

## ***Fonds Description***

**Talonbooks 1966 -**

**Talonbooks Collection. – 1966-1999.**

92 m of textual records.

### **Administrative History**

Talonbooks grew out of the magazine, Talon, published by David Robinson and friends from 1963-1968. While students at UBC, they developed Talon into a quarterly that published authors such as Margret Atwood, Bill Bissett, George Bowering, Frank Davy, John Newlove, Al Purdy, and bpNichol. Under the Talonbooks/Very Stone House imprint, they published several chapbooks. Talonbooks and Very Stone House ended their collaboration in 1968 and Talonbooks began publishing under its own imprint. Under the editorship of Jim Brown, David Robinson, and Peter Hay, Talon published the influential Canadian plays: Beverly Simon's *Crabdance*, James Reaney's *Colours in the Dark*, and George Ryga's *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. Talon began publishing fiction in 1973 with Audrey Thomas's *Songs My Mother Taught Me*. They have also expanded into publishing works by Quebec authors in translation and non-fiction ethnographies of BC's native peoples. Karl Siegler joined Talonbooks in 1974. In the 1980s Talonbooks expanded their catalogue to include cookbooks. David Robinson left in 1984, although he retained fifty percent ownership until 1992. Talonbooks diversified into coffee table books including *Stein*, *The Way of the River* and *Vancouver: A Visual History*. The 1990s saw Talonbooks weather a major financial crisis with the help of grants from the Canada Council and the British Columbia Provincial Government. Its current catalogue contains drama, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction.

### **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of material related to the publication work of Talonbooks. The records cover the years from 1966 to 1999 and include the following information: correspondence, manuscripts, typescripts, printed works, business records, paid invoices, bound copies, catalogues, promotional material financial records, page pasteups, production materials, reports, mailing lists, book fairs, sales and promotion, sales by author, distribution files, accounts paid, and sales statistics.

### **Source of supplied title:**

Title based on contents of the fonds.

### **Physical description:**

92 m of textual and other material.

### **Immediate source of acquisition:**

Talonbooks has been selling its archive to Simon Fraser University Special Collection and Rare Books since 1975, under an agreement that gives SFU the right of first refusal.

**Restrictions on access, reproduction and publication:**

Access to files is open.

**Arrangement:**

The arrangement of the material is based on that used by Talonbooks.

**Finding aids:**

The Talonbooks archive from 1966 to 1975 can be searched using the SFU Special Collections Manuscript search page <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchtools/databases/dbofdb.htm?DatabaseID=56>. A printed finding aid is available at SFU Special Collection and Rare Books.

**Accruals:**

Further accruals are expected.