# Peter Trower fonds

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Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Peter Trower was born on August 25, 1930, in St. Leonards-on-Sea in England, and was educated at Dragon School, Oxford. His father, Stephen Trower, an air survey pilot, died as a result of a plane crash in 1936. In July 1940, Trower's mother Mary brought himself and his brother to Canada aboard an evacuee ship, and they settled in Vancouver, B.C. Not long after their arrival, his mother married mill superintendent Trygg Iversen and the family moved to Port Mellon, B.C. Following Iverson's death in
1944, the family subsequently lived in Gibsons and Vancouver. In 1948 Trower left school; he began working at his first logging camp in 1949, and he worked off and on in logging camps along the B.C. coast for the next twenty-two years. Between logging jobs he also worked as a smelter worker in Kitimat, a surveyor, pulp-mill hand, shakecutter and baker. While in the logging camps, he pursued cartooning and writing interests in his spare time. Aspiring to become a professional cartoonist, he enrolled in the Vancouver School of Art in 1958. However, at the same time, he was also becoming increasingly interested in writing, and he dropped out of art school in 1960. Around this time, Trower frequented the Alcazar Hotel on Dunsmuir Street in Vancouver, in the company of a number of other poets, including Milton Acorn, John Newlove, and Al Purdy. The hotel appears in the poem "Alcazar Requiem" from Trower's 1997 book "Hitting the Bricks." In 1967, Trower was arrested for the possession of marijuana, serving a one-month sentence at Oakalla Prison in Burnaby, B.C., an experience documented in a number of his future writings, including the five-part "Okalla Suite" of poems in his 1982 book "Goosequill Snags."

Trower self-published his first collection of poetry, "Poems for a Dark Sunday," as a mimeo in 1965. Talonbooks released his first commercially-published poetry collection "Moving Through the Mystery," in 1969. In 1971, he stopped logging and became the Associate Editor of Raincoast Chronicles. In 1972, Trower wrote a letter to Al Purdy after meeting him in MacLeod's bookstore years before; Purdy responded positively and over the next two decades became an important friend and mentor to Trower. During this period in the early 1970s, Trower began writing and publishing prose alongside his poetry, contributing articles and short stories to various publications including the Coast News and Vancouver Magazine. Much of his writing has been influenced by his years spent in logging camps. His experiences as a logger and poet were explored in the 1976 CBC documentary "Between the Sky and the Splinters," titled after his 1974 book of poetry of the same name.


Beginning in the 1980s, Trower performed with the blues-rock band "Industrial Accident," and with the variety show "Calk Boots and Marlin Spikes," which featured stories and songs of loggers. He published his first novel in 1993; "Grogan's Cafe" is the first book in what would come to be known as the Terry Belshaw Trilogy of novels, also including "Dead Man's Ticket" (1996), and "The Judas Hills" (2000). The same year "Grogan's Cafe" was published, Trower played himself in "The Diary of Evelyn Lau," a film based on the life and writing of the eponymous Canadian writer. In 2003, he released his first musical album, "Sidewalks and Sidehills," which features Trower reading his poems to a jazz back beat. He frequently performed at Vancouver's Railway Club on Dunsmuir street.

Trower received several awards and honours during his career, including the Gillian Lowndes Award (1997), the BC2000 Book Award (2000), the first annual Peter Trower Alternative Poetry Award (2000), the BC Gas Lifetime Achievement Award (2002), the Terasen Lifetime Achievement Award for an Outstanding Literary Career in British Columbia (2002), and the Canadian Authors Association Jack Chalmers Poetry Award (2005).

Trower passed away in North Vancouver on November 10, 2017.
Custodial history

Records in this fonds were in the custody of Peter Trower until the time of acquisition by the Simon Fraser University Library. The first accession, MsC 36, was acquired between 2002 and 2006. Due to the lack of original order of material and to the overlap in contents, the material was processed as a single unit. Accrual MsC 36a was acquired in 2007. Accrual MsC 36b was acquired in 2015.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records related to the life and creative work of Peter Trower in his activities as a poet, prose writer, cartoonist, and musician. Fonds also includes records pertaining to Trower's collaborative projects with Yvonne Klan, as well as works by other authors and artists that were accumulated by Trower. Records include poetry and prose manuscripts, drafts and outlines, movie scripts, journals, notebooks, correspondence, business records, photographs, articles, cartoons and other drawings, awards, certificates, and sound and video recordings.

The fonds has been arranged into the following twenty-three series: Correspondence (1934-2006); Journals and calendars (1961-2005); Notebooks ([ca. 1953]-2003); Prose - published books ([197-?]1999); Prose - unpublished books (1969-2005); Prose - articles, short stories and related material (1953-2002); Poetry - published books (1964-2004); Poetry - unpublished books ([198-?]1999); Poetry - draft poems (1958-2005); Poetry - published poems ([ca. 1972]-1997); Film scripts and related material (1993-2005); Musical performances, sound recordings and related material (1981-2004); Business and financial records (1964-2005); Articles, reviews and interviews regarding Trower (1965-2005); Readings, festivals and events records (1974-2005); Awards and honours records (1979-2005); Photographs (1929-2005); Cartoons and other artwork (1949-1998); Website records (1999-2002); Yvonne Klan records ([199-?]2005); Reviews and articles regarding other writers and artists (1982-2006); Works by other authors (1950-2003); and Personal records ([ca. 2000]).

Notes

Title notes

Arrangement

Accrual MsC 36a was accompanied by an inventory prepared by the donor. However, the inventory was not in the same order as the records themselves, which were loose in the box, and the items were not labelled in accordance with the inventory. Thus, it was often difficult to ascertain which entry in the inventory referred to which files or items. Titles taken from Trower's inventory have been added as file-level notes wherever appropriate. See notes for individual file descriptions for more information.
Finding aids

An inventory of the fonds is available in Special Collections. An online finding aid for the first accession (MsC 36), with series description and file list, is attached above as a PDF. The finding aid for accruals MsC 36a and MsC 36b is available in AtoM.

Other notes

- Publication status: draft
- Level of detail: Full
- Status description: Published

Access points

- Trower, Peter (subject)
- Multi-media (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)

Series descriptions

Series MsC-36-0-1: Correspondence

Date: 1934-2011, predominant 1962-2011 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of Peter Trower’s incoming and outgoing correspondence. Includes correspondence with family, friends, other writers, publishers, fans, media personnel, and granting agencies.

Physical description: .4 m of textual records

Note:

Several file folders in this series were marked with Trower’s comments regarding file contents when Trower was going through the files prior to their transfer to Simon Fraser University. Rather than transcribe these comments in the finding aid, this information has been used to generate file scope and content notes; when necessary, the original folder has been retained with the file.

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:
Several files were arranged by Trower according to a single correspondent; where files contain multiple correspondents, scope and content notes are provided as necessary. General business correspondence has been placed in the business and financial records series.

Publication status:
published

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<td>File - Zach [Zachariah] Wells</td>
<td>2004-2005</td>
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Series MsC-36-0-2: Journals and calendars

Date: 1943-[ca. 2011] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of Trower’s journals and calendars, as well as some loose journal and notebook pages.

Physical description: .62 m of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Photographic material (documentary form)

Arrangement:

In accession MsC 36a, series is arranged first by type of material and then chronologically. In accruals MsC 36a and MsC 36b, series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:
published

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Series MsC-36-0-3: Notebooks

Date: [ca. 1953]-2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of notebooks containing drafts and outlines of and notes for poems, articles, and short stories by Trower.

Physical description: .7 m of textual records

Access points:

• Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

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Series MsC-36-0-4: Prose – published book records

Date: [197-?] -2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of material relating to the development of Peter Trower’s published novels and other prose collections, "Grogan's Cafe" (1993), "Dead Man’s Ticket" (1996), "The Judas Hills" (1996), and "Hellhound on his Trail & Other Stories" (2008). Record types include outlines, draft manuscripts, editorial comments, and promotional material.

The series has been arranged into the following four sub-series according to novel: Grogans’ Cafe records (1989), Dead man’s ticket records (1995), The Judas hills records ([197-?] -2000), and Hellhound on his trail & other stories records (2008).

Physical description: .22 m of textual records

Access points:

• Textual record (documentary form)
Arrangement:
Series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:
published

File / item list

**Subseries MsC-36-0-4-1: Grogan’s cafe records**

**Date:** 1989-1993 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists of records relating to Peter Trower's 1993 novel "Grogan’s Cafe." Records include an initial outline for the book, editorial feedback, an edited manuscript, and promotional material.

**Physical description:** 3 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**
published

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**Subseries MsC-36-0-4-2: Dead man’s ticket records**

**Date:** 1995-[ca. 1996] (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists records relating to Peter Trower's 1996 novel "Dead Man's Ticket." Records include manuscripts, editorial comments by John Moore, and publicity records.

**Physical description:** 5 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**
published
Subseries MsC-36-0-4-3: The Judas hills records

*Date:* [197-?]–2000 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Sub-series consists of records relating to Peter Trower's 2000 novel "The Judas Hills." Records include notes, outline and manuscripts from various stages of the novel's development (including first and final drafts), editorial comments by John Moore, Trower's storyboard sketches, and Trower's comments on the novel's cover design.

**Physical description:** .11 m of textual records

**Access points:**

- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**

published

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Subseries MsC-36-0-4-4: Hellhound on his trail & other stories records

*Date:* 2008 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**


**Physical description:** 3 cm of textual records

**Access points:**

- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**

published
Series MsC-36-0-5: Prose – unpublished book records

Date: 1947-2005, predominant 1969-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:
Series consists of records relating to unpublished books of prose either authored or proposed by Peter Trower, including "Bastions and Beaver Pelts," "The Counting House," "Gangsterquest," “Busted for Pot,” “Kisses in the Whiskey,” “Vancouver Centennial Anthology” and “Wild West Coast Woods.” Records include manuscripts, proposals, chapter outlines, and screenplay outlines. Series has been arranged into the following four sub-series, according to project: Bastions and beaver pelts records ([198-]-1992), The counting house records (1991), Gangsterquest records (1982-2005), and General records (1969-[ca. 1983]).

Physical description: .26 m of textual records

Note:
Comments by Trower written on file folders have been transcribed as notes at the file level.

Access points:
- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:
published

Subseries MsC-36-0-5-1: Bastions and beaver pelts records

Date: [198-]-1992 (date of creation)

Scope and content:
Sub-series consists of a project proposal and a manuscript for "Bastions and Beaver Pelts," an aborted book project Trower worked on with Yvonne Klan.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Access points:
- Textual record (documentary form)
### Subseries MsC-36-0-5-2: The counting house records

**Date:** 1991 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

**Physical description:** 2 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:** published

### Subseries MsC-36-0-5-3: Gangsterquest records

**Date:** 1947-2005, predominant 1982-2005 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists of records relating to Peter Trower and Yvonne Klan’s unpublished book project "Gangsterquest: The Search for the King of Safecrackers." An account of the life of Herbert Emerson Wilson (aka Herb Wilson), the project was originally titled "Holy Herb." Records include notes, research records, chapter and screenplay outlines, and edited and unedited draft manuscripts.

**Physical description:** .2 m of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**
Sub-series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

**Publication status:**
Subseries MsC-36-0-5-4: General records

Date: 1969-[before 2007] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of records relating to various book projects of Trower’s which have not been published. Projects include “Busted for Pot,” “Kisses in the Whiskey,” “Vancouver Centennial Anthology,” “Wild West Coast Woods,” and "Echos from another life." Record types include manuscripts, proposals, and chapter outlines.

Physical description: 3 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:

In accession MsC 36, sub-series arranged alphabetically according to title of work. In accruals MsC 36a and MsC 36b, sub-series arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Series MsC-36-0-6: Prose – articles, short stories and related records

Date: 1953-2012 (date of creation)
**Scope and content:**

Series consists of published and unpublished articles and short stories written by Peter Trower. Records include manuscripts and article clippings, including many articles published during Trower’s time as a journalist with the Coast News.

Series has been arranged into the following three sub-series: General records (1953-2002), Chronological files (1960-1999) and Coast News articles, reviews and poems (1993).

**Physical description:** .96 m of textual records
2 photographs

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**
published

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**Subseries MsC-36-0-6-1: General records**

**Date:** 1953-2012 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Sub-series consists of records relating to articles and short stories written by Trower, both published and unpublished. Record types include drafts, outlines, notes, proposals, project lists, notes, and research and reference material. Includes articles and short stories published in the periodicals B.C. Studies, Coast News, En Route, Equity, Lifestyle, Peninsula Voice, Vancouver Magazine, Western Living, and Whistle Punk.

**Physical description:** .31 m of textual records
2 photographs

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**

Sub-series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

**Publication status:**
published

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<td>MsC-36a-0-6-1-0-1</td>
<td>File - [Prose drafts]</td>
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<td>MsC-36a-0-6-1-0-2</td>
<td>File - Research material for train crash story “No hope”</td>
<td>[ca. 1986]</td>
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<td>MsC-36a-0-6-1-0-3</td>
<td>File - Vanished voices: an introduction</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>MsC 36a - Box 1 folder 13</td>
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<td>MsC-36a-0-6-1-0-4</td>
<td>File - [Story pitch for Saturday night magazine]</td>
<td>[before 2007]</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-1</td>
<td>File - Raincoast chronicles</td>
<td>1972, 1990</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-2</td>
<td>File - Hoodlum years</td>
<td>[ca. 1974]</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-3</td>
<td>File - Pages from a life-log</td>
<td>1977-[198-?]</td>
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<td>[197-?]-[198-?]</td>
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<td>File - Grayfield school material (work in progress)</td>
<td>[197-]-1988</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-6</td>
<td>File - Miscellaneous material that needs reworking</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-7</td>
<td>File - Yvonne Klan</td>
<td>[197-]-2003</td>
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<td>File - Interview with Jack Bird at Gillies Bay, Texada Island, May 26, 1982</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-9</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-11</td>
<td>File - Short stake at Skalath</td>
<td>1985, 2008</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-12</td>
<td>File - Stepping-stones to a lost disaster</td>
<td>1986</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-13</td>
<td>File - The ghost town circuit</td>
<td>1987</td>
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<td>File - Music [illegible]: a tall man sings the blues</td>
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<td>File - To the doorstep of the stein</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<td>File - The Queen Charlottes – a world apart</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-17</td>
<td>The road to drowned Renata</td>
<td>1989</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-18</td>
<td>Brothers of Brainless Street</td>
<td>[198-?]</td>
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<td>Cat tales</td>
<td>[198-?]</td>
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<td>[198-?]</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-22</td>
<td>Inside the Sunshine Coast</td>
<td>[198-?]</td>
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<td>[198-?]</td>
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<td>Cut and print: the movie life of Evelyn Lau</td>
<td>1993</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-6-1-0-35</td>
<td>Prose material that could be developed</td>
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**Subseries MsC-36-0-6-2: Chronological files**

**Date:** 1960-1999 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists of draft manuscripts of published and unpublished prose arranged into files by Trower according to year of creation. Includes drafts of fictional and non-fictional articles and short stories, some of which were published in the Coast News, Vancouver Magazine, Raincoast Chronicles, B.C. Logging, Business Logger, West Coast Logger, and Western Living. Also includes drafts of material subsequently included in Trower’s novels "Grogan’s Cafe," "Dead Man’s Ticket," and "The Judas Hills." Drafts often contain notes written by Trower at a later date in order to provide further information concerning the piece’s evolution and publication, or lack of publication.

**Physical description:** .4 m of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**
Chronological arrangement provided by creator.

**Publication status:**
published

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**File / item list**

**Subseries MsC-36-0-6-3: Coast news articles, reviews and poems**

**Date:** 1993 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists of newspaper articles, reviews, and poems, written by Peter Trower and published in the Coast News newspaper. Includes some original articles and some photocopied reproductions. Articles are often accompanied by explanatory comments added by Trower at a later date.

**Physical description:** .25 m of textual records

**Note:**
Comments by Trower written on file folders have been transcribed as notes at the file level.

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**
The majority of the material in the sub-series was arranged into files by Trower according to the subject or title of an article. The Archivist has arranged these files alphabetically according to title. Several files of a general nature compiled by Trower follow the titled files.

**Publication status:**
### Series MsC-36-0-7: Poetry – published book records

**Date:** 1964-2004 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Series consists of material relating to the developments, publication and promotion of Peter Trower’s published books of poetry. Includes edited and unedited manuscripts, outlines, correspondence, editorial comments, introductions by other authors, galley proofs, illustrations and photographs, and promotional material.


**Physical description:** .27 m of textual records

**Access points:**

- Textual record (documentary form)

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### Subseries MsC-36-0-7-1: Poems for a dark Sunday records

**Date:** 1964-1969 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Sub-series consists of copies of Peter Trower’s first collection of poetry, "Poems for a Dark Sunday" published in 1964 as a mimeo. Includes a copy with comments made by Trower at a later date, a copy with comments by Ted Poole, and a revised version created in 1969.

**Physical description:** 2 cm of textual records

**Access points:**

- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**

Sub-series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.
Subseries MsC-36-0-7-2: Moving through the mystery records

Date: [1968] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of a draft manuscript by Trower titled "Tapdance on Quicksand," which evolved into "Moving Through the Mystery," published in 1969.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Access points:
• Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:
published

Subseries MsC-36-0-7-3: Between the sky and the splinters records

Date: 1974 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of page proofs and promotional material for Peter Trower's 1974 book of poetry "Between the Sky and the Splinters."

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Access points:
• Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:
published

Subseries MsC-36-0-7-4: Ragged horizons records
### Date: 1976-1981 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists of records relating to the development and promotion of Trower's 1978 book "Ragged Horizons." Includes the final selection of poems, as well as correspondence, corrections, a draft of Al Purdy’s introduction, and promotional material.

**Physical description:** 1 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**
Sub-series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

**Publication status:** published

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**File / item list**

### Subseries MsC-36-0-7-5: Bush poems records

**Date:** 1978 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists of records relating to the development and promotion of Trower's 1978 book "Bush Poems." Includes promotional material and a draft manuscript of the book containing Bus Griffiths’ illustrations.

**Physical description:** 1 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**
Sub-series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

**Publication status:** published

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**File / item list**

### Subseries MsC-36-0-7-6: Unmarked doorways records

**Date:** 1989 (date of creation)
**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists of galley proofs for Trower's 1989 book "Unmarked Doorways."

**Physical description:** 1 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**
published

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**File / item list**

**Subseries MsC-36-0-7-7: Hitting the bricks records**

**Date:** 1997 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists of an edited manuscript for Trower's 1997 book "Hitting the Bricks."

**Physical description:** 2 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**
published

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**File / item list**

**Subseries MsC-36-0-7-8: Chainsaws in the cathedral records**

**Date:** 1998 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists of records relating to the development and publication of Trower's 1999 book "Chainsaws in the Cathedral." Records include edited and unedited drafts, the book's original introduction by Al Purdy, and early page proofs.

**Physical description:** 6 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**
Subseries MsC-36-0-7-9: A ship called Destiny records

Date: [ca. 1999]-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of records relating to Trower's 2000 "A Ship Called Destiny: Poems of Love and Travel," originally titled "Yvonne’s Book." Includes the first selection of poems, an edited manuscript, the author’s introduction, postscript and table of contents, and galley proofs with photographs.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records

Access points:
- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Sub-series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:
published

Subseries MsC-36-0-7-10: There are many ways records

Date: 1968-2002 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of records relating to Trower’s 2002 book "There Are Many Ways," which features the artwork of Jack Wise alongside Trower's poetry. Records includes early manuscripts from the 1960’s and 1970’s that were later used as a basis for the book, the original cover and early page proofs, as well as final and galley proofs.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

Access points:
- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Sub-series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:
Subseries MsC-36-0-7-11: Haunted hills and hanging valleys records

Date: 2002-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:
Sub-series consists of material relating to the development of Trower's 2004 book "Haunted Hills and Hanging Valleys." Includes several draft manuscripts, including the first selection of poems and the final draft, as well as correspondence between Trower and Harbour Publishing.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Access points:
- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:
Sub-series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status: published

Series MsC-36-0-8: Poetry – unpublished book records

Date: [198-?]–2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Physical description: .14 m of textual records

Access points:
- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:
Series is arranged alphabetically by book title. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.
### File / item list

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<td>[2000-]</td>
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<td>MsC-36b-0-8-0-0-3</td>
<td>File - Through apricot air: selected poems 1969-2002</td>
<td>[after 2002]</td>
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### Series MsC-36-0-9: Poetry – draft poems

**Date:** 1958-2005 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Series consists of draft versions of published and unpublished poems by Trower, as well as drafts of poems written in collaboration with other poets.

**Physical description:** .25 m of textual records

**Access points:**

- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**

Series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

**Publication status:**

published

### File / item list

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### Series MsC-36-0-10: Poetry – published poems

**Date:** [ca. 1972]-1997 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Series MsC-36-0-11: Film scripts and related records

**Date:** 1993-2005 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Series consists of records relating to film adaptations of Peter Trower’s novels "Grogan’s Cafe" and "Dead Man’s Ticket," as well as those relating to his acting role (as himself) in "The Diary of Evelyn Lau." Records include screenplays, correspondence, option agreements, and shooting schedule. Series has been arranged into the following three sub-series according to film: Grogan’s cafe film records (1994-2005), Dead man’s ticket film records ([ca. 2000]) and The diary of Evelyn Lau film records (1993).

**Physical description:** 6 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**
published
Sub-series consists of records relating to a proposed film adaptation of Peter Trower’s novel "Grogan’s Cafe." Includes several versions of the film’s screenplay, as well as correspondence with New City Productions Inc., the company interested in producing the film.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

Access points:
- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:
Sub-series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist. Records relating to New City Productions Inc. option renewal agreements and payments for the film may be found in the Business and financial records series.

Publication status:
published

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**Subseries MsC-36-0-11-2: Dead man’s ticket film records**

**Date:** [ca. 2000] (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**
Sub-series consists records relating to a proposed film adaptation of Peter Trower’s novel "Dead Man’s Ticket." Records include a proposal and drafts of a screenplay.

**Physical description:** 2 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**
Other records relating to this film may be found in the Business and financial records series.

**Publication status:**
published

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**File / item list**

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<td>[between 1996 and 1999]</td>
<td>MsC 36a - Box 1 folder 17</td>
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### Subseries MsC-36-0-11-3: The diary of Evelyn Lau film records

**Date:** 1993 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Sub-series consists of a production script and shooting schedule for the movie "The Diary of Evelyn Lau," in which Peter Trower played himself.

**Physical description:** 2 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:** published

### Series MsC-36-0-12: Musical performances, sound recordings and related records

**Date:** 1981-2005 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Series consists of sound recordings and related materials created or accumulated by Peter Trower. These include recordings of Trower's musical and performance projects, recordings of Trower's readings, recordings of the readings of other poets, and other musical albums and sound recordings accumulated by Trower. Trower's musical and performance projects have included the blues-rock band "Industrial Accident," the variety show group "Caulk Boots and Marlin Spikes," and Trower's two albums of poetry read aloud to musical accompaniment, "Sidewalks and Sidehills" and "Kisses in the Whiskey." Sound recordings of other writers and musicians accumulated by Trower are from friends of Trower's, writers who have influenced his work, and musical artists' of whom he is a fan.

**Physical description:** 3 cm of textual records

- 31 audio compact discs
- 7 audio cassettes

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**

Series is arranged first according to record type and then chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist. In the first accession, MsC 36, there is no CD 20. Articles and reviews pertaining to "Sidewalks and Sidehills," "Kisses in the Whiskey" and Trower's performances with Industrial Accident may be located in the Articles and reviews regarding Trower...
series. Promotional material and clippings relating to Trower’s musical performances may also be found in the Readings, festivals, performances and events records series.

**Publication status:**
published

### File / item list

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<td>Item - Between the sky and the splinters – DVD</td>
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<td>Item - Waltz for a rainy bebop evening – March 27, 2004 – volume 1</td>
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<td>Item - Trower reading – August 1/06</td>
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### Series MsC-36-0-13: Business and financial records

**Date:** 1964-2014 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Series consists of records relating to Peter Trower’s business and financial interests. Includes several copies of Trower’s curriculum vitae, contracts and agreements, correspondence, royalty statements, mortgage records, and invoices.

**Physical description:** .11 m of textual records

**Access points:**
• Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:
Series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:
published

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Series MsC-36-0-14: Articles, reviews and interviews regarding Trower
Date: 1965-2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:
Series consists of journal and newspaper articles and reviews pertaining to Peter Trower, books he has published or contributed to, his musical albums, and his participation in the band Industrial Accident. Also includes relating to awards and honours received by Trower, his activities and projects, and also include articles of a biographical nature. Series also includes sound and video recordings of interviews with Trower recorded between 1976 and 2000.

Physical description: .19 m of textual records
12 audio cassettes
1 videocassette

Access points:
• Textual record (documentary form)
• Sound recording (documentary form)
• Moving images (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Series is arranged with general articles and reviews first, arranged chronologically, followed by articles and reviews relating to particular works (e.g., books or compact discs), in chronological order according to date of publication or release, followed by video recordings and audio recordings arranged chronologically according to date of interview. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:
published

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Series MsC-36-0-15: Readings, festivals and events records

Date: 1974-2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records relating to Peter Trower’s readings, his musical performances, and his participation in various literary festivals, conferences and other events. Series includes video and sound recordings of readings by Trower and readings by other authors, including Al Purdy and Patrick Lane. Also included are video and audio recordings of Caulk Boots & Marlin Spikes performances that Trower participated in, and a video recording copy of the "Between the Sky and the Splinters" documentary, filmed by the CBC in 1976. Record types include correspondence, notes, reading programs, set lists, newspaper articles and clippings, as well as posters, brochures, and other promotional material.

Physical description: 7 cm of textual records
16 audio cassettes
7 videocassettes
Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)
- Moving images (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Series is arranged first according to record type and then generally chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

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<td>File - Program for Railway Club – August 23, 2005</td>
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Series MsC-36-0-16: Awards and honours records

Date: 1979-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence, certificates, and promotional material relating to various awards and honours received by Peter Trower. Includes records relating to Trower’s receipt of a BC 2000 Book Award, the BC Gas Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002 and the Canadian Author’s Association Jack Chalmers Poetry Award in 2005. Series also includes records relating to his third place finish for the BC Book Prizes Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize in 2001 and his nomination for a 2003 ReLit Award in the poetry category.

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records
1 videocassette

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Moving images (documentary form)

Arrangement:
Series is arranged generally chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:
published

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<td>File - [Canadian Authors Association poetry award]</td>
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**Series MsC-36-0-17: Photographs**

**Date:** 1929-[before 2015] (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Series consists of photographs of Peter Trower, his partner Yvonne Klan, and their family, friends and other acquaintances. Photographs relate to Trower’s writing, musical and personal activities, his childhood in England and Canada, and his family life. Series includes many photographs of Trower with writer and publisher friends, giving readings, attending literary events, awards ceremonies, and book signings and performing with former bandmates Mike Dunn and Ken Dagliesh, Industrial Accident and the Caulk Boots and Marlin Spikes production. Also included are photographs taken during the filming of the documentary "Between the Sky and the Splinters" in 1976, photographs of Trower’s travels with Yvonne, his various residences, publicity shots for book covers, and photographs from his seventieth birthday party in 2000. Fellow writers appearing in photographs include Earle Birney, Trevor Carolan, Jim Christy, Lorna Crozier, Jamie Mandelkau, John Moore, Cath Morris, Mary Nichol, Stuart Nutter, Richard Olafson, Malcolm Parry, George Payerle, Joe Perone, Ted Poole, Greg Potter, Al Purdy, Robin Skelton, Carol Skoloff, Godfrey Stephens, Alan Twigg, Howard White, and Carolyn Zenailo.

**Physical description:** 159 photographs : b&w and col.

**Note:**

The majority of photographs were assigned titles by Trower prior to their acquisition by Simon Fraser University. Additional notes made by Trower on post-it notes attached to the photographs have been included in the file list as notes. Where Trower referred to himself as “Trower” in the title his full name has been included.

**Access points:**

- Photographic material (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**
Series is arranged chronologically. The majority of photographs in accession MsC 36 were listed and assigned numbers in ink on the verso by Professor Geoff Madoc-Jones prior to transfer in 2002. These numbers have been maintained; however, the numbers appear out of sequence in the finding aid, as they do not correspond to the chronological arrangement created by the Archivist for ease of access. Physically, the photographs are arranged in numerical order.

Publication status:

published

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### File / item list

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<td>[before 2007]</td>
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<td>File - [Photographs]</td>
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### Series MsC-36-0-18: Cartoons and other artwork

**Date**: 1949-2009 (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Series consists of cartoons, drawings, sketch books, watercolours, illustrations, and prints by Peter Trower and by other artists.

Series has been arranged into the following two sub-series: Cartoons and other artwork by Peter Trower (1949 to 1983) and Artwork by other artists (1969-1998).

**Physical description:** 1 cm of textual records

ca. 320 drawings : multiple processes
4 sketchbooks
3 prints
2 mimeographs
2 collages : 12 x 10 cm and 91 x 122 cm
1 painting

**Access points:**

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Publication status:**
Subseries MsC-36-0-18-1: Cartoons and other artwork by Peter Trower

Date: 1949-2009 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of cartoons, sketch books, drawings and paintings by Peter Trower, including material produced by Trower during his time as a student at the Vancouver School of Art, 1958 to 1959. Includes watercolours, ink, pencil, charcoal and pastel drawings. Cartoons pertain to the logging and aluminum industry, international politics, local politics and issues, the hippie movement, and super-hero spoofs. The subject matter of the drawings and sketches include Peter Trower (self-portraits), family members, friends, models, logging, Trower’s homes in North Vancouver and Gibsons, British Columbia, and in various places in Vancouver, Gibsons, and Port Alice. Series also includes three copies of Jack Wise’s only known cartoon.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records
cia. 300 drawings : multiple processes
4 sketchbooks
1 painting

Access points:
• Graphic material (documentary form)

Publication status:
published
Subseries MsC-36-0-18-2: Artwork by other artists

Date: 1969-[before 2008] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sub-series consists of drawings, sketches, collages, and prints by other artists, a number of whom are friends and acquaintances of Peter Trower, including Jack Wise, Bus Griffiths, Godfrey, and Karen Severson. Includes several portraits of Trower.

Physical description: 16 drawings : multiple processes
3 prints
2 mimeographs
2 collages : 12 x 10 cm and 91 x 122 cm

Access points:
• Graphic material (documentary form)

Publication status: published

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Series MsC-36-0-19: Website records

Date: 1999-2002 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence relating to the development of Peter Trower’s website, and some print outs of website pages.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Access points:
• Textual record (documentary form)
Series MsC-36-0-20: Yvonne Klan records

Date: [1954?]–2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:
Series consists of material relating to Peter Trower’s partner Yvonne Klan and her writing endeavours. Includes a published article written by Klan, a review of her book "The Old Red Shirt" and a draft of Trower’s introduction to the book, as well as another article and several tributes to Klan written after her death in 2004.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Access points:
• Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:
Series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Related material:
Other material related to Klan may be found in other series of this fonds, in particular the following series: Correspondence, Journals and calendars, Prose - unpublished book records, and Poetry – published book records.

Publication status:
published

File / item list

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<td>[1954?]</td>
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Series MsC-36-0-21: Reviews and articles regarding other writers and artists

Date: 1965-2008 (date of creation)

Scope and content:
Series consists of reviews, articles and other publications collected by Peter Trower relating to other writers and artists, particularly friends and acquaintances of Trower, as well as others who have influenced his work. Many of the items contain written notes or commentary by Trower. Includes material pertaining to the following individuals: Jim Christy, Lorna Crozier, Hubert Evans, Orville Fisher, Eileen Glassford, Jim Green, Bus Griffiths, britt hagarty, Jack Kerouac, Ken Kesey, Patrick Lane, Red Lane, Frank Lewis, Charles Lillard, John Moore, Stuart Nutter, Shari Pandit, Al Purdy, George Ryga, Robin Skelton, Godfrey Stevens, Robert Swanson, Warren Tallman, Tom Waits, and Jack Williams.

**Physical description:** 9 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**

Series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

**Publication status:**
- published

### File / item list

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**Series MsC-36-0-22: Works by other authors**

**Date:** 1949-[ca. 2010] (date of creation)

**Scope and content:**

Series consists of various works written by other authors, mainly those from British Columbia, either collected by Peter Trower or sent to him by others. Includes drafts as well as published versions of poetry, articles, and essays. Some works contain editorial marks or comments by Trower, and some are signed by the author. Includes works by Joe Denham, britt hagarty, Patrick Lane, Curt Lang, Jamie Mandelkau, John Moore, Cath Morris, George Payerle, Greg Potter, Jamie Reid, Howard White, Jim Green, Carl Christmas, Dorothy Livesay, David Day, and James Lewis, among others.

**Physical description:** .23 m of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**
In accession MsC 36, series is arranged alphabetically according to author’s last name. In accruals MsC 36a and MsC 36b, series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

Publication status:
published

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<td>1968-1969</td>
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Series MsC-36-0-23: Personal records

Date: [197-?] - 2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content:
Series consists of records of a personal nature created or accumulated by Peter Trower. Records include material relating to The Dylan Thomas Circle of Vancouver (an organization that promotes an appreciation of Dylan Thomas’ works), pamphlets from memorial services of Trower's friends, an invitation to Trower's nephew's wedding, and a photograph of Trower's former girlfriend June Boe.

**Physical description:** 2 cm of textual records

**Access points:**
- Textual record (documentary form)

**Arrangement:**
Series is arranged chronologically. Arrangement provided by the Archivist.

**Publication status:**
published

### File / item list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Access status</th>
<th>Container</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MsC-36a-0-23-0-0-1</td>
<td>File - Artist June Boe, Trower's last pre-Yvonne girlfriend</td>
<td>[197-?]</td>
<td></td>
<td>MsC 36a - Box 2 folder 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>MsC-36a-0-23-0-0-2</td>
<td>File - Announcement of Trower's oldest nephew's marriage</td>
<td>[before 2007]</td>
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<td>MsC 36a - Box 2 folder 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>MsC-36b-0-23-0-0-1</td>
<td>File - [Memorials]</td>
<td>2004, 2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>MsC 36b - Box 4 folder 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Her books *The Unquiet Bed* and *Plainsongs* looked at human relationships, love, and the problems of aging. In the late 1960's and 70's, Livesay's poetry became important to the women's movement, and Livesay herself became an important part of that movement.