

# David Foster Wallace:

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

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### Descriptive Summary

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Creator:</b>     | Wallace, David Foster (1962-2008)   |
| <b>Title:</b>       | David Foster Wallace Papers   |
| <b>Dates:</b>       | 1971-2008   |
| <b>Extent:</b>      | 44 document boxes, 8 oversize folders (18.48 linear feet)   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>    | The David Foster Wallace Papers document all but one of Wallace's major works, and many of his shorter works. |
| <b>Call Number:</b> | Manuscript Collection MS-5155   |
| <b>Language:</b>    | English   |
| <b>Access:</b>      | Open for research   |

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### Administrative Information

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| <b>Acquisition:</b>  | Purchase, 2009 (09-11-011-P, 12-03-010-P, 12-10-005-P) |
| <b>Processed by:</b> | Stephen Cooper, 2010; Jenn Shapland, 2012              |
| <b>Repository:</b>   | The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center |

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## Biographical Sketch

David Foster Wallace was born February 21, 1962, in Ithaca, New York. His father, James Wallace, is a philosophy professor at the University of Illinois, and his mother, Sally Foster Wallace, is an instructor in English at Parkland College, a community college in Champaign, Illinois. Amy Wallace Havens, Wallace's younger sister, practices law in Tucson, Arizona. Wallace married artist Karen Green in 2004.

As an adolescent, Wallace played football and was a regionally ranked tennis player, but his interest in writing and language was influenced by his parents, who read *Ulysses* out loud to each other. His father read *Moby-Dick* to Wallace and his sister when they were only eight and six years old, and his mother would playfully pretend to have a coughing fit if one of the children made a usage error during supper conversation.

Wallace graduated *summa cum laude* from Amherst College in 1985 with a double major in Philosophy and English. His philosophy senior thesis dealt with semantics and modal logic concerning Aristotle's sea battle. His English senior thesis, around 700 pages and written in five months, turned into Wallace's first novel, *The Broom of the System* (1987), which attracted positive attention and comparisons to the work of Jorge Luis Borges and Thomas Pynchon. At Amherst, Wallace served for a time as managing editor of *Sabrina, The Humor Magazine of Amherst College*, and upon graduation he accepted a fellowship in the writing program at the University of Arizona, where he graduated with an M.F.A. in 1987. While a graduate student, Wallace met Bonnie Nadell, a literary agent in San Francisco, who read an excerpt of *The Broom of the System* that Wallace had submitted to her agency. Nadell took on Wallace as a client, establishing a professional and personal relationship that lasted the rest of his life.

Wallace followed *The Broom of the System* with the collection of short stories *Girl With Curious Hair* (1988), and he next published a nonfiction work with co-author Mark Costello titled *Signifying Rappers: Rap and Race in the Urban Present* (1990), which received a Pulitzer Prize nomination in 1991. *Infinite Jest* (1996), a massive 1,079 page novel, cemented his reputation as a formidable literary figure. His other major works include *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again: Essays and Arguments* (1997), *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men* (1999), *Up, Simba!* (2000), *Everything and More: A Compact History of Infinity* (2003), *Oblivion* (2004), and *Consider the Lobster: And Other Essays* (2005). *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men* was adapted for film in 2009.

In addition to the shorter pieces in his collected works, Wallace authored dozens of stories, non-fiction articles, and book reviews for, among others, the *Amherst Review*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's Magazine*, the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Paris Review*, *Poetry in Review*, *Rolling Stone*, *Salon.com*, the *Village Voice*, the *Washington Post*, and numerous anthologies. He was the recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award in 1987; a Yaddo residency fellowship in 1987 and 1989; a John Traine Humor Prize in 1988 for "Little Expressionless Animals"; a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in 1989; an Illinois Arts Council Award for Nonfiction in 1989 for "Fictional Futures and the Conspicuously Young"; a Quality Paperback Book Club's New Voices Award in Fiction in 1991 for *Girl with Curious Hair*; a National Magazine Award

finalist in 1995 for "Ticket to the Fair" and in 1997 for "David Lynch Keeps His Head"; a Lannan Foundation Award for Literature in 1996 and 2000; and a MacArthur Foundation fellowship in 1997-2002. He was named Outstanding University Researcher, Illinois State University, in 1998 and 1999.

Having suffered from anxiety attacks since his late teens, Wallace was diagnosed with clinical depression during his sophomore year at Amherst. He struggled with the condition for the rest of his life, and after a particularly rough period during which his usual medication was no longer effective, Wallace killed himself on September 12, 2008, at his home in California. His final novel, *The Pale King*, which remained unfinished at the time of his death, was published in 2011 by Little, Brown and Company under the guidance of his long-time editor Michael Pietsch. Wallace worked at the Internal Revenue Service and took accounting classes in preparation for the novel, which focuses on the employees of an IRS office.

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## Sources:

*Contemporary Authors Online*, <http://galenet.galegroup.com> (accessed 6 September 2010).

Flood, Alison. "Unfinished Foster Wallace novel finds UK publisher." *The Guardian*. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/may/07/david-foster-wallace-uk-publisher> (accessed 15 December 2009).

Katovsky, Bill. "David Foster Wallace: A Profile." *McSweeney's*. <http://www.mcsweeneys.net/2008/11/7katovsky.html> (accessed 18 March 2010).

Lipsky, David. "The Lost Years & Last Days of David Foster Wallace." *Rolling Stone Magazine*, 30 October 2008.

Neyfakh, Leon. "Remembering David Foster Wallace: 'David Would Never Stop Caring' Says Lifelong Agent." *The New York Observer*, <http://www.observer.com/2008/arts-culture/david-foster-wallaces-agent> (accessed 18 March 2010).

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## Scope and Contents

The David Foster Wallace Papers document all but one of Wallace's major works and many of his shorter works. The major works represented are: *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men* (1999); *The Broom of the System* (1987); *Consider the Lobster, And Other Essays* (2005); *Everything and More: A Compact History of Infinity* (2003); *Girl with Curious Hair* (1989); *Infinite Jest* (1996); *Oblivion: Stories* (2004); *The Pale King* (2011); and *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again: Essays and Arguments* (1997). *McCain's Promise: Aboard the Straight Talk Express* (2008) is documented with two previously published short versions titled "The Weasel, Twelve Monkeys, and the

Shrub," and "Up, Simba." *Signifying Rappers: Rap and Race in the Urban Present* (1990), coauthored by Wallace and Mark Costello, is Wallace's only major work without representation. See the Index of Works for a complete listing of all titles in the papers.

The papers are organized into four series: I. Works, 1984-2006, undated; II. Personal and Career-related, 1971-2008, undated; III. Copies of Works by Don DeLillo, undated; and IV. 2012 Additional *Pale King* Materials (1990-2007, undated). Series I. has been subdivided into two subseries: A. Novels and Collections, 1987-2006, undated and B. Short Works, 1984-2006, undated. All of the materials are in English.

Series I. makes up the bulk of the collection and includes handwritten notes and drafts, notebooks, interview notes, research materials, typescript drafts, proofs, and promotional materials. Some works are represented by as little as a single uncorrected typescript, but other works, such as *Everything and More*, provide comprehensive documentation of Wallace's full creative process with research materials, notebooks, handwritten drafts, original and revised typescript drafts, annotated and corrected 1st, 2nd, and 3rd pass copyedited drafts, and related correspondence. The majority of the typewritten drafts contain significant annotations and corrections by Wallace, often in different color inks for subsequent passes through a particular draft. Also present are Wallace's many comments, frequently humorous and often written on sticky notes attached to the transcripts, written to the people involved in the various stages of editing.

Series II. contains personal and professional records including teaching materials, childhood schoolwork, and college awards, essays, and exams. Also present are some personal journal pages, research materials such as handwritten entomology notes, and an "evidence" notebook containing freewriting, descriptive phrases, figures of speech, and story ideas.

Series III. consists solely of photocopy typescripts of three works by Don DeLillo, one of which, *Underworld*, contains extensive handwritten annotations by Wallace.

Series IV. includes materials related to *The Pale King*. The series comprises handwritten and typescript drafts, outlines, and characters lists; research print outs and visual aids; and a set of notebooks that contain reading notes, names, snippets of dialogue, definitions, quotations, and clippings. Manuscript materials have been organized according to batch and log numbers taken from a spreadsheet provided by Wallace's editor Michael Pietsch. These numbers are indicated on the folders and correspond to the spreadsheet page(s) included in each corresponding folder. A copy of the full spreadsheet is available in the front of Box 1. Where possible, the finding aid indicates the source location for each manuscript batch (e.g. "from his desk" or from a particular disk).

A relatively small amount of correspondence is in the papers, and what is present is almost entirely work-related between Wallace and his editors, fact-checkers, etc. All incoming letters are listed in an Index of Correspondents. The majority of Wallace's papers are in excellent condition, with only a few items requiring preservation restrictions, photocopying, and/or special housings.

## Related Material

Additional Wallace materials are located at the Ransom Center in the David Foster Wallace Collection, the Bonnie Nadell Collection of David Foster Wallace, the Steven Moore Collection of David Foster Wallace, the Don DeLillo Papers, and the James Linville *Paris Review* Collection.

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## Separated Material

320 books arrived at the Ransom Center with the David Foster Wallace Papers, all a part of Wallace's personal library gathered from his home. These volumes are housed in the Ransom Center Library and are listed in the University of Texas [Library Catalog](#). 11 books in the collection are restricted from access at the request of the estate.

One author-marked copy of *Infinite Jest*, the contents of thirteen folders, several author-marked pages of typescripts from additional folders, and one notebook with loose sheets have been removed from the papers and housed separately due to preservation restrictions. Photocopy or digital scan printouts of the separated materials are available in their place. The original materials may be viewed only with curatorial approval.

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## Index Terms

### Subjects

American literature -- 20th century  
Authors, American -- 20th century  
DeLillo, Don  
Modernism (Literature) -- United States

### Document Types

Galley proofs  
Juvenilia

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**Series I. Works, 1984-2006, undated****Subseries A. Novels and Collections, 1987-2006, undated***Brief Interviews with Hideous Men* (short story collection, 1999)

"Octet" typescript, undated (published as "Pop Quiz" in *Spelunker Flophouse* Vol. 1, No. 4, 1997) **Container** 2.4

"Suicide as a Sort of Present," typescript, undated (published as "Self-Harm as a Sort of Offering" in *Mid-American Review*, No. 18, Spring 1998) **Container** 35.4

Marked typescript, undated **Container** 2.5-7

'Marked set,' 20-25 January 1999 **Container** 2.8

'Marked set' (continued) **Container** 3.1-2

Contents page, undated **Container** 3.3

*The Broom of the System* (novel, 1987)

"Inside," typescript draft, four copies, undated **Container** 3.4

'Chapter 8,' typescript draft, undated **Container** 3.5

Typescript draft, undated **Container** 3.6-9

Typescript draft, (continued) **Container** 4.1-2

Typescript draft fragments, undated **Container** 4.3

Penguin press materials, 1987 **Container** 4.4

*Consider the Lobster, And Other Essays* (essay collection, 2005)

"Authority and American Usage," corrected typescript drafts, undated **Container** 4.6

"Consider the Lobster," typescript draft, undated **Container** 4.7

"Host"

'Design manuscript,' December 2004 [\*removed to oversize flat files] **Container** \*

'First pass' draft, 8 July 2005 **Container** 4.8

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 'Master proof,' 22 July 2005 [*some pages removed to Box 34 due to preservation restrictions] | <b>Container</b><br>4.9*    |
| 'C/E dupe,' undated   | <b>Container</b> 4.10       |
| "How Tracy Austin Broke My Heart," handwritten and typescript drafts, undated                 | <b>Container</b><br>4.11    |
| "Joseph Frank's Dostoevsky," handwritten and typescript drafts, research materials, undated   | <b>Container</b><br>4.12    |
| "A Series of Remarks on Kafka's Funniness," typescript drafts, undated                        | <b>Container</b><br>4.5     |
| "Up, Simba," correspondence, typescript drafts, and draft fragments, undated                  | <b>Container</b><br>4.13    |
| "Up, Simba" (continued)   | <b>Container</b> 5.1-3      |
| Typescript draft, December 2004   | <b>Container</b> 5.4-6      |
| 'Author set' proofs, 22 July 2005   | <b>Container</b> 5.7-8      |
| 'Author set' (continued)  | <b>Container</b> 6.1        |
| 'Little, Brown set' and photocopy, 22 July-15 August 2005                                     | <b>Container</b><br>6.2-6   |
| 'Little, Brown set' (continued) [*some pages removed due to preservation restrictions]        | <b>Container</b><br>7.1*    |
| 'Extremely uncorrected' advance proofs, photocopy, undated                                    | <b>Container</b><br>7.2-3   |
| Advance proofs, copyedited, undated [*some pages removed due to preservation restrictions]    | <b>Container</b><br>7. 4-5* |
| Advance proofs (continued)  | <b>Container</b> 8.1        |
| Correspondence, 2005  | <b>Container</b> 8.2        |
| <i>Everything and More: A Compact History of Infinity</i> (nonfiction, 2003)                  |                             |
| 'General outline' and 'index for notebooks A, B, and C,' 11/2001                              | <b>Container</b><br>8.3     |
| Notebooks A, B, and C, May-October 2001   | <b>Container</b> 8.4-6      |
| Notebooks 1, 2, 3, and 4, undated   | <b>Container</b> 8.7-10     |

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Research materials, 2002, undated   | <b>Container 9.1</b>     |
| Notes and draft fragments, 2001-2002, undated   | <b>Container 9.2</b>     |
| Corrected draft, undated  | <b>Container 9.3-4</b>   |
| Typescript draft, 28 February 2002  | <b>Container 9.5</b>     |
| Typescript with author's editing instructions, 2 July 2002  | <b>Container 9.6-7</b>   |
| 'Redone version,' typescript, September 2002  | <b>Container 9.8-9</b>   |
| 'Redone version' (continued)  | <b>Container 10.1</b>    |
| Typescript photocopy with author's corrections, undated   | <b>Container 10.2-4</b>  |
| Copyedited typescript and photocopy, undated  | <b>Container 10.5-8</b>  |
| Copyedited typescript photocopy (continued)   | <b>Container 11.1-2</b>  |
| 'Marked set,' 2002-2003   | <b>Container 11.3-6</b>  |
| 'Proofreader's set, 1st pass master,' 10 April-5 May 2003   | <b>Container 11.7</b>    |
| 'Proofreader's set' (continued)   | <b>Container 12.1-3</b>  |
| 'Author's set, 2nd pass' and photocopy, 11 July 2003  | <b>Container 12.4-6</b>  |
| 'Author's set, 2nd pass' (continued) [*some pages removed due to preservation restrictions]               | <b>Container 13.1-3*</b> |
| 'Master 2nd pass,' 11-15 July 2003  | <b>Container 13.4-6</b>  |
| 'Early 3rd pass, fixed sheets,' August 2003   | <b>Container 13.7</b>    |
| '3rd pass, author's set,' 4-13 August 2003  | <b>Container 13.8</b>    |
| '3rd pass, author's set' (continued)  | <b>Container 14.1-2</b>  |
| Correspondence  |                          |
| Jesse Cohen, 2002-2003, undated [*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions] | <b>Container 14.3*</b>   |



'Special notes for Jesse Cohen and copyeditor,' undated [\*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions] **Container**  
14.4\*

Erica Neely, 2001-2002 [\*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions] **Container**  
14.5\*

*Girl with Curious Hair* (short story collection, 1989)

Draft fragments, 1987, undated [\*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions] **Container**  
14.6-7\*

Incomplete typescript chapter set, undated [\*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions] **Container**  
14.8\*

Incomplete typescript chapter set (continued) **Container** 15.1\*

'Original draft,' undated **Container** 15.2-3

*Infinite Jest* (novel, 1996)

Handwritten drafts, undated **Container** 15.4-7

'First two sections,' typescript drafts and photocopy, undated **Container**  
16.1-6

Typescript draft fragments, undated **Container** 16.7

Typescript draft fragment (continued) **Container** 17.1-3

Typescript draft, with corrections, undated **Container** 17.4-8

Typescript draft (continued) **Container** 18.1-6

Draft for copyedit, undated **Container** 18.7

Draft for copyedit (continued) **Container** 19.1-6

Draft for copyedit (continued) **Container** 20.1-4

Typescript, copyedited, May-June 1995, undated **Container**  
20.5-6

Typescript, copyedited (continued) **Container** 21.1-5

Typescript, copyedited (continued) **Container** 22.1-3

Proof set, 5 September 1995 **Container** 22.4-6

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Proof set, 6-22 September 1995  | <b>Container 23.1-5</b>   |
| Notepad with corrections list   | <b>Container 23.6</b>     |
| Digital copy printouts of 'corrections of typos/errors for paperback printing of <i>Infinite Jest</i> ,' from 1st edition, 2nd printing <i>Infinite Jest</i> hardcover, 1996 [*book removed due to preservation restrictions] | <b>Container 23.7*</b>    |
| Correspondence  |                           |
| Little, Brown and Co., 1994   | <b>Container 23.8</b>     |
| Fan letter, 1997  | <b>Container 23.9</b>     |
| Promotional poster, undated [*removed to oversize flat files]   | <b>Container *</b>        |
| Promotional poster for paperback edition, undated [*removed to oversize flat files]   |                           |
| <i>Oblivion: Stories</i> (short story collection, 2004)   |                           |
| "Another Pioneer," typescript, undated  | <b>Container 24.1</b>     |
| "Good Old Neon"   |                           |
| Handwritten drafts, undated   | <b>Container 24.2</b>     |
| '2nd to last draft,' 16 September 2001  | <b>Container 24.3</b>     |
| 'Final' draft, 25 September 2001  | <b>Container 24.4</b>     |
| "Mister Squishy"  |                           |
| Handwritten drafts, undated   | <b>Container 24.5</b>     |
| Typescript drafts, June 2000-September 2001, undated  | <b>Container 24.6</b>     |
| "Oblivion"  |                           |
| Handwritten draft, undated  | <b>Container 24.7</b>     |
| Typescript draft, July 2001   | <b>Container 24.8</b>     |
| "The Suffering Channel," typescript draft, undated  | <b>Container 24.9</b>     |
| Typescript, uncorrected, undated  | <b>Container 24.10-11</b> |
| Typescript, uncorrected (continued)   | <b>Container 25.1</b>     |

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 'Advance proofs,' undated   | <b>Container 25.2-4</b>  |
| 'Author's set,' 2-3 March 2004 [*some pages removed due to preservation restrictions]   | <b>Container 25.5-7*</b> |
| <i>The Pale King</i> (novel, 2011)  |                          |
| Handwritten drafts 'freewriting' and 'Fierce Infant,' undated   | <b>Container 26.1</b>    |
| Research materials  |                          |
| Accounting classes, 1997-1998   | <b>Container 26.2-4</b>  |
| Boredom   | <b>Container 26.5</b>    |
| 'Midwesternisms' notebook, undated  | <b>Container 31.12</b>   |
| Scams, fraud, self defense  | <b>Container 26.6</b>    |
| Tax law, 2005-2006, undated   | <b>Container 26.7</b>    |
| Correspondence, 1997-2006   | <b>Container 26.8</b>    |
| <i>A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again: Essays and Arguments</i> (essay collection, 1997)  |                          |
| "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again," photocopied corrected draft, undated  | <b>Container 1.1</b>     |
| "David Lynch Keeps His Head"  |                          |
| Handwritten notes and draft, undated  | <b>Container 1.2</b>     |
| Photocopied corrected draft, undated  | <b>Container 1.3</b>     |
| "Tennis Player Michael Joyce's Professional Artistry as a Paradigm of Certain Stuff about Choice, Freedom, Discipline, Joy, Grotesquerie, and Human Completeness," photocopied corrected draft, undated | <b>Container 1.4</b>     |
| Copyedited set, undated   | <b>Container 1.5-7</b>   |
| 'Author set' proofs, 29-31 October 1996   | <b>Container 1.8-10</b>  |
| Proof set, 29-31 October 1996 [*some pages removed due to preservation restrictions]  | <b>Container 2.1-3*</b>  |

**Subseries B. Short works, 1984-2006, undated**

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| "Adultworld, Part One: The Ever-Changing Status of the Yen" ( <i>Esquire</i> , July, 1998)   |                           |
| Typescript draft, undated  | <b>Container 26.9</b>     |
| Galleys, 27 April 1998   | <b>Container 26.10</b>    |
| All Things to One Man, typescript, undated (published as "Late Night" in <i>Playboy</i> , June 1988; later collected in <i>Girl With Curious Hair</i> as "My Appearance," 1989)                        | <b>Container 26.11</b>    |
| "Brief Interviews with Hideous Men," typescript draft, April 1998 ( <i>Harper's Magazine</i> , October 1998; later collected in <i>Brief Interviews with Hideous Men</i> , 1999)                       | <b>Container 26.13</b>    |
| "Church Not Made With Hands," typescript, undated ( <i>Rampike</i> [Toronto] Winter/Spring 1991)   | <b>Container 27.1</b>     |
| Crash of '62, typescripts, undated (University of Arizona essay; later published in <i>Between C &amp; D</i> , Winter 1989 as "Crash of '69")  | <b>Container 27.2</b>     |
| "Datum Centenarius," typescript, undated (published as "Passion Digitally" in <i>New York Times Magazine</i> , September 29, 1996; later collected in <i>Brief Interviews with Hideous Men</i> , 1999) | <b>Container 27.3</b>     |
| "Democracy and Commerce at the U. S. Open" ( <i>Tennis</i> , September 1996)   |                           |
| Notebook, undated  | <b>Container 27.4</b>     |
| Typescript, undated  | <b>Container 27.5</b>     |
| "The Depressed Person," handwritten and typed drafts, 27 June-6 October 1997 ( <i>Harper's Magazine</i> , January 1998)  | <b>Container 27.6-7</b>   |
| "E Unibus Pluram: Television and U. S. Fiction," typescript, undated ( <i>Review of Contemporary Fiction</i> , 1993)   | <b>Container 27.8</b>     |
| The Enema Bandit and the Cosmic Buzzer, typescript, undated (unpublished) [*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions]  | <b>Container 27.9*</b>    |
| "Federer As Religious Experience" ( <i>The New York Times</i> , August 20, 2006)   |                           |
| Interview notes, undated   | <b>Container 27.10</b>    |
| Research materials, undated  | <b>Container 27.11-12</b> |
| Typescript drafts, undated   | <b>Container 27.13</b>    |
| Typescript drafts (continued)  | <b>Container 28.1</b>     |

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Correspondence, 2006, undated [*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions]   | <b>Container</b><br>28.2*     |
| <i>Play</i> copies, 2006  | <b>Container</b> 28.3         |
| "Fictional Futures and the Conspicuously Young," typescript draft, undated ( <i>The Review of Contemporary Fiction</i> VIII: 3, 1988)   | <b>Container</b><br>28.4      |
| "Five Direly Underappreciated U. S. Novels," faxed typescript, 1999 ( <i>Salon.com</i> , April 12, 1999)  | <b>Container</b><br>28.5      |
| Here and There, typescript, 1989 (writing sample for Yaddo application)   | <b>Container</b><br>28.6      |
| "Host," layout photocopy typescript, August 2004 ( <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> , April 2005; later collected in <i>Consider the Lobster</i> , 2005) [*removed to oversize flat files]                             | <b>Container</b><br>*         |
| "An Interval," proofs, August-September 1994 ( <i>The New Yorker</i> , January 1995)  | <b>Container</b><br>26.12     |
| "John Billy," typescripts, undated ( <i>Conjunctions</i> : 12, 1988)  | <b>Container</b><br>28.7      |
| "John Updike, Champion Literary Phallerat, Drops One: Is This Finally the End for the Magnificent Narcissists?," handwritten notes, typescript drafts, undated ( <i>The New York Observer</i> , October 13, 1997) | <b>Container</b><br>28.8      |
| "Laughing with Kafka," typescript draft, 1998 ( <i>Harper's Magazine</i> , July 1998; later collected in <i>Consider the Lobster</i> , 2005)  | <b>Container</b><br>28.9      |
| "My Commencement Speech," handwritten and typescript drafts, 2005 (speech delivered at Kenyon College, 2005) [*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions]                            | <b>Container</b><br>28.10-11* |
| "The Nature of Fun," faxed typescript, 1998 ( <i>Fiction Writer Magazine</i> , September 1998)  | <b>Container</b><br>28.12     |
| "Neither Adult Nor Entertainment" ( <i>Premiere</i> , September, 1998; later collected in <i>Consider the Lobster</i> , 2000)   |                               |
| Handwritten and typed notes and drafts, undated   | <b>Container</b> 29.1         |
| Typescript draft, undated   | <b>Container</b> 29.2         |
| 'Initial layout,' December 1997 [*removed to oversize flat files]   | <b>Container</b> *            |
| Correspondence, undated   | <b>Container</b> 29.3         |

- "Nothing Happened," typescripts, undated (*Open City*, Number Five, 1997) **Container**  
29.4
- "Order and Flux in Northampton," typescript drafts, 1989, undated (*Conjunctions*:  
17, Fall 1991) **Container**  
29.5
- "Other Math," typescript, undated (*Western Humanities Review*, Summer, 1987) **Container**  
29.6
- "The Piano in the Pantehnicon," (*The Allegheny Review*, 1984) **Container**  
29.7
- "The Planet Trillaphon as it Stands in Relation to the Bad Thing," printed excerpt,  
undated (*The Amherst Review*, v. XII, 1984) **Container**  
29.8
- "Rhetoric and the Math Melodrama," correspondence, drafts, published essay,  
2000-2001, undated (*Science*, December 22, 2000) **Container**  
29.9
- "Self-Harm as a Sort of Offering," typescript, undated (*Mid-American Review*, No.  
18, Spring 1998; later collected in *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*, 1999, as  
"Suicide as a Kind of Present") **Container**  
35.3
- "Several Birds," correspondence, proofs, 1994, undated (*The New Yorker*, June  
1994) **Container**  
29.10
- "Shipping Out: On the (nearly lethal) comforts of a luxury cruise," corrected faxed  
proofs, 10-13 November 1995 (*Harper's Magazine*, January, 1996; later published  
as "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again" in *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll  
Never Do Again: Essays and Arguments*, 1997) **Container**  
29.11
- Shorter pieces
- The (As it Were) Seminal Importance of *Terminator 2*, undated (published as  
"F/X Porn," *Waterstone's Magazine*, Winter/Spring 1998) **Container**  
29.12
- Back in New Fire, typescript, undated (published as "Impediments to  
Passion," *Might Magazine*, November/December 1996; later titled "Hail the  
Returning Dragon, Clothed in New Fire," *Shiny Adidas Tracksuits and the  
Death of Camp and Other Essays from Might Magazine*, 1998)
- "*The Best of the Prose Poem: An International Journal*" book review,  
typescript drafts, undated (*Rain Taxi*, Spring 2001)
- "*The Blindfold*" book review, undated (*Contemporary Literary Criticism* Vol.  
76, 1992; and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 24, 1992)
- "*Borges: A Life*" book review (*The New York Times Book Review*, 2004)

"Sage Pronouncement," December 1992 (Published as "From Quite A Bit Longer Thing in Progress," *Conjunctions*: 20, Spring 1993)

- "Solomon Silverfish," typescript, undated (*Sonora Review*, No. 16, Fall 1987) **Container**  
29.13
- "The String Theory" (*Esquire*, Vol. 126, No. 1, July 1996)
- Notebook, July 1995 **Container** 29.14
- Typescript, March 1996 **Container** 29.15
- "Tense Present: Democracy, English and the Wars Over Usage" (*Harper's Magazine*, April 2002; later collected in *Consider the Lobster* as "Authority and American Usage," 2006)
- Notes and research materials, undated **Container** 30.1-2
- Handwritten and typescript drafts, undated **Container** 30.3-5
- Harper's Magazine* proofs and correspondence, 2001 **Container**  
30.6-7
- "Think," typescript draft, undated (*Conjunctions*: 28, Spring 1997) **Container**  
30.8
- "Tri-Stan: I Sold Sisse Nar to Ecko," typescript drafts, 1990, undated (*Grand Street* 46, Summer 1993; later collected in *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*, 1999) **Container**  
30.9-10
- "The View From Mrs. Thompson's," handwritten and typescript drafts, undated (*Rolling Stone Magazine*, October 25, 2001; later collected in *Consider the Lobster*, 2005) **Container**  
30.11
- "The Weasel, Twelve Monkeys, and the Shrub: Seven Days in the Life of the Late, Great John McCain" (*Rolling Stone Magazine*, April 13, 2000; later titled "Up, Simba" in *Consider the Lobster*, 2000)
- Notebook, undated **Container** 30.12
- McCain research materials, 1998-2000, undated **Container** 30.13
- McCain research materials (continued) **Container** 31.1
- Handwritten, typescript, and faxed drafts and proof, 2000, undated **Container**  
31.2-5
- Layout proof, March 2000 [\* removed to oversize flat files] **Container** \*

**Series II. Personal and Career-Related, 1971-2008, undated**

## Amherst College

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Essays and exams, 1980-1981, undated [*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions]                                  | <b>Container</b><br>31.6*  |
| Senior thesis, "Richard Taylor's 'Fatalism' and the Semantics of Physical Modality," photocopy typescripts, 1985, undated                       | <b>Container</b><br>35.5-6 |
| Awards, acceptance letters, 1979-1999 [*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions; oversize removed to flat files] | <b>Container</b><br>31.7*  |
| Book withdrawals, 1988-2006, undated  | <b>Container</b> 35.1      |
| Correspondence, 1992-2007   | <b>Container</b> 31.8      |
| Draft of colleague's article, typescript with handwritten notes, undated  | <b>Container</b><br>35.2   |
| Early schoolwork, 1971-1977, undated [*printed scans only; originals removed due to preservation restrictions]                                  | <b>Container</b><br>31.9*  |
| Empty folder labeled 'Emptiness/Closeness essay,' undated   | <b>Container</b><br>31.10  |
| Evidence notebook, typed and handwritten freewriting, descriptive phrases, figures of speech, and story ideas, undated                          | <b>Container</b><br>43.1   |
| Interview with Gus Van Sant, <i>Dazed and Confused Magazine</i> , 1991?   | <b>Container</b><br>31.11  |
| Newspaper clipping, reading announcement, 1987, undated   | <b>Container</b><br>31.13  |
| Personal journal pages, 1996, undated   | <b>Container</b> 31.14     |
| Research Materials  |                            |
| "1982: Pages of Time, A Nostalgia Report," pamphlet; "1983: Remember When.. .A Nostalgic Look Back in Time," pamphlet                           | <b>Container</b><br>32.1   |
| de Zengotita, Thomas. <i>Mediated: The Hidden Effects of Media on People, Places, and Things</i> , 2004, with handwritten notes                 | <b>Container</b><br>32.2   |
| Entomology notes, handwritten, undated  | <b>Container</b> 32.3      |



|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Fleishman Hillard International Communications binder, 2000   | <b>Container</b><br>32.4  |
| White, Curtis. <i>The Middle Mind: From the Poverty of the American Imagination to the New Sublime</i> , 2003, with handwritten notes | <b>Container</b><br>32.5  |
| <i>Sabrina, The Humor Magazine of Amherst College</i> , 4 issues, November 1982-April 1983 [*removed to oversize flat files]          | <b>Container</b><br>*     |
| Teaching materials  |                           |
| Class syllabi, 1992-2008  | <b>Container</b> 32.6     |
| Taught essays and writing topics, undated   | <b>Container</b> 32.7-8   |
| Teaching notes, undated   | <b>Container</b> 32.9     |
| Vocabulary lists, 1989-1997, undated  | <b>Container</b> 32.10    |
| Quizzes, essay exams, paper assignments, 1989-1994, undated   | <b>Container</b><br>32.11 |

**Series III. Copies of Works by Don DeLillo, undated**

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>Love-Lies-Bleeding: A Play</i> , photocopy typescript with handwritten annotations, undated   | <b>Container</b><br>33.1       |
| <i>Underworld</i> , Parts One, Two, and Three, bound photocopy typescript with handwritten annotations, undated  | <b>Container</b><br>33.2-4     |
| <i>Valparaiso: A Play in Two Acts</i> , photocopy typescript unmarked, undated   | <b>Container</b><br>33.5       |
| Materials separated from 2.1-3, 4.9, 7.1, 7.4-5, 13.1-3, 14.3-8, 23.7, 25.5-7, 27.9, 28.2, 28.10-11, 31.6-7, 31.9, 41.1, and 41.7 due to preservation restrictions [available only with curatorial approval] | <b>Container</b><br>34, 42, 44 |

**Series IV. 2012 Additional *Pale King* Materials, 1990-2007, undated**

Typescript drafts with handwritten edits, undated

"From his desk: clean print outs" **Container 36.1-2**

"From his wire basket" **Container 36.3-4**

Typescript and handwritten drafts, "Electric Girl" folder, "from his wire basket," undated **Container 36.5**

Typescript drafts

2005-2006, "WPK ZIP disk print outs" **Container 36.6**

"WPK ZIP disk print outs" (continued) **Container 37.1-2**

Fragments, 5" floppy disk #1 print outs, 1992-1997 **Container 37.3-4**

5" floppy disk #3 print outs, 1990-1998 **Container 37.5**

Disk contents sheets, "very fragmented pages from the corrupted disk," undated **Container 38.1**

Typescript drafts

"Pale King 2" and SS # Index, 2007 **Container 38.2**

"Glitterer/ SJF, freewriting F99," 1999-2004 **Container 38.3**

"Black Unlabeled Disk," WPF fragments, 2006-2007 **Container 38.4-5**

Typescript and handwritten drafts, undated **Container 38.6-7**

Handwritten drafts, 1997-2005, undated **Container 38.8**

Handwritten drafts, 1997-2005 (continued) **Container 39.1-5**

Handwritten and typescript drafts from "Glitterer/SJF" freewriting binder, 2005-2007, undated **Container 39.6-40.7**

Butterfly notebook, notes and clippings, undated **Container 40.8**

Handwritten drafts

Green spiral notebook, undated **Container 40.9**

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Green spiral "Reward for Return" notebook, undated [*printed scans only; original notebook removed due to preservation restrictions] | <b>Container</b><br>41.1* |
| Harvey Mudd notebook, undated  | <b>Container</b> 41.2     |
| Pink kitten "Scenes" notebook, undated   | <b>Container</b> 41.3     |
| Handwritten "Roster of Parts," Rugrats™ notebook, undated  | <b>Container</b><br>41.4  |
| Leather-wrapped notebook, photos, haiku, clippings and notes, undated  | <b>Container</b><br>41.5  |
| Klimt notebook, handwritten notes, undated   | <b>Container</b> 41.6     |
| Records notebook, notes and clippings, undated [*printed scans only; original notebook removed due to preservation restrictions]     | <b>Container</b><br>41.7* |
| Visual aids, IRS research, printouts, Peoria map, 2005   | <b>Container</b> 41.8     |
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