

 Simon Fraser University Special Collections
and Rare Books

Finding Aid - William Hoffer fonds (MsC 90)

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Language of description: English

Rules for Archival Description

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

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William Hoffer fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	William Hoffer fonds
ID:	MsC 90
Date:	1893, 1967-1993, predominant 1980-1993 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.4 m of textual records and other material
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

William (Bill) Hoffer was born on May 29th, 1944 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan, and subsequently enrolled in the Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology department at Simon Fraser University. Hoffer was discharged from SFU for his participation in student rebellions, prior to receiving his Master of Arts degree. He began his bookselling career in 1969 with the opening of Falstaff Books, a used bookstore, in Vancouver. He later moved his store to 58 & 60 Powell Street, Vancouver, where he worked until his retirement.

Hoffer was acknowledged as an authority on Canadian literature in the antiquarian book trade. He published several special edition books, including works by W.P. Kinsella, Susan Musgrave, Robert Bringhurst, Elizabeth Smart, John Metcalf, and Ernest Hemingway. During his career, Hoffer was engaged in several literary feuds, and was a strong critic of government subsidization of the arts. He was particularly disdainful of Canada Council, and wrote several critiques to this effect.

In 1991, Hoffer closed his bookstore and moved to Russia, where he married and worked in the book trade. He remained in Russia until diagnosed with lung cancer in August of 1998, when he returned to BC for treatment from his father. Hoffer died on September 28th 1998, at the age of 53, in Victoria, BC.

Custodial history

Records were purchased by Stephen Lunsford, likely from Hoffer`s estate, and in turn sold to Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books in March 2006 and Winter 2008.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records reflecting Hoffer`s bookselling and publishing activities during the 1980s. Records include correspondence, fiscal files, client files, journals, book catalogues, galleys, proofsheets, critical pieces, articles, and review. The fonds is composed of the following series: Series 1. Correspondence, Series 2. Publication files, Series 3. Business files, Series 4, Miscellaneous.

Notes

Title notes

Finding aids

Inventory available with series descriptions and file lists. [Online Finding Aid](#)

Other notes

- Publication status: published
 - Level of detail: Full
 - Status description: Published
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Access points

- Hoffer, William (subject)
 - Falstaff Books
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - Arts and culture (subject)
 - Business and commerce (subject)
 - Vancouver (place)
-

Series descriptions
