

**Ms.  
Coll.  
388**

Donnell (David)  
Papers

Includes manuscripts, notes and drafts for works including: *China Blues*, *Water Street Days*, Donnell's poetry, and other material. Correspondence includes business and personal communications with publishers, other writers, and friends, as well as teaching and grant applications. These papers also include printed appearances by Donnell and works by other writers, printed notices and ephemera, poems by students in Donnell's Master classes in poetry and short fiction at Ryerson and the University of Toronto, and some financial records.

Gift of David Donnell, 2001

See Ms Coll 307 for other David Donnell materials.

Extent: 17 boxes (including one oversize); 3 metres

**Boxes 1-5**

**Manuscripts**

**Box 1**

**Poetry**

Folders 1-4

Poetry drafts. Includes mss. entitled "Gwen MacEwen."  
typescript and manuscript

Folder 5

Alliston Writer's Workshop. Drafts of student poems that appeared  
later as *The Potato Eaters*.

Folder 6

"Compassionate Travel"  
copy of typescript

Folder 7

Poetry drafts  
typescript and manuscript

Folder 8

Printed Ephemera, 1982-1998

Folders 9-11

Print Notices

Folder 12

*Saturday Night*, March 1990

Folder 13

"Beavers"  
"Metro Roads and Traffic Department Menu"  
"For Joan Mir .: on his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday"  
"The Sinner"

contained in:  
*Jewish Dialog*. (Toronto: JD Publishing). Passover 1979 issue.  
edited by Joe Rosenblatt and Irving Layton

Folder 14

Ephemera, including membership and business cards.

**Box 2**

**Poetry**

Folders 1-5

"Fragments" by Nancy Bullis, including Donnell's blurb.  
draft

Folders 6-9

Poetry, drafts  
typescript with manuscript revisions

Folder 10

"Geography and Culture"  
typescript with manuscript revisions

Folder 11

Notes  
holograph

**Box 2**

Folder 12	Poems mimeographed
Folders 13-16	Poems, drafts typescript with manuscript revisions; some manuscript notes
Folder 17	"Morning Light, Hanlan's Point" typescript and manuscript drafts
Folder 18	Notebook holograph
Folder 19	"Breakfast at the Mohican Diner" photocopy of typescript
Folders 20-29	Poems, drafts typescript and manuscript poems and notes
Folder 30	Print by Dana Goia
Folder 31	"Speaking Volumes" Katherine Ashenburg 1 audio cassette

**Box 3**

**Poetry**

Folders 1-8	Poems and notes typescript and holograph poems and notes
Folder 9	Master Class in Poetry taught by David Donnell
Folder 10	Notes holograph
Folder 11	Photocopy of typescript poems with some holograph notes
Folders 12-13	League of Canadian Poets
Folder 14	Master Class in Poetry
Folder 15	League of Canadian Poets

**Box 3**

Folder 16	Paul McCartney Poems photocopy (reviewed by Donnell)
Folder 17	Notes, reviews by Donnell
Folders 18-20 Folder 21	Master Class in Poetry Poems typescript with holograph revisions
Folder 22	Poems typescript with holograph revisions; holograph notepad
Folder 23	Poems typescript with holograph revisions
Folders 24-25	Poems by students word processed or photocopied
Folders 26-29	Poems typescript with holograph revisions and holograph notes
Folder 30	Notes typescript and holograph
Folder 31	Ontario Arts Council applications typescript with holograph revisions
Folder 32	Poetry Workshop student poetry and applications
Folder 33	League of Canadian Poets
Folder 34	Typescript with holograph drafts and notes

**Box 4**

**Poetry**

Folder 1	Notes; review typescript and holograph
Folder 2	Writers' Union of Canada/League of Canadian Poets

**Box 4**

- Folder 3 "By the Waters of Babylon I Sat Down and Wept"  
"Things You Can't Take to a Zen Monastery"  
"North of 60"  
"Well-educated well-read young american writer who can't write his first novel because he's got too many other novels on his brilliant mind"
- Contained in:  
*The Canadian Forum*. June 1998, p. 34-35.
- Folders 4-7 Poetry Master Class  
poems by students
- Folder 8 Poems  
typescript poems and notes
- Folder 9 "Blue Ontario Hemingway Boat Race"  
typescript
- Folders 10-11 "Family Singing"  
typescript with holograph notes
- Folder 12 "Jack Kerouac Drank Gallo & Wrote 'Desolation Angels'"  
and other poems  
typescript and holograph notes
- Folder 13 Poems  
typescript
- Folder 14 Poems  
typescript with holograph revisions
- Folder 15 "Water Street Days"  
holograph notes
- Folders 16-20 Poems  
typescript with holograph notes and revisions
- Folder 21 "Slow Dreams"  
typescript with holograph revisions
- Folders 22-23 "Blue Ontario Hemingway Boat Race"  
typescript

**Box 4**

- Folder 24 Notes and printed program
- Folder 25 Poems  
typescript;  
"Pissed Jones", pamphlet [Nicky Drumbolis?]
- Folder 26 Poems  
typescript with holograph revisions and notes
- Folder 27 Notes  
holograph; and  
"Leather Lattice" by Nancy Bullis
- Folders 28-29 Poems  
typescript with holograph revisions
- Folder 30 Alliston Public Library, Writer-in-Residency
- Folders 31-33 Poems  
typescript with holograph revisions and notes
- Folder 34 "Chapter plots"  
typescript with holograph notes

**Box 5**

**Poetry**

- Folders 1-19 Poems  
typescript with holograph revisions; holograph
- Folder 20 Writers' Union of Canada;  
holograph notes (photocopied)
- Folder 21 Poems  
typescript with holograph revisions; holograph notes
- Folder 22 Ontario Arts Council application forms
- Folders 24-27 Poems  
typescript and holograph notes and drafts

**Box 5**

- Folders 28-29 "A Bright Field"  
draft manuscript  
typescript
- Folder 30 Canada Council for the Arts application forms  
and "Falling Into the Map" draft manuscript  
typescript
- Folder 31 "A Geography of Cities"  
typescript poems
- Folder 32 League of Canadian Poets  
1997 membership survey
- Folders 33-34 Poems  
typescript and holograph drafts and notes

**Box 6**

***Water Street Days, China Blues, and other works*  
Notes and drafts**

- Folders 1-3 Notes  
holograph
- Folder 4 Notes  
holograph
- Folder 5 Notes  
holograph and typescript notes and drafts
- Folder 6 "Napoleon"  
"Bicycles"  
"Geese"  
"Dostoievski Discovers the Novel"  
"The Canadian Prairies View of Literature"  
"The Promised Land"  
"Nobody Knows Anything About Art Anymore"

Contained in:

*The Canadian Forum*. Vol. LXII, No. 718, May 1982, p.16-18

**Box 6**

- Folder 7 Notes and drafts  
Computer printout, 1985
- Folders 8-10 Notes and script  
typescript notes with holograph revisions
- Folders 11-16 *Water Street Days*  
drafts and notes  
typescript with holograph revisions  
holograph notes
- Folder 17 Notes  
holograph
- Folders 18-34 Drafts  
typescript with holograph revisions and notes

**Box 7**

**University of Toronto Poetry Master Class;  
Daybook 1978**

- Folders 1-17 University of Toronto Poetry Master Class
- Poems by students. Among them was Hans Jewinsky. Includes  
Donnell's comments (folder 12)  
word processed
- Instructor's package
- Item in box Daybook 1978. Includes notes on William Blake, and drafts of the  
prose poem "Too Dim".

**Box 8**

**Drafts, Notes  
Printed Notices, Ephemera**

- Folders 1-3 drafts, notes  
typescript and holograph
- Folder 4 holograph notes  
Notebook



**Box 8**

Folders 5-10 Printed Notices of Readings

Folders 11-17 Ephemera

**Boxes 9-13 Correspondence, 1980s - 1990s**

**Box 9 Correspondence, 1990s**

Folders 1-15 Correspondence, 1990-1999. Includes draft of a letter to John Donlan of the Ontario Arts Council, and letters to Ellen Seligman.

Folders 16-17 Grant application forms and materials

Folders 18-19 League of Canadian Poets

Folders 20-21 Writers' Union of Canada

Folders 22-23 Alliston Public Library Writer-in-Residency

Folder 24 Print

**Box 10 Correspondence, 1990s**

Folders 1-22 Correspondence, 1990s, including Anansi Press, Revenue Canada, Michael Redhill, John Donlan, the Writers' Reserve.

Folder 23 "The Blue Sky", Dorothy Livesay, Black Moss Press.  
Correspondence and photographs

Folder 24 Correspondence, 1990s

Folder 25 "Famous" Jack McLelland letter  
1 TLS, 1 copy of TLS

**Box 11 Correspondence, 1980s-1990s**

Folders 1-8 Correspondence, 1980s-1990s, including the Ontario Arts Council, Jan Geddes, Douglas Gibson, City of Toronto Book Awards.

Folder 9 Purdy, Al. *Morning and its summer*. Dunvegan: Quadrant, 1983.  
Inscribed by the author to David Donnell.

**Box 11**

Folders 10-22      Correspondence, 1980s-1990s  
1 black and white photograph  
1 colour photograph

**Box 12**

**Correspondence, 1980s-1990s  
Arts Council, Personal and Publishing**

Folders 1-26      Correspondence, 1980s-1990s, including Robert weaver, C.  
Rooke, Val Ross, Frances Itani, the Writers' Reserve, Ellie Nichol,  
John Donlan, Phyllis Webb.

**Box 13**

**Correspondence, 1980s-1990s**

Folders 1-13      Correspondence, 1980s-1990s, including "Libby".

Folder 14      12 small black and white photographs of Donnell and a woman, 17  
exposures on negative.

Item in box      Daily Journal from 1975 (used as an address book)

**Box 14**

**Printed Notices, Printed Ephemera, Print**

Folders 1-14      Printed Ephemera, including book launch invitations, readings,  
tickets, bank books, art exhibition cards.

Folders 15-27      Printed Notices

Folder 28      Print:  
Bullis, Nancy Jane. *The eel ladder*. Toronto: watershed books,  
1999. Inscribed by the author to David Donnell. 1 ALS. Donnell  
contributed a blurb for this book.

Clarke, James. *The ancient pedigrees of plums*. Toronto: Exile  
Editions, 1999. Inscribed by the author to David Donnell.

"Saxophone and Co."

Contained in:

*ARC: Canada's National Poetry Magazine Third Annual Poem of  
the Year Contest*. Autumn 1998. p. 18-19

**Box 15**

**Financial, 1990s**

Folders 1-25

Financial, 1990s  
Includes correspondence about grants from arts councils and royalty statements.

**Box 16**

**Various objects**

Including an address file.

**OVS Box 17**

**Oversize Print material**

Folders 1-6

Oversize Print including newspaper articles, posters, announcements, and a calendar with appointments.

Folder 7

"Snake Oil", drawings by Joe Rosenblatt, 3 p.  
Signed by the author  
Prospectus and example of one of the thirty prints in the group

Folder 8

*Hemmingway in Toronto*, oversize computer printout.