

A Guide to the

**Dr. John Ross *fonds***

COLL - 037

Arranged & Described by

Jenny Seeman

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**Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive  
Health Sciences Library  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
9 December 2009**

## Dr. John Ross

(COLL-037)

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**Title:** Dr. John Ross *fonds*  
**Dates:** 1967-2006  
**Extent:** 10 cm

### **Biographical sketch:**

Dr. John Munro Ross, O.C., M.B.Ch.B., F.C.C.F.P., physician and educator, was born in Kisumu, Kenya in 1928, the son of a Scottish doctor in the Colonial Health Service and an Australian missionary mother. Educated in Kenya, Australia and the UK, he graduated with a degree in medicine from the University of Aberdeen in 1953.

Dr. Ross initially specialized in surgery, but in 1957 he came to work in Newfoundland in the cottage hospital system. In 1957, he was working in the Channel Cottage Hospital, Port aux Basques, where he met Doreen Janes, Nurse in Charge at the Channel Hospital. They were married in 1958. In 1958, Dr. Ross was appointed Senior Medical Officer of the Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital where he worked for a year before returning to the Channel Hospital. From 1960-1970 he worked at the Placentia Cottage Hospital, and from 1971 to 1973 he was appointed first Chairman of the Family Practice Unit at the Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

In 1985 under the auspices of the Canadian International Development Agency, Dr. Ross made a three month trip to Uganda to investigate the possibilities of developing medical services there. He returned to Uganda in 1989 and spent the next 5 years devising and developing a training programme for primary physicians. On his return from Uganda, and after retiring from the university medical school in 1994, Dr. Ross maintained his interest in clinical work. He spent a year as a locum in various parts of Australia, and helped devise a teaching programme for nurse practitioners in Newfoundland.

Dr. Ross earned numerous accolades and held several titles throughout his career. From 1963 - 1965, he was president of the Newfoundland Chapter of the Canadian College of Family Physicians. In 1972, he was awarded a Fellowship in the Canadian College of Family Physicians. His community activity included work with the Planned Parenthood Federation, as Vice President, and President of the Physicians for Social Responsibility. In 1994, in recognition of his service to Canadian people, he was awarded the title of Officer of the Order of Canada.

Dr. Ross died on December 2, 1999.

### **Custodial history:**

The copy of the Ugandan Diary, 1990-1994 and other loose papers were donated by Dr. Brian Payton. The copy of Dr. John Ross' poetry collection was donated by Mrs. Doreen Ross.

**Scope and content:**

The Ugandan Diary, 1990-1994 describes the experiences of a Canadian doctor helping to establish postgraduate medical training programmes in Uganda.

**Source of title:**

Supplied title is based on contents of the *fonds*.

**Acquisition:**

The published copy of the diary was acquired from Dr. Brian Payton who wrote the preface and also ensured a copy would be placed in the Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive. Dr. Payton also brought in the material donated by Mrs. Doreen Ross.

**Arrangement:**

Material is arranged in the following series:

- 1.0 Published Materials
- 2.0 Poetry of Dr. John Ross
- 3.0 Correspondence to Dr. Ross
- 4.0 Miscellaneous

**Restrictions:**

There are no restrictions on access to or use of the materials in this *fonds*. Users should be aware however that copyright regulations state that any copy of archival material is to be used solely for **research** or **private study**. Any use of copied materials for any other purpose may require the authorization of the copyright owner. It is the patron's responsibility to obtain such authorization.

Patrons should also be aware that copyright regulations require that records be kept of all copies made of materials deposited prior to September 1, 1999 and that these records may be viewed by the author of the material, the copyright owner or representatives of either.

**Accruals:**

Further accruals are expected.

**Location:**

COLL-037, Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive

**Finding aid available:**

Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive finding aid #037. Item level control

## **Series Description**

### **1.0 Published Materials**

- 1.01.001 Ugandan Diary 1990-1994: The Experience of a Canadian Doctor helping to establish post-graduate medical training programmes. John Ross  
1.01.002 Articles about Uganda, 1985-[1990]

### **2.0 Poetry of Dr. John Ross**

- 2.01.001 "Black Spring Binder" Index of poems:  
1A The Return It Was Calm That Day  
1B "It Was Calm That Day" Return 2 typescript  
1C The Return (I Walked Along That Shore)  
2 Fantasie  
3 Rain  
4 Contents  
5 Quiet  
6 Flight  
7 Destiny  
8 The Class of '69  
9 Accident  
10 Home  
11 The Kiss  
12 Tears  
13 Tears  
14 Peony  
15 To See  
16 Train  
17 Whence  
18 Quarter  
19 The Future  
20 Last Summer  
21 Sleepwalkers  
22 Medical Immunity  
23 Crucifixion  
24 Winter and the Bay  
25 Doubts  
26 Applied Eugenics  
27 Mr. Moody  
28 Gay  
29 Then  
30 Glance  
31 No Entry  
32 Now

- 33 Subway
- 34 Necropolis (With Original Photograph)
- 35 Aeroplane
- 36 The Contract
- 37 Euthanasia (The Good Death)
- 38 Victim
- 39 Leaving Uganda
- 40 Designer Babies
- 41 On Doubt
- 42 Look
- 43 Oedipus Revisited
- 44 The Coup
- 45 First Love
- 46 New Death
- 47 Joan Morgan - Tribute
- 48 Ballad of the Deluge

### **3.0 Correspondence**

- 3.01.001 Letter from Fr. Thomas Moakler of Sacred Heart Parish, Placentia, Newfoundland  
June 28, 1967
- 3.02.001 Correspondence with Dr. Brian Payton, April 22, 1993

### **4. 0 Miscellaneous**

- 4.01.001 The Ross Family Medicine Centre, Official Opening Schedule of Events: January  
27, 2006  
Advice, John Ross [a poem on the occasion of the official opening of the Ross  
Family Medicine Centre, January 27, 2006]
- 4.01.002 Dr. John Ross Curriculum Vitae
- 4.01.003 Some thoughts for Preceptors meeting in Corner Brook, November 1999
- 4.01.004 Obituaries for Dr. John Ross