

University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

Finding Aid - Victor S. Cowie fonds (MSS 204, A. 05-34)

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Victor S. Cowie fonds

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Series descriptions	4
, Personal Records and Correspondence, 1950-2002	4
, Research and Teaching Materials 1945, 1956, 1961-2002, n.d.,	5
, Musicals, Plays and Short Stories Written By Victor Cowie 1965-1980, n.d.,	10
, Theatre and Film Records 1950-1998,	11
, U. of M. Theatre Photographs 1964, 1967, 1986, 1990,	11

Summary information

Repository:	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
Title:	Victor S. Cowie fonds
ID:	MSS 204, A. 05-34
Date:	1950-2002 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.5m of textual records, 18 photographs
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
Note [generalNote]:	Preferred citation: Victor S. Cowie fonds

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Victor (Vic) Spiers Cowie was born on June 19, 1929 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Vic Cowie completed a B.A. (Hons.) in English Literature at the University of Manitoba. During this time he met his wife Geraldine (Gerry). They were married for 48 years and had three children: Laura, Paul, and John. He undertook post-graduate studies at the University of Toronto and graduated with an M.A. in 1966. In 1956, Cowie was hired by the Department of English at the University of Manitoba, where he taught until his retirement in 1995. He continued to lecture as a part-time instructor well after his retirement. Cowie specialized in the works of Shakespeare and Milton. In 1970, Cowie received the Olive Beatrice Stanton Award for excellence in teaching. He was also awarded the Certificate of Excellence in the Teaching of English by the Modern Language Association of America for the 1972-1973 academic year. Aside from his academic achievements, Vic Cowie was actively involved in theatre and film, both at the local and national level. Cowie wrote, directed, and starred in *And No Birds Sing* (1969), the first feature film produced entirely by students and staff at the University of Manitoba. The film received the "Best Featurette" award at the 1969 Vancouver Film Festival and won a Canada Film Award in Toronto. In collaboration with Victor Davies, Cowie also wrote three hour-long children's musical plays that were featured on the CTV national network: *The Magic Trumpet* (1975), *Reginald the Robot* (1976), and *The Curse of Ponsonby Hall* (1981). Vic Cowie was deeply involved in the University of Manitoba theatre program and directed many productions for the Black Hole Theatre. At the professional level, Cowie acted in several Manitoba Theatre Centre Mainstage productions including *Volpone* (1960), *The Lesson* (1960), *Oh, Dad, Poor Dad* (1961), *The Dybbuk* (1973/1974), *Amadeus* (1984), as well as his own adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry IV 1&2* entitled *Falstaff* (1989). Vic Cowie starred in several Guy Maddin films including *Archangel* (1990), *Careful* (1992), *Cowards Bend at the Knee* (2003), and *The Saddest Music in the World* (2004). His made for television movie credits include *The Challengers* (1989), *Lost in the Barrens* (1990), *Lost in the Barrens II: The Curse of the Viking Grave* (1991), *Heads* (1993), *The Diviners* (1993), *Trucks* (1997), *Escape From Mars* (1999), *We Were The Mulvaney's* (2002),

The Many Trials of Jane Doe (2002), and More Than Meets the Eye: The Joan Brock Story (2003). Other film credits include Black Ice (1992), Bordertown Caf (1993), Red Team (1999), and The Law of Enclosures (2000). Vic Cowie died on March 8, 2004.

Custodial history

The fonds was donated to University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections by Gerry Cowie in 2005.

Scope and content

This fonds consists of records relating to the academic and artistic career of Professor Victor S. Cowie. Materials include personal and business related correspondence, research and lecture notes, and a variety of research-based newspaper clippings. Handwritten and photocopied drafts of the musicals The Magic Trumpet, Reginald the Robot, and The Curse of Ponsonby Hall are also included. In addition, the fonds also includes drafts and documents related to the film And No Birds Sing, as well as playbills, newspaper reviews and other documents related to theatre productions in which Cowie was involved. Also included are 18 photographs related to University of Manitoba theatre activities. This fonds consists of the series: Personal Records and Correspondence; Research and Teaching Materials; Musicals, Plays and Short Stories Written by Victor Cowie; Theatre and Film Records; U. of M. Theatre Photographs.

Notes

Title notes

Finding aids

A finding aid can be generated from this description.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
-

Series descriptions

Personal Records and Correspondence

Date: 1950-2002 (date of creation)

Physical description: 8 folders

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - "Letters to the Editor" Written by Victor Cowie, 1958-1969, 1999	1958-1969, 1999		1 1
	File - Personal Correspondence Received by Victor Cowie, 1959, 1967-2002	1967-2002		1 2
	File - "Thank You Letters and Cards" Received by Victor Cowie, 1968-2000	1968-2000		1 3
	File - Poems and Related Correspondence Received by Victor Cowie, 1965, 1974-1991, 2001	2000 1974-1991 1965		1 4
	File - Business Correspondence Written by Victor Cowie, 1965-1977, 1985, 1996	1985,1996 1965-1977		1 5
	File - Business Correspondence Received by Victor Cowie, 1968-1992	1968-1992		1 6
	File - A.C.T.R.A., Equity, and Writer's Guild Records, 1967, 1980-2001	1980-2001		1 7
	File - Letters, Newspaper clippings, and Documents related to the film And No Birds Sing, 1967-1970, 2001	2000 1967-1970		1 8

Research and Teaching Materials 1945, 1956, 1961-2002, n.d.

Physical description: 129 folders

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - U. of M. Memos, Reports, Course Outlines, and Miscellaneous Documents, 1945, 1967-1997, 2002			2 1
	File - "Academic Controversy" Articles and Newspaper clippings, 1986-1997	1986-1997		2 2
	File - "The Professor Mulford Q. Sibley Case" newspaper clippings, 1965			2 3
	File - Journal Articles and Pamphlets, 1958-1978, 1993	1993 1958-78		2 4-5
	File - Articles and Reviews, 1988-1993	1988-1993		2 6
	File - "English 110: Introduction to Literature" Research and Lecture Notes, 1956-1957	1956-1957		2 7
	File - Sample English Exams, 1973-1996	1973-1996		2 8
	File - Lecture Notes, n.d.			2 9
	File - "Footnotes," n.d.			2 10
	File - "16th Century Prose" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.			3 1
	File - "17th Century Prose" Research and Lecture Notes, 1972	1972		3 2
	File - "Petrarchan Lyric" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.			3 3
	File - "Romantics" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.			3 4
	File - "Victorian World" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.			3 5

	File - "Canadian Literature" Lecture Notes, n.d.		3 6
	File - "16th Century Poetry" Research and Lecture Notes, 1978	1978	3 7
	File - "Victorian Literature" Research and Lecture Notes, 1 notebook, n.d.		3 8
	File - "Short Stories" Research and Lecture Notes, 1974-1993	1974-1993	3 9
	File - "Yeats" Research and Lecture Notes, 1 notebook, n.d.		3 10
	File - "Short Stories" Research and Lecture Notes, [1964?]		3 11
	File - "17th Century Poetry" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		3 12
	File - "20th Century Poetry" Lecture and Examination Notes, 1965	1965	3 13
	File - "Matthew Arnold" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		3 14
	File - "Auden: Poetry" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		3 15
	File - "Auden: For the Time Being" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		4 1
	File - "Bronte: Wuthering Heights" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		4 2
	File - "William Blake: Book of Thel" Research and Lecture Notes, 1979-1980	1979-1980	4 3
	File - "William Blake" Research and Lecture Notes, [197-]-[199-]		4 4
	File - "William Blake" Research and Lecture Notes, [196?]-[199-]		4 5
	File - "Sir Thomas Browne" Research and Lecture Notes, [196?], n.d.		4 6
	File - "Robert Browning" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		4 7
	File - "Samuel Butler" Research and Lecture Notes, [196?]		4 8
	File - "Byron" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		4 9
	File - "Thomas Carlyle" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		4 10
	File - "Chaucer: Canterbury Tales" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		4 11
	File - "Joseph Conrad" Research and Lecture Notes, [196?]		4 12
	File - "Murder in the Cathedral" Research and Lecture Notes, [196-]		4 13
	File - "John Donne" Research and Lecture Notes, [197-]-[199-]		4 14
	File - "John Donne" University of Toronto Notes and Book Reports, n.d.		4 15
	File - "T.S. Eliot" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		4 16
	File - "Middlemarch" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		4 17

	File - "Henry Fielding: Joseph Andrews" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		4 18
	File - "Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby" Research and Lecture Notes, [197-]- [199-]		5 1
	File - "Forster: A Passage to India" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		5 2
	File - "Graham Greene: The Heart of Matter" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		5 3
	File - "George Herbert" Research and Lecture Notes, 1978	1978	5 4
	File - "Thomas Hardy" Research and Lecture Notes, [198-]		5 5
	File - "G.M. Hopkins" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		5 6
	File - "Ben Jonson" Research and Lecture Notes, [199-]		5 7
	File - "John Keats" Lecture Notes and Course Outlines, n.d.		5 8
	File - "Andrew Marrell" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		5 9
	File - "John Stuart Mill" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		5 10
	File - "Pinter: The Dumb Waiter" Research and Lecture Notes, 1990	1990	5 11
	File - "Harold Pinter" Research and Lecture Notes, [198?]		5 12
	File - "Spenser" Research and Lecture Notes, [196-]		5 13
	File - "Jonathan Swift: Gulliver's Travels" Lecture Notes and Course Outline, 1993-1994		5 14
	File - "The Playboy of the Western World" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		6 1
	File - "Tennyson" Research Notes and Course Outline, n.d.		6 2
	File - "Thackeray: Vanity Fair" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		6 3
	File - "Henry Vaughn" Research and Lecture Notes, 1978	1978	6 4
	File - "Regeneration" Research and Lecture Notes, 1974	1974	6 5
	File - "Wordsworth" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		6 6
	File - "W.B. Yeats" Research Notes and Course Outline, n.d.		6 7
	File - "St. Augustine" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		6 8
	File - "Eastern Religion" Articles, 1972	1972	6 9
	File - "History of the Early Church" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		6 10
	File - "Ante-Nicene Christianity" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		6 11

	File - "Kabbalah" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 12
	File - "Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, Stoics" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 13
	File - "Cicero, Boethus, Marcus Aurelius" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 14
	File - "Stoic Thought" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 15
	File - "Thomas Aquinas: Summa Theologica" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 16
	File - "Nemesius, Ocellus, Lucanus, Macrobius" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 17
	File - "Early Christian Thought" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 18
	File - "Renaissance Studies Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 19
	File - "Works of Jacob Boehme and William Law" Research Notes and Correspondence, 1991	6 20
	Otherlevel - "Renaissance Science/ Psychology" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 21
	File - "Renaissance Christian Thought" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 22
	File - "The Courtier/Castiglione" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 23
	File - "Renaissance Platonism" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	6 24
	File - "Du Bantas/Divine Weeks" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	7 1
	File - "Mosaicall and Occult Philosophy" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	7 2
	File - "Philosophy" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	7 3
	File - Shakespeare Articles, 1956, 1961, 1988, 1992-1993, n.d.	7 4-5
	File - "Shakespeare Studies" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	7 6
	File - "Shakespeare: Tragedy/History" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	7 7
	File - "Henry IV" Research and Lecture Notes, 1982-1988	7 8
	File - "Henry IV" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	7 9
	File - "Henry V" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	7 10
	File - "The Pastoral" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	7 11
	File - "BBC Series" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.	7 12

File - "The Merchant of Venice" Research and Lecture Notes, [196?], 1974, 1985		7 13
File - "Sonnets" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		7 14
File - "Richard II" Research and Lecture Notes, 1981-1988	1981-1988	7 15
File - "Richard III" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		7 16
File - "Richard II and Henry IV" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		7 17
File - "A Midsummer Night's Dream" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 1
File - "Shakespeare: Comedy" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 2
File - "Much Ado About Nothing" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 3
File - "Troilus and Cressida" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 4
File - "The Taming of the Shrew" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 5
File - "As You Like It" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 6
File - "Macbeth" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 7
File - "Coriolanus" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 8
File - "The Tempest" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 9
File - "Milton: Paradise Lost I" Research and Lecture Notes, [197-]-[198-]		8 10
File - "Milton: Paradise Lost II" Research and Lecture Notes, [197-]-[199-]		8 11
File - "Milton: Paradise Lost III" Research and Lecture Notes, [197-]- [199-]		8 12
File - "Milton Paradise Lost IV" Research and Lecture Notes, 1974-1991	1974-1999	8 13
File - "Milton: Paradise Lost V" Research and Lecture Notes, 1979-[199-]		8 14
File - "Milton: Paradise Lost VI-VII" Research and Lecture Notes, [198-]- [199-]		8 15
File - "Milton: Paradise Lost VIII" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		8 16
File - "Milton: Paradise Lost IX" Research and Lecture Notes, [1979?]		9 1
File - "Milton: Paradise Lost X, XI, XII" Research and Lecture Notes, 1981-1982	1981-1982	9 2
File - "Milton: Paradise Regained" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		9 3
File - "Milton: Prose Writings" Research and Lecture Notes, 1980-1991	1980-1991	9 4

	File - "Milton: Comus" Research and Lecture Notes, 1970-1990	1970-1990	9 5
	File - "Milton: Christian Doctrine" Research and Lecture Notes, 1972-1973	1972-1973	9 6
	File - "Milton Studies" Research and Lecture Notes, [197-]-1990		9 7
	File - "Milton" Research and Lecture Notes, 2 notebooks, [196?]		9 8
	File - "17th Century and Milton" Research and Lecture Notes, 1977-[198-]		9 9
	File - "Areopagitica" Research and Lecture Notes, [198-]-[199-]		9 10
	File - "Samson Agonistes" Research and Lecture Notes, 1984, 1990-1991		9 11
	File - "Lycidas" Research and Lecture Notes, n.d.		10 1
	File - 2 newspaper clippings related to the Renaissance, 1975		10 2
	File - "Nativity Ode" Research and Lecture Notes, 1983	1983	10 3
	File - "Neo-Platonism of William Blake" and "16th and 17th Century English Platonists" Research and Lecture Notes, [196?], [197?]		10 4

Musicals, Plays and Short Stories Written By Victor Cowie 1965-1980, n.d.

Physical description: 16 folders

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - First Draft of "A Lover's Complaint" (what later became "And No Birds Sing"), n.d., and Miscellaneous Writings and Correspondence, [196-], 1965, 1974			10 5
	File - "And No Birds Sing" Drafts, n.d.			10 6
	File - "The Magic Trumpet" First Draft, 1968	1968		10 7
	File - "The Magic Trumpet" Script, 1969	1969		10 8
	File - "The Magic Trumpet" Master Copy, 1969			10 9
	File - "Reginald the Robot" Draft Version, n.d.			10 10
	File - "Reginald the Robot" Final Version n.d.			10 11
	File - "The Curse of Ponsonby Hall" Handwritten Draft, n.d.			10 12
	File - "The Curse of Ponsonby Hall" Photocopied Draft, n.d.			11 1
	File - "The Curse of Ponsonby Hall" Script and Related Documents, 1980, n.d.			11 2

	File - Children's Musicals: Draft Writings, Newspaper Clippings, and Tickets, 1971	1971		11 3
	File - "Blake's Holy Word: Scriptural Themes in "Introduction" and "Earth's Answer" " First Draft. n.d., and 1 letter to Vic Cowie, 1977	1977		11 4
	File - "The Windchill Factor" Unfinished Play, n.d.			11 5
	File - Unfinished Writings, n.d.			11 6-8

Theatre and Film Records 1950-1998

Physical description: 4 folders

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	Otherlevel - U. of M. Theatre: Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, and Related Records, 1950-1965			11 9
	Otherlevel - U. of M. Theatre: Black Hole Theatre Playbills, 1984-1991			12 1
	File - Miscellaneous Theatre and Film Clippings, 1953-1961, 1973-1974, 1984, 1995, 2001	1984,1995, 2001 1973-1974 1953-1961		12 2
	File - Calendar with image of the cast from "The Anniversary, 1956," 1998			12 3

U. of M. Theatre Photographs 1964, 1967, 1986, 1990

Physical description: 3 folders

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - U. of M. Theatre - 2 photographs, 1964			12 4
	File - "And No Birds Sing" Audition Shots, 2 photographs, 1967	1967		12 5
	File - U. of M. Theatre - Black Hole Theatre, 14 photographs, 1986, 1990	1986,1990		12 6