

# Gibson, James:

## An Inventory of His "Let the Poet Choose" Correspondence at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Gibson, James, 1919-2005
<b>Title:</b>	"Let the Poet Choose" Correspondence
<b>Dates:</b>	1966-1973, undated
<b>Extent:</b>	1 box (.42 linear feet)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Includes letters from poets who selected poems for <i>Let the Poet Choose</i> (1973), an anthology edited by James Gibson. The letters are sometimes accompanied by the texts of the poems and/ or text with the reasons why they were chosen. Contributors include Kingsley Amis, W. H. Auden, John Betjeman, Edmund Blunden, Richard Church, Cecil Day-Lewis, Lawrence Durrell, Robert Graves, Thom Gunn, Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes, Philip Larkin, Stevie Smith, Stephen Spender, and others.
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-1598
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research

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### Administrative Information

<b>Processed by:</b>	Joan Sibley and Sara Saastamoinen, 2012
	<b>Note:</b> 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.
<b>Repository:</b>	The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center

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**Recipient:**

Abse, Dannie. 4 ALS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

**Container 1.1**

Amis, Kingsley. ALS, 2 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Auden, Wystan Hugh. 2 ALS to Gibson, 4 April and 12 July 1972.

Betjeman, John, Sir. ALS, 3 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

Blackburn, Thomas. 2 TLS to Gibson, 13 May 1970, 14 May 1972.

Blunden, Edmund Charles. ALS to Gibson, 13 May 1970.

Brownjohn, Alan. 3 ALS, TLS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Causley, Charles. 7 TLS to Gibson, 1969-1973.

Church, Richard. 3 ALS, TLS to Gibson, 1970.

Day-Lewis, Cecil. ALS, TLS to Gibson, 2 April 1970, 12 April 1972.

**Container  
1.2**

Dickinson, Patric. 2 ALS, AL, APCS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

Durrell, Lawrence. TLS, TNS to Gibson, 28 July 1970, 25 May 1972.

Dyment, Clifford. 2 TLS to Gibson, 2 June and 8 July 1970.

Fuller, Roy Broadbent. APCI, ANI, 2 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

Gittings, Robert. 3 ALS, TLS to Gibson, 1972-1973.

Graves, Robert. ALS to Gibson, 8 June 1970.

Gunn, Thom. ALS, APCS to Gibson, 13 June 1972, undated.

Heaney, Seamus. 3 ALS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Heath-Stubbs, John Francis Alexander. 4 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

Hobsbaum, Philip. 3 ALS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Holbrook, David. 2 ALS, ANS, TLS to Gibson, 1970-1972, undated.

Jennings, Elizabeth. 4 ALS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

**Container 1.3**

Kirkup, James. ALS, 5 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

Larkin, Philip. 9 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

Lee, Laurie. 5 ALS to Gibson, 1966-1972.

Lucie-Smith, Edward. TLS to Gibson, 30 May 1970.

Macbeth, George. AL, APCS to Gibson, June 1970, 25 June 1973.

**Container**  
1.4

McGough, Roger. 3 ALS, APCS to Gibson, 1972-1973.

Nicholson, Norman. 2 ALS, 10 TLS to Gibson, 1966-1973

Patten, Brian. 2 ALS, APCS, 5 TL, TLS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

Pitter, Ruth. APCS, APCI, 2 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Plomer, William Charles Franklyn. 5 ALS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

Porter, Peter. 3 ALS, 2 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Raine, Kathleen Jessie. 3 ALS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

**Container 1.5**

Ridler, Anne Bradby. ALS, 2 TPCS, 3 TLS, TNS to Gibson, 1970-1973.

Scannell, Vernon. 6 TLS to Gibson, 1969-1973.

Smith, Florence Margaret. 2 ALS, 4 TLS to Gibson, 1970.

Spender, Stephen. 3 ALS, APCS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Stallworthy, Jon. ALS, 4 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Thomas, Ronald Stuart. 5 ALS, TLS to Gibson, 1966-1972.

**Container 1.6**

Thwaite, Anthony. ALS, 4 TLS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Tomlinson, Charles. 4 ALS to Gibson, 1970-1972.

Walker, Edward Joseph. 2 TLS to Gibson, 29 May 1970, 26 April 1972.

Young, Andrew. 2 ALS to Gibson, 14 February 1966, 23 May 1970.

**Miscellaneous:**

Hughes, Ted. Second glance at a jaguar, typescript with AN by Hughes, 1 page;  
carbon typescript with ANS by Hughes, 2 pages; undated.

**Container**  
1.7

## 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