

MANUSCRIPTS MATTER

Collecting modern literary archives

"All literary manuscripts have two kinds of value: what might be called the magical value and the meaningful value. The magical value is the older and more universal: this is the paper he wrote on, these are the words as he wrote them, emerging for the first time in this particular miraculous combination. The meaningful value is of much more recent origin, and is the degree to which a manuscript helps to enlarge our knowledge and understanding of a writer's life and work".

Philip Larkin, in his introduction to a seminar on modern literary manuscripts held at King's College London in 1979 (published in Philip Larkin, *Required Writing*, Faber 1983).

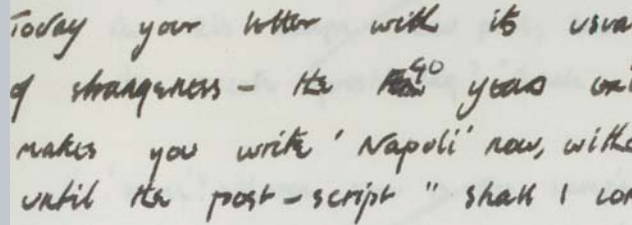
A wealth of literary manuscripts and archives are held in public collections throughout Britain and Ireland.

The cultural benefits of literary archives for research, educational and creative use are significant and wide-reaching. As well as authors' papers, they include publishers' archives and the manuscripts of writers for theatre and film. In acquiring important archives, collecting institutions enhance their own reputation worldwide, and in turn encourage new creativity by showing that writers are valued.

Over the past few decades, however, modern and contemporary authors in Britain and Ireland, or their estates, have found it attractive to sell their working papers to collections in the United States, for a number of reasons.

Under the chairmanship of Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury, a working group has been established to ensure that more archives of pre-eminent modern and contemporary writers are made accessible to UK audiences.

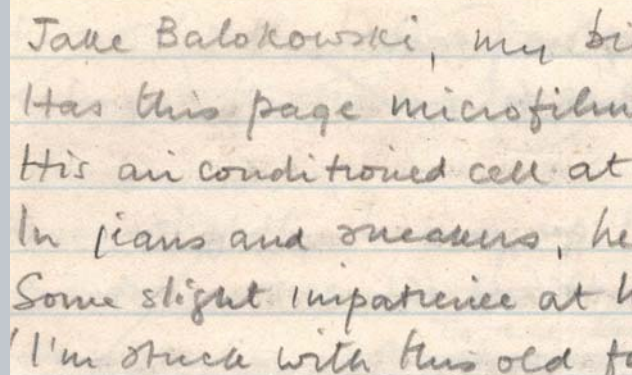
In November 2005, the working group submitted to HM Treasury two modest proposals which would benefit writers and public collections, and which would apply equally to the archives of contemporary historians, scientists, economists and political scientists.



Today your letter with its usual
of strangeness - the ~~two~~⁴⁰ years un-
makes you write 'Napoli' now, with
until the post-script " shall I con-

Was that unhurried? or did you

Posterity



James Balokowski, my son
Has this page microfilm
This air conditioned cell at
In jeans and sneakers, he
Some slight impatience at h
'I'm stuck with this old fo

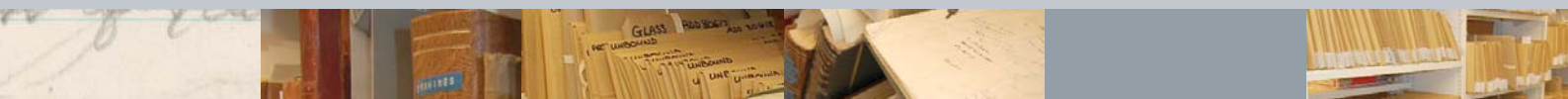
Top Andrew Motion. Draft of *Letter to an Exile* from Motion's first collection *The Pleasure Steamers* (1978). Reproduced by kind permission of Andrew Motion.

Bottom Philip Larkin. Draft of *Posterity*, from Larkin's 1974 collection *High Windows*. Copyright © The Estate of Philip Larkin 2006. Reproduced by kind permission of the Society of Authors as the literary representative of the Larkin estate and the Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull.

This conference will

- Celebrate modern literary archives as a rich and vibrant resource for research and teaching, with a broad public appeal and wide application across the arts.
- Provide a forum for discussion of the issues affecting authors, funders, collecting institutions and dealers in the sale of manuscripts to libraries and archives.

Taking part in the ten sessions over the two days will be representatives from all of these stakeholders, including three of the US university libraries with significant collections of literary manuscripts. Panel members will discuss the perception and the reality of the UK markets, the national funding position and tax incentives, the author's experience in selling archives, the value of manuscripts as a research resource, and progress in the collaborative development of policies for collection, preservation and access, nationally and internationally.



PROGRAMME

Thursday 19 October

0900 – 1000 | Registration and Coffee

1000 – 1130 | Welcome and opening address

Dr Clive Field, Director of Scholarship and Collections, British Library

Session 1 | Introduction

Chair Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury

Our Present Discontents: British Writers and the Disposal of their Manuscripts

Professor Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate

Death and Taxes: Improving the Prospects for Writers and their Estates

Gerry McQuillan, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

1130 – 1145 | Tea / Coffee

1145 – 1300 | Session 2 | Historical Perspectives

Chair Dr Chris Fletcher, Head of Western Manuscripts, Bodleian Library

Panel members

Dr David Sutton, Reading University Library

Nick Kingsley, National Archives

Sally Brown, British Library

Aonghus Ó hAonghusa, National Library of Ireland

1300 – 1400 | Lunch

1400 – 1530 | Session 3 | Trade Perspectives

Chair Joan Winterkorn, Director, Bernard Quaritch Ltd

Panel members

Ed Maggs, Maggs Bros Rare Books

Rick Gekoski, RA Gekoski

1530 – 1545 | Tea / Coffee

1545 – 1645 | Session 4 | Collecting Electronica

Chair Richard Charkin, Chief Executive, Macmillan Ltd

Panel members

Susan Thomas, Bodleian Library

Arwel Jones, National Library of Wales

Jeremy John, British Library

1645 – 1815 | Session 5 | Authors' Panel

Chair Mark Le Fanu, Chairman, Society of Authors

Panel members

Antonia Byatt, Peter Nichols, Owen Sheers, Peter Porter

Friday 20 October

0930 – 1100 | Session 6 | Changing Cultures: Some American Perspectives

Chair Richard Ovenden, Keeper of Special Collections and Manuscripts, Bodleian Library

Building a Scriptorium in the Digital Age

Professor Thomas Staley, Director,

Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin

Cultural Property and Cultural Assumptions:

The Trans-Atlantic Trade in Modern Literary Manuscripts

Dr Stephen Enniss, Director, Special Collection, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University

1100 – 1130 | Tea / Coffee

1130 – 1300 | Session 7 | Nations and Regions

Chair Dr Chris Sheppard, Brotherton Library, University of Leeds

Panel members

Stella Halkyard, John Rylands University Library, University of Manchester

John Gray, Linen Hall Library, Belfast

Dr Jessica Gardner, University of Exeter Library

Robin Smith, National Library of Scotland

1300 – 1400 | Lunch

1400 – 1500 | Session 8 | The Virtual Reunification of Scattered Archives

Chair Bill Simpson, Librarian, John Rylands University Library, University of Manchester

Professor John Unsworth, Dean, Library School, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

1500 – 1515 | Tea / Coffee

1515 – 1645 | Session 9 | Scholars

Chair Professor Warwick Gould, Institute of English Studies

Panel members

Ronald Schuchard, Guggenheim Fellow, Emory University

Diane Middlebrook, Stanford University

Selina Hastings, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature

Daniel Ferrer, Institut des Textes et Manuscrits

Modernes, Paris

1645 – 1800 | Session 10 | Closing Panel

Chair Lord Egremont, Friends of the National Libraries

Panel members

Nicolas Barker, The Book Collector

Sally Brown, British Library

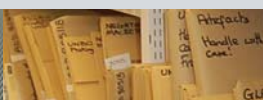
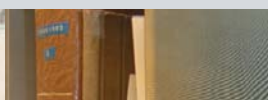
Cate Newton, National Library of Scotland

Carole Souter, Heritage Lottery Fund

Professor Thomas Staley, Harry Ransom Center

Joan Winterkorn, Bernard Quaritch Ltd

Richard Ovenden, Bodleian Library





UK LITERARY HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

In May 2005, key stakeholders were brought together under the leadership of Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury to develop and implement a national strategy for the acquisition of modern and contemporary literary manuscripts and archives by UK institutions.

Chair Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury



Chris Smith was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and Pembroke College, Cambridge where he took a double first in English. He was a Kennedy Scholar at Harvard, and completed his Cambridge PhD on Wordsworth and Coleridge in 1979. A Labour Councillor for Islington Borough for five years, in 1983 he became MP for Islington South and Finsbury. When Labour came to power in 1997 he became Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and Chairman of the Millennium Commission. After standing down from the House of Commons in 2005 he was created a life peer, taking the title of Lord Smith of Finsbury, and took his seat in the House of Lords in July 2005.

Chris is the Director of the Clore Leadership Programme. He is also Chairman of the Wordsworth Trust, Chairman of the Donmar Warehouse and a Member of the Board of the National Theatre. He is a Visiting Professor in Culture and the Creative Industries at the University of the Arts London, an honorary Fellow of Pembroke College Cambridge, Chair of the London Cultural Consortium, and was Chairman of the Judges for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 2004.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Professor Andrew Motion

Michael Holroyd CBE

Bernard Quaritch Ltd

Joan Winterkorn

Bodleian Library

Dr Chris Fletcher

British Library

Dr Clive Field FRHistS

Sally Brown

Jamie Andrews

Friends of the National Libraries

Lord Egremont DL FRSL

Institute of English Studies

(University of London)

Professor Warwick Gould FRSL

FRSA FEA

John Rylands University Library,

University of Manchester

Bill Simpson

Macmillan Ltd

Richard Charkin

National Library of Scotland

Cate Newton

Reading University Library

Dr David Sutton

The National Archives

Nick Kingsley

Manuscripts Matter has been organised by the British Library and the Institute of English Studies, with academic and funding support from:

Bernard Quaritch Ltd

Bodleian Library

Friends of the National Libraries

Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts

Harry Ransom Center

University of Texas at Austin

John Rylands University Library

University of Manchester

Robert W Woodruff Library

Emory University

INFORMATION

Venue

The British Library Conference Centre, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

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Front Angela Carter. Folio from the draft of Carter's 1984 novel *Nights at the Circus*. Reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the Angela Carter Estate.