



## **CLARA THOMAS ARCHIVES**

**Inventory of the  
Don Coles fonds**

**Inventory #F0125**

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## F0125 - Don Coles fonds

**Fonds/Collection Number:** F0125

**Title:** Don Coles fonds

**Dates:** 1934-2011

**Extent:** 4.9 m of textual records and other material

**Biographical Sketch/  
Administrative History:** Donald Langdon Coles, (1928- ) poet, author and educator, was born in Woodstock, Ontario in 1928 and received a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Toronto in 1949 and 1953, respectively. He also received an M.A. from Cambridge University in 1955, following which he lived in continental Europe for a period of ten years. From 1965 to 1996, Coles was a professor of humanities and creative writing at York University in Toronto, Canada. He was the Poetry Editor of "The May Studio" for the Banff Centre for the Fine Arts from 1984 to 1993 and is the author of over eight books of poetry of his own. His collection "Forests of the medieval world" (1993) was awarded the Governor-General's Award for Poetry. He received the Trillium Book Award for his collection "Kurgan". His poem "Driving in the car with her" was included in the Arvon International Poetry Competition Anthology. He is also the author of the novel "Doctor Bloom's story." "How we all swiftly," an anthology of his first six books of poetry, was published in 2006; an autobiographical work entitled "A dropped glove in Regent Street" appeared in 2007 and a collection of poetry entitled "Where we might have been" was published in 2010.

**Scope and Content:** Fonds consists of personal and professional correspondence including correspondence with fellow writers such as John Metcalf, Guy Vanderhaeghe, Robyn Sarah, Adele Wiseman and Ralph Gustafson among others, academic and teaching files that document his career as a student at the University of Toronto and Cambridge and professorial files for courses taught at York University. It also includes editorial files that document his work with fellow poets at The Banff Centre for the Fine Arts and writing files including notes, drafts and manuscripts related to his own publications. Accession 2011-032 includes correspondence from Northrop Frye giving Coles advice about an academic career, book reviews written by Coles for "The Globe and mail" from the 1970s to 2001, seminar notes for the Humanities course, "Works & days," reviews of his writing, and drafts of the book of poetry, "Where we might have been" (2010).

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|--------|-----------------------------|
| S00209 | Correspondence files        |
| S00210 | Writing files               |
| S00211 | Academic and teaching files |
| S00212 | Editorial files             |

**Language of material note:** Some material in French, in German and in Swedish.

**Restrictions on  
Access and Use:** Access granted only with the written permission of Don Coles until his death, at which time access is unrestricted. Researchers seeking access must make written application to Don Coles through the University Archivist, outlining their research project and their purpose in consulting the Don Coles fonds.

**Finding Aid:** Series-level descriptions with corresponding file lists are complete at this time. Individual accession file lists are available separately; see accruals note.

**URL of Finding Aid:** <http://archivesfa.library.yorku.ca/fonds/ON00370-f0000125.htm>

**Accruals:** The fonds comprises the following accessions: 1996-017, 1997-003, 1999-017, 2000-054, 2001-035, 2002-044, 2004-001, 2005-033, 2007-006, 2008-005, 2009-007, 2011-032. Further accruals may be expected.

**Related Records:** Books inscribed to Don Coles have been catalogue as part of Special Collections.

**Immediate source of  
acquisition:** Donated by Don Coles in 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2011.

**Provenance Access Points:** Coles, Don, 1928-

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Date of creation: 2002/04/04  
Date of last revision: 2012/02/03