

SFU **Simon Fraser University Special Collections and
Rare Books**

**Finding Aid - Toby Brooks - Pat Lowther research
collection (MsC-210)**

Generated by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books on February 10, 2022
Language of description: English

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Toby Brooks - Pat Lowther research collection

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Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	Toby Brooks - Pat Lowther research collection
Reference code:	MsC-210
Date:	[ca. 1959-2006] (date of creation)
Physical description:	.4 m of textual records
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created January 8, 2016. SSArranged, described and entered into AtoM 01 April, 2019. JMH
Note [sourcesDescription]:	https://ccohousing.org/2014/08/28/toby-and-david-brooks-still-dream/ https://biblio.uottawa.ca/atom/index.php/toby-brooks-fonds https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/silence-speaks/article25471897/ Records contained within the collection

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Toby Brooks published a biography of Canadian poet Pat Lowther in 2000, entitled "Pat Lowther's Continent".

Custodial history

The material in this collection was compiled by Toby Brooks and donated to Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books in 2006.

Scope and content

Toby Brooks is an American-born social advocate and activist living in Canada with her husband David. Toby worked at a home for battered women in Ontario in the 1970's and 1980's. While furthering her education she came across the story of Vancouver poet Pat Lowther, murdered at just 40 years of age by her husband in 1975 when just on the brink of professional recognition. Pat Lowther's untimely death resonated with Brooks, who spent the better part of the next two decades researching and interviewing Lowther's friends, family, and colleagues. The end result was a biography entitled "Pat Lowther's Continent: her life and work" published by gynergy books in 2000. Toby also organized a series of

tributes dedicated to Pat Lowther. The first was held in 1995 at Emmanuel College in Toronto, with others following at various locations on what would have been her milestone birthdays.

This collection consists of textual records compiled primarily by Toby Brooks, but also some research material from her collaborator Dona Sturmanis. The records are mainly correspondence, interview transcripts and photocopies of poems. There are also copies of research records obtained from other archives or organizations.

There are 3 series contained within this collection: Research and writing ([ca. 1959-2006]); Toby Brooks-Dona Sturmanis collaboration ([before 2000]); and Pat Lowther tributes and readings ([ca. 1985-2006])

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title reflects the contents of the collection

Arrangement

The material in this collection was received in organized files. This system was maintained by the archivist when the contents of those files were placed in acid-free enclosures. The donor's original labeling of the files was also retained, except in situations where more information was appropriate. In instances where the Archivist altered the existing file title, square brackets are included.

Restrictions on access

Access to some records in this collection is restricted. Please consult staff for more information.

Related material

There is a Toby Brooks fonds located at the University of Ottawa Library, Archives and Special Collections containing records related to her work at the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Housing (OAITH).

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
 - **Status description:** Published
-

Access points

- Brooks, Toby (subject)
- Lowther, Pat (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)
- Women (subject)

Series descriptions

Series MsC-210-0-1: Research and writing

Date: [ca. 1959-2006] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series consists of textual records related to research into Pat Lowther's life and writing career, the circumstances of her death and the subsequent trial of her husband for the crime, and also interviews with Lowther's friends and family. Most of the research was originated by either Toby Brooks or Dona Sturmanis, but some consists of photocopies obtained from other archival institutions. The information collected in this series culminated in the book "Pat Lowther's Continent".

The record types included in this series are: notes, correspondence, newspaper articles and reviews.

Physical description: 30 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

Access to some records in this series is restricted. Please consult staff for more information.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-1	File - Lowther correspondence	1985-2000		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 1
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-2	File - Alberta Poetry Yearbook	1959-1964		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 2
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-3	File - [Professor Fred] Cogswell	1976-1989		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 3
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-4	File - [Research, National Archives re: Canada Council grants]	1996-1997		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 4
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-5	File - Canadian Scholars' Press/Women's Press	2001-2002		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 5
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-6	File - "Chacabuco, the pit"	1987		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 6
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-7	File - [Charlottetown readings, transcriptions of poems and interviews]	[ca. 1975-1988?]		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 7
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-8	File - [Research, criticisms of Lowther]	[ca. 2001]		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 8
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-9	File - [Correspondence re: poems held by Roy Lowther's lawyer]	[ca. 1973-2006]		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 9
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-10	File - Reviews	2005		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 10

MsC-210-0-1-0-0-11	File - [Reshard Gool, Hilda Woolnough]	[ca. 1975-2005?]		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 11
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-12	File - [Betty] Gustafson	1997		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 12
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-13	File - Gynergy Books	1999-2000		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 13
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-14	File - Patrick Lane	1986		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 14
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-15	File - Anne Henderson	1999-2002		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 15
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-16	File - Keith Harrison	1999-2000		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 16
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-17	File - [Inspector Ken Hale]	[ca. 1987]		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 17
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-18	File - Oxford [University Press] - Pat's publishers	[ca. 1975-1999]		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 18
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-19	File - [Photocopies of Lowther-Livesay correspondence, Queen's University Archives]	[ca. 1987]		MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 19
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-20	File - [Lowther family legal correspondence, privacy concerns]	1987-2006	Access to this file is restricted. Please consult staff for more information.	MsC 210 - Box 1 folder 20
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-21	File - [League of Canadian Poets, photocopies]	[ca. 1974-1999]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 1
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-22	File - [League of Canadian Poets, research and correspondence]	[ca. 1987-2000]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 2
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-23	File - Arlene Lampert	1987		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 3
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-24	File - Memorials/tributes	[ca. 1975-2000?]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 4
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-25	File - [Pat Lowther and Pablo] Neruda	1988		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 5
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-26	File - Libraries and ministries	1986-1989		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 6
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-27	File - Chad Norman	1996-2000		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 7
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-28	File - Pat Lowther award	1986-1996		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 8
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-29	File - Promotion ["Pat Lowther's Continent"]	2000-2001		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 9
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-30	File - [Lowther family - correspondence and interviews]	1989-1997		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 10
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-31	File - Ridgeway school	1987		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 11

MsC-210-0-1-0-0-32	File - [Joe Rosenblatt papers from National Archives]	[ca. 1997?]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 12
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-33	File - [Andreas] Schroeder	1997		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 13
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-34	File - [Social assistance regulations, British Columbia]	1997		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 14
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-35	File - [Bethoe] Shirkoff	1996-1997		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 15
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-36	File - [Pat Lowther biographical] time line	[after 1998]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 16
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-37	File - Timetable, interviews	[ca. 1989-1996?]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 17
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-38	File - [Lorraine] Vernon	1996-2000		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 18
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-39	File - [Interview transcripts - Allan Safarik and Seymour Mayne]	[ca. 1984-1989?]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 19
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-40	File - "Time Capsule"	[ca. 1997]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 20
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-41	File - [Correspondence and notes]	1996-2006		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 21
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-42	File - ["Very Stone House" - research, correspondence]	[ca. 1997]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 22
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-43	File - [British Columbia Arts Council - research]	1996-1998		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 23
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-44	File - [British Columbia Archives- research]	1987		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 24
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-45	File - Ward Carson [interview, personal information]	[ca. 1996?]	Access to personal medical information in this file is restricted. Please consult staff for more information.	MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 25
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-46	File - [Howard] Engel	1997-1998		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 26
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-47	File - [Research on] family violence	[after 1994]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 27
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-48	File - [Photocopies of "The Fiddlehead"]	[after 1995]		MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 28

MsC-210-0-1-0-0-49	File - Furry Creek [notes and photocopies]	[after 1985]	MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 29
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-50	File - [Correspondence and notes re: Gastown]	1996	MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 30
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-51	File - [Gary] Geddes	1999	MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 31
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-52	File - Bill Bissett art	1988	MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 32
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-53	File - Bill Bissett interview	1988	MsC 210 - Box 2 folder 33
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-54	File - [Milton] Acorn	1996-1997	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 1
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-55	File - Anaconda/ALCAN [articles re: mining]	1995-1996	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 2
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-56	File - Anthologies	[ca. 1987-2000?]	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 3
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-57	File - [Mick Burrs/Steven Michael Berzensky]	1995-2001	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 4
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-58	File - Borealis [Press Limited]	1999	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 5
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-59	File - [Transcripts of interviews]	1987-1989	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 6
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-60	File - [Mayne Island - Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy]	1997	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 7
MsC-210-0-1-0-0-61	File - [Fred Candelaria - correspondence]	1996-2000	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 8

Series MsC-210-0-2: Toby Brooks-Dona Sturmanis collaboration

Date: [before 2000] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series consists of textual records generated by Dona Sturmanis during the period she was collaborating with Toby Brooks, the subject being the life and early death of poet Pat Lowther. Included in this series is correspondence, notes, and draft chapters.

Physical description: 6.5 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

Access to this series is restricted until 2036. Please consult staff for more information.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
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MsC-210-0-2-0-0-1	File - [Correspondence between Toby Brooks and Dona Sturmanis]	1987-2001	Access to this file is restricted until 2036. Please consult staff for more information.	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 9
MsC-210-0-2-0-0-2	File - [Dona Sturmanis - draft chapters and edits]	[ca. 1990?]	Access to this file is restricted until 2036. Please consult staff for more information.	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 10
MsC-210-0-2-0-0-3	File - [Sean Rossiter manuscript]	[before 2000]	Access to this file is restricted until 2036. Please consult staff for more information.	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 11
MsC-210-0-2-0-0-4	File - [Dona Sturmanis - research, notes and manuscript]	[before 2000?]	Access to this file is restricted until 2036. Please consult staff for more information.	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 12

Series MsC-210-0-3: Pat Lowther tributes and readings

Date: [ca. 1985-2006] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This series consists of records relating to a series of tribute readings organized by Toby Brooks in honor of Pat Lowther, typically held at various bookstores on her milestone birthdays. The record types included are: correspondence, posters, promotional material, and business records relating to donations to support speaking and housing fees for various invited guests.

Physical description: 3.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-1	File - Birthday readings	2002-2004		MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 13
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-2	File - Reading ["The Triumph of Pat Lowther"]	1994-1996		MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 14
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-3	File - Poets, readings	1991-1995		MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 15
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-4	File - Bookseller [Women in Print]	[ca. 2005?]		MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 16

MsC-210-0-3-0-0-5	File - Beth [Lowther]	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 17
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-6	File - Christine [Lowther]	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 18
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-7	File - Coast to coast [Pat Lowther 70th birthday]	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 19
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-8	File - Confirmed readers	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 20
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-9	File - League [of Canadian Poets]	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 21
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-10	File - [Posters and invitation drafts]	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 22
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-11	File - Publicity/web site	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 23
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-12	File - [Vancouver Public Library]	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 24
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-13	File - Ronsdale [Press]	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 25
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-14	File - Indigo	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 26
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-15	File - The Writers' [Union] of Canada	2005	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 27
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-16	File - [Flyers, Pat Lowther benefit]	[ca. 1985?]	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 28
MsC-210-0-3-0-0-17	File - Pat Lowther tribute 2008	2008	MsC 210 - Box 3 folder 29