

Ronald I. Cohen Collection of Works by
L.M. Montgomery

Library and Archives Canada
Rare Book Collection

Description prepared in 2019
by Meaghan Scanlon

Collection Description

Title: Ronald I. Cohen Collection of Works by L.M. Montgomery

Dates: 1908-1993

Extent: 434 items

Scope and Content:

The bulk of the collection consists of editions of Lucy Maud Montgomery's novels in numerous issues and impressions, many with exceedingly rare dust jackets and all in fine original condition. Montgomery's fiction was translated into many foreign languages, and the collection includes items not only in English but also in Korean, Polish, Japanese, and Finnish, among others. In addition, the collection contains promotional ephemera connected with film and stage versions of the Anne series, such as posters, glass advertising slides, programmes, screenplays, and studio publicity photographs.

Biographical Sketch:

Ronald I. Cohen (b. 1943) is a Canadian lawyer, executive, film producer, and bibliographer. Born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts *cum laude* from Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1964. He then went to London to work for *The Economist*, following which he returned to Montreal to study law at McGill University, graduating with a Bachelor of Civil Law with First Class Honours in 1968.

Since 1969, Cohen has been a member of the Barreau du Québec. In his law practice, he specialized in civil litigation. He was an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law at McGill from 1971 to 1974, where he taught the first course on Consumer Protection. He was a member of the Quebec Government's Conseil de la protection du consommateur, and later served on the Board of Directors of the Consumers' Association of Canada. From 1974 to 1977, he served as Senior Counsel to the Quebec Police Commission's Commission d'enquête sur le crime organisé. In 1993, he became National Chair of the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, a position he held until the end of 2011.

He is the author (with André H. Caron) of *Regulating screens: issues in broadcasting and internet governance for children* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013). His other publications include *Quebec votes: the how and why of Quebec voting in every Federal election since Confederation* (Saje, 1965) and *The political and constitutional basis for a new trade practices act* ([Canada Dept. of Consumer and Corporate Affairs], 1976).

The founding Chair of the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, Cohen was a producer of film and television between 1978 and 1993. Among his productions was *Ticket to heaven* (1981), winner of the award for Best Picture at the 1982 Genie Awards.

Cohen is also a bibliophile and bibliographer who has served on the executive committees of the Friends of the Library at McGill University, the Bibliographical Society of Canada, and the Friends of Library and Archives Canada. He is one of the foremost experts on the published writings of Winston Churchill. His three-volume *Bibliography of the writings of Sir Winston Churchill* (Thoemmes Continuum, 2006) won the Farrow Award for excellence in Churchill

Studies in 2012. In 2014, Cohen was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire for "services to British history." He is the editor of *The heroic memory: the memorial addresses to the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society, Edmonton, Alberta, 1990-2014* (The Churchill Statues and Oxford Scholarship Foundation, 2016).

In 2011, Cohen was appointed a Senior Fellow of Carleton University's Faculty of Public Affairs. He is President of the Sir Winston Churchill Society of Ottawa, which he co-founded in 2011, and publishes and speaks regularly on various aspects of Churchill's life. He also serves as Past President of the Friends of Library and Archives Canada, and he remains a member of the Barreau du Québec as an "Avocat à la retraite." He resides in Manotick, Ontario.

Source of Title:

Title based on provenance and contents of the collection.

Custodial History:

Ronald I. Cohen began to assemble the collection most likely sometime in the early 1980s. The National Library of Canada started the process of acquiring the first accession of the collection, consisting of approximately 320 published items, in 1998; it was formally acquired in 1999. Four further accessions (1999, 2000, 2001, and 2003) followed, with the fifth accession consisting mainly of film-related materials.

Note on Arrangement and Description:

The collection is stored in sequence by Library of Congress classification number. Each item has been catalogued separately in Library and Archives Canada's online catalogue, Aurora, with a provenance note in the holdings statement that reads "Gift of Ronald I. Cohen." An inventory of the collection in Excel spreadsheet format is available; it can be downloaded from the Aurora record for the collection ([OCLC 1007773673](#)).

Terms Governing Access:

Items from the collection can be requested individually via Aurora. Requests should be made at least 3 days in advance of a visit, and must be submitted to LAC staff either via the web (see "Consulting and Borrowing Material" on the LAC website) or in person at the reference desk. There are no restrictions on access; however, in cases where originals are particularly fragile, researchers may be asked to make special arrangements for consultation.

Terms of Use:

Permission to reproduce copyright protected material from this collection must be obtained from the copyright owners.

Location of Related Archival Materials:

The Ronald I. Cohen fonds, Library and Archives Canada (archival reference no. R15506-0-0-E), includes a small amount of material related to the Ronald I. Cohen Collection of Works by L.M. Montgomery, but relates mainly to Cohen's work as National Chair of the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (1993-2011), as well as his participation in the Commission d'enquête sur le crime organisé in Quebec in the 1970s. In addition, LAC holds the Ronald I.

Cohen Productions fonds (archival reference no. R9291-0-X-E), which consists of two films produced by Cohen's film production company.