

Concordia University Library, Special Collections

Finding Aid - Ann Charney fonds (P237)

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Language of description: English

Concordia University Library, Special Collections

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Ann Charney fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Concordia University Library, Special Collections
Title:	Ann Charney fonds
ID:	P237
Date:	1954-2009 (date of creation)
Physical description:	2.8 m of textual documents 53 photographs 3 posters
Language:	English
Language:	French
Language:	Polish
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Modified custodial history 2016-06-23 Revised 2018-12-12

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Ann Charney is a Montreal-based novelist, short-story writer and journalist. Ann Charney was born on April 3, 1940 in Brody/ Lwow, Poland (today Lviv, Ukraine) as the daughter of Dora Wengler Korsower and Michael Korsower.

Until the liberation of Poland by the Russians in 1945, Ann Charney's family was forced to hide because they were Jewish. In 1950, Ann Charney and her parents immigrated to Canada. Since that time, she has lived almost continuously in Montreal, Quebec. In 1960, she married architect Melvin Charney. Together they have a daughter, Dara. In 1965, Charney received a master's degree in French literature from McGill University. She also studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, France.

Ann Charney contributed to a number of Canadian and American periodicals as a columnist and writer of short stories. She published in Maclean's magazine, Saturday Night, Chatelaine, the Canadian Forum, and Queen's Quarterly, among others. She also wrote book reviews. Charney's first novel, *Dobryd*, was published in 1973.

Ann Charney has received grants from Canada Council and the Conseil des arts et des lettres de Québec. She has received various awards, including National Magazine Awards, the Chatelaine Fiction Prize, and the Canadian Authors' Association Prize, honouring both her fiction and non-fiction work. In April 2006, the French government decorated Ann Charney as an officer of the French Order of Arts and Letters.

Ann Charney is member of the Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois and the Writer's Union of Canada. She was involved with Blue Metropolis since its foundation. She is a member of the Blue Metropolis Foundation Honorary Board.

Custodial history

The fonds was donated to Concordia University Archives, now the Records Management and Archives Department, by Ann Charney in 2010. The fonds was transferred from the Records Management and Archives Department to Concordia University Library's Special Collections on June 22, 2016

Scope and content

The Ann Charney fonds provides information on Ann Charney's journalistic and literary career as well as her personal life. It documents both Charney's fiction and non-fiction writings from the 1960s until 2009, and provides insight into the process of publishing from the author's point of view. The fonds also includes information on the Blue Metropolis foundation, a not-for-profit organization located in Montreal, Quebec, responsible for the annual Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival. Finally, the fonds provides a glimpse into the life of Jewish emigrants. It also contains information about Canadian and international artists working during the second half of the 20th century.

The fonds contains drafts and final versions of novels and short stories written by Ann Charney; personal and professional correspondence; newspaper articles; publicity material; meeting minutes; agreements; financial documents; photographs; reports; and magazines, among other documents.

The fonds is organized into the following series:

P237/A Fiction

P237/B Non-fiction

P237/C Correspondence

P237/D Blue Metropolis

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the fonds.

Conditions governing use

Reproduction for research or private study is permitted. Use of material in publications cannot be done without permission of the copyright holder.

Finding aids

Box listings are available.

Accruals

Future accruals are not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Minimal
- **Status description:** Final
- **Rights:** Copyright belongs to the creator(s).

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Journalism (subject)
- Literature (subject)

Series descriptions

Series P237/A: Fiction

Date: [196-?]-2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series relates to Ann Charney's work as an author. It presents her literary work in form of novels and short stories, and illustrates her life as a writer. The series includes material on Dobryd, Rousseau's Garden, Distantly Related to Freud and several short stories, as well as unpublished works. In addition, the series documents Charney's interactions with small Canadian and international publishing houses, with which she was corresponding. Publishing houses include, among others, Vehicule Press and Permanent Press.

The series contains novels and short stories written by Ann Charney, correspondence with literary agents and publishers, as well as publicity material, magazines, and catalogs.

Physical description: 0.8 m of textual records

2 posters

2 photographs

Note:

More correspondence with literary agents and publishers may be found in series C - Correspondence.

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Series P237/B: Non-fiction

Date: Ca. 1960, 1969-2002 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series relates to Ann Charney's work as a journalist for Canadian newspapers and magazines like Toronto Daily Star, Chatelaine, Macleans, Saturday Night, and others. It gives an overview of Ann Charney's articles in the context with the publications in which they were published, and illustrates the author's collaboration with various editors.

The series also includes Ann Charney's thesis on Marcel Proulx, a film proposal, and documentation on Ann Charney's book *Defiance In Their Eyes : True Stories From The Margins*, which is a collection of several articles previously published in magazines.

The series contains newspaper articles, magazines, scripts, correspondence, contracts, and the book *Defiance In Their Eyes : True Stories From The Margins*, among other documents.

Physical description: 0.8 m of textual documents

Note:

More correspondence with literary agents and publishers may be found in series C Correspondence.

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Series P237/C: Correspondence

Date: 1954-1965, 1972-2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series provides an insight into Ann Charney's personal and professional lives. The series contains materials documenting Ann Charney's personal life, as well as that of the people around her, and contains correspondence sent to her by various family members and friends, including Melvin Charney and fellow artists like Morty Schiff, Joyce Ravid, Alison Strayer, Susan Kealey, Moyra Davey, Joan Micklin Silver, Geraldine Sherman, Elizabeth Spencer, Lionel Tiger, Christina McCall, George Szanto, and others. The series also illustrates Ann Charney's professional life, by the means of correspondence with various literary agents, publishers and editors, the UNEQ (Union des écrivaines et écrivains Québécois), as well as granting agencies.

The series contains letters, mostly handwritten, postcards, photographs, and newspaper clippings.

Physical description: 1 m of textual material

51 photographs

1 poster

Language of the material:

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Series P237/D: Blue Metropolis

Date: 1995-2009 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The series contains documentation relating to Ann Charney's involvement with the Blue Metropolis Foundation, a not-for-profit organization located in Montreal, Quebec. The series gives information on the organization itself, its magazine, the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival, and other events arranged by the organization. It also contains evidence of Ann Charney's participation in such events. The series also illustrates the "Write pour ecrire" project, the literary event at the origin of the Blue Metropolis Festival. "Write pour ecrire" took place in 1996 and was organized by Linda Leith, Ann Charney and Mary Soderstrom, in partnership with the Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois (UNEQ).

The series contains newspaper articles, publicity material, meeting minutes, correspondence, financial documents, reports, and a special presentation issue of the Blue Metropolis magazine, among other documents.

Physical description: 26 cm of textual material

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

Published

File / item list