

Finding Aid - Pete White Fonds (2017.020)

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Language of description: English

Pete White Fonds

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Summary information

Repository:**Title:** Pete White Fonds**Reference code:** 2017.020**Date:** 1888 - 2022 (date of creation)**Physical description:**

Audio

Overall total number of items: 112. Total RT: 77:01:01.

- 3 audio cartridges : 1/4 in. 8-Track audiotape, RT 1:44:05
- 42 audio cassette : 1/8 in. tape, C-60, RT 42:00:00
- 1 audio record : 7 in., 45 rpm, RT 0:06:22
- 8 audio records : 12 in. LP, RT 4:54:28
- 4 open reels : audio ; 1/4 in., 4 in. reel, RT 0:16:00
- 1 open reel : audio ; 1/4 in., 5 in. reel, RT 1:10:44
- 15 open reels : audio ; 1/4 in., 7 in. reel, RT 5:16:30
- 1 open reel : audio ; 1/4 in., 10 in. reel, master, RT 0:22:30
- 6 open reels : audio ; 2 in., 10 in. reel, RT 2:08:00
- 22 optical discs : CD ; audio, RT 15:22:54
- 9 optical discs : CD-R ; audio, RT 3:39:34

Data

Overall total number of items: 3.

- 2 optical discs : CD-R ; data
- 1 computer USB key ; data

Graphic

Overall total number of items: 19. Total b&w: 10. Total colour: 9.

- 1 drawing : pencil on paper ; 8 1/2 x 11 in.
- 6 flyers : b&w ; 8 1/2 x 11 in.
- 2 postcards : b&w ; 4 x 6 in.
- 1 postcard : b&w ; 4 x 6, matted, 8 x 10 in.
- 1 bookmark : colour ; 2 x 8 in.
- 4 postcards : colour ; 4 x 6 in.
- 2 postcards : colour ; 4 x 6, matted, 8 x 10 in.
- 1 postcard : colour ; 5 x 7 in.
- 1 poster : colour ; 16 x 22 in., folded

Object

Overall total number of items: 14.

- 3 award certificates : dimensions variable
- 1 award plaque : dimensions variable
- 4 award statuettes : dimensions variable
- 1 cap : dimensions variable
- 2 t-shirts : dimensions variable
- 2 ribbons : 1 1/2 x 6 in.

- 1 Zippo lighter : 1/2 x 1 1/2 x 2 1/4 in.

Photograph

Overall total number of items: 87. Total b&w: 71. Total colour: 16.

- 4 contact sheets : b&w ; 8 x 10 in.
- 1 print : b&w ; 1 1/2 x 8 in.
- 1 print : b&w ; 4 1/2 x 7 in.
- 20 prints : b&w ; 5 x 7 in.
- 2 prints : b&w ; 8 x 8 in.
- 43 prints : b&w ; 8 x 10 in.
- 1 print : colour ; 3 1/2 x 5 in.
- 6 prints : colour ; 4 x 6 in.
- 2 prints : colour ; 8 x 10 in.
- 3 prints : colour ; 8 1/2 x 11 in.
- 3 transparencies : colour ; 35mm, mounted
- 1 optical disc : CD-R ; 40 JPG files

Textual

Overall total: 3.63 meters, textual materials.

Video

Overall total number of items: 24. Total RT: 21:30:00.

- 24 video cassettes : VHS 1/2 in. videotape, RT 21:30:00

Language: English

**Dates of creation,
revision and deletion:** December 14, 2023

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Pete White (sometimes credited as Peter White) was born in Kaslo, British Columbia in 1946. White lived in Kaslo until 1954, until his mother remarried. White's stepfather was a miner, and the family moved around a series of mining camps, ending up in Elliot Lake, Ontario. White attended high school in Elliot Lake, and then went on to work as a miner while writing poetry in his spare time.

In the late 1960s, White moved to Edmonton, where he met the English singer and guitar player Paul Hann. The pair bonded over music, and White's focus shifted from poetry to song-writing. White wrote or co-wrote many of Hann's songs, while also managing and promoting Hann's career. Ultimately, White's songs appeared on several of Hann's albums, including "A Fine White Thread" (1973), "Another Tumbleweed" (1975), "Paul Hann" (1977), "High Test" (1979), and "Hometown Hero" (1980).

White and Hann also composed music for film and television soundtracks together, including the theme to the program "Come Alive" for Access Alberta. While working on the score of this show, White was offered the opportunity to write television scripts. White accepted, and left the music business in order to pursue a career in writing for film and television. In 1977, He formed a production company, Kicking Horse Productions with friend Avri Liimatainen. Over the next several years, White worked to master the craft of writing for film and television, and left Kicking Horse in the early 1980s to pursue writing on a more fulltime basis.

Throughout the 80s and 90s, White served as a writer on television shows such as “The Beachcombers,” (1982-1990), “Danger Bay,” (1983-1990), “Northwood,” (1991-1992) and “Da Vinci’s Inquest” (2003-2004). He was also the screenwriter of the television movies “Striker’s Mountain” (1985) “The Legend of the Ruby Silver” (1996) and “Peacekeepers” (1997), all three of which earned White earned Gemini nominations for Best Writing in a Dramatic Program or Series. White went on to receive the Writer’s Guild of Canada Top Ten Awards for “Ruby Silver” and “Peacekeepers.” White received the Margaret Collier Award, a lifetime achievement award, at the 2006 Gemini Awards for his outstanding body of work in film and television writing.

At the same time, White became a key player in working to protect the rights and interests of Canadian screenwriters. White was president of the ACTRA Writers Guild from 1986-1988. When the writer’s split from ACTRA in 1991 and formed the independent Writers Guild of Canada (WGC), White served as VP representing the Pacific Region of the Guild. White then served as the president of the WGC from 1994-2003. Under White’s leadership, the WGC helped to establish the Telefilm Canada Screenwriting Assistance Program, which funded writers directly through the screenplay development stage. White was also instrumental in bringing story editors, story consultants, and animation writers under the Independent Production Agreement (IPA) with the Canadian Film and Television Producers Association (CFTPA, now the Canadian Media Producers Association, or CMPA). In 2004, White received the Writers Guild of Canada’s Writer’s Block Award, in recognition of his service to Canadian screenwriters.

White currently lives in British Columbia. He has an avid interest in military history and Canadian history, and was a member of the Kootenay Lake Historical Society. He has published a historical non-fiction novel, “Crimea Sabre” (2015) and is working on his memoirs.

Scope and content

This fonds has been arranged into five series based on the creator’s order. These series are as follows:

Series One: Songwriting

Series Two: Screenwriting

Series Three: Digital Print Writing

Series Four: Writers Guild of Canada

Series Five: Kaslo/Kootenays and Mining

Series One: Songwriting includes records pertaining to White’s songwriting career with Paul Hann. This series has been arranged into subseries as follows:

Subseries One: Commercial Releases includes Paul Hann’s commercial albums and singles, with songs written by White. Records in this series include 12 in. vinyl LPs for “A Fine White Thread,” “Another Tumbleweed,” “Paul Hann,” “High Test” and “Hometown Hero.” It also includes 8-track cassettes of “A Fine White Thread,” “Another Tumbleweed,” and “Paul Hann.” This subseries also features commercially released compilation albums featuring Paul Hann, including “In the Dawning: A Story of Canada” on 12 in. vinyl as well as compact disc. It also includes “The ACME Sausage Company,” a compilation of CKUA radio featuring a performance by Paul Hann. Finally, this subseries includes the limited release compact disc “Acrid Smoke and Amber Drink: The Lost Songs of Pete White and Paul Hann 1968-1978.”

Subseries Two: Original Recordings and Digital Transfers includes various recordings made by White and Hann on ¼ in. audio tape as well as 2 in. audio tape. This includes registration demos for BMI, outtakes, unreleased singles, interim mixes, and master recordings of songs and albums. This also includes recordings made by Paul Hann and the band Canadian Club for CKUA radio. Finally, this subseries includes digital transfers of audio tapes to compact disc.

Subseries Three: Film and Television Soundtracks

This subseries includes recordings made by White and Hann for film and television soundtracks on ¼ in. audio tape. This includes compositions for “The Parent Puzzle,” “Faces of Yesterday: History of Schooling in Alberta”, “Prairie Years,” and “Come Alive.”

Subseries Four: Songs Lists, Lyrics, Chronologies includes records related to White’s songwriting and publishing career with Paul Hann. Records in this subseries include songs lists and publisher share information, music and lyrics, contracts, and correspondence.

Subseries Five: Business Affairs includes records related to the business and management side of White’s work with Paul Hann. Included in this subseries are correspondence, performance contracts, mechanical license agreements, songwriting and publishing agreements, recording contracts, original music service agreements and composers’ agreements, song registration forms, and royalties statements.

Subseries Six: Promo Materials and Photos includes records related to the promotional aspects of White’s work with Paul Hann. Included in this subseries are press kits, aggregated reviews, and promotional photographs.

Subseries Seven: Clippings and Ephemera includes newspaper and magazine clippings related to White and Hann’s music career, as well as festival and performance programmes. This subseries also includes copies of the book “The Game of Our Lives” by Peter Gzowski, which includes the lyrics to White and Hann’s song “Hometown Hero” in its preface.

Series Two: Screenwriting includes records related to White’s screenwriting career, and it has been arranged into the following subseries based on a career chronology provided by the creator:

Subseries One: One-Off Short Films includes records related to short films written by White. Records in this subseries include screenplays, shooting scripts, and script outlines. Works represented in this subseries include: “Starting Over,” “The Treasure,” “Generations”, “The Ballet Class,” “Snowbirds,” “Years of Sorrow, Years of Shame,” and “Scarlet Heritage.”

Subseries Two: Television Series includes records related to television shows written by White. Records in this subseries include screenplays, shooting scripts, treatments, outlines and premises, episode screeners and dubs, correspondence, press clippings, show prep memos, cast lists, shooting schedules, day out of days schedules, beat sheets, and notes. Works represented in this subseries include: “The Parent Puzzle,” “Stony Plain,” “The Beachcombers,” “Danger Bay,” “The Campbells,” “Bordertown,” “Airwolf II,” “Family Pictures,” “War of the Worlds,” “Jericho 911,” “Northwood” and “Da Vinci’s Inquest.”

Subseries Three: Television Movies includes records related to television movies written by White. Records in this subseries include correspondence, treatments, outlines, screenplays, shooting scripts, production stills, promotional one-sheets, crew lists, call sheets, press clippings, preliminary VHS screeners, a production cap and crew t-shirt, as well as research interviews on audio tape. Works represented in this subseries include: “Striker’s Mountain,” “The Legend of Ruby Silver,” and “Peacekeepers.”

Subseries Four: Screenplays includes records related to screenplays written by White. Records in this subseries include screenplays, one-sheets, film proposals, and research materials. Works represented in this series include: “Four by Four,” “Slug Addiction: A Rock & Roll Fairy Tale”, “Nighthawk Crossing” (also known as “Crossing the Line”), “Scarlet Ladies,” “Mungo” and “Love and Genius.”

Subseries Five: Mini-Series includes records related to mini-series written by White. Records in this subseries include screenplays, development and series outlines, correspondence, notes, outlines, beat sheets, writer’s agreement and transfer of rights agreement, and research reports. Works represented in this subseries include: “The Temptations of Big Bear,” “Mountain Men,” “The Columbia Dams,” “Midnight Son,” “Thompson & Tyrell” and “The On-to-Ottawa Trek.”

Subseries Six: Movie Treatments includes records related to movie treatments written by White. Records in this series include treatments, synopses, and outlines. Works in this subseries include: “Bernie & The Guy,” “Craig’s Man,” “Lawrence After Arabia,” and “The Flying Bandit.”

Subseries Seven: Pitches includes records related to various pitches written by White. Records in this series include one-sheet pitches, story pitches, synopses, outlines, notes and research materials. Works in this series include, but are not limited to “Headless Valley,” “The Cheaters,” “Fall of a Prince,” and “Detachment.”

Subseries Eight: Screenwriting Projects Research Materials consists of records related to research done by White, predominantly pertaining to a potential series entitled “The Denisons of Canada.” Records in this subseries include grant applications, correspondence, a television series treatment, and a project description. It also includes a substantial amount of research materials, including books, book and journal excerpts, copies of historical records including maps, photographs, correspondence and diaries, archival finding aids, genealogical records, and bibliographies. Also included in this subseries are research files for a potential new instalment of “Peacekeepers,” set in Cyprus, in 1974, as well as research for a project entitled “Graveyard of the Pacific.”

Subseries Nine: Awards consists of awards and nominations received by White over the course of his screenwriting career. Included in this series are Gemini nomination certificates for “Striker’s Mountain,” “The Legend of the Ruby Silver,” and “Peacekeepers.” It also includes awards statuettes from the Writer’s Guild of Canada Top Ten Awards, for “Ruby Silver” and “Peacekeepers.”

Subseries Ten: Miscellaneous Files includes records labeled as miscellaneous by the creator, as well as records not easily ascribed to a particular title or production. Records in this series include correspondence, WGC project registrations for various titles, matted postcards, research clippings, a brochure for White’s production company (Kicking Horse Productions), writer’s contracts and purchase agreements, and a disc containing professional photographs of White.

Subseries Eleven: Books and Reference Materials consists of books related to White’s screenwriting career. Works in this series include “Telling It: Writing for Canadian Film and Television,” (which includes a chapter by White), and “Big Screen Country: Making Movies in Alberta.” It also includes two screenplays not written by White, a book about the Avro Arrow, and an Orenda Engines branded lighter.

Series Three: Digital Print Writing includes records related to White’s digital print writing work (including novels, novelizations, and memoirs). Included in this series is a copy of White’s novel, *Crimea Sabre*, as well as printing order details pertaining to this book. Also included in this series are research clippings pertaining to “Crimea Sabre.” This series also includes an essay by White about the founding of the Council of Canadians. This series also includes personal short stories, genealogical research records (including family trees, correspondence, copies of military service records, and scans of family photos), and a small amount of White’s personal materials (high school report cards, membership cards, track and field ribbons).

Series Four: Writer’s Guild of Canada includes records related to White’s work with the ACTRA Writer’s Guild as well as the Writer’s Guild of Canada, and the arrangement is largely based on the creator’s original order. Records in this series include correspondence, clippings, policy and discussion papers, policy proposals, lists of guild personnel and portfolios, meeting minutes and agendas, reports, forum and working group agendas, priorities and action items lists, speeches, and notes. It also includes a full run of “The WGC News” newsletter, as well as a run of “Canadian Screenwriter” magazines from White’s time as Guild president. Finally, this subseries includes a USB key of digital files relating to White’s time as WGC president.

Series Five: Kaslo/Kootenays and Mining includes records related to White’s time as a miner, resident of Kaslo, British Columbia, and work with the Kootenay Lake Historical Society. Records in this series include newspaper and magazine clippings and brochures pertaining to home design and home

building. It also includes research and copies of archival materials pertaining to the history of mining in British Columbia. It also includes historical publications by the Geological Survey of Canada, and books pertaining to the Kootenays, including a first edition of the 1888 travelogue “A Ramble In British Columbia.”

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

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Finding aids

Contact archivist for further finding aid information.

Accruals

TBD

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Status description:** Final
 - **Institution identifier:** University of Toronto Media Commons Archives
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Access points

- Audio (documentary form)
- Textual records (documentary form)
- Photographs and art (documentary form)
- Film and video (documentary form)