SFU Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

Finding Aid - Sono Nis Press fonds ()

Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
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Table of contents

Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	Sono Nis Press fonds
Date:	1976-1993 (date of creation)
Physical description:	17 m of textual records and other material
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Sono Nis Press was founded in 1968 by J. Michael Yates when he was associated with the department of creative writing at the University of British Columbia. The name, Sono Nis, is taken from a character in the first book published by the press, Man in the Glass Octopus (1968) written by Yates. "Sono" in modern Italian means "I am"; "nis" in Anglo-Saxon means "is not". Under Yates, the Press operated steadily as a literary house specializing in poetry and fiction in several locations within British Columbia including Vancouver, Surrey, Port Clements in the Queen Charlotte Islands, Mission, and Delta. Emphasizing the publication of poetry and avant garde fiction, the Press issued titles by a diverse group of writers. The books were almost exclusively designed and printed in Victoria, British Columbia, by Morriss Printing. In 1976, Morriss bought out Sono Nis and relocated the Press to Victoria. Morriss appointed Robin Skelton--poet, professor and founder of the Malahat Review--as managing editor. Theatre and poetry scholar Ann Saddlemyer was also a long standing editor at the publishing house. Sono Nis broadened its publication list to include regional histories, literary criticism, guide books, books of general interest, and journals and biographies, as well as its literary books. The Sono Nis backlist was promoted and distributed and the publishing programme was extended to up to twelve titles per year. Patricia Sloan became the managing editor of Sono Nis in 1989.
Richard Morriss's daughter, Diane Morriss, took over the company in 1994 after her father's death. In 2002, Diane Morriss and her husband, graphic designer Jim Brennan, moved Sono Nis from Victoria to Winlaw, British Columbia. Sono Nis Press has been awarded the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, Eaton's Book Prize, BC Book Prizes, Governor General Awards, Lieutenant Governor's Medal for History, CAA Award, and the BC History Prize.

Scope and content

The majority of the records of Sono Nis Press from 1968 to 1976 are at the National Library of Canada under the J. Michael Yates fonds. Since Sono Nis was taken over by Morriss Printing in 1976, all archival records have been retained. Current records (approximately 1989 to 1993) include editorial files, production files, association files, awards and promotions information, and financial records. The archival records (1976 to approximately 1988) include financial records, editorial files, production files, and correspondence. All art work, design work, and printing plates for every book have been retained in the fonds along with two copies of each book published by Sono Nis Press.

Notes

Title notes

Finding aids

An inventory of the fonds is available in Special Collections. An online finding aid is available at: http://www.lib.sfu.ca/sites/default/files/8910/SonoNis.pdf

Other notes

- Publication status: published
- Level of detail: Full
- Status description: Published
- Alpha-numeric designations: BCAUL control number: SFL--2320

Access points

- Sono Nis Press
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)
- Business and commerce (subject)

Series descriptions