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SAROS COWASJEE

DECEMBER 17, 1997

By SHELLEY SWEENEY  
ASSISTED BY JUDY KOB SAR

**SAROS COWASJEE FONDS**

1965-1982

25 cm of textual records

1 photograph

**Arrangement:** Files and file titles created and collected by Saros Cowasjee. Files arranged by archivist Shelley Sweeney.

**Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on this material.

**Scope and content:** This fonds has been organized into two series: Writing by, and Information on, Saros Cowasjee; and Mulk Raj Anand. The first series contains two sub-series relating to So Many Freedoms: A Study of the Major Fiction of Mulk Raj Anand and Coolie: An Assessment, both criticisms of the work of Indian author Mulk Raj Anand, by Saros Cowasjee. Additionally, there is correspondence on both books and on Untouchable, Private Life of an Indian Prince, and Coolie: An Assessment with publishing houses Bodley Head and Oxford University Press (New Delhi). The second series contains files relating to Mulk Raj Anand, and letters from Anand to Cowasjee dating from 1965 to 1982.

**Biographical sketch:**

**Name:** Full name: Saros Dara Cowasjee. His parents were Dara (father) and Meher (mother) Cowasjee. He has one sister, Sabar, and one brother, Shyam.

**Place of residence:** Saros Cowasjee was born July 12, 1931 in Secundrabad, India. He lived in India until he went to England in 1958 to work on his Ph.D. He remained in England for three years, until 1961, then travelled to Bombay to be Assistant Editor at the Times of India Press, where he stayed until 1963. In 1963 he came to Regina, Saskatchewan, to assume the post of Instructor of English at what was then the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, the forerunner of the University of Regina.

**Education:** He was educated at St. John's College, Agra, India, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts in 1951. He received his Master of Arts degree in 1955 from Agra College, India, then completed a Ph.D. in 1960 from the University of Leeds in England on Sean O'Casey, under the supervision of the renowned Shakespearean scholar, G. Wilson Knight.

**Occupation, life, and activities:** After a brief stint with the Times of India Press from 1960 to 1963, Cowasjee was appointed Instructor of English at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus. He attained the title of full professor in 1971. He retired and was appointed Professor Emeritus in 1995. Cowasjee was also Research Associate, University of California, Berkeley in 1970-71, Visiting Commonwealth Professor, University of Aarhus, Denmark, from January to June 1975, and has been a guest lecturer at a number of universities in Europe, Australia, North America, India, Fiji, and Singapore. In addition to his teaching, Cowasjee has been a prolific writer. He is the author of five works of criticism: Sean O'Casey: The Man Behind the Plays (1963), O'Casey (1966), Coolie: An Assessment (1976), So Many Freedoms: A Study of the Major Fiction of Mulk Raj Anand (1977), and Studies in Indian and Anglo-Indian Fiction (1993). He has written two novels: Goodbye to Elsa (1974), Suffer Little Children (1982), revised and published as The Assistant Professor (1996); two books of short stories, Stories and Sketches (1970), and Nude Therapy (1978); and a screenplay, The Last of the Maharajas (1980). He has edited and written introductions for numerous works, among them being three anthologies on writers from the Raj period of India, published as a series by HarperCollins: Stories from the Raj (1982), More Stories from the Raj and After (1986), and Women Writers of the Raj: Short Fiction (1990). His other HarperCollins publications include his critical introductions to Christine Weston's Indigo (1993) and Sir George Otto Trevelyan's The Competition Wallah. There is also

The Best Short Stories of Flora Annie Steel (1995), selected and edited by him, with an introduction dealing with the author's life and works. Equally important is Cowasjee's work as General Editor of Arnold Heinemann's "Literature of the Raj" series, beginning in 1984. In the nine out-of-print fiction works published under Cowasjee's editorship, he wrote introductions to the reprints of Durbar (1987), Indigo (1987), Siri Ram – Revolutionist (1988), and Hindoo Holiday, the last was a title first published in India in 1979, but later included in this series. In addition, he has edited and/or written introductions to other works as well, and has contributed to various publications, and written numerous articles.

**Notes:** See also Accession nos. 90-101, 91-93, 94-62, 95-20, and 97-37.

**Custodial history:** The records comprising this accession of the Saros Cowasjee Fonds were collected and held by Saros Cowasjee until their donation to the University of Regina Archives.

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Correspondence with OUP Re: So Many Freedoms and Coolie: An Assessment

“Spotlight on Saros Cowasjee”

Mulk Raj Anand

**WRITING BY, AND INFORMATION ON, SAROS COWASJEE**So Many Freedoms: A Study Of The Major Fiction Of  
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- Box 1
- 1 Page Proofs - 1977
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  - 3 Complete Typescript (1/2)<sup>1</sup> – [1977]
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  - 12 Correspondence with OUP Re: So Many Freedoms and Coolie: An Assessment – 1974-81
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- 14 Notes on Anand's Manuscripts, Letters Concerning Sales, Comments, Etc. - 1970
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<sup>1</sup> The original single file was split into two in order to comfortably accommodate the material, hence the designation 1 of 2 and 2 of 2.