

 Simon Fraser University Special Collections
and Rare Books

Finding Aid - bp Nichol fonds (MsC 12)

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Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	bp Nichol fonds
ID:	MsC 12
Date:	1960-1987 (date of creation)
Physical description:	19 m of textual records and other material
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Barrie Philip Nichol (September 30, 1944 September 25, 1988), who often went by his lower-case initials and last name, with no spaces (bp Nichol), was a prolific Canadian poet and also a language artist, editor and publisher. He was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, and became widely known for his concrete poetry while living there in the 1960s. He received his elementary teaching certificate from the University of British Columbia in 1963, but he only worked briefly as a teacher before dedicating himself to writing. His best-known published work is probably *The Martyrology*, a long poem encompassing 9 books in 6 volumes. Nichol also worked in a wide variety of other genres, including musical theatre, children's books, collage/assemblage, pamphlets, spoken word, computer texts, fiction, and television. In 1970, he began to collaborate with fellow poets Rafael Barreto-Rivera, Paul Dutton, and Steve McCaffery, forming the sound-poetry group *The Four Horsemen*. He was also active with Coach House Press and Open Letter, with his own presses, grOnk and Ganglia, and in the therapeutic community, Therafields, for a number of years. Nichol was married in 1980 to Eleanor Hiebert.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of correspondence, poems (including concrete, experimental and sound poem drafts), manuscripts (including drafts), notebooks, and journals of bp Nichol. Fonds includes records (1964-1987) of Nichol's presses, Ganglia and grOnk, consisting of manuscript files, correspondence files, mockups, business and reference files, computer discs, the authors poetry and comic book collections, photographs, television scripts, etc.

Correspondents and contributors include Bill Bissett, Gerry Gilbert, Margaret Avison, Earle Birney, David Harris, David Phillips, David McFadden and others.

Notes

Title notes

Finding aids

Printed inventories available with item level descriptions.

Other notes

- Publication status: published
 - Status description: Published
 - Alpha-numeric designations: BCAUL control number: SFL--2281
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Access points

- Nichol, bp (Barrie Phillip) (subject)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - Photographic material (documentary form)
 - Arts and culture (subject)
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Series descriptions
