Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Johnson, Denis, 1949-2017

**Title:** Denis Johnson Papers

**Dates:** 1939-2009 (bulk 1995-2008)

**Extent:** 46 document boxes, 4 oversize boxes (osb) (19.32 linear feet)

**Abstract:** The Denis Johnson Papers consist of the professional and personal papers of American writer Denis Johnson. The papers document Johnson's diverse writing career and range of creative output which includes poetry, short stories, novels, essays, journalism articles, screenplays, and scripts.

**Language:** English, Arabic, French, and German

**Access:** Open for research

Administrative Information

**Acquisition:** Purchase, 2010 (10-05-001-P)

**Processed by:** Amy E. Armstrong, 2011

**Repository:** The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center
Biographical Sketch

Denis Hale Johnson was born in Munich, Germany, on July 1, 1949, to Vera and Alfred Johnson. His father was in the U.S. Information Service, and Johnson and his brother, Randy, spent their childhoods living in Japan, the Philippines, and the suburbs of Washington D.C. While Johnson was an undergraduate at the University of Iowa, the North American Review published three of his poems in their November-December 1968 issue. His first book, a collection of poetry called The Man among the Seals (1969), was published to great acclaim when he was only nineteen. Johnson was briefly married during this period and had a son. He received a B.A. in English (1971), and went on to earn an M.F.A. in poetry and fiction (1974) from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

After graduating, Johnson taught for one year at Lake Forest College. He spent the next several years moving around and working a series of jobs in the Seattle area. He published his second poetry collection, Inner Weather, in 1976. In 1979, the Arizona Commission on the Arts and Humanities awarded him a fellowship, and he taught creative writing at the state prison in Florence, Arizona, from 1979 to 1981. This life-changing experience, in particular his work with two death-row inmates, impelled Johnson to finish Angels, a novel he had started years before.

In 1981, Johnson was awarded a fellowship to the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts, where he met his second wife, Lucinda, a sculptor and painter. While living in Cape Cod, he completed Angels (1983) and his next two novels, Fiskadoro (1985) and The Stars at Noon (1986). In 1986, he moved to Gualala, California, and in 1989 settled in the remote wilderness of northern Idaho. During this period he published a third poetry collection, The Veil (1987), and a fourth novel, Resuscitation of a Hanged Man (1991).

Johnson's stories and novel excerpts appeared in Esquire, McSweeney's, the New Yorker, the Paris Review, and numerous literary journals. In 1992, he published Jesus' Son, a collection of semi-autobiographical, interconnected short stories about a drifting addict, set in the 1970s. The book was enthusiastically received by readers and critics, who appreciated Johnson's realistic and nightmarish portrayal of addiction. The stories were adapted into a screenplay of the same name, and the film was released in 1999. Johnson appears in a brief, but memorable cameo role as Terrance Weber, the hospital patient with a knife stabbed in his eye.

Similarly to his fiction, Johnson's essays explored curious people and desperate situations. As a correspondent for Esquire, Harper's, Rolling Stone, and Salon magazines, he traveled to war-ravaged Liberia, Afghanistan, and Iraq, as well as to America's backcountry to report on, among other things, the Liberian civil war, a Christian biker rally, and a Texas execution. Eleven of his essays were re-edited and collected into a published volume, Seek: Reports from the Edge of America and Beyond (2001), which was nominated for the PEN/Martha Albrand Nonfiction Award.
In addition to his success as a novelist, poet, screenwriter, and essayist, Johnson was also an accomplished playwright. He was Playwright-In-Residence for San Francisco's Campo Santo Theater Company at Intersection for the Arts, which premiered each installment of his Cassandra family trilogy, \textit{Hellhound On My Trail}, \textit{Shoppers Carried by Escalators Into the Flames}, and \textit{Soul of a Whore}. His other plays include \textit{Des Moines} and \textit{Psychos Never Dream}.

Johnson's works frequently appeared on "Best of" lists, and he received numerous grants, awards, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim, Whiting, and Lannan Foundations, and the American Institute for Arts and Letters. In 2007, he was awarded the National Book Award for \textit{Tree of Smoke}, an epic novel about the Vietnam War that he worked on sporadically for over fourteen years. The novel features characters from previous Johnson novels, most notably \textit{Angels}' Bill Houston.

Critics and readers regard Johnson's "stories of the fallen world" as honest, human, and compassionate portrayals of fictional and real characters that are isolated and searching on the fringes of society. Both his fiction and nonfiction works explore themes of forgiveness and redemption. Publications not mentioned above include: \textit{The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations Millennium Assembly} (poetry, 1995), \textit{Already Dead: A California Gothic} (novel, 1997), \textit{The Name of the World} (novella, 2000), \textit{Nobody Move} (serialized in \textit{Playboy} and published in 2009), and \textit{Train Dreams} (novella, 2002).

In addition to the creative writing programs already listed, Johnson taught at Columbia University, the Writer's Voice program (New York City), the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop, and on several occasions at the University of Texas Michener Center for Writers.

Johnson died on May 24, 2017.

\section*{Sources:}

In addition to material found within the Denis Johnson Papers, the following sources were used:


\section*{Scope and Contents}
The Denis Johnson Papers consist of manuscript drafts, notes, notebooks, research material, screenplays, scripts, poems, publication proofs, clippings, scrapbook material, correspondence, printed material, photographs, posters, and childhood papers belonging to the American writer Denis Johnson. The professional and personal papers document Johnson's diverse writing career and range of creative output which includes poetry, short stories, novels, essays, journalism articles, screenplays, and scripts. The papers are organized into two series: I. Literary Activities, circa 1970s-2009, undated; and II. Personal and Professional Files, 1939-2009, undated.

Series I. Literary Activities makes up the bulk of the papers and includes materials associated with Johnson's writings. It is arranged into four subseries: A. Novels and Collections, circa 1975-2009, undated; B. Short Stories and Essays, circa 1970s-2008, undated; C. Poetry, circa 1980s-2008, undated; and D. Film and Theater Projects, circa 1980s-2009. Materials in each of these subseries are arranged in alphabetical order by title, and within each title, the material generally follows the chronological order of literary production, from research and notes to publication drafts. When applicable, related material such as book dust jackets, reviews, publicity material, and/or adaptations follow the drafts.

Johnson created extensive notes, drafts, and outlines for most of his works. He apparently wrote on whatever was at hand, and his notes appear as full-page, typed sheets, as well as writings on the back of checks and receipts, paper coasters, a paper plate, a paper towel, and envelopes. Johnson often inserted the handwritten material in with his typed notes and draft fragments, making it sometimes difficult to discern if the intended order remains intact. Much of the material is in chronological order, but page numbers are not always sequential, and the notes and drafts sometimes stop and start, even in mid paragraph. Furthermore, the notes and draft fragments are heavily revised and indicate a constant re-working of the material. As a result, no attempt was made to arrange these materials within folders, and they remain foldered as they arrived at the Ransom Center, with all original folder titles created by Johnson indicated by single quotes in the container list.

Subseries A. Novels and Collections represents most of Johnson's novels and collections; however, some important works are not represented, including Johnson's first poetry collections, *The Man among the Seals*, *Inner Weather*, and *The Veil*, and his first three novels, *Angels*, *Fiskadoro*, and *The Stars at Noon*. Johnson has said that earlier in his career, he often did not keep working drafts because he found it necessary to "shed them" in order for his writing to evolve.

Johnson often worked on multiple pieces simultaneously, as in the case of three novellas, *The Name of the World*, *Door in a Blank Wall*, and *Train Dreams*. Johnson planned to publish these together in a single volume titled Name of the World. As a result, some drafts and notes are filed with material from the other works. Ultimately, Johnson published *Name of the World* and *Train Dreams* separately (first in the *Paris Review* and in Europe, then later in the U.S.), and aspects of *Door in a Blank Wall* appear with material from *Tree of Smoke*. 
Johnson frequently referred to previous ideas or notes as he worked and sometimes re-filed them with subsequent projects. For example, Johnson's work *Seek*, a collection of essays previously published in *Esquire*, *Harper's*, and other popular magazines, includes materials from his two articles "Civil War in Hell" (1990) and "Small Boys' Unit" (2000). Because Johnson used his original notes, research, and cassette tapes to write these essays, as well as a screenplay about Liberia, and then later referenced this combined material during the editing of *Seek*, the material was filed with drafts of *Seek*.

The first segment of *Seek* is arranged in alphabetical order by published essay title or by Johnson's original folder title. Following the essays are pages used specifically for the publication of the final *Seek* manuscript, such as drafts for the piece called "Three Desserts" (which is a combination of three separate essays) and proofs of the completed manuscript. Correspondence indicates that Johnson added and deleted essays during the editing process, and some of these discarded essays remain filed with this work. Series I., Subseries B. Short Stories and Essays contains additional files related to the original Liberian magazine essay, and Series II. Personal and Professional Files contains materials related to the screenplay.

*Tree of Smoke*, which won the National Book Award in 2007, is represented by the largest volume of material in the collection. Johnson worked on this novel for almost fifteen years, and the research and notes show his frequent starts and stops. These notes, outlines, and draft fragments date from 1993 to the book's publication in 2007. Included are research files containing notes, travel photos, and ephemera from trips to the Philippines and Malaysia, as well as previous writings used for reference, and internet research about Vietnam, military operations, and other topics. Also present are chapter draft fragments and note files, organized by story timeline and labeled using Johnson's original folder titles. The bulk of the manuscript material for the book is comprised of loose drafts of undated and unnumbered pages. These fragments were very much working notes and drafts and contain Johnson's frequent handwritten edits throughout. The pages were, for the most part, left in their original order as it is difficult to discern a clear arrangement.

Following the loose manuscript material for *Tree of Smoke* are six binder notebooks, many with embellished covers, corresponding to the chapter years in the book. These appear to be the final versions of the working drafts of the novel. For preservation purposes, the contents were removed from the binders, and in cases where the binder was decorated, the pages and corresponding binder were filed together. In addition, Johnson's *Tree of Smoke* materials include one complete, near-final typescript, one typescript with typesetting marks, two sets of page proofs, and an advanced reader's copy of the novel that includes a sample of the audiobook.

Subseries B. Short Stories and Essays contains Johnson's shorter fiction and non-fiction works and is arranged in alphabetical order by work title or Johnson's original folder title. The *Seek* material in Subseries A. Novels and Collections also includes magazine essay drafts.
Subseries C. Poetry contains working and final drafts of Johnson's poems. Of particular interest is the 'Slide Show' file, which contains material Johnson wrote for Sam Messer's art show in 1982. Johnson and Messer were frequent collaborators at different points in their careers, and Series II. Personal and Professional Files also includes Messer-related material. Of additional note in Subseries C. are drafts for Johnson's poem "The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations Millennium General Assembly." Subseries A. includes material related to Johnson's published poetry collections.

Subseries D. Film and Theater Projects contains correspondence, reviews, publicity material, and scripts for some of Johnson's screenplays and theater productions. Johnson did not retain many of his screenplays, but his papers do include materials for his adaptation of his own novel *Angels*. Most of the material in this subseries pertains to public readings and the theatrical productions of *Hellhound on My Trail, Shoppers Carried By Escalators into the Flames*, and *Soul of a Whore*; however, only *Soul of a Whore* is documented with a play script.

Series II. Personal and Professional Files contains papers and documents related to Johnson's childhood, family life, and writing career. Awards, book jackets, contracts, correspondence, ephemera, identification cards and passports, photographs, printed material, publicity clippings, reading and workshop materials, report cards, research files, scrapbook material, and travel files are found in this series.

Of particular interest is the scrapbook material, apparently assembled into notebooks by Johnson's mother, Vera. The first notebook contains Johnson's birth certificate, school report cards, and letters to his parents while in college. These letters are very personal and candid, with Johnson describing daily happenings, his home life with his wife and baby, and the progress of his writing. The other notebooks contain clippings and printed material that document Johnson's writing career, his awards, and readings. Due to preservation considerations, these materials were removed from their original binders and rehoused, but their original order was maintained.

Overall, there is relatively little correspondence in Johnson's papers. What is present includes letters from publishers, professional associates, other writers, and writing program requests. The material is arranged chronologically, with a separate segment of 'Prison Correspondence' from two death row inmates, Charlie Doss and Robert Smith, whom Johnson taught while working at an Arizona state prison. A few of these letters include some of these inmates' writings. Scrapbook notebooks in this series contain letters Johnson sent to his parents during the 1970s and 1980s.

In addition to the photos in the scrapbooks, there is a small amount of loose candid and publicity photographs of Johnson. Many of these are reproduced prints of Johnson while in college.

Publications and journal issues containing Johnson's short stories, essays, and poems are also located in this series. One copy of each title was retained.

Related Material
The Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. Records at the Ransom Center contain additional material related to Denis Johnson.

**Separated Material**

Copies of Johnson's novels and other bound volumes were transferred to the Ransom Center Library. The prosthetic eye and prop knife Johnson wore in the film *Jesus' Son*, as well as dreidels and Buddha statuettes from the New York opening of this film, were transferred to the Ransom Center Personal Effects Collection. Computer disks, CD-ROMs, and components from an Apple computer were transferred to the Ransom Center Electronic Records Collection. A note with these disks indicates that they contain the only copies of Johnson's pre-1992 drafts. Unpublished, non-commercial audio CDs and cassette tapes were transferred to the Ransom Center Sound Recordings Collection. Unpublished, non-commercial moving image VHS tapes and DVDs were transferred to the Ransom Center Film Collection.

**Index Terms**

**Subjects**
- Authors, American--20th century.
- Dramatists, American--20th century.
- Literature--20th century.
- Motion Pictures, American.
- Novelists, American--20th century.
- Poets, American--20th century.

**Document Types**
- Clippings.
- Correspondence.
- Electronic records.
- Ephemera.
- Essays.
- Manuscripts.
- Novels.
- Photographs.
- Poems.
Johnson, Denis, 1949-2017

Publications.
Scrapbooks.
Scripts.
Serials (publications).
Short stories.
Sound recordings.
Series I. Literary Activities, circa 1970s-2009, undated

Subseries A. Novels and Collections, circa 1975-2009, undated

Already Dead: A California Gothic (novel, 1997)

Loose notes, outlines, and draft fragments

Outline, chronology, 1992-1994

September 1994-November 1995

December 1995-November 1996

Notes and poems, January 1996, undated

Chapters 8-13, May-October 1995

Chapters 8-13, April 1995-October 1996

Chapters 8-13, February-October 1996

Chapters 9-14, January-February 1996


Empty folders labeled Chapter 11 and Chapter 13, contain notes written on folder's exterior, undated

Labeled notes

'Andrew's Letter, Part II,' May 1994

'Letter II Utility,' November 1994


'Chapter 12,' December 1995

'Epilogue,' January 1996

'[C]uts,' undated

Manuscript typescript drafts

September 1994-July 1995
June 1995-January 1996

Chapters 1-13, 8, 10-11, January-February 1996

7 February 1996

'First final draft,' 7 February 1996 (3 copies)

Uncorrected bound proof, 1997

Sample title pages, January 1997

Reviews and clippings, 2000-2001

Door in a Blank Wall (novella), notes, working draft fragments, 1993-1998

The Incognito Lounge (poetry collection, 1982)

Uncorrected proof, 1982


Jesus' Son (short story collection, 1992)

'Beverly Manor,' drafts of Beverly Home, notes, undated

'Emergency,' draft fragments, corrected typescript, New Yorker proofs, 1991

'Happy Hour' [variously titled Electric Child on Bad Fun; I Am Not a Slave], drafts, 1991-1992

Previously published versions of stories (photocopies), 1988-1991

'Short Stories Book,' story typescripts, undated

Final manuscript

Setting copy, undated

Master galley proofs, June 1992

Galley proofs, June 1992
Page proofs, August 1992  Container 7.10

Correspondence, also includes deal sheet, 1991-1994  Container 8.1

Dust jackets and promotional sticker, 1992  Container 8.2

Reviews and clippings, also includes Newsweek (8 February 1993) and The Atlantic (June 1993), 1993  Container 8.3, 47

Photograph of Johnson, 'F.H. circa 1975,' circa 1975  Container 8.4

Film adaptation (1999)

Photographs of Johnson in make-up, 1999  Container 8.5

Pressbooks, undated  Container 8.6

Reviews and clippings, also includes the New Yorker (19 & 26 June 2000), Time Out New York (8-15 June 2000), Black Book (Summer 2000), 1999-2000  Container 8.7-9, 47-49

Prosthetic eye and prop knife Johnson wore in cameo appearance in film, 1999 (*transferred to Personal Effects Collection)  Container *

Dreidels and Buddha statues from New York opening of film, 1999 (*transferred to Personal Effects Collection)

Jesus' Son promotional trailer, 29 June 1999 and 9 July 1999 (*VHS tapes transferred to Film Collection)

The Name of the World (novella, 2000)

'Drafts,' 1995-1997 (*3.5 inch floppy disks transferred to Electronic Records Collection)  Container 8.10, 9.1-2*

Notes, working draft fragments, 1997-1998  Container 9.3-7, 10.1

Section drafts

'Notes,' March 1999  Container 10.2

'Leftovers,' July-October 1998

'1 Winter,' June 1998

'2 Late Winter,' June 1998
'3 The Grove,' June 1998

'4 Dinners-J.J and Teak,' October 1998

'5 Bus Ride,' November 1998

'6 Riverside,' November 1998

'7 Coffee Klatsch,' July 1998

'8 Mennonites Singing,' December 1998

'9 Studio (Part 1),' January 1999

'9a Two Stories (Studio),' March 1999

'10 Time Flies,' January 1999

Final Manuscript

'Final,' February-March 1999

February-March 1999 with edits by Robert Jones, 1 September 1999

'Edited Final,' 25 September 1999

Page proofs with edits, January 2000

Reviews and clippings, 2000-2001, also email, Newsweek (31 July 2000), the New Yorker (14 August 2000)

Promotional material, table advertisement and posters, 2000-2001

Nobody Move (novel, 2009; originally serialized in Playboy)

Notes, outlines, and draft fragments

November 1997-September 2003

November 1997-April 2008

'Nobody 1-9,' 1999, 2003-2004

November 2005-January 2008

October 2007, January-July 2008
May-July 2008
Draft fragment, Part Two, 16 July 2008
Complete draft, April-July 2008
Playboy serialization
Part One, first proof and letter, 29 April 2008
Part Two, page proofs; Part Three, galley proofs, undated
Part Three and Four, page proofs, June-July 2008
Playboy magazine, issues July-October 2008
Farrar, Straus, and Giroux ('FSG') manuscript
Draft and edits of complete manuscript, August-September 2008
Copyedited draft (26 August 2008) with 'green corrections,' 22 December 2008, also notes
Second pass galley proofs, December 2008
Book jackets and art, undated
'Reviews,' 2009
Resuscitation of a Hanged Man (novel, 1991)
Typescript, undated
Galley proofs, 1990
Corrected galley proofs, selected pages, undated
Signature pages for limited edition printing, 1990
Book jackets and art, 1991-1992
Publicity material, 1991
Reviews, 1991
Johnson, Denis, 1949-2017

Seek: Reports from the Edges of America & Beyond (essay collection, 2001)

An Anarchist's Guide to Somalia (originally published in Open City #4, 1996)

Research, articles, maps, letter, 1993-1995
'Somalia,' notes and drafts, 1995

Bikers for Jesus (originally published as Change Your Life FOREVER: God's Warriors in the 3rd Millennium, in Salon, March 1995)

'Copeland Ministries' research, printed material, notes, 1995
'Rally Notes' research, notes, photocopied pages from books, 1995
'Rally Draft 1,' drafts and letter, 1995-1996

The Civil War in Hell (originally published in Esquire, December 1990) and The Small Boys' Unit (originally published in Harper's, October 2000)

Research, includes notes, clippings, 1990
'Africa 92,' research articles, 1992
'Taylor,' research about Charles Taylor, 1992
Notebooks, map of Africa, circa 1990-1992 (*five micro-audiocassette tapes transferred to Sound Recordings Collection)
Travel documents, 1992
'Liberia Movie' and 'Liberia Treatment' (based on The Civil War in Hell), notes, outlines, and film treatment drafts, 1992, undated
'Liberia,' typescript of An African War (screenplay by Denis Johnson), first draft, August 1993
Notes, draft fragments, and leftovers, 1996-1999
'SB' [Small Boys'] notes, 1998-1999

The Civil War in Hell, photocopy of Esquire article, 1990, 1997
'SB final cut-Harper's,' The Small Boys' Unit typescript and photocopied proof, April 2000

Dispatch from World War III (originally published in Esquire, March 1991), 'WWIII Notes,' drafts, 1991-2000

Distance, Light, and Dreams (An alternate version was previously published as the introductory essay, Border of Sight, in Traces of Eden: Travels in the Desert Southwest [1986]), 'Border of Sight' typescript draft, 2000 and photocopied excerpt from Traces of Eden, 1986

Down Hard Six Times, 'Alaska,' notes, drafts, packing lists, 1992-1993

Hospitality and Revenge (originally published as Last Days of Najibullah in Esquire, April 1997)

Notes, research, travel documents, 1996 (*one audiocassette tape and two micro-audiocassette tapes transferred to Sound Recordings Collection)

Notepads (5), 1996

Working drafts, notes, proof of article, November 1996-February 1997

The Lowest Bar in Montana (originally published in The Big Sky Journal, Summer 1997), notes and drafts, 1997

The Militia in Me (originally published in Esquire, July 1995), 'Militia article-Esquire,' notes, drafts, and copy of original article, 1995-1996

Ram the High-Jacker (was to be included, but ultimately was omitted from Seek; originally published as The Pirate with Low Self-Esteem in Spin, April 1998), notes and drafts, 1997

Book manuscript

Loose notes and drafts from various writings, 1997-2000, undated

'Notes,' 2000

Three Deserts: Hospitality and Revenge; Distance, Light, Dreams; Dispatch from World War III, drafts of section, issues of Neon (Nevada Arts Council) containing reprint, 2000-2001

Typescript, April-May 2000

Typescript, 'copy edited,' October 2000
Reviews, 2002-2004

The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations Millennium General Assembly: Poems Collected and New (poetry collection, 1995)

Manuscript, also uncollected and additional poems, 1995

Page proofs, 1995

Book jackets and published essay about artist James Hampton (Smithsonian Institution, 1977), 1995


Notes, chronology, leftovers, draft fragments, 1996-2000

Section Notes

'Train 1 Chinaman,' March 1999

'Train 2 Trestles,' July 1999-August 2000

'Train 3,' September 2000

'Train 4 Burn,' September 2000

'Train 5 Jobs and Rumor,' January 1999-September 2000

'Train 6 Courtship,' January 1999-September 2000

'Train 7 More Jobs,' September 2000

'Train 8 Wolf-daughter,' January 1999

'Train 9 Pulchritude,' January 1999

Manuscript Typescripts

Final 1, 13-20 September 2000

'Final 3,' 25 September 2000

'Final 4,' December 2000, also page one of draft dated November 2000
'Final 5,' October 2001

Publisher's catalog, 2004

Tree of Smoke (novel, 2007)

Research material and notes

'Background,' photocopied book chapters and notes, undated

'Door notes,' includes journal Parabola (Fall 1981, reprinted 1997), 1997
(*bound volume transferred to the Library)

'Labyrinth notes,' internet research and notes, 2003-2006

'Malaysia' notepads (8), clippings, notes, draft of Johnson's U.S. Casualty in a Bloodless War (essay), notes for Door in a Blank Wall [?], 1989-1990, undated

'Philippine Islands,' maps and research, undated

'Philippines Trip,' photographs, drafts of essay about Mindanao, 1988-1989

'Philippines-first trip,' journal notes, undated

'Philippines-second trip,' journal notes, notepads (2), letter, 1988

'Phoenix Program-Ice X,' internet research, undated

'Research,' notes, list of books, and internet research about Vietnam, CIA, and military, 2003

'Vietnam,' maps, internet research, copied book chapters, 2004

Chapter draft fragments, notes, and outlines

'1963,' September 2003

'1964,' September 2003

'1965 Luzon,' April, October 2003

'1965 Luzon Pt.2,' October 2003
'1965a Mindanao, Carnigan,' January 2004

'1965b Mindanao, Skip to Damulog,' January 2004

'1965c K. Jones Damulog,' February-March 2004

'1967a Skip Arrives,' November 2004

'1967b Skip goes to Villa,' September 2004

'1967c James Arrives,' November 2004, January 2005

'1967d James Gets Lucky,' November 2004

'1967e Skip at Villa,' September 2004

'1967f James Goes Down,' September 2004

'1967 unsorted,' September 2004

'1968' - '1974,' February 2001-September 2004

'Smoke Final,' drafts of chapters 1963 and 1965 (contains a note regarding a reading in Chicago), 2002-2003

'Hao-Minh-Viet,' December 2003

'Monk,' February-March 2004, undated

'Things to get straight,' March 2004

'Additions' to Final, November 2006

'Smoke notes,' research sources and story ideas, January 2007

'Leftover Notes,' 1996-2003

Loose draft fragments, notes, outlines

Chapters 1963-1965, research, The Years (early story draft, 1999), 1995-2003

Assorted chapter notes, poems, notepad (1), clipping, The Years (early story outline and drafts), Big Nothing (early story drafts), 1993-2007

Chapter 1983 and other notes, outlines, Drink the Poison draft, August 1998-December 2006

CONTAINER 21.8

CONTAINER 21.9

CONTAINER 21.10

CONTAINER 21.11

CONTAINER 21.12

CONTAINER 21.13

CONTAINER 21.14

CONTAINER 21.15

CONTAINER 22.1

CONTAINER 22.2-4

CONTAINER 22.5-8

CONTAINER 23.1

Chapters 1966-1968 and other notes, February 2001-December 2004

Chapters 1963-1966 and other notes, September 2003-May 2004

Assorted notes, December 2003-March 2004


Chapters 1963-1968, email, October 2004-April 2005

Chapter 1968, outlines, September-November 2005

Chapter 1968 and other notes, March-May 2006

Outline, May 2006


Chapter 1969 and other notes, malaria research, additions, motivational notes, July-October 2006, 2007 (*CD-Rom separated to Electronic Records Collection)

'Tree of Smoke 06'

Chapters 1965 and 1968 and other notes, outlines, notepad, Drink the Poison draft, and notes labeled 'Door,' February 2001-March 2006

Chapters 1963-1967, draft containing loose notes and outline, May 2005

Chapter 1968 drafts and outline, December 2005-April 2006

Manuscript notebooks (typescript of chapters)
Johnson, Denis, 1949-2017

'1963-1966,' April 2006

'1967,' April 2006

'1968,' April-June 2006

'1969,' August-December 2006

'1970,' December 2006

'1983,' December 2006

Empty binder, undated

Complete manuscript typescript with notes inserted into pages, also novel outline, December 2006, 2007

Proofs

Typescript, setting copy, February 2007

First pass page proofs, April 2007 and errata, May 2007

Second pass page proofs, May 2007

Uncorrected bound proof, 2007

Advanced readers copy with audio book sampler, 2007

Book jackets and sample pages, 2007

Reviews and clippings, 2007

1966 (excerpt published in the New Yorker, 11 and 18 June 2007), galley and page proofs, publication, 2007

Subseries B: Short Stories and Essays, circa 1970s-2008, undated

Beelzebub Radio: The World Has Been Saved, typed draft, undated

Jenny Lanes, notes and draft fragments, 2002

One More Geek, typed draft, undated

'Renzow,' fragments for a work-in-progress, circa 1970s

The Starlight on Idaho (published in Playboy, February 2007), typed drafts and notes, 2003

Silence [variously titled Leg], typed drafts, undated

'Stories,' circa 1970s-1980s

Cartoon, typed draft, undated

The Heart, typed draft, undated [another story mimeographed on the back of the sheets]

A Hundred and Fifty Years on these Trains, typed draft, undated

Long Distance, typed draft, undated [another story mimeographed on the back of the sheets]

Suppertime, typed draft, undated

Trapeze People, typed draft, undated

Transform Me, notes, 1999-2003

Why I Write, handwritten and typed draft and notes, 1997

Xmas in Las Vegas (published in Tin House, Spring 2003), notes, draft fragments, 2001-2005

Magazine essays

'Bonners drafts,' Why I Live in the Backwoods (published in Travel and Leisure, April 2003), typed drafts and notes, 2002

'Esquire,' Down Hard Six Times, drafts, correspondence, proofs; Naked Man, draft; Solitude and Silence, draft; clippings, 1993, undated

'Kurdistan' (Boomtown, Iraq published in Condé Nast Portfolio, March 2008)

'Notes' and 'Outline,' 2007

Notebook, drafts, research, notes, maps, travel ephemera, passport photographs, printed material, 2008
Subseries C: Poetry, circa 1980s-2008, undated

Poems, drafts and fragments, circa 1980s-1990s, undated

'Notes and drafts,' handwritten and typed notes, fragments, drafts, 1997-2008, undated

'Throne,' The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations Millennium General Assembly (poem), edited drafts, undated

Notebooks, contain poem drafts, fragments, journal entries, log of poem submissions, circa 1981, undated

Notepad, contains handwritten notes, poem and story fragments, drawings, undated

'Slide Show,' poems and fragments; 'Poetry Miscellaneous,' Red Darkness: The Paintings of Sam Messer, A Verse Interview, drafts and posters, circa 1982, undated

Countermeasures (literary magazine, contains two reprinted poems by Johnson: Now and Passengers), circa 1995

Subseries D: Film and Theater Projects, circa 1980s-2009
Angels (screenplay by Johnson based on his novel of the same name), screenplay draft (2 copies), circa 1980s

Des Moines (play), publicity flyers for staged readings, 2007

Hellhound on My Trail (play), publicity material, programs, tickets, reviews, 2000-2002

Hit Me (screenplay by Johnson based on Jim Thompson's novel, A Swell-Looking Babe), press packet, promotional material, 1996-1998 (*VHS tape transferred to Film Collection)

The Prom (screenplay by Johnson and Steven Shainberg), publicity material, 1991-1992 (*VHS tape transferred to Film Collection)

Psychos Never Dream (play), correspondence, reviews, program, 2004-2009

Shoppers Carried By Escalators into the Flames (play), publicity material, programs, tickets, book jacket for published play, reviews, 2001-2002

Soul of a Whore (play), script draft, publicity material, reviews, 2003-2006
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Rolling Stone, Five Executions and a Barbecue, 17 August 2000


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TOPO, excerpt from Angels, Vol 1, No 2, 1981
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Trafika, Iowa City, Grocery on Venice Beach, Orchard, On the Morning of a Wedding, Winter 1994

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