

**MS  
Coll.  
128A**

**Russell Smith  
Papers**

Gift of Russell Smith, 2019

**Dates:**

1970-2018

**Extent:**

13 boxes (1.5m) of textual records; 70 photographs; 16 CDs; 1 cassette tape

**Biographical Sketch:**

Russell Smith was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and grew up in Halifax, Canada. He began his career as a writer in Toronto after studying at universities in France and Canada.

His first novel, *How Insensitive*, was published in 1994 and nominated for the Governor General's Award, the Trillium Award, and the Chapters/Books In Canada First Novel Award, and became a bestseller in Canada. He is also the author of the novel *Noise* (1998), an illustrated fable, *The Princess and the Whiskheads* (2002), and story collection, *Young Men* (2011).

He has written for *The New York Review of Books*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Life*, *NOW*, and many other publications. He has also appeared on television and radio programs, including serving as the host of CBC Radio One program "And Sometimes Y."

He has taught creative writing in the MFA in Creative Writing program at the University of Guelph, and at the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies. Several of his former students have published novels and memoirs. He has been writer-in-residence at the Toronto Reference Library and at Berton House in Dawson City, Yukon.

He is currently an acquiring editor of fiction and non-fiction at Dundurn Press.

**Scope and Content:**

Collection consists of materials pertaining to Russell Smith's work as a writer, including manuscript drafts of both published and unpublished works, newspaper columns, magazine articles, and media appearances. The collection also contains articles about Smith and his work, correspondence with other writers, and materials relating to Smith's childhood, personal life, and education.

Collection consists of 8 series:

1. Early and Personal Life
2. Correspondence with Authors

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3. Speeches
4. Published Books
5. Unpublished Works
6. Newspaper/Magazine Articles and Other Media
7. Articles about Russell Smith
8. Publication Collection

**Custodial History:**

Materials were donated to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library by Russell Smith in 2019.

<b>Series 1: Early and Personal Life</b>			
Series contains materials relating to Smith's childhood and his personal life. Materials include juvenilia, diaries, photographs, and personal correspondence.			
<b>Box:Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1:1	Juvenilia	File contains materials from Smith's childhood. Materials include a statement given to Canadian Citizenship Court, schoolwork/projects and report cards, and newspaper clippings featuring Smith. 1 b&w photograph.	1970-1983, n.d.
1:2	Smith Family Tree	File contains a printout of the Smith family tree, ending at Russell Smith.	n.d.
1:3	Toronto Diary, 1990	File contains a typescript diary maintained by Smith for several months, beginning in September 1990. Written to send to two friends, Bruce Alcock and Mary Stone, who were living in Barcelona.	1990
1:4	Photographs with writers	File contains photographs of Smith, both by himself and with other authors, largely at various events. Many have short descriptions written on back. 5 b&w photographs; 9 coloured photographs.	1994-2003, n.d.
1:5	Identification	Smith's ID card for purchasing alcohol in Nova Scotia [1989?].  Smith's University of Toronto Alumni Card, 2000.  Four of Smith's Canadian passports, 1984-2013.	1984-2013
Additional Materials	Three diaries/notebooks. Contents include story ideas, short poems, dates/meetings, invoices, and other topics. One appears to have some writing in a hand other than Smith's. [2000-2017?]. <u>Note: Journals are fragile.</u>		[2000-2017?]

<b>Series 2: Correspondence with Authors</b>		
Series consists of letters received by Smith from other writers, largely relating to writing and events.		
<b>Box:Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
2:1	Carbert, Michael	2000-2001
2:2	Good, Alex	2002
2:3	Heighton, Steve	1994-2000
2:4	Inkster, Tim	1998
2:5	Jernigan, Kim	2000
2:6	MacDonald, Cynthia	2000
2:7	Malyon, Carol	1997
2:8	McFarlane, Brandon	n.d.
2:9	Metcalf, John	1994-2000
2:10	Pugsley, Alex	1994
2:11	Sabatini, Sandy	2000
2:12	Schoemperlen, Diane	1994
2:13	Shapiro, Ivor	1990
2:14	Winter, Michael	n.d.

Series 3: Speeches		
Box:Folder	Title	Dates
2:15-2:18	Speeches [four folders] 1999-2018	1999-2018

Series 4: Published Books			
Series consists of materials relating to published books written by Smith. Materials include manuscript drafts, including drafts with notes and revisions by John Metcalf; press coverage of his books; photographs; reviews; adaptations of his works; fan mail, and other material.			
Box:Folder	Title	Contents	Dates
3:1	'Too Funny' (Early title for: <i>How Insensitive</i> ) rejections	File contains letters from a number of publishers rejecting Smith's <i>Too Funny</i> manuscript, 1993-1994.	1993-1994
3:2	'Too Funny' – John Metcalf's notes	File contains notes written by editor John Metcalf to Smith about his manuscript <i>Too Funny</i> , 1994-1995.	1994-1995
3:3	<i>How Insensitive</i> – John Metcalf's revisions	File contains a draft of <i>How Insensitive</i> , with revisions and a letter from John Metcalf.	1994
3:4	Photoshoot – Cover of <i>How Insensitive</i> , Porcupine's Quill, Spring 1994. Includes Magazine.	File contains photographs from the photoshoot for the first cover of <i>How Insensitive</i> , for the Porcupine's Quill, Spring 1994. 6 colour photographs; 42 black and white photographs.	1994
3:5	Press for <i>How Insensitive</i>	File contains press clippings and other publicity for Smith's book <i>How Insensitive</i> , 1994-1996.	1994-1996

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3:6 – 3:7	Metcalf's notes on <i>Noise</i>	File contains notes from John Metcalf to Smith on his manuscript for <i>Noise</i> . File also contains a draft of <i>Noise</i> with Metcalf's annotations.	1997
3:8 – 3:12	Press for <i>Noise</i>	File contains press clippings, printouts, and other publicity for Smith's book <i>Noise</i> .	1998-1999
4:1 – 4:4	Press for <i>Young Men</i>	File contains press clippings, printouts, reviews, and other publicity for Smith's 1999 book <i>Young Men</i> .	1999-2000
4:5	<i>Young Men</i> TV Show proposal	File contains a proposal for a one-hour comedy series adapted from Smith's <i>Young Men</i> novel.	n.d.
4:6	'Sharing' screenplay	File contains a short screenplay to 'Sharing,' based on the short story from Smith's book <i>Noise</i> .	n.d.
4:7	[Wesley W.] Bates Drawings for <i>The Princess and the Whiskheads</i>	File contains seven pages of drawings by artist Wesley W. Bates for Smith's book <i>The Princess and the Whiskheads</i> , as well as a note from Bates.	2001-2002
4:8	<i>The Princess and the Whiskheads</i> (2002) – reviews	File contains press clippings and printouts of reviews for <i>The Princess and the Whiskheads</i> .	2002
4:9	<i>Muriella</i> press	File contains press clippings, printouts, reviews, and other publicity for Smith's 2004 book <i>Muriella Pent</i> .	2004
4:10	<i>Muriella</i> fan mail	File contains fan mail addressed to Smith for his book <i>Muriella Pent</i> , as well as programs for award events where the book was featured, 2003-2006. Letters are in both English and French.	2003-2006
4:11	<i>Men's Style</i>	File contains a copy of Smith's work <i>Men's Style</i> .	2005
4:12	<i>Men's Style</i> reviews	File contains press clippings and magazine articles featuring reviews of Smith's 2005 book <i>Men's Style: The Thinking Man's Guide to Dress</i> , 2005-2007.	2005-2007

4:13	<i>Girl Crazy</i> – “Genetic Material” [background material]	File contains background research, book outlines, and character drafts for Smith’s 2010 book <i>Girl Crazy</i> . Materials undated.	n.d.
4:14	<i>Girl Crazy</i> screenplay	File contains a screenplay adaptation of <i>Girl Crazy</i> , written by Smith and intended for Don McKellar, Bill House, and New Reel Cinema of Toronto, 2012.	2012
4:15	John Metcalf’s notes on an introduction to <i>Best Canadian Stories 2018</i>	File contains notes written to Smith by Metcalf for the introduction to <i>Best Canadian Stories 2018</i> . Also contains a draft of Smith’s introduction, copy-edited by Metcalf.	2018
4:16	Invitations to book launches	File contains invitations to several of Smith’s book launches, including <i>How Insensitive</i> , <i>Muriella Pent</i> , and <i>Diana</i> .	1994-2004

**Series 5: Unpublished Works**

Series consists of materials written by Smith that were never published, particularly from the 1980s and 1990s, including short stories, poems, and drafts of a book titled *Thieves*. Also contains a small amount of more recent works.

Box:Folder	Title	Contents	Dates
5:1	Early Unpublished Stories, 1980-1990	File contains unpublished short stories written by Smith in the 1980s.	1980-1990
5:2	Old Drafts	File contains drafts for short stories and poems, written by Smith. Mostly undated, but likely from the 1980s.	[1980s?]
5:3	Unpublished Stories (Short Fiction and Experiments)	File contains several unpublished stories written by Smith.	[2016]
5:4-5:5	<i>Thieves</i>	File contains two draft copies of Smith’s unpublished work <i>Thieves</i> . One copy is addressed to Anne McDermid and Associates.	1993

<b>Series 6: Newspaper/Magazine Articles and Other Media</b>			
Series consists of materials stemming from Smith's work as a newspaper columnist, magazine contributor, and media personality. Materials include <i>Globe &amp; Mail</i> columns and articles on style, the arts, travel, restaurants, and books. Also contains CD and cassette recordings of Smith's television and radio appearances.			
<b>Box:Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
6:1	<i>Haze</i>	File contains the first issue of <i>Haze</i> , a cultural journal based out of Kingston that Smith was an editor for. It also contains a rough copy of "I Hate Poetry," which was Smith's contribution to the issue, 1986.	1986
6:2	"I Hate Poetry"	File contains a typescript copy of "I Hate Poetry." Note from Smith dates it around 1990-1991.	c. 1990-1991
6:3	<i>Flare</i> Articles by Smith	File contains photocopies of articles written by Smith for <i>Flare</i> , a Canadian fashion magazine.	[1990s]
6:4	Contributions to "Morningside"	File contains the scripts to the seven radio pieces put together by Smith. From August to November 1996 Smith read his "Letters from Dawson" piece on CBC Radio's "Morningside."	1996
6:5	<i>Globe and Mail</i> – "Out and About"	File contains several articles from Smith's "Out and About" column in the <i>Globe and Mail</i> , 1995.	1995
6:6	<i>Globe and Mail</i> Arts column	File contains a collection of printouts and clippings of Smith's arts column in the <i>Globe and Mail</i> , 1990s-2010s.	[1990s-2010s]
6:7	<i>Globe and Mail</i> Style column	File contains a small collection of clippings and photocopies of Smith's style column in the <i>Globe and Mail</i> .	[1990s]

6:8	Magazine Articles	File contains magazine articles written by Smith on various topics, including arts, culture, and urban living, 1980s-2000s.	[1980s-2000s]
6:9	Travel Articles	File contains travel articles written by Smith for several publications. It also includes drafts for the <i>Globe and Mail</i> 's travel section. 1990s-2000s.	[1990s-2000s]
6:10	Restaurant Reviews for <i>NOW</i>	File contains restaurant reviews written by Smith for <i>NOW</i> magazine, 1990s, but predominantly 1992.	[1990s]
6:11	Book Reviews	File contains book reviews written by Smith for a variety of publications, including the <i>Queen's Quarterly</i> and <i>Quill and Quire</i> , 1980s-1990s.	[1980s-1990s]
6:12	Quebec Readers Reports	File contains reviews by Smith, on books published in Quebec. Reviews were prepared for Martha Sharpe at the House of Anansi.	2004
6:13	Catalogue Essay for Marianne Lovink	File contains a catalogue essay, written by Smith, for Marianne Lovink's "Arcadia" exhibit at the Gallery Stratford.	[2013?]
6:14	Blog entry for 'Large-Hearted Boy'	File contains a blog entry, written by Smith, for the Large-Hearted Boy music website.	2015
6:15	Fiction in newspapers and magazines	File contains fiction pieces written by Smith for newspapers and magazines, 1997-2017.	1997-2017
Box 7	Radio and television appearances	Box contains CDs/DVDs and a cassette tape with recordings of Smith's appearances on various programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Ideas," CBC Radio One. 27 January 1999. Produced by Max Allen. 1 cassette tape.</li> <li>• "Big Ideas: L'Orielle Fine: Performance and Culture of New Music," TVO, [2005]. 1 CD.</li> <li>• "And Sometimes Y," episodes 1-10, CBC Radio, Summer 2006. 10 CDs.</li> </ul>	1999-2009

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Out-Takes Hosted by Nicola,” possibly part of “And Sometimes Y,” [2006?]. 1 CD.</li> <li>• “Does Art Matter? A Bravo! Election Special.” 2 October [2006]. 1 CD.</li> <li>• “Culture” with Michael Coren. 19 March 2009; 23 April 2009. 2 CDs.</li> <li>• “Word Show Pilot; Music Words Pilot.” Undated. 1 CD.</li> </ul>	
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**Series 7: Articles about Russell Smith**

Series consists of articles about Smith’s work, including academic essays and critic reviews.

<b>Box:Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
8:1	Academic essays on Russell Smith	File contains several reviews/essays on Smith’s work by academics. Some undated, but others are dated between 1999 and 2003.	[1999-2003]
8:2	Miscellaneous book reviews	File contains clippings of book reviews of Smith’s works, 1990s-2000s.	1990s-2000s
8:3	Articles and photographs of Russell Smith	File contains newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and pictures of Russell Smith, 1990s-2000s. 4 colour photographs; 3 black & white photographs.	1990s-2000s
8:4	Profiles of Russell Smith	File contains newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other materials profiling Smith, 1990s-2015.	1990s-2015
8:5	L’Orielle Fine	File contains program for the L’Orielle Fine event, which features Smith.	2005

**Series 8: Publication Collection**

Series consists of books, literary journals, cultural and popular magazines, and other publications that Smith has written for. This includes chapters in anthologies, scholarly journals, style and lifestyle magazines, and various catalogues. Also includes Smith’s master’s thesis.

<b>Box:Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>
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Box 9	Anthologies	<p>Box contains anthologies where Smith has been a contributing author:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denton, Don. <i>First Chapter: The Canadian Writers Photography Project</i>. Banff: The Banff Centre Press, 2001.</li> <li>• Berry, Michelle and Natalee Caple (eds.). <i>The Notebooks: Interviews and New Fiction from Contemporary Writers</i>. Toronto: Anchor Publishing, 2002.</li> <li>• Brown, Ian (ed.), <i>What I Meant to Say: The Private Lives of Men</i>. Toronto: Thomas Allen Publishers, 2005.</li> <li>• Rooke, Constance (ed.). <i>Writing Life: Celebrated Canadian and International Authors on Writing and Life</i>. Toronto: McClelland &amp; Stewart, 2006.</li> </ul>	2001-2006
Box 10	<i>The New Quarterly</i>	<p>Box contains literary journals which Smith has either written for, or has been written about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The New Quarterly</i>: v. XVI, no. 2 (Fall 1996); vol. XVII, no. 1 (Spring 1997); v. XXI, nos. 2 &amp; 3 (2000); no. 90 (Spring/Summer 2004); no. 100 (Fall 2006); no. 107 (Summer 2008); no. 116 (Fall 2010); no. 125 (Winter 2013)).</li> </ul>	1996-2013
Box 11	Literary and art publications	<p>Box contains literary journals which Smith has either written for, or has been written about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Revue Frontenac Review</i>, no. 2 (1984).</li> <li>• <i>The Malahat Review</i>, no. 121 (Winter 1997).</li> <li>• <i>Carousel</i>, no. 12 (1998).</li> <li>• <i>The Humber Literary Review</i> 1, no. 2 (Fall/Winter 2014/15).</li> </ul> <p>Box also contains other articles by or about Smith in literary or cultural magazines, as well as a publisher catalogue and an art show catalogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Canadian Notes &amp; Queries</i> no. 80 (Summer/Fall 2010); no. 92 (Spring 2015).</li> <li>• Harper Collins Canada catalogue (Winter 2010)</li> <li>• “Made to Measure Two” catalogue for Marlene Hilton Moore (2009).</li> <li>• <i>Quill &amp; Quire</i> 76, no. 2 (March 2010)</li> </ul>	1984-2017

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>ROM: Magazine of the Royal Ontario Museum</i> 42, no. 2 (Fall 2009).</li><li>• <i>Stained Pages</i>, no.1 (Summer 1995).</li><li>• <i>Taddle Creek</i>, no. 38 (Winter 2016-17).</li><li>• <i>The Walrus</i> 7, no. 4 (May 2010).</li></ul>	
Box 12	Style and lifestyle magazines	Box contains copies of magazines (largely on style and lifestyle) where Smith has published.	2009-2016
Box 13	Thesis	Box contains a copy of Smith's Master's thesis from Queen's University titled: <i>Femme et Image dans la Poésie de Paul Eluard, 1920-1930</i> , 1987.	1987