

# John Crowley:

## An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator</b>	Crowley, John, 1942-
<b>Title</b>	John Crowley Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1962-2000
<b>Extent:</b>	21 boxes, 1 oversize box (9.24 linear feet), and 60 electronic files (266 MB)
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Crowley papers consist entirely of drafts of his novels, short stories, and scripts for film and television.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-01003
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Access</b>	<i>Love &amp; Sleep</i> working notebook and some diaries are restricted. To request access to electronic files, please email <a href="#">Reference</a> .
<b>Restrictions on Use:</b>	Certain restrictions apply to the use of electronic files. Researchers must agree to the Materials Use Policy for Electronic Files before accessing them. Original computer disks and forensic disk images are restricted. Copying electronic files, including screenshots and printouts, is not permitted.

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### Administrative Information

<b>Acquisition</b>	Purchases, 1992 (R12762), 1994 (R13316), 2000 (R14699)
<b>Processed by</b>	Lisa Jones, 2001 Born digital materials processed, arranged, and described by Chance Adams and Brenna Edwards, 2015-2022.
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>

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## Biographical Sketch

John Crowley, son of Dr. Joseph and Patience Crowley, was born December 1, 1942, in Presque Isle, Maine. He spent his youth in Vermont and Kentucky, attending Indiana University where in 1964 he earned a BA in English with a minor in film and photography. He has since pursued a career as a novelist and documentary writer, the latter in conjunction with his wife, Laurie Block. In 1993, he began teaching courses in Utopian fiction and fiction writing at Yale University.

Although Crowley's fiction is frequently categorized as science fiction and fantasy, Gerald Jonas more accurately places him among "writers who feel the need to reinterpret archetypal materials in light of modern experience." Crowley considers only his first three novels to be science fiction. *The Deep* (1975) and *Beasts* (1976) take place in futuristic settings, depicting science gone wrong and the individual search for identity and purpose. *Engine Summer* (1978) amplifies these themes with history, odd lore and arcane knowledge, and extends his work beyond the genre "into the hilly country on the borderline of literature" (Charles Nichol).

Crowley's best known novel, *Little, Big* (1981), weaves magical elements with a long family chronicle, encompassing all of 20th century history. Set at the intersection of the real world and Fairyland, he said of the work, "To me fairies represent the sense we all have that there's a story being told about us, that there's a larger meaning or a plot of life." *Little, Big* was nominated for both the Hugo and Nebula awards and received the World Fantasy Award in 1982.

Crowley's investigation of this secret history of the world continued in the *Ægypt* series: *Ægypt* (1987), *Love & Sleep* (1994), and *Dæmonomania* (2000). Here Pierce Moffatt, a young historian, in pursuing the research of an historical novelist, initiates a spiritual quest for a new understanding of Universe by way of the Renaissance occult. Michael Dirda suggested the term "philosophical romance" might best describe these later novels, characterizing the first volume as "a strange, even recondite book, though an immensely readable one: Crowley's prose remains bright and beautiful, absolutely assured, no matter how teasing his purpose."

During this same time period Crowley won the 1990 World Fantasy Award for his novella "Great Work of Time," published in a quartet of short stories entitled *Novelty* (1989). A second collection, *Antiquities* (1993), includes seven short stories written between 1978 and 1993. He also has produced numerous book reviews, articles, and presentation papers. In 1992 Crowley received the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Award in Literature.

Crowley's name is most visible through his fiction, but he also has written more than 30 documentary films, primarily for the Public Broadcasting System. Many of these have received awards and been screened at international film festivals. *The Gate of Heavenly Peace* (1995) contextualizes the 1989 events in Beijing that led to the occupation of Tienamen Square, and was a 1995 New York Film Festival selection. Other works receiving film festival recognition include *World of Tomorrow* (1984), a feature on the 1939 World's Fair in New York, *America and Lewis Hine* (1985), a documentary

(written with Laurie Block) about the great social photographer, and *America's Cup 1987: The Walter Cronkite Report* (1987), which garnered a CINE Golden Eagle award in 1988. Crowley also contributed to scripts for *The Restless Conscience* and *The Liberators*, two documentary shorts which received Academy Award nominations in 1991 and 1992 respectively.

Additional information on John Crowley is available in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook, 1982*, volume Y82.

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## Scope and Contents

The John Crowley papers, dating from 1962 to 2000, document the creation and realization of his novels, short stories, and scripts for film and television. The collection has been arranged as a single series, Works, which is subdivided into four subseries: Diaries, Fiction, Film and Television, and Commercial Work. The Diaries subseries contains 12 journals written between 1964 and 1995, arranged chronologically. The Fiction subseries contains Crowley's manuscripts, working drafts and publication matter for seven novels and two short story collections. The Film and Television subseries contains thirty scripts including six feature filmscripts, five unrealized documentaries, and two television proposals. Eight of the documentary scripts were written in collaboration with his wife, Laurie Block. The Commercial project subseries includes advertising copy, narration for a fireworks display, and short articles from a variety of publications.

With the exception of *The Deep*, all novels to 2000 are represented in this collection. An earlier state of his novel *Engine Summer*, written 1967-8, was then titled *Learning to Live With It*. *Ember Days* is an early version of part 1 of his novel *Love & Sleep*, and was originally intended by his publisher to be issued as a free-standing work.

The four stories collected in *Novelty* (1989), "Great Work of Time," "In Blue," "The Nightingale Sings at Night," and "Novelty" are present, as are five of the seven short stories collected in *Antiquities* (1993): "The Green Child," "Missolonghi 1824" (published as "Satyros" in *Omni* magazine, 1990), "Snow," "Exogamy," and "Her Bounty to the Dead" (published as "Where Spirits Gat Them Home" in a collection called *Shadows*, 1978). There are two draft versions (1962 & 1967) of another story, "Holy Saturday," which was also published in *Shadows*.

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**Series I. Works 1962-2000**

## Subseries A. Diaries

Notebook, 1964	<b>box 1 folder 1</b>
Diary, 1968-69	<b>folder 2</b>
Diary, 1973-75 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	<b>folder 3</b>
Travel Diary, England and Ireland, 1974	<b>folder 4</b>
Diary, 1975-77 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	<b>folder 5</b>
Travel Diary, Key West, 1977	<b>folder 6</b>
Diary, 1979 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	<b>folder 7</b>
Travel diary, Mallorca, 1980 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	<b>folder 8</b>
Working notebook [1981?]	<b>folder 9</b>
Diary, November-December 1980, 1982-83, 1986, 1995 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	<b>folder 10</b>
Travel diary, Europe, 1981 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	<b>box 2 folder 1</b>
Diary, 1982 <b>(RESTRICTED)</b>	<b>folder 2</b>

## Subseries B. Fiction

Notes for <i>Egypt (Ægypt)</i> , 1978	<b>box 2 folder 3</b>
<i>Ægypt</i>	
Working notebooks, 1979-83	<b>box 2 folder 4</b>
Holograph draft	<b>folder 5-8</b>
Holograph draft	<b>box 3 folder 1-2</b>
Typescript draft sections	<b>folder 3-4</b>
Corrected typescript	<b>folder 5-7</b>

Corrected typescript	<b>box 4 folder 1</b>
Second corrected typescript	<b>folder 2-4</b>
Photocopy second typescript	<b>folder 5-7</b>
Photocopy second typescript	<b>box 5 folder 1-6</b>
<i>Beasts</i> , proofs	<b>folder 7</b>
<i>Dæmonomania</i>	
Chapter drafts. 2 electronic files: Lotus Notes Traveler file, June-July 1996	<b>Disk-ID-No.</b> 0006003P_005
Drafts. 9 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, May 1998-October 1999	<b>Disk-ID-No.</b> 0006003P_002, 0006003P_003, 0006003P_007, 0006003P_008, 0006003P_009
Holograph draft	<b>box 5 folder 8</b>
Holograph working drafts	<b>box 6 folder 1</b>
Holograph draft	<b>folder 2-7</b>
First printout (incomplete), 1995	<b>box 7 folder 2</b>
First printout, 1997	<b>folder 3</b>
Second printout, 1996	<b>folder 4</b>
Third printout, 1997	<b>folder 5-6</b>
Complete printout, 1998	<b>folder 7</b>
Complete printout, 1998	<b>box 8 folder 1-2</b>
Complete edited printout, 1999	<b>folder</b> 3-5
Corrected final draft	<b>folder 6</b>
Corrected final draft	<b>box 9 folder 1-4</b>

Pietas draft. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, February 1999	<b>Disk-ID-No.</b> 0006003P_006
Publisher's first pass	<b>box 9 folder 5-6</b>
Publisher's first pass	<b>box 10 folder 1</b>
Publisher's second pass (two versions)	<b>folder</b> 2-6
Publisher's third pass	<b>box 11 folder 1</b>
Publisher's final proof	<b>folder 2-3</b>
Reviews. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, October 1999	<b>Disk-ID-No.</b> 0006003P_006
Galley proofs	<b>box 11 folder 4-5</b>
<i>Engine Summer (Learning to Live With It)</i>	
Holograph and typescript notes	<b>box 11 folder 6</b>
Holograph and typescript, 1967-8	<b>folder 7</b>
Holograph and typescript, 1967-8	<b>box 12 folder</b> 1-3
Holograph and typescript notes and drafts	<b>folder</b> 4-6
Typescript setting copy, 1962	<b>folder 7</b>
Setting copy	<b>box 13 folder 1</b>
"Exogamy," holograph short story	<b>folder 2</b>
"The Green Child," holograph short story	<b>folder</b> 3
"Holy Saturday," two typescript versions, 1962 and 1967	<b>folder 4</b>
Ka	
Chapter drafts. 30 electronic files: PDF, WordPerfect, 2017	<b>Disk-ID-No.</b> 1708001P_001

Final drafts. 12 electronic files: Microsoft Word, PDF, WordPerfect,  
2017

"Little, Big"

Holograph draft **box 13 folder 5-9**

Photocopy typescript **box 14 folder 1-7**

Corrected galley proofs (housed in oversize Box 22.2)

Lord Byron's Novel: The Evening Land

Drafts. 3 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, June-November  
2004 **Disk-ID-No.**  
0508016P\_001,  
0508016P\_002

Front matter. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, October 2004 **Disk-ID-No.**  
0508016P\_002

*Love & Sleep*

Working notebook, 1987 (**RESTRICTED**) **box 15**  
**folder 1**

*Love & Sleep (Ember Days)*

Holograph draft **box 15 folder 2**

Holograph draft **folder 3-6**

*Love & Sleep*

Holograph draft **box 16 folder 1-3**

Typescript drafts **folder 4-8**

Typescript editing draft **box 17 folder 1-2**

Typescript **folder 3-6**

Final corrected galley proofs **folder 7-8**

Final corrected galley proofs **box 18 folder**  
1-2

"The Love Song of Meneleaus," typescript **folder**  
3

"Missolonghi, 1824," typescript	<b>folder 4</b>
<i>Novelty</i>	
"In Blue," typescript	<b>box 18 folder 5</b>
"The Nightingale Sings at Night," holograph	<b>folder 6</b>
"Great Work of Time," holograph notes	<b>folder 7</b>
"Great Work of Time," holograph draft	<b>folder 8</b>
"Great Work of Time," typescript	<b>folder 9</b>
"Novelty," holograph and typescript	<b>box 19 folder 1</b>
<i>Novelty</i> , corrected setting copy	<b>folder 2-4</b>
"Snow," holograph draft and typescript	<b>folder 5</b>
"Souvenirs," typescript, 1967	<b>folder 6</b>
"The Squire Completes His Tale," in whole issue of <i>Pegasus</i> , 1964	<b>folder 7</b>
"The Translator." 1 electronic file: WordPerfect. November 1999	<b>Disk-ID-No.</b> 0006003P_001
"Where Spirits Gat Them Home," typescript	<b>box 19 folder 8</b>

## Subseries C. Film and Television

<i>America Lost and Found</i> , typescript	<b>box 19 folder 9</b>
<i>American Gothic</i> , typescript film treatment and novel synopsis	<b>folder 10</b>
<i>The Bermuda Triangle</i> , typescript synopsis	<b>folder 11</b>
<i>The British Invasion</i> , typescript documentary narration	<b>folder 12</b>

<i>Clouds</i> , typescript documentary narration	<b>folder</b> 13
<i>Counterfeit</i> , typed filmscript, 1986	<b>folder 14</b>
<i>Curtains Up</i> , typescript documentary narration	<b>box 20</b> <b>folder 1</b>
<i>The Erie War</i> , typescript documentary draft	<b>folder 2</b>
<i>Evangeline</i> , typescript television script	<b>folder</b> 3
<i>The Great Depression</i> , 3 printout documentary drafts	<b>folder 4</b>
<i>Hindenburg</i> , typescript film treatment	<b>folder</b> 5
High Energy Physics: 6 typescripts	
The Heart of the Matter	<b>box 20 folder 6</b>
Who Has Seen the Wind?	
What's Down There?	
Search: Encounters with Science	
New Eye for Kitt Peak	<b>box 20 folder 6</b>
The Mayall Telescope	
IBM Motivational films: " Leadership Begins With You," 2 typescripts	<b>folder 7</b>
<i>The Liberators</i> , 2 typescript documentary narrations	<b>folder 8</b>
<i>One By One</i> , typescript documentary narration	<b>folder 9</b>
<i>Pearl Harbor: Surprise and Remembrance</i> , holograph and typescript notes, documentary treatment, script	<b>folder</b> 10

<i>Ten Dollar Horse and a Forty Dollar Saddle</i> , typed film treatment and script	<b>folder</b> 11
<i>The Tonight Show</i> , typed stage treatment and play script	<b>folder</b> 12
USS Arizona War Memorial, 4 typescript draft narrations	<b>folder</b> 13
<i>Walker Evans</i> , typescript television proposal	<b>folder</b> 14
<i>War</i> , corrected typescript documentary narration, 1968	<b>folder</b> 15
<i>World of Tomorrow</i> , typescript draft documentary narration	<b>folder</b> 16
<i>ZEPS</i> , typescript draft documentary narration	<b>folder</b> 17
Scripts written in collaboration with with Laurie Block	
<i>America and Lewis Hine</i> typescript documentary	<b>box</b> 21 <b>folder</b> 1
<i>American Outpost</i> , annotated typescript drafts	<b>folder</b> 2-3
<i>Are We Winning the War, Mommy?</i> , typescript documentary narration	<b>folder</b> 4
<i>Capitalism</i> , typescript documentary	<b>folder</b> 5
<i>Communism</i> , typescript documentary	<b>folder</b> 6
<i>God's Square Mile</i> , holograph and typescript documentary	<b>folder</b> 7
Smithsonian Institution, typescript notes, draft, film	<b>folder</b> 8
<i>1917: Revolution in Russia</i> , holograph and typescript notes, draft, film treatment	<b>folder</b> 9

## Subseries C. Commercial Work

Bill Graham and the Fillmore East, typescript review, 1967	<b>box 21</b> <b>folder</b> 10
Chase Manhattan Bank projects, typescript and imprints	
"The Credit Game Holiday Buying Guide"	<b>box 21</b> <b>folder 11</b>
"Happy Holidays"	
New York Life Insurance projects, typescript	<b>folder 12</b>
"Pound," film by Robert Downey, typescript review	<b>folder 13</b>
"Sounds of Freedom," 3 typescript narrations	<b>folder 14</b>
<i>Intermountain Express</i> , August 24, 1979 (2 copies)	<b>box 22</b> <b>folder 1</b>
<i>Little, Big</i> , corrected galley proofs	<b>folder 2</b>
<i>National Peep</i> , July [1972?] (2 copies)	<b>folder</b> 3
<i>Seymour</i> : Program notes for New Line Cinema, 1968	<b>folder 4</b>