Diane Johnson:  
A Preliminary Inventory of Her Papers at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Johnson, Diane, 1934-
Title: Diane Johnson Papers
Dates: ca. 1943-1997
Extent: 42 boxes, 4 oversize boxes (21.42 linear feet)
Abstract: The papers of this American novelist and biographer include drafts and production material for books, as well as drafts of screenplays, television scripts, book reviews, articles, essays, unpublished manuscripts, correspondence, personal papers, interviews, reviews, and screenplay adaptations.
Language: English.
Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition: Purchase, Reg. no. 13953
Processed by: Liz Murray, 1997
Repository: Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin
Scope and Contents

The papers of novelist and biographer Diane Johnson include drafts and production material for eleven of her twelve books, as well as drafts of screenplays, television scripts, book reviews, articles, essays, unpublished manuscripts, correspondence, personal papers, interviews, reviews of her works, and screenplays adapted from her works. The collection ranges from early childhood diaries through the publication of her most recent novel. The papers are organized into five series: I. Works, II. Correspondence, III. Personal Papers, IV. Information about DJ, and V. Works of Others.

The largest series, Works, is arranged in six subseries: A. Books; B. Screenplays; C. Adaptations, Teleplays, and Musicals; D. Reviews; E. Other Writings, and F. Unpublished Manuscripts. The alphabetical arrangement of books in Subseries A includes Johnson's two biographies, Lesser Lives, a biography of Mary Ellen Peacock, wife of George Meredith, which received a National Book Award nomination in 1973, and Dashiell Hammett: A Life, nominated for the Los Angeles Times book prize in 1984. Extensive research material, as well as correspondence with Lillian Hellman and production photographs, is included with the Hammett material. Johnson's eight novels are well represented, spanning more than thirty years, from her earliest Fair Game (1965) to Le Divorce (1997). Included is Persian Nights, nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1987 and Lying Low, which received a 1979 National Book Award nomination. Also present is her non-fiction work, Natural Opium, a collection of travel essays. Included in the Works series are handwritten and typescript drafts, proofs, galleys, publicity material, and editorial correspondence. Johnson's collected essays, Terrorists and Novelists, nominated for the 1983 Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction, is represented solely by reviews in Series III.

Of the screenplays in Subseries B, "The Shining," produced in 1980 with Stanley Kubrick, stands as Johnson's universally recognized work. Although some of her other screenplays were optioned, none except The Shining has been produced. Two of her screenplays are drawn from her novels, "The Shadow Knows" and "Two Lives," based on the lives of Dashiell Hammett and Lillian Hellman. The screenplay material includes drafts of scripts, research material, and correspondence.


Nearly all of Johnson's book reviews, from 1972 to 1996, are present in draft and published form, arranged in order by the author of the book reviewed in Subseries D. Johnson reviewed books on a wide range of topics from Patty Hearst and Angela Davis to John Ruskin and Julia Margaret Cameron, from AIDS to Victorian morality, and works by authors such as Margaret Atwood, Saul Bellow, Anthony Burgess, Joan Didion, Erica Jong, John LeCarré, Doris Lessing, Mary McCarthy, Norman Mailer, Joyce Carol Oates, Isaac Bashevis Singer, John Updike, Gore Vidal, and Eudora Welty.

Johnson's other writings in Subseries E include articles, essays, lectures, conference papers, letters to the editor, and contributions to books such as the preface to Margaret Gatty's Parables of Nature and the introduction to Josephine Herbst's The Starched Blue Sky of Spain, and Other Memoirs.

Subseries F contains drafts of Johnson's Ph.D. dissertation on the poetry of George Meredith, as well as correspondence regarding its potential for publication. It was during the research and writing of the dissertation that Johnson became acquainted with the life of Mary Ellen Peacock which subsequently led to the writing of Lesser Lives. Also present are drafts of her first novel "Runes" and a story "Rings."

Series II contains correspondence from 1951 to 1997 with friends, family, authors, editors, publishers, agents, fans, colleagues at the University of California, and students. Incoming and outgoing correspondence is interfiled. Correspondents of note include editors from A. D. Peters & Co., Alfred A. Knopf Inc., The Bodley Head, Harcourt, Brace & World, and the New York Review of Books, as well as individuals such as Alice Adams, Jane Annesley, Eve Auchincloss, Helen Brann, Fred Dupee, Barbara Epstein, John Espey, Jean Gandesbery, David Garnett, Christopher Isherwood, Jascha Kessler, Stanley Kubrick, Alison Lurie, Mary McCarthy, Jessica Mitford, Iris Murdock, Joyce Carol Oates, Susan Sontag, Robert Sward, John Updike, and Dan Wickenden.

Series III includes information about Johnson found in articles, interviews, and reviews of her work. The personal papers in Series IV contain an childhood composition book as well as six diaries sampling three decades from 1943 to 1964, from elementary school to university years. Likewise, coursework from those years are present along with photographs and articles from her 1953 guest editorship at Mademoiselle, where she joined company with Sylvia Plath. Articles and information are included for her 1979 Rosenthal Foundation Award and Guggenheim fellowship for 1977-1978 as well as her diplomas from Stephens College, University of Utah, and University of California at Los Angeles. Also present are biographical data, financial receipts from 1966-1993, and publicity and family photographs.

The last series contains the work of other writers including adaptations of "An Apple, An Orange" and Persian Nights, as well as articles by others.

Johnson's original order was maintained where discernable, especially for production material and drafts of works. Her correspondence was unordered for the most part, so a single alphabetical arrangement was imposed. Material for her reviews was pulled from several groups of drafts and printed versions, which were then combined into a single alphabetical arrangement.
Series I. Works

Subseries A. Books

Burning (1971)

Holograph and typescript draft

Early revised typescript

Typescript draft, carbon, revised 4/70

Typescript draft, photocopy

Typescript, setting copy

Proofs, corrected

Proofs, uncorrected

Dashiel Hammett: A Life (1983)

Typescript draft with holograph corrections

Ch. 1-3

Ch. 4-5

Ch. 7-8

Ch. 9-10

Ch. 11-12

Ch. 13-15

Ch. 16-17

Ch. 18-19

Ch. 20-21

Draft fragments, holograph and typescript

Typescript, setting copy
Johnson, Diane, 1934-

Ch. 1-10

Ch. 11-19

Ch. 20-22

Index, draft and galleys

Galleys [removed to Galley File]

Research and related material, articles and notes, photocopies of primary source material, and interviews

Research material, DJ's arrangement

"Hammett--original material--research"

"Hammett--publishing material"

"Hammett-research letters"

"Hellman letters to Diane"

Photocopies of DH correspondence, 1930-58

"State tax proceeding"

"Miscellaneous Hammett"

Random House photo proofs, prints, and negatives

Figures 1-16

Figures 17-32

"Dead matter," photographs with captions

Photographs not used by DJ

DH scripts

"Thin Man" sequels, 1935
"Another Thin Man," 5/13/38, (file copy)  

DJ's *Vanity Fair* article, May 1985  

*Le Divorce* (1997)  

Typescript, setting copy  

Promotional material; editor's comments  

*Fair Game* (1965)  

Typescript, setting copy  

Galleys [removed to Galley File]  

*Health and Happiness*, (1990) typescript drafts and fragments  

Typescript drafts (cont'd)  

Typescript, setting copy  

Author's master set, 2nd pass pages  

Printer's page proofs, repro  

Page proofs, repro dupe  

Unbound dummy  

*Lesser Lives* (1973)  

Holograph notebooks, including notes taken at the British Museum  

Notes, with "Description of the Project"  

Correspondence, research phase  

Correspondence and research notes  

Research material
Johnson, Diane, 1934-

Typescript drafts and fragments  

Typescript, setting copy

Galleys and mechanicals [removed to Galley File]

*Loving Hands At Home* (1968)

Early typescript draft

Typescript, setting copy

Publicity

Galleys [removed to Galley File]

*Lying Low* (1978) [originally titled "Aspiradora"]

Holograph notes and drafts

Early typescript draft

Typescript drafts

Draft fragments and associated material  

Typescript, setting copy, titled "Aspiradora"

Publicity and Granada paperback dust jacket

Galleys [removed to Galley File]

*Natural Opium* (1993)

Typescript draft

Draft and proofs for two chapters published separately

*Persian Nights* (1987)

Typescript drafts

Typescript drafts (cont'd)
Johnson, Diane, 1934-

Draft fragments 

Typescript with holograph corrections 

Production correspondence 

Letters of congratulations 

*The Shadow Knows* (1974) 

Early draft fragments 

Typescript, setting copy 

Page proofs (blues), corrected 

Publicity 

Galleys [removed to oversize, Box 46] 

Subseries B. Screenplays 

"Apostasy," unproduced [various titles] 

Draft, heavily edited 

Draft, June 20, 1986, (bound script, uncorrected) 

2nd draft, August 1986 "The Last Days" in collaboration with Volker Schlondorff 

Draft, Aug. 19, 1986 

Notes and correspondence, with V. Schlondorff 

"Cure," unproduced 

First draft, Nov. 22, 1991 (uncorrected)
Johnson, Diane, 1934-

First draft, Nov. 22, 1991 (copy #8, with corrections)  
folder 5

Script notes, drafts, and research material, 1992-93  
folder 6-8

First draft for reading, Jan. 27, 1993  
box 21 folder 1

Draft, 3/31/93  
folder 2

Drafts, 4/20/93 and 4/30/93  
folder 3

Draft fragments, April-May 1993  
folder 4-6

"Grand Hotel," unproduced  
box 22 folder 1

First draft, July 1980, photocopy  
folder 2

First draft, July 1980, (bound, uncorrected)  
folder 3

"The Shadow Knows," unproduced based on DJ's novel  
folder 4-7

First draft, March 21, 1983  
folder 3

Draft fragments  
folder 4-7

"The Shining" with Stanley Kubrick, produced 1980  
box 23 folder 1-2

Draft fragments and notes  
folder 3

Correspondence with Kubrick and agent  
folder 3

"Two Lives" screenplay based on Dashiell Hammett  
folder 4-7

Draft fragments, first draft, Oct. 7, 1981  
folder 4-7

First draft, bound, Oct. 7, 1981  
box 24 folder 1

First draft, revised  
folder 2

Drafts and related notes  
folder 3-4
Drafts and related notes (cont'd)  

First draft, revised, Dec. 7, 1981, (bound copy)  

"Wind," draft fragments, April 1992  

Subseries C. Adaptations, Teleplays and Musicals  

"An Apple, an Orange," television play in one act, PBS production  

Typescript draft  

Scripts  

"Daniel Martin" adapted from novel by John Fowles, draft of play sequences  

"My Three Sons" television series, "Chip and Debbie" episode written with Aljean Harmetz, May 10, 1968  

Colette's *The Vagabond*, musical play, text by DJ, synopsis of play  

Ms. fragments, unidentified  

Subseries D. Reviews  


Alexander, Shana, "Anyone's Daughter," 1979 [removed to oversize, Box 43]  


Atwood, Margaret, "Surfacing," 1972  

Bainbridge, Beryl, "Young Adolf," 1978  

Bair, Deirdre, "Simone de Beauvoir," 1990  

Barthelme, Donald, "Great Days," 1979 [removed to oversize, Box 43]  


Bell, Quentin, "Ruskin;" and Robert Hewison, "John Ruskin," 1978  

Bellow, Saul, "The Dean's December," 1982
Bertin, Celia, "Marie Bonaparte: A Life," 1982

Bettelhein, Bruno, "The Uses of Enchantment," 1976


Brownmiller, Susan, "Men, Women and Rapes;" Jean MacKellar and Dr. M. Amir, "Rape: The Bait and the Traps;" and "Rape and its Victims" [report], 1975

Bryan, C. D. B., "Friendly Fire," 1976 [removed to oversize, Box 43]

Burd, Van Akin, ed., "John Ruskin and Rose LaTouche," 1979

Burgess, Anthony, "One Hand Clapping," 1972

Butler, Gwendoline, "Sarsen Place," 1974


Carlisle, Henry, "Voyage to the First of December," 1972

Conrad, Susan, "Perish the Thought;" and Judith Fryer, "The Faces of Eve," 1976

Dash, Joan, "A Life of One's Own," 1973

Davis, Angela, "Angela Davis--An Autobiography," 1974

DeLillo, Don, "Players," 1977

_____, "White Noise," 1985

Dickinson, Peter, "Tefuga," 1986

Didion, Joan, "The Last Thing He Wanted," 1996

Doctorow, E. L., "Loon Lake," 1980

Drabble, Margaret, "The Realms of Gold," 1975

Duras, Marguerite, "The Lover," 1985

Fellows, Jay, "The Failing Distance," 1977

FitzGerald, Frances, "Cities on a Hill," 1986

Flexner, Eleanor, "Mary Wollstonecraft," 1972
Fowles, John, "Daniel Martin," 1977
Fryer, Judith, "The Faces of Eve," 1976
Gordimer, Nadine, "The Conservationist," 1975

_____, "A Sport of Nature," 1987
Hacker, Frederick, "Crusaders, Criminals, Crazies," 1977
Hardwick, Elizabeth, "Sleepless Nights," 1979
Hayward, Brooke, "Haywire," 1977
Hill, Brian, "Julia Margaret Cameron;" and Julia M. Cameron, Victorian Photographs of Famous Men & Fair Women, 1973
Howard, Jane, "Families," 1978
Howard, Maureen, "Facts of Life," 1978 [removed to oversize, Box 43]
Hudson, Derek, "Munby, Man of Two Worlds," 1972

Jacoby, Susan, "Wild Justice;" and Steven Englund, "Man Slaughter," 1983

Johnson, Diane [bibliographic essays]


"La la land," discusses 8 Hollywood novels, 1987
"The lost world of the Mormons," review of five books on the Mormon faith and its peoples, 1990

"Ruskin our contemporary," review of 11 books on John Ruskin, 1983

"Something for the boys," review of 9 books on masculinity and femininity, 1992

"The war between the sexes," reviews of 3 novels about women and sex, 1994

"What do women want," discusses 7 books on feminism, 1996

Jong, Erica, "How to Save Your Own Life;" Joan Didion, "A Book of Common Prayer;" and Bertha Harris, "Lover," 1977

Kilduff, Marshall, "The Suicide Cult;" Charles Krause, "Guyana Massacre;" John Maguire, "Hold Hands and Die!;" and Jeannie Mills, "Six Years With God" (re: Jim Jones), 1979


Kramer, Jane, "The Last Cowboy;" and John McPhee, "Coming Into the Country," 1978 [removed to oversize, Box 44]


LeCarré, John, "The Naive and Sentimental Lover," 1972


Lenz, Seigfried, "The German Lesson;" and Chaim Potok, "My Name is Asher Lev," 1972 [removed to oversize, Box 44]

Lessing, Doris, "The Summer Before the Dark," 1973


Lottman, Herbert R., "Albert Camus," 1979


______, "Occasional Prose," 1986

Mailer, Norman, "The Executioner's Song," 1979

Manso, Peter, "Mailer: His Life and Times," 1985


Moglen, Helene, "Charlotte Brontë: The Self Conceived," 1976 [removed to oversize, Box 44]


Morrison, Toni, Song of Solomon; Gayl Jones, "White Rat;" and James Alan McPherson, "Elbow Room," 1977

Mukherjee, Bharati, "Wife," 1975


Oates, Joyce Carol, "A Bloodsmoor Romance," 1982

_____ , "Do With Me What You Will," 1974


Ovenden, Graham, "Pre-Raphaelite Photography," 1984

_____ , "Victorian Children," 1972

Phelps, Robert, "Letters from Colette," 1983


Ray, Gordon N., H. G. Wells & Rebecca West, 1974


Rhys, Jean, "Tigers Are Better Looking," 1974

Rosenberg, John, "Dorothy Richardson," 1973

Ross, Ishbel, "The Uncrowned Queen: Life of Lola Montez," 1972


Sand, George, "My Life" and other books about George Sand, 1979

Shainberg, Lawrence, "Memories of Amnesia," 1988


Shilts, Randy, "And the Band Played On;" and John Langone, "AIDS: The Facts, including research material on AIDS, 1988


Snow, C. P., "Trollope," 1975 [removed to oversize, Box 43]

Solomon, Barbara Probst, "Arriving Where We Started," 1972

Spark, Muriel, "The Hothouse by the East River," 1973


Steinem, Gloria, "Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions," 1983

Stern, Madeleine, ed., "More Unknown Thrillers of Louisa May Alcott," 1976


Theroux, Alexander, "Three Wogs," 1972 [removed to oversize, Box 44]


_____, "The White Hotel," 1981

Trevor, William, "The Ballroom of Romance and Other Stories," 1972

Tyler, Anne, "Earthly Possessions," 1977 [removed to oversize, Box 44]
Updike, John, "The Witches of Eastwick," 1984

Vidal, Gore, "Kalki," 1978

_____, "Screening of History;" (Vidal) "Live From Golgotha;" Aljean Harmetz, "Round Up the Usual Suspects;" and H. Bruce Franklin, "M.I.A. or Mythmaking in America," 1993

Wastberg, Per, "The Air Cage," 1972


White, Edmund, "The Beautiful Room is Empty;" and Edmund White and Adam Mars-Jones, "The Darker Proof," 1988


Williams, Thomas, "The Followed Man," 1978

Subseries E. Other Writings

Articles (arranged by title)

A-G [oversize material removed to Box 45]

H-W [oversize material removed to Box 45]

"Writing for the movies is harder than it looks, "New York Times Book Review, April 14, 1985

Untitled articles

Typescript and holograph fragments

Commencement address, University of California, Davis, 1983

Contributions to Books

Contributor to The Lake Reader, vol. 1, draft, 1985-86 (textbook)
Introduction to Josephine Herbst's *The Starched Blue Sky of Spain, and Other Memoirs*, Harper Perennial, 1992

Preface to children's classic reprint series, Garland, 1976

Preface to facsimile ed. of Margaret Gatty's *Parables of Nature*, Garland, 1976

Essays


"The importance of plot," in *The Pushcart Prize XIV: Best of Small Presses*, 1989-90

"White hunter," in *Pushcart Prize XVIII*, 1993

Lectures, talks, panels, and conference papers

Letters to the editor [oversize material removed to Box 45]

Various typescripts arranged by DJ in a binder, includes reviews, articles, essays

Subseries F. Unpublished Manuscripts

Dissertation, "A closer reading of earth: sexual mysticism in the poetry of George Meredith"

Typescript drafts

Typescript drafts (cont'd)

*Dissertation Abstracts* entry for DJ's dissertation

Revised draft, chapters 1-9

Research material for article on George Meredith
Typescript draft, "Meaning in poems: George Meredith"

Correspondence re: publishing Meredith ms.

Typescript draft, first novel, "Runes"

Typescript draft of story, "Rings"
Series II. Correspondence, 1951-1997

A - Al
Am - Ax
Alfred A. Knopf Inc.
Auchincloss, Eve
B - Bos
Br - By
Brann, Helen, 1970-92
Ca
Ce - Cu
D
E
F
G
Gandesbery, Jean
H
Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich (World), 1964-69
Harcourt, Brace, World, 1970-79
I - J
Johnson, B. Lamar (Larry)
Johnson family
K
L
Lain family
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>McCarthy, Mary</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Murray, John</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Murray family</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Parks, Lorine and Floyd</td>
<td>box 37</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Peterson, Brenda</td>
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<td>Lurie, Alison Bishop</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Sward, Robert</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>T</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Turner, Donna</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>U - V</td>
<td>folder 2</td>
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<td>folder 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>folder 4</td>
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Johnson, Diane, 1934-
Series III. Information about DJ

Articles about DJ in newspapers and magazines, 1965-97 [oversize material removed to Box 45]

Interviews with DJ, 1974-93 [oversize material removed to Box 45]

Reviews of DJ's books and screenplay

*Burning*

*Dashiell Hammett: A Life*

Le Divorce [oversize material removed to Box 45]

*Fair Game*

*Health and Happiness*

*Lesser Lives* [oversize material removed to Box 45]

*Loving Hands At Home*

Lying Low [oversize material removed to Box 45]

*Natural Opium* [oversize material removed to Box 45]

Persian Nights

*The Shadow Knows* [oversize material removed to Box 45]

"The Shining"

Terrorists and Novelists
Series IV. Personal Papers

Composition book, juvenile [n.d.]  box 40 folder 1

Diaries

1943  folder 2
1947  folder 3
1951  folder 4
1952  folder 5
1963  folder 6
1964  folder 7

Elementary and high school coursework  box 41

College and university papers

Mademoiselle, guest editor, 1953  folder 7

Graduate seminar papers, 1963-65  box 42

Awards, certificates, diplomas  folder 3

Biographical data  folder 4

Financial receipts and papers, 1966-93  folder 5

Photographs  folder 6

Miscellaneous  folder 7
Series V. Works of Others

Hara, Lillian and Dorie Taylor, "Vacancy," script based on DJ's "An Apple, An Orange"

Jenkins, Victoria, "Persian Nights," script based on DJ's novel

Various articles [oversize material removed to Box 45]

Oversize material