



MG 326 - George Kovalenko fonds

Dates: 1973-2016 (inclusive); 2004-2016 (predominant).

Extent: 32 cm of textual records, 2 CDs, 1 photograph; plus oversize.

Biography: George Kovalenko was born in Saskatoon on 1 May 1952, but grew up in Struan, Saskatchewan. He spent his formative years in the golden age of the small-town prairies, but his family later moved to Saskatoon. After high school he took up studies at the University of Saskatchewan, earning a BFA degree (1976). Kovalenko had an early interest in film and drama, and became a member of the University of Saskatchewan Film Society, and IATSE, the theatrical stage employees union. He researched all of Saskatoon's early theatre buildings, and as a consequence of this work, in 1994 he joined the staff of the Local History Room in the Saskatoon Public Library. His interest in collecting fountain pens and ink bottles led him to research writing instruments of all kinds. His articles on both heritage buildings and writing instruments have appeared in journals around the world and on the Internet, and most recently he published a book on fountain pen patents. He continues to write and conduct research on local history issues and international writing matters.

Scope and content: This fonds contains a variety of material relating to George's interests and career; including drafts of his book on fountain pens; publications and ephemera concerning the Saskatoon Public Library's history; and ephemera from cultural events in Saskatoon.

Arrangement: It has been organized into the following series:

- Personal / Biographical
- Business Card Collections
- Fountain Pens
- Saskatoon Public Library
- Theatre, Arts & Culture
- University of Saskatchewan
- Other - Miscellaneous

Restrictions: No photocopying of any item without permission of the donor. This restriction will remain in place during the donor's lifetime.

This guide brings together accessions 2005-014, 2007-031, 2007-056, 2017-113, and 2017-151. Accession 2018-176 was added in the summer of 2018.

Further accruals are expected.

Original guide prepared by Patrick Hayes, 2007; revised with additions in 2017 by Cheryl Avery.

Personal / Biographical

1. **Biographical Note.** – 1 CD; textual records.
Used in the fonds-level description.
Includes 2007 fonds-level description from SAIN.
2. **Donations to the Provincial Archives.**
List of donations made by George Kovalenko to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.

Business Card Collections.

1. **Local History Room Collection.**
This collection, organized by type (architecture, archives, audio-visual, etc) was originally received/acquired by Ruth Millar, Local History Room librarian, between 1985-2003. Dorothea Funk, LHR librarian until [2016], gave them to George Kovalenko. Material relating to “Friends of the Library,” also found in the binder, has been removed.
2. **Robert M. Gordon Collection.** – see FCC.

Fountain Pens

Note: see also Shortt – TS1266 .K69 2006

1. **Fountain Pen Patents: 1911to the 50s – Annotated Manuscript.** – 2 folders.
Folder 1: includes EPO additions, summer; green draft, proofreading while creating the index.
Folder 2: includes penultimate proofreading; last proofreading.
2. **Fountain Pen Patents: 1911to the 50s – Notes and Annotations.** – 2004-2006.
Includes the first gathering of numbers, Nov 2005-Apr 2006; notes, 9 Nov 2004.
3. **Fountain Pen Patents: 1911to the 50s - Templates.** – 3 folders.
4. **Fountain Pen Patents: 1911to the 50s – Patents 2 – Final Draft.**
5. **Review.**
Copy of review from the *Journal of the Writing Equipment Society* (London, England).

6. **Pen Terms Illustrated.** – textual records, 1 CD.

Box 2

Saskatoon Public Library

1. **Reflections.** – 1988.
1988 calendar; produced to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Saskatoon Public Library. Compiled by Patricia Lozowchuk, Ruth Millar, June Colvine and Arlean McPherson.
2. **SPL 100 Years: In Pictures.** – 2013.
Promotional brochure relating to the photographic exhibition, curated by Dorothea Funk, as part of the Saskatoon Public Library's 100th anniversary. All images in the exhibit were from the Local History Room collection.
3. **[SPL 100 Years]: Report to the Community.** – 2013.
Annual report; using images of events and staff from 2013.
4. **Turning Back the Pages: 100 Years at the Saskatoon Public Library.** – 2013.
Signed by author, Ruth Millar. Includes promotional ephemera; invitation to the book launch; "Turning back the pages" bookmark, signed by Chris Shauf, then Library Board chair, and Zenon Zuzak, then Director of Libraries; Local History Room bookmark.

Theatre, Arts & Culture

1. **Film Diary.** – 1933-1941.
Diary kept by Mrs. Percy A. Jones, who lived on 3rd Avenue and later, 5th Avenue in Saskatoon; of films she saw. Her notations include the title of the movie; actors; the date she saw the film; and the theatre. Clippings are included (although rarely) The diary was purchased at auction, and sold to George Kovalenko in 1991.
2. **Fringe Festival.** – 1991. – 5 posters. – see also O/S M-4.
A variety of posters for "All by My many More Selves," a one woman show by Danielle Brett. 3 posters in folder; 2 are in oversize.
3. **Going Home Star.** – 2016.

Two programmes for a production by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, "Going Home Star – Truth and Reconciliation." Choreography by Mark Godden; based on a story by Joseph Boyden; music by Christos Hatzis.

4. **Stage Shows in Saskatoon.** – 1969-2016.

A list of stage productions, including ballet, concerts, musicals, etc., in Saskatoon; prepared by George Kovalenko.

University of Saskatchewan

1. **FILE.** – 1973.

Poster; card.

2. **Rubbish Rats.** – 1973. – 1 photograph. – see O/S M-4.

Photograph taken by Pat Close: "These rubbish rates, formerly class 121 Art [...] are standing in a rubbish bin on April 1, which is spring [...] at 3.30 will be flying kites..." Among others in the group, are Adrian Vinnish, Tim [?], Susan Close, and Shelley Sopher.

Other / Miscellaneous

1. **King George: A History Unfolding.** – 2012.

Published by the King George Community Association, on the centenary of King George School.

2. **Memorabilia – CUPE Buttons.** – 6 buttons.

Primarily relating to CUPE employees in the Saskatoon Public Library.

Box 3

Accession 2018 – 176

Arrangement:

Note that accrual has been arranged in series similar to those in previous accrual. May be merged at a later date.

Personal/Biographical
Fountain Pens and Antiques
Saskatoon Public Library
Theatre, Arts & Culture
Other – Miscellaneous

Personal / Biographical

1. **Ivan Andruch**

Information on a young Ukrainian man, a part of Kovalenko's family history. Andruch served during the First World War and became one of the co-founders of the Ukrainian Military Organization.

Fountain Pens and Antiques:

1. **Articles and Advertising by and About Kovalenko.** – 1994 - 2007
Advertising *Fountain Pen Patents*, George Kovalenko's book. Advertisements looking for pens in *Broadway Magazine* and *Write-On*. An article by Alan Casey on George Kovalenko's pen collecting. Also articles written by Kovalenko on fountain pens and pen collecting.
2. **Antique Shops**
Advertisements for antique shops ostensibly frequented by Kovalenko in his collecting.
3. **Antique and Collecting Binder** – 1993 – 2012 – 2 folders.
Large binder of materials (posters, pamphlets, handbills) related to antique shopping and collecting in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba. Also included are lists of materials for sale at auctions and estate sales.

Saskatoon Public Library

1. **List of Local History Room Work Done by George Kovalenko** - 2018
An account of Kovalenko's work at the Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room.
2. **Local History Room Staff.** – 2018. – **RESTRICTED**
A history of the staffing at the Local History Room in the Saskatoon Public Library. Also a LHR staff "family tree" circa 2004.
3. **Saskatoon Public Library Ephemera** – 2011 - 2013
Including cards, bookmarks, and small advertisements for programming. Also materials related to the public library's 90th and 100 year anniversaries, as well as the city's centennial.
4. **Library News.** – 2004
Copy of *Library News*, a guide to free library programs and services.
5. **Local History Room Binder.** – 1982 - 2017 – **RESTRICTED** – 2 folders.
Information on the Saskatoon Public Library Local History room, including history; information on collections and services offered; policies; job descriptions; staff meeting minutes; reports; inventories; internal and external communications; collection development; general library information;

abbreviation lists; basic RAD information; strategic plans; changes in service and staffing; newsletters; schedules; clippings on the controversial 2017 restructuring.

Theatre, Art, and Culture.

1. **Film Society Notebooks.** – 1962 – 1982.
Notebooks detailing films shown by the University of Saskatchewan's film society throughout this period. See also MG 121 – Film Society.
2. **Black Swirl.**
Saskatoon art 'zine.

Other – Miscellaneous

1. **Stage Shows in Saskatoon** – 2018.
List of stage shows in Saskatoon, 1969-1973 and 1973 to present compiled by George Kovalenko.
2. **Historic Theatres** - 1998 – 2006.
Articles by Kovalenko on The Roxy theatre and the Third Empire Theatre.
3. **Roxy Theatre Interview.** – 1 CD-R, 1 DVD-R, 1 VHS
Copies of an interview conducted by Dale Heath regarding Kovalenko's expertise on the Roxy Theatre.