

Ms.  
Coll.  
00536

Rekai, Kati  
1989-2006  
Writer, Journalist, Exhibitor

Gift of Kati Rekai, 2008

Includes correspondence and other material related to the various stages of preparation and completion of Canadian Book Exhibitions by Kati Rekai around the world on behalf of the Writers' Union of Canada and Canadian authors and publishers.

Kati Rekai was born in Budapest, Hungary, which she left in 1948. She arrived in Toronto via Paris, France in 1950, with her husband and two young daughters. In 1957 her surgeon husband, with his brother, founded Central Hospital[now the Rekai Centre, Toronto, Ontario], Canada's first active treatment hospital serving its patients in over 30 languages. Exposure to a multicultural society, travels, and her friends around the world inspired Rekai to put in writing her love for Canada, her desire to convey it to children of the world. She wanted as well, to introduce Canadian children to the history of other countries from where their friends perhaps came from or that they would visit in the future. Over 24 years, the adventures of Mickey, Taggy, Puppo and Cica and their discoveries in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Brockville, The Thousand Islands, Kingston, Budapest, Vienna, Switzerland, The Netherlands, France, Italy, Greece and The Gardiner Museum have been translated into French, Polish, Romanian, Hungarian, Braille, and have been used in schools and libraries, as well as performed on the puppet stage. She feels privileged to have been accepted as a member of TWUC[The Writers' Union of Canada]. With the cooperation of its Foreign Affairs Committee, she organizes Canadian Book Exhibitions in national and university libraries around the world, promoting Canadian authors abroad. Her comments about life: "I have had the best of both worlds, as I was born into a family of intellectuals in Hungary, married a highly intelligent and talented surgeon, have two daughters, two son-in-laws, and five grandchildren as best friends, and most of all I have the privilege of living in Canada and being a Canadian."

Awards:

Sierhey Khamara Ziniak Award, for excellence in multilingual journalism, 1996.

Order of Canada, for the introduction and promotion of Canadian cities and European countries through the eyes of four animals Mickey, Taggy, Puppo and Cica, each of which represents a part of the Canadian mosaic, 1993.

Prix St. Exupéry, for *Les aventures de Mickey, Taggy, Puppo and Cica a la découverte de la France*, awarded in Paris, France, 1988.

--from the Writers' Union of Canada website, member profile for Kati Rekai

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 Extent: 8 boxes (1.5 metres)

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Box 1 16 folders	Budapest 1989 – Romania 1990
Folders 1-10	Budapest 1989
Folders 11-16	Romania 1990
Box 2 12 folders	Romania 1991 Czechoslovakia 1991 Poland 1992
Folders 1-6	Bucharest, Romania 1991
Folders 7-11	Czechoslovakia 1991
Folder 12	Warsaw, Poland, 1992
Box 3 12 folders	Berlin 1992 – Latvia 1993
Folders 1-5	Berlin 1992
Folders 6-10	Latvia 1993
Folder 11	Various
Folder 12	<i>Mickey, Taggy, Puppo and Cica Discover Toronto</i> Kati Rekai. Toronto: Kaleidoscope Publishing, 2006. English and Chinese.
Box 4 22 folders	Japan 1993 – Ireland 1995
Folders 1-7	Japan 1993
Folders 8-10	Greece 1994
Folders 11-17	Kiev 1995
Folders 18-22	Ireland 1995

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Box 5 15 folders	Lanzou University, China, 1996 – Hungary 1999
Folders 1-7	Lanzou University, China, 1996
Folder 8	Dorris Heffron, The Writers' Union of Canada Audio cassette
Folder 9	Chile 1996
Folder 10	Lublani, Slovenia, 1996
Folders 11-15	Hungary 1999
Box 6 17 folders	Bulgaria 2000 – Manila 2003
Folders 1-4	Bulgaria 2000
Folders 5-6	Albania 2001
Folders 7-12	Cuba 2002 Some colour photographs
Folders 13-17	Manila 2003
Box 7 14 folders	St. Petersburg 2004 – Sri Lanka 2004-2006
Folders 1-7	St. Petersburg 2004 Some colour photographs
Folders 8-11	Cape Town 2004
Folder 12	St. Lucia 2005
Folders 13-14	Sri Lanka 2004-2006
Box 8 11 folders	Sri Lanka 2004-2006 Various exhibitions
Folders 1-6	Sri Lanka 2004-2006 Includes colour photograph

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Folder 7	Miscellaneous
Folders 8-11	Various exhibitions