R. C. Hutchinson:
A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Hutchinson, R. C. (Ray Coryton), 1907-1975
Title: R. C. Hutchinson Collection
Dates: 1922-1975, undated
Extent: 27 document boxes, 1 oversize box, 1 oversize folder (11.84 Linear Feet)
Abstract: The collection consists of the published and unpublished works of this British novelist. Included in the collection are short stories, plays, articles, book reviews, broadcasts, humorous sketches, letters to the editor, obituaries and tributes, speeches, and verse by Hutchinson, as well as the novels published in the last decade of his life.

Call Number: Manuscript Collection MS-02098
Language: English
Access: Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.

Use Policies: Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation R. C. Hutchinson Collection (Manuscript Collection MS-02098).
Citation Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
Acquisition: Purchases 1961, 1977 (R7676), 1985 (R10839), 1993 (R13072), and 1995 (R13402)

Processed by: Liz Murray, 1995; Joan Sibley and Richard Workman, 2018

Note: Part of this finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.

Repository: Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin
Scope and Contents

This collection of correspondence and published and unpublished works by British novelist R. C. Hutchinson forms a core of Hutchinson's novels from his earliest, *Thou Hast a Devil* (1930), to his last, *Rising*, published posthumously in 1976. Much of Hutchinson's work describes contemporary European historical settings on a grand scale, requiring great narrative skill. His novels were published in the United States and were translated in several languages. Also included are short stories, plays, articles, and other writings reflecting his writing career from 1935-1975.

Four categories are used to describe this collection: Works, Correspondence, Personal, and Works by Others. The first and largest series, Works, is further subdivided to accommodate Hutchinson's breadth as a writer. The subseries include: novels, short stories, plays, articles, book reviews, broadcasts, humorous sketches, letters to the editor, obituaries and tributes, speeches, verse, and other writings. The novels represented here are those published in the last decade of Hutchinson's life from 1964 through 1975, including *A Child Possessed*, *Johanna at Daybreak*, *Origins of Cathleen*, *Rising*, and an unfinished novel, *Franziska*. In these works, Hutchinson's creative methodology can be followed from notes and sketches, through holograph and typed drafts, to the final proofs. Similarly, more than one draft is frequently present for his short stories and articles which appeared in periodicals such as *The English Review*, *Punch*, *The Spectator*, and popular British magazines. These are arranged alphabetically by title, as are Hutchinson's plays and radio broadcasts. Numerous periodicals containing Hutchinson's short stories and articles received with this collection were transferred to the HRC book collection.

The subseries Other Writings includes notes and essays from Hutchinson's days at Oriel College and military training at Sandhurst. His military career is further represented by the manuscript and typescript of *Paiforce*, a history of the Persia and Iraq command, which Hutchinson wrote while serving as General Staff Officer in the War Office.

Concluding the series of Works are numerous book jackets and two promotional displays for *A Child Possessed* and *Image of My Father*.

The second series, Correspondence, includes postcards, telegrams, and holograph and typed letters between Hutchinson and his literary agent, Curtis Brown; his publisher, Michael Joseph; the BBC; poet, Martyn Skinner; and colleagues dating from 1941-1974. The correspondence with the Curtis Brown agency documents Hutchinson's writing activity from 1960 through his severance with the firm in 1967, and re-establishment in 1970. Some holograph drafts of letters written by Hutchinson appear in chronological order with other correspondence. Topics include foreign translation agreements, reprints, stage dramatizations, royalties and copyrights, Hutchinson's receipt of the W.H. Smith Annual Literary Award (1966), and the publication of his novels, *March the Ninth*, *A Child Possessed* (including work on a film version in 1969-70), *Origins of Cathleen*, *Image of My Father*, and *Elephant and Castle*, among others.
Correspondence related to the publisher Michael Joseph (1968-74) picks up the thread of publishing at the time of Hutchinson's departure from Curtis Brown. These letters from various Michael Joseph representatives discuss the publication of *Johanna at Daybreak* and *Origins of Cathleen*.

BBC correspondence dates from 1953-1972 and includes references to Hutchinson's participation in BBC Home Service programs, talks for "The World of Books" series, and interviews for the Contemporary British Writers series. Also included is the typescript for "Nightmare Before Babylon."

Correspondence with Warren Chetham-Strode centers on the dramatization of "The Stepmother" including staging of the play, programs, and opening night telegrams. Also present is Chetham-Strode's typescript adaptation of "The Stepmother" which he titled "The Image."

Of particular interest in this series are photocopies of correspondence with poet Martyn Skinner, the compilation of which was published in 1979 as *Two Men of Letters: Correspondence Between R. C. Hutchinson, Novelist, and Martyn Skinner, Poet, 1957-1974*. The originals of these letters reside in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Also included is related correspondence between Hutchinson's wife Margaret, Martyn Skinner, and Rupert Hart-Davis, editor, regarding the publication of these letters. One holograph letter from Skinner to Hutchinson dated October 24, 1961 is present.

The personal material in Series III includes early schoolboy diaries (1922-23) as well as date books from 1971-1975. A record of Hutchinson's literary earnings is found in four notebooks dating from 1928-1963.

The Works by Others series is notable for its inclusion of two adaptations of Hutchinson's works, *Stephan's Child* by Guy Green based on *A Child Possessed* and *March the Ninth* adapted by Elizabeth Lincoln.

In addition to the materials in the above four series, this finding aid lists Hutchinson materials previously listed in the Ransom Center's card catalog, as well as several accessions of Hutchinson materials not previously listed. Included at the end of the finding aid is an explanatory note with information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
I. Works

A. Novels

* A Child Possessed

- Holograph notes, rough workings, spoilt pages  
  **Box 1**  
  **Folder 1-2**

- Holograph ms., first draft  
  **Folder 3-6**

- Holograph ms.  
  **Box 2**  
  **Folder 1-6**

- Corrected typescript  
  **Folder 7-8**

- Setting copy, typescript  
  **Box 3**  
  **Folder 1-2**

* Franziska [unfinished novel]

- Holograph ms., first draft  
  **Box 3**  
  **Folder 3**

- Typescript, first draft  
  **Folder 4**

* Johanna At Daybreak

- Holograph notes, rough workings, spoilt pages  
  **Box 4**  
  **Folder 1**

- Holograph ms, first draft  
  **Folder 2-6**

- Holograph ms. (sent to typist)  
  **Box 5**  
  **Folder 1-2**

- Corrected typescript  
  **Folder 3-4**

- Setting copy  
  **Folder 5-6**

- Corrected proofs  
  **Box 6**  
  **Folder 1**

* Origins of Cathleen

- Holograph ms., first draft  
  **Box 6**  
  **Folder 2-7**

- Holograph ms. (sent to typist)  
  **Box 7**  
  **Folder 1-4**

- Corrected typescript  
  **Folder 5-6**

- Setting copy  
  **Box 8**  
  **Folder 1-5**
Corrections proofs

Rising

Holograph notes

Box 9 Folder 1-4

Holograph notebook

Folder 5

Holograph notebook

Folder 6

Information from RCH's notes by Franklyn-Robbins and Gray

Folder 7

Holograph ms., first draft

Box 10 Folder 1-5

Holograph ms., fair copy

Box 11 Folder 1-4

Corrected typescript

Folder 5-6

Corrected typescript

Box 12 Folder 1

Corrected typescript, top copy

Folder 2-5

Notes for projected novels

Folder 6

B. Short Stories

List of short stories

Box 13 Folder 1

Adventurer Unsaluted

Folder 2

All in the Day

Folder 3

The Anniversary

Folder 4

An Artist by Testament

Folder 5

At Grips with Morpheus

Folder 6

Black or White?

Folder 7

A Common Tongue [*oversize material removed to Oversize Flat File]

Folder 8

The Conquest of Calpurnia

Folder 9

Crossroads

Folder 10
Elosindi's Christmas

Epilogue by the Stage Manager

Every Twenty Years [*oversize material removed to Oversize Flat File]

Everything Settled

Excursion to Norway

Exhibit ‘A’

Fog Off Flushing

The Go-Between

Going Begging

How I Rose to be an Australian Shoeshine Boy

An Informal Call

James Returns

The Journey Begins

Judas Iscariot

Last Voyage [*removed to Oversize Flat File]

Mens Sana

Mr. Hartop Rings the Bell [*removed to Oversize Flat File and Oversize Box 25]

My Biggest Thrill

No Wine for the Regular Guest

November 29th
Old English Customs [*oversize material removed to Oversize Flat File]  Folder 29*

Outsiders  Folder 30

A Peculiar Engagement  Box 14 Folder 1

A Photograph of Mrs. Austin  Folder 2

A Question of Value [*Oversize material removed to Oversize Flat File]  Folder 3*

A Rendezvous for Mr. Hopkins [*Oversize material removed to Oversize Flat File and Oversize Box 25]  Folder 4*

A Scientist Dines  Folder 5

Selected Short Stories  Folder 6

The Tramp with a Visiting Card [*removed to Oversize Box 25]  Folder *

The Uneconomic Man  Folder 7

The Wall Not Made with Hands  Folder 8

The War Books and My Nephew  Folder 9

The Way of Kindness  Folder 10

A Woman of Simplicity, holograph ms. [Oversize material removed to Oversize Box 25]  Folder 11*

A Woman of Simplicity, corrected typescript  Folder 12

The Wynforth Case  Folder 13

C. Plays

The Barrier  Box 14 Folder 14

The Chair  Folder 15
The Daughters of Dr. Humboldt

Dona Luisa

Experiment with Madame de Chauvel

Happy Return

Last Train South

Mount Hercules

Northern Star

A Pattern of Daughters

The Rest of Hake

Secret Bastion

A Voyage in Twilight

Box 15 Folder 1-8

Box 16 Folder 1-5

Folder 6

Folder 7

Folder 8

Box 17 Folder 1

Folder 2-3

Folder 4-6

Folder 7

Folder 8

Box 18 Folder 1-2

D. Articles, Book Reviews, Broadcasts, Humorous Sketches, Letters to the Editor, Obit and Tributes, Speeches, and Verse

Articles

Box 18 Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5

Folder 6

Folder 7

Folder 8

Folder 9

Folder 10

Folder 11

Folder 12

Aliens at Bow Street

Apostasy

Bag and Bowler Hat

The Case of the Stranded Clergyman

Crying in the Wilderness

8th Battalion Officers' Dinner

Epic Flight

Excursion to Norway

Guidance for Maidens

Home of Lost Corpses

Manuscript Collection MS-02098
In Defence of Grub Street
Folder 13

It's a Way They Have in America
Folder 14

A Little Out of Line
Folder 15

More Science
Folder 16

Motorists: Read This and Stop Worrying
Folder 17

Old Monktonian Dinner
Folder 18

Our Business
Folder 19

Records for 1930
Folder 20

Source of a Novel
Folder 21

A Trip to Oslo [*removed to Oversize Flat File]
Folder *

Voice in the Wilderness
Folder 22

Untitled articles
Folder 23

Book Reviews
Folder 24

Broadcasts
Box 18 Folder 25

Freedom to Spend
Folder 25

My First Novel
Folder 26

Nightmare Before Babylon
Folder 27

On Useless Souvenirs
Folder 28

The Pace for Living
Folder 29

A Photograph of Mrs. Austin
Folder 30

Postscript
Folder 31

Siesta
Folder 32

Unfinished Novel
Folder 33
The Vehicle and the Book Folder 34
War Office Calling the Army Folder 35
The World of Books Folder 36
Humorous Sketches Box 19 Folder 1
Letters to the Editor Folder 2
Obituaries and Tributes Folder 3
Speeches Folder 4-5
Verse Folder 6

E. Other Writings

Greek History Notes Box 19 Folder 7
Oriel College Essays, October 1924 Folder 8
Sandhurst -- Staff College Papers, 1943 Folder 9
Paiforce: The Official Story of The Persia and Iraq Command 1941-46
Holograph notes and notebook [*oversize holograph map removed to Oversize Flat File] Box 20 Folder 1*
Typescript [*oversize newspaper article removed to Oversize Flat File] Folder 2-3*

F. Miscellaneous

Book Displays A Child Possessed and Image of My Father Box 20 Folder 4
Book Jackets Folder 5-6
II. Correspondence


BBC

Byng Kenrick Grammar School

Chetham-Strode, Warren

Curtis Brown Ltd.

1961-69

1970-75

Re: Hutchinson-Skinner correspondence in Bodleian

Michael Joseph Ltd.

Miscellaneous
III. Personal

Account books, literary earnings notebooks, 1928-63

Schoolboy diaries, 1922-23

Date books, 1971-75 and n.d.

British passport

Miscellaneous: catalogs, brochures, invitations

Box 23
Folder 1-2

Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5

Folder 6
IV. Works by Others

Anouilh, Jean. *Le Voyageur Sans Bagage* (scene III translated by RCH)  
Box 24  
Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Lincoln, Elizabeth. *March the Ninth*. Television play from novel by RCH.  
Folder 4


Oversize Material  
Box 25
Works previously described in card catalog:

The answering glory/ also titled Strange return, Ams, approximately 330 pages, 1932

Container 26.1-2

Elephant and castle, signed Ams, approximately 1200 pages, 1945-1948

Container 26.3-7, 27.1-4

The fire and the wood, signed Ams, approximately 619 pages, February 1940

Container 27.5-7, 28.1

The hand of the purple idol, signed Ams, 117 pages in 2 notebooks, undated

Container 28.2-3

Interim, signed Ams, approximately 214 pages, 1943-1944

Container 28.4-5

March the ninth/ also titled Number twelve, signed Ams, approximately 469 pages, 1955-1957

Container 29.4-6

March the ninth: chapters X-XIV/ first draft, signed Ams, approximately 152 pages, undated. Included with this: Signed Ams note by Hutchinson concerning a change to his practice re drafts, October 1960.

Container 30.1-2

One light burning/ also titled Alan Wild, signed Ams, approximately 581 pages, 1935

Container 30.3-6

Paiforce, signed Ams, approximately 156 pages, April-July 1945

Container 31.1

Recollecton of a journey/ also titled Journey with strangers, signed Ams, approximately 689 pages, 1945, 1948-1951

Container 28.6-7, 29.1-3

Shining scabbard, Ams, approximately 963 pages, 1936

Container 31.2-7

The stepmother, signed Ams, approximately 353 pages, 1952-1954

Container 32.1-3

Testament, Ams, approximately 1316 pages, 1938

Container 32.4-7, 33.1-5

Thou hast a devil, signed Ams, approximately 431 pages, September 1928-January 1929

Container 33.6-7, 34.1
The unforgotten prisoner/ also titled Towards morning, signed Ams, approximately 973 pages, 1933
Additional Acquisitions; Not Described in Card Catalog:

Acquisition R7676, 1977:

Works:

Hutchinson, R. C. (Ray Coryton), 1907-1975. Image of my father/ also titled The inheritor:

- Earliest working notes, Ams, 33 pages, undated. Included with this: TLS Reid, A. M. to Hutchinson, 28 July 1958. Container 35.1
- Working notes, Ams, approximately 390 pages, undated Container 35.2-3
- Rough draft, Ams with extensive handwritten revisions, 765 pages, November 1960 Container 35.4-10
- Second draft, Ams with extensive handwritten revisions, 582 pages, 1957-1960 Container 36.1-6
- Closing chapter, revised version, Ams, 49 pages, 4 January 1961 Container 36.7
- Closing chapter, re-revised version, Ams, 41 pages, undated Container 36.8
- Tms with printer’s markings and small amount of editorial material, 640 pages, undated Container 37.1-3
- Closing chapter, rejected version, Tccms with few handwritten revisions, 33 pages, 3 copies, undated Container 37.4


Recipient:

Ackland, Rodney, 1908-1991. 2 TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 1 August 1946, 30 November 1948. Container 38.1

Agate, May, 1892-. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 18 December 1938.

Arlott, John. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 6 September 1944.

Baldwin, Faith, 1893-1978. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 26 October 1938.


Calthrop, Dion Clayton, 1878-1937. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 16 January 1934.

Cape, Jonathan, 1879-1960. 2 TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 4 and 18 November 1940. Enclosed with this: TL/copy of letter to Cape from Otto Zarek, 9 November 1940.

Cary, Joyce, 1888-1957. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 24 October 1948.

Church, Richard, 1893-1972. 30 ALS, 6 TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 1957, 1963-1971. Included with these: ALS/incomplete Scott, Paul, 1920-1978, to Church, undated; For Andrew Young, 1885-1971 (poem by Church), signed Tecms, undated; program for memorial service for Church, 23 May 1972; signed Tecms of Church’s introduction to an edition of Hutchinson’s The shining scabbard, undated.

Compton-Burnett, I. (Ivy), 1884-1969. APCS to Hutchinson, R. C., 4 October 1957.

Crankshaw, Edward. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 10 March 1972.

D’Arcy, Martin Cyril, 1888-1976. 2 ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 30 March and 11 April 1945.

Draper, Ruth, 1884-1956. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 16 March no year.

Eyles, Leonora, 1890-. TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 8 September 1938.

Flower, Newman, 1879-1964. 3 ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 16 May 1938, 22 October 1938, 6 June 1940.

Forester, C. S. (Cecil Scott), 1899-1966. TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 8 September 1941.

Gibbs, Philip, 1877-1962. 2 ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 6 and 31 December 1933.


Hogg, Garry. TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 15 March 1972.

Hollis, Christopher, 1902-1977. TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 30 May no year.

Holroyd, Michael. ANS to Hutchinson, R. C., 1 October 1974.


Hudson, Derek. APCS to Hutchinson, R. C., 3 July 1968.


James, W. M. (William Milbourne), 1881-1973. TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 14 November no year.


Lawrence, Geoffrey, Baron Oaksey, 1880-1971. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., undated.


Marc, 1931-1988. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 16 May no year.

Morley, Robert. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., undated.

Ould, Hermon, 1886-1951. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 5 September 1938.

Paton, Alan. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 1 June 1949.

Phelps, William Lyon, 1865-1943. 3 ALS to Hutchinson, Margaret, 19 May, 1 and 11 July 1940.


Robson, Flora, 1902-1984. 3 ALS, TLS to Hutchinson, R. C. and Margaret, undated.

Sackville-West, Edward, 1901-1965. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 8 March no year.


Thomas, Helen, 1877-1967. TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 14 April 1966.


Toynbee, Philip. TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 10 July 1970.

Wardle, Irving, 1929-. TLS to Hutchinson, R. C., 19 February 1970.

West, Rebecca, 1892-1983. ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 12 June 1967.


Zweig, Stefan, 1881-1942. 2 ALS to Hutchinson, R. C., 25 and 31 May 1939.

Empty envelopes, 1973-1974, undated

**Acquisition R10839, 1985:**
Hutchinson, R. C. (Ray Coryton), 1907-1975. ALS to Arlott, John, 16 September 1944.

Acquisition R13072, 1993:

Hutchinson, R. C. (Ray Coryton), 1907-1975. 7 ALS to Anderson, _____ (editor at his publisher’s), 1938-1940.
Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
  - **Works**: manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
  - **Letters**: the author’s outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
  - **Recipient**: the author’s incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
  - **Miscellaneous**: all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date