

Gift of Ray Smith, 2016

Dates: 1986 – 1997, [199-]

Extent: 2 boxes (12 audio cassettes)

Biographical Sketch:

Ray Smith (1941-) is a Canadian novelist and short story writer who currently resides in Mabou, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He was born in Inverness, Cape Breton to Fred and Jean (MacMillan) Smith. He received a B.A. with honours in English at Dalhousie University in 1963, and a M.A. in English at Concordia University in 1985. He was an English teacher at Loyola College, Montreal from 1970-71, as well as at Dawson College, Montreal from 1971 until his retirement in May 2007. Smith began writing on May 1, 1964, when he produced some unpublished poetry and short stories; he progressed to writing novels afterwards. Smith's first published work, a compilation of short stories, *Cape Breton is the Thought Control Centre of Canada* (1969) won him early critical acclaim. His other published works include *Lord Nelson Tavern* (1974), *Century* (1986, reprinted in 2008), *The Man Who Loved Jane Austen* (1999), *The Man Who Hated Emily Brontë* (2004), *The Flush of Victory: Jack Bottomly Among the Virgins* (2007) and *A Night at the Opera* (1992), which won the QSPELL Hugh MacLennan Award for Best Novel of 1992.

Smith is also a member of the Montreal Storyteller reading group which revived the public reading of prose fiction in Canada (Other members include: Clark Blaise, Ray Fraser, Hugh Hood, John Metcalf). He received various Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council grants. He was also the Writer-in-residence, University of Alberta, 1986-87 and the Canada-Scotland Writing Fellow, Edinburgh, 1987-88. He has also done about 270 readings across Canada, the USA, and ten countries in Europe.

Scope and Content:

Included in the 2016 accrual are audio cassettes documenting Ray Smith's appearances on radio shows, readings that he did for radio and live audiences and radio performances of his works. Radio shows that Smith appeared on include CBC's *Morningside*, *Homerun*, *State of the Arts*, *Art Talks*, *Aircraft* and *Saturday Spotlight*. Works that he read include "Lord Nelson Tavern," "The Man who Loved Jane Austen," "The Poetry of the Dram," "A Night at the Opera" and "A Matter of Detail." Also included are recordings of CBC Stage performances of "Lord Nelson's Tavern" and "Eden's Next to Last Dreamer." Most of the audio cassettes contain multiple appearances, readings and/or performances. Titles and descriptions of cassette contents are taken directly from the cassette labels and cassettes have been arranged in chronological order.

Custodial History: Audio cassettes were kept by Ray Smith in his home until he donated them in 2016.

BOX: ITEM	TITLE	DATE(S)
1:1	<p>Ray Smith on Radio -RS + J. Metcalf on Morningside 15'23" Feb 14 1986 -RS reading at Concordia 11'30" C3'15" rec live by Doug Rollins; remainder from CBC <u>State of the Arts</u> broadcast 13 Apr 86 -RS on Homerun with Yvan Hunault 8'30" 29 Sept 86 -RS on Morningside early Oct 86 14'20" RS in Sydney, Gzowski in Toronto (poor sound, static) -"A Matter of Detail" on Aircraft, 12 Feb 89; and 5'13" interview with Sheila Rogers re: repeat broadcast same night</p>	<p>-February 14, 1986 -April 13, 1986 -September 29, 1986 -October 1986 -February 12, 1989</p>
1:2	<p>Ray Smith on Radio II -Ray Smith and John Metcalf on Morningside. Feb 14, 1986. 15'23" -Ray Smith reading at Concordia Feb 14, 1986 rec live by Doug Collins; remainder from CBC State of the Arts broadcast 13 Apr 86 -RS on Home Run with Yvan Hunault 29 Sept 86 8'30" -RS on Morningside. RS in Sydney to Gzowski in Toronto (poor sound, static) 14'20", late Sept or Oct 86. -"A Matter of Detail" on <u>Aircraft</u> 12 Feb 89 15'45"; and 5'13" interview with Sheila Rogers re: repeat broadcast same night</p>	<p>-February 14, 1986 -April 13, 1986 -September 29, 1986 -October 1986 -February 12, 1989</p>
1:3	<p>Ray Smith on Radio Ray on Saturday Spotlight -Interviewer Barbara Black. Taped 29 Sept 86. Aired 11 Oct 86 on Saturday Spotlight CBC Quebec AM Regional Net (CBC tape)</p>	<p>September 29, 1986</p>
1:4	<p>State of the Arts. China, Whiskey. -The Poetry of the Dram (bad recording). 6 March 88. 31 July 88. (CBC recording) -Fine China in a Bull Shop. 18'34" Dec 7/86</p>	<p>-March 6, 1988 -July 31, 1988 -December 7, 1986</p>
1:5	<p>Ray Smith on Radio, etc. -The Poetry of the Dram 22'21". Recorded BBC Edinburgh CBC 6 March 88 -Fine China in a Bull Shop. CBC. Dec 7 86. 18'34" -A Matter of Detail on Aircraft 18'45". Intro interview with Shelagh Rogers 5'13". 12 Feb 89 -Reading from A Night at the Opera. Arts Westmount Sept 89</p>	<p>-March 6, 1988 -December 7, 1986 -February 12, 1989 -September 1989</p>
1:6	<p>Ray on the Air -"The Poetry of the Dram" 22'21" (good recording) [on Magnificent Obsession]</p>	<p>[March 6, 1988]</p>

2:1	A Matter of Detail -A Matter of Detail 12 Feb 89 on "Aircraft" 16'45" + 51'3 interview, total 21'58"	February 12, 1989
2:2	Ray Reading -Ray at Arts WSMT. 16 Sept 89: "A Night at the Opera"	September 16, 1989
2:3	Ray on Radio 97- -Art Talks with Shelley Pomerantz. Recorded 2 Apr 97. Broadcast on Art Talks Sat 5 April. 12 min. Quebec Regional Net. Prod: Katherine Gombay.	1997
2:4	Ray Smith- reading from the Man who Loved [Jane Austen]	[199-]
2:5	Leon Cole [on CBC's RSVP talking about "Night at the Opera"]	[199-?]
2:6	Lord Nelson Tavern [CBC Stage radio performance] Eden's Next to Last Dreamer [CBC Stage radio performance]	[19--]