

Zulfikar Ghose:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Ghose, Zulfikar, 1935-2022
Title:	Zulfikar Ghose Collection
Dates:	1959-1992
Extent:	1 box (.42 linear feet)
Abstract:	The Zulfikar Ghose Collection includes poetry from <i>The Loss of India</i> , <i>Jets from Orange</i> , and other poems and work from that era. It also contains correspondence with Anthony Smith from 1959-1992.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-01591
Language:	English.
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchase, 1993 (R12984)
Processed by:	Gautam Ganeshan, 2003
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

Born in 1935 in Sialkot, Pakistan, Zulfikar Ghose moved with his family to Bombay during the war in 1942. By 1965 he had only returned to Sialkot twice, once to attend a marriage and once to mourn a death. Thus, his writing reflects nostalgia for his roots ("Mystique of Roots"), as well as confusion about where they are, India or Pakistan ("Loss of India").

In 1952, he made his way to London, where he lived with his father in moderate lack of money. He obtained his degree from Keele University, and spent some years as a cricket correspondent for the *Observer* while working on his writing. Anthony Smith, B.S. Johnson, and Ghose met when all three served as joint editors, along with John Fuller, of an annual anthology of student poets called *Universities' Poetry*. He also made the acquaintance of Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, and the American novelist Janet Burroway, with whom he occasionally collaborated.

From 1963-69, Ghose taught and wrote in London. Two collections of his poetry were published, *The Loss of India* (1964) and *Jets From Orange* (1967), along with an autobiography called *Confessions of a Native-Alien* (1965) and his first two novels, *The Contradictions* (1966) and *The Murder of Aziz Khan* (1969). He met, courted, and in 1964 married the Brazilian artist Helena de la Fontaine. During this time he kept up his correspondence with Anthony Smith despite the differing courses of their lives, and would continue to do so in the years to come.

In 1969, Zulfikar Ghose uprooted and replanted himself once again in Austin, Texas, where he took up a position at the University of Texas as a professor of English. He continued writing and has published a number of novels including the *Incredible Brazilian* trilogy (1972-1985), as well as the collections of poetry *The Violent West* (1972) and *A Memory of Asia* (1984).

Ghose died in Austin on June 30, 2022.

Sources:

Ghose, Zulfikar. *Confessions of a Native-Alien*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1965.

Scope and Contents

The Zulfikar Ghose Collection is organized in two series, I. Poems and Short Story and II. Correspondence to Anthony Smith. The first includes poetry from *The Loss of India*, *Jets from Orange*, and other poems and work from that era. The second consists of correspondence with Anthony Smith from 1959-1992.

The poetry holdings emphasize Ghose's work from the early 1960s. The collection of work related to *The Loss of India* is particularly strong, with nearly every poem from that publication represented in typescript, including "The Body's Independence" and "This Landscape, These People," two poems Ghose attributes to Anthony Smith's influence. Certain poems associated with, but not published in *The Loss of India* are also included here. One segment of edited work contains a note from Ted Hughes. Among the materials for *Jets from Orange* are a number of typescripts from that publication that were written concurrently with works from *The Loss of India*. Of the poems in the final folder, one is dedicated to B.S. Johnson ("The Between of Love"), one authored by Edward Lucie-Smith ("Lesson"), and one co-authored by Ghose and Janet Burroway ("Your Country and Mine"). A single short story by Ghose, "The Third Wife," is also present. All the works are indexed by title in this guide.

Most of the correspondence collected in the second series spans the years between 1959-63, during which Ghose and Smith were collaborating to edit *Universities' Poetry*. This and other themes are reflected in their correspondence, including their shared love of cricket, Ghose's relationship with imagism in poetry, his poverty, and his courting of Helena de la Fontaine. Of note are letters from across India during a subcontinental tour during the winter of 1961-62, and letters from Austin, Texas, after Ghose took a position at the university. The nature of their correspondence was described in a 1994 lecture Smith gave, a typescript of which is available in the A.C.H. Smith Collection at the Ransom Center.

Index Terms

People

Smith, A. C. H. (Anthony Charles H.), 1935-.

Hughes, Ted, 1930-1998.

Lucie-Smith, Edward.

Burroway, Janet.

Subjects

Poets, British--20th century.

Document Types

Typescripts.

Poems.

Series I. Poems and Short Story, bulk 1960s,

Typescripts from *The Loss of India* (1964)

**Box 1 Folder
1**

Typescripts from *Jets from Orange* (1967)

Folder 2

Miscellaneous work

Folder 3

Series II. Correspondence to Anthony Smith, 1959-1992

1959	Box 1 Folder 4
1960	Folder 5
1961-1962	Folder 6
1963	Folder 7
1964-1992	Folder 8
n.d.	Folder 9

Index of Works

- "Across India"--1.1
- "Advice to Children"--1.1
- "After Such Weather"--1.1
- "All My Hearts"--1.1
- "Among Secondary Schoolchildren"--1.3
- "The Ants"--1.3
- "An Apology to Mrs. Mafekeng"--1.3
- "Autumn"--1.3
- "The Between of Love"--1.1
- "Big Game"--1.3
- "Birthday Letter"--1.3
- "The Body's Independence"--1.1
- "Bombay"--1.1
- "The Cave Woman"--1.1
- "The Cockroaches"--1.3
- "Coming to England"--1.1
- "The Crows"--1.1
- "Death of a Fly"--1.1
- "The Decline of the Mogul Empire"--1.2
- "The Dispute"--1.3
- "An Earthquake"--1.3
- "Elephanta Caves"--1.1
- "A Family Figure"--1.3
- "First Nephew"--1.1
- "Flying Over India"--1.1
- "The Foundations of Arithmetic"--1.1
- "Friends"--1.1
- "From a Distance"--1.3
- "Getting to Know Fish"--1.1
- "The Guest"--1.3
- "The Haven"--1.1
- "Heath Morning"--1.1
- "History Lesson"--1.1
- "The House"--1.3
- "How to Live with a Weak Heart"--1.1
- "The Illness"--1.3
- "In February"--1.1
- "In the Park"--1.3
- "An Incomplete Life"--1.3
- "Insomnia"--1.3
- "The Jets"--1.1
- "The Journal"--1.3
- "Jungle Country"--1.2
- "Kingfisher"--1.1
- "The Lesson"--1.3
- "The Locusts"--1.3
- "The Loss of India"--1.1
- "Lovers (1)"--1.1
- "Lovers (2)"--1.1

- "The Mercies"--1.3
- "Mosquito"--1.1
- "Mother and Son"--1.3
- "Mutability"--1.1
- "The Mutiny"--1.3
- "A Note on the Existence of God"--1.1
- "Notes on a Beautiful Woman"--1.3
- "The Open Spaces"--1.3
- "Parading Cat"--1.3
- "Pennies"--1.3
- "Pheasant"--1.2
- "Poem Towards Sanity"--1.1
- "The Poet"--1.3
- "The Poet and Posterity"--1.1
- "Political Science"--1.1
- "The President's Visit"--1.1
- "Prohibition Incident"--1.1
- "A Prospect of Roehampton"--1.3
- "Reflections on a Birthday"--1.1
- "The Refuge--A Letter to Mrs. Mafekeng"--1.1
- "The Rejection"--1.3
- "The Scientist"--1.3
- "The Sea Gift"--1.1
- "The Season's Sanction"--1.1
- "Secrets of the Heart"--1.1
- "Sialkot"--1.1
- "Song"--1.3
- "Speculations"--1.1
- "Spring"--1.1
- "Sunday Morning in the Cemetery"--1.3
- "The System of Love"--1.3
- "The Third Wife"--1.3
- "This Landscape, These People"--1.1
- "To My Ancestors"--1.1
- "A Tropical Spring"--1.3
- "Uncle Ayub"--1.1
- "The Union Arms"--1.3
- "Verses to Mistress Poverty"--1.3
- "War in India"--1.1
- "The Water Carrier"--1.1
- "Winter War"--1.1
- "The Writing on the Wall"--1.3
- "Your Country and Mine"--1.3