

Finding Aid - Bernadette Ryan (Rule) Fonds (RC0036)

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Language of description: English

Bernadette Ryan (Rule) Fonds

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Summary information

Title:	Bernadette Ryan (Rule) Fonds
Reference code:	RC0036
Date:	1971-2024 (creation)
Physical description:	4.1 m of textual materials 2 photographs 163 digital files (AIFF files): 46.5 GB
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	K. Alexander, 2025.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Bernadette Ryan is a writer, academic teacher, radio host, and poet who predominantly publishes under the pen name Bernadette Rule. Born in 1951, Ryan grew up in Kentucky. In 1973, she received a B.A. from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky with a double major in English and History and a minor in Education. In 1975, she received an M.A. in English from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. After graduating, she moved to Ontario, Canada, where she began writing, editing, and teaching. Ryan has published ten collections of poetry, most recently, **The Window Washer of Chartres** (Paradise North Press, 2023) and **Deep Breath** (Frog Hollow Press, 2021). In 2021, she released her first non-fiction novel, **Dark Fire** (Ironing Board Press, 2021), which was shortlisted for a 2022 Hamilton Literary Award and a Whistler Independent Book Award. In 2023, she published her second non-fiction novel, **The Arithmetic of Color** (Ironing Board Press, 2023). She has received two Short Works Prizes, one for poetry and one for creative nonfiction, and the 2017 City of Hamilton Arts Award for Writing. In addition to writing, Ryan taught at McMaster University in the Continuing Education Writing Certificate Program from the 1990s to 2006. She also taught English as a second language at Mohawk College from 2006 to 2019, as well as various community workshops and events around the Greater Hamilton Area. Ryan has been involved in many local Hamilton arts organizations and activities, including hosting the Art Waves podcast series from 2008 to 2021 on the Mohawk College radio station (101.5FM). For the Art Waves program, Ryan interviewed artists, photographers, musicians, authors, and event organizers from the Greater Hamilton Area. Ryan was also an executive at the Hamilton Poetry Centre, and from 2018-2025, she served as president of the Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art (HAALSA).

Scope and content

The fonds consists of textual and audio records pertaining to Bernadette Ryan's literary career, academic teaching at McMaster University and Mohawk College, and work on the podcast series Art Waves (episodes 1-87).

Series groupings predominantly reflect the received order of records; any additional groupings were supplied by the processing archivist following functional analysis of Ryan's writing, community work, and teaching career.

Notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Materials were donated by Bernadette Rule in June 2024 (Accession 2024-018).

Arrangement

Fonds is arranged in four series and associated sub-series:

Series 1: Academic Teaching.

Series 2: Art Waves Radio.

Sub-series 2.1: Art Waves Textual Records.

Sub-series 2.2: Art Waves Radio Audio Files.

Series 3: Writing and Poetry.

Sub-series 3.1: Published Titles.

Sub-series 3.2: Unpublished Titles.

Sub-series 3.3: Journals.

Sub-series 3.4: Bookmark Ephemera.

Series 4: Events and Awards.

Restrictions on access

Access to Box 4, File 8; Box 5, Files 5 and 10; and Box 6, Files 3 and 6 is restricted until January 1, 2049.

Finding aids

[Finding Aid](<https://library.mcmaster.ca/finding-aid/bernadette-ryan>)

Accruals

First Accrual.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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Access points

- Literature and Writing (subject)