Doris Lessing:
An Inventory of Her Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Lessing, Doris, 1919-2013
Title: Doris Lessing Papers
Dates: 1943-2008, undated
Extent: 76 document boxes (31.92 linear feet), 1 oversize folder (osf), 9 galley files (gf)
Abstract: The Doris Lessing Papers document the English author's creative life through artwork, clippings, correspondence, galley proofs, journal pages, libretti, manuscripts, notes, objects, page proofs, photographs, play scripts, printed material, screenplays, and sound recordings. The focus of the collection is on her professional rather than personal life.
Call Number: Manuscript Collection MS-2460
Language: Predominantly English, with some (mostly printed) material in Dutch, French, German, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, and Spanish
Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition: Purchases, 1999 (R14457, R16015); 2015 (15-01-012-P)
Processed by: Liz Murray, 1999; Richard Workman, 2016
Repository: Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin
Biographical Sketch

Doris Lessing was born in 1919 to English parents who were resident in Persia (now Iran) at the time. Her father, Alfred Tayler, was a bank employee. The family lived in Persia until Doris was five years old, when her father bought a farm in what was then Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Lessing spent the next 25 years in Africa, marrying and divorcing twice and having three children before she took her youngest child, Peter, and moved to England in 1949.

The next year her first novel, *The Grass Is Singing*, was published. She supported herself and her son by writing poetry, articles, stage plays, screenplays for television and film, short stories, and novels, including the *Children of Violence* novel series (1952-1969). Her best-known novel, *The Golden Notebook*, was published in 1962 and established her for life among the most prominent writers in England.


Also unconventional in a different way were the two novels that Lessing wrote and secretly published under the pseudonym Jane Somers-- *The Diary of a Good Neighbour* (1983) and *If the Old Could...* (1984). Only she and her agent Jonathan Clowes (and later her American editor, Robert Gottlieb, who was so familiar with her work that he immediately guessed her authorship) knew of the ruse. She explained that she wanted to demonstrate how difficult it had become for a young author to be published.


She also produced a significant amount of nonfiction, including *African Laughter* (1992), a memoir of four visits to Zimbabwe; the two volumes of her autobiography, *Under My Skin* (1994) and *Walking in the Shade* (1997); and a collection of her nonfiction writing, *Time Bites* (2004).

Lessing received many awards in her long career including the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2007. She died at age 94 in 2013.

Sources:


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**Scope and Contents**

The Doris Lessing Papers document the English author's creative life through artwork, clippings, correspondence, galley proofs, journal pages, libretti, manuscripts, notes, objects, page proofs, photographs, play scripts, printed material, screenplays, and sound recordings. The focus of the collection is on her professional rather than personal life. The papers are arranged in two series: I. Works, 1943-2008, undated, and II. Personal and Career-Related, 1947-2007, undated.


Lessing's papers were acquired by the Ransom Center in two lots: one accession was assembled under her personal supervision in 1999 and has been available to researchers through a preliminary inventory; the other was acquired under the terms of her will in 2015. The present arrangement re-catalogs the earlier acquisition and combines both accessions. To make it possible for users to identify which accession included a particular item, folders containing material from the 1999 accession are labeled with registration numbers R14457 or R16015; folders containing material from the 2015 accession are not labeled with an accession number.

The papers clearly illustrate Lessing's usual working method. After some preliminary handwritten notes, she composed her first draft at the typewriter, making a carbon copy. Then she revised both copies by hand before sending one to a typist for retyping, requesting an original and usually several carbon copies or, in later years, word-processed printouts. This process of editing and retyping was often repeated several times before she submitted the manuscript to her publisher. This guide refers to each of these stages of the manuscript as a "draft," and these drafts are arranged in chronological order based on internal evidence (Lessing did not date her manuscripts). Thus "first draft" means the earliest version present among her papers, not necessarily the earliest draft that she put down on paper (for example, if a version has been lost).

In the process of revising a draft, Lessing sometimes re-typed longer passages on small pieces of paper rather than writing them by hand (she recognized that her handwriting was difficult to read, saying people told her it was "ghastly") and paper-clipped them to the original page. To prevent these slips of paper from becoming misplaced and to preserve information about their original location, the paper-clipped revision was
photocopied, the paper clips were removed, and the photocopy, small slips, and original page were slipped into a plastic sleeve. This was done only if the correction was typed on small pieces of paper; if the correction was typed on a full-size sheet, it was merely left in place and the paper clip removed.

Lessing frequently typed her drafts on the back of previously used paper; sometimes incoming correspondence, unfinished outgoing correspondence, and manuscripts of other works. No attempt was made to identify and catalog this material.

Often Lessing filed correspondence to and from her typist, publisher, or others with her manuscripts. Such letters were left in place and arranged in chronological order. Significant individual correspondents are included in the Index of Correspondents at the end of this guide.

Lessing's original folders are preserved and filed behind the material they originally enclosed.

Subseries A. Novels contains material for all of Lessing's novels beginning with *The Four-Gated City* (1969). She explained that all earlier material had been lost.

The novels are arranged in alphabetical order by title.

Included are drafts of an uncompleted novel, The Memorymakers, which was intended for serial publication in Ink magazine until it folded and Lessing abandoned the project.

The bound proof copy of *If the Old Could …* contained dozens of torn slips of paper marking Lessing's corrections. These slips were marked with corresponding page numbers and removed to a separate envelope.

While most of Lessing's papers were not particularly well organized beyond being grouped by title, the manuscript of *The Cleft* was in such confusion that no attempt was made to reorder it during processing at the Ransom Center.

Subseries B. Short Fiction is arranged in alphabetical order by title, with individual stories and book-length collections grouped separately.

Subseries C. Dramatic works includes stage and musical plays, screenplays for television and film, and opera librettos. Many of the works in this section had not been published when this guide was written. They are arranged in a single alphabetical list by title.

Many of the manuscripts in this section bear the imprint of Gregson & Wigan, who were apparently her theatrical agents until the firm was purchased by EMI in 1970. Presumably these scripts were returned to her at that time.

At some point (perhaps when they were still in the possession of her agent) several of Lessing's manuscripts of dramatic works were stained by an unidentified liquid that permeated the pages and their folders. These manuscripts have been sleeved in plastic. Patrons using them may wish to consult Ransom Center staff about precautions they can take to avoid direct contact with these materials.
Subseries D. Poetry is the smallest section of Lessing's works. Most of her poems were written early in her career, though she occasionally wrote and published verse as late as 2005. Lessing herself labeled a folder "The ones I like," and that arrangement is preserved here. An attempt was made to arrange drafts in chronological order during processing.

Subseries E. Nonfiction contains articles, essays, journalism, reviews, prefaces, and other writing grouped as either individual pieces or books. Many of the individual manuscripts in this section lack titles; where the same piece appeared in the anthology Time Bites, the title found there is the one under which the piece is cataloged; otherwise, the title written on the manuscript, if any, was chosen. Untitled and uncompleted pieces are grouped at the end.

After her 1986 visit to Pakistan to learn about refugees from the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, Lessing wrote about her experiences in two simultaneous publications: an article, The Catastrophe, published in The New Yorker, and a book, The Wind Blows Away Our Words, published in England. Because these two publications included essentially the same material, all drafts were filed together under the book title, and only galley proofs under the article title.

Series II. Personal and Career-Related encompasses five boxes and is divided into two subseries: A. Personal, 1947-2007, undated, and B. Career-Related, 1956-2002, undated. The Personal subseries contains some loose pages with dated, journal-like entries. A portion of these describes Lessing's experience taking the drug mescaline in 1963. These pages were originally placed by Lessing among her poems, but since no connection with any of the poems could be discovered, they were moved to this section. The Personal subseries also contains correspondence that was not filed in conjunction with any particular manuscript or other group of papers.

The Career-Related subseries contains clippings, photocopies, and printed publications containing reviews of Lessing's work, profiles, and interviews, as well as documents and correspondence relating to her travels to give readings and talks and to receive awards.

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**Related Material**

For additional materials related to Doris Lessing at the Ransom Center, see manuscript holdings for: Clancy Sigal, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., Joan Rodker, John Osborne and Helen Dawson, Peter Owen, Ltd., Norman Mailer, and Tom Stoppard.

Other repositories with holdings of Lessing's papers include the British Archive for Contemporary Writing at the University of East Anglia and the Department of Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Tulsa.

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**Separated Material**
One audio recording was transferred to the Ransom Center Sound Recordings Collection.

One original print was transferred to the Ransom Center Art Collection.

Two books were transferred to the Ransom Center Library and are listed in the University of Texas Library Catalog.

A small number of miscellaneous objects was transferred to the Ransom Center Personal Effects Collection.

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**Index Terms**

**People**
- Drabble, Margaret, 1939-.
- Glass, Philip.
- Gottlieb, Robert, 1931-.
- Holroyd, Michael.
- Sigal, Clancy.

**Organizations**
- Jonathan Clowes Ltd.

**Subjects**
- Authors, English--20th century.
- Fiction--20th century.
- Novelists, English.
- Sufism.
- Women authors--20th century.

**Places**
- London (England).
- Zimbabwe.

**Document Types**
- Clippings.
- Correspondence.
- Fiction.
- Galley proofs.
- Manuscripts.
Series I. Works, 1943-2008, undated

Subseries A. Novels, 1970-2008, undated

Alfred and Emily (2008)

First draft ( 'First version' ). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2007

Second draft ( 'Uncorrected,' Part One only). Printout with author's handwritten revisions (original folder erroneously identifies as '2nd Part' ), 2007

Third draft ( 'Uncorrected, Part One only). Printout with author's handwritten revisions, 2007

Fourth draft, Part Two only. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Fifth draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Sixth draft. Printouts and incomplete photocopy, undated


A Sitting Hen and The Incubator (also titled Chickens and Eggs), discarded material. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions and printouts, undated

My Black Calf. Printouts with author's handwritten revisions, undated


Ben, in the World: The Sequel to The Fifth Child (also titled The Fifth Child in the World; Ben Lovatt, Savage; Ben Lovatt; 2000)

First draft ( 'Early Draft' ). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 1999

Second draft. Photocopy of typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Third draft. Photocopy of typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated
Fourth draft. Printouts

With author's handwritten revisions and editorial markings by copy editor and Suzette Macedo, undated

Container 4.6-7

With author's handwritten revisions only, undated

Container 4.8-9

Assorted photocopied printed and printout pages with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Container 4.10

Partisan Review publication of excerpt. Correspondence and proofs, 2000

Container 4.11

Briefing for a Descent into Hell (1971)

'Overlooked early notes.' Assorted handwritten and typed pages, undated

Container 5.1

Setting copy for Knopf edition, 1972, undated

Container 5.2

Galley proofs for Knopf edition, 1970

Container gf

Canopus in Argos: Archives (novel series)

Documents Relating to the Sentimental Agents in the Volyen Empire (1983)

Assorted handwritten and typed pages, undated

Container 5.3

'1st draft.' Two typescripts (originals and carbon copies mixed) with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Container 5.4-5

Second draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions and marks by copy editor

Original, undated

Container 5.6

Carbon copy, undated

Container 5.7

Third draft

Typescript, undated

Container 6.1

Setting copy for Knopf edition, undated

Container 6.2

The Making of the Representative for Planet 8 (also titled Making the Representative for Planet 8; 1982)
The Marriages between Zones Three, Four, and Five (as Narrated by the Chroniclers of Zone Three) (1980)

First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated
Carbon copy, includes correspondence from Knopf and Cape, 1979, undated
Assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions and handwritten verses, undated

Second draft. Setting copy for the Knopf edition, 1980

Galley proofs for Knopf edition

'Master set,' with editorial marks, including cover letter from Knopf, 1980

The Marriages between Zones Three, Four, and Five (as Narrated by the Chroniclers of Zone Three) (1980)

First draft. Typescripts (originals and carbon copies mixed) with author's handwritten revisions, undated
Second draft. Carbon copy typescript with author's handwritten revisions and editorial marks in unidentified hand, undated
Third draft. Photocopied typescript with Knopf editorial markings and notes
'Xerox of the copy-edited ms. For the author,' includes correspondence, 1981, undated
Setting copy for Knopf edition, undated

Galley proofs for Knopf edition

'Author's galleys,' with author's and editor's marks, including cover letter from Lessing, 1981
'Extra set of galleys,' with Lessing's corrections and alterations, including cover letter from Knopf, 1982
'Author's set,' with small number of final corrections, undated
'Master galleys,' with proofreader's and editor's marks, undated
'Master pages,' galleys with folios and running heads inserted, undated
Shikasta: Re, Colonised Planet 5: Personal, Psychological, Historical Documents Relating to Visit by Johor (George Sherban) Emissary (Grade 9) 87th of the Period of the Last Days (1979)

'Draft I.' Handwritten notes and typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Carbon copy, undated

Second draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Carbon copy, undated

Carbon copy, setting copy for Knopf edition, with marks by copy editor, undated

Galley proofs for Knopf edition

Marked set containing unpublished manuscript of "Some Remarks" with editor's criticisms, undated

Unmarked set, undated

'Master galleys,' with editorial markings, undated

'Master pages,' galleys with folios and running heads inserted, undated

Proofs for Jonathan Cape edition with editorial marks, undated

Assorted handwritten notes, typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions, and photocopies of galleys with editorial marks, undated

Correspondence from Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1978-1979


'Notes.' Handwritten and typed pages with author's handwritten revisions and correspondence, 1979-1980, undated

First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions
Original, with additional pages ('Rewrites'), undated

Carbon copy, undated

Carbon copy, undated

Second draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions

Carbon copy with notes and correspondence with typist, 1979-1980, undated

Original, setting copy for Knopf edition with editorial marks and correspondence, 1980, undated

Assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Galley proofs for Knopf edition ('Master Galleys'), includes typescript for Preface, undated

The Children of Violence (novel series)

The Four-Gated City (1969)

Setting copy for Knopf edition. Typescript with editorial marks

Part I, undated

Part II, undated

Part III, undated

Part IV, undated

The Cleft (2007)

Photocopied typescripts with author's handwritten revisions

'The Cleft. 1,' undated

'The Cleft 2,' undated

Correspondence, 2006

The Diary of a Good Neighbour (as Jane Somers, 1983)

First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions
Original, undated

Carbon copy, includes handwritten author's notes and assessments by two reviewers for Jonathan Clowes, undated

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Carbon copy ( 'Marked Copy' ), with copy editor's marks, undated

Assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Paste-ups, undated

The Fifth Child (also titled The Changeling; 1988)

First draft. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, originals and carbon copies interleaved, includes handwritten and typed notes, undated

Second draft ( '1st Version' ). Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, originals and carbon copies interleaved, undated

Third draft ( 'Second Draft' ). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, originals and carbon copies interleaved, undated

Fourth draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Carbon copy, undated

Fifth draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Two carbon copies, including handwritten and typed notes and correspondence, 1987, undated

Photocopy including front matter copy for Knopf edition and correspondence, 1988, undated

Setting copy for Knopf edition, undated

Page proofs ( 'First Pass Page Master' ) with editorial marks, undated
Repros, 1988, undated
Printed reviews, 1988

The Good Terrorist (also titled The Terrorist; 1985)
Research material, 1983-1984, undated
First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions
Original, undated
Carbon copy, includes handwritten notes, undated
Assorted typescript pages and revisions, undated
Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions
Original, undated
Photocopy, undated
Advance proof copy for the Knopf edition, with author's handwritten revisions, 1985
Correspondence, 1984-1985, undated
Fragment from an introduction to a later edition. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated
If the Old Could . . . (as Jane Somers, 1984)
First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions
Original, undated
Carbon copy, undated
Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, includes correspondence, 1983-1984, undated
Advance proof copy with author's corrections, undated
Love, Again (also titled Never Going to Dance; 1996)
First draft. Typescripts (originals and carbon copies mixed and interleaved) with author's handwritten revisions
'1st draft.' Includes handwritten notes and correspondence, 1988-1991, undated

Copy with additional revisions to the opening pages, includes research material and handwritten notes, undated

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Photocopy, includes handwritten notes, undated

Third draft. Printout with author's and editor's handwritten revisions, undated

Fourth draft. Printout for HarperCollins (U.S.) edition, with author's and editor's handwritten revisions, undated


Page proofs for the Flamingo (British) edition, unmarked, 1995


French translation. Incomplete printout, undated

Correspondence, 1994-1995, undated

Mara and Dann: An Adventure (also titled Mara: Memories of Water; Mara and Dann: Memories of Water: An Adventure; 1999)

'1st draft.' Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Photocopy, undated

Third draft. Printout with editor's marks, includes author's handwritten notes and correspondence from publisher, 1998, undated
Fourth draft. Printout

- Unmarked, undated
  Container 22.6, 23.1-2
- With one editorial mark on last page, undated
  Container 23.3-5

Page proofs

- With marked pages in place, 1998
  Container 23.6-7, 24.1
- 'Author's correx,' with marked pages collected at beginning, 1998
  Container 24.2-4
- Assorted final corrections, 1998
  Container 24.5
- Hand-drawn map of Ifrik, two copies, undated
  Container 24.6
- Correspondence, 1998
  Container 24.7
- Cover artwork, undated
  Container 24.8

The Memoirs of a Survivor (1974)

- First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions
  Container 24.9-10
- Original, includes correspondence, 1974, undated
  Container 24.11-12
- Carbon copy, undated
  Container 25.1-2
- Carbon copy, setting copy for Knopf edition, 1975, undated
  Container 25.3
- Second draft. Printout labeled by Octagon Press, undated
  Container 25.4

The Memorymakers (chapters 1-6, uncompleted)

- First draft, chapter 1 only. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated
  Container 25.5
- Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, includes handwritten notes and correspondence, 1971-1972, undated
  Container 25.6
Third draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, selected pages from chapter 1 and all of chapters 2-6, undated  

Composite typescripts. Three sets of carbon copy pages from second and third drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

The Story of General Dann and Mara's Daughter, Griot and the Snow Dog (2005)

First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft

Original, typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Photocopy made at an early stage of revision, includes handwritten notes, undated

Third draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, includes correspondence, 1972, undated

Fourth draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Page proofs and correspondence, undated

Cover art, undated

The Summer before the Dark (1973)

First and second drafts combined. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, includes handwritten notes, undated

Third draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Carbon copy, undated

Fourth draft. Photocopy of typescript with author's handwritten revisions, includes typist's list of queries, 1972

The Sweetest Dream (2001)
Subseries B. Short Fiction, 1949-2006, undated

Individual stories

Among the Roses. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printout, and printed publications, undated

An Anniversary. Two carbon copies and printed publication, undated

The Ant Man. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

The Black Madonna. Typed drafts and incomplete setting copy with author's handwritten revisions, undated ( 'Written late forties' )

The Casualties. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Casualty (also titled Casualties). Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printouts, and printed publication, 1988, undated

The Crash. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated
D.H.S.S. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printouts with author's handwritten revisions, printed publication, notes, and correspondence, 1990, undated

The Death of a Chair. Typed and printout drafts and page proofs, includes correspondence, 2005, undated

Debbie and Julie (also titled Girl in the Shed; A Girl in a Shed). Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, page proofs, and correspondence, 1989, undated

Fear and Red Velvet. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

The Fun Fair. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

The Goddess of the Insurance Fires. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated


First draft. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Third draft. Original typescript and photocopy, with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Fourth draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Fifth draft. Printouts

Unmarked, undated

Marked by copy editor, undated

With copy editor's marks transferred, undated

Sixth draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Notes and correspondence, 2002, undated

Her. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated
In Defence of the Underground. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions and printout, undated

In the National Gallery. Typed and printout drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 2006, undated


The Journal of a Rebel, or, Excuse Me While I'm Sick.

Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Typed fragment, undated

Lions, Leaves, Roses . . . Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated


First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Second draft. Typescript and photocopies with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Third draft. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Fourth draft. Printout with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Fifth draft. Printout

Marked by copy editor, undated

With copy editor's marks transferred, undated

With author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Assorted typescript and printout pages, notes, research material, and correspondence, 2002, undated

A More than Usually Tangled Web (also titled Perhaps a Rather More than Usually Tangled Web). Typed and printout drafts with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated
The Mother of the Child in Question. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions and printed publication, 1988, undated

Mr. Boles and Mr. Hartley. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Mrs. Fortescue. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

The New Café. Typed drafts, printout draft, and page proofs with author's handwritten revisions, and printed publication, 1990, undated

No Witchcraft for Sale. Printed publication, 1993

Not a Very Nice Story. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 1971-1972

The Nuisance. Typescript, undated

The Old Sort. Typescript, undated

An Old Woman and her Cat. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, correspondence, 1971-1972

The Old Woman They Called a Witch. Typed and carbon copy drafts, undated

One Language. Typescript and incomplete carbon copy with author's handwritten revisions, undated

One Off the Short List. Page proofs, undated

The Other Garden. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Out of the Fountain. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 1960s

The Pit. Typescript original, carbon copy, and photocopy ( '3rd version' ) with author's handwritten revisions, printed publication, and page proofs, 1988, undated

The Plague. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Playing the Game (1995)

Treatment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions</td>
<td>Container 36.3</td>
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<td>and handwritten notes, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second draft ( 'second stage' ). Original typescript and</td>
<td>Container 36.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>carbon copy interleaved, with handwritten notes, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third draft. Typescript (original, carbon copy, and</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>photocopy) with author's handwritten revisions, undated</td>
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<td>Photocopied sample illustrations by Charlie Adlard,</td>
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<td>undated</td>
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<td>Photocopied final pages, undated</td>
<td>Container 36.7</td>
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<td>Research and notes, 1991, undated</td>
<td>Container 36.8</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1990-1992, undated</td>
<td>Container 36.9</td>
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<td>Pleasures of the Park. Typed drafts with author's</td>
<td>Container 36.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>handwritten revisions, printouts, and printed publication,</td>
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<td>1991, undated</td>
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<td>Pretty Puss. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions</td>
<td>Container 36.11</td>
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<td>and undated</td>
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<td>Principles (also titled A Question of Principle). Typed</td>
<td>Container 36.12</td>
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<td>drafts and printouts with author's handwritten revisions,</td>
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<td>and printed publication, 1988, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Real Thing. Typescripts with author's and editor's</td>
<td>Container 36.13-14</td>
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<td>handwritten revisions and markings, photocopy of</td>
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<td>printed publication, 1988, undated</td>
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<td>The Reason For It (2003)</td>
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<tr>
<td>First draft ( 'first version' ). Typescript with author's</td>
<td>Container 36.15</td>
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<td>handwritten revisions, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten</td>
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<td>revisions, undated</td>
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<td>Third draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions,</td>
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<td>Report on the Threatened City</td>
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<td>Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, page proofs, and printed publication, 1988, undated</td>
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<td>Samhain Eve</td>
<td>Photocopied printout, undated</td>
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<td>Side Benefits of an Honourable Profession</td>
<td>Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated</td>
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<td>Sparrows</td>
<td>Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, correspondence, and printed publication, 1989, undated</td>
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<td>Spies I Have Known</td>
<td>Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated</td>
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<td>The Stare</td>
<td>Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printout, faxed New Yorker galley proofs, and handwritten notes, 1997, undated</td>
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<td>Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated</td>
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<td>The Story of a Non-Marrying Man (also titled The Fragrant Black Aloe)</td>
<td>Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 1940s, 1971, undated</td>
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<td>A Summer's House</td>
<td>Typed and printout drafts, undated</td>
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<td>Photocopied typeset pages, undated</td>
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<td>The Thoughts of a Near-Human</td>
<td>Research, typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printout, correspondence, 1992, undated</td>
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<td>Through the Tunnel</td>
<td>Photocopied typeset pages and printed publication, 1954, 1957</td>
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<td>The Twitching Dog</td>
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Two Old Women and a Young One. Typed and printout drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

An Unposted Love Letter. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 1960s

Victoria and the Staveney's (2003)

First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, includes correspondence from typist, undated

Third draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated

What Price the Truth? Typed and printout drafts with author's handwritten revisions, galley and page proofs, and printed publication, 1991, undated

When the King Came. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Womb Ward. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, galley proofs, Norwegian printed publication, 1987, 1993, undated

The Woolly Sheep. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, original and carbon copy with different ending, includes correspondence, 1953, undated

Yes, But Why? Two carbon copies with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Untitled story about African family. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Untitled story about Ruth and Charles. Incomplete typescript (original and carbon copy interleaved) with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Collections


The Doris Lessing Reader (1989)

Setting copy. Photocopied typeset pages with editorial marks, undated
Page proofs with editorial marks, undated

The Grandmothers (2003). Front matter and editorial notes, undated

London Observed (also titled London Sketches; American title: The Real Thing; 1992).

First draft. Printout with copy editor's and Lessing's marks, undated

Second draft

Printouts, undated

Incomplete photocopy with copy editor's marks, undated

Page proofs, undated

Notes and correspondence, 1987-1991, undated


The Story of a Non-Marrying Man and Other Stories (1972)

Assorted notes, typescript pages, page proofs, and list of corrections, undated

Page proofs for the Jonathan Cape edition with author's handwritten revisions, undated

The Sun Between Their Feet (1973). Front matter including Preface, and typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions of Spies I Have Known and The Story of a Non-Marrying Man, 1972, undated

The Temptation of Jack Orkney and Other Stories (1972)

Setting copy for Knopf edition, 1972

Correspondence, 1972

This Was the Old Chief's Country (1973). Front matter including Preface, 1972, undated

Subseries C. Dramatic Works, 1959-2004, undated
List of dramatic works in Lessing's handwriting, undated

Africa Dances (play script). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions and handwritten note, 1940s

As I Was Walking up the High Street (play script). Original and carbon copy typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, 1967

Between Men (screenplay for television, 1967)

First draft

Carbon copy typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 1967

Mimeographed copy, 1967

Camera script, 1967

Rehearsal script, 1967

Adaptation by Michael Hastings. Preliminary draft and complete first draft, typescript and photocopied typescript with correspondence, 1975, undated

The Bones of the Dead (screenplay for television). Carbon copy typed synopsis, 1967

Care and Protection (screenplay for television, 1966)

Original and carbon copy typescripts, undated

Rehearsal script, mimeographed copy, 1966

Children of Violence (screenplay for film)

First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft. Printouts, undated

Third draft ( 'Second Revision' ). Printout, 'Part One. The Empty Village' only, undated

Do Not Disturb (screenplay for television, also titled Please Do Not Disturb, 1966). Original folder only, 1966

Dom Pedro de Braganza (musical play script, written with Helder Macedo)
Synopsis. Typescript and photocopy with author's handwritten revisions, 1964, undated

Assorted handwritten, typed, carbon copy, and photocopied notes and pages, undated

First draft

Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Photocopy, undated

Second draft

Typescript, 1965

Carbon copy, undated

Photocopies, undated

Each His Own Wilderness (play script, 1958)

Duplicated typescripts, undated

Correspondence, 1959

Printed program for German performance, 1989

The Fifth Child (screenplay for film adapted by Ruth Graham). Reproduced typescript, 1992

The Grass Is Singing (radio play adapted by Michael Kittermaster, 1976). Correspondence (including first draft of script), 1971-1976, undated

The Habit of Loving (screenplay for television, 1963)

Typescripts, original and carbon copies, 1969, undated

Camera scripts, 1963

Rehearsal script, 1963

Discarded typescript pages, undated

Spanish translation. Reproduced typescript, 1964
He (play script). Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Un Homme et deux femmes (French screenplay for film by René Féret, based on three stories by Lessing, 1991). Reproduced typescript, undated

Inside, Outside (synopsis of screenplay for television). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 1966

Johnny's Luck (play script). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

The Making of the Representative for Planet 8 (opera libretto, music by Philip Glass, 1988)

Manuscripts

Libretto

Discarded pages mixed with pages from early drafts, handwritten, typed, and printout versions with author's handwritten revisions, undated

'5th draft' (two-act version). Reproduced typescript, 1986

'6th draft' (two-act version). Printouts with author's handwritten revisions, 1986

Seventh draft (three-act version). Reproduced printouts with author's handwritten revisions, 1987

Article for ENO & Friends magazine. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Notes, production documents, promotional material, printed programs, reviews, and clippings


Theater Kiel production, Kiel, Germany (1989), 1988-1989, undated
Assorted documents, 1986-1988, undated

Correspondence, 1983-1989, undated

Original folders, undated

Maria (play script), undated

First draft. Carbon copy typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Carbon copy, undated

Third draft. Carbon copy typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Fourth draft

Carbon copy typescript, undated

Typeset copy, 1966

The Marriages between Zones Three, Four, and Five

Opera libretto, music by Philip Glass, produced by Theater der Stadt, Heidelberg, 1997

Drafts of synopsis and libretto. Handwritten, typed, carbon copy, reproduced, and printout pages with author's handwritten revisions throughout, undated

Notes, production documents, and printed program, 1997, undated

Screenplays for film

By Doris Lessing

Typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Carbon copy, undated

'Treatment,' 1991
'Working Notes,' 1991

Notes and printed material, 1991, undated

By Philip Kalin-Hajdu. Printout, 2004

Correspondence, 1989-2004, undated

The Memoirs of a Survivor (screenplay for film)

By Kerry Crabbe and David Gladwell. Reproduced typescript, undated

By David Gladwell and Bernard Houser. Reproduced typescript, undated

The Mermaids Singing (play script). Reproduced typescript, undated

Mr. Dollinger (play script, 1958). Reproduced typescripts

With minor revisions in unidentified hand and lines marked for part of Penelope Hall, undated

With revisions marked in unidentified hand, undated

'Prompt Copy' with extensive revisions and annotations in unidentified hand, undated

Play with a Tiger (also titled To Play with a Tiger; 1962)

Play script

First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Second draft. Carbon copy typescripts, undated

Czech translation. Reproduced typescripts, 1966

Screenplay for television

Typescripts, 1967-1968

Rehearsal script, 1967

Camera script, 1968
Correspondence, 1964

The Silent Man (screenplay for television or film)

'Story outline.' Typescript drafts, undated

'Treatment.' Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions

First draft, undated

Second draft, undated

Screenplay

First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft, 'Treatment for a film.' Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, 1963

Correspondence, printed documents, discarded pages, notes, 1960, 1971, undated


The Stories of Guy de Maupassant, series for Granada Television (screenplays co-authored with Hugh Leonard and Stanley Miller)

Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Boitelle

The Bread of Shame

The Confidence (also titled Confidential)

A Passion

Reproduced typescripts, undated

Boitelle (1962)

Confidential / A Passion / The Sign

The Inheritance (1963)
The Legacy / Mademoiselle Pearl / Confession / The Orderly  Container 53.8

The Model  Container 53.9

The Necklace / A Question of Latin / The Olive Grove  Container 53.10

Old Milon / A Twelfth-Night Party / A Duel (1962)  Container 53.11

Pierre's Wife  Container 53.12

A Sale / A Family Business / The Devil (1962)  Container 53.13

The Story of a Farm Girl  Container 54.1

The Test / Four Dozen Dumplings / Imprudence (1963)  Container 54.2

That Swine Morin / Graveyard Loves / A Night on the Town (1962)  Container 54.3

Note and correspondence, 1962-1966, undated  Container 54.4

The Storm (play script, adaptation by Lessing of a play by Alexander Ostrovsky, 1966)

Original and carbon copy typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated  Container 54.5

Duplicated typescripts from The National Theatre with author's handwritten revisions, 1966, undated  Container 54.6-8

The Truth about Billy Newton

Play script (1958)

First draft. Carbon copy typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated  Container 54.9

Second draft. Reproduced typescripts with alterations in various unidentified hands, undated  Container 54.10-11, 55.1-2

Screenplay for television

Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated  Container 55.3
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Rehearsal script. Reproduced typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 1961</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>£20,000 of Love (play script)</td>
<td>First draft. Carbon copy typescripts with author's minor handwritten revisions, undated</td>
<td>55.5-7</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>Second draft. Reproduced typescript, undated</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>The White Princess (synopsis and play script; also titled The Pink Princess). Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>Woman Alone (screenplay for film; also titled Woman; Woman without a Man)</td>
<td>First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Second draft. Reproduced typescript, 1965</td>
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<td>G</td>
<td>Third draft. Reproduced typescript, undated</td>
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<td>Fourth draft. Typescript, undated</td>
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<td>Unidentified manuscript page, carbon copy typescript, undated</td>
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<td>J</td>
<td>Subseries D. Poetry, 1943-2005, undated</td>
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<td>A-D, 1948, undated</td>
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<td>F-I, 1966-1967, undated</td>
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<td>L-M, 1970, 2005, undated</td>
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<td>N</td>
<td>N-S, 1948, 1967, undated</td>
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<td>T-W, 1967, undated</td>
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<td>P</td>
<td>Untitled, 1943-1965, undated</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1946, 1985</td>
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<td>Original folder, undated</td>
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Other poems

A-C, 1943-1947, undated
D-F, 1943-1946, undated
H-L, 1946-1947, undated
M-P, 1943-1955, undated
R-Z, 1946-1949, undated

The Wolf People. Handwritten and typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, correspondence, page proofs, 2001, undated

Untitled, 1948-1951, undated
Notes and fragments, undated

Poems by others. Jack Beeching. Typed draft with Lessing's handwritten annotation, undated

Correspondence, 1946-1969, undated
Original folders, undated


Individual articles, essays, and reviews

About Cats. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2000

Afghanistan. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

African Tragedy. Printout, 2000

The Amazing Victorian: A Life of George Meredith. Typescript, 2000

Ant's Eye View: A Review of The Soul of the White Ant by Eugène Marais. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Biography. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions and signature, 2000
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<td><strong>Broken Promises.</strong> Printed publication, 1996</td>
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<td><strong>Bulgakov's The Fatal Eggs.</strong> Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions and correspondence, 2003.</td>
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<td><strong>Carlyle's House: Newly Discovered Pieces by Virginia Woolf.</strong> Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2003</td>
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<td><strong>The Catastrophe.</strong> Galley proofs for The New Yorker with author's handwritten revisions</td>
<td>'1st revise, Feb. 12,' 1987</td>
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<td>'2nd revise, Feb. 17th,' 1987</td>
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<td>Third set, photocopies, 1987</td>
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<td><strong>Censorship.</strong> Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2001</td>
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<td><strong>Continuing Cycles of Revolution.</strong> Printed publication, 1993</td>
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<td><strong>D. H. Lawrence's 'The Fox.'</strong> Photocopied typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, 2002</td>
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<td><strong>A Deep Darkness: A Review of Out of Africa by Karen Blixen.</strong> Printed publication, 1971</td>
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<td><strong>Doris Lessing on Afghanistan.</strong> Printout with author's handwritten revisions, 1986</td>
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<td><strong>Events in the Skies.</strong> Typescript drafts and galley proofs with author's handwritten revisions, and printed publications, undated, 1988</td>
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<td><strong>Foreword to The Wrong Way Home by Dr. Arthur Deikman.</strong> Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2002</td>
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<td><strong>The Forgotten Soldier, Guy Sajer.</strong> Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions and signature, 2000</td>
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Impertinent Daughters

Publication in Granta

First draft. Original typescript and carbon copy interleaved, with author's handwritten revisions, undated Container 58.1

Second draft. Original typescript and carbon copy interleaved, with author's handwritten revisions on original only, undated Container 58.2

Printed publication, 1985 Container 58.3

Correspondence, 1984 Container 58.4

Publication in Contemporary Authors (incorporates My Mother's Life)

Typescript, undated Container 58.5

Page proofs, 1991 Container 58.6

Photocopy of printed publication, 1991 Container 58.7

Correspondence, 1991 Container 58.8


Learning to Love Books (also titled Opinions; broadcast talk on BBC television)

First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated Container 58.10

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated Container 58.11

Printed publication, 1985 Container 58.12

Correspondence, 1985, undated Container 58.13

My Father

Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated Container 58.14

Printed publication, 1963 Container 58.15

Correspondence, 1963 Container 58.16

My Mother's Life

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<td>Third draft. Original typescript (incomplete), carbon copies, and</td>
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<td>Nudity. Typescript and printout drafts with author's handwritten</td>
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<td>Old. Photocopied typescript, correspondence, 2001, undated</td>
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<td>The Old Age of El Magnifico. Typed and printout drafts with author's</td>
<td>handwritten revisions, undated</td>
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<td>On Tolstoy. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten</td>
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<td>Opera. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions,</td>
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<td>Paris Review interview. Photocopied printed pages with author's</td>
<td>revisions, 1991</td>
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<td>The Pleasure of Reading. Photocopied typescript with author's</td>
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<td>Preface for Slaves of Solitude by Patrick Hamilton. Typed and printout</td>
<td>drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 2006, undated</td>
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Preface to Ecclesiastes, King James Version. Research material, drafts, page proofs with author's handwritten revisions, correspondence, 1998, undated

Preface to Lady Chatterley's Lover. Printout, undated

'Preface to Seeking After Truth' (French translation of Seeker After Truth by Idries Shah, 1984). Typescript with editorial marks, undated

Review of The Writer and Commitment. Typescript of review by Lessing and galley proof of review by Philip Toynbee, undated

Rufus the Survivor

First through third typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Fourth original and photocopied typed draft with author's handwritten revisions, undated

The Situation in Zimbabwe. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2000

Speech at Vigo on Getting the Prince of Asturias Prize. Photocopied typescript, 2002

Stendhal's Memoirs of an Egotist. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2002

Summing up: When Idries Shah Died. Printout, 1994

The Three Royal Monkeys, Walter de la Mare [with several other book reviews not included in Time Bites]. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 1998

The Tragedy of Zimbabwe. Printouts, 2003

Unexamined Mental Attitudes Left Behind by Communism. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 1992

Unwritten Novels. Photocopied printed publication, 1990

A Week in Heidelberg. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 1999

Untitled pieces
On aging. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

On James Boswell. Incomplete typescript, undated


On paintings. Handwritten notes, undated

On reading (written for Antonia Fraser, ed., The Pleasure of Reading, 1992). Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions and correspondence, 1990, undated

Folder, undated

Books

African Laughter (1992)

Research, handwritten notes, and loose typescript pages, undated

First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft. Photocopied typescript, undated

Correspondence, 1992, undated

Autobiography (two volumes)

Handwritten notes, clippings, and assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions from both volumes, undated


Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Correspondence, 1944, 1993-1995, undated


Handwritten notes, clippings, photograph, and research photocopies, 1987-1995, undated
Correspondence with researcher Elizabeth Murray, 1996, undated

First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Original

Carbon copy

Third draft. Printout with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Fourth draft. Printout, undated

Incomplete, with extensive copy editor's marks (mostly rejected)

'Penultimate version,' with author's handwritten and typed revisions

Fifth draft. Printout, undated

With author's handwritten and typed revisions and copy editor's marks

Setting copy, with author's handwritten revisions and copy editor's marks

Page Proofs for U.S. edition

Dated 3/17/97

With author's handwritten revisions

'Author's set,' with author's handwritten revisions

Dated 5/12/97, with author's handwritten revisions

Dated 6/24/97, illustration section only, two copies
Corrections for U.S. and British paperback editions. Typed and handwritten pages, undated

Correspondence, 1995-1997, undated

Particularly Cats ... and Rufus. Page proofs for the Knopf edition, 1991

Prisons We Choose to Live Inside (originally delivered as the Massey Lectures on CBC Radio in 1985; published 1986)

First draft. Handwritten notes and typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Third draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Setting copy for the Jonathan Cape edition, 1987

Correspondence, 1984-1985


Preliminary selection of pieces, unnumbered

Pieces included in final publication. Typescripts, photocopies, page proofs, clippings, printed publications, and correspondence, 1972-2003, undated

Rejected pieces. Typescripts, photocopies, page proofs, clippings, printed publications, and correspondence, 1971-2003, undated

Second selection of pieces, numbered. Photocopies and clippings, 1972-2003, undated


Notes. Handwritten and typed pages, undated

Correspondence, 1987-2004, undated
The Wind Blows Away Our Words (incorporates material used for article The Catastrophe, 1987)

Handwritten notes, undated

Part One: Her Long Hair Streaming Loose. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Part Two: The Wind Blows Away Our Words

First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Third draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated

Carbon copy, undated

Fourth draft. Typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Fifth draft. Original and carbon copy typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Sixth draft

Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated

Seventh draft. Carbon copy typescript, undated

Assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated


Part Four: The Strange Case of the Western Conscience. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated

Complete book. Photocopied typescript with handwritten notes, undated
Series II. Personal and Career-Related, 1947-2007, undated

Subseries A. Personal, 1947-2007, undated

Correspondence

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K, 1995-1996, undated
L, 1955-1997, undated
M-Z, unidentified, 1949-2005, undated
Re Tanner Lectures, 1982-1983

Outgoing, 1947, undated

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Subseries B. Career-Related, 1956-2002, undated

Clippings, 1956-2002, undated

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