

| | |
|--|--|
| Reference Number | 2018.0054 |
| Collection/Series Title | CONTROL RECORDS |
| Creator | Greer, Professor Germaine |
| Creator's Activity/Occupation | Producer - Journalists - Academics - English - Feminists - Authors |
| Creator's Historical Note | |
| <p>Germaine Greer, author, journalist, broadcaster, feminist and conservationist was born in Melbourne, Australia on January 29, 1939. She was educated at Star of the Sea College, Gardenvale, studied English and French literature and language at the University of Melbourne, (BA Hons) and graduated MA (Hons I) from the University of Sydney with a thesis on Byron's satiric verse, and was a Senior Tutor in English (1963-1964). Greer earned a PhD from the University of Cambridge on Shakespeare's Early Comedies and was appointed Lecturer at the University of Warwick (1967-1972). Greer was one of the first women appointed full members of Cambridge University Footlights Dramatic Club and subsequently played roles in comedies for television, with regular appearances on radio and television continuing throughout her career. A contributor and editor for the underground press Oz and Suck magazines, Greer was also a gardening columnist 'Rose Blight' for Private Eye in the late 1960s and 1970s. Greer has written widely throughout her career for the mainstream press as a journalist, columnist and reviewer.</p> <p>In 1970 Greer published <i>The Female Eunuch</i>, which explored the limitations on women's lives and selves in the wider context of the liberation movements of that time. It created a shock wave of recognition in women around the world, became an international bestseller and a landmark in the history of the women's movement and was reprinted and widely translated. This launched Greer's career as an author and was followed by a series of popular and academic books including: <i>The Obstacle Race: The Fortunes of Women Painters and their Work</i> 1979, <i>Sex and Destiny: The Politics of Human Fertility</i> 1984, <i>Shakespeare</i> 1986, <i>The Madwoman's Underclothes</i> selected journalism 1964-1985 1986, <i>Kissing the Rod: An Anthology of Seventeenth Century Women's Verse</i> (coedited with Susan Hastings, Jeslyn Medoff and Melinda Sansone) 1988, <i>Daddy we hardly knew you</i> 1989, <i>The Uncollected Verse of Aphra Behn</i> (Ed.) 1989, <i>The Change: Women Ageing and the Menopause</i> 1991, <i>The Collected Works of Katherine Philips: The Matchless Orinda</i> (vol. III The Translations) with Dr Ruth Little 1993, <i>Slip-Shod Sibyls: Recognition Rejection and the Women Poet</i> 1995, <i>The Surviving Works of Anne Wharton</i> (edited with Susan Hastings) 1997, <i>The Whole Woman</i> 1999, <i>John Wilmot Earl of Rochester</i> 1999, <i>101 Poems by 101 Women</i> (ed.) 2001, <i>The Boy</i> (2003), <i>Poems for Gardeners</i> (ed.) 2003, <i>Whitefella Jump Up: The Shortest Way to Nationhood</i> (Quarterly Essay) 2003-2004, <i>Shakespeare's Wife</i> 2007, <i>On Rage</i> 2008, and <i>White Beech</i> 2013. Greer is in addition the publisher of several volumes of seventeenth century women's writing under the imprint Stump Cross Books.</p> <p>Greer taught at the Universities of Tulsa (1979-1983) and Warwick (c. 1989-2003). She is the president of the invertebrate charity Buglife and the founder of Friends of Gondwana Rainforest charity which manages the Cave Creek Rainforest Redhabilitation Scheme in Southern Queensland. In 2013 Greer sold her archive to the University of Melbourne, with proceeds to benefit Friends of Gondwana. Greer is the recipient of numerous scholarships, honours and awards.</p> <p>Source: Who's Who in Australia.</p> | |
| Date Range of Collection/Series | 1996-2018 |
| Size/Extent | 1 unit (0.17m) |

Access Conditions

Access: Restricted

Scope and Content of Series

This series contains lists, inventories and control records relating to the Germaine Greer archive compiled by various individuals from 1996 to 2014. The series is artificial in the sense that none of these records were collocated and were created by various parties, including archivists at University of Melbourne Archives (UMA). These documents trace the growth of the archive over time and the ways in which different individuals have understood and approached elements of it. Attempts to describe and quantify the Greer Archive are also intrinsically linked with the sale and transfer of custody of the archive. Control records created by Greer and staff were created to market the Archive to prospective buyers and assess gaps in the collection. The work of UMA archivists following the Archive's sale and transfer focused on describing the contents of the archive to support access for researchers.

It appears that Greer first made a concerted effort to sell the archive in the mid 1990s. In 1996 Anne Scott (partner of friend and colleague Jonathan Scott) was employed by Greer to document the amount of correspondence in the archive. In each correspondence file documents were categorised and counted by year, format and whether a reply was sent. This project filled four large notebooks with tally marks. In 2009 it appears that the work was recommenced. This project was obviously not undertaken to improve access or searchability for this part of the archive. The names of files are documented and the quantity of contents, however little attention is given to the identity of correspondents (except where significant), the dates of correspondence or the matters discussed. The final figure of Scott's tally was 20404 items of correspondence, a figure which is alluded to in a document titled The Greer Archive located in Major Works 2014.0045.00603. Here, Greer notes 'The archive is useful not only as a guide to feminist thought, but, because of the 20,000 letters etc. from the general public, to the evolution of social attitudes in the latter half of the century'.

Greer created her own inventory of the archive in 1997, incorporating some of the work from the above project. This inventory is arranged by year, then physical location or drawer. Drawers are labelled Author drawer (now 2014.00444 Early Years Academic, Performance, Writing And Personal Papers and 2014.0045 Major Works), Academic drawer (also 2014.00444 Early Years Academic, Performance, Writing And Personal Papers and 2014.0045 Major Works), Journalism drawer (now 2014.0046 Print Journalism), Television drawer (now 2017.0002 Television) Correspondence drawer (now 2014.0042 General Correspondence), Radio drawer (now 2017.0011 Radio), Speaking drawer (2017.0009 Speaking). This catalogue only refers to parts of the archive and does not include digital media, audio visual media and photographs and only mentions highlights from the General Correspondence series. This inventory was valuable in UMA's efforts to catalogue the archive as it contains details about the contents of the archive known only to the creator, for example dates of documents or the identity of editors who had hand emended texts. Where possible this information has been included in the finding aids created by UMA.

The audio-visual component of the archive is documented in Melissa Osbourne's inventory. This list was compiled as part of a project in 2012 to create a comprehensive collection of Greer's film and television appearances. It's worth noting this project was a proactive attempt by Greer to add material to the archive. Correspondence is spread throughout 2017.0002 Television and other series relating to Osbourne's efforts to acquire recordings from television production companies. It is heavily annotated with additions, notes regarding production company details or the whereabouts of recordings. Information from this inventory such as program titles, recording dates and numeric identifiers have been incorporated into the finding aids for 2017.0002 Television and 2014.0041 Third Party Audiovisual Recordings.

When the archive was acquired by University of Melbourne Archives in 2014 it was appraised and packed by University Archivist Katrina Dean. Katrina compiled a box level list in the order of packing with brief notes on items of interest and access restrictions. As such it provides useful insight into the physical arrangement of the Archive prior to its transfer to UMA. This list was used by researchers in combination with Greer's 1997 inventory prior to the Archive being catalogued at item level.

Initial item level cataloguing of the Greer Archive was undertaken by volunteers beginning with the series' 2014.0039 Research and Reference Card Indexes and 2014.0042 General Correspondence. Katrina Dean made

2018.0054 CONTROL RECORDS 1996-2018

the decision to use Library of Congress subject headings to help cataloguers use standard terms for recurring subjects within the General Correspondence series. Volunteer Tanya Harrison suggested the creation of a thesaurus to track commonly used subject headings. As cataloguing progressed to further series and the Greer Archive project team grew to include Lachlan Glanville, Sarah Brown, Millie Weber and Kate Hodgetts in addition to Curator Rachel Buchanan, the use of subject headings was adopted across the Greer archive and the thesaurus became a collaborative document encompassing discussion and disambiguation of suitable terms, general style notes and gaps in the LCSH vocabulary to be filled by non-standard terms. It is included here in the hope that it will aid researchers to navigate across the Archive and identify potential areas of interest.

The University of Melbourne Archives
Records Description List

2018.0054 CONTROL RECORDS 1996-2018

| Item Number | Unit/Box | Title | Date | Description |
|-----------------|------------------|---|-----------|---|
| 2018.0054.00001 | | Catalogue of works of Germaine Greer by the author, including selected correspondence 1957-1997 | 1997 | This list was created by Greer to document the extent of her personal archive and market it to institutions interested in purchasing it. It lists the contents of the archive by year and then physical location (drawer). Greer has exhaustively listed many document by date, format, number of pages and distinguishing features, for example hand emendations or the manner of response. |
| 2018.0054.00002 | | [Box list of Germaine Greer Archive prepared by Katrina Dean] | 2014 | This list was created by University Archivist Katrina Dean as an initial control for the Greer Archive and facilitated access to the collection prior to the subsequent processing undertaken by the Greer project team from 2014 to 2018. It documents the Archive in the order in which it was packed, providing useful insight into the physical arrangement of the Archive prior to its transfer to University of Melbourne Archives. Note that unit and control numbers from this list should not be used in requests for material from the Greer Archive. |
| 2018.0054.00003 | 2018.0054 Unit 1 | [Audiovisual inventory] | 2012 | This inventory lists film and television appearances by Greer between 1967 and 2014. Programs are listed by date, production company and Greer's role in the production. A numeric identifier has also been assigned to each program, which has been incorporated into the finding aid for 2017.0002 Television. This list was compiled by Melissa Osbourne as part of a project to add recordings of Greer's film and television appearances to the Greer archive. Entries are colour coded to indicate whether recordings were able to be procured for the Archive. |
| 2018.0054.00004 | 2018.0054 Unit 1 | [Partial index to correspondence A - EU] | 1996-2009 | This and the subsequent 3 notebooks contain tallies of correspondence in the General Correspondence series. Correspondence is counted by year and broken into the categories of Answer, GG typescript, GG holograph, GG postcard, GG printout, Dictated and Email. This work was first undertaken by Anne Scott in 1996, the results which were compiled into a report now located in General Correspondence 2014.0042.00767. Counting appears to have recommenced in 2009, possibly by Greer herself, though as yet no compiled report has been located. |

The University of Melbourne Archives
Records Description List

2018.0054 CONTROL RECORDS 1996-2018

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|-----------|---|
| 2018.0054.00005 | 2018.0054 Unit 1 | [Partial index to correspondence EMA - KIA] | 1996-2009 | See scope and content note 2018.0054.00004 |
| 2018.0054.00006 | 2018.0054 Unit 1 | [Partial index to correspondence Susanna La Macchia - Jackie Shemesh] | 1996-2009 | See scope and content note 2018.0054.00004 |
| 2018.0054.00007 | 2018.0054 Unit 1 | [Partial index to correspondence Bobbi Sykes - Z] | 1996-2009 | See scope and content note 2018.0054.00004 |
| 2018.0054.00008 | | Thesaurus | 2016-2018 | This document was first established as a Microsoft Word document by volunteer cataloguers at University of Melbourne Archives working on the series 2014.0042 General Correspondence in order to establish standard terms for common subjects in the Greer Archive. It was later moved to a OneNote notebook to allow multiple archivists to contribute to it at once. Terms are divided into two sections: Library of Congress Subject Headings, and Other Subject Headings (non LCSH). This list is by no means comprehensive, but gives an overview of the more frequent terms used by the archivists in the cataloguing of the Greer archive. Notes and discussion around style and general principles are also included. |