

Paul Scott:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator	Scott, Paul, 1920-1978
Title:	Paul Scott Collection
Dates:	1952-1976
Extent	38 boxes (15.8 linear feet), 10 galley folders
Abstract	The collection consists primarily of manuscripts, with a small amount of correspondence. The holographs, original and carbon copy typescripts, notes, galleys, and page proofs reflect ten of the English writer and literary agent's major novels, including <i>The Raj Quartet: The Jewel in the Crown</i> (1966), <i>The Day of the Scorpion</i> (1968), <i>The Towers of Silence</i> (1971), and <i>A Division of the Spoils</i> (1975).
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-03751
Language:	English.
Access	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials. Part or all of this collection is housed off-site and may require up to three business days' notice for access in the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Please contact the Center before requesting this material: reference@hrc.utexas.edu

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Purchases and gifts, 1963-1990 (R1619, R4815, R6600, R7293, G7011, G8568)
Processed by	Sally M. Nichols, 1998
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

On March 25, 1920, Paul Scott was born in Palmers Green, England (north London), the second son of Tom and Frances Scott. Tom Scott was a self-employed commercial artist who, together with his two sisters, designed advertisements for the latest fashions. He came from a family of painters and designers while his wife, Frances, was from a more humble background. The family lived on the fringes of middle class respectability and constantly struggled to maintain their position during this period of rigid social mores. Paul maintained high grades while in school but at the age of sixteen had to quit Winchmore Hill Collegiate School in London in order to help the family financially. This was to affect Paul's self-esteem and presented obstacles to his continuing sense of himself as a poet. His father suggested he work as an accountant and he thus apprenticed himself to an accounting firm. He studied in the evenings, completed exams, and rose to more responsibility and more complex duties. The dreamy, creative side could not be ignored, however, and he continued to write poems, read the works of other poets, and developed friendships with other aspiring poets.

In 1940 Scott was drafted to serve in the British Army. In 1941 his poem, "I Gerontius," had been included in the Resuram Series of poetry pamphlets. While stationed in Torquay, he met Penny Avery, a nurse, at one of the company dances; after a short time they fell in love and were married on October 23, 1941. In February 1943 Scott received orders that he was to be stationed in India, and in March sailed from Liverpool. By the time he arrived it was the beginning of the end for the British Raj in India. He was as surprised at the superior attitude he observed in the British toward their Indian subjects, as he was of the hostile and resentful attitude of the Indian population toward the British, issues Scott was to explore in depth in his later novels. Shortly after his arrival he came down with dysentery which was not diagnosed as amoebiasis until 1964, when it was successfully treated in Paris. The disease had a pronounced effect on Scott during the twenty years in which the parasite remained in his body; it accounted for his mood swings, his irritability, lassitude, and feelings of alienation, and had a marked effect on the style of his writing.

After serving with the British Army in India and Malaya as an air supply officer, Scott returned to London. He had continued to write poetry while in the Army, and though he thought of himself as a poet first, he began to write plays and experienced success with "Pillars of Salt" which won a prize in a Jewish playwrighting competition. It, and the three other winners, were published in 1948 as "Four Jewish Plays." Job prospects all over London were bleak at the time of his return but Scott used his training in accounting to secure a position as secretary for the Falcon Press and Grey Walls Press. He left this position in 1950 to become a director and literary agent for Pearn, Pollinger and Higham (later David Higham Associates) where he successfully represented writers such as John Braine, Gerald Hanley, Morris West, M.M. Kaye, Roland Gant, and Chris Almedingen. During those years of encouraging other writers to do their best, he wrote five novels himself but felt torn by the demands of his job and his desire to devote more time to his own writing, and thus resigned in 1960 to work at his craft full time.

Scott's first novel, *Johnnie Sahib*, was rejected seventeen times before being published in 1952, and went on to win the Eyre & Spottiswoode Literary Fellowship Prize. This was followed by *Alien Sky*, published in 1953. India had penetrated Scott's heart deeply; most of his novels are set in India, or use India as a backdrop, as in *A Male Child* (1956), *The Mark of the Warrior* (1958), and *The Chinese Love Pavilion* (1960). Two radio scripts were produced at this time: "Sahibs & Memsahibs" was broadcast in the summer of 1958, and "The Mark of the Warrior" in 1960. *The Alien Sky* aired on B.B.C. television in London in 1956.

The Birds of Paradise (1962) continued Scott's preoccupation with India, whereas *The Bender* (1963) is set solely in London and explores the importance of work in defining one's role in life and in society. *The Corrida at San Feliu* (1964) uses fragments of the life story of a novelist, Edward Thornhill, to piece together the artist's world of the creative imagination in which illusion and fact often vie with each other.

Scott returned to India in 1964 and from that visit came the raw material he needed to write his next five novels, all of which centered on the end of British rule in India. The first four novels, *The Jewel in the Crown* (1966), *The Day of the Scorpion* (1968), *The Towers of Silence* (1971), and *A Division of the Spoils* (1975) comprise "The Raj Quartet." The fifth and final novel, *Staying On* (1977), which is a coda to the Raj Quartet, centers on the lives of the British who elected to remain in India after independence. Scott won the Yorkshire Post book of the year award for finest fiction in 1971 for *The Towers of Silence*, and the Booker Prize in 1977 for *Staying On*. Scott taught writing and modern literature at the University of Tulsa in the fall terms of 1976 and 1977. Paul Scott died from cancer on March 1, 1978 in London.

Sources

Contemporary Authors, v. 33 (Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research Co., 1991).

Dictionary of Literary Biography, v. 14 (Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research Co., 1983).

Spurling, Hilary *Paul Scott: A Life of the Author of The Raj Quartet* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1990).

Scope and Contents

The Paul Scott Collection consists primarily of manuscripts, with a slight amount of correspondence, ranging in date from 1952 to 1976. The material is arranged in three series: I. Works, 1953-1975 (37 boxes), II. Correspondence, 1952-1976 (two folders), and III. Miscellaneous, 1960-1968 (two folders). Within each series the material is arranged alphabetically by title or author. This collection was previously accessible only through a card catalog, but has been re-cataloged as part of a retrospective conversion project.

The Works series consists of holographs, original and carbon copy typescripts, notes, galleys, page proofs, proof copies, or printer's copies for ten of his major novels: *A Male Child* (1956), *The Mark of the Warrior* (1958), *The Chinese Love Pavilion* (1960), *The Birds of Paradise* (1962), *The Bender* (1963), *The Corrida at San Felú* (1964), and the four novels that comprise The Raj Quartet: *The Jewel in the Crown* (1966), *The Day of the Scorpion* (1968), *The Towers of Silence* (1971), and *A Division of the Spoils* (1975). Also in the collection is a mimeo/radio script entitled "Sahibs and Mem Sahibs."

The correspondence section is very slim. Outgoing correspondence contains a letter to Maurice Temple Smith of Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd., a letter to John Willey of William Morrow & Co., not sent, and a note and course outline to Thomas Staley of The University of Tulsa. Incoming correspondence contains letters from literary notables such as Veronica Bamfield, John Braine, Richard Church, James Hanley, Pamela Hansford Johnson, Sir Compton Mackenzie, Mary E. Patchett, Alexander Peterson, Sir Herbert Read, Dame Edith Sitwell, C.P. Snow, Muriel Spark, Howard Spring; and from the publishers Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd. and William Morrow and Co.

The Miscellaneous series contains publicity material for *The Birds of Paradise* from the publishers Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd., a mimeo/radio script by Donald McWhinnie of Scott's *The Mark of the Warrior*, and front matter for the galley proofs of *The Day of the Scorpion* published by William Morrow and Co.

Related Material

Other materials associated with Scott may be found in the following collections at the Ransom Center:

- David Higham Associates, Ltd.
- Photography Collection Literary File.

Separated Material

Elsewhere in the Center are four Vertical File folders and two Scrapbooks that contain biographical information, research material for Scott's books, and reviews.

Index Terms

Correspondents

- Bamfield, Veronica, 1908- .
- Braine, John.

Church, Richard, 1893- .
Hanley, James, 1901- . .
Johnson, Pamela Hansford, 1912- .
Mackenzie, Compton, Sir, 1883-1972.
Patchett, Mary E. (Mary Elwyn), 1897- .
Peterson, A.D.C. (Alexander Duncan Campbell), 1908- .
Read, Herbert Edward, Sir, 1893-1968.
Sitwell, Edith, Dame, 1887-1964.
Snow, C.P. (Charles Percy), 1905- .
Spark, Muriel.
Spring, Howard, 1889-1965.

Subjects

Thornhill, Edward, 1902-1962.
David Higham Associates Ltd.
Authors, English--20th century.
India in literature.
Novelists, English--20th century.

Document types

Christmas cards.
Galley proofs.
Postcards.
Printers' proofs.
Radio scripts.

Titles

Times (London, England).

Series I. Works, 1953-1975

The Bender (1963)

Holograph first draft with revisions and notes, April 3, 1962, 264pp	box 1 folder 1
Typescript with revisions, April 9, 1962, 394pp	folder 2-3
Carbon copy typescript	
With revisions and notes, nd, 396pp	box 1 folder 4-5
1962, 406pp	box 2 folder 1
With revisions, 1963, 403pp	folder 2-3

Galleys

Three sets with editors and author's notes, queries and corrections, 1963, 89pp each [removed to Galley Files]	
June 20, 1963, 106pp [removed to Galley Files]	
Page proofs, 1963	box 2 folder 4
Bound, 254pp	
Unbound, 254pp	
Fragments, 32pp	
Discarded pages with revisions, 1962, 385pp	box 3 folder 1-2

The Birds of Paradise (1962)

Holograph and typescript notes, nd, 160pp	box 4 folder 1
Holograph notes in two notebooks, nd, 112pp	folder 2
Holograph signed with revisions and notes, 1961, 535pp	folder 3-4

Typescript, final draft, with revisions and inserts, 1961, 416pp	box 5 folder 1-2
Carbon copy typescript	
1961, 415pp	box 5 folder 3-4
1961, 417pp	folder 5
With revisions, 1961, 411pp	box 6 folder 1
Typescript with revisions, 1962, 421pp	folder 2-4
Carbon copy typescript, 1962, 406pp	box 7 folder 1-2
Plate proofs, 1962, 96pp [removed to Galley Files]	
Proof copy with corrections, 1962, 264pp	box 7 folder 3
Two galleys, February 19, 1962, 93pp; March 22, 1962, 101pp [removed to Galley Files]	
Discarded pages with revisions	
1961, 420pp	box 7 folder 4-5
1961, 887pp	box 8 folder 1-4
The Chinese Love Pavilion (1960)	
Holograph notes, nd, 9pp in notebook	box 9 folder 1
Holograph with revisions, 1958, 578pp	folder 2-3
Typescript and carbon copy typescript with revisions, nd, 579pp	folder 4-5
The Corrida at San Felú (1964) [earlier title Edward Thornhill]	
Edward Thornhill	
The Spanish novel	

Holograph drafts and workings with revisions, 1963, 474pp in three notebooks	box 10 folder 1-2
Typescript with revisions, nd, 161pp	folder 3
Part I, typescript with revisions, nd, 151pp	folder 4
Part II, discarded pages, typescript and carbon copy typescript with revisions, nd, 247pp	folder 5
Holograph and typescript notes, draft fragments with revisions, nd, 108pp	box 11 folder 1
Holograph notes and draft fragments in four notebooks, nd, 78pp	folder 2
Typescript, nd, 271pp	folder 3
Typescript and carbon copy typescript with revisions, nd, 392pp	folder 4-5
Carbon copy typescript, nd, 407pp	box 12 folder 1
Typescript/printer's copy, nd, 404pp	folder 2-3
Printed paste-up, with printer's notes, 1964, 317pp	box 13 folder 1-2
Galleys, 1964, 91 sheets [removed to Galley Files]	
Page proofs on uncut galleys, American edition, 1964, 97 sheets [removed to Galley Files]	
Page proofs, American edition, 1964, 283pp	box 13 folder 3-4
Proof copy, British edition, 1964, 317pp	box 14 folder 1
Discarded pages with revisions, nd, 469pp	folder 2-3

A Male Child (1956)

Typescript with revisions, 1953-1955, 400pp

box 15
folder 1-2

Holograph with revisions and notes, 1955, 324pp

folder 3

The Mark of the Warrior (1958)

folder 4

Holograph with revisions, 1957, 210pp

Typescript fragments, 1957, 18pp

The Raj Quartet

Holograph notebooks, pocket diary (1969), and notes on notepad, nd

box 16
folder
1

The Day of the Scorpion (1968)

Holograph with revisions, 1965-1968, 1000pp in five notebooks

box 16
folder
2-5

Typescript

With revisions, nd, 963pp

box 17 folder 1-5

With revisions and printer's notes, nd, 945pp

box 18
folder 1-4

With printer's notes, nd, 494pp

folder
5-7

Carbon copy typescript with revisions, nd, 945pp

box 19
folder 1-5

Discarded pages with revisions, nd, 519pp

box 20
folder 1-3

A Division of the Spoils (1975)

Holograph with revisions, 1971-1974, 1320pp in seven notebooks

box 21
folder
1-6

Typescript, first draft, with revisions, nd, 1358pp	box 22 folder 1-4
Typescript/printer's copy, nd, 1022pp in five notebooks	box 23 folder 1-5
Carbon copy typescript of printer's copy, with corrections, nd, 1022pp in five notebooks	box 24
Unbound proof copy with corrections and revisions, 1975, 599pp	box 25 folder 1
Proof copy with corrections and revisions, 1975, 599pp	folder 2
Discarded pages with revisions, nd, 250pp	box 26 folder 1-2
Holograph and typescript notes, nd, 24pp	folder 3
The Jewel in the Crown (1966)	
Holograph and carbon copy typescript notes and queries, nd, 6pp	box 27 folder 1
Holograph working notes and partial drafts with revisions and few typescript pages, 1964-1965, 201pp	folder 2
Holograph with revisions, 1965, 726pp in six notebooks	folder 3-7
Typescript	box 28 folder 1-6
With revisions, nd, 825pp	
With revisions, nd, 925pp	box 29 folder 1-7
Carbon copy typescript	box 30 folder 1-6
nd, 936pp	
With typescript, photocopy, front matter, and sketch, for American edition, 1966, 935pp	box 31 folder 1-7

Two galleys, 1966, 188 and 189 sheets [removed to Galley Files]

Page proofs on uncut galleys with corrections, nd, 151 sheets [removed to Galley Files]

Proof copy, bound, 1966, 458pp

**box 32 folder
1**

Discarded pages with revisions, nd, 264pp

folder 2

The Towers of Silence (1971)

Holograph with revisions, 1968-1971, in eight notebooks

**box 33
folder
1-5**

Typescript with revisions, nd, 705pp

**box 34 folder
1-4**

Carbon copy typescript with corrections, nd, 675pp

**box 35
folder
1-2**

Printer's copy typescript with printer's notes, nd, 679pp

**box 36
folder
1-3**

Page proofs, bound, 1971, 499pp

folder 4

Discarded pages, nd, 700pp

**box 37 folder
1-5**

Reviews, holograph

box 38 folder 1

The Black Hole of Calcutta..., by Noel Barker, nd, 2pp

British India, 1772-1947, by Michael Edwardes, nd, 1p

India, by Taya Zinkin, nd, 1p

Signal Catastrophe, by Patrick Macrory, nd, 1p

Walking the Indian Streets, by Ved Prakash Mehta, nd, 1p

"Sahibs and Memsahibs," mimeo/radio script with revisions, nd, 52pp

**box 38
folder 2**

Series II. Correspondence

Outgoing, 1960-1976

box 38 folder 3

Incoming, 1952-1976

folder 4

Series III. Miscellaneous, 1960-1968

- Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd., publicity material for *The Birds of Paradise*, nd, 2pp **box 38**
folder
5
- McWhinnie, Donald, Mimeo/radio script for *The Mark of the Warrior*, 1960, 51pp **folder 6**
- Scott, Paul, *The Day of the Scorpion*, front matter; four galley proofs, 1968, 2 sheets each; four galley proofs, 1968, 1 sheet each [removed to Galley Files]

Paul Scott Collection--Index of Correspondents

Index entries followed by the notation (from Scott) indicate people to whom Scott wrote. Box and folder numbers followed by a number in parenthesis indicate the number of items by (or to) that person. No parenthetical notation indicates there is just one item. So in the example

Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd.--39.3 (from Scott), 39.4 (3) there is one item from Scott in box 39, folder 3; and 3 items from Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd. in box 39, folder 4.

- Bamfield, Veronica, 1908- --38.4 (2)
- Braine, John--38.4
- British Broadcasting Corporation--See McWhinnie, Donald
- British Museum (Natural History)--38.4 (3)
- Church, Richard, 1893- --38.4
- Davenport, John (Cambridge, England)--38.4
- Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd.--38.3 (from Scott), 38.4 (3)
- Ferrer, Katharine--38.4
- Gant, Roland--24.1 (4 from Scott)
- Great Britain. Office of Commonwealth Relations--38.4 (3) (2 from Scott)
- Hamilton, Goff--38.4 (3)
- Hanley, James, 1901- --38.4
- Jameston, Storm, 1891-1986--38.4
- Johnson, Pamela Hansford, 1912- --38.4
- Kogan, Herman--26.3
- Mackenzie, Compton, Sir, 1883-1972--38.4
- Marshall, Bruce (France)--38.4
- McWhinnie, Donald--38.4 (2)
- Nag, Dipali, 1922- --38.4
- Oxley, David--38.4
- Patchett, Mary E. (Mary Elwyn), 1897- --38.4
- Peterson, A.D.C. (Alexander Duncan Campbell), 1908- --38.4
- Read, Herbert Edward, Sir, 1893-1968--38.4
- Scott, Paul, 1920- --38.4 (2) (with McWhinnie, Donald), 38.4 (2) (with Great Britain. Office of Commonwealth Relations)
- Sitwell, Edith, Dame, 1887-1964--38.4
- Smith, Maurice Temple (See Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd.)
- Snow, C.P. (Charles Percy), 1905- --38.4
- Sofaer, Abraham D.--38.4
- Spark, Muriel--38.4 (2)
- Spring, Howard, 1889-1965--38.5
- Staley, Thomas F.--38.3 (2) (1 from Scott)
- *Times* (London, England)--38.4
- Unidentified author--38.4
- Unidentified author Edmund--38.4
- Unidentified author Peter--38.4
- Warne, Arthur G.--38.4
- Willey, John--38.3 (from Scott)
- William Morrow and Co. (See Willey, John)
- Williams, Susan (Susan Margaret Rowland)--38.4
- World Health Organization. United Kingdom Committee--38.4

Barcode Index

- 1--059188000171266
- 2--059188000171274
- 3--059188000171291
- 4--059188000171304
- 5--059188000171339
- 6--059188000171312
- 7--059188000171321
- 8--059188000171282
- 9--059188000171347
- 10--059188000171355
- 11--059188000171363
- 12--059188000171436
- 13--059188000171428
- 14--059188000171461
- 15--059188000171452
- 16--059188000171444
- 17--059188000171479
- 18--059188000171495
- 19--059188000171509
- 20--059188000171410
- 21--059188000171401
- 22--059188000171380
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- 24--059188000171398
- 25--059188000171487
- 26--059188000171517
- 27--059188000171525
- 28--059188000171631
- 29--059188000171592
- 30--059188000171584
- 31--059188000171576
- 32--059188000171568
- 33--059188000171550
- 34--059188000171533
- 35--059188000171541
- 36--059188000171622
- 37--059188000171614
- 38--059188000171606