

# Doris Lessing:

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

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Lessing, Doris, 1919-2013
<b>Title:</b>	Doris Lessing Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1943-2008, undated
<b>Extent:</b>	76 document boxes (31.92 linear feet), 1 oversize folder (osf), 9 galley files (gf)
<b>Abstract:</b>	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.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-2460
<b>Language:</b>	Predominantly English , with some (mostly printed) material in Dutch , French , German , Japanese , Norwegian , Portuguese , and Spanish
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research

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### Administrative Information

<b>Acquisition:</b>	Purchases, 1999 (R14457, R16015); 2015 (15-01-012-P)
<b>Processed by:</b>	Liz Murray, 1999; Richard Workman, 2016
<b>Repository:</b>	<a href="#">Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin</a>

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## 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.

In the 1960s, Lessing came under the influence of Sufi writer and teacher Idries Shah. As a result, her work veered away from realism in *The Four-Gated City* (1969), *Briefing for a Descent into Hell* (1971), *The Memoirs of a Survivor* (1974), and especially the science-fiction novel series, *Canopus in Argos: Archives* (1979-1982), to the dismay of some of her readers. Even though she occasionally returned to more realistic methods in some of her later work, for the rest of her career Lessing often chose unconventional paths, as in the graphic novel *Playing the Game* (1995), *Mara and Dann: An Adventure* (1999), *The Story of General Dann and Mara's Daughter, Griot and the Snow Dog* (2006), and *The Cleft* (2007).

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.

Lessing collaborated with American composer Philip Glass on operatic versions of two of her novels, *The Making of the Representative for Planet 8* (1988) and *The Marriages between Zones Three, Four, and Five* (1997).

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.

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## Sources:

"Doris Lessing: A Retrospective." Jan Hanford, <http://www.dorislessing.org> (accessed 9 August 2016).

Lessing, Doris. *Under My Skin: Volume One of My Autobiography, to 1949*. New York: HarperCollins, 1994.

Lessing, Doris. *Walking in the Shade: Volume Two of My Autobiography, 1949-1962*. New York: HarperCollins, 1994.

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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.

The Works series represents the majority of the papers, filling 70.5 boxes. It is arranged in five subseries: A. Novels, 1970-2008, undated; B. Short Fiction, 1949-2006, undated; C. Dramatic Works, 1959-2004, undated; D. Poetry, 1943-2005, undated; and E. Nonfiction, 1963-2007, 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	<b>Container</b> 1.1
Second draft ( 'Uncorrected,' Part One only). Printout with author's handwritten revisions (original folder erroneously identifies as '2nd Part' ), 2007	<b>Container</b> 1.2-3
Third draft ( 'Uncorrected,' Part One only). Printout with author's handwritten revisions, 2007	<b>Container</b> 1.4-5
Fourth draft, Part Two only. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 1.6-7
Fifth draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 2.1-2
Sixth draft. Printouts and incomplete photocopy, undated	<b>Container</b> 2.3-6, 3.1-4
Page proofs for Fourth Estate edition, 2008	<b>Container</b> 3.5-6
A Sitting Hen and The Incubator (also titled Chickens and Eggs), discarded material. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions and printouts, undated	<b>Container</b> 3.7-8
My Black Calf. Printouts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 4.1
Page proofs for paperback edition. Photocopies of printed pages marked for corrections and photocopies of corrected pages, 2008, undated	<b>Container</b> 4.2
<b>Ben, in the World: The Sequel to The Fifth Child (also titled The Fifth Child in the World; Ben Lovatt, Savage; Ben Lovatt; 2000)</b>	
First draft ( 'Early Draft' ). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 1999	<b>Container</b> 4.3
Second draft. Photocopy of typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 4.4
Third draft. Photocopy of typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 4.5



Fourth draft. Printouts	
With author's handwritten revisions and editorial markings by copy editor and Suzette Macedo, undated	<b>Container</b> 4.6-7
With author's handwritten revisions only, undated	<b>Container</b> 4.8-9
Assorted photocopied printed and printout pages with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 4.10
Partisan Review publication of excerpt. Correspondence and proofs, 2000	<b>Container</b> 4.11
Briefing for a Descent into Hell (1971)	
'Overlooked early notes.' Assorted handwritten and typed pages, undated	<b>Container</b> 5.1
Setting copy for Knopf edition, 1972, undated	<b>Container</b> 5.2
Galley proofs for Knopf edition, 1970	<b>Container</b> gf
Canopus in Argos: Archives (novel series)	
Documents Relating to the Sentimental Agents in the Volyen Empire (1983)	
Assorted handwritten and typed pages, undated	<b>Container</b> 5.3
'1st draft.' Two typescripts (originals and carbon copies mixed) with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 5.4-5
Second draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions and marks by copy editor	
Original, undated	<b>Container</b> 5.6
Carbon copy, undated	<b>Container</b> 5.7
Third draft	
Typescript, undated	<b>Container</b> 6.1
Setting copy for Knopf edition, undated	<b>Container</b> 6.2
The Making of the Representative for Planet 8 (also titled Making the Representative for Planet 8; 1982)	

First draft. Typescripts (originals and carbon copies mixed) with author's handwritten revisions, undated **Container**  
6.3-4

Second draft. Carbon copy typescript with author's handwritten revisions and editorial marks in unidentified hand, undated **Container**  
6.5

Third draft. Photocopied typescript with Knopf editorial markings and notes

'Xerox of the copy-edited ms. For the author, ' includes correspondence, 1981, undated **Container**  
6.6

Setting copy for Knopf edition, undated **Container** 7.1

Galley proofs for Knopf edition

'Author's galleys,' with author's and editor's marks, including cover letter from Lessing, 1981 **Container**  
gf

'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

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 **Container** 7.2-3

Carbon copy, includes correspondence from Knopf and Cape, 1979, undated **Container**  
7.4-5

Assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions and handwritten verses, undated **Container**  
7.6

Second draft. Setting copy for the Knopf edition, 1980 **Container**  
7.7-8

Galley proofs for Knopf edition

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

'Master set,' with editorial marks, including cover letter from Knopf,  
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 **Container** 8.1-2

Carbon copy, undated **Container** 8.3-4

Second draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated **Container** 8.5-6

Carbon copy, undated **Container** 9.1-2

Carbon copy, setting copy for Knopf edition, with marks by copy editor, **Container**  
undated 9.3-4

Galley proofs for Knopf edition

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

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 **Container**  
9.5

Assorted handwritten notes, typescript pages with author's handwritten  
revisions, and photocopies of galleys with editorial marks, undated **Container**  
10.1

Correspondence from Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1978-1979 **Container**  
10.2

The Sirian Experiments: The Report by Ambien II, of the Five (1980)

'Notes.' Handwritten and typed pages with author's handwritten revisions **Container**  
and correspondence, 1979-1980, undated 10.3

First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions

Original, with additional pages ( 'Rewrites' ), undated	<b>Container</b> 10.4-5
Carbon copy, undated	<b>Container</b> 10.6-7
Carbon copy, undated	<b>Container</b> 10.8-9
Second draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions	
Carbon copy with notes and correspondence with typist, 1979-1980, undated	<b>Container</b> 11.1-2
Original, setting copy for Knopf edition with editorial marks and correspondence, 1980, undated	<b>Container</b> 11.3-4
Assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 11.5
Galley proofs for Knopf edition ( 'Master Galleys' ), includes typescript for Preface, undated	<b>Container</b> gf
The Children of Violence (novel series)	
The Four-Gated City (1969)	
Setting copy for Knopf edition. Typescript with editorial marks	
Part I, undated	<b>Container</b> 11.6
Part II, undated	<b>Container</b> 12.1
Part III, undated	<b>Container</b> 12.2
Part IV, undated	<b>Container</b> 12.3
The Cleft (2007)	
Photocopied typescripts with author's handwritten revisions	
'The Cleft. 1,' undated	<b>Container</b> 12.4
'The Cleft 2,' undated	<b>Container</b> 12.5
Correspondence, 2006	<b>Container</b> 12.6
The Diary of a Good Neighbour (as Jane Somers, 1983)	
First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions	

Original, undated	<b>Container</b> 12.7, 13.1
Carbon copy, includes handwritten author's notes and assessments by two reviewers for Jonathan Clowes, undated	<b>Container</b> 13.2-3
Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, undated	<b>Container</b> 13.4
Carbon copy ( 'Marked Copy' ), with copy editor's marks, undated	<b>Container</b> 13.5
Assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 14.1
Paste-ups, undated	<b>Container</b> 14.2-3
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	<b>Container</b> 14.4
Second draft ( '1st Version' ). Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, originals and carbon copies interleaved, undated	<b>Container</b> 14.5
Third draft ( 'Second Draft' ). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, originals and carbon copies interleaved, undated	<b>Container</b> 14.6-7
Fourth draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, undated	<b>Container</b> 14.8
Carbon copy, undated	<b>Container</b> 14.9
Fifth draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, undated	<b>Container</b> 15.1
Two carbon copies, including handwritten and typed notes and correspondence, 1987, undated	<b>Container</b> 15.2-3
Photocopy including front matter copy for Knopf edition and correspondence, 1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 15.4
Setting copy for Knopf edition, undated	<b>Container</b> 15.5
Page proofs ( 'First Pass Page Master' ) with editorial marks, undated	<b>Container</b> 15.6

Repros, 1988, undated	<b>Container 15.7</b>
Printed reviews, 1988	<b>Container 15.8</b>
The Good Terrorist (also titled The Terrorist; 1985)	
Research material, 1983-1984, undated	<b>Container 16.1</b>
First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, undated	<b>Container 16.2-3</b>
Carbon copy, includes handwritten notes, undated	<b>Container 16.4-5</b>
Assorted typescript pages and revisions, undated	<b>Container 16.6</b>
Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, undated	<b>Container 16.7-8, 17.1</b>
Photocopy, undated	<b>Container 17.2-4</b>
Advance proof copy for the Knopf edition, with author's handwritten revisions, 1985	<b>Container 17.5</b>
Correspondence, 1984-1985, undated	<b>Container 17.6</b>
Fragment from an introduction to a later edition. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container 17.7</b>
If the Old Could . . . (as Jane Somers, 1984)	
First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, undated	<b>Container 17.8-9</b>
Carbon copy, undated	<b>Container 18.1-2</b>
Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, includes correspondence, 1983-1984, undated	<b>Container 18.3-4</b>
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	<b>Container</b> 18.5-6
Copy with additional revisions to the opening pages, includes research material and handwritten notes, undated	<b>Container</b> 18.7-8
Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, undated	<b>Container</b> 19.1-2
Photocopy, includes handwritten notes, undated	<b>Container</b> 19.3-4
Third draft. Printout with author's and editor's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 19.5-7
Fourth draft. Printout for HarperCollins (U.S.) edition, with author's and editor's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 20.1-2
Fifth draft. Printout for HarperCollins edition, unmarked, undated	<b>Container</b> 20.3-4
Page proofs for the Flamingo (British) edition, unmarked, 1995	<b>Container</b> 20.5-6
Page proofs for the HarperCollins edition, with editorial markings, 1995	<b>Container</b> 20.7, 21.1
Page proofs for the HarperCollins edition, incomplete, with editorial markings, 1996	<b>Container</b> 21.2
French translation. Incomplete printout, undated	<b>Container</b> 21.3
Correspondence, 1994-1995, undated	<b>Container</b> 21.4
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	<b>Container</b> 21.5-6
Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, undated	<b>Container</b> 21.7-8
Photocopy, undated	<b>Container</b> 22.1-2
Third draft. Printout with editor's marks, includes author's handwritten notes and correspondence from publisher, 1998, undated	<b>Container</b> 22.3-5

Fourth draft. Printout	
Unmarked, undated	<b>Container</b> 22.6, 23.1-2
With one editorial mark on last page, undated	<b>Container</b> 23.3-5
Page proofs	
With marked pages in place, 1998	<b>Container</b> 23.6-7, 24.1
'Author's correx,' with marked pages collected at beginning, 1998	<b>Container</b> 24.2-4
Assorted final corrections, 1998	<b>Container</b> 24.5
Hand-drawn map of Ifrik, two copies, undated	<b>Container</b> 24.6
Correspondence, 1998	<b>Container</b> 24.7
Cover artwork, undated	<b>Container</b> 24.8
The Memoirs of a Survivor (1974)	
First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, includes correspondence, 1974, undated	<b>Container</b> 24.9-10
Carbon copy, undated	<b>Container</b> 24.11-12
Carbon copy, setting copy for Knopf edition, 1975, undated	<b>Container</b> 25.1-2
Second draft. Printout labeled by Octagon Press, undated	<b>Container</b> 25.3
Correspondence and cover art, 1988	<b>Container</b> 25.4
The Memorymakers (chapters 1-6, uncompleted)	
First draft, chapter 1 only. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 25.5
Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, includes handwritten notes and correspondence, 1971-1972, undated	<b>Container</b> 25.6



Third draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, selected pages from chapter 1 and all of chapters 2-6, undated	<b>Container</b> 25.7
Composite typescripts. Three sets of carbon copy pages from second and third drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 25.8-10
<b>The Story of General Dann and Mara's Daughter, Griot and the Snow Dog (2005)</b>	
First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 26.1
Second draft	
Original, typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 26.2
Photocopy made at an early stage of revision, includes handwritten notes, undated	<b>Container</b> 26.3
Third draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, includes correspondence, 1972, undated	<b>Container</b> 26.4-6
Fourth draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 27.1-3
Assorted typescript pages with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 27.4
Page proofs and correspondence, undated	<b>Container</b> 27.5
Cover art, undated	<b>Container</b> 27.6
<b>The Summer before the Dark (1973)</b>	
First and second drafts combined. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, includes handwritten notes, undated	<b>Container</b> 27.7-8
Third draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions	
Original, undated	<b>Container</b> 27.9
Carbon copy, undated	<b>Container</b> 28.1
Fourth draft. Photocopy of typescript with author's handwritten revisions, includes typist's list of queries, 1972	<b>Container</b> 28.2-3
<b>The Sweetest Dream (2001)</b>	

First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, includes handwritten notes and unrelated correspondence, 1999, undated **Container**  
28.4-5

Second draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions

Original, undated **Container** 28.6, 29.1

Photocopy, incomplete, undated **Container** 29.2-3

Photocopy, undated **Container** 29.4-5

Photocopy with annotations by Philip Gwyn Jones, incomplete, includes correspondence, 2000, undated **Container**  
29.6, 30.1

Third draft. Printouts with author's typed and handwritten revisions, includes handwritten notes, undated **Container**  
30.2-5,  
31.1-4

Assorted typescript and printout pages, undated **Container** 31.5

Correspondence, 2000, undated **Container** 31.6

Subseries B. Short Fiction, 1949-2006, undated

Individual stories

Among the Roses. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printout, and printed publications, undated **Container**  
32.1

An Anniversary. Two carbon copies and printed publication, undated **Container**  
32.2

The Ant Man. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated **Container**  
32.3

The Black Madonna. Typed drafts and incomplete setting copy with author's handwritten revisions, undated ( 'Written late forties' ) **Container**  
32.4

The Casualties. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated **Container**  
32.5

Casualty (also titled Casualties). Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printouts, and printed publication, 1988, undated **Container**  
32.6

The Crash. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated **Container**  
32.7

D.H.S.S. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printouts with author's handwritten revisions, printed publication, notes, and correspondence, 1990, undated	<b>Container</b> 32.8
The Death of a Chair. Typed and printout drafts and page proofs, includes correspondence, 2005, undated	<b>Container</b> 32.9
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	<b>Container</b> 32.10-11
Fear and Red Velvet. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 32.12
The Fun Fair. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 32.13
The Goddess of the Insurance Fires. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 32.14
The Grandmothers (2003)	
First draft. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.1
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Third draft. Original typescript and photocopy, with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.3
Fourth draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.4
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Marked by copy editor, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.6
With copy editor's marks transferred, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.7
Sixth draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.8
Notes and correspondence, 2002, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.9
Her. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.10

In Defence of the Underground. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions and printout, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.11
In the National Gallery. Typed and printout drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 2006, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.12
The Italian Sweater. Typed and printout drafts, page proofs, and printed publications, 1992-1994, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.13-14
The Journal of a Rebel, or, Excuse Me While I'm Sick.	
Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.15
Typed fragment, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.4
Lions, Leaves, Roses. . . . Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.16
A Love Child (2003)	
First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 33.17
Second draft. Typescript and photocopies with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 34.1
Third draft. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 34.2
Fourth draft. Printout with author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 34.3-4
Fifth draft. Printout	
Marked by copy editor, undated	<b>Container</b> 34.5
With copy editor's marks transferred, undated	<b>Container</b> 34.6
With author's handwritten and typed revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 34.7
Assorted typescript and printout pages, notes, research material, and correspondence, 2002, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.1
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	<b>Container</b> 35.2

The Mother of the Child in Question. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions and printed publication, 1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.3
Mr. Boles and Mr. Hartley. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.4
Mrs. Fortescue. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.5
The New Café. Typed drafts, printout draft, and page proofs with author's handwritten revisions, and printed publication, 1990, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.6
No Witchcraft for Sale. Printed publication, 1993	<b>Container</b> 35.7
Not a Very Nice Story. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 1971-1972	<b>Container</b> 35.8
The Nuisance. Typescript, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.9
The Old Sort. Typescript, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.10
An Old Woman and her Cat. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, correspondence, 1971-1972	<b>Container</b> 35.11
The Old Woman They Called a Witch. Typed and carbon copy drafts, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.12
One Language. Typescript and incomplete carbon copy with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.13
One Off the Short List. Page proofs, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.14
The Other Garden. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 35.15
Out of the Fountain. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 1960s	<b>Container</b> 35.16
The Pit. Typescript original, carbon copy, and photocopy ( '3rd version' ) with author's handwritten revisions, printed publication, and page proofs, 1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.1
The Plague. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.2
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First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions and handwritten notes, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.3
Second draft ( 'second stage' ). Original typescript and carbon copy interleaved, with handwritten notes, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.4
Third draft. Typescript (original, carbon copy, and photocopy) with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.5
Photocopied sample illustrations by Charlie Adlard, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.6
Photocopied final pages, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.7
Research and notes, 1991, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.8
Correspondence, 1990-1992, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.9
Pleasures of the Park. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printouts, and printed publication, 1991, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.10
Pretty Puss. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.11
Principles (also titled A Question of Principle). Typed drafts and printouts with author's handwritten revisions, and printed publication, 1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.12
The Real Thing. Typescripts with author's and editor's handwritten revisions and markings, photocopy of printed publication, 1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.13-14
The Reason For It (2003)	
First draft ( 'first version' ). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 36.15
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Third draft. Printout with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 37.1
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Report on the Threatened City. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, and research, 1971-1972, undated	<b>Container</b> 37.5
Romance 1988 (also titled Romance 1987). Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, page proofs, and printed publication, 1988, undated	<b>Container</b> 37.6
Samhain Eve. Photocopied printout, undated	<b>Container</b> 37.7
Side Benefits of an Honourable Profession. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 37.8
Sparrows. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, correspondence, and printed publication, 1989, undated	<b>Container</b> 37.9
Spies I Have Known. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 37.10
The Stare. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printout, faxed New Yorker galley proofs, and handwritten notes, 1997, undated	<b>Container</b> 37.11
Storms. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 37.12
The Story of a Non-Marrying Man (also titled The Fragrant Black Aloe). Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 1940s, 1971, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.1
A Summer's House. Typed and printout drafts, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.2
A Sunrise on the Veld. Photocopied typeset pages, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.3
The Thoughts of a Near-Human. Research, typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printout, correspondence, 1992, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.5
Through the Tunnel. Photocopied typeset pages and printed publication, 1954, 1957	<b>Container</b> 38.6
Tigers in the Big House. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.7
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Twenty Years. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, printouts and printed publication, 1994, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.9
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Two Old Women and a Young One. Typed and printout drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.11
An Unposted Love Letter. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, 1960s	<b>Container</b> 38.12
Victoria and the Staveney (2003)	
First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.13
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What Price the Truth? Typed and printout drafts with author's handwritten revisions, galley and page proofs, and printed publication, 1991, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.17
When the King Came. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 38.18
Womb Ward. Typed drafts with author's handwritten revisions, galley proofs, Norwegian printed publication, 1987, 1993, undated	<b>Container</b> 39.1
The Woolly Sheep. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, original and carbon copy with different ending, includes correspondence, 1953, undated	<b>Container</b> 39.2
Yes, But Why? Two carbon copies with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 39.3
Untitled story about African family. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 39.4
Untitled story about Ruth and Charles. Incomplete typescript (original and carbon copy interleaved) with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 39.5
Collections	
African Stories (1964). Preface. Incomplete typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 39.6
The Doris Lessing Reader (1989)	
Setting copy. Photocopied typeset pages with editorial marks, undated	<b>Container</b> 39.7-12



Page proofs with editorial marks, undated **Container 40.1-6**

The Grandmothers (2003). Front matter and editorial notes, undated **Container 40.7**

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

First draft. Printout with copy editor's and Lessing's marks, undated **Container 40.8**

Second draft

Printouts, undated **Container 40.9, 41.1**

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Page proofs, undated **Container 41.3**

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Assorted notes, typescript pages, page proofs, and list of corrections, undated **Container 41.6**

Page proofs for the Jonathan Cape edition with author's handwritten revisions, undated **Container 41.7**

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 **Container 41.8**

The Temptation of Jack Orkney and Other Stories (1972)

Setting copy for Knopf edition, 1972 **Container 41.9-10**

Correspondence, 1972 **Container 41.11**

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Adaptation by Michael Hastings. Preliminary draft and complete first draft, typescript and photocopied typescript with correspondence, 1975, undated	<b>Container</b> 42.10
The Bones of the Dead (screenplay for television). Carbon copy typed synopsis, 1967	<b>Container</b> 42.11
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Children of Violence (screenplay for film)	
First draft. Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 43.1-4
Second draft. Printouts, undated	<b>Container</b> 43.5-9
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Do Not Disturb (screenplay for television, also titled Please Do Not Disturb, 1966). Original folder only, 1966	<b>Container</b> 43.11
Dom Pedro de Braganza (musical play script, written with Helder Macedo)	

Synopsis. Typescript and photocopy with author's handwritten revisions, 1964, undated	<b>Container</b> 43.12
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Duplicated typescripts, undated	<b>Container</b> 44.7-9
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The Fifth Child (screenplay for film adapted by Ruth Graham). Reproduced typescript, 1992	<b>Container</b> 45.2
The Grass Is Singing (radio play adapted by Michael Kittermaster, 1976). Correspondence (including first draft of script), 1971-1976, undated	<b>Container</b> 45.3
The Habit of Loving (screenplay for television, 1963)	
Typescripts, original and carbon copies, 1969, undated	<b>Container</b> 45.4-6
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Rehearsal script, 1963	<b>Container</b> 45.9
Discarded typescript pages, undated	<b>Container</b> 45.10
Spanish translation. Reproduced typescript, 1964	<b>Container</b> 45.11

He (play script). Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 45.12
Un Homme et deux femmes (French screenplay for film by René Féret, based on three stories by Lessing, 1991). Reproduced typescript, undated	<b>Container</b> 45.13
Inside, Outside (synopsis of screenplay for television). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 1966	<b>Container</b> 45.14
Johnny's Luck (play script). Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 45.15
The Making of the Representative for Planet 8 (opera libretto, music by Philip Glass, 1988)	

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'Treatment,' 1991	<b>Container 49.10</b>

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By Philip Kalin-Hajdu. Printout, 2004	<b>Container</b> 50.3
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The Memoirs of a Survivor (screenplay for film)	
By Kerry Crabbe and David Gladwell. Reproduced typescript, undated	<b>Container</b> 50.5
By David Gladwell and Bernard Houser. Reproduced typescript, undated	<b>Container</b> 50.6
The Mermaids Singing (play script). Reproduced typescript, undated	<b>Container</b> 50.7
Mr. Dollinger (play script, 1958). Reproduced typescripts	
With minor revisions in unidentified hand and lines marked for part of Penelope Hall, undated	<b>Container</b> 50.8
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Play script	
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Old Milon / A Twelfth-Night Party / A Duel (1962)	<b>Container</b> 53.11
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The Story of a Farm Girl	<b>Container</b> 54.1
The Test / Four Dozen Dumplings / Imprudence (1963)	<b>Container</b> 54.2
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Note and correspondence, 1962-1966, undated	<b>Container</b> 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	<b>Container</b> 54.5
Duplicated typescripts from The National Theatre with author's handwritten revisions, 1966, undated	<b>Container</b> 54.6-8
The Truth about Billy Newton	
Play script (1958)	
First draft. Carbon copy typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 54.9
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£20,000 of Love (play script)

First draft. Carbon copy typescripts with author's minor handwritten revisions, **Container**  
undated 55.5-7

Second draft. Reproduced typescript, undated **Container** 55.8

The White Princess (synopsis and play script; also titled The Pink Princess). **Container**  
Typescripts with author's handwritten revisions, undated 55.9-10

Woman Alone (screenplay for film; also titled Woman; Woman without a Man)

First draft. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated **Container**  
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Notes and fragments, undated **Container 57.6**

Poems by others. Jack Beeching. Typed draft with Lessing's handwritten annotation, undated **Container 57.7**

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## Subseries E. Nonfiction, 1963-2007, undated

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About Cats. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2000 **Container 57.10**

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The Amazing Victorian: A Life of George Meredith. Typescript, 2000 **Container 57.13**

Ant's Eye View: A Review of The Soul of the White Ant by Eugène Marais. Typescript with author's handwritten revisions, undated **Container 57.14**

Biography. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions and signature, 2000 **Container 57.15**

A Bright Eye in a Bunch of Leaves. Typescript and printouts with author's handwritten revisions, undated	<b>Container</b> 57.16
Broken Promises. Printed publication, 1996	<b>Container</b> 57.17
Bulgakov's The Fatal Eggs. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions and correspondence, 2003.	<b>Container</b> 57.18
Carlyle's House: Newly Discovered Pieces by Virginia Woolf. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2003	<b>Container</b> 57.19
The Catastrophe. Galley proofs for The New Yorker with author's handwritten revisions	
'1st revise, Feb. 12,' 1987	<b>Container</b> 57.20
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Third set, photocopies, 1987	<b>Container</b> 57.22
Censorship. Photocopied typescript with author's handwritten revisions, 2001	<b>Container</b> 57.23
Continuing Cycles of Revolution. Printed publication, 1993	<b>Container</b> 57.24
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