Theytus Books: An Exhibition

UBC Okanagan Library
Special Collections and Archives
The Commons | COM 004

Spring 2023

Prepared by
UBC Okanagan Library Special Collections and Archives
The University of British Columbia - Okanagan Campus
Kelowna, BC
Spring 2023
Contents
Interpreting the exhibition ................................................................. 3
Celebrating Theytus Books at UBC Okanagan Library ......................... 4
Acknowledgements ........................................................................ 6
A note on language ........................................................................ 7
Theytus Books on display: Around the loop, exhibits 1-108 ............... 8
Cases 1-3 Gatherings (1990 – ) ......................................................... 8
Cases 4-5 Early releases .................................................................. 12
Cases 6-8 Works for children .............................................................. 14
Case 9 Okanagan Women’s Voices .................................................... 17
Cases 10-12 The works of Dr. Jeannette Armstrong ....................... 18
Case 15 Kou-Skelowh = We Are The People series ......................... 22
Case 18 Literary Scholarship ............................................................ 24
Cases 19-20 Poetry, Prose, and Drama ............................................. 25
Cases 21-22 Law and Rights .............................................................. 26
Cases 23-24 Effects of colonization .................................................. 27
Theytus Books on display: Facing Fitz Hall ...................................... 29
Exterior cases, top to bottom ......................................................... 29
Interior cases, top to bottom ........................................................... 29
Okanagan Special Collections and Archives ..................................... 33
Notes and sources ........................................................................ 33
Interpreting the exhibition

This exhibition of Theytus Books was proposed to open as part of Heritage Week, starting February 15, 2023. The exhibition will be available to the public from opening and throughout the entire month of March.

For Heritage Week, UBC Okanagan Library constructed a model of a walking tour within the Commons and the Library building. The stations on this walking tour map to various places in the Okanagan – though not to scale. Theytus Books represents Penticton on this tour, and its presence provides a window into publishing history and heritage in the Okanagan, and in Canada. The Theytus Books exhibition is the final and most comprehensive station on this walking tour.

The exhibition is staged in the Okanagan Special Collections Corbishley Family Reading Room, located on the lower floor of the Commons adjacent to the D. Ross Fitzpatrick Great Hall. From the Hall, highlights of the exhibition can be seen in our glass display cases. Students, faculty, and all members of the larger community are invited to enter the reading room to see a more detailed “loop” of exhibits featuring the striking visuals and compelling texts put forth by Theytus Books.

These Theytus Books publications, along with all of the items in Okanagan Special Collections, can be requested, handled, and experienced in our reading room. Please ask to see any item you see on display, or any item you find in our catalogue, and one of our members of staff will be happy to assist.
Celebrating Theytus Books at UBC Okanagan Library

In Salish, “theytus” means “preserving for the sake of handing down.”

UBC Okanagan Library Special Collections is pleased to present an exhibition featuring the publications of Theytus Books. These books, having an essential tie to the Okanagan, provide a reflection of place that is valuable to our campus and communities.

Founded in 1980, Theytus Books is the first, and oldest, Indigenous publishing house in Canada. It operates in partnership with the En’owkin Centre on Syilx territory on the Penticton Indian Reserve.

Frequently lauded for its focus on the authentic expression of Indigenous voices in print, Theytus has brought the writing, dialogue, and art of a multitude of Indigenous authors to the public. Many of these authors are local to the Okanagan.

Please enjoy this display of an important part of Canadian publishing history. You are invited to read any of these books in the Okanagan Special Collections reading room, and many of them can be checked out from the circulating library collection. This booklet contains a full list of Theytus Books on display. For a full bibliography of Theytus titles, please ask our front desk staff.
To learn more about, or place an order with Theytus Books visit theytus.com

To learn more about the En’owkin Centre, visit enowkincentre.ca
Acknowledgements

UBC Okanagan Library Special Collections and Archives is grateful for the support and collaboration of Theytus Books to mount this exhibition. The Theytus Books logo is used with permission.

Special thanks go to Graham Angus, Manager, and to Ann Doyon Marketing, at Theytus Books Ltd.
A note on language

The books in this exhibition were published over the course of several decades, from the early 1980s to the present day. During this time, conventions around use of words referring to Indigenous persons, communities, and concepts, changed.

UBC Okanagan Library recognizes that the word “Indian” is no longer in broad use, and we acknowledge that this word can be damaging.

The published works in this exhibition express the context in which they were created. To support the authenticity of the exhibition, we have reproduced the titles verbatim in our interpretive aids, even when they contain words that are no longer in use.

We strive to be respectful and accurate. We invite you to be in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

To learn more about UBC’s commitment to respectful language, please see Indigenous Peoples: Language Guidelines.ii
**Case 1: Gatherings (1990 -)**

*Gatherings* is the "En'owkin journal of first North American People," and was published, generally annually with a few exceptions, from its beginning in 1990 (vol. 1) to 2003 (vol. 14). Volume 15 was released in 2016.

Okanagan Special Collections has catalogued all volumes of *Gatherings* as a series under the call number PS8235.I6 G35. Other libraries, such as Xwi7xwa Library at UBC Vancouver have catalogued the volumes of this literary journal as standalone books.


Case 2: Gatherings (1990 -)


Case 3: *Gatherings*, edited by Greg Young-Ing

The volumes of *Gatherings* are not in chronological sequence in this display. This has been done to make room for the grouping of volumes that were edited by Greg Young-Ing (Younging). This case is in memory of Greg Young-Ing (1961-2019).

Greg Young-Ing was a member of Opaskwayak Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba. As part of an illustrious career including expertise in Indigenous copyright, he was the managing editor of Theytus Books from 1990-2003, and the publisher from 2016-2019. He was also professor of Indigenous Studies at UBC Okanagan and author of the seminal text, *Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing by and About Indigenous Peoples*. His passing is an enormous loss to the many communities of which he was an essential and active member.

Greg Young-Ing leaves his mark not only on those who have had the pleasure of knowing him, but also on those who for years to come will learn and grow from the wisdom of his writings and the scholarship that he has left behind.


Case 4: Early releases

Theytus Books was originally founded in 1980 in Nanaimo, B.C. Four books were published from this location within about its first year of operation, but by 1981, the publishing house had moved to Penticton and ownership was assumed jointly by what was then called the Okanagan Indian Curriculum Project and the Nicola Valley Indian Administration.

Of the four books published in Nanaimo, Okanagan Special Collections has two as first editions (see notes below).

Today, Theytus Books is operated in partnership with the En'owkin Centre, a post-secondary institution of higher learning with objectives of enhancing "Aboriginal culture, language, political development, and leadership and excellence in Indigenous Arts."iv


**Case 5: Early releases, continued**


Case 6: Works for children


Case 7: Works for children, continued


Case 8: Works for children, continued


"During early settlement times, some women of Syilx Okanagan descent, rather than being "between" two groups of men, were women who stood between two worlds, the expanding frontier world of the settler and the shrinking Indigenous world of the Syilx Okanagan people. Few Syilx Okanagan voices exist to counterbalance the overwhelming number of settler voices recounting those times. The voices of those Syilx women, whose own standing within the Syilx secured a privileged view from between the two worlds, offer us this unique glimpse into those times."

“Okanagan Women’s Voices features the writing and stories of seven women: Susan Moir Allison (1845-1937), Josephine Shuttleworth (1866-1950), Eliza Jane Swalwell (1868-1944), Marie Houghton Brent (1870-1968), Hester Emily White (1877-1963), Mourning Dove (1886-1936) and Isabel Christie MacNaughton (1915-2003).”

The bibliography of Okanagan Women’s Voices reveals a richness of cited archival resources. One of the seven women profiled in this volume is Hester Emily White. Okanagan Special Collections also cares for a document entitled “Okanagan Indian Language” written in 1940 by Louis Gabrielle of the Penticton Reserve for Hester White. This document is on display here.


Case 10: The works of Dr. Jeannette Armstrong

Dr. Jeannette Armstrong is a prolific contributor to the publications of Theytus Books as a writer, an editor, a collaborator, and as a literary scholar.

Dr. Armstrong earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria in creative writing and a Ph.D. in Indigenous Environmental Ethics from the University of Greifswald in Germany. She is a Syilx elder, a fluent speaker of nsyilxcan, and a member of the Board of Directors of En’owkin Centre.

At the UBC Okanagan campus, Dr. Armstrong is Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies and Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Indigenous Knowledge and Philosophy. vi


Case 11: The works of Dr. Jeannette Armstrong, continued


Case 12: The works of Dr. Jeannette Armstrong: Slash

Slash by Jeannette Armstrong is considered the first novel written by an Indigenous woman in Canada. First published by Theytus Books in 1985, the novel features a preface by George Ryga and a prologue and epilogue by the author. The 1990 printing is the earliest that Okanagan Special Collections holds.

Original cover credits the photo to August Armstrong, and design to Richard Gray. This design has been artistically rendered in later editions and printings. Slash remains actively in print, with a newest issuance in 2022.


Case 13


Case 14


Case 15: *Kou-Skelowh = We Are the People* series

First published in 1984. Okanagan Special Collections holds both the individual legends published with illustrations by Barbara Marchand in 1991, and the subsequent compiled volumes. The preface provides notes on the creation of the book, and how it was achieved through appropriate cultural consultations and protocols. These books feature nsyilxcən language alongside English text.


73. --. (2017). *Kou-skelowh = We are the people: a trilogy of Okanagan legends*. "This edition has been reformatted in both languages for the Okanagan language learners and the English reader's pleasure"--Editorial note.” Text in Okanagan and English. E99.O35 K68 2017
Case 16


Case 17


Case 18: Literary Scholarship


Case 19: Poetry, Prose, and Drama


Case 20: Poetry, Prose, and Drama, continued


Case 21: Law and Rights


Case 22: Law and Rights, continued


100. Venne, Sharon Helen. (1998). *Our elders understand our rights: evolving international law regarding*

Case 23: Effects of colonization

Expressions in the fiction genre.


Case 24: Effects of colonization, continued

Expressions in non-fiction.


Exterior cases, top to bottom


**Interior cases, top to bottom**


140. Mosionier, Beatrice Culleton. (2000). In the shadow

Okanagan Special Collections and Archives

UBCO’s Special Collections and Archives acquires books, pamphlets, maps, audio-visual, photographs, and textual archives with relevance to the Okanagan, and other nearby regions, in BC’s southern interior. Discover archival descriptions online at https://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca/

Contact Us

The Corbishley Family Reading Room at UBC Okanagan Special Collections and Archives is open to the public. Visit us weekdays, 10:00am to 3:00pm or contact us to make an appointment.

COM 004 | 3287 University Way | Kelowna BC

Phone: 250.807.9460

Email: osc-contact@lists.ubc.ca

Web: library.ok.ubc.ca/spaces/special-collections-and-archives/
Notes and sources cited in this booklet


iv En’owkin Centre. “About.” Retrieved: https://enowkincentre.ca/about.html


Other notes

A full bibliography of Theytus Books at Okanagan Special Collections is available on request. Search our catalogue at library.ubc.ca

UBC Okanagan Library gratefully acknowledges the funding support of Richard Ingram on behalf of the Sargent Family in the development of its collections, including in the purchase of some Theytus Books titles in this exhibition.
Theytus Books: An Exhibition

UBC Okanagan Library
Special Collections and Archives
The Commons | COM 004

Spring 2023

Prepared by
UBC Okanagan Library Special Collections and Archives
The University of British Columbia - Okanagan Campus
Kelowna, BC
Spring 2023