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BIENKOWSKA (Danuta Irena) papers

Dates : 1940-1978

Extent : 3 boxes and 1 item (0.5 metres)

Biographical Sketch : 1927 - 1974.

Danuta Irena Czech was born in Torun, Poland, into the family of a noncommissioned officer. With the outbreak of World War II, she was evacuated with the rest of her family to Eastern Poland, spending a few months under Soviet occupation in a small town near the Toumanian border. Later the family was deported, first to the Komi republic, in the north of European Russia, and then to Uzbekistan, ending up in a Polish refugee camp in India.

The family emigrated to England in 1946. Danuta continued her education at the University of London, from where she received an honours B.A. in Russian and English literature in 1952. She had married in 1951, but the marriage was not a success, and after spending two years as a Russian specialist with the National Central Library in London, she emigrated to Canada, and continued her studies at the University of Toronto. Here she simultaneously worked on an M.A., and on a B.A. in Polish literature from the University of London. After receiving her M.A. in 1958, she worked briefly with the Catholic Children's Aid Society, until she was granted a two year Ford Foundation fellowship to study for a Ph.D in Polish literature at the School of Slavonic Studies (University of London). She chose as her topic the early work of Stefan Zeromski, successfully defending her thesis in 1965.

Bieńkowska lectured at the University of Toronto in Polish and Russian studies from 1962 until 1974. She also chaired a 1970 committee to introduce Polish instruction into secondary schools in Ontario. She contributed heavily to the Polish press in Canada, and worked with the Adam Mickiewicz Foundation to set up the first permanent Polish scholarship fund in Canada.

Danuta Irena Bieńkowska was killed in a cable car accident in Norway in 1974.

(Adapted from *A fallen leaf; the life and poetry of Danuta Bienkowska*, by Bohdan Budurowycz)

Scope and content : The collection begins with the diaries written during the early 1940s and ends with correspondence relating to a conference she was to attend during the academic year after her death. All extant poetry and prose is included, in various forms. Some matters pertaining to the Slavic Dept. at the University of Toronto, as well as obituaries, memorial cards, etc. have been included. The collection was used by Professor Bohdan Budurowycz in compiling his edition of the works of Danuta Bieńkowska.

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Box 1	Diaries and Poetry
38 folders	
Folders 1 - 26	Polish language poetry
Folder 1	[n.d.] Holograph drafts of undeveloped plays “Dramaty do opracowania.”
Folder 2	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>A jeźeli, Ani słowa o Polsce, Anioł</i>
Folder 3	1965, mostly [n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Babcia, Bedziesz trwał, Boje sie</i>
Folder 4	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Czekanie na Godota, Czy te Drewa są naprawdę, Czy ty sie umiesz spieszyc, Czysccowe Duszyczki</i>
Folder 5	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Dlaczego, Dom, Dzieci</i>
Folder 6	[n.d.] Holograph and typewritten drafts of poems <i>Erotyk usmiechniety, Erotyk zapiety pod szyje, Etiuda no. 1, Ex profundis</i>
Folder 7	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Fresk</i>
Folder 8	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Gdybym umiala</i>
Folder 9	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Hymn o nocy, Hymn o sloncu</i>
Folder 10	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Istnienie</i>
Folder 11	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Jaszczurki wiecznosci, lub erotyk nieerotyczny.</i>
Folder 12	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Kompozycja 22</i>
Folder 13	1973

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	TS of a collection of English and Polish poems with the handwritten title <i>Krzyk</i>
Folder 14	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Lato, Licze zmarszczki na twarzy,</i>
Folder 15	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Mea culpa</i>
Folder 16	[n.d.] Holograph drafts of poems <i>Niebo, Noc</i>
Folder 17	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>O szarej godzinie, Ojczy, nie budz</i>
Folder 18	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Pada deszcz, pierwszy raz – corce mojej, Piesn o starosci, Po tamtej stronie bolu, Po tamtej stronie drzwi, Polska jalowcowa, Polska nierzeczywitosc, Powroty, Przeszosc, Pytanie</i>
Folder 19	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Refleksje jesienne</i>
Folder 20	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Seria towarzyska, Spalilam cie, Stopy naszych bliskich, Symfonia ze snow, Synowi</i>
Folder 21	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Twoje rzesy</i>
Folder 22	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Uzucia na sprzedaz</i>
Folder 23	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Wolalam cie I, Wolalam cie II, W Dalmacji, W poszukiwaniu domu</i>
Folder 24	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems <i>Zawsze miales racje, Zona Lota</i>
Folder 25	[n.d.] Photocopies of poems, as published
Folder 26	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts of poems Extracts, unfinished, untitled pieces

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Folders 27-33	English language poetry
Folder 27	1973 TS of English language poem <i>I am as I am</i>
Folder 28	1973 TS of English language poem <i>Let me have the shadow of your smile</i>
Folder 29	[n.d.] TS of English Language poem <i>A call from beyond</i>
Folder 30	[n.d.] TS of English Language poem <i>The Hippie Song or Jesus & Mandala</i>
Folder 31	[n.d.] TS of English Language poem <i>A recipe for happiness</i>
Folder 32	[n.d.] TS of English Language poem <i>Will you ever accept</i>
Folder 33	[n.d.] TS of English Language poem <i>A very strange poem</i>
Folders 34 - 38	Diaries
Folder 34	July – August 1940 Holograph diary
Folder 35	October 1942 – May 1943 Holograph diary
Folder 36	July 1940 – August 1940 Typescript – transcription of diary <i>Droga do Rosji : fragment z dziennika</i>
Folder 37	[n.d.] Holograph draft <i>Szkice z Rosji</i>
Folder 38	July 1973 Holograph pages Diary pages or unfinished letter
Box 2	Prose pieces including unpublished MA thesis
Folder 1	Various dates Newsclippings Clippings of Bienkowska's prose as published in newspapers.
Folder 2	[n.d.]

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	Photocopy “Anthologies of Contemporary Polish Prose in English Translations” in <i>Canadian Slavonic Papers</i>
Folder 3	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts <i>Babcia and Bawelna i milosc</i>
Folder 4	[n.d.] TS drafts <i>Comparative study of magical tale in Russian, Polish and Ukrainian</i>
Folder 5	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts <i>Czlowiekowi bez twarzy</i>
Folder 6	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts, newsclippings and photocopies <i>Dolarowe wyspy, Demonstrator, Duchy, Dziecko</i>
Folder 7	1973 Offprint and photocopies “Ernest Bryll I teatr romantyczny – kontynuacja, czy deformacja?” in <i>Canadian contributions to the seventh international congress of Slavists : Warsaw, 1973.</i>
Folder 8	[n.d.] Holograph drafts <i>Fantezje [...?] and Filozof w basemen[??]</i>
Folder 9	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Gaude, Mater, Polonia; Glupstwa i nieglupstwa</i>
Folder 10	[n.d.] TS draft <i>Historia Polski z maylmi poprawkami</i>
Folder 11	1962, 1963, 1965, 1971 Photocopies Interviews and letters to the editor
Folder 12	[n.d.] Photocopy <i>Ilu mamy Brandysow?</i>
Folder 13	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Jacek of sobie, o Polsce I o wielu innych rzeczach, Jak sie Panstwu udal urlop? Judy w Jugoslawii, Jurek na wakacjach, Jutro, czyli, w piatek, Juz im nigdy nie opowiem</i>
Folder 14	1968, 1969, 1972 Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Karp na szaro, czyli kogo podac z sosem, a kogo bez, Kolakowski, the modern heretic, Kultura polska, czy kultura ‘polonijna’</i>

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Folder 15	[n.d.] TS drafts and photocopies. <i>Las, Licytacja, Ludzie I książki,</i>
Folder 16	1964, 1968, 1969, 1971 Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Maj, Melodia zycia, Metody nauczania jezyka polskiego w szkolach podstawowych w Kanadzie, Mickiewicz we Kanadzie czyli z czego byly te golabki, Mlodosc przez male "m", Mlodzi w akcji, My I Milusinscy</i>
Folder 17	1963, 1964, 1971 Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Na marginesie wystapien p. M. Hemara, Na tropach Smetka, Naokolo swiata w obrebie Metro Toronto, Nastolatki, Nauczanie jezyka polskiego na uniwersytetach w Kanadzie, Nieudany odczyt, Notes on being an ethnic</i>
Folder 18	1973, mostly [n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>O kontynentach dla kontynentow, O mnie sie nie martw, O polsce, O starych i nowych bajkach, O typowosci, O wiernoschi-inaczzej, Obrazy, Oni i my</i>
Folder 19	1962, 1964, mostly [n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Po wakacjach, Po jakich drogach chodza moje dzieci, Policjant – moj aniol stroz, Polonia I Kraj, "Prawda" poprzez czarne okulary, Przygoda, Przyjazd</i>
Folder 20	[n.d.] Photocopy "Polish literature in exile" in <i>The Polish Review</i>
Folder 21	[n.d.] Photocopy "Polish studies in North America" in <i>The Polish Review</i>
Folder 22	[n.d.] TS drafts <i>Polish literature abroad – a review, Literary biography in Poland</i>
Folder 23	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Rodzina B, Rosja 1969, Rozmowa w pociagu</i>
Folder 24	[n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Second class citizens, or "Accent Groups" in Canada, Szyld</i>
Folder 25	1965, 1970, mostly [n.d.] Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Taksowki, Tamto lato, Teatry w Warszawie, Ten czlowiek, To my Canadian friends, Tory</i>
Folder 26	1960, 1962, 1973, mostly [n.d.]

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	Holograph and TS drafts, photocopies <i>Wieczor, Wszystkiemu winien Szopen, Wszystko tam jest</i>
Folder 27	[n.d.] TS drafts, photocopies <i>Z zeromskim po polsce, Zaczyna sie Holandia, Zajac, Zegar z kukulka, Zycie od nog, Zycie zaczyna sie po czterdziestce, Nekrolog D. Bienkowskiej</i>
Folder 28	[n.d.] Incomplete or untitled holograph drafts of prose works.
Folder 29	1957 Photocopied TS <i>The poetics of Aleksander Blok</i> – unpublished MA thesis for the University of Toronto
Box 3	Notes on folklore, immigrants, Polish people, correspondence, Departmental matters – notes for classes, exams. Obituaries, biographies, photographs. Published works
Items 1 – 4	Published works
Item 1	1972 Offprint “An analytical study of the early literary work of Stefan Zeromski, its cultural background and its critical reception in Poland.” PhD thesis published in <i>Antemurale XVI</i>
Item 2	1972 <i>Antemurale XVI</i> . Rome : 1972.
Folder 3	1975 Offprint and complete publication. Bohdan Budurowych. A fallen leaf : the life and poetry of Danuta Bienkowska. In <i>The Polish Review</i> , XX No. 4. 1975.
Folder 4	1976 Oficina Poetow Kwartalnik. Rok XI, Maj 1976. Nr 2, 41.
Folders 5 - 13	Slavic Department, University of Toronto ; Course materials, notes, correspondence.
Folder 5	[n.d.] Bibliographic notes about “Baski” fairy stories.
Folder 6	[n.d.] Planning notes “Comparative mythological ideas”
Folder 7	[n.d.] Bibliographic notes “The devil in fairy stories”
Folder 8	1971-1974 Folklore related correspondence and work Includes correspondence re: conference attendance (Helsinki 1974), publication and research (Indiana, 1971), TS essay drafts (1972)
Folder 9	[n.d.]

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	Reading list for studies in Slavic folklore, with notations suggesting additions
Folder 10	1970-1974 Material relating to appointment within the Slavic department. Includes correspondence with colleagues, bibliography of Polish writers prepared for distribution to secondary schools, course syllabi, outline of personal research program, request for sabbatical, proposal for Polish graduate-level courses, funding grant applications, c.v., research progress report
Folder 11	1972, mostly [n.d.] Various unfinished works and notes.
Folder 12	[n.d.] Bibliographical notes Re : The immigrant experience
Folder 13	[n.d.] Bibliographical notes Re : Multiculturalism and ethnicity.
Items 14-16	Research and publications not related to the Slavic Department
Folder 14	[n.d.] TS drafts Critical reviews
Folder 15	[n.d.] Assorted press clippings
Folder 16	[n.d.] Press clippings and photocopies Related to the literary contribution of Polish writers in Canada.
Folders 17 - 19	Obituaries, items related to Bienkowska's death.
Folder 17	1974-1975 Assorted correspondence relating to Bienkowska (mostly after her death)
Folder 18	[n.d.] Photographs Several copies of Bienkowska's official photo, used in obituaries and in posthumous publications
Folder 19	1974 Press clippings Obituaries and news items about the death of Danuta Bienkowska
Folder 20	1978 TS draft of <i>Między brzegami</i> , published posthumously, edited by Budurowycz, Bohdan.