

James Salter:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

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| Creator: | Salter, James. |
| Title: | James Salter Papers |
| Dates: | 1953-2000 |
| Extent: | 37 boxes, 1 oversize folder, 1 galley file (15.54 linear feet) |
| Abstract: | The collection contains drafts and production material for Salter's novels and correspondence with other writers, actors, agents, producers, publishers, editors, and friends. |
| Call Number: | Manuscript Collection MS-03690 |
| Language: | English |
| Access: | Open for research |

Administrative Information

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| Acquisition: | Purchase, 2000 (Reg. no. 14628) |
| Processed by: | Liz Murray, 2001 |
| Repository: | Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin |

Scope and Contents

This collection of works and papers of American novelist and short story writer James Salter spans nearly fifty years of his writing career from 1953-2000. Arranged by title, the collection contains drafts and production material for his novels: *The Hunters* (1956), *The Arm of Flesh* (1961), *Light Years* (1975), *Solo Faces* (1979), *A Sport and a Pastime* (1980), and *Cassada* (2000). The screenplays include *The Appointment* (Omar Sharif, Anouk Aimée, and Lotte Lenya, 1969), *The Blue Clown, Downhill Racer* (Robert Redford and Gene Hackman, 1969), *Lighthouse, Solo Faces, Three* (Charlotte Rampling, Robie Porter, and Sam Waterston, directed by Salter, 1969), and *Threshold* (Donald Sutherland and Jeff Goldblum, 1981). Also present is Salter's book of recollections *Burning the Days* (1997), *Dusk and Other Stories* (1990), and a play *The Death Star*. Correspondence is interspersed throughout, and includes writers, actors, agents, producers, publishers, editors, and friends such as Saul Bellow, Robert Creeley, Peter Coyote, Joseph Fox, Robert Fulton, Brendan Gill, Robert Emmett Ginna, Peter Glenville, Graham Greene, David Halberstam, Michael Herr, Christopher Mankiewicz, Michael Mewshaw, Edna O'Brien, Robert Parrish, George Plimpton, Martin H. Poll, Margaret Ramsay, Maxmillian Schell, Irwin Shaw, Ben Sonnenberg, Jr., and Diana Trilling.

Two books received with the manuscript collection were transferred to the HRC Library. Additional material is expected.

I. Works*The Appointment*, screenplay

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Typescript of novel by Leone Antonio Viola, with JS's notes | Box 1 Folder 1 |
| Paperback version of novel, annotated for film | Folder 2 |
| Script drafts, holograph and typescript | |
| July 1965 | Box 1 Folder 3 |
| Sept. 1965 | Folder 4 |
| Oct. 1965 | Folder 5 |
| Nov. 1967 | Folder 6-8 |
| Nov. 1967, cont'd | Box 2 Folder 1 |
| Breakdown sheets | Folder 2 |
| Production material, Feb. 1968 | Folder 3 |
| Production photographs | Folder 4 |
| Clippings, includes film project "Three" | Folder 5 |
| Correspondence, includes "Three", 1963-1969 | Folder 6 |

The Arm of Flesh, novel (1961)

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| Original typescript and notes | Box 2 Folder 7 |
| Original typescript, cont'd | Box 3 Folder 1-3 |
| Copy-edited typescript with author's corrections | Folder 4-5 |
| Galleys | Folder 6 |

The Blue Clown, screenplay

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| Film proposal based on Winston Brebner's novel "Doubting Thomas" | Box 4 Folder 1 |
| Film breakdown [removed to oversize flat files] | |
| Treatments | |
| Holograph notebook, April 1967 | Folder 2 |
| Typescript, with revisions; April 1967 | Folder 3 |
| Typescript, revised | Folder 4 |
| Scripts | |
| Holograph notebooks, Oct. 1967 | Box 4 Folder 5 |
| Typescript, Oct. 1967 | Folder 6 |
| April 1971 | Folder 7 |
| July 1971 | Folder 8 |
| July 1971, cont'd | Box 5 Folder 1 |
| Associated material, notes, correspondence, and clippings | Folder 2 |
| <i>Burning the Days, Recollection</i> (1997) | |
| "Pronaos" | Box 5 |
| Outline and notes | Folder 3 |
| Drafts | Folder 4 |
| "You Must" | |
| Early draft, notes, and research | Box 5 Folder 5 |
| Original typescript, and correspondence; Oct. 1991 | Folder 6 |
| <i>Esquire</i> article | |
| Notes and drafts, July 1992 | Box 5 Folder 7 |

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| Typescript and photocopy of article, Dec. 1992 | Box 6 Folder 1 |
| Galleys | Folder 2 |
| "Icarus," outline and drafts, 1992-1993 | |
| "The Captain's Wife" | |
| Original typescript and <i>Esquire</i> article | Box 6 Folder 7 |
| Notes and drafts | Folder 8 |
| "A Single Daring Act" | |
| Corrected typescripts and correspondence | Box 6 Folder 9 |
| <i>Air & Space</i> article and correspondence | Box 7 Folder 1 |
| "Forgotten Kings," typescript drafts, <i>Esquire</i> article, and file on Irwin Shaw, 1983 | Folder 2-5 |
| "Europa," drafts and <i>Esquire</i> article | Folder 6-7 |
| "Ukiyo" | |
| First drafts | Box 7 Folder 8 |
| Corrected typescripts and notes | Box 8 Folder 1-2 |
| Final corrected typescript | Folder 3 |
| "Diners en Ville" | |
| Original corrected typescript | Folder 4 |
| Corrected typescript and notes | Folder 5 |
| Final typescript, Nov. 1996 | Folder 6-8 |
| Foreword, typescript drafts, and notes, April 1997 | Box 9 Folder 1 |

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| Notes for galleys or copy edited manuscript, 1997 | Folder 2 |
| Draft revisions, for Vintage and foreign editions; March 1998 | Folder 3-4 |
| <i>New Yorker</i> article "Passionate Falsehoods," 1997 | Folder 5 |
| Post-publication reviews, events, book tours, and readings | Folder 6 |
| Reviews, interviews, and articles | Folder 7-8 |
| Post-publication comments | Box 10 Folder 1 |
| Correspondence with Kate Medina, Random House, and others | Folder 2 |
| <i>Cassada</i> , novel (2000) | |
| Notes and outline | Box 10 Folder 3 |
| Holograph draft, Nov. 1998 | Folder 4-5 |
| Copy of "The Arm of Flesh," uncorrected | Folder 6 |
| Corrected first edition of "The Arm of Flesh" | Folder 7 |
| Typescript with author's corrections, July 2000 | Box 11 Folder 1 |
| First pass page proofs, Aug. 2000 | Folder 2-3 |
| <i>Cowboys</i> , story, typescript drafts and correspondence | Folder 4 |
| <i>The Death Star</i> (formerly "The General"), play | |
| Outline, notes, and clippings | Box 11 Folder 5-6 |
| Outline, etc., cont'd | Box 12 Folder 1-2 |

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| Material and clippings on medicine and doctors | Folder 3 |
| Theater-related clippings and printed material | Folder 4-6 |
| Scripts | |
| Holograph notebooks | Box 13 Folder 1-2 |
| Staged reading, Nov. 1973 | Folder 3 |
| Revised, 1974 | Folder 4 |
| Uncorrected typescript, n.d. | Folder 5 |
| Correspondence, 1971-1975 | Folder 6-7 |
| <i>Downhill Racer</i> , screenplay | |
| Research material | Box 14 Folder 1-4 |
| Research and production-related material | Folder 5 |
| Research, cont'd | Box 15 Folder 1-2 |
| Litigation, notes, and correspondence | Folder 3 |
| Notes, holograph notebook | Folder 4 |
| Treatments | |
| Aug. 1967 | Folder 5 |
| Sept. 1967 | Folder 6-7 |
| Oct. 1967 and associated material | Folder 8-9 |
| Scripts | |
| holograph draft, June 1968 | Box 15 Folder 10 |
| typescript, June 1968 | Box 16 Folder 1 |
| drafts, Sept. 1968 | Folder 2-4 |

Dusk and Other Stories (1990)

Holograph notebooks containing drafts of "The Cinema," "Cowboys," "The Mechanical Bird," and "The Destruction of the Goetheanum" **Box 16 Folder 5**

"Am Strand von Tangier [Tanger]," uncorrected holograph draft and carbon typescript **Folder 6**

"American Express"

Typescript drafts **Box 16 Folder 7**

Drafts, notes, and correspondence **Folder 8**

"Goodbye, Bear" film script related to "American Express" **Box 17 Folder 1**

"The Cinema"

Holograph notebook **Box 17 Folder 2**

Typescript drafts and correspondence **Folder 3**

"The Destruction of Goetheanum," corrected typescripts and correspondence **Folder 4**

"Via Negativa," holograph drafts, typescript, proofs, and correspondence **Folder 5**

The Hunters, novel (1956)

First submitted draft, originally titled "A Patron of Tokoshi's" by John Eden (Salter pseudonym), Dec. 1953 **Box 17 Folder 6-7**

Lobby card, 1958 **Folder 8**

Review of revised edition, 1997 **Folder 9**

Light Years, novel (1975)

Notes and research material **Box 17 Folder 10**

Holograph drafts

Jan. 1972 **Box 18 Folder 1-3**

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| Jan. 1973 | Folder 4-6 |
| Final outline for "Hirâ" | Folder 7 |
| "Hirâ" typescript | Box 19 Folder 1-3 |
| "Mohenjodaro" typescript | Folder 4-6 |
| Pre-publication correspondence and reader's reports | Box 20 Folder 1 |
| Setting copy | Folder 2-4 |
| Blue lines | Folder 5 |
| Uncorrected first proof | Folder 6 |
| Galleys | |
| Master set, first pass, 11/25/74 | Box 21 Folder 1 |
| Master set, second pass, 1/22/75 | Folder 2 |
| Final set, 2/14/75 | Folder 3 |
| Production material and notes | Folder 4 |
| Reviews | Folder 5-7 |
| Correspondence | Box 22 Folder 1-3 |
| <i>Lighthouse</i> , screenplay | |
| Notes for script and draft, 1979 | Box 22 Folder 4-5 |
| Uncorrected scripts, "Chance" | Folder 6-7 |
| Corrected script | Box 23 Folder 1 |
| Uncorrected script, top copy "West Light" | Folder 2 |
| "Man Is His Own Star," article on Royal Robbins in <i>Quest</i> with notes drafts, typescripts, and correspondence, March-April 1978 | Folder 3-4 |

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| "My Lord You," [formerly "The White Dog" and "Genius"], story in <i>Bearing Witness</i> , 1999 | Folder 5 |
| <i>Solo Faces</i> , screenplay and novel (1979) | |
| Research material | Box 23 Folder 6 |
| Research material, cont'd | Box 24 Folder 1-3 |
| Screenplay | |
| Treatment drafts, 1974 | Box 24 Folder 4 |
| Script drafts | Folder 5-7 |
| Scripts, cont'd | Box 25 Folder 1-3 |
| Travel expenses, includes "Threshold" | Folder 4-5 |
| Novel | |
| Holograph outline | Box 26 Folder 1 |
| Holograph draft | Folder 2-4 |
| Notes and revisions | Folder 5 |
| Typescript, first version, March 1978 | Folder 6-7 |
| First version, revised | Box 27 Folder 1-2 |
| Second version, two copies, 1979? | Folder 3-6 |
| Setting copy | Folder 7-8 |
| Galleys [removed to galley files] | |
| Jacket cover and photographs | Box 28 Folder 1 |
| Reviews | Folder 2 |
| Notes on film and book projects | Folder 3 |
| Correspondence, and associated material, 1976-1979 | Folder 4-6 |

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| "Line of Ascent," article for <i>Esquire</i> , June 1979 | Folder 7 |
| <i>A Sport and a Pastime</i> , novel (1980) | |
| Holograph drafts, March and Oct. 1965 | Box 29 Folder 1-4 |
| Corrected typescript and notes, Dec. 1965 | Folder 5-6 |
| Typescripts, March 1966 | Box 30 Folder 1-3 |
| Correspondence, notes, and reviews | Folder 4 |
| <i>Three</i> , screenplay based on Irwin Shaw's short story, "Then We Were Three" | |
| Scripts, including notes, associated material, and Shaw's comments | Box 30 Folder 5-7 |
| Scripts, cont'd | Box 31 Folder 1-3 |
| Italian version | Folder 4 |
| Holograph production notes | Folder 5 |
| Holograph notes for script and production | Folder 6 |
| Budget | Folder 7 |
| Car research | Folder 8 |
| Correspondence | Folder 9 |
| Production material and correspondence | Box 32 Folder 1-4 |
| Production photographs | Folder 5-7 |
| Costuming | Folder 8 |
| Post-production reviews, correspondence, and associated material | Box 33 Folder 1-2 |

Threshold, (previously titled "Hearts," "Passage," and "State of the Art"), screenplay

Scripts

Jan.-April 1977 **Box 33 Folder 3-7**

Script completely rewritten for Pearce & Burns, March-April 1980 **Box 34
Folder
1**

April 1980 **Folder 2**

with revised pages, June 1980 **Folder
3-5**

July 1980 **Folder 6**

July 1980, cont'd **Box 35 Folder 1**

Aug. 1980 **Folder 2-6**

Photographs

Informal snapshots, on location **Box 36 Folder
1-2**

Casting **Folder 3-7**

Production notes and correspondence **Box 37 Folder
1-3**

Verdun, proposed opera, never made **Folder 4**

"End of Carnival," play by Josef Topol, sent to JS for reading, not associated with his projects **Folder
5**