

Tim O'Brien:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	O'Brien, Tim, 1946-
Title:	Tim O'Brien Papers
Dates:	1916-2007, undated
Extent:	31 document boxes, 8 serial boxes, 1 oversize box (16.7 linear feet)
Abstract:	The bulk of the Tim O'Brien Papers is made up of materials related to his novels and short stories, such as drafts, typescripts, proofs, correspondence, interviews, reviews, and book promotion and publishing items. Also present are smaller amounts of personal and family records.
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchase, 2007 (R16545)
Processed by:	Stephen Cooper, 2008
Repository:	The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Scope and Contents

The materials in the Tim O'Brien Papers span not only his long career as an author, but also much of his life from his birth in Austin, Minnesota, through his teaching career at Texas State University San Marcos. The bulk of the collection is made up of materials related to his novels and short stories, such as drafts, typescripts, proofs, correspondence, interviews, reviews, and book promotion and publishing items, but also present are smaller amounts of personal and family records containing items as varied as O'Brien's baby book; short stories he wrote in junior high school; correspondence from the summer he was drafted, basic training, and his tour of duty in Vietnam; more than one hundred photographs of O'Brien and family members; and personal documents such as his parents' marriage certificate, birth certificates, and honorable discharge documents.

The papers are arranged in six series: I. Works, 1970-2007; II. Correspondence, 1977-2007; III. Career-Related, 1970-2007; IV. Family and Personal Records, 1916-2007; V. Works by Others, 1982-2006; and VI. Published Material, 1941-2006. Upon arrival, the majority of the material was arranged roughly in the present order; i.e., mainly grouped by novel, with some boxes containing unrelated items that were arranged into corresponding series. O'Brien's handwritten comments appear throughout. Some of his notations appear to have been written for a contemporary second party; others seem directed at future researchers.

Series I. Works is further divided into two subseries, A. Novels, 1970-2007, and B. Short Works, 1970-2004. O'Brien's novels are well represented in Subseries A. with typescripts, proofs, and galleys, almost all with various amounts of revision, editing, and proofreading corrections, often in O'Brien's hand. Each novel also has at least two folders of related correspondence comprised of business and fan mail, as well as additional folders of interviews, reviews, promotion and production materials such as advertisements, reading announcements, and dust jacket proofs, and related works by others, including stage, film, and television scripts, theses, and dissertations. (Series V. contains additional works by others, and Series VI. contains short story excerpts from each novel as published in periodicals.)

Subseries B. Short Works contains drafts and proofs for essays, short stories, and reviews written between 1989-2004, as well as some tearsheets from serials in which some of the drafts were finally published. (Series VI. has a number of the actual serials as well.) Also present in Subseries B. are materials related to "Vietnam in Me," an article in which O'Brien describes his return to Vietnam more than twenty years after fighting there, including a final draft, article contract, trip itinerary and notes, photographs, and research materials.

The Correspondence Series contains chronological files of career-related and fan mail, as well as alphabetical files of correspondence from other writers including Ray Bradbury, Phil Caputo, Raymond Carver, James Grady, John Irving, Naomi Nye, Joyce Carol Oates, George Plimpton, Oliver Stone, James Webb, and Tobias Wolff. Perhaps most significant is the "literary correspondence" file, arranged chronologically, which O'Brien describes as "some pretty fair stuff about my early thinking/plans" regarding his

writing.

Series III. Career-Related contains a large group of financial papers primarily made up of literary contracts and royalty statements for novels, although some materials relate to awards, grants, and endowments. Also present are interviews and reviews, notes and research materials, speeches, lectures, and teaching notes, as well as some photographs.

Series IV. Family and Personal Records primarily spans O'Brien family history beginning with the lives of O'Brien's parents before his birth, documented by certificates of birth, marriage, and military discharge as well as some photographs, and continuing through his years at Harvard University, documented by class notes, school records, and photographs. The intervening years are represented by O'Brien's baby book and photograph, baptism record, correspondence prior to and during his military service, junior high school through Macalester College correspondence, newspaper clippings, and school records, and a folder containing material related to Lorna Lou Moeller, a childhood friend on whom the character of Linda in *The Things They Carried* was modeled.

Series V. Works by Others contains play and movie scripts, theses, criticism, a bibliography, and short works of fiction by fans, scholars, and professional writers.

The final series, Published Material, is divided into four subseries, A. Fiction, B. Book Reviews, C. Interviews Given and Articles about Tim O'Brien, and D. General Periodicals. Subseries A. is arranged alphabetically by novel, listing the serial publications in which corresponding stories or chapter excerpts were published. Subseries B. is arranged alphabetically by title of publication with the article title and year of publication listed, while Subseries C. and D. are arranged by alphabetical title only. Overall the collection is in good condition.

Separated Material

Books, audio recordings, computer disks, and personal effects received with the collection have been transferred to the appropriate departments within the Ransom Center.

Series I. Works, 1970-2007, undated

Subseries A. Novels, 1970-2007, undated

<i>Going After Cacciato</i> (1978)	Box 1 Folder
Typescript with corrections	Folder 1-3
Page proofs	Folder
September 1977	Folder 4-6
Copy 2	Folder 7
Copy 2, cont'd	Box 2 Folder 1-2
Revised January 1986	Folder 3-5
Galleys, with corrections for paperback editions	Folder
November 1988	Folder 6
April 1989	Folder 7-8
"Lake Country, A Play for Radio" typescript	Box 3 Folder 1
Correspondence	Folder
Personal and fan mail, 1978-1994, undated	Folder 2-3
Publishing, 1975-1992	Folder 4
National Book Awards, 1979	Folder
Articles and announcements	Folder 5
Ceremony materials	Folder 6
Correspondence, 1979	Folder
Personal and fan mail, March-May	Folder 7
Professional, August	Folder 8

O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

Interviews, 1978-2000, undated	Folder 9
Reviews, 1977-1987, undated	Folder 10-11
Reviews, foreign, 1978-1981, undated	Folder 12
Dust jacket proofs	Folder 13
Ads and promotion pieces	Folder 14
"Retrospective pieces," 1976-1987	Folder 15
<i>If I Die in a Combat Zone, Box Me Up and Ship Me Home</i> (1973)	Box 4 Folder
Final typescript, with revisions	Folder 1-2
Page proofs, with corrections, 1989	Folder 3
Dust jacket proofs, publicity photographs	Folder 4
Correspondence	Folder
Personal and fan mail, 1973-1995, undated	Folder 5
Professional, 1970-2002	Folder 6
Reviews, 1973-1995	Folder 7
<i>In the Lake of the Woods</i> (1994)	Folder
Typescript, final version	Folder 8-10
Setting copy, with corrections, May 1994	Box 5 Folder 1-3
Page proofs	Folder
Undated, with corrections	Folder 4-6
July 1994, with corrections	Folder 7-9

O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

A.B.A. presentation copy	Box 6 Folder 1-3
Presentation copy	Folder 4-6
Uncorrected advance, with paperback revisions	Folder 7
Advance reading copy, with paperback revisions	Folder 8
Notes and research materials	Box 7 Folder 1
Promotion and production materials	Folder 2
Correspondence	Folder
Fan mail, 1992-1999, undated	Folder 3-5
Personal, 1994-1995, undated	Folder 6
Professional, 1985-1995	Box 8 Folder 1
Awards materials	Folder 2
Interviews, 1994-1995	Folder 3
Reviews, 1994-2001, undated	Folder 4
Related works by others, 1996-2000	Folder 5
Thank-you book, 1998	Folder 6
<i>July, July</i> (2002)	Folder
Typescript fragments, chapters 15, 23	Folder 7
Typescript, with revisions	Folder 8-9
Typescript, cont'd	Box 9 Folder 1
Page proofs, 2002	Folder
February 12, with revisions	Folder 2-4
March 12, with corrections	Folder 5-7

March 15, with copy edits	Folder 8-9
March 15, cont'd	Box 10 Folder 1
March 26, with corrections	Folder 2-4
June 13, with revisions	Folder 5-7
Bound with minor corrections	Folder 8
Publicity and production materials (*floor displays removed to Oversize Box 32)	Folder 9*
Short story drafts for <i>Esquire</i> and <i>The New Yorker</i> , 2002	Box 11 Folder 1
Correspondence	Folder
Personal, 2001-2003	Folder 2
Professional, 1999-2002	Folder 3
Interviews, 2002, undated	Folder 4
Reviews	Folder 5
<i>Northern Lights</i> (1975)	Folder
Final typescript, with revisions	Folder 6-9
Notes and research materials	Folder 10
Dust jacket proofs	Box 12 Folder 1
Correspondence	Folder
Fan mail, 1983	Folder 2
Professional, 1973-1975	Folder 3
Reviews, 1975-1976, undated	Folder 4
<i>The Nuclear Age</i> (1981)	Folder
Typescript	
With revisions	Folder 5-7

Final version	Folder 8-9
Final version, cont'd	Box 13 Folder 1
Page proofs for paperback editions	Folder
With corrections, 1985	Folder 2-3
"Final corrected" set, 1985	Folder 4-6
Laurel paperback edition, 1993	Folder 7-8
Uncorrected advance, undated	Box 14 Folder 1
Corrected galleys for paperback edition, 1985	Folder 2-4
Notes	Folder 5
Research materials	Folder 6-7
Production materials	Box 15 Folder 1
Correspondence	Folder
Fan mail, 1976-1995, undated	Folder 2
Personal, 1980-1985, undated	Folder 3
Professional, 1980-1987, undated	Folder 4
Interviews, 1979-1986, undated	Folder 5
Reviews, "good" and "bad," 1980-1986, undated	Folder 6
<i>The Things They Carried</i> (1990)	Folder
Typescript	
"Original" draft, with revisions	Folder 7
"Earliest" draft, with revisions	Folder 8
"1st" draft, with revisions	Folder 9-11
"2nd" draft, with revisions	Box 16 Folder 1-2

Page proofs, with revisions	Folder 3-5
"Sampler" proofs for marketing	Folder 6
Speeches, short stories, 1995-2003, undated	Folder 7
Production materials (*cover proof for <i>Minnesota Monthly</i> , March 1990; Chicago Book Festival floor display removed to Oversize Box 32)	Folder 8-9*
Appalachian State University scrapbook (*removed to Oversize Box 32)	Folder *
Correspondence	Box 17 Folder
Awards, 1984-1993	Folder 1
Fan mail, 1987-2004	Folder 2-6
Fan mail, cont'd, undated	Box 18 Folder 1
Personal, 1990-2000, undated	Folder 2
Professional, 1986-2000, undated	Folder 3
Interviews, 1990-2000, undated	Folder 4
Reviews, 1989-2007, undated	Folder 5-6
Works by others: thesis, dissertation, criticism	Folder 7
Works by others, cont'd	Box 19 Folder 1-2
"A Soldier's Sweetheart," Showtime publicity packet, photographs	Folder 3
<i>Tomcat in Love</i> (1998)	Folder
Page proofs	
"Penultimate pass," with corrections, June 1998	Folder 4-5
"Final and last pass," May 1998	Folder 6-7

O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

Final pass, cont'd	Box 20 Folder 1
For paperback edition, April 1999	Folder 2-4
Notes	Folder 5
Short stories, drafts and tearsheets	Folder 6
Production materials	Folder 7
Correspondence	Box 21 Folder
Fan mail, 1998-1999	Folder 1
Personal, 1997-1998, undated	Folder 2
Professional, 1995-2001, undated	Folder 3
To Mr. and Mrs. William O'Brien, 1998	Folder 4
Interviews, 1998, undated	Folder 5
Reviews, 1998-1999, undated	Folder 6-7
Subseries B. Short Works, 1970-2004, undated	
Essay, review, short story drafts, 1989-2004, undated	Folder 8-9
Foreign language publications with short stories, 1984	Folder 10
Published short story and article tearsheets, 1970-2002	Box 22 Folder 1
"Vietnam in Me," published in <i>The New York Times Magazine</i> , October 2, 1994	Folder
Article with corrections, proofs, final draft, 1993-1994	Folder 2
Contract, trip itinerary, notes, and correspondence, 1993-1994	Folder 3
Fan mail, 1994-1995, undated	Folder 4
Photographs	Folder 5

Series II. Correspondence, 1977-2007, undated

Career-related, 1980-2003	Box 23 Folder 1
Fan mail, 1980-2003	Folder 2-3
Fan mail from online guestbook, 1997-2007	Folder 4
Foreign publishing, 1979-1998	Folder 5
Foreign translation, 1978-1998	Folder 6
From other writers, A-W, unidentified, 1977-2007, undated	Folder 7-8
"Literary correspondence," from Tim O'Brien, 1986-1990	Folder 9

Series III. Career-Related 1970-2007, undated

American Academy of Arts and Sciences awards, 1992-1999 (*group photo of honorees for 1992 award removed to Oversize Box 32)	Box 24 Folder 1*
Financial papers	Folder
Grant and endowment materials, 1970-1987	Folder 2
Literary contracts	Folder
Articles and short stories, 1975-1999	Folder 3
Foreign publications, 1978-1999	Folder 4
Movie, musical, play, and television, with correspondence, 1983-2007	Folder 5-7
Royalty statements	Folder
<i>Going After Cacciato</i> , 1979-2007	Folder 8
<i>Going After Cacciato</i> , cont'd	Box 25 Folder 1
<i>If I Die in a Combat Zone</i> , 1973-2007	Folder 2
<i>In the Lake of the Woods</i> , 1998-2006	Folder 3
<i>July, July</i> , 2003-2006	Folder 4
<i>Northern Lights</i> , 1976-2007	Folder 5
<i>The Nuclear Age</i> , 2004-2006	Folder 6
<i>The Things They Carried</i> , 1990-2007	Folder 7
<i>Tomcat in Love</i> , 1999-2007	Folder 8
Summary of number of novel copies sold	Folder 9

O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

Interviews, 1978-2007	Box 26 Folder 1-2
Notes and research materials, 1981-2001, undated	Folder 3
Photographs	Folder 4
Quotations and poems by others	Folder 5
Readings, announcement articles and pamphlets, 1981-2006, undated (*Shady Side Academy Distinguished Writers Series 2005 publicity posters; Ohio State University Creative Writing Program poster removed to Oversize Box 32)	Folder 6*
Reviews, 1997-2007	Folder 7-8
Speeches, lectures, and notes, 2004-2007, undated	Box 27 Folder 1-3
Teaching materials, "other writers"	Folder 4
Writing conference packets, 1975-1993, undated	Folder 5

Series IV. Family and Personal Records 1916-2007, undated

"Army Days"	Box 27 Folder
Clippings, correspondence, records, 1969-2007, undated	Folder 6
Photographs	Folder 7
Baby book, baby photograph, baptism record, clippings	Box 28 Folder 1
Correspondence	Folder
Basic training, with photographs, 1967-1968	Folder 2
Personal, 1956-1999	Folder 3
Summer drafted, 1968	Folder 4
Family photographs, circa 1915-1989, undated	Folder 5
Harvard University notes, records, photographs, 1971-1972, undated	Folder 6-8
High school correspondence, clippings, 1960-1964	Box 29 Folder 1
Junior high school short stories	Folder 2
Lorna Lou Moeller clippings, correspondence, photographs	Folder 3
Macalester College	Folder
Correspondence, photographs, records, 1963-1968	Folder 4
Senior class president-related, 1965-1967	Folder 5
SPAN summer abroad, 1967	Folder 6
Parents' records, 1916-2007	Folder 7

O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

Print of Vietnamese school children, by T. Bayard 1967/1995 (*removed to Oversize
Box 32)

Folder
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Series V. Works by Others 1982-2006, undated

Criticism, articles, bibliographies, fiction, 1982-2006, undated	Box 30 Folder 1-3
Playscripts	Folder
Frellick, Paul, "In the Lake of the Woods," 1999	Folder 4
Linney, Romulus, "Going After Cacciato," 2003	Folder 5
Unidentified author, "The Things They Carried," undated	Folder 6
Screenplays	Folder
Cassavetes, Nick, "Going After Cacciato," 2002	Folder 7
Donnelly, Thomas Michael, "The Things They Carried," undated	Folder 8
Grigsby, Josh, "The Things They Carried," 2002	Folder 9
Hayes, Jonathan, "Tomcat in Love," 2004	Box 31 Folder 1
Theses	Folder
Berman, Jenifer Hope, <i>Myth and the Power of Imagination</i> , 1990	Folder 2
Donelli, Shevaun, <i>Tomcat in Love and the Digression of Ill-Repute</i> , 2005	Folder 3
Kimmet, Michael Patrick, <i>Metafiction in the Work of Tim O'Brien</i> , 1999	Folder 4
Pappas, Ben, <i>How to Tell a True War Story</i> , 1994	Folder 5
Vietnam notebook, an English class project, undated	Folder 6

O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

Oversize materials

Box 32 Folder

Series VI. Published Material 1941-2006, undated

Subseries A. Fiction, 1974-2002

Going After Cacciato :

Box 33

Denver Quarterly , "Landing Zone Bravo," 1975

Esquire , "The Fisherman," 1977

FIF (Polish), "Going After Cacciato," 1984

Gallery , "Going After Cacciato," 1976, 1986

Ploughshares , "Going After Cacciato," 1976

Redbook , "Keeping Watch by Night," 1976

Redbook's Famous Fiction , "Where Have You Gone, Charming Billy?" 1977

Shenandoah , "The Way It Mostly Was," 1976

If I Die in a Combat Zone :

Literary Cavalcade , "Centurion," 1976

In the Lake of the Woods :

Box 34

The Atlantic , "The People We Marry," 1992

Esquire , "How Unhappy They Were," 1994

July, July :

Esquire , 2000-2002

"July '69"

"Little People"

"What Went Wrong"

The New Yorker , 1999-2002

"Nogales"

"Winnipeg"

O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

"Too Skinny"

"Half Gone"

Northern Lights :

Ploughshares , "A Man of Melancholy Disposition," 1974

The Nuclear Age :

The Atlantic , "The Nuclear Age," 1979

Esquire

"Civil Defense," 1980

"Underground Tests," 1985

Box 35

Granta , "Quantum Jumps," 1985

Ploughshares , "Quantum Jumps," 1983

The Things They Carried :

Esquire

"The Ghost Soldiers," 1981

"The Things They Carried," 1986

"How to Tell a True War Story," 1987

"The Lives of the Dead," 1989

"Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong," 1989

"Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong," 1989 (Japanese)

**Box
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GQ , "In the Field," 1989

Harper's , "Enemies and Friends," 1990

Macalester Today , "On the Rainy River," 1990

McCall's , "Field Trip," 1990

Playboy , "On the Rainy River," 1990

O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

The Quarterly , "Spin," 1990

Tomcat in Love :

The New Yorker , "Faith," 1990

Subseries B. Book Reviews, Non-Fiction Articles, 1972-2006

Book-of-the Month Club News , "Author's Choice," 1978

Box
37

Esquire , "The Violent Vet," 1979

Life

"A Letter to My Son," 2004

"The Best of Times," 2006

The New Republic , "The Youth Vote," 1972

New York , "The Ballad of Gary G.," 1979

The New Yorker , "The Streak," 1998

The New York Times Magazine , "The Vietnam in Me," 1994

Penthouse , 1974

"Prisoners of Peace"

"Revolt on the Turnpike"

"The Vietnam Veteran"

Ploughshares , "Introduction," 1995-1996

Redbook , "Claudia Mae's Wedding Day," 1973

Saturday Review , 1979-1980

Box 38

"Falling Star"

"Tales His Father Told Him"

"Burning Love"

"Honor Thy Commander"

O'Brien, Tim, 1946-

Subseries C. Interviews Given and Articles About Tim O'Brien, 1979-2005

ANQ -- Five Points , 1990-2004

Box 38

Gadfly -- Shady Side Academy Magazine , 1986-2004

Box 39

Southwestern American Literature -- Writers Notes Magazine , 1979-2005

**Box
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Subseries D. General Periodicals, 1941-2006

Boston Magazine -- Whiskey Island , 1941-1996