

## Rukhsana Khan Fonds

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**Rukhsana Khan (Pakistani-Canadian).** – approx. 1984 – 2010. – 4 archival boxes, 50cm.

**Biographical sketch:** Rukhsana Khan (b. 1962) is a Canadian author and storyteller.

**Custodial history:** The author has graciously donated her records to the Osborne Collection.

**Scope and content:** This gift of material represents the literary archive of Rukhsana Khan. The current gift contains manuscripts, papers and correspondence textbooks related to the author's work.

**Arrangement:** The archivist has grouped folders by title, ordered by date of creation. The original location of each file is provided. Date order is complicated by the fact that drafts and proofs are dated both by "day/month/year" and by "month/day/year." In cases of ambiguity, the archivist has assumed "day/month/year."

**Rights to material:** Toronto Public Library Foundation granted exhibition rights. Intellectual property rights/copyrights and permission to digitize materials remain with Rukhsana Khan.

### **Awards**

2010 – Junior Library Guild Choice, *Big Red Lollipop*

2010 – Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2010. No. 6, *Big Red Lollipop*, illustrated by Sophie Blackall.

2009 – Middle East Book Award (Youth Fiction Category), *Wanting Mor*

2008 – Award of Excellence, Council for the Advancement of Muslim Professionals (CAMP) Toronto chapter,

2006 – Ezra Jack Keats award for best new illustrator *Silly Chicken*: Illustrated by Yunmee Kyong

2004 – Literature Award, Canadian Islamic Congress

2004 – Communication & Leadership Award, District 60 branch of Toastmasters

2003 – Nick Jr. Magazine - Most Suspenseful Story of the Year: *Ruler of the Courtyard*

2001 – Nova Scotia Hackmatack Award—shortlisted: *Muslim Child*

2001 – Our Choice, Canadian Book Centre, *Muslim Child*

2001 – Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Honour Award, *Dahling if You Luv Me Would You Please Please Smile*

2000 – Ruth Schwartz Award, shortlisted, *Dahling if You Luv Me Would You Please Please Smile*

2000 – Red Maple Award, shortlisted, *Dahling if You Luv Me Would You Please Please Smile*

1998 – Honorary Janusz International Literature Award, Polish Section of International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). Presented at Capetown, South Africa at the IBBY Congress for *Roses in My Carpets*

### **Bibliography:**

*Big red lollipop*. New York: Viking, 2010.

*A new life*. Toronto: Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2009.

*Wanting Mor*. Toronto: Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2009.

*Coming to Canada*. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2008.

*Many windows: six kids, five faiths, one community*. Toronto: Napoleon, 2008.

*Silly chicken*. New York: Viking, 2005.

*Ruler of the courtyard*. New York: Viking, 2003.

*King of the skies*. Markham, ON: North Winds Press, 2001.

*Muslim child: a collection of short stories and poems*. Toronto: Napoleon Pub., 1999.

*Dahling, if you luv me, would you please, please smile*. Toronto: Stoddart Kids, 1999.

*The roses in my carpets*. Toronto: Stoddart Kids; Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1998.

*Bedtime ba-a-a-lk*. Toronto: Stoddart Kids, 1998.

## **Series and Sub-series**

### **Series 1 – Box 1 (and sub-series)**

#### **1. Early Writing**

Note: Biographical information/print-outs of author biographies are in the box but not inserted into a particular folder.

##### **1.1 Waldo the Worm**

Dates of creation: unknown-1978

Scope and content: Early versions of Waldo the Worm stories with illustrations by the author. As well as a letter from Cheryl Exum to a friend of the author, Rachel, from October 29, 1978 encouraging the young writer to continue her work but suggesting her style was undeveloped as a young writer.

##### **1.2 Book Publisher's Catalogues**

Dates of creation: 1998

Scope and content: 2 copies of Stoddart Kids Spring 1998 Catalogue and one Napoleon Publishing catalogue (undated).

##### **1.3 Waldo the Worm and Underwater Illustrations**

Dates of creation: unknown

Scope and content: Waldo the Worm manuscript. Sketches of illustrations (one with watercolour) and additional hand-drawn illustrations coloured in. More sketches done in ink in greater detail – some photocopies as well

##### **1.4 *Muslim Child***

###### **1.4.1 Early Proofs**

Scope and content: proofs of *Muslim Child* (1999)

##### **1.5 *Muslim Child***

###### **1.5.1 Co-despondence**

Dates of creation: unknown - 2001

Scope and content: Pronunciation guides for Arabic terms. Letter from Kathy Tucker of Albert Whitman & Company about work on the preface and sidebar for the book – along with edited version of the preface (October 4, 2001). Letter from Denise Shanahan and Caity Anast of Albert Whitman & Company concerning promotional and advertisement information for the upcoming book, along with an

explanation of the usual modes of advertisement taken by the publisher. Letter from Kathy Tucker (July 10, 2001) asking for a review of the editorial notes posted on the galleys of the books and requesting further notes or approval. Another letter from June 25, 2001 asks for work on the preface and sidebar.

Handwritten notes by the author about work for the book *Muslim Child*.  
Miscellaneous documents including: farting sidebar, preface, list of story locations.  
Book reviews from multiple publications. Advertisement for *Muslim Child* for Spring Books from Napoleon (original and copy).

Correspondence between Kathy Tucker and Sylvia McConnell about *Muslim Child* asking for edits from the author and further additions; fax from Sylvia McConnell to Rukhsana Khan with the letter from Kathy Tucker, and additional handwritten page from the author about the editing issues addressed in the correspondence.

## **1.6 The Bee**

Dates of creation: 1990-1993

Scope and content: Submission letters and some rejection letters (to/from Cricket Magazine, Nelson Canada, HBJ-HOLT Canada), multiple copies of the manuscript, sealed envelope addressed to Rukhsana Khan that appears to hold a manuscript of *The Bee* (from 1990).

## **1.7 Bedtime Ba-a-a-lk**

Dates of creation: 1998

Scope and content: copy of the book – with typed notes written from the perspective of the ram in the story.

## **Series 2 – Box 2 (and sub-series)**

### **2.1 The Dumb Banana Years**

Scope and content: Manuscript (no date)

### **2.2 The Dumb Banana Years**

Scope and content: Manuscript with handwritten notes (no date)

### **2.3 Correspondence – Dumb Banana Years/*Dahling, if you luv me, would you please, please smile***

Dates of creation: 1996-1999

Scope and content: Congratulatory note from the publisher, Stoddart (Jan 22. 1999); correspondence between Khan and her editor Kelly Jones about editorial errors, dedication, and disclaimer about fictional characters and other notes on the proofs (August 1998); letter from unknown source (Jawad) that provides notes on the book and comments as well as suggestions; long letter of comments from Kathy Lowinger of Lester Publishing Limited suggesting changes to The Dumb Banana Years.

Front and back cover proof with handwritten notes and corrections; handwritten notes by the author about work to be done on the book; a version of the dedication; multiple submission letters with some rejections for *Dahling*, as well as submissions and rejections for The Dumb Banana Years (1996).

### **2.4 *Dahling, if you luv me, would you please, please smile***

Scope and content: Manuscript with some handwritten editing notes

### **2.5 Email – Editorial**

Dates of creation: April-May 1998

Scope and content: correspondence between Rukhsana Khan and Sheila Dalton concerning edits to the book.

### **2.6 Catalogue**

Dates of creation: 1999

Scope and content: Stoddart Kids Fall 1999 - Books for Young People Catalogue

## **Series 3 – Box 3 (and sub-series)**

### **3.1 *Coming face to face with my foster child***

Dates of creation: 1995

Scope and content: copies of the manuscript, some with handwritten edits, one partial version in handwriting, others in different stages of the editing process and under different working titles. Rejection letter from the Globe and Mail, Annick Press (1995) with handwritten note from Rick Wilks; handwritten note from Haroon Siddiqui of the Toronto Star about contacting him to discuss the article; submission letter to Rick Wilks with accompanying manuscript (ms titled Face to Face); submission letter to and rejection letter from Debbie Rogosin of Kids Can Press (1995).

### **3.2 *The Roses in My Carpets* – archive**

Scope and content: printed photograph of Khan at a library reading of her work (photo features some of her books on the table and the author shown standing with a carpet in her hands); document titled: Of Politics and Children's Books – The Story Behind *The Roses In My Carpets* (undated).

### **3.3 Afghanistan**

Scope and content: floppy disk of Adnan novel; photocopied images of the author's trip to Afghanistan to visit her foster child, Kareem (some images have handwritten notes describing the content); pictures from the trip – protected in plastic sleeves with cardboard backings); colour photocopies of Kareem's family picture. Monthly population statement for the month of November, 1991 from the government of Pakistan, Safron, Islamabad – with an account of afghan refugees in November 1991; percent of population report and summary report.

### **3.4 *The Roses In My Carpets* – Correspondence & Drafts**

Scope and content: correspondence between Jawad Jafry (manager at Sound Vision) and Jonathan Steeles (sales and marketing for Stoddart Publishing co) expressing interest in *Roses*; submission and rejection between Khan and Kathy Lowinger of McClelland and Stewart (1996), and Rick Wilks of Annick Press; rejection from Kids Can Press; multiple copies of manuscript (some with handwritten notes). Correspondence concerning donation to Bosnian Canadian Relief Association; excerpt from The Toronto Sun, April 20, 1997 (an article on Oprah's book club); clipping from Quill and Quire June 1997 including a circled ad for mailing list rentals. Proof pages for beginning pages of *Roses* (one version dated July 14, 1997); handwritten dedication; congratulatory letter from publishers; print out of amazon review and sales listing for *Roses*; page taken from Henry Holt Books for Young Readers catalogue Fall 1998 with ad for *Iqbal Masih and the Crusaders Against Child Slavery* by Susan Kuklin.

### **3.5 Sadaf**

Scope and content: Manuscript (no date)

### **3.6 Adnan**

Scope and content: Manuscripts for Adnan and Rikaz (no dates)

### **3.7 Untitled manuscript**

Dates of creation: 2001?

Scope and content: CANSCAIP minutes from general meeting May 9, 2001. First page of *Untitled* manuscript; full manuscript. Letter from Charis Wahl of Ex Libris Publishing Services offering suggestions to the work (copy of letter included as well as original).

### **3.8 The Big Red Lollipop**

Dates of creation: 1998-1999

Scope and content: correspondence with Mary Cash of Holiday House with suggestions for work on *The Big Red Lollipop* (March 2, 1999); comments on Sadaf with an emailed version of the text/ms between Rukhsana Khan and Ed Stanfield, Amy ?, Bonny Becker, Michael Glasser (also includes comments on teasing/taunting among children) (September - November 1999). Manuscript (*The Big Red Lollipop*) – multiple versions with different edits (some with handwritten notes); multiple submission letters (1998) and a rejection letter from Stoddart Kids. Correspondence with Linda Sue Park including comments on the story and an emailed version of the story (September 4, 1998); handwritten parts of the story by author and other pages with notes.

### **3.9 Pinkish Beige – Red Lollipop Sequel**

Scope and content: handwritten notes by the author/early parts of the text; early version of the manuscript with some handwritten notes and comments.

## **Series 4 – Box 4 (and sub-series)**

### **4.1 *Kite Thief (King of the skies)***

Dates of creation: 1996 - 2000

Scope and content: copies of the manuscript – edited versions (including part of a handwritten version); photocopy image of a potential picture for the book (sent to check for content/appropriateness of signs in the background); copy of manuscript with photocopies of sketches for illustrations (proofs), with notes for edits – unclear who's notes. Correspondence between Rukhsana Khan and her editor Sandra Bogart Johnson – faxes of manuscript edits; correspondence/submission letters between Khan and Kathryn Cole (Stoddart Publishing Co. Ltd.), Diane Kerner (Scholastic Canada Ltd), Rick Wilks (Annick Press), and Debbie Rogosin (Kids Can Press). Photocopy of book in final production stages (images set against text but not in good detail, properly formatted with only minor edits needed before publication)

### **4.2 “*Bedouin Novel*” / *The Chief's Son***

Dates of creation: 1989-1991

Scope and content: character sketches, novel outline, early manuscript (with doodles on the back); revision manuscript dated June 26, 1989; brief handwritten notes about chapter edits; returned version of manuscript with edits (July 9 1989 by peter ?); manuscript of *The Chief's Son* (1991).

### **4.3 *Ruler of the Courtyard***

Dates of creation: 1998 - 2002

Scope and content: multiple submissions to publishers of the story in its different phases with some accompanying rejection letters (from December 10, 1998 – March 2 2001); multiple copies of the manuscripts, some with handwritten edits from various people (editors and the author), some with different page formatting; handwritten version of some parts of the manuscript. Letter from Charlotte Sheedy (literary agency) about signing a contract (May 24, 2001); letter between Charlotte and Laurie Motz about the contract copies for Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers; faxes from Khan to Catherine Frank with edits to the manuscript dated June 23, 2001 and July 30, 2001; letter from Catherine Frank about working on the book together and some editing suggestions (June 4, 2001); email between Khan and Catherine Frank with updated version of manuscript and detailed explanation of some details from the author (August 2, 2001). Early version of the book formatting with sticky notes for comments on the text and future illustrations (some pages include pasted sections of the manuscript).

Correspondence between Leslie McGrath (Head of Osborne) and Liza Fernandes (Development at TRL) about having received and examined the archival material gift from Rukhsana Khan and fair market value pricing for the gift in kind (Dec 10/2002, and

Dec 23/2002) requesting a tax receipt for the author; correspondence between Leslie McGrath and Rukhsana Khan thanking the author for her gift.

#### ***4.4 The Chief's Son***

Dates of creation: 1991

Scope and content: copy of the manuscript

#### ***4.5 The Arrow and the Bowstring***

Scope and content: copy of the manuscript (undated)