

# Jon Silkin:

## An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Silkin, Jon, 1930-1997
<b>Title:</b>	Jon Silkin Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1952-1960, undated
<b>Extent:</b>	1 document box (.42 linear feet)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Jon Silkin was a British poet and also editor of the literary magazine <i>Stand</i> , which he founded in 1952. This collection contains drafts of poetry by Silkin as well as manuscripts and correspondence by others, most of which relate to his editorship of <i>Stand</i> .
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection MS-03836
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Access:</b>	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
<b>Use Policies:</b>	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.
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### Administrative Information

**Preferred Citation** Jon Silkin Collection (Manuscript Collection MS-03836). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

**Acquisition:** Purchase, 1964 (R2112)

**Processed by:** Joan Sibley, 2019

**Repository:** [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

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## Scope and Contents

Jon Silkin (1930–1997) was a British poet and also editor of the literary magazine *Stand*, which he founded in 1952. This collection contains drafts of poetry by Silkin as well as manuscripts and correspondence by others, most of which relate to his editorship of *Stand*. The collection is organized in two Series I. Works, and II. *Stand* Contributions and Correspondence.

The Works by Silkin in Series I. are arranged alphabetically by title and include handwritten and typed drafts and workings for his poems, many of which were extensively revised. Most of the poems here were eventually collected in *The Two Freedoms* (1958), although some earlier and later poems are also present, most notably his "Death of a Son." Many items are not dated, and some are written on the reverse of old letters and manuscripts.

Manuscripts submitted to and/or correspondence to *Stand*, 1952-1956, dominate Series II. and represent the contents of *Stand* numbers 1, 2, 3 (1952), 6 (1953), 7, 8 (1954), and 11 (1956). Other correspondence concerns Silkin's own submissions of poetry to other little magazines and publishers or other business matters. One file for Silkin includes his *Stand* editorials, one poem, book reviews, and a few outgoing letters. A file for *Stand* includes descriptions of issue contents, tables of contents, and some printed material. Among the most extensive correspondents are the British Broadcasting Corporation, Chatto and Windus, Ltd., George P. Elliot, Putnam & Company, Ltd., Publishers, and D. Vincent Smith. All manuscripts and correspondence are alphabetized by author, all of whose names are listed in an index at the end of this finding aid.

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**Series I. Works:**

Baited

**Container 1.1**

A Ballad

The Betrayal

Death of a Bird

Death of a Son, with additional poems together in slipcase:

Death of a Son, with initialed note from Dannie Abse (Poetry and Poverty)

**Container**  
1.2

Flower poems: Daisy, Bluebell, Lilies of the Valley, The Violet, Dandelion

Light, with two signed typed letters from John Lehmann (London Magazine),  
1957

Sacred, with signed note from John Lehmann (London Magazine)

The Fool

**Container 1.1**

For a Deaf Girl

For Two Children

The House

I push a stone into the lilies' pond... / The Theme

Hymn to the Solid World

In stillness, like strong flowers, is...

The Last Despair

Loving

Meeting Publicly

**Container 1.3**

Narcissus

Poem / A City of Tragedy

Sacred

The Shirt

Someone I Lost

To Michael Riviere, for his second son, Thomas

The Two Freedoms (1958)

The Two Silences

The Victims / For The Belsen Victims

Unidentified

**Series II. *Stand* Contributions and/or Correspondence:**

A-E

**Container 1.4**

F-O

**Container 1.5**

P-W; unidentified

**Container 1.6**

**INDEX OF *STAND* CONTRIBUTOR AND/OR CORRESPONDENT NAMES**

- Abse, Dannie -- 1.4
- Art News and Review -- 1.4
- Bailey, Anthony -- 1.4
- Baro, Gene -- 1.4
- Beer, Patricia -- 1.4
- Bergonzi, Bernard -- 1.4
- Blackburn, Thomas -- 1.4
- Blakeney, Gavin -- 1.4
- Borrow, Anthony -- 1.4
- British Broadcasting Corporation -- 1.4
- British Poetry Association -- 1.4
- Brooks, Jeremy -- 1.4
- Brownjohn, Alan -- 1.4
- Bruce, Robert -- 1.4
- Bull, A. J. -- 1.4
- \_\_\_\_\_, Charles -- 1.4
- C \_\_\_\_\_, Tony -- 1.4
- Chapman, Stanley -- 1.4
- Chatto and Windus, Ltd. -- 1.4
- Cl \_\_\_\_\_, Leonard -- 1.4
- College of S. Mark and S. John -- 1.4
- Contemporary Music and Poetry Circle -- 1.4
- Cooke, Dorian -- 1.4
- Corvo, Baron -- 1.4
- Curle, J. J. -- 1.4
- Cusack, Norman -- 1.4
- Day Lewis, Cecil -- 1.4
- De Leon, Jean -- 1.4
- De Pinto, Rufus -- 1.4
- Desmond, Shaw -- 1.4
- Doyle, John -- 1.4
- Dromgoole, Patrick -- 1.4
- Duranty, Charles -- 1.4
- Eaton, Charles Edward -- 1.4
- Egan, Dermot I. -- 1.4
- Eisler, Paul -- 1.4
- Elias, David -- 1.4
- Elliot, George P. -- 1.4
- Ellis, Ben -- 1.4
- Faber and Faber, Ltd. -- 1.5
- \_\_\_\_\_, Faina -- 1.5
- Fairfax, John -- 1.5
- Farmer, David J. -- 1.5
- Farquharson, Alexander -- 1.5
- Finlay, Campbell K. -- 1.5
- Fletcher, Iain -- 1.5
- Fox, Charles -- 1.5
- \_\_\_\_\_, Freda -- 1.5
- Fuller, J. L. -- 1.5

- Galvin, Patrick -- 1.5
- Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals -- 1.5
- Golding, Louis -- 1.5
- Gray, Alan (South Africa) -- 1.5
- Gresser, Seymour -- 1.5
- Hamburger, Michael -- 1.5
- Hamilton, G. Rostrevor, Sir -- 1.5
- Hartley, George -- 1.5
- Hastie, Sandra Macgregor -- 1.5
- Heaton, T. -- 1.5
- Heywood, Terence -- 1.5
- Higham, Charles -- 1.5
- Hill, Hugh Creighton -- 1.5
- Hobsbaum, Philip -- 1.5
- Hopkins, William -- 1.5
- Hudson Review -- 1.5
- Hurst, Maurice -- 1.5
- Hutchinson & Co. (Publishers), Ltd. -- 1.5
- Inghish, Ted -- 1.5
- Inman, Philip -- 1.5
- Ipes-Pipes -- 1.5
- Jewish Quarterly -- 1.5
- Jones, Glyn -- 1.5
- Joseph, Rosemary D. -- 1.5
- Jurman, Esra -- 1.5
- K\_\_\_\_, E. S. -- 1.5
- Kabraji, Fredoon -- 1.5
- Kersh, Cyril (The People) -- 1.5
- Kirkup, James -- 1.5
- Kreitman, Norman -- 1.5
- Levensen, Chris -- 1.5
- London Review (John Lehmann) -- 1.5
- Louch, Elizabeth -- 1.5
- Lowry, Albert (Favil Press, Ltd.) -- 1.5
- Lutyens, Elisabeth -- 1.5
- MacDonald & Co. (Publishers), Ltd. -- 1.5
- Macdonogh, Redmond -- 1.5
- MacInnes, M\_\_\_\_ -- 1.5
- McLeod, Ian -- 1.5
- MacVean, Jean -- 1.5
- Mandrake Review -- 1.5
- May, James Boyer -- 1.5
- Metson, Graham W. -- 1.5
- Midstream -- 1.5
- Milne, Ewart -- 1.5
- Moulton, Thomas -- 1.5
- Moyne, \_\_\_\_\_ -- 1.5
- National Book League -- 1.5
- Netscher, Brian -- 1.5
- Nixon, Eric -- 1.5
- Nucleek, Timothy -- 1.5



- Northampton Arts Association -- 1.5
- O'Brien, Arthur -- 1.5
- Oakes, Philip (Truth) -- 1.5
- Orton, Iris -- 1.5
- Page, Ernest -- 1.6
- Paul, Carson -- 1.6
- Pearn, Pollinger & Higham, Ltd. (Paul Scott) -- 1.6
- PEN English Centre (Maureen Kilroe) -- 1.6
- The Poet -- 1.6
- Poetry Awards -- 1.6
- Putnam & Company, Ltd., Publishers -- 1.6
- R\_\_\_\_\_, Joy -- 1.6
- R\_\_\_\_\_, M\_\_\_\_\_ -- 1.6
- Rackham, John -- 1.6
- Rago, Henry (Poetry) -- 1.6
- Rameses, Fye -- 1.6
- Redgrove, Peter -- 1.6
- Reeves, James -- 1.6
- Robins, Peter (Poetry Manchester) -- 1.6
- Rockliff Publishing Corporation -- 1.6
- Rokeah, David -- 1.6
- Rosenthal, M. L. (The Nation) -- 1.6
- Royal African Society (Alan Gray) -- 1.6
- Russell, Peter -- 1.6
- Sargeant, Howard (Outposts) -- 1.6
- Schoeberlein, Marion -- 1.6
- Senior, Charles -- 1.6
- Silkin, Jon -- 1.6
- Simmons, James -- 1.6
- Slonims, Thelma -- 1.6
- Smith, D. Vincent -- 1.6
- Smith, Herbert -- 1.6
- Smith, Iain Crichton -- 1.6
- The Spectator (Iain Hamilton) -- 1.6
- Spingarn, Lawrence P. -- 1.6
- Spooner, Keith -- 1.6
- Stacton, David -- 1.6
- *Stand* -- 1.6
- The Statesman -- 1.6
- Stow, Randolph -- 1.6
- T\_\_\_\_\_, Gaette -- 1.6
- Tapsell, Harry -- 1.6
- The Times -- 1.6
- Turner, W. Price -- 1.6
- Uphill, Arthur -- 1.6
- Vas Dias, Selma -- 1.6
- Villiers Publications -- 1.6
- Watson, E. G. -- 1.6
- Watts, Patricia -- 1.6
- Webster, Harry -- 1.6
- Wharton, Gordon -- 1.6

- Wood, Robin -- 1.6
- Woods, \_\_\_\_\_ -- 1.6
- Wynne-Tyson, Jon -- 1.6
- Young, Kenneth -- 1.6