

Vernon Scannell:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Scannell, Vernon, 1922-2007
Title:	Vernon Scannell Collection
Dates:	1950-1975, undated
Extent:	4 boxes (1.68 linear feet), 1 galley folder
Abstract:	Includes manuscripts and notebooks for works by the English poet Vernon Scannell, who also wrote novels about boxing. Also present are a number of letters from Scannell to Eric C. Corris, as well as letters Scannell received from Patric Dickinson, Louis MacNeice, Peter Redgrove, Stephen Spender, and others.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-3717
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by:	Joan Sibley and Katherine Noble, 2012 Note: 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, The University of Texas at Austin

Works:

- Action as metaphor, signed handwritten manuscript with emendations, 12 pages; signed typescript with handwritten emendations, 9 pages; signed duplicated radio script with handwritten emendation, 7 pages; February 1963, 8 March 1963, undated. Included with this signed handwritten manuscript / outline, 2 pages, undated. **Container**
1.2
- Anniversary, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 2 pages; signed carbon typescript with handwritten note, 1 page; December 1964, undated. **Container**
1.1
- Art and fantasy; some notes on poetry in schools, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions and notes, 7 pages; signed carbon copy manuscript with handwritten corrections and emendations, 12 pages; 28 April 1964, undated. Title on handwritten manuscript: Teaching poetry.
- Auschwitz 1965, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 2 pages; typescript, 1 page; April 1965, undated.
- Autumn, signed handwritten manuscript / first draft with emendations, 1 page; signed handwritten manuscript / second draft with revisions, 1 page; October 1962, undated. First draft entitled Ode to Autumn.
- Bereavement, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions and notes, 1 page; carbon typescript, 1 page; undated.
- The big time, signed handwritten manuscript including outline and draft fragments, 177 pages in 3 notebooks, 28 December 1962, undated. The notebooks contain the first four chapters of the novel, together with notes and the outline of the remainder; some pages loosely laid in. **Container**
1.3
- The big time, signed proof copy with handwritten emendations and corrections, 208 pages, 1965. **Container**
1.4
- The cancelling dark:
- Signed carbon typescript with handwritten notes and workings, 3 pages, undated. Title on the piece: Brief synopsis of libretto for radio opera (as yet untitled). Included with this: newspaper clipping that inspired the opera. **Container**
1.5
- Carbon typescript with handwritten notes and workings, 3 pages, undated. Title on this: Synopsis of libretto.
- Typescript with handwritten revisions, 2 pages; signed carbon typescript with handwritten emendations, 2 pages; undated. "Original synopsis of opera libretto The cancelling dark."

Handwritten manuscript / first synopsis with revisions and corrections, 4 pages;
signed handwritten manuscript / second synopsis with emendations, 5 pages; 7
January 1964, undated.

Signed handwritten manuscript with revisions and corrections, 33 pages;
handwritten manuscript / outline with emendations, 5 pages; May 1964, undated. **Container**
Included with these: handwritten manuscript / note, 1 page, undated, explaining **1.6**
the background of this radio opera.

Signed carbon typescript with handwritten revisions, 30 pages; signed carbon
typescript with handwritten emendations, 13 pages; undated. First and final **Container**
typescripts of opera libretto for the BBC. Earlier titled lined through: Green word **1.7**
fading.

Cigarette, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions and notes, 2 pages, undated. **Container**
Included with this: clipping of poem from New statesman, 22 November 1965. **1.1**

The city, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions and notes, 21 pages, undated. **Container**
Note on first page: "This is a final draft of a long poem, The city, which I abandoned **1.8**
after deciding the the form - or forms - were no longer viable."

Comeback, signed carbon typescript with handwritten emendations, 7 pages, **Container**
undated. **1.1**

Coming to life in Leeds, handwritten manuscript with emendations, 15 pages; signed
carbon typescript with handwritten revisions and notes, 15 pages; carbon typescript /
broadcast script with handwritten markings and cuts by the producer, 10 pages; **Container**
signed galley proofs with handwritten corrections and notes, 2 pages; 15 April 1963, **1.9**
22 August no year, undated. Included with this: signed handwritten manuscript /
outline and notes, 7 pages, 15 April 1963.

Confessions of a mystified sinner, typescript with handwritten corrections and **Container**
signed handwritten note, 296 pages, 1953. **1.10**

The dark streets, signed typescript with handwritten corrections and signed **Container**
handwritten notes, 259 pages, 1951. **2.1**

The dividing night, signed handwritten manuscript / outline and notes, 86 pages in 2 **Container**
notebooks, February 1961. **2.2**

A door with one eye, signed handwritten manuscript / first draft with revisions and
notes, 47 pages in notebook; signed handwritten manuscript / second draft with **Container**
revisions, 19 pages; November 1962 - January 1963, 14 February 1963. Written for **2.3**
BBC Third Programme.

A door with one eye, signed typescript with handwritten revisions and production
notes, 31 pages; radio script / duplicated with handwritten notes, 26 pages; April **Container**
1963, undated. Written for BBC Third Programme. **2.4**

- A dream of guilt; a play for radio, signed handwritten manuscript with emendations, 41 pages loosely laid in notebook covers with signed handwritten note, undated. **Container** 2.5
- Edward Thomas, handwritten manuscript / notes and draft fragments in notebook with notes inside front cover, 40 pages; signed carbon typescript with handwritten corrections and note, 44 pages; undated. **Container** 2.7
- Eight further poems written at Ilkley, 2 signed handwritten manuscripts, 8 signed carbon typescripts, 1 page each; 3 December 1974, undated. Poems inscribed for or dedicated to James Corris. Included with these: duplicate clippings from The listener of one poem. **Container** 2.6
- England, a patriotic poem, signed carbon typescript with handwritten revisions, 2 pages, undated.
- Epithets of war, poems 1965-69, proof copy, 60 pages, 1969. One poem marked to be deleted.
- A fable, signed handwritten manuscript / drafts and workings, 5 pages, January 1964. Included with this: printed clipping of this poem.
- The face of the enemy, a play for radio based on the novel of the same title, radio script / duplicated, 82 pages, circa 1974. **Container** 2.9
- A feast of shadows (television play), handwritten manuscript with revisions, 49 pages in notebook, undated. Written with this: The winter man, handwritten manuscript / draft and workings, 20 pages, undated; Review of Dream of a black fox by Brendan Kennelly, handwritten manuscript / draft and notes, 8 pages, undated. **Container** 2.10
- The fight, a novel, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 210 pages in two notebooks, undated. **Container** 2.11
- First fight, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 15 pages, 1960. Included with this: printed copy of BBC publication Poets and Poetry edited by Robert Gittings, with Scannell's poem signed by him. **Container** 2.6
- Gorgeous girl, signed typescript with handwritten revisions, 1 page, undated. Published in Transatlantic review, 1969. **Container** 3.1
- The great war, handwritten manuscript with revisions, 3 pages; handwritten manuscript / incomplete with revisions, 2 pages; signed galley proof with handwritten note, 1 page; February 1967, undated. Written on verso of one page of the handwritten manuscript: autobiographical note, handwritten manuscript / draft, 1 page, February 1961. Galley proof, for Encounter, also includes the poem Ruminant.

Growing pain, signed typescript with handwritten emendations, 1 page; signed carbon typescript with handwritten revisions, 1 page; undated

Here and human, signed carbon typescript with handwritten editorial markings, 1 page, undated.

Hide and seek, signed handwritten manuscript / first draft with revisions, 3 pages, December 1962. Included with this: printed clipping of the poem from The listener.

The house that died, typescript / duplicated, 2 pages, 25 October 1961. Poem written for the film West Grinstead Park, shown on BBC's Wednesday Magazine. Included with this: BBC TLS to F. E. James Corris, 3 November 1961.

An Ilkley quintet, 5 signed handwritten manuscripts, 1 handwritten manuscript / photocopy, 2 signed carbon typescripts, 3 printed clippings, 12 pages, 1974. Two are inscribed by Scannell to James Corris. Poems for a privately printed pamphlet issued by Corris.

A kind of hero / titled Scapegoat, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 2 pages, February 1965. Included with this: printed clipping of the poem from The spectator.

A long sentence, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 1 page, April 1966. Included with this: printed clipping of the poem from The listener.

A man who noticed things, carbon typescript with emendations and production notes, 8 pages, Summer 1968 (broadcast). Narration of a BBC radio program on Thomas Hardy's poetry.

A man's game, radio script / duplicated with signed handwritten note, 18 pages, 1962 (broadcast). "... a piece of dramatized autobiography, broadcast on the Third Programme... ."

Container
3.2

Moods of rain, 2 handwritten manuscripts, 1 signed, with revisions, 1 page each; 1 signed handwritten manuscript / final draft with emendations, 1 page; January-July 1966. Included with this: printed clipping of the poem from The listener.

Container
3.1

Moral problem, signed handwritten manuscript with emendations, 1 page, April 1962.

Not without glory / titled Poets of the Second World War, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 233 pages in two notebooks; handwritten manuscript / notes, 158 pages in two notebooks; 1974, undated. With 2 leaves loosely laid in.

Container
3.3-4

Note concerning his boyhood companions, handwritten manuscript / fragment, 1 page, undated.

Container
3.1

Notebooks:

I., signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 149 pages written in an account book, November 1968 - November 1969. Partial contents: Poems for young people; The dangerous ones; Broadcast talks on growing pain, Poet and pugilist, Poetry and paternity, and Arms and the man; Book reviews on works by John Barth, Margaret Drabble, and others. **Container** 3.5

II., handwritten manuscripts / drafts and workings with signed note, 57 pages written in a school notebook, January 1958. Partial contents: The lynching; Fathering; A day on the river; Death in the afternoon; Cows in red pasture. **Container** 3.6

III., handwritten manuscripts / drafts and workings with signed note, 30 pages loosely laid in school notebook covers, 1961-1962, many undated. Partial contents: Walking wounded; Women at the wheel; I'm covered now; Lunch time session; Ode to autumn; Puzzle: find the hidden face; Since Donovan died; tight rope walker; Love poem; Telephoning her.

IV., handwritten manuscripts with signed note, 46 pages written in school notebook, January 1950 - January 1951. Some of these poems were published in *A mortal pitch*, 1957.

V., handwritten manuscripts with signed note, 141 pages written in a notebook, January 1951 - June 1954. Some of these poems were published in *A mortal pitch*, 1957. **Container** 3.7

VI., handwritten manuscript with signed note, 144 pages written in a notebook, 1954-1958. Many of the poems were published in *The masks of love*, 1960. **Container** 3.8

Old boy, galley proof, 1 page, undated. **Container** 3.1

An old lament renewed, signed carbon typescript with handwritten notes, 2 pages; galley proof with additional stanza and notes in James Corris's hand, 1 page; undated.

The other ways, signed handwritten manuscript / draft fragment with revisions, 1 page; signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 2 pages; signed typescript, 1 page; May 1963, undated. Included with this: printed clipping of the poem from *The listener*.

Pistol, signed handwritten manuscript with deletions, 1 page; galley proof, 1 page; May 1965. **Container** 4.1

Poetry now, 3 handwritten manuscripts / first, second and final drafts, 1 signed, with revisions, 1 page each, 2 April 1966, undated. Alternate title: George MacAbre's Sunday tea party. Included with this: printed clipping of the poem.

The poetry of common speech. signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 4 pages; signed carbon typescript with handwritten corrections, 4 pages; signed carbon typescript with handwritten corrections, 7 pages; 27 August 1963, undated. Broadcast talk for BBC European Service.

Reconciliation, handwritten manuscript with revisions with signed note, 53 pages written in notebook; 2 carbon typescripts / incomplete, 1 with handwritten revisions, 12 pages each; 1963, undated. Some pages loosely laid in notebook. **Container**
4.2

Reviews of fiction for Books of the Month, November 1962, handwritten manuscripts with revisions, 13 pages written in notebook, undated. **Container**
4.1

Right dress, signed typescript, 1 page, undated.

A sense of danger, signed proof copy with handwritten corrections, 32 pages bound, 1962.

Some consolation, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions and workings, 2 pages; typescript, 1 page; March 1965, undated.

The Sunday people, handwritten manuscript with revisions and workings, 1 page; signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 2 pages; March 1965, undated. Included with this: printed clipping of the poem from The spectator.

Three poems, galley proof with handwritten corrections and emendations, 1 page, 6 March 1963. Titles: Love poem; Moral problem; Clash of symbols. For London magazine.

View from a deck chair, 2 signed handwritten manuscripts / first and second drafts with workings and revisions, 1 page each; galley proof with signed handwritten note, 1 page; October-November 1965, undated. Published in The observer, 14 August 1966.

Walking wounded:

Broadcast script, signed carbon typescript with handwritten notes, 2 pages, 11 January 1963 (broadcast). For BBC Third Programme. **Container**
4.1

Poem, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 6 pages; handwritten manuscript with revisions, 2 pages; signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 3 pages; December 1962, undated.

Poems, 1962-1965, handwritten, typed, and carbon copy manuscript with revisions, many signed, 56 pages, 1961-1965, some undated. Included with these: TLS from Lady Mander to Scannell, 28 November 1965; 3 broadcast scripts, typescript, typescript / duplicated, and mimeo; 15 clippings and tearsheets of individual poems; list of poems; signed corrected proof copy, 63 pages, 1965. **Container**
4.3

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| Poems, 1962-1965, signed corrected galley proofs, 12 sheets, July 1965. | Container
gf 1 |
| When love has gone, signed carbon typescript with handwritten correction and printer's notes, 1 page, undated. | Container
4.1 |
| The winter man, handwritten manuscript / second draft with revisions, 15 pages; signed typescript with printer's notes and markings, 4 pages; signed typescript / final draft with handwritten revisions, 6 pages; undated. | Container
4.4 |
| Wish you were here, signed proof with handwritten revisions, 1 page, 1973. Proof for a broadside. | Container
4.1 |

Letters:

62 ALS, Christmas card, 7 ALI, AL, 14 TLS to Corris, Eric C., 1956-1975, undated. **Container**
Letters addressed to James. 4.6

TccLS to Heppenstall, Rayner, 14 November 1962. **Container 4.5**

Recipient:

Bergonzi, Bernard, 1929- . TLS to Scannell, 6 March 1965.

Container 4.7

Blackburn, Thomas, 1916- . 2 TLS to Scannell, 28 March and 17 May 1964.

British Broadcasting Corporation. 3 TLS to Scannell, 1963.

Cole, William, 1919- . TLS to Scannell, 20 April 1964.

Conquest, Robert, 1917- . TLS to Scannell, 21 August 1962.

Davenport, John. ALS, 2 ALI to Scannell, 1965.

Dickinson, Patric, 1914- . 2 ALS, APCS to Scannell, 14 July 1963, undated. Deals with production of Scannell's verse play Reconciliation.

Dobrée, Bonamy, 1891- . 2 TLS to Scannell, 22 August and 24 October 1962.

MacNeice, Louis, 1907-1963. TLS to Scannell, 21 May 1962. Letterhead: British Broadcasting Corporation.

Porter, Peter, 1929- . 2 ALS to Scannell, 19 October 1964, 20 November no year.

Redgrove, Peter, 1932- . 3 TLS to Scannell, 1965-1966. Enclosed with TLS dated 4 January 1966: The God-trap, signed typescript / mimeo, 3 pages, undated.

Spender, Stephen, 1909- . ALS to Scannell, 17 August 1962. Letterhead: Encounter.

Tarsis, Valeriy, 1906- . TLS to Scannell, 7 March 1966.

Trevor, William, 1928- . ALS to Scannell, 24 March 1964.

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977. TLS to Scannell, 30 October 1962. Letterhead: The Library of Congress.

Whelen, Christopher. ALS, TLS, APCS to Scannell, 1964. Included with these: Further notes plus cut-suggestions for Scannell's opera libretto The cancelling dark, signed handwritten manuscript, 6 pages, 1964.

Miscellaneous:

Cole, William, 1919- . TLS to Sidery, Miss, 14 February 1963.

Container
4.8

Scannell, Vernon, 1922- . Lists and notes, 3 handwritten manuscripts, 1 page each, undated.

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