

Brian Moore:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Moore, Brian, 1921-1999
Title:	Brian Moore Papers
Dates:	1935-1998
Extent:	35 boxes (14.7 linear feet), 2 galleys
Abstract:	The collection consists of typescript drafts, proofs, and contracts for many novels published since 1962.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-04867
Language:	English
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Purchase, 2000 (Reg. no. 14701)
Processed by	Liz Murray, 2001
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

Although Irish-born Canadian novelist Brian Moore lived in California for more than thirty years, he considered himself a Canadian writer and retained his Canadian citizenship. Because his formative years in Northern Ireland had a profound effect on him, many of Moore's works center on Catholicism and Irish themes. The Ransom Center's collection of Moore papers consists of typescript drafts, proofs, and contracts for many of his novels published since 1962 including *An Answer from Limbo*, *Black Robe*, *Cold Heaven*, *The Color of Blood*, *The Doctor's Wife*, *The Great Victorian Collection*, *Lies of Silence*, *The Magician's Wife*, *The Mangan Inheritance*, *No Other Life*, and *The Statement*. A brief stay in California in 1965 to write the script for Alfred Hitchcock's "Torn Curtain" led to permanent residence in Malibu where Moore wrote additional screenplays as well as novels. Screenplays well-represented in this collection are "Black Robe," filmed in 1991, "Control," "Gabrielle Chanel," and "Strangers." Moore also wrote articles for newspapers and magazines including *Travel and Leisure*, *House and Garden*, and *The New York Times* among others, as well as book reviews. These are included, as are texts of various talks, readings, and lectures given in academic and literary settings.

Moore's correspondence spans nearly forty years from 1959-1998, particularly the 1980s and 1990s. Some outgoing correspondence is present, but primarily the collection consists of incoming letters from publishers, editors, agents, fans, critics, friends, other writers, movie directors, and actors. This portion of the collection was poorly organized when received, with only a few packets labeled by year which provided evidence of Moore's original order. To preserve that order and facilitate use, the remaining correspondence has also been arranged by year.

Unique to the Ransom Center's collection is a complete set of diaries from 1957-1992 listing Moore's notes to himself, work logs, summaries of correspondence and telephone calls, possible book titles, details of book contracts and royalties, and appointments. The collection also includes personal papers regarding education and employment from 1943-1960 and photographs. Career-related material is represented by awards, contracts, interviews, and participation in public events.

The collection is organized into four series: Series I. Works, with subseries A. Novels, B. Plays, Screenplays, and Adaptations, and C. Other Writings; Series II. Correspondence; Series III. Diaries; and Series IV. Career-Related and Personal. Two books received with the manuscript material have been transferred to the Ransom Center Library. The collection is in good physical condition and is open for research.

This collection was acquired by the Ransom Center through the dealer Ralph Sipper after Moore's death in January 1999. Moore's papers were organized by the dealer prior to sale and bear both Moore's and the dealer's identifications. These have been relied upon in the arrangement and description of the collection. Additional Moore collection material is held in the Special Collections Library of the University of Calgary.

Series I. Works

Subseries A. Novels

<i>An Answer from Limbo</i> , carbon typescript	box 1 folder 1-2
<i>Black Robe</i>	
Corrected photocopy	folder 3
Setting copy (Dutton, 1985)	folder 4
<i>Cold Heaven</i> , corrected photocopy	box 2 folder 1
<i>The Color of Blood</i>	
Research material and notes	folder 2
Original typescript to p. 128, heavily corrected	folder 3
Rejected pages for first draft	folder 4
Part II, corrected typescript	folder 5
Photocopy of original typescript to p.260 with additional corrections	folder 6
Photocopy, cont'd	box 3 folder 1
Final draft sent to typist, October 1986	folder 2
Final typescript, original copy	folder 3-4
Final typescript, photocopy	folder 5
Correspondence and contracts, 1986-1993	box 4 folder 1
<i>The Doctor's Wife</i>	
Sheet used to try out titles, February 1976	folder 2
Final edited typescript	folder 3-4

Setting copy (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1976)	folder 5-6
Proofs, June 8, 1976	box 5 folder 1
Proofs, June 21, 1976	folder 2
<i>Ganae</i> , various drafts	folder 3-6
<i>The Great Victorian Collection</i>	
Uncorrected typescript, photocopy	box 6 folder 1
Galleys [removed to galley files]	
<i>Lies of Silence</i>	
Uncorrected typescript, photocopy	folder 2
Correspondence and contracts, 1989-1994	folder 3
<i>The Magician's Wife</i>	
Uncorrected typescript	folder 4
Typesetter's copy	box 7 folder 1-2
Correspondence, 1997-1998	folder 3
<i>The Mangan Inheritance</i> , corrected typescript, October 10, 1977	folder 4-5
<i>No Other Life</i>	
Corrected typescript	folder 6
Corrected typescript, January 1992	box 8 folder 1
Second last draft before N. Scotia final draft	folder 2-3
Uncorrected typescript	folder 4-5

Typeset copy with correspondence, 1992 **folder 6**

Correspondence **box 9 folder 1-2**

The Statement

First draft, August 19, 1994-March 25, 1998 **folder 3-4**

First draft of first part **folder 5-6**

Setting copy (Dutton, 1996) **folder 7**

Setting copy, cont'd **box 10 folder 1**

Correspondence, 1995-1997 **folder 2**

Publicity and articles **folder 3**

Untitled novel with character "Nora O'Neill" **folder 4**

Subseries B. Plays, Screenplays, and Adaptations

The Apartment Hunter, screenplay by Jack Weinstein and Robert Resnikoff adapted from BM's short story **folder 5**

Black Robe, screenplay

Film notes **folder 6**

Original first draft, July 13, 1985 **folder 7**

Draft, July 15, 1985 **box 11 folder 1**

Third draft, October 1985 **folder 2**

Feature version, February 1986 **folder 3**

Feature version, second draft, April 4, 1986 **folder 4**

Drafts, December 1986 **folder 5-6**

Sixth draft, January 1987 **folder 7**

Sixth draft, January 1987, (revised) **box 12 folder 1**

Draft, April 1987	folder 2
Draft, August 23, 1990	folder 3
Draft, nd	folder 4
Draft segments used for cut and paste editing	folder 5
Preliminary press package, draft, Oct. 18, 1990	folder 6
French translation	folder 7
<i>Black Robe</i> , TV script with paddlers scene missing, second draft, September 1985	box 13 folder 1
<i>Catholics</i> , play	
Script, heavily revised	folder 2
Script, revised November 1, 1981	folder 3
<i>The Closing Ritual</i> , photocopy playscript with notes and correspondence, March 1979	folder 4
<i>The Color of Blood</i> , screenplay, first rough draft, April 1988	folder 5
<i>Control</i>	
Comments	folder 6
Notes	folder 7
Draft, April 2, 1986	folder 8
Second rewrite, June 1986	box 14 folder 1
Third rewrite, July 15, 1986	folder 2
Draft, Sept. 25, 1986	folder 3
Final edited version, October 1986	folder 4
<i>Gabrielle Chanel</i> , screenplay	

Photocopy of "Chanel" by Edmonde Charles-Roux from which adaptation was made	folder 5
First draft, BM's copy	folder 6
First draft, associated material	box 15 folder 1
Second draft, BM's copy	folder 2
Second draft with notes	folder 3
Third draft, February 1988	folder 4-5
Fourth draft, March 1, 1988	folder 6
Fourth draft, revised	box 16 folder 1
First French version	folder 2
French version, draft segments	folder 3
Pages from several drafts	folder 4-5
<i>Interview, screenplay</i>	
Draft, first version	folder 6
Draft, nd	box 17 folder 1
Drafts, revised January 1985	folder 2-3
"Eye of the Spider," first draft revised January 7, 1987	folder 4
<i>A Moment of Love</i> , screenplay by Derek Mahon based on BM's "The Feast of Luperca," March 1984	folder 5
<i>No Other Life</i>	
Screenplay, first draft, January 14, 1994	folder 6
Film collaboration with Constantin Costa Gavras, 1994-1995	folder 7
Film proposal for documentary on BM	folder 8

<i>Old Money</i> , screen treatment, Jane Fonda project, 1985	folder 9
<i>The Sight</i> , screenplay	
First draft	box 18 folder 1
Drafts, with contract and correspondence	folder 2
Mankiewicz's notes	folder 3
<i>The Slave</i> , uncorrected photocopy screenplay, from novel by Isaac B. Singer	folder 4
<i>Strangers</i> , screenplay	
Edited typescript photocopy of novel by Rosie Thomas	folder 5
First draft	folder 6
Draft, with corrections	folder 7
Drafts, December 1986	box 19 folder 1-2
Revision, December 15, 1986	folder 3
Revision, January 1986 [also marked 1987]	folder 4
Draft, April 1987	folder 5
Revision, May 1987	folder 6
<i>Uncle T</i> , screenplay by Gerald Wexler based on short story by BM, with Moore's corrections	folder 7
Untitled screenplay based on BM's novel <i>The Great Victorian Collection</i> , with corrections	folder 8
Untitled, unfiled screenplay by Brian Friel based on BM's "The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne" with Moore's notes	box 20 folder 1
Untitled film script based on BM's novel "The Revolution Script," revised second draft, July 1972	folder 2

Subseries C. Other Writings

Articles and contributions

Notebook containing early article drafts plus original holograph draft of story which became "Judith Hearne," ca. 1946	folder 3
"Roman Holiday," ca. 1946	folder 4
"A Drive up Highway 1," <i>Travel and Leisure</i> , drafts, correspondence, and associated material, December 1984	folder 5
"County Cork," <i>Travel and Leisure</i> , July 1986	folder 6
"Point Zero," <i>House and Garden</i> , 1985	folder 7
Ventana wilderness article, July 1986	folder 8
"The Sophisticated Traveller," <i>The New York Times</i> , October 1987	folder 9
Piece on Donegal for "32 Counties," a collection of photographs by Donovan Wylie, December 1988	folder 10
Piece for the <i>Adam International Review</i> , Nov. 1989 (written while in Dublin hospital in August 1977)	folder 11
"A vocation," short story contribution for the Verbal Arts Centre project, 1998	folder 12
Piece for <i>Montreal Magazine</i> about BM's arrival in Canada, nd.	folder 13
Book reviews	folder 14-16
Notes	
For play, "Maam Cross"	box 21 folder 1
On "A Mother" from "Dubliners"	folder 2
"Touvier"	folder 3

On trip to Ireland, nd (holograph notebook)	folder 4
Reading from "The Magician's Wife"	folder 5
Speeches	folder 6
Stories, unpublished: "A Bed in America" later used in Hitchcock film "Torn Curtain," and "A Matter of Faith"	folder 7
Talks	
At University of Michigan, nd.	folder 8
"Imagination and Experience," draft for Edinburgh Book Festival, 1991, and published as a chapbook of the Harbourfront Reading Series, Toronto, 1997	folder 9
"The Writer as Exile," with notes and fragments, with "The Novelists Voice"	folder 10
On subject of becoming a writer	folder 11
Unidentified fragments and notes	folder 12

Series II. Correspondence, 1959-1998

File of notable literary correspondents [compiled by dealer?]	box 21 folder 13
1959-1979	folder 14
1980-1984	box 22 folder 1
1985	folder 2-3
1986	folder 4-5
1987	box 23 folder 1-2
1988	folder 3-5
1989	box 24 folder 1
1990	folder 2-3
1991	folder 4-5
1991 cont'd	box 25 folder 1
1992	folder 2-3
1993	folder 4
1994	folder 5
1995-1998	folder 6

Series III. Diaries, 1957-1992

1957-1961	box 26 folder 1-5
1962-1966	box 27
1967-1971	box 28
1972-1976	box 29
1977-1980	box 30 folder 1-4
1981-1984	box 31
1985-1988	box 32
1989-1992	box 33

Series IV. Career-Related and Personal

Holograph "Commonplace Album" with calligraphed notation of aphorisms and quotations from celebrated authors	box 34 folder 1
Awards and grants, including first prize in verse speaking (1935) and best screenplay for "Black Robe" in 1991 and 1992	folder 2
Collection contents written in brief form on paper bag	folder 3
Contracts, various titles	folder 4-6
Contracts, <i>Cold Heaven</i>	folder 7
Contracts, <i>Cold Heaven</i> , Marshall Productions, 1984-1989	folder 8
Instructional material for readings course on BM, Joan Lingard, and Seamus Heaney	folder 9
Interviews	box 35 folder 1
Minutes of the Tenth General Assembly of Aosdána on April 20, 1989	folder 2
Personal papers, regarding education and employment, 1943-1960	folder 3
Photographs	folder 4
Public events, 1997-1999	folder 5
Travel receipts for trip to Ireland, September 1985	folder 6