

Finding Aid - Julie Johnston fonds ()

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Julie Johnston fonds

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Summary information

Title: Julie Johnston fonds

Date: 1979 - 2016 (creation)

Physical description: 1.6m of textual records
ca. 75 photographs

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Julie Johnston, née Dulmage, is an internationally known author of children's novels, plays, and short stories. Born in 1941, Johnston was raised in Smith Falls, Ontario. She then moved to Toronto to attend the University of Toronto where she received her degree in Occupational Therapy in 1963. She married her high school sweetheart, Dr. Basil Johnston, in the same year. After a few years of working in hospitals in Perth and Kingston, followed by adventures in Europe, they eventually settled in Peterborough, Ontario in 1970. At this time, Johnston stepped away from her career as an occupational therapist to raise their four daughters, Leslie, Lauren, Melissa, and Andrea.

Her love of writing began at a young age, writing school plays, and short stories that lead to neighbourhood productions for her daughters and their friends. Johnston eventually began taking classes at Trent University and worked towards receiving a degree in English.

Encouraged to pursue a writing career, Johnston began submitting short stories to writing competitions in Canada. In 1979 her first submission was a play titled "Frost" that won first prize in the Ottawa Little Theatre's annual Canadian Playwriting Competition, sparking her pursuit of a career in writing. The next two decades were full of positive experiences and many challenges. Johnston was signed to Stoddart Publishing and published her first novel "Hero of Lesser Causes." Her novel "Hero of Lesser Causes" won a Governor General's award for Children's Literature in 1992. Her next novel, "Adam, Eve and Pinch-Me," was published in 1994 and also won the Governor General's Children's Literature award. Stoddart Publishing eventually dissolved, and Johnston published five more books with Key Porter Publishing. These books were titled, "The Only Outcast," "Love You Like a Sister," "In Spite of Killer Bees," "Susanna's Quill," and "Accidental Lives."

In addition to two Governor General's awards, Johnston has many other accolades that she earned during her career. She was awarded an Honourary Degree of Letters from Trent University in 1996. She also won Mr. Christie's Book Award and the Violet Downey Book Award for "Hero of Lesser Causes" in 1993. Johnston also served on review committees, gave numerous workshops and speeches, including the Margaret Laurence Lecture at Trent University in 1997.

Custodial history

Records were in the possession of Julie Johnston before being donated to the Trent University Archives.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records from Julie Johnston documenting her education, writing processes, and achievements. This fonds contains some personal correspondence with friends, organizations, professors, publishers, and editors. The records include her undergraduate essays from Trent University, her early handwritten plays and short stories, book chapters, workshop materials and speeches. Fonds includes manuscripts and galley proofs of her published novels "Hero of Lesser Causes", "Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me", "The Only Outcast", "Love You Like a Sister", "In Spite of Killer Bees", "Susanna's Quill", and "Accidental Lives". She also included a copy of the manuscript for an unpublished novel "The Art of Casting in Bronze". There are also many photographs, clippings, promotional materials, reviews, and awards celebrating Johnston's career as an author.

Notes

Physical condition

Excellent

Immediate source of acquisition

Julie Johnston

Restrictions on access

Records in Series 7: Notebooks, 22-013/005(16) and 22-013/005(17), are restricted for 100 years after the last date of creation and require permission from the University Archivist to view.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
-

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

Series descriptions

Series 1: Writing correspondence

Date: 1979-2012 (creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of records maintained by Julie Johnston throughout her career as a published author. The series includes textual records such as notes, clippings, letter and email

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correspondence with publishers, organizations, libraries, and academic institutions. The records discuss her winning the Governor General's award twice, relationships with publishers, and sharing her success with local and national institutions.

(See also Series 5 and 6 for more correspondence related to specific novels and short stories)

Physical description: 13 folders of textual records
12 photographs

Restrictions on access: Records 22-013/001(04), 22-013/001(05), 22-013/001(12), and 22-013/001(13) are restricted for 100 years after the last date of creation and require permission from the University Archivist to view. All other records are open.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
22-013/001(01)	File - Black book with publishing history	1979 – 1992	
22-013/001(02)	File - Clippings about Julie Johnston's success as a writer	1986-2005	
22-013/001(03)	File - Correspondence with library's, literary organizations, publishers regarding book launch, readings, and congratulatory messages	1999	
22-013/001(04)	File - Contracts with publishers and related correspondence	1991-1998	
22-013/001(05)	File - Royalty statements and correspondence from publishers	1992-2003	
22-013/001(06)	File - Correspondence with publishers, libraries, organizations, academic institutions across North America following Hero of Lesser Causes winning the Governor General's award	1993-1996	
22-013/001(07)	File - Correspondence with publishers regarding Adam and Eve and Pinch-me	1993-1998	
22-013/001(08)	File - Correspondence with library' in British Columbia and Yellowknife about Julie Johnston travelling for readings, correspondence with publishers about royalties and manuscript edits	1993-2010	
22-013/001(09)	File - Photographs of daughters wedding	14 September 1996	
22-013/001(10)	File - Correspondence and clippings regarding disintegration of Stoddart Publishing and acceptance with Key Porter Publishing	1996-2005	
22-013/001(11)	File - Correspondence with publishers, organizations to Julie Johnston about The Only Outcast; also includes	1998-2002	

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	correspondence for local organizations to Julie and her husband Dr. Basel Johnston	
22-013/001(12)	File - Contracts with publishers and related correspondence	1998-2011
22-013/001(13)	File - Royalty statements and correspondence from publishers	2004-2012
22-013/001(14)	File - Correspondence with fellow jurors for the Vicky Metcalf for Children's Literature award,	2010

Series 2: Workshops and lectures, 1992-2013

Scope and content: This series consists of records maintained by Julie Johnston beginning after the publishing of her first novel Hero of Lesser Causes in 1992, leading up to workshop planning in 2004. This series includes textual records such as speeches for talks, lectures, and conferences, and outlines for workshops. There is also some correspondence regarding Julie Johnston's participation in the events locally in Peterborough, Ontario, and across Canada from 1992 to 2013. There is also a clipping from 2013 discussing the difficulties of artists struggle in the age of Blockbuster.

Physical description: 12 folders of textual records

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
22-013/001(15)	File - Speeches and outlines for workshops as follows: Montreal workshop, Aurora talk, Ruth Schwartz Award, Regina, Saskatoon talk, life philosophy notes for speech to librarians, Writer's workshop Bethany Hills, main workshop notes, notes about speeches, notes for speech to Adam Scott students	1992-1996	
22-013/001(16)	File - Request for workshops from institutions across North America after winning second Governor General's Literary Award	1994-1996	
22-013/001(17)	File - Talk at plenary session of workshops for Young Authors and Young Illustrators Conference in Ottawa	1993	
22-013/001(18)	File - Correspondence regarding participation in Canadian Children's Author series at Harbourfront Centre	1993-1994	
22-013/001(19)	File - Ontario School Library Association workshop planning	1995	
22-013/001(20)	File - Speeches for talks and workshops as follows: Council of teacher's conference, OLA superconference talk, Canadian	1996	

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	Literary Association book award talk, Trent University writing workshop, notes for reading talks, Young Authors Conference in Montreal, Bridgenorth Rotary Club talk	
22-013/001(21)	File - Notes from Maritimes Writer's workshop at University of New Brunswick and Peterborough's Writer's workshop, additional creative writing handouts	1998-1999
22-013/001(22)	File - Margaret Laurence lecture notes and final copy of speech at Trent University	1999
22-013/001(23)	File - Peterborough Women's Arts Lecture	1999-2000
22-013/001(24)	File - Speeches for talks and workshops as follows: CANSCAIP workshop, OLA Superconference, Calgary Teachers, talk on Modern Heros, Kamloops CLRT, Ottawa Roundtable talk, Kingston Sorority Talk, talk to University Women's Club, Montreal talk,	2002-2013
22-013/002(01)	File - Lectures at Trent University and Rotary Club	2006
22-013/002(02)	File - Short stories written by Julie Johnston through participation in workshops	n.d.

Series 3: Awards

Date: 1992-1995 (creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of records maintained by Julie Johnston and includes the many awards she won after publishing her novels Hero of Lesser Causes and Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me. The most notable award she won was the Governor General's Award for her novels Hero of Lesser Causes (1992) and Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me (1994). This series also includes press clippings, event invitations, four photographs, correspondence, and pamphlets surrounding the awards ceremony and events from 1992-1995.

Physical description: 10 folders of textual records

2 plaque awards

4 photographs

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
22-013/002(03)	File - Short Listed for Govenor General's Award for "Hero of Lesser Causes" plaque	1992	
22-013/002(04)	File - Reviews, news releases, clippings, correspondence related to Governor General's award	1992-2001	

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22-013/002(05)	File - Congratulatory correspondence, event invitations, menu cards, 4 photographs with identifying labels on back, pamphlets, brochures, stickers, of Julie Johnston receiving Governor General's award	1992
22-013/002(06)	File - Mr. Christie's Book Award for Hero of Lesser Causes	1993
22-013/002(07)	File - Violet Downey Book Award for Hero of Lesser Causes	1993
22-013/002(08)	File - Joan Fassler Memorial Book, Association for the Care of Children's Health, awarded for Hero of Lesser Causes	1994
22-013/002(09)	File - The Ontario Library Association Official Selection for the 1994 Silver Birch Award for Hero of Lesser Causes	1994
22-013/002(10)	File - Certificate of recognition from Peterborough MP, Peter Adams, for winning Governor General's Award for Adam and Eve and Pinch-me	14 February 1995
22-013/002(11)	File - Mr. Christie's Book award for Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me	1995
22-013/002(12)	File - Julie Johnston named the Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International	n.d.

Series 4: Trent University

Date: 1967-1999 (creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of Julie Johnston's academic papers written for her English Degree at Trent University. It also includes notes, speeches, correspondence, pamphlets, and photographs related to her Honorary Degree of Letters from Trent as well as her speech presented to the Friends of Bata Library. It also includes correspondence with Professor Michael Treadwell, a former English professor at Trent. All records have been maintained by Julie Johnston.

Physical description: 9 folders of textual records
7 photographs

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
22-013/002(11)	File - Essays from undergraduate degree	16 April 1967 - 20 December 1979	
22-013/002(12)	File - Clippings from Impact, Julian Blackburn College's part-time student	July 1979	

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	newsletter, sharing news of Julie Johnston's writing successes	
22-013/002(13)	File - Essays from undergraduate degree	11 February 1980 – 18 December 1980
22-013/002(14)	File - Essays from undergraduate degree	11 February 1981- 17 December 1982
22-013/002(15)	File - Essays from undergraduate degree	23 March 1983 – 16 December 1983
22-013/002(16)	File - Essays from undergraduate degree	13 April 1984 – 1 December 1987
22-013/002(17)	File - Pamphlet and notes for speech given to Friends of Bata Library	1993
22-013/002(18)	File - Speech notes, correspondence, seven photos, congratulatory letters and clippings about being awarded Honorary Degree of Letters from Trent University	29 January 1996-1 June 1996
22-013/002(19)	File - Correspondence with Professor Michael Treadwell, includes clippings and one photograph	1998-1999

Series 5: Plays, short stories, and articles

Date: 1979-2016 (creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of records maintained by Julie Johnston regarding the short stories, plays and articles she has written, and contributed to, between 1979 and 2016. The plays and short stories were written through her participation in workshops and cover topics like cottage life, boat restoration, and her own autobiographies. The records also include submissions for playwriting competitions and drama festivals, and published materials in magazines like Matrix Magazine.

Physical description: 16 folders of textual records
50 photographs

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
22-013/002(20)	File - Handwritten pages of stories from playroom	1979	
22-013/002(21)	File - Script for "A Bit o' Forever" a one-act play, also known as "There's Going to be a Frost", clippings on this play winning first prize in the Ottawa Little Theatre's annual Canadian Playwriting Competition	1979	
22-013/002(22)	File - Script for play "Lucid Intervals", a play in one act that PCVI Drama Club entered the Sears Drama Festival, includes clippings	1984	

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22-013/002(23)	File - Correspondence, notes, 50 photographs, and published articles written about restoring speed boats	1987-1992
22-013/002(24)	File - Beginnings of children's novel, no title.	1988
22-013/002(25)	File - Legacies: A Play in Two Acts – one copy of play, letter to Julie from Canadian Playwright, Arthur Milner of the Great Canadian Theatre Company	28 June 1988
22-013/002(26)	File - Autobiographical information and background of novel "Hero of Lesser Causes"	15 March 1992
22-013/002(27)	File - Handwritten short story "The Interior of Pots" published in the Matrix Magazine	1992
22-013/002(28)	File - Article and correspondence with 'Books in Canada' related to article "Sorry for the Delay"	1994
22-013/002(29)	File - Correspondence, drafts and final copy of "Something About the Author" article	1996 –1997
22-013/002(30)	File - Correspondence with Cengage Learning requesting the use of an image to include in their reference book "Something About the Author"	23 May 2016 -2 June 2016
22-013/005(11)	File - Chapters of unknown book, n.d.	
22-013/005(12)	File - Stage adaptation of "Jason's Quest" by Margaret Laurence, outline and adaptations notes and script by Julie Johnston, n.d.	
22-013/005(13)	File - Three Women – chapters of book, n.d.	
22-013/005(14)	File - Unfinished draft of sequel to Hero of Lesser Causes, n.d.	
22-013/005(15)	File - Untitled short story, n.d.	

Series 6: Novels

Date: 1991-2005 (creation)

Scope and content: This series was maintained by Julie Johnston and consists of her manuscripts from the published novels "Hero of Lesser Causes", "Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me," "The Only Outcast," "Love You Like a Sister," "In Spite of Killer Bees," "Susanna's Quill," "As If by Accident," and an unpublished novel "The Art of Casting in Bronze." Some manuscripts are handwritten, most are typed copies with editors notes. There are also galley copies for most published novels. Some correspondence is included with the associated novel about publishing, edits, awards, screenplays, and book reviews.

Physical description: 36 folders of textual records

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Publication status:			
Published			
File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
22-013/003(01)	File - Original handwritten draft of "Keely", published as "Hero of Lesser Causes"	1992	
22-012/003(02)	File - Second draft of "Keely", published as Hero of Lesser Causes	16 November 1988	
22-012/003(03)	File - Typed manuscript of "Hero of Lesser Causes" with handwritten notes	n.d.	
22-012/003(04)	File - Typed manuscript of "Hero of Lesser Causes" with editorial notes	n.d.	
22-012/003(05)	File - Manuscript of "Hero of Lesser Causes" with notes from publishers, handwritten notes	8 April 1991	
22-012/003(06)	File - Two final proofs of "Hero of Lesser Causes" from Little, Brown and Company and Lester Publishing	14 January - 3 May 1992	
22-012/003(07)	File - Early correspondence about initial publishing of "Hero of Lesser Causes"	1991	
22-012/003(08)	File - Award for being shortlisted for Governor General's award for "Hero of Lesser Causes"	1992	
22-012/003(09)	File - Correspondence with American publisher for "Hero of Less Causes", Little Brown & Company	1992-1993	
22-012/003(10)	File - Correspondence regarding Governor General's award for "Hero of Lesser Causes"	1992-1994	
22-012/003(11)	File - Screenplay notes and outlines for "Hero of Lesser Causes"	1992-1994	
22-012/003(12)	File - Screenplay copy for "Hero of Lesser Causes"	n.d.	
22-013/004(01)	File - Original handwritten copy of "Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me," titled "Sarah Moone", n.d.		
22-013/004(02)	File - Second typed manuscript of "Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me", titled "Moon Child", n.d.		
22-013/004(03)	File - Third typed manuscript of "Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me" with handwritten notes	5 March 1992	

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22-013/004(04)	File - Galley copy of "Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me"	10 January 1994
22-013/004(05)	File - Clippings, congratulatory notes and letters about Governor General's Award for "Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me"	1992-1994
22-013/004(06)	File - Laminated clipping of frontpage story about winning 2nd Governor General's Award for "Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me"	16 November 1994
22-013/004(07)	File - Governor General award ceremony information for "Adam and Eve and Pinch-Me"	1994
22-013/004(08)	File - First manuscript of "The Only Outcast", n.d.	
22-013/004(09)	File - Manuscript with notes of "The Only Outcast"	9 August
22-013/004(10)	File - Edited galley copy of "The Only Outcast"	5 May 1998
22-013/004(11)	File - Unedited galley copy of "The Only Outcast"	15 April 1998 – 4 February 1999
22-013/004(12)	File - Correspondence and book reviews of "The Only Outcast"	1999-2001
22-013/004(13)	File - Typed manuscript of "Love You Like a Sister", n.d.	
22-013/004(14)	File - Galley copy of "Love You Like a Sister" with edits	17 December 1998
22-013/005(01)	File - Galley copy of "Love You Like a Sister"	28 August 1998 – 25 January 1999
22-013/005(02)	File - Katie Ouriou's emails and letters to friends; family correspondence with Julie Johnston	1996-1999
22-013/005(03)	File - Correspondence between Julie Johnston, publishers and family of Katie Ouriou	1999
22-013/005(04)	File - Manuscript of "In Spite of Killer Bees" with notes	30 January 2001
22-013/005(05)	File - Galley copy of "In Spite of Killer Bees" with notes	24 April 2001
22-013/005(06)	File - Galley copy of "Susanna's Quill"	17 June 2004
22-013/005(07)	File - Typed manuscript with notes of "Accidental Lives" listed with alternate title "Jury of One", n.d.	
22-013/005(08)	File - Typed manuscript of "Accidental Lives", n.d.	

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22-013/005(09)	File - Manuscript of "The Art of Casting in Bronze," n.d.
22-013/005(010)	File - Clippings, research and correspondence about "The Art of Casting in Bronze"[removed from box 1 folder 2] 1992-2000

Series 7: Notebooks

Date: 1982-1997 (creation)

Scope and content: This series consists of textual records maintained by Julie Johnston such as notebooks. Johnston recorded daily activities with friends and family and experiences throughout her writing career.

Physical description: 2 folders of textual records

Restrictions on access: Records in this series are restricted for 100 years after the last date of creation and require permission from the University Archivist to view.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
22-013/005(16)	File - Notebooks	1982-1997	
22-013/005(17)	File - Loose notebook pages	1989-1991	