Reference number: MS 104

Guide to the Papers of Peter Bladen

Scholars' Centre, University of Western Australia Library

2003

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Summary

Creator: Bladen, Peter, 1922-2002
Title: Papers of Peter Bladen
Date range: 1922-2002
Reference number: MS 104
Extent: 12 boxes
Repository: Scholars' Centre, University of Western Australia
Abstract: The manuscripts include poetry, prose, correspondence, personal documents and related material.

Biographical Note

Peter Bladen was born in Subiaco, Western Australia, in 1922. His studies were interrupted by World War II when he served with the Royal Australian Navy. He graduated from The University of Western Australia with a B.A. (Honours) in 1951, and subsequently received an M.A. from the University of Melbourne.

His first major work, The Old Ladies at Newington, won the Commonwealth Jubilee Literary Contest, Long Poems Section in 1951. Five other books of poetry were published in small editions. During the 1960s he wrote scripts for the groundbreaking television programme The Mavis Bramston Show.

From the 1970s he concentrated on the sonnet, adapting it to his own uses to commemorate people and places important to him. "Millefleurs: the essence of a thousand flowers" was a collection of a thousand sonnets composed between 1944 and 1999.

In the 1970s he became a Muslim, and lived in Turkey and Northern Cyprus, as well as travelling to the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States of America.

Peter Bladen returned to Perth shortly before his death in 2002.
Administrative Information

Access
Collection is available for scholarly research. See the Principal Librarian, Scholars' Centre, UWA Library for access.

Restrictions on Use
Copyright of materials described in this guide is governed by copyright law in Australia.

Preferred Citation
[Name of Item], Papers of Peter Bladen, 1922-2002, MS 104, Scholars' Centre, University of Western Australia.

Provenance
The papers were donated to the UWA Library by Peter Bladen's Literary Executor, Professor Leslie Marchant.

Series List and Descriptions

Series 1: Poetry, c.1944-1999

Subseries 1A: Titled collections

Folder 1

Original copy from which the first edition was prepared, with a page proof of pages 211 and 212 (in envelope).

Folder 2

1st ed. No. 6 of 400 copies numbered and signed by the author.

Folder 3
1st ed. No. 201 of 400 copies numbered and signed by the author.

Folder 4
Small unpublished typewritten collection.

Folder 5
Surrounded by angels.
Small collection of fragments of handwritten poems, sonnets and limericks in English and Turkish enclosed in a green cover.

Subseries 1B: Individual poems.

Folder 1
Individual poems, in alphabetical order.

Folder 2
Limericks and sonnets.

Series 2: Prose and music.

Subseries 2A: Individual prose works.

Folder 1
Individual stories and essays organised by title.

Subseries 2B: Miscellaneous prose.

Folder 1
Notes for a series of murder mysteries and other fragments.


Folder 1

Subseries 2D: Playscripts.

Folder 1
Typewritten and handwritten scripts for A Bloodless Victory, Namitjira, and Florence Nightingale.
Folder 2
Notes and materials for Nasreddin, A Village Hamlet, Xenophon, Willow Pattern, and Tolstoy.

Subseries 2E: Lyrics and music.

Folder 1

**Series 3: Correspondence.**

Correspondence written on fax paper has been removed from the collection and stored separately in order to protect the perishable fax paper from further deterioration. The correspondence has been photocopied and the copies substituted for the originals.

Subseries 3A: Letters.

Folder 1

Includes one confidential letter and letters from Leslie Marchant about Peter Bladen’s death. Some letters in Turkish.

Subseries 3B: E-mail.

Folder 1
Printouts of e-mail messages to Peter Bladen.

Subseries 3C: Cards.

Folder 1
Miscellaneous postcards and greeting cards.

**Series 4: Personal documents.**

Folder 1
Certificates, passport and other personal documents.
**Series 5: Photographs.**

Folder 1  
Photographs of Peter Bladen.

Folder 2-3  
Family photographs.

Folder 4  
Miscellaneous identified photographs, mainly Turkish.

Folder 5  
Framed photographs and small albums.

Includes a signed portrait of Dirk Bogarde and a postcard photograph of Albert Namitjira.

Folder 6  
Miscellaneous identified photographs, mainly Turkish.

Folder 7  
Miscellaneous unidentified photographs, mainly Turkish.

**Series 6: Gallipoli.**

Folder 1  
Pamphlets, correspondence, articles and poetry relating to Gallipoli.

**Series 7: Miscellaneous poetry.**

Folder 1  
Miscellaneous poems, including some in Turkish.

Folder 2  
Small collections of poems.

**Series 8: Miscellaneous prose.**

Folder 1  
Works by Belinda Petrie and Kamo no Chomei.
**Series 9: Miscellaneous documents.**

Folder 1  
**Drawings and paintings.**

Drawings, small oil paintings, watercolours, house plan and illustrations used in Millefleurs.

Folder 2  
**Newspaper cuttings.**

Includes a copy of The Age June 11 1965; Eulogy to Peter Bladen by Leslie Marchant published in the Victoria Park Post April/May 2002.

Folder 3  
**Miscellaneous papers.**

Includes lists of books for selling; receipts; assorted pamphlets; timetables; business cards; lists of antiques bought and sold in 1976.

Folder 4  
**Miscellaneous Turkish documents.**

Folder 5  
**Miscellaneous travel documents.**

Folder 6  
**Assorted magazines: single issues.**

Folder 7  
**Lord Howe Island: brochures, postcards, and map.**

Folder 8  
**Turkish maps.**

Includes map of Balikpapan harbour and approaches; plan of Lafkosa Sehir.
Series 10: Miscellaneous books.

A small collection of books preserved with Peter Bladen's papers.

List of Books

• In the blue house / Meaghan Delahunt. London : Bloomsbury, 2001
• Vitalogy : an encyclopedia of health and home adapted for the home, the layman, the family / E. H. Ruddock. Chicago, Ill. : Vitalogy Association, 1930
• The Iliad / Homer, translated by E. V. Rieu. Harmondsworth : Penguin, 1950
• The Hindu-Yogi sciences of breath / by Yogi Ramacharaka. London : L. N. Fowler, 1917
• The science of psychic healing / by Yogi Ramacharaka. London : L. N. Fowler, 1960
• The story of the willow pattern plate. London : The Richards Press, 1963
• The essence of Rumi's Mashevi / by Erkan Turkmen. Konya, Turkey : Seljuk University, 1992 [corrected copy]
• The Thames and Hudson manual of bookbinding / Arthur W. Johnson. London : Thames and Hudson, 1978
• The list of The Queen's Scholars of St Peter's College, Westminster, admitted on that Foundation since 1663… / collected by Joseph Welch. London : G. W. Ginger, 1852
• English pottery and porcelain marks / Stanley W. Fisher. Slough, Bucks : W. Foulsham, 1970
• The Odyssey / Homer, translated by E. V. Rieu. Harmondsworth : Penguin, 1946
• The way of the Sufi / Idries Shah. Harmondsworth : Penguin, 1974

• Norman Rockwell : artist and illustrator / Thomas S. Buechner. New York : Harry N. Abrams

Series: Series 11: Miscellaneous objects.

A small collection of objects preserved with Peter Bladen's papers.

List of Objects

• R1: Prayer mat
• R2: Prayer beads
• R3: Black vase with Chelsea/Derby anchor on base
• R4: Small green Hershey chocolate tin
• R5: Pair of knitted socks
• R6: Slab of semi-precious stone
• R7: Slice of stone with crystals
• R8: Large polished stone
• R9: Wall mounted incense burner
• R10: Brass 12 inch ruler with L. Bladen scratched on the back
• R11: Tin of semi-precious stones and fossils
• R12: Leaf shaped glass dish: inspiration for sonnet number 944 'Tapio wiricala'. Title and number of sonnet written on a Commonwealth Bank Deposit slip accompanying dish.
• R13: Blue Chinese style box containing jade or soapstone urn with stopper and stand. The urn contains a hidden bank account number.
• R14: Resin coated tablemat, with Arabic writing
• R15: Iris index, key to diagnosis. A chart of the iris with diagnostic explanations
• R16: Brown account binder
• R17: Green fabric and leather suitcase [housed in Scholars' Centre Store]
**Box List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Series 1-2</td>
<td>c.1944-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Series 3-8</td>
<td>1922-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Series 9</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original faxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>Series 10: Books</td>
<td></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Series 11: items R1-R2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Series 11: items R3-R7</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Series 11: items R8-R16</td>
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