

Michael Harrison:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Harrison, Michael
Title	Michael Harrison Collection
Dates:	1939-1962 (bulk 1958-1961)
Extent:	2 boxes (.83 linear feet)
Abstract:	The collection includes working notes, drafts, printer's copies, page proofs, illustration pulls, a published book, and correspondence, focusing primarily on Harrison's most famous work, <i>In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes</i> .
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-01854
Language:	English.
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Purchase, 1974 (R6216)
Processed by	Christopher D. Filippi, April 1995; Sarah Demb, 1996; Jennifer Peters, 1996
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

Michael Harrison was born on April 25, 1907, in Milton, England. He was educated at King's College and the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. He served briefly in the British Military Intelligence during World War II. He worked as a journalist, editor, creative director of an advertising agency, managing editor of Trade News Ltd. and *The British Ink Maker*, a market research executive, and an industrial and technical consultant.

Michael Harrison's literary career began in 1934 with the publication of his first novel. His early years were prolific, and he published seventeen novels between 1934 and 1954. His early publications included *What are We Waiting For?* (1939) and *There's Glory For You!* (1949). During the 1950s, he turned to the genre of mystery writing. Harrison wrote three short crime novels under the pseudonym of Quentin Downes (1952-54) and achieved his greatest literary success with the publication of *In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes* in 1958. Harrison became a leading authority on Sherlock Holmes, writing seven subsequent novels about the Victorian sleuth. Harrison was also a great admirer of Edgar Allan Poe's detective, C. Auguste Dupin. He wrote twelve short sequels to *Murder in the Rue Morgue*, and entitled the resulting anthology *Murder in the Rue Royale* (1972).

Harrison was awarded the Occident Prize for *Weep for Lycidas* (1934), was named Duke of Sant Estrella by the Kingdom of Redonda (1951), and was named Irregular Shilling by the Baker Street Irregulars of New York (1964). He was a member of the Society of Authors, Crime Writers Association, Baker Street Irregulars of New York, and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. He died in 1991.

Scope and Contents

The Michael Harrison Collection, 1939-1962 (bulk 1958-1961), includes working notes, drafts, printer's copies, page proofs, illustration pulls, a published book, and correspondence. The collection is arranged in two series: I. Works, 1939-59 (1.5 boxes); and II. Correspondence, 1958-62 (.5 box). The collection focuses on Harrison's most famous work, *In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes*, containing both manuscript drafts and correspondence pertaining to the book. Manuscript drafts of two other novels complete the collection.

Manuscript materials relating to *In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes* (1958) constitute the bulk of Series I. Eight folders contain holograph working notes, a printer's copy with holograph revisions, an incomplete set of page proofs, a preliminary set of illustration pulls, and the second edition of the book, heavily annotated with notes, comments, and inserts by the author. Manuscripts for two other novels by Harrison, *There's Glory For You!* (1949) and *What Are We Waiting For?* (1939), are also present in this series. Consisting of a printer's copy only, the manuscript for *There's Glory For You!*, an example of historical fiction, is highlighted by a note from the author reading "this is the

typescript ready for printing. It was typewritten by me, and constitutes the original (indeed, the only) MS of this novel.” The manuscript for *What Are We Waiting For?*, Harrison's fifth novel, is almost completely handwritten. The series is arranged alphabetically by title and is organized to reflect the process of editing and publication.

Series II contains correspondence relating to the publication of *In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes*. Outgoing correspondence has been arranged chronologically in one folder, and incoming correspondence is arranged alphabetically in three folders. Most of the letters are from individuals interested in Sherlock Holmes, writing to Harrison with corrections to his book and insight into the fictional character. Also present is correspondence with Harrison's literary agent, Jacques Chambrun, prospective book publishers, and societies devoted to Holmes, books, and authors. This series also includes two dinner programs from The Author's Club and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. Other correspondents of note include The Baker Street Irregulars, Cassell and Company, Ian MacMillan, Cecil Roth, F. J. P. Veale, and the Jules Verne Society. Harrison's carbon copy responses to his admirers and literary contacts, varying in length and formality, are found in the Outgoing Correspondence files.

Related Material

Additional papers of Michael Harrison are located in Mugar Memorial Library at Boston University.

Index Terms

Correspondents

Chambrun, Jacques
De Mayo, Paul
MacMillan, Ian A.
Norris, Luther Leon
Peto, Michael
Platt, Washington
Roth, Cecil, 1899-1970
Veale, F.J.P. (Frederick John Partington)
Williams, H.B.

Organizations

Baker Street Irregulars

Societe Jules Verne

Subjects

Holmes, Sherlock (Fictitious character)

Authors, English--20th century

Crime writing

Document Types

Book illustrations

Page proofs

Printer's copies

Series I. Works, 1939-59*In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes* (1958)

Holograph working notes, 1957 **box 1 folder 1**

Printer's copy with holograph revisions, 1958 **folder 2-5**

Incomplete set of page proofs, 1958 **folder 6**

Preliminary set of illustration pulls, 1968 **folder 7**

Published book with holographic comments by the author, second edition, January 1959 **folder 8**

There's Glory For You! (1949)

Printer's copy with holograph revisions, March 1949 **box 2 folder 1-5**

What Are We Waiting For? (1939)

Autographed manuscript and typescript pages with holograph revisions, n.d. **box 2 folder 6**

Series II. Correspondence, 1958-62

Outgoing, 1958-61

box 2 folder 7

Incoming, 1958-62

folder 8-10

Michael Harrison Collection--Index of Correspondents

- A.D. Peters (Firm)--2.8
- Authors Club (New York, N.Y.)--2.8
- Aylward, J. D.--2.7-8
- Baker Street Irregulars (Organization: U.S.)--2.8
- Bengis, Nathan L.--2.8
- Bicknell, Fred C.--2.8
- Boswell, R. Herald--see British Broadcasting Corporation
- Brazeau, James W.--2.7-8
- British Broadcasting Corporation--2.8
- Burstall, Christopher--see British Broadcasting Corporation
- Cassell and Company, Ltd.--2.7-8
- Chambrun, Jacques--2.7-8
- Craig, John G.--2.8
- Crump, Leslie--2.8
- Cushon, W. E.--2.8
- *Daily telegraph and morning post*--2.8
- Daintith, T. L. A.--2.8
- D'Andria, W.--2.8
- De Mayo, Paul--2.7-8
- Dreschel, Edwin--2.8
- Editions Robert Laffont--2.8
- Fage-Pederson, A.--2.9
- Frederick Fell (Firm)--2.7
- French, R., Mrs.--2.9
- Gill, William H.--2.9
- Glover, A. S. B.--see Penguin Books Ltd.
- Graham, R.--2.9
- Harborough Publishing Company Ltd.--2.9
- Hart, Howard--2.9
- Heinemann (Firm)--2.7
- Helling, Cornelis--see Societe Jules Verne
- Howcroft, P. L.--2.7
- Hudson, Leslie--2.9
- Hudson, William--2.7, 2.9
- International Police Association--2.9
- Iraldi, James C.--2.9
- Legat, Michael R.--see Transworld Publishers Ltd.
- *London Mystery Magazine*--2.9
- MacGibbon & Kee--2.7, 2.9
- MacMillan, Ian A.--2.9
- Moore, John--2.9
- Norris, Luther Leon--2.7, 2.9
- O'Keefe, Timothy--see MacGibbon & Kee
- Paget, Clarence--see Pan Books Ltd.
- Pan Books Ltd.--2.7, 2.10
- Penguin (Firm) --2.7, 2.10
- Peto, Michael--2.10
- Pierhal, Armand, 1897- --see Editions Robert Laffont
- Pilkington, R.--2.7, 2.10

- Platt, Washington--2.10
- Prestige, Colin--see Sherlock Holmes Society of London
- Preston, J.--see *London Mystery Magazine*
- Random House (Firm)--2.10
- Roth, Cecil, 1899-1970--2.7, 2.10
- Rudman, Frank--see Harborough Publishing Company, Ltd.
- Sheehan, Rosemary--2.7
- Sherlock Holmes Society of London--2.10
- Shiari, M.--2.10
- Smith, Edgar Wadsworth, 1894-1960--see Baker Street Irregulars, Inc.
- Societe Jules Verne--2.7, 2.10
- Starrett, Vincent, 1886-1974--2.7, 2.10
- Sundell, John--see Cassell and Company Ltd.
- Swanson, Martin J.--2.7, 2.10
- Thackeray, R. S.--see *Daily telegraph and morning post*
- Transworld Publishers Ltd.--2.10
- Veale, F. J. P. (Frederick John Partington), 1897- --2.10
- Wallis, H. R. E.--2.7, 2.10
- Walsh, W., Mrs.--2.10
- Williams, H. B., 1939- --2.7, 2.10
- Wright, Lee--see Random House, Inc.