



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus

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# The Pocket Desert fonds

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Last revised 2022

OSC ARC 13

University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus Library

Okanagan Special Collections – Archives

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# Fonds description

**The Pocket Desert fonds.** – 1993-1996.

8cm of textual records

5 compact audio cassettes

1 photograph

Biographical sketches

Dr. Jeannette Armstrong (b.1948) was born and grew up on the Penticton Indian Reserve. In 1978 she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria in creative writing, and in 2009 she earned a Ph.D in Indigenous Environmental Ethics from the University of Greifswald in Germany. She is a Syilx elder, a fluent speaker of Nsyilxcn, as well as an author and professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus. She is a member of the Board of Directors of En'owkin Centre.

Dr. Geoffrey Scudder (b. 1934) was born at Fawkham, Kent, UK. In 1955 he earned an undergraduate degree with First Class Honours from the University of Wales at Aberystwith, and in 1958 he earned his doctorate in entomology from Oxford University. His postgraduate career was at the University of British Columbia, Department of Zoology from 1958 until his retirement in 1999. He is a founding member of the Osoyoos Desert Society and a member of the Science Committee of the Okanagan – Similkameen Conservation Program.

Gayle Cornish (née Mint, b. 1943) was born in Grande Prairie, Alberta. She and her family moved to Osoyoos, in the Okanagan Valley, in 1949 and she spent much of her childhood there. In 1967, she earned a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia following which she taught, and then had a brief stint with the National Film Board and did freelance work with the CBC.

Custodial history

The fonds was donated by Gayle Cornish in March, 2020. Accruals were received in May and June of 2022.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of documents and records that would go on to compose The Pocket Desert radio documentary, which aired on CBC Radio's Ideas, produced by Gayle Cornish, and co-created by Dr. Jeannette Armstrong and Dr. Geoffrey Scudder. The documentary concerns the unique desert climate and ecology in and around Osoyoos, British Columbia, and the significance of the land to Syilx Okanagan people. The fonds is organized into two series: 13.1 Production Files and 13.2 Broadcast Files.

Notes

Restrictions on access

Some records containing personal information are restricted pending the completion of a research agreement.

Rights

The digital recording of the final aired documentary is under copyright with all reproduction rights reserved by the rights holder.



Finding aids

Series descriptions available.

General note

Sources

Armstrong, Jeannette Christine. (2009). Constructing Indigeneity: Syilx Okanagan Oraliture and tmix<sup>w</sup>centrism. [Doctoral dissertation, Universität Greifswald]. <https://d-nb.info/1027188737/34>

Cannings, Robert A. (2006). "Geoffrey G.E. Scudder: zoologist, conservationist, educator." Entomological Society of Canada. [https://www.zoology.ubc.ca/entomology/about/files/Cannings\\_-\\_scudder\\_article.pdf](https://www.zoology.ubc.ca/entomology/about/files/Cannings_-_scudder_article.pdf)

Department of Community, Culture and Global Studies. (n.d.). "Jeannette Armstrong Associate Professor." Irving K. Barber Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of British Columbia – Okanagan Campus. Retrieved 2021 11 10. <https://ccgs.ok.ubc.ca/about/contact/jeannette-armstrong/>

En'owkin Centre. (n.d.) "Governance." En'owkin Centre – Okanagan Indian Educational Resources Society. Retrieved 2021 11 10. <https://enowkincentre.ca/governance.html>



## Series descriptions

OSC ARC 13.1: The Pocket Desert Production Files. – 1991-1996.

8cm of textual records

5 compact audio cassettes

1 photograph

### Scope and content

Series consists of recorded interviews and supporting documentation. Sound recordings feature interviews with experts, including Dr. Jeanette Armstrong, and Dr. Geoffrey Scudder. Further contributors are Elder Delphine Derickson of the Westbank First Nation and Herman Edward of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band. Production notes from 1993-2007 are also included. The textual documents contain articles relating to the creation of a documentary, interview notes and correspondence between producers. Also included are newspaper clippings pertaining to the geography and ecology in the Osoyoos and South Okanagan area. Brochures advertising Ideas on CBC Radio include a programming schedule as well as brief description of “The Pocket Desert.”

### Notes

#### Finding aids

File list available.

Item list available.

OSC ARC 13.2: The Pocket Desert Broadcast Files. – 1995.

1 digital audio recording

### Scope and content

Series consists of the final broadcast version of the Pocket Desert documentary on CBC Radio’s Ideas.

### Notes

#### Finding aids

Item list available.



# File list

## BOX 1

File	Title and Description	Series
01-001	<b>[The Pocket Desert Production Notes]. - 1994.</b> File contains typed and handwritten notes, articles, letters and newspaper clippings as well as two brochures.	<b>PRODUCTION</b>
01-002	<b>[CBC Negotiations]. - 1993.</b> File contains contract cover letter and episode description. CBC guide to preparing proposals, contract, commission letter, sample letter of understanding, and ACTRA correspondence.	<b>PRODUCTION</b>
01-003	<b>Gayle Cornish Pocket Desert Documentary. - 1993.</b> File contains handwritten notes in a spiral-bound notebook. Contains interview lists and contact details. <b>RESTRICTED: REQUIRES RESEARCH AGREEMENT</b>	<b>PRODUCTION</b>
01-004	<b>Pocket Desert Documentary Gayle Cornish. - 1992-1993.</b> File contains research resources (photocopied) and research notes in orange duo-tang report cover.	<b>PRODUCTION</b>
01-005	<b>CBC Doc Notes. - [1993].</b> File contains production research and notes in yellow duo-tang report cover. Contains interview lists and contact details. <b>RESTRICTED: REQUIRES RESEARCH AGREEMENT</b>	<b>PRODUCTION</b>
01-006	<b>[Research]. - ca. 1991.</b> File contains background research resources, including "Summary Osoyoos Lake: Water Quality Study 1991" with annotations.	<b>PRODUCTION</b>
01-007	<b>Working drafts and final script. – ca. 1994.</b> File contains typescript and handwritten notes, with timestamped SFX notes. Includes resources package from a CBC radio features documentary workshop.	<b>PRODUCTION</b>
01-008	<b>Interviews and random conversations. – ca. 1994.</b> File contains handwritten notes and typescript proposals and summaries.	<b>PRODUCTION</b>
01-009	<b>Random notes / research   Lists of resource people</b> File contains handwritten notes, newspaper clippings, and some pamphlets.	<b>PRODUCTION</b>



# Item list

## AUDIO CASSETTES

Control no. and Title	Location(s)	Series	Extent
<b>OSC ARC 13.1/SR001</b> Pocket Desert Dr. Geoff Scudder + Gayle Cornish July '94 Geoff's interview on 1 side. Parts on whaler? Documentary on other side. (1994). Digitized 2021.	Audio Cassette Box 17	<b>PRODUCTION</b>	1 cassette
<b>OSC ARC 13.1/SR002</b> Johnny Stelkia. (1993). Digitized 2021.	Audio Cassette Box 17	<b>PRODUCTION</b>	1 cassette
<b>OSC ARC 13.1/SR003</b> (ITKAN) (Pocket Desert) Lily Armstrong PIB (1994). Note on the back of the cassette tape reads: "3 episodes, Lily Armstrong 1) Legend of 'White Weasel' in Okanagan [?] 2) Delphine Derickson making 'Indian Ice Cream' with Lily 3) Jeanette Armstrong translates legend and discuss place names." Digitized 2021.	Audio Cassette Box 17	<b>PRODUCTION</b>	1 cassette
<b>OSC ARC 13.1/SR004</b> IDEAS Pocket Desert (1994). Note on the cassette reads: reads: "1) Lily Armstrong relates the legend of 'White Weasel' in sylix language 2) Lily + Delphine make 'Indian Ice Cream' [?] berries I picked with Johnny Stelkia 3) Jeanette translates + we discuss place names (ie) desert." Digitized 2021.	Audio Cassette Box 17	<b>PRODUCTION</b>	1 cassette
<b>OSC ARC 13.1/SR005</b> G. Cornish Pocket Desert ([1994]). Note on the back of cassette reads: "Pocket Desert 36' 1st Draft of Master – Interview clips only needs sounds, music, ACTUALITY SCRIPT." Digitized 2021.	Audio Cassette Box 17	<b>PRODUCTION</b>	1 cassette



## PHOTOGRAPHS

Control no. and Title	Location(s)	Series	Extent
<b>OSC ARC 13.1/P00001</b> Herman Solivards – Hand Carved Flute – Similkameen Band (1994).	RP BOX 37	<b>PRODUCTION</b>	1 photograph

## DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDINGS

Control no. and Title	Location(s)	Series	Extent
<b>OSC_ARC_13-2_SR001</b> The Pocket Desert – Ideas CBC Radio One [full documentary episode]. (1994). Copied to optical disc 2007, digitized 2021.	Digital Assets	<b>BROADCAST</b>	1 file





# Catalogue record

**Title:** The Pocket Desert fonds

**Author/Creator:** Cornish, Gayle

**Published/Created:** 1993-1996.

**Permalink:** <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=11947039>

**Location:** OKANAGAN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS archives

**Call Number:** OSC-ARC-13

**Number of Items:** 6

**Status:** Available

**Subject(s):** Armstrong, Jeannette C.  
Scudder, Geoffrey

**Description:** 8 cm. of textual records  
5 cassettes  
1 photograph

**Terms governing use:** The digital recording of the final aired documentary is under copyright with all reproduction rights reserved by the rights holder.

**Summary:** The fonds consists of documents and records that would go on to compose The Pocket Desert radio documentary, which aired on CBC Radio's Ideas, produced by Gayle Cornish, and co-created by Dr. Jeannette Armstrong and Dr. Geoffrey Scudder. The documentary concerns the unique desert climate and ecology in and around Osoyoos, British Columbia, and the significance of the land to Syilx Okanagan people. The fonds is organized into two series: 13.1 Production Files and 13.2 Broadcast Files.

**Biography/history note:** Gayle Cornish (née Mint, b. 1943) was born in Grande Prairie, Alberta. She and her family moved to Osoyoos, in the Okanagan Valley, in 1949 and she spent much of her childhood there. In 1967, she earned a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia following which she taught, and then had a brief stint with the National Film Board and did freelance work with the CBC.

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**Indexes and finding aids:** Online inventory available.  
File and item list available.

**Notes:** Title based on the content of the fonds.



# Document control

Date	Revision	Issued for
20210809	A	1 <sup>st</sup> draft. (AN)
20210911	0	Completed. (PH)
20211018	0A	RAD compliance. (LC)
20211110	1	Final arrangement. (PH)
20220610	1A	Reflecting accrual 2022-05. (PH)
20220614	1B	Style formats. (LC)
20220615	1C	Reflecting accrual 2022-11. (PH) Style edits. (LC)
20220615	2	Use. (PH)

