

Paul Bowles:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Bowles, Paul, 1910-1999
Title:	Paul Bowles Collection
Dates:	1897-1995
Extent:	11 boxes (4.58 linear feet), 5 oversize boxes (osb), 4 galley folders (gf)
Abstract:	Handwritten and typed drafts of short stories, essays, and novels, correspondence, and musical compositions make up the bulk of the collection.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-00479
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
Use Policies:	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
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Administrative Information

Acquisition: Purchase and gifts, 1967-1997

Processed by: Chelsea S. Jones and Dell Hollingsworth, 1999

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Biographical Sketch

Paul Frederic Bowles, born December 30, 1910, in New York City, was the only child of Claude Dietz and Rena Winnewisser Bowles. Bowles began writing short stories and composing music as a child, and he was only a teenager when his surrealist poetry was published in the magazine *Transition*. Bowles briefly attended the University of Virginia but dropped out in 1929 and moved to Paris where he met and became friends with Gertrude Stein. This began over forty years of nearly constant traveling for Bowles, who once said of himself that he was addicted to movement. He returned to the University of Virginia in the spring of 1930, but left again after one semester to study music, first under Aaron Copland in Berlin (1930-32) and then with Virgil Thomson in Paris (1933-34). During these years he also made his first visit, at Stein's suggestion, to Tangier, Morocco. In 1937, Bowles met author and playwright Jane Auer; they were married the following year. The Bowleses eventually settled in Tangier, although both traveled often throughout North Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. At one point Paul even owned Taprobane, an island off the coast of Sri Lanka.

Paul Bowles became a celebrated composer during the 1940s, providing the musical scores for such noted plays as *My Heart's in the Highlands* (1940), *South Pacific* (1943), and *The Glass Menagerie* (1945). He also composed a number of scores for ballets, including *Yankee Clipper*. At the same time, Bowles wrote travel books on America, Mexico, France, India, and North Africa. From 1942-45, he worked as a music critic for the *New York Herald-Tribune*. He made translations from French and Spanish for *View*, and his translation of Jean-Paul Sartre's *Huis Clos* was published as *No Exit* in 1946. After reading his wife's *Two Serious Ladies* (1943), Bowles was inspired to write fiction. He contributed short stories to *Harper's Bazaar*, *View*, *Mademoiselle*, and *Partisan Review*. Bowles's first novel, *The Sheltering Sky* (1949), was a best-seller, and it remains his most critically acclaimed work. Over the next decade, Bowles wrote three more novels and developed a reputation as an existential novelist.

In 1956, he began translating Moroccan literature. In the 1960s and 1970s, Bowles primarily translated Moghrebi novels, short stories, and folk tales in collaboration with Mohammed Mrabet. He also returned to writing poetry. In 1970, he founded the literary magazine *Antaeus* with Daniel Halpern.

Jane Bowles's mental and physical health deteriorated after she suffered a stroke in 1957, and she spent the final years of her life in a hospital in Spain before dying in 1973. During those years, Paul Bowles ceased to write fiction. In the years since his wife's death, Paul Bowles has remained in Morocco; he received two NEH fellowships and began writing fiction and composing again. Bowles died in Tangier on November 19, 1999. More information about Paul Bowles may be found in his autobiography *Without Stopping* (Putnam, 1972).

Scope and Contents

Handwritten and typed drafts of short stories, essays, and novels, correspondence, and musical compositions make up the bulk of the Paul Bowles Collection, 1897-1995. The collection is organized into four series: Series I. Works, 1923-1976 (6 document cases and 5 oversized boxes); Series II. Correspondence, 1897-1995 (3 boxes); Series III. Personal Papers, 1942-1958 (1 box); and Series IV. Works by other Authors, 1935-1991 (1 box). This collection was previously accessible through a card catalog, but has been re-cataloged as part of a retrospective conversion project.

The Works Series is divided into literary and musical works. Among the literary works are a number of notebooks with drafts of numerous short stories and essays in them, as well as three typescripts of *The Sheltering Sky*, and several fables and stories translated by Bowles, including "A Hundred Camels in the Courtyard," "M'hashish," and "The Hyena." Musical materials include several sonatas for various instruments, Congo, the Picnic Cantata, and music written to accompany works by Jane Bowles and Tennessee Williams. Both the translation of Federico Lorca's *Yerma* which Bowles adapted as the libretto for an opera, and the musical score for this opera are also present. All works are listed by title in the Index of Literary Works and Index of Musical Works at the end of this finding aid.

The Correspondence Series, made up of mostly personal communications, is organized into three subseries: Subseries A. Outgoing Correspondence, 1931-1995; Subseries B. Incoming Correspondence, 1928-1969; and Subseries C. Third-party Correspondence, 1897-1967. Outgoing correspondence includes letters from Bowles to family, friends, and acquaintances, Jane Bowles, James Purdy, Tennessee Williams, and others. Incoming Correspondence includes letters from Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Allen Ginsberg, Brion Gysin, Alan Sillitoe, Virgil Thomson, as well as others. Third-party correspondence is made up of letters between people associated with Bowles, and generally regarding him or his work. Also included in this subseries is a letter, dated 1897, to Edward Green from his Petersham, Massachusetts parish, accepting his resignation. All correspondents are listed in the Index of Correspondence at the end of this finding aid.

The small Personal Papers series contains financial papers, including bank statements, cancelled checks, and income tax returns, a few legal documents, including identity papers and memoranda of agreement, as well as assorted notes and lists.

The Works by other Authors Series contains holograph and typescript manuscripts by Andreas Brown, Oliver Evans, Charles Henri Ford, as well as other friends and acquaintances of Bowles. All authors and titles are listed in the Index of Works by other Authors at the end of this finding aid.

Elsewhere in the Ransom Center are a number of books and music scores from Paul Bowles personal library, recordings of Bowles's music, and ten Vertical Files of printed works by Bowles containing critical commentary of Bowles's literary and musical work, newspaper clippings, theatre programs, book jackets, and other items associated with Bowles's work and career. The Literary Files of the Photography Collection hold over 500 photographs of and by Bowles, his family, friends, and landscape images. Of particular note is the rediscovered music for the *Glass Menagerie*, located in the Audrey Wood Collection.

Related Material

Other materials associated with Bowles are located at the Ransom Center in the collection of Jane Bowles's biographer, Millicent Dillon, and the following collections:

- Bowles, Jane
- Connolly, Cyril
- Cranston, Maurice
- Dillon, Millicent
- Ford, Charles Henri
- *Genesis West*
- *Harper's*
- Isherwood, Christopher
- Jones, Elizabeth
- Lehmann, John
- *London Magazine*
- Owen, Peter
- Palmer, Herbert
- Purdy, James
- Stein, Gertrude
- Williams, Tennessee
- Wood, Audrey

See also the Authorized Paul Bowles Website at: <http://www.PaulBowles.org>.

Index Terms

Correspondents

Bowles, Jane Auer, 1917-1973.

Ferlinghetti, Lawrence.

Ford, Charles Henri.

Ginsberg, Allen, 1926-1997.

Gysin, Brion.

Purdy, James.

Sillitoe, Alan.

Thomson, Virgil, 1896-1989.

Toklas, Alice B.

Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983.

Subjects

Americans--Morocco.

Authors, American--20th century.

Composers--United States.

Places

Tangier (Morocco)--Travel and description.

Document Types

Galley proofs.

Juvenilia.

Sound recordings.

Series I. Works, 1923-1976

Subseries A. Literary Works, 1923-1963

A-L; Untitled	box 1 folder 1
Untitled article about Fez, typescripts with author revisions, nd, 32pp	folder 2
All Parrots Speak, typescripts with author revisions, nd, 27pp	folder 3
A Friend of the World, typescripts with author revisions, nd, 26pp	folder 4
He of the Assembly, typescripts with author revisions, nd, 34pp	folder 5
<i>The Hours After Noon</i> , typescripts with author revisions, 1949-1959, 204pp	folder 6
How Many Midnights, typescripts with author revisions, nd, 24pp	folder 7
A Hundred Camels in the Courtyard, typescripts with author emendations, 1960-1962, 51pp	folder 8
The Hyena, typescripts with author emendations, 1962, 10pp	folder 9
Juvenilia, holograph notebook with colored drawings, nd, 175pp	folder 10
<i>The Lemon</i> by Mohammed Mrabet, translated by Bowles, typescripts with emendations by Bowles, nd, 159pp	folder 11
<i>A Life Full of Holes</i> , typescripts with author emendations, nd, 344pp	folder 12
<i>Love with a Few Hairs</i> by Mohammed Mrabet, translated by Bowles, typescript with Bowles' revisions, nd, 137pp	box 2 folder 1
M-S	folder 2

M'hashish, by Mohammed Mrabet, translated by Bowles, typescripts with translator's revisions, nd, 53pp	folder 3
Next to Nothing, typescripts with author emendations, 1958, 23pp	folder 4
Notebooks, holograph drafts of various works	folder 5-6
Notebooks, cont.	box 3 folder 1-9
Notebooks, cont.	box 4 folder 1-10
Notebooks, cont.	box 5 folder 1
<i>The Sheltering Sky</i> , three typescripts with author emendations and revisions, 1948, 820pp	folder 2-5
The Story of Omar the Truckdriver, typescripts with author revisions, nd, 23pp	
T-Z	box 6 folder 1
Tangier, typescript and galley proofs with author revisions, 1957, 22pp	box gf 1
<i>Their Heads Are Green and Their Hands Are Blue</i> typescript with author emendations	
Typescript with author emendations, 1963 110pp	box 6 folder 2
3 sets of Galleys, 1963 73pp each	box gf 2-4
<i>The Time of Friendship</i> , typescripts with author revisions, circa 1961, 183pp	box 6 folder 3
<i>Up above the World</i> , typescripts with author revisions, nd, 441pp	folder 4-5
The Wind at Beni Midar, typescripts with author revisions, 1962, 38pp	folder 6
<i>Yerma</i> , by Federico Garcia Lorca, translated by Bowles, typescript with notes and cover letter, 1948-1955, 78pp	folder 7

Subseries B. Musical Works, 1930-1976

A-D; Unidentified and Untitled

box osb 1

E-M

box osb 2

N-Sonata for Flute and Piano

box osb 3

Sonata for Oboe and Clarinet-Z

box osb 4

Oversize scores

box osb 5

Series II. Correspondence, 1897-1995

Subseries A. Outgoing, 1931-1995

A-Z; Unidentified	box 7 folder 1
Bowles, Claude and Rena, 1931-1966	folder 2-4
Bowles, Jane Auer, 1951-1965	folder 5
Briatte, Robert, 1984-1995	folder 6
Brown, Andreas, 1965-1967	folder 7
Burns, Daniel, 1931-1949	folder 8
Collins, Jack, 1982-1991	folder 9
Comer, Suzanne, 1985-1986	folder 10
Johnson, Buffie, 1982-1986	folder 11
Lish, Gordon, 1962-1964	box 8 folder 1
Martin, John, 1968-1969	folder 2
Rappaport, H.A., 1954-1957	folder 3
Redon, Joel, 1982-1987	folder 4-5
Williams, Tennessee, 1958-1959	folder 6

Subseries B. Incoming, 1928-1969

A-L; Unidentified	folder 7
Bacon, Francis, 1958-1959	folder 8
Bowles, Jane Auer, nd	folder 9
Burroughs, William, 1958-1968	folder 10
Ferlinghetti, Lawrence, 1961-1962	folder 11
Ford, Charles Henri, 1960-1968	folder 12

Ginsberg, Allen, 1961-1962	folder 13
Gyson, Brion, 1960-1964	folder 14
M-Z	folder 15
Matson and Dugan (firm), 1942-1943	box 9 folder 1
Purdy, James, 1958-1969	folder 2
Sath, T., 1958	folder 3
Sillitoe, Alan, 1961-1964	folder 4
Sillitoe, Ruth, 1961-1965	folder 5
Sontag, Susan, 1965	folder 6
Tennent, T., 1958	folder 7
Thomson, Virgil, 1955-1963	folder 8
Toklas, Alice B., 1949-1960	folder 9
Transition, 1928	folder 10
U.S. Library of Congress, 1958-1959	folder 11
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Yacoubi, Ahmed, 1958	folder 15
Subseries C. Third-Party, 1897-1987	
A-P; Unidentified	folder 16
Flint, Emma L., 1922-1924	folder 17
Green, J. Louise Barker, 1924	folder 18
R-Z	folder 19

Series III. Personal Papers, 1942-1958

Financial documents	box 9
Bank statements and cancelled checks, 1944-1958	folder 20
Bank statements (cont.)	box 10 folder 1-2
Income tax returns, 1942-1946	folder 3
Receipts and bills, 1944-1958	folder 4
Legal documents, 1945-1958	folder 5
Notes, holograph loose pages and spiral notebook, nd	folder 6

Series IV. Works by other Authors, 1935-1991

A-Z; Unidentified	box 10 folder 7
Bowles, Rena	folder 8
Brown, Andreas, notes for Paul Bowles bibliography, holograph and typescript notes with emendations by Brown and Bowles, nd 41pp	box 11 folder 1
Cibeles Television, <i>Traces of Sand and Water: The Lives of Jane and Paul Bowles</i> , video tape, 1991	folder 2
Evans, Oliver, Paul Bowles and the Natural Man, typescript article, nd 33pp	folder 3
Ford, Charles Henri, <i>Denmark Vesey: A Lyric Drama</i> , typescript, nd 64pp	folder 4
Geiger, Milton, <i>Edwin Booth</i> , typescripts with author cuts and markings, nd 95pp	folder 5
Rodgers, Joe V., <i>The Circular Valley</i> , typescript, nd 15pp	folder 6
Assorted envelopes	folder 7

Paul Bowles Collection--Index of Correspondents

Box and folder numbers are followed by a number in parentheses which indicates the number of items by that person. A single item is indicated where there is no number in parentheses following the box and folder number. Where there is correspondence from Paul Bowles, the number in parentheses is followed by the phrase "from Bowles." So in the example:

Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983--8.6 (2 from Bowles), 9.13 (5)

there are 2 letters from Bowles in Box 8, folder 6 and 5 letters from Williams in Box 9, folder 13.

- - , Edwin--8.7
- - , João--8.7
- - , Manolo--8.7
- - , Timothy--8.7
- Ackroyd, Graham T.--7.1 (2 from Bowles)
- Allah, R.R.--8.7
- Allen, Mary E.--8.7
- American Music Edition--8.7
- *American Unitarian Association*--9.16
- Ashley-Steiner-Famous Artists, Inc.--8.7 (2)
- Author's League of America--8.7
- Bacon, Francis, 1909- --8.8 (4)
- Barker Society, New York--9.16
- Belli, Ashe, Gerry & Ellison--8.7
- Bensadon, Ney--8.7
- Bowles, Claude & Rena--7.2-4 (145 from Bowles)
- Bowles, Frederick T.--9.16 (2)
- Bowles, Jane Auer, 1917-1973--7.5 (48 from Bowles), 8.9 (16)
- Bowles, Rena--8.7, 9.16
- Boyle, Kay--9.16 (3)
- Briatte, Robert--7.6 (84 from Bowles)
- Briggs, Grace G.--9.16
- Brown, Andreas--7.7 (26 from Bowles)
- Burns, Daniel, fl. 1931--7.8 (16 from Bowles)
- Burroughs, Williams S., 1914- --8.10-11 (43 from Bowles)
- Cage, John--8.7 (2)
- Capote, Truman, 1924- --8.7
- Chappell & Co., Inc.--8.7
- Charhardi, Driss ben Hamed-- 7.1 (8 from Bowles)
- Chaumont, Jane--8.7
- Clarke, James L.--8.7
- Collins, Jack--7.9 (17 from Bowles)
- Comer, Suzanne--7.10 (4 from Bowles)
- Copeland, Aaron--8.7
- Cowley, Malcolm--9.16 (2)
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- Driber, Tom, 1905-1976--9.16

- Duchamp, Marcel, 1887-1968--9.16
- Elkins, Gloria--8.7
- Ellis, Albert--8.7
- Evans, Oliver--7.1 (15 from Bowles)
- Ferlinghetti, Lawrence--8.11 (11)
- Fizedale, Robert--8.7
- Flint, Emma Winnewisser--9.17 (6)
- Ford, Charles Henri--8.12 (10), 9.16
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- Ginsberg, Allen, 1926- --8.13 (9)
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- Grosser, Maurice, 1903-1986--8.7
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- Guggenheim, Peggy, 1898- --8.7 (2)
- Gysin, Brion--8.14 (11)
- Hamzo[?], Atallah--8.7
- Harpsichord Music Society, New York--8.7
- Heinemann (firm)--8.7
- Holman, Libby--8.7
- Holt, Rhinehart and Winston, Inc.--9.16
- Horne, Mr.--7.1 (from Bowles)
- Hutton, Barbara Woolworth--8.7
- Isherwood, Christopher, 1904- --8.7
- Johnson, Buffie--7.11 (50 from Bowles)
- Jones, Margo--8.7
- Julius & Creasy (firm) --8.7
- Laires, Fernando--8.7
- Layachi, Larbi--See Charhardi, Driss ben Hamed
- Lehmann, John, 1907- --8.7
- Liebling-Wood (firm)--8.7
- Linze, Georges, 1900- --8.7
- Lish, Gordon--8.1 (9 from Bowles)
- Little Players (theatrical troupe)--8.7, 9.16
- M.C.A. Artists, Ltd--8.15 (2)
- Maitland, Robert--9.16
- Mandy, Shaun--8.15
- Marrey, Joe--8.15
- Martin, John--8.2 (12 from Bowles)
- Matson and Duggin (firm)--9.1 (3)
- McCarthy, William--8.15
- McLeod, Cecil R.--7.1 (from Bowles)
- Moses Pariente, Bankers--8.15
- "Paquieto"--8.7 (3)
- Parrish, Betsy--8.15
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- Purdy, James--7.1 (2 from Bowles), 9.2 (19)
- Rappaport, H.A.--8.3 (5 from Bowles)

- Redon, Joel--8.4-5 (82 from Bowles), 9.19
- Reiner, Fritz, 1883-1963--8.15
- Robbins, Jerome--8.15
- Robert, Frank, fl. 1969--7.1 (from Bowles)
- Rorem, Ned, 1923--8.15
- Ross, Guy Whittier Chadbourn, 1880-1965--9.19 (2)
- Sager, Gordon--7.1 (from Bowles)
- Saher, Lilla Van--7.1 (5 from Bowles), 9.19 (2)
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- Sath, T.--9.3 (6)
- Sillitoe, Alan--9.4 (16), 9.19
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- Slade, Ide--9.19 (2)
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- Tennent, T.--9.7 (3)
- Thomson, Virgil, 1896- --9.8 (13), 9.19 (10)
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- Toklas, Alice B.--9.9 (7)
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- Twentieth-Century-Fox Film Corporation--9.19
- U.S. Library of Congress--9.11 (5)
- Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964--8.15
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- Vidal, Gore, 1925- --8.15
- William Heinemann, Ltd--See Heinemann (firm)
- Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983--8.6 (2 from Bowles), 9.13 (5)
- Wilson, Angus--9.14 (3)
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- Winnewisser, Frederick G.--9.19 (4)
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- A Chatting as of Unfettters--1.1
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- In the Creuse--1.1
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- Their Heads Are Blue and Their Hands Are Blue--6.2, Galley 2-4
- *The Time of Friendship*--6.3
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- Untitled article on the Costa del Sol--1.1
- Untitled article on Fez--1.2
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- Untitled fragment re morality--1.1
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- Three (music for a poem)--osb 4
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- Brown, Andreas. Notes for Paul Bowles Bibliography--11.1
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