2.	Atlantic Monthly Press (Davidson, Peter)	1981

3.	Barton, Wynette Word	1997
4.	Bayley, Isabel	1977
5.	Beaty, Jerome (Jerry)	1984
6.	Bode, Winston	1988
7.	Brinnin, John Malcolm	1978
8.	Brown, Mary J.	1979
9.	Bush, Laura	2001
10.	Canada Council (Baglow, John)	n.d.
11.	Capote, Truman	1979
12.	Cheney, Brainard	1978
13.	Cohen, Mortimer Theodore	1982
14.	College of William and Mary (Willis, J.H. (Junior)) (Donaldson, Scott)	1986
15.	Cowley, Malcolm	1980
16.	DeGolyer Foundation Library (Herzog Johnson, Sue)	1975
17.	Dugger, Ronnie	1978
18.	Edel, Leon	1982
19.	Edwards, William B.	1987
20.	Farrell, James T.	1978
21.	Findlay, Timothy	1989
22.	Gerber, Merrill Joan	2012
23.	Givner-Bovainik, Joan	1991
24.	Hallman, William H.	1994
25.	Hicks, John V.	1993
26.	Hillendahl, H.A.	1978
27.	Howe, Irving	1990
28.	Humphrey, William	1977
29.	Jenkins-Brown, Susan	1931
30.	Johnson, Lyndon, B. (Mrs. Johnson, Lady Bird)	1989
31.	Kazin, Alfred	1978
32.	Kramer, Stanley	1979
33.	Laskin, David	1990
34.	McBride, Cora Annie	1973
35.	Miller, Charles	1986
36.	Mizener, Arthur	1978
37.	National Endowment for the Humanities (Coder, David)	1981
38.	Olsen, Tillie	n.d.
39.	Olson, Stanley	1979
40.	Parsons, George Thomas (includes photographs # 1 and 2)	n.d.
41.	Plath, Aurelia	1979
42.	Porter, Katherine Anne	1976, 1978
43.	Porterfield, Billy	1989
44.	Rice University (Gallop, Jane)	1989
45.	Rule, Jane	1989
46.	Ryle, Gilbert	1968
47.	Schlemmer, Erna	1914, 1937, 1960
48.	Schlemmer-Johns, Erna (includes photographs #3,4,5,6,7)	1976
49.	Schultz, Sigrid	1978
50.	Seymour Lawrence Incorporated	1978
51.	Shields, Carol	1978, [1982]
52.	Stegner, Wallace	1978, 1982
53.	Stollman, Aryeh Lev	
54.	Strawn, Bertie M.	1989
55.	Tate, Allan	1978
56.	Thoru, Peter	1988

- |     |  |      |
|-----|--|------|
| 57. | University of Missouri – Columbia (Devlin, Albert J.)  | 1985 |
| 58. | University of Texas at Austin (Dagel, Gena)  | 1988 |
| 59. | Vliet, Vida Ann  | 1978 |
| 60. | Welty, Eudora  | 1975 |
| 61. | West, Rebecca  | 1978 |
| 62. | Miscellaneous  |      |
| 63. | News Clippings<br>“Biographer Seeking Information”<br>“The Art of Katherine Anne Porter”                           |      |
| 64. | Scrapbook by Imogene Clayton<br>State Tuberculosis Sanatorium, (Carlsbad, Texas)<br>(includes photographs #8 – 27) | 1917 |
| 65. | Writing by Katherine Anne Porter<br>Texas: By the Gulf of Mexico (by Katherine Anne Koontz)                        |      |