

Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

Finding Aid - Gertrude Katz collection (C010)

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Language of description: English

Concordia University Libraries Special Collections

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Gertrude Katz collection

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Summary information

Repository:	Concordia University Libraries Special Collections
Title:	Gertrude Katz collection
ID:	C010
Date:	1956-2007, predominant 1956-1983 (date of creation)
Physical description:	4 cm textual records 25 books 3 photographs 1 phonographic recording
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Gertrude Katz, social activist, teacher, writer, and poet, was born November 7, 1929, in Montreal, Quebec. In the 1960s Katz took an active interest in education reform in Quebec, and was involved with the Committee for Neutral Schools for a period of five years. As a member of this committee she fought for change in the province's educational school system, which at that time was divided along religious lines. Katz met Dr. Henry Morgentaler in 1965 while part of the Committee for Neutral Schools, and she remained his friend and associate for many years, helping to form the Morgentaler's Montreal Defence Committee in 1972-1973. Katz was also Dr. Morgentaler's Quebec election campaign manager in 1972-1973, and in 1972 she helped form the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League. Katz was the Controller for the Morgentaler Clinics in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Fredericton, Halifax, and St. John's between 1978 and 2005. Katz taught creative writing on a volunteer basis at the St. Vincent de Paul federal penitentiary. Her work at the penitentiary resulted in the publication of *The Time Gatherers* (1970). Katz's other books include *Poems for 27 Cents*, with an introduction by Irving Layton (1961), *Through Mist, Weeds, and Water* (1973), and *Duet* (1982). Katz has published extensively and her works has appeared in *The Canadian Forum*, *Fiddlehead*, *Evidence*, *Booster & Blaster*, *Feminist Communication Collective*, *Viewpoints*, *Anthanor*, and *Humanist in Canada*. Two of her poems were anthologised in *Love where the nights are long* edited by Irving Layton (1962), and *Essential Words*, edited by Seymour Mayne (1985). Katz began a writer's workshop at the Powerhouse Gallery (now La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse) in 1973-1974. She was a long-time friend and one time business partner of Irving Layton. She is married to Carl Katz.

Custodial history

Documents were collected by Gertrude Katz and donated to Concordia University Libraries.

Scope and content

Collection consists of materials accumulated by Gertrude Katz and Carl Katz related to her friendship and working relationship with Irving Layton. Documents concern the life and work of the poet.

Materials resulting from Katz's relationship with Irving Layton include: correspondence, poems, offprints and reprints, programs, photographs, clippings, financial documents, a transcript, a deed of sale, and books and a phonographic record.

Collection is divided into 6 series:

C010/A. Correspondence

C010/B. Poetry and publications

C010/C. Promotional materials

C010/D. Photographs

C010/E. Clippings

C010/F. Financial documents

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on the provenance of the collection.

Immediate source of acquisition

The documents were donated to Concordia University Libraries Special Collections by Gertrude Katz December 12, 2014.

Arrangement

Unless otherwise indicated, material has been arranged in the order of receipt. The 25 books and 1 phonographic record that compose this collection are catalogued in CLUES.

Conditions governing use

Reproduction for scholarly purposes is permitted.

Use of material in a publication may only be done with permission of the copyright owner.

Finding aids

Finding-aid and box listing available. An inventory of the books and phonographic record donated by Gertrude Katz is available. The books and phonographic record are catalogued in CLUES.

Related material

Materials related to the life and work of Gertrude Katz can be found in Gertrude Katz fonds at Library and Archives Canada.

Accruals

Further accruals are not expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final
- **Conservation:** Documents were placed in acid-free file folders and archival quality boxes.
- **Rights:** Copyright held by the creator(s).

Access points

- Layton, Irving (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Poems (subject)
- Poetry (subject)

Series descriptions

Series C010/A: Correspondence

Date: 1963-1983 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains correspondence between Gertrude Katz, Carl Katz, and Irving Layton. Series also includes correspondence between Gertrude Katz, Carl Katz, Kathleen C. Moore, and Elspeth Cameron, related to the life and work of Irving Layton, and Cameron's biography on the poet. A copy of a letter from Irving Layton and Moore may also be found in this series.

Physical description: 34 textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
01	File - Correspondence: Postcards from Irving Layton to Gertrude Katz	1963-1974		
02	File - Correspondence: Letters from Irving Layton to Gertrude and Carl Katz	1967-1975		
03	File - Correspondence: Carbon copies of letters from Gertrude and Carl Katz to Irving Layton	1967-1969		
04	File - Correspondence: Letters from Kathleen C. Moore to Gertrude and Carl Katz	1979-1980		
05	File - Correspondence: Letter from Kathleen C. Moore to Gertrude Katz	1980		
06	File - Correspondence: Letters from Elspeth Cameron to Gertrude and Carl Katz	1983		
07	File - Correspondence: Carbon copies of letters from Gertrude Katz to Elspeth Cameron	1982-1983		

Series C010/B: Poetry and publications

Date: 1956-1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Scope and content: Series contains a typescript of Irving Layton's "The Red Moujhih," and offprints of the poet's "A Tall Man Executes a Jog" (1958), "Cain" (1961), and "On the Assassination of President Kennedy" (1964). Appended to "The Red Moujhih" is a letter signed by Irving Layton. Series also contains a catalogue based on exhibition of Irving Layton's books, a list of the poet's rare and out-of-print books, and a transcript of a rare recording of the short story "The World We Live In" by Irving Layton that aired on CBC's "Wednesday Night Short Stores" on August 24, 1960. Series also contains rare first editions, limited editions, and presentation copies of Irving Layton's books. Books include *The Bull Calf and Other Poems* (1956), *Improved Binoculars* (1956), *A laughter in the Mind* (1958), *The Swinging Flesh* (1961), *Love Where the Nights are Long* (1962), *The Laughing Rooster* (1964), *Periods of the Moon* (1967), *The Shattered Plinths* (1968), *The Whole Bloody Bird* (1969), *Nail Polish* (1971), *Lovers and Lesser Men* (1973), *Seventy-five Greek Poems* (1974), *The Pole Vaulter* (1974), *For My Brother Jesus* (1976), *The Covenant* (1977), *Treici Poesie e Sette Disegni* (1978), *Waiting for the Messiah* (1985), *Anvil Blood* (1973), and *New Holes in the Wall* (1973). Series also contains a phonographic record of Irving Layton reading his poetry at Le Hibou in 1963.

Physical description: 7 textual records

25 books

1 phonographic record

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
01	File - Typescript: "The Red Moujhhik" signed by Irving Layton, with letter	1967		
02	File - Offprint and reprints	1958-1964		
03	File - Irving Layton: A catalogue based on an exhibition of books from the Harris Collection of American poetry and plays in Brown University Library, fall 1964	1965		
04	File - List: rare and out-of-print books by Irving Layton	1997		
05	File - Transcript: radio program "The world we live in" by Irving Layton, aired on "CBC Wednesday night short stories"	August 24, 1960		

Series C010/C: Promotional materials

Date: 1965-2007 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains promotional materials collected about Irving Layton, including invitations to events celebrating the life and work of the poet, the program for the dedication of Irving Layton Avenue in Montreal. Series also contains programs to the event "Scene: Love and Maple Syrup," an invitation to the Concordia University convocation honoring the poet, and a bookmark to Seven Steps Bookshop where he gave many readings.

Physical description: 7 textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
01	File - Programs: "Scene: Love and Maple Syrup" at the National Arts Centre	1969		
02	File - Invitation: Open house reception celebrating "The Collected Poems of Irving Layton"	1971		
03	File - Invitation: Concordia University convocation honoring Irving Layton	1976		
04	File - Program: Dedication of Irving Layton Avenue, Côte Saint-Luc	2007		
05	File - Program: Tribute to Irving Layton put on by the Jewish Public Library	1999		
06	File - Bookmark for Seven Steps Bookshop	[199- ?]		

Series C010/D: Photographs

Date: 1968-1978 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains 3 photographs of Irving Layton, including a photograph of Layton with Seymour Mayne, a portrait of the poet dedicated to Gertrude and Carl Katz, and a photograph of Layton receiving his honorary degree at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec.

Physical description: 3 photographs

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list**Series C010/E: Clippings**

Date: 1964-2006 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains clippings on Irving Layton.

Physical description: 0.5 cm textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:

The newspaper clipping in ILC-037-23 was removed from inside the record case.

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
01	File - Clippings	1964-2006		
02	File - Newspaper clippings	1964		

Series C010/F: Financial documents

Date: 1959-1974 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains financial documents concerning the property holdings of Irving Layton and Gertrude and Carl Katz, and the property title and deed of sale of property to Irving Layton.

Physical description: 0.25 cm textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
01	File - Title/deed of sale of property to Irving Layton	1959		
02	File - Financial documents: property holdings of Irving Layton and Gertrude and Carl Katz	1968-1974		