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David Day Papers

Gift of David Day, 2022

Dates of creation: 2006-2021

Extent: 2 boxes (9 cm)

Biographical Note:

David Day (born 1947, Victoria, British Columbia) is a Canadian author and journalist who has published over forty books of poetry, fantasy, literary criticism, natural history, and children's literature, as well as a series of newspaper columns, plays, and scripts for television. Day worked as a logger on Vancouver Island while a student at the University of Victoria and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from its creative writing program in 1976. His first work *The Cowichan* (1975) was a book of poetry based on his timber camp journals. He is best known for a series of books on the works of J.R.R Tolkien beginning with *A Tolkien Bestiary* published in 1979. His 1981 book *The Domesday Book of Animals* treated the subject of animal extinction and inspired the production of the Discovery Channel television series *Lost Animals of the 20th Century*, for which Day wrote the scripts (1995). In 2015, he published *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Decoded*, which delves into the “many layers of teaching” coded by Lewis Carroll within the novel (Doubleday). Day resided in Toronto, Ontario for most of his career before relocating back to Victoria in 2022.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of a book proposal, drafts, research notes and related writing, and corrected proofs for the book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Decoded*. The book is also in the Fisher's collections as part of the Joseph Brabant Lewis Carroll Collection.

Custodial history: Papers were donated to the Thomas Fisher by David Day in 2022.

Notes:

Arrangement: Titles based on contents.

Restrictions on access: Folders 1:2, 1:3, 1:4 and 1:5 are restricted from use unless permission is obtained from the donor until August 2034.

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| SERIES 1: <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Decoded</i> files | | | |
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| BOX: FOLDER | TITLE | CONTENTS | DATE(S) |
| 1:1 | Proposal for <i>Decoding Wonderland</i> | Draft for proposed book with synopsis, outline, layout chart, and section for "seven levels of Wonderland": fairy tales, history, mythology, philosophy, theosophy, mathematics and music. | 2006 |
| 1:2 | <i>Decoding Wonderland - Book Two: Alice and the Great Goddess</i> | Draft manuscript. Restricted. | [201-?] |
| 1:3 | <i>Decoding Wonderland - Book Three: Philosophers in Wonderland</i> | Draft manuscript. Restricted. | [201-?] |
| 1:4 | <i>Decoding Wonderland - Book Four: Alice's Mathematical Maze</i> | Draft manuscript. Restricted. | [201-?] |
| 1:5 | <i>Decoding Wonderland - Book Five: Theosophist's Wonderland</i> | Draft manuscript. Restricted. | [201-?] |
| 1:6 | Notes, research materials and related writing | Includes draft of essay "Lewis Carroll and the Theatre" commissioned by the Shaw Festival for its 2016 production of <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> ; draft copy of essay "On the Truth of Some new Mathematical Ideas in <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> " by Francine F. Abeles; copy of 2015 article "The | 2015-2021 |

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| | | Cheshire Cat's Grin" published in <i>The Walrus</i> and other materials. | |
| 1:7 | Book layout and design (BLAD) pamphlet for <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Decoded</i> | | 2015 |
| 2 | Corrected galley proof sheets for <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland Decoded</i> | | 2015 |