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JOAN GIVNER

JULY 2015
BY KIEU MA

REVISED
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BY ELIZABETH 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.

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 Porter'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 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: The date range is from 1978 to 1992.

Custodial History: The collection was given to the Archives and Special Collection in June 1992.

Future Accruals: Future accruals are expected.

Related Accessions: 84-4, 85-92, 86-61, 87-84, 88-13, 89-72, and 90-93.

Box 1	1	Annual General Meeting: The Joys of Biographical Research	n.d
		Correspondence With writers	
	2	Abrams, Alan	1983-1985
	3	Eckhardt, Linda West	1982-1985
		Gerber, Merrill Joan	1980-1984
	4	Mieszkowski, Gretchen	1978-1984
		With Saskatchewan Writers	
	5	Butala Sharon	1991-1992
		Wiseman, Christopher	1987-1992
	6	A Play Based on the Biography of Mazo De La Roche Mazo and Caroline 1/2	n.d
Box 2	7	Mazo and Caroline 2/2	
	8	Saskatchewan Writers Guild: Freelance Writing by Joan Givner	1992
	9	Abstracts. the Svava Notebooks in Scenes from Provincial Life	n.d
	10	Ann's Web	n.d
	11	"Portrait of a Lady" in Scenes from Provincial Life Gazebo	n.d
		Rough Drafts of "Evergreen" from Scenes from Provincial Life	
Box 3	12	The Girl of Milk and Blood	
	13	The Headline Game in Unfortunate Incidents	Oberon Press 1988
	14	Holiday	
	15	Katherine Ann Porter	
	16	Meeting Alphonse in the Luxembourg Gardens	
	17	Scherzo	1989-1990
		Scenes from Provincial Life	
	18	Angels from the Realms of Glory Escondida Knowing Crocodiles Letters Home Portrait of Evergreen	
	19	The Narrator Who Lost Her Omniscience The Saskatoon Letters The Short Happy Life of Elspeth Sparrow	
	20	Writing by Others	1990