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2015-63

KEN MITCHELL

NOVEMBER 2015

BY ELIZABETH SEITZ

**Biographical Sketch:** Kenneth Ronald Mitchell was born at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in 1940. 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 and began to teach at the University of Regina.

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.

Burning Sun Productions is Mitchell's production company. Incorporated in 1991 the theatre company develops dramas, musicals, and "horse operas". The shows are performed out-of-doors and with livestock.

Source: <http://www.canadiantheatre.com/dict.pl?term=Mitchell> (November, 2015)

**Scope and Content:** This collection consists of material pertaining mainly to the planning and production of performances by Mitchell's professional theatre company 'Burning Sun'. The collection ranges in date from 1969 to 2015, predominantly 2007 to 2013.

The collection was received in the Archives in November 2015. It is comprised of approximately 91 centimeters of textual records pertaining to Ken's professional activities and his writing and 7 compact disk, 11 photographs, 467 digital images, 7 inkjet photographs, 5 postcards, 5 mini video cassette tapes, 1 original sketch of Ken Mitchell and 40 oversize crayon drawings done by Mitchell as a young boy in one oversize box.

**Legal Agreement:** The legal agreement is pending.

**Access Restrictions:** There are no access restrictions however there are several folders marked 'Closed'. These Closed folders may include material which requires permission from the donor, or the Archivist to access.

**Related Accessions:** 85-89, 89-79, 90-8, 94-51, 2005-23 and 2012-9.

**Note on Arrangement:** The donor's original file titles and the contents of these files were maintained. The photographs were sleeved and numbered; the newspaper clippings were photocopied for preservation purposes and the drawings were interleaved with Acid-free tissue paper. Only compact disks # 4, 5, 6, and 7 (which contain photographs) have been copied to a University server for interim preservation.

Box 1		Correspondence	
CLOSED	1	Organization of Saskatchewan Councils (OSAC) Re: Showcase (correspondence, application form)	2011-2013
		Lectures	
	2	Lectures 1/2	1986-2006
	3	Lectures 2/2	1986-2006
		Miscellaneous Material	
	4	Colin's Movie	1990
	5	Seniors Humour	2004, 2005
		Personal	
	6	Crayon drawings by Ken Mitchell (40 oversize box)	1948-1950, 1952-1953
	7	Immigration Canada (includes photograph #1) (refugee sponsorship application) Achok Rinpoche	2010
		Phyllis Wheaton	
	8	Publicity package (includes compact disks #1, #2) (includes 5 inkjet photographs)	2008
		Professional Activities	
		Burns - Love and Liberty	
	9	Correspondence; final report; letter of agreement; research material; schedules; scripts	2009-2012
	10	Drafts; newspaper clippings, notes, promotional material; research material	1969, 2001, 2003
Box 2	11	Research material	
		Century Club of Saskatchewan	
	12	Century Club of Saskatchewan (includes compact disks #3, #4, #5 ) (includes photographs #2, #3, #4, #5) 1/2	2000-2012
	13	Century Club of Saskatchewan 2/2	2000-2012
		Corner Gas	
CLOSED	14	Alliance of Canadian Cinema Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA) performer contract; newspaper clippings; script	2014
		Cowboy Poetry	
	15	Bill Gomersall and the Mitchell Boys Show; correspondence and scripts	2006, 2007
	16	Bill Gomersall and Mitchell History; correspondence; drafts; promotional material	2006
	17	Cowboy Poems and Poets - correspondence and drafts	
Box 3	18	Cowboy Poems by Others	
	19	Cowboy Poetry Events – drafts; newspaper clippings and promotional material	
	20	Drafts by Mitchell and others	
	21	Mitchell Boys Correspondence; drafts; notes and schedules	
		Edna Jaques	
	22	Correspondence; drafts; promotional material; receipts	2010-2013

CLOSED	23	Correspondence; newsclippings; promotional material; (includes photographs #6, #7, #8, #9)	2010-2013
		The Hounds of Notre Dame	1984
Closed	24	Writers contract	
		The Medicine Line	
	25	Potential funders, guidelines, and application package	2012
		Old Wives Lake Festival	
	26	Newsclippings; promotional material; research material	2008
		Saskatchewan – Camoguey Literary Exchange Project	
Box 4	27	Camoguey Writers (includes 5 postcards)	2002, 2005, 2007
	28	Correspondence (includes photograph #10)	2006
	29	Correspondence and notes	2005
	30	Correspondence and translations	2014, 2015
	31	Correspondence (material in Spanish) (includes 1 original sketch of Ken Mitchell)	2005, 2006, 2009
		Spirits of the Trail	
	32	Budget; correspondence; drafts; newsclippings; research material; schedules	2009-2012
CLOSED	33	Burning Sun Productions (includes budgets, drafts, quote, contact information)	2015
	34	Correspondence; curriculum vitae; drafts; inkjet photographs; newsclippings; notes; promotional material (includes photograph #11) (includes compact disk #6, #7)	2010
CLOSED			
Box 5	35	Correspondence; drafts; financial analysis; maps, newsclippings; promotional material; receipts; schedules; touring and access contribution agreement	2011-2012
	36	Correspondence; drafts; 2 inkjet photographs; newsclippings; promotional material	2010
	37	Correspondence; event programs; newsclippings; notes; permits; promotional material; research material	2012
	38	Correspondence; licence agreement; notes; promotional material	2011-2013
Box 6	39	Digital Video Cassette Tapes (includes mini digital video cassettes #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)	
	40	Drafts; promotional material; schedules; scripts	2012-2013
	41	Invoices; receipts	2010
	42	Personnel Payroll and receipts	2015
CLOSED	43	Tour of Eastern Europe (includes grant agreement; correspondence; newsclippings)	1990
		Writing by Ken Mitchell	
		Cruel Tears / Lágrimas Cruelas A Tex-Mex Opera	
	44	Drafts	2014
		The Great Electrical Revolution	
	45	Drafts	1988, 1995
		Grey Owl – Pilgrims of the Wild	
	46	Draft and newsclippings	1999
		Grief	1980
	47	Drafts	
		The Heroic Adventures of Donny Coyote	
CLOSED	48	Reviews; memorandum of agreement; newsclippings	2002, 2004
		The Hunter Memorial	
	49	Correspondence; drafts	2000

Box 7	50	Correspondence; drafts; musical score; notes Jazzkatchewan	1981, 2000, 2002 2005
	51	Correspondence; drafts	
	52	Miscellaneous Scripts: Cruel Tears; Great Electrical Revolutions; Heroes; Showdown at Sand Valley – A Western Entertainment; The Medicine Line Sarah Binks - A Musical Tribute	
	53	Correspondence; request for permission to adapt; promotional material; vocal score Stones of the Dalai Lama	2001
CLOSED	54	Author interview; book publishing agreement; correspondence; draft; memorandum of licensing agreement; newsclippings; option to purchase agreement; publicity material Writing by Others Korchinski, Bernard L.	1993, 1994, 1996, 2004, 2005
	55	<i>Korchinski; Boyar Saga</i>	1981, 2006