

# York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

## Finding Aid - Yvonne Vera fonds (F0697)

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Language of description: English

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# Yvonne Vera fonds

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## Table of contents

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Summary information .....	4
Administrative history / Biographical sketch .....	5
Scope and content .....	5
Arrangement .....	6
Notes .....	6
Access points .....	7
Collection holdings .....	7
2016-034, Accession 2016-034 (1971-2015, predominant 1985-2005) .....	7
2016-034/001(01), Notes from Sarah Kastner about the collection (2012-2015) .....	8
2016-034/001(02), Black Photo Album (1980-2005) .....	8
2016-034/001(03), Black Photo Album (1980-2005) .....	9
2016-034/001(04), Black Photo Album (1980-2005) .....	9
2016-034/001(05), Red Photo Album (1987) .....	10
2016-034/002(01), Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc (1982-2005) .....	10
2016-034/002(02), Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc (1982-2005) .....	11
2016-034/002(03), Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc (1982-2005) .....	12
2016-034/002(04), Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc (1982-2005) .....	12
2016-034/002(05), Yvonne : Scrapbook (1986-2005) .....	13
2016-034/003(01), Articles and reviews (1993-2006) .....	14
2016-034/003(02), Yvonne : Tributes and Obituaries (2005) .....	15
2016-034/003(03), Yvonne : Tributes and Obituaries (2005) .....	15
2016-034/004(01), Yvonne's Manuscripts ([199?]) .....	16
2016-034/004(02), Yvonne's Manuscripts ([199?]-1996) .....	17
2016-034/004(03), Yvonne's Manuscripts ([1994?]) .....	17
2016-034/005(01), Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne (1971-1992) .....	18
2016-034/005(02), Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne (1971-1992) .....	18
2016-034/005(03), Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne (1971-1992) .....	19
2016-034/005(04), Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne (1971-1992) .....	20
2016-034/006(01), Scrapbook Collage (1985-1993) .....	20
2016-034/006(02), Yvonne [Hilroy Scrapbook] (1976-2000) .....	21
2016-034/006(03), Taffy 1993 [Hilroy Scrapbook] (1993) .....	21
2016-034/006(04), Brown Photo Album (1985-1986) .....	22
2016-034/006(05), Brown Photo Album (1985-1986) .....	23
2016-034/007(01), Income tax returns (1989-2004) .....	23

## Yvonne Vera fonds

2016-034/007(02), Income tax returns (1989-2004) .....	24
2016-034/007(03), Yvonne [Green binder] (2004-2005) .....	24
2016-034/007(04), The Graphic (1995) .....	25
2016-034/007(05), Yvonne : “Writing as Technology in Isara and The Man Died” ([1991?]) .....	26
2016-034/007(06), Far from Home [Watercolour painting] (1994) .....	26
2016-034/007(07), Kastner interviews and Nigeria 70 documentary (2001-2012) .....	27
2016-034/008(01), Small stack of books (1980-2001) .....	27
2016-034/008(02), Small stack of books (1980-2001) .....	28
2016-034/008(03), The Writer and Human Rights : “Cooking Chameleons” (An Article) ([1995?]) .....	28
2016-034/008(04), Tapes and letters- white gift box (2005) .....	29
2016-034/008(05), Cruising the Zambezi (n.d.) .....	29
2016-034/008(06), Academic (1974-2004) .....	30
2016-034/008(07), Last year of life (Apr. 04- Apr. 05) in Canada (1974-2005) .....	31
2016-034/009(01), Obedience manuscript [USB and statement by Zailig Pollock] ([200-]-2010, predominant [200-]-2005 ) .....	31
2016-034/009(02), Obedience manuscript [print outs] ([200-] ) .....	32
2016-034/009(03), Obedience manuscript [print outs] ([200-] ) .....	32
2016-034/009(04), Obedience manuscript [print outs] ([200-] ) .....	33
2016-034/009(05), Obedience manuscript (2003-2004) .....	34
2016-034/010(01), Images of Women in Achebe [Yvonne Vera’s Master’s Thesis,bound] (1991) .....	34
2016-034/010(02), The Prison of Colonial Space : Narratives of Resistance [Yvonne Vera’s PhD dissertation,bound] (1995) .....	35
2016-034/010(03), Newspaper obituaries (2005) .....	35
2016-034/011(01), Yvonne Vera letters : [Mary Polito] (1995-2005) .....	36
2016-034/011(02), Yvonne Vera letters : [Mary Polito] (1995-2005) .....	36
2016-034/011(03), For Sarah Kastner/Vera archive from Mary Polito (1987-2012) .....	37

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

**Title:** Yvonne Vera fonds

**ID:** F0697

**Date:** 1971-2015, predominant 1985-2005 (date of creation)

**Language:** English

**Language:** French

**Language:** German

**Physical description:** 1 m of textual records  
ca. 800 photographs : b&w and col. ; 28 x 36 cm or smaller  
ca. 150 photographs : col. negatives ; 35 mm  
1 photograph : b&w tintype ; 18 x 13 cm  
1 film reel ; 8 mm  
1 computer disk  
1 watercolour painting : col. ; 21 x 30 cm  
1 compact disc  
2 audio cassettes  
2 videocassettes : VHS  
1 USB memory stick

**Note [generalNote]:**

CTASC acknowledges the initial work performed by Sarah Kastner who, as part of her MA program at Trent University (under the direction of Catherine Hobbs, Literary Archivist, Library and Archives Canada) prepared a detailed listing of the accession's contents and performed interviews that provide additional context. That preliminary inventory and additional documents are in file 2016-034/001(01), added by the archivist. Similar materials can also be found in file 2016-034/007(07), presumably added by Kastner. Copies of Vera's books have been catalogued separately within York University Libraries' Special Collections, and can be located using the online catalogue by performing a keyword search using the phrase, "Yvonne Vera fonds."

## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Yvonne Vera (1964-2005) was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. A prominent African writer of English fiction, Vera published five novels and a collection of short stories during her short career. Her award-winning works have been translated into several languages. Vera graduated from Hillside Teacher's College in 1984, and taught English literature at Njube High School. In 1987, she immigrated to Canada and married John Jose, a Canadian teacher whom she had met while he was teaching at Njube. Vera attended York University in Toronto, Canada, completing an Hons. BA (English) in 1990, an MA (English) in 1991, and a PhD (English) in 1995. While working on her PhD she taught literature courses at York and a summer creative writing course at Trent University in 1995. Vera's career as a fiction writer began in earnest while she was still a student at York: she wrote a collection of short stories, entitled "Why Don't You Carve Other Animals?", as well as the novels "Nehanda" (shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writer's Prize), "Without a Name" and "Under the Tongue." Her novel "Butterfly Burning" was awarded the German Literature Prize and chosen as one of Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th Century, both in 2002. "The Stone Virgins" was published in 2002, and was awarded the MacMillan Writers' Prize for Africa. She also edited "Opening Spaces: An Anthology of Contemporary Writing by African Women." Vera was a keynote speaker and participant at numerous national and international literary festivals.

In the late 1980s Vera was diagnosed HIV--positive, but did not disclose this publicly during her lifetime. Jose and Vera separated in 1995, and she moved back to Zimbabwe. In 1997, Vera became director of the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Bulawayo. She returned to Canada in 2004, accompanied by Jose, to seek treatment for her worsening condition. She continued to work on her novel "Obedience" during this time, and was awarded the Swedish PEN Tucholsky Prize in 2004. Vera passed away at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto on April 7, 2005.

Ericah Gwetai published her daughter's biography, "Petal Thoughts," in 2008 with Mambo Press in Zimbabwe. "Obedience," the novel Yvonne Vera was working on at the time of her death, remains unpublished.

### Custodial history

After her death in 2005, Vera's literary papers and other memorabilia were stored in loose order in a large bin kept at the home of her husband, John Jose, in Richmond Hill, Ontario. When Jose later sold his house, he left the bin with a mutual friend. Mary Polito, Vera's Literary Executor, acquired the materials from John Jose in 2010 and placed them on deposit with the Public Texts MA program (English) at Trent University where they remained until they were acquired by CTASC in 2016.

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## Scope and content

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Fonds consists of records pertaining to Yvonne Vera's activities as a prominent African writer of English fiction and as a student and teacher of English literature while in Canada. Records include finished copies, typescripts and drafts of published and unpublished works; copies of articles written by and about Vera;

personal and professional correspondence; personal memorabilia. Fonds includes a selection of books both by and belonging to Vera and a copy of the Vera biography, "Petal Thoughts," by Ericah Gwetai. The fonds consists of items created and accumulated together by Vera and Jose, as well as mementos brought from Zimbabwe by Vera.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Immediate source of acquisition

Accession 2016-034 was acquired from Ericah Gwetai and Tafadzwa Gwetai in 2016.

### Arrangement

The materials in accession 2016-034 was maintained in received order to coincide as much as possible with an inventory created by Trent University MA student Sarah Kastner (see General Note) and provide consistency for researchers who have already examined and cited materials from the fonds. Records were refoldered into archival boxes and folders for preservation purposes and given call numbers conforming to CTASC's system. Larger files were re-folded into smaller ones where necessary, and noted accordingly (file 1 of 3, and so on). When received at Trent, the materials were in various bags, binders and albums which were organized by Kastner into numbered files and boxes, detailed in her inventory. Colour photocopies of labels found on containers that previously housed the material, were created by the archivist and can be found at the beginning of the relevant file.

### Restrictions on access

Some access restrictions apply.

### Related material

Archival materials relating to Yvonne Vera can be found in the Charles R. Lawson collection at the Harry Ransom Centre, University of Texas <https://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00499> and at the National English Literary Museum in Grahamstown, South Africa.

### Accruals

The fonds comprises the following accessions: 2016-034. No further accruals are expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final

- **Conservation:** Records have been re-housed into appropriate archival containers and plastics were removed where possible. Fragile documents have been placed in clear archival sleeves and buffer sheets have been inserted surrounding acidic paper.

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## Access points

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- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Moving images (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)

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## Collection holdings

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### Accession: 2016-034 - Accession 2016-034

Title: Accession 2016-034

ID: 2016-034

Date: 1971-2015, predominant 1985-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Accession consists primarily of Vera's professional records, including finished copies, typescripts and drafts of published and unpublished works; copies of articles written by and about Vera; professional correspondence; royalty statements; and a scrapbook of clippings and literary ephemera related to early publications. Records also include some personal correspondence and memorabilia and John Jose's correspondence pertaining to Vera's passing. Accession includes a selection of books both by and belonging to Vera and also includes a copy of the Vera biography, "Petal Thoughts" by Ericah Gwetai.

Physical description: 1 m of textual records  
ca. 800 photographs : b&w and col. ; 28 x 36 cm or smaller  
ca. 150 photographs : col. negatives ; 35 mm  
1 photograph : b&w tintype ; 18 x 13 cm  
1 film reel ; 8 mm  
1 computer disk  
1 watercolour painting : col. ; 21 x 30 cm  
1 compact disc  
2 audio cassettes  
2 videocassettes : VHS  
1 USB memory stick

Language of the material:

English  
French  
German

Restrictions on access:

Some access restrictions apply.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
  - Graphic material (documentary form)
  - Moving images (documentary form)
  - Sound recording (documentary form)
  - Object (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/001(01) - Notes from Sarah Kastner about the collection**

Title: Notes from Sarah Kastner about the collection

ID: 2016-034/001(01)

Date: 2012-2015 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/001(02) - Black Photo Album**

Title: Black Photo Album

ID: 2016-034/001(02)

Date: 1980-2005 (date of creation)

Physical description: 133 photographs : b&w and col. ; 26 x 21 cm and smaller



0.1 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 1 of 3)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/001(03) - Black Photo Album**

Title: Black Photo Album

ID: 2016-034/001(03)

Date: 1980-2005 (date of creation)

Physical description: 128 photographs : col. ; 15 x 10 cm  
0.1 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 2 of 3)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

### **File: 2016-034/001(04) - Black Photo Album**

Title: Black Photo Album

ID: 2016-034/001(04)

Date: 1980-2005 (date of creation)

Physical description: 68 photographs : col. ; 31 x 21 cm and smaller  
116 photographs : col. negatives ; 35 mm  
0.1 cm of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 3 of 3)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

### **File: 2016-034/001(05) - Red Photo Album**

Title: Red Photo Album

ID: 2016-034/001(05)

Date: 1987 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains photographs from the red photo album containing wedding and honeymoon photographs.

Physical description: 133 photographs : col ; 13 x 13 and 15 x 10 cm

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/002(01) - Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc**

Title: Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc

ID: 2016-034/002(01)

Date: 1982-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a film reel "Just Married: YVJ # 1" and a micro floppy disk "Voni/Nehanda/Milk and Moon/Inside Out (John 2)"

Physical description: 1 film reel ; 8mm

1 computer diskette

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 1 of 4)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

## **File: 2016-034/002(02) - Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc**

Title: Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc

ID: 2016-034/002(02)

Date: 1982-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains various personal items including three Mead Memo books: "Some notes jotted down by Yvonne during her last year" and "Notes by and for Yvonne while at Sunnybrook Hospital, fall 2004" -- for further details about these notebooks please see interview with John Jose in file 2016-034/001(01). File also contains correspondence between Vera and Jose, including a hand-painted card by Vera; a ticket to a Harbourfront Reading Series event featuring Bruce Powe and Yvonne Vera; a recipe scrapbook and photographs.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

24 photographs : col. ; 13 x 13 cm and smaller

28 photographs : col. negatives ; 35 mm

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 2 of 4)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

**File: 2016-034/002(03) - Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc**

Title: Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc

ID: 2016-034/002(03)

Date: 1982-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains personal correspondence including letters, cards and postcards to and from friends and family as well some professional correspondence regarding literary events and a teaching opportunity. File also includes photos from Vera's graduation and wedding, as well as a large, b&w photograph of Vera posing with a hat.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

10 photographs : b&w and col. ; 19 x 23 cm and 15 x 10 cm

1 pressed flower

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 3 of 4)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

**File: 2016-034/002(04) - Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc**

Title: Personal letters, scrapbooks, etc

ID: 2016-034/002(04)

Date: 1982-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains various personal documents including Hillside Teachers' College Bulawayo honours ceremony programme and a journal named "Honeymoon/John and Voni 4-7-87". File also includes various photographs of Vera.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records  
20 photographs : col. ; 15 x 10 cm and smaller

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 4 of 4)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

### **File: 2016-034/002(05) - Yvonne : Scrapbook**

Title: Yvonne : Scrapbook

ID: 2016-034/002(05)

Date: 1986-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a scrapbook of items relating to publication of Vera's books and includes notes and correspondence, photocopies of reviews and interviews, literary ephemera relating to events such as book launches and literary prizes, book cover treatments, a photograph of "Why Don't You Carve Other Animals?" on a bookstore shelf, and some newspaper clippings.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records  
1 photograph : col. ; 10 x 15 cm

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

See 2016-034/001(01) for further details about the scrapbook which Jose describes in his interview with Kastner: "I think the black "Yvonne Vera Scrapbook" was my idea, but she was also very involved and excited when we started it. The success of the first books was the most exciting time, and we kept everything, then as time went on success became routine and notices more numerous and we grew less thorough. After my visit to Yvonne's Zimbabwe home in 1996, notices were less likely to come to my attention, so the collection is less complete. But this binder stayed with me throughout the years."

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

**File: 2016-034/003(01) - Articles and reviews**

Title: Articles and reviews

ID: 2016-034/003(01)

Date: 1993-2006 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains materials relating to Vera's writing career, such as copies of writing by and about Vera, including reviews and interviews, some correspondence, and an opinion piece regarding Vera's receipt of the PEN Tucholsky Prize. File also includes the Tucholsky Prize certificate as well as the prize receipt from the Embassy of Sweden and some ephemera, including the programme for the PEN reception attended by Vera and Jose where her win was acknowledged (described by Jose as "the last public engagement Yvonne was able to attend.") Other ephemera includes programmes for literary gatherings, performance tickets and a brochure from the Stockholm Tourist Board. Also in the file are two airmail envelopes addressed to John Jose from Vera's mother, Ericah Gwetai, containing copies of articles written by Vera, as well as an unpublished short story by Vera, "A Hospital Visit". File also includes some personal items including Vera's marriage certificate and death certificate.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/003(02) - Yvonne : Tributes and Obituaries**

Title: Yvonne : Tributes and Obituaries

ID: 2016-034/003(02)

Date: 2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains materials related to Vera's death in April 2005 and includes sympathy cards and letters of condolence received by Jose, correspondence and programme regarding a reading memorial to Vera and regarding memorial donations, the text for Jose's remarks at Vera's funeral, copies of newspaper articles, obituaries and tributes. The file also includes Jose's email correspondence with friends and family, discussing the decision to reveal Vera's HIV-positive status after her death.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

French

Note [generalNote]:

(file 1 of 2)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/003(03) - Yvonne : Tributes and Obituaries**

Title: Yvonne : Tributes and Obituaries

ID: 2016-034/003(03)

Date: 2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains materials related to Vera's death in April 2005 and includes letters of condolence received by Jose, the text for remarks and eulogies given at Vera's funeral, copies of newspaper articles, obituaries and tributes. The file also includes Jose's email correspondence with friends and family.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 2 of 2)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/004(01) - Yvonne's Manuscripts**

Title: Yvonne's Manuscripts

ID: 2016-034/004(01)

Date: [199?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains manuscript "Milk and Moon", described on label of envelope as the first draft. This work was later entitled "Under the Tongue".

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 1 of 3)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:



- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/004(02) - Yvonne's Manuscripts**

Title: Yvonne's Manuscripts

ID: 2016-034/004(02)

Date: [199?]-1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains manuscript "Bird of Bright Plumage". This work was later entitled "Nehanda". File also includes two envelopes containing letters to Vera from the Writers' Union of Canada.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 2 of 3)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/004(03) - Yvonne's Manuscripts**

Title: Yvonne's Manuscripts

ID: 2016-034/004(03)

Date: [1994?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains manuscript "Without a Name", described on label of envelope as the initial draft. File also includes a single sheet of paper: a folded and dated note by Vera.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 3 of 3)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/005(01) - Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne**

Title: Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne

ID: 2016-034/005(01)

Date: 1971-1992 (publication) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains photocopies of academic articles, described on envelope as “Yvonne: Articles on post-colonial Literature”.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 1 of 4)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/005(02) - Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne**

Title: Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne

ID: 2016-034/005(02)

Date: 1971-1992 (publication) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains table of contents, course description and photocopies of readings, some bearing Vera's holograph notes, for a York University course: English 6980, with Terry Goldie, September 1992. Described on envelope as "Articles on Postcolonial Literature".

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 2 of 4)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/005(03) - Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne**

Title: Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne

ID: 2016-034/005(03)

Date: 1971-1992 (publication) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains photocopies of chapters from academic textbooks on subjects such as African literature and the Black diaspora in Asia. There are holograph notes by Vera in places.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 3 of 4)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

**File: 2016-034/005(04) - Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne**

Title: Articles used in courses taught by Yvonne

ID: 2016-034/005(04)

Date: 1971-1992 (publication) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a spiral-bound photocopy of readings for a York University course: Humanities 1300: "The Culture of the Oppressed in the Americas", with Terry Goldie. File also includes a class list for English 6950 "Post-colonial theory" and photocopied readings.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 4 of 4)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/006(01) - Scrapbook Collage**

Title: Scrapbook Collage

ID: 2016-034/006(01)

Date: 1985-1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a scrapbook made by Vera, decorated with a collage cover constructed from magazine images. The scrapbook contains many personal items including tickets and advertisements for cultural events both in Canada and abroad, an invitation to Vera and Jose's wedding, mementoes from their honeymoon and other travels, special cards and invitations, certificates, illustrations, correspondence from family and friends, as well as letters from York University conveying the news of Vera's Summa Cum Laude designation as well as her place on the Dean's Honour Roll. File also includes newspaper clippings by and about Vera, a notebook, postcards and photographs.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

5 photographs : b&w and col. ; 25 x 18 cm and smaller

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

### **File: 2016-034/006(02) - Yvonne [Hilroy Scrapbook]**

Title: Yvonne [Hilroy Scrapbook]

ID: 2016-034/006(02)

Date: 1976-2000 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a Hilroy scrapbook with “Yvonne” written on the cover. The scrapbook contains a newspaper clipping about Bulawayo, clippings of articles by Vera, a newspaper article written by Vera’s mother, Erica Gwetai, and a letter to her. File also includes an invitation to an event at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair and to a school event, as well as a copy of “Exhibit: a national gallery magazine” containing a review by Terence Ranger of Vera’s Thatha Camera exhibit.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

See file 2016-034/008(01) for Thatha Camera exhibit catalogue.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/006(03) - Taffy 1993 [Hilroy Scrapbook]**

Title: Taffy 1993 [Hilroy Scrapbook]

ID: 2016-034/006(03)

Date: 1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a Hilroy scrapbook with “Taffy 1993” written on the cover. Scrapbook contains two letters from Vera’s brother Taffy to Jose.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/006(04) - Brown Photo Album**

Title: Brown Photo Album

ID: 2016-034/006(04)

Date: 1985-1986 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains Vera’s tourist photographs from the 1980s of trips to Italy, the U.S.A., Canada, the U.K., Zimbabwe and Zambia. The photographs were received in a brown photograph album.

Physical description: 137 photographs : col. ; 15 x 10 cm

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 1 of 2)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
-

**File: 2016-034/006(05) - Brown Photo Album**

Title: Brown Photo Album

ID: 2016-034/006(05)

Date: 1985-1986 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains Vera's tourist photographs from the 1980s of trips to Italy, the U.S.A., Canada, the U.K., Zimbabwe and Zambia. The photographs were received in a brown photograph album.

Physical description: 119 photographs : col. ; 10 x 15 cm and 9 x 13 cm  
1 photograph : b&w tintype ; 18 x 13 cm

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 2 of 2)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/007(01) - Income tax returns**

Title: Income tax returns

ID: 2016-034/007(01)

Date: 1989-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File includes tax returns, receipts, statements and other tax-related documents.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 1 of 2)

Restrictions on access:

File is closed until after the death of John Jose.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/007(02) - Income tax returns**

Title: Income tax returns

ID: 2016-034/007(02)

Date: 1989-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File includes tax returns, receipts, statements and other tax-related documents. File also includes some correspondence regarding publications of Vera's work.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 2 of 2)

Restrictions on access:

File is closed until after the death of John Jose.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/007(03) - Yvonne [Green binder]**

Title: Yvonne [Green binder]



ID: 2016-034/007(03)

Date: 2004-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File includes miscellaneous professional correspondence including discussion of opportunities such as professorial and writer-in-residence positions, speaking and writing invitations, correspondence with publishing houses, interview questions, copies of book reviews, and correspondence and announcements, including a draft acceptance speech, regarding the Tucholsky prize. The file also includes some personal correspondence pertaining to Vera's health, as well as to her reasons for planning to leave Zimbabwe in 2003.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

## **File: 2016-034/007(04) - The Graphic**

Title: The Graphic

ID: 2016-034/007(04)

Date: 1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains correspondence and documents regarding prospective publication of Vera's article "Pavements, Prisons, Texts: The Colonial Production of Space and African Literary Invention" in the journal "Research in African Literatures" and includes a copy of the essay (with holograph notes) and copies of research materials. File also includes Paul Simon's "Graceland" record sleeve, folded.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/007(05) - Yvonne : “Writing as Technology in Isara and The Man Died”**

Title: Yvonne : “Writing as Technology in Isara and The Man Died”

ID: 2016-034/007(05)

Date: [1991?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains an essay.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/007(06) - Far from Home [Watercolour painting]**

Title: Far from Home [Watercolour painting]

ID: 2016-034/007(06)

Date: 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains unmounted watercolour painting by Manzini Moyo.

Physical description: 1 watercolour painting : col. ; 21 x 30 cm

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/007(07) - Kastner interviews and Nigeria 70 documentary**

Title: Kastner interviews and Nigeria 70 documentary

ID: 2016-034/007(07)

Date: 2001-2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains copies of Sarah Kastner's interviews with Mary Polito, friend and literary executor of Vera, and with Vera's husband, John Jose. File also contains a CD marked "Nigeria 70 : documentary".

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records  
1 compact disc

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

**File: 2016-034/008(01) - Small stack of books**

Title: Small stack of books

ID: 2016-034/008(01)

Date: 1980-2001 (publication) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains copies of two journals containing articles by or about Vera; a book, "The Soapstone Birds of Great Zimbabwe"; and a catalogue from the National Art Gallery in Bulawayo's "Thatha Camera" exhibition, with text by Vera.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 1 of 2)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/008(02) - Small stack of books**

Title: Small stack of books

ID: 2016-034/008(02)

Date: 1980-2001 (publication) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a copy of “Du” magazine, containing two articles by Vera.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

German

Note [generalNote]:

(file 2 of 2)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/008(03) - The Writer and Human Rights : “Cooking Chameleons” (An Article)**

Title: The Writer and Human Rights : “Cooking Chameleons” (An Article)

ID: 2016-034/008(03)

Date: [1995?] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains typescript of keynote address for the 1995 Zimbabwe International Book Fair.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/008(04) - Tapes and letters- white gift box**

Title: Tapes and letters- white gift box

ID: 2016-034/008(04)

Date: 2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a white box, which contained sympathy cards, letters and memorial donation notifications received by Jose after Vera's death, as well as two audio cassettes, and photographs of Terence Ranger and others at Jose's cottage at the scattering of Vera's ashes.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

2 audio cassettes

1 box

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
  - Sound recording (documentary form)
  - Object (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/008(05) - Cruising the Zambezi**

Title: Cruising the Zambezi

ID: 2016-034/008(05)

Date: n.d. (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains typescript of a piece of writing by Vera, with some pencil notes.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/008(06) - Academic**

Title: Academic

ID: 2016-034/008(06)

Date: 1974-2004 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains school reports, college certificate and ceremony programme, York University transcripts and an oversized composite photograph of Graduates of Founders College, York University 1990. File also includes royalty statements from TSAR publications.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

1 photograph ; col. ; 28 x 36 cm

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

For access, conservation, and or storage reasons, the oversized photograph has been removed to 2016-034/006.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

**File: 2016-034/008(07) - Last year of life (Apr. 04- Apr. 05) in Canada**

Title: Last year of life (Apr. 04- Apr. 05) in Canada

ID: 2016-034/008(07)

Date: 1974-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains various items of Vera's Canadian identification including passport, certificate of Canadian citizenship and a library card. File also contains health-related materials, including correspondence regarding Vera's inability to travel and plans for her mother to visit in 2005. File includes other personal information such as a marriage service and certificate, personal banking information, York University transcripts and correspondence and other materials connected with Vera's teaching at York. Also included are photos from what appears to be the Thatha Camera exhibit launch in Bulaweyo.

Physical description: I folder of textual records

2 photo ID cards, 1 passport

4 photographs : col. ; 6 x 8 cm

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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

**File: 2016-034/009(01) - Obedience manuscript [USB and statement by Zailig Pollock]**

Title: Obedience manuscript [USB and statement by Zailig Pollock]

ID: 2016-034/009(01)

Date: [200-]-2010, predominant [200-]-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains USB memory stick containing Vera's unpublished novel, "Obedience", as well as a signed statement referring to the printouts of the manuscript contained in the file.

Physical description: 1 page of textual records

1 USB

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
  - Object (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/009(02) - Obedience manuscript [print outs]**

Title: Obedience manuscript [print outs]

ID: 2016-034/009(02)

Date: [200-] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains print outs of Vera's unpublished manuscript, "Obedience".

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 1 of 3)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/009(03) - Obedience manuscript [print outs]**



Title: Obedience manuscript [print outs]

ID: 2016-034/009(03)

Date: [200-] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains print outs of Vera's unpublished manuscript, "Obedience".

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 2 of 3)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/009(04) - Obedience manuscript [print outs]**

Title: Obedience manuscript [print outs]

ID: 2016-034/009(04)

Date: [200-] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains print outs of Vera's unpublished manuscript, "Obedience". File also includes a copy of Vera's curriculum vitae.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

(file 3 of 3)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/009(05) - Obedience manuscript**Title: Obedience manuscriptID: 2016-034/009(05)Date: 2003-2004 (date of creation)Scope and content:

File contains contents of white envelope marked “Obedience”, including an older draft manuscript of the novel containing many holograph notes. File also contains pages of notes, readers’ reports and Vera’s correspondence with readers, friends and publishers regarding “Obedience”.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual recordsLanguage of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/010(01) - Images of Women in Achebe [Yvonne Vera’s Master’s Thesis,bound]**Title: Images of Women in Achebe [Yvonne Vera’s Master’s Thesis,bound]ID: 2016-034/010(01)Date: 1991 (date of creation)Scope and content:

File contains a bound copy of Vera’s Master’s thesis. File also includes York University Spring Convocation 1991 programme containing holograph notes.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual recordsLanguage of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/010(02) - The Prison of Colonial Space : Narratives of Resistance [Yvonne Vera's PhD dissertation,bound]**

Title: The Prison of Colonial Space : Narratives of Resistance [Yvonne Vera's PhD dissertation,bound]

ID: 2016-034/010(02)

Date: 1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a bound copy of Vera's PhD dissertation. File also includes a letter accepting Vera's PhD proposal and the York University Spring Convocation 1990 programme.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/010(03) - Newspaper obituaries**

Title: Newspaper obituaries

ID: 2016-034/010(03)

Date: 2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains two original copies of Vera's obituary in The Toronto Star's Lifelines column, May 23, 2005.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/011(01) - Yvonne Vera letters : [Mary Polito]**

Title: Yvonne Vera letters : [Mary Polito]

ID: 2016-034/011(01)

Date: 1995-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains correspondence between Yvonne Vera and her friend and literary executor Mary Polito. File includes letters, emails, cards and postcards and also some photocopies of news clippings about Vera and writing by Vera.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

Sarah Kastner's file folder describes this as the Mary Polito fonds, since the materials were accumulated by Polito in the course of her friendship with Vera. To assist researchers they have been included as part of the Yvonne Vera fonds.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- 

**File: 2016-034/011(02) - Yvonne Vera letters : [Mary Polito]**

Title: Yvonne Vera letters : [Mary Polito]

ID: 2016-034/011(02)

Date: 1995-2005 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains a VHS tape entitled “Yvonne”

Physical description: 1 videocassette : VHS

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

Sarah Kastner’s file folder describes this as the Mary Polito fonds, since the materials were accumulated by Polito in the course of her friendship with Vera. To assist researchers they have been included as part of the Yvonne Vera fonds.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Moving images (documentary form)
- 

### **File: 2016-034/011(03) - For Sarah Kastner/Vera archive from Mary Polito**

Title: For Sarah Kastner/Vera archive from Mary Polito

ID: 2016-034/011(03)

Date: 1987-2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

File contains items gathered by John Jose and Mary Polito for inclusion in the Yvonne Vera fonds after Vera’s death. File includes correspondence, photographs and a VHS tape marked, “March 1994, Doris Lessing (Yvonne)”.

Physical description: 1 folder of textual records

1 videocassette : VHS

3 photographs : col. ; 15 x 10 cm and smaller

Language of the material:

English

Note [generalNote]:

For access, conservation and/or storage reasons, the book “Petal Thoughts: Yvonne Vera – a Biography” by Vera’s mother, Ericah Gwetai, published by Mambo Press, Zimbabwe, 2008 has been separated for cataloguing by Special Collections.

Sarah Kastner's file folder describes this as the Mary Polito fonds, since the materials were accumulated by Polito in the course of her friendship with Vera. To assist researchers they have been included as part of the Yvonne Vera fonds.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

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