Summary

Creator: Astley, Thea, 1925-

Title: Papers of Thea Astley

Date range: 1953-1996

Reference number: UQFL 97

Extent: 17 boxes

Repository: The University of Queensland Library, Fryer Library


Biographical Note

Thea Astley, novelist and short story writer, was born in Brisbane on 25 August 1925 and educated at All Hallows Convent and the University of Queensland, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1947. She was a school teacher in Queensland from 1944-1948 and in New South Wales from 1948-1967. In 1968 she joined the English Department at Macquarie University, Sydney. She retired as Fellow in English, Macquarie University in 1979. She has won numerous awards, including the Miles Franklin Award three times - in 1962 (The Well Dressed Explorer), 1965 (Slow Natives) and 1972 (The Acolyte). She received the Order of Australia in 1992, and an Hon. D. Litt. was conferred on her by University of Queensland in 1988. She was made a Creative Fellow of the Australia Council in 1993.
Administrative Information

Access
Collection is open to research

Restrictions on Use
See http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/manuscripts#access

Preferred Citation
See http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/manuscripts#prefercite

Additional Information

Separated Material
A printed copy of Thea Astley's Being a Queenslander (6th Herbert Blaiklock Memorial Lecture 1976) was with these papers. This was catalogued separately to the University of Queensland monograph collection.

Access Terms

Subjects
- Authors, Australian - 20th century

Occupations
- Authors

Series List and Descriptions

Series A: Literary Manuscripts 1953-1980

The series covers the period of Astley's earliest writing and includes early notebooks, an unpublished novella and the original drafts of short stories not collected until 1997. The descriptions of the items in the series are based on the author's own notes on the manuscripts themselves, on their covers or folders, or in accompanying handwritten notes. These notes contain information identifying various drafts and supplying dates and circumstances of the writing of the pieces. In addition the collection contains six leaves of photocopies of original University of Queensland
Library catalogue cards which Thea Astley annotated on a visit to the library (Folder 45).

Novels

Box 1-2

Folder 1-2
*Girl with a Monkey* 1958

2nd draft, 1st typescript copy and final draft. Author's note: Approx. 2nd draft and 1st typed copy. Done on borrowed typpers.

Folder 3-9
*A Descant for Gossips* 1960

5 notebooks with handwritten drafts, 1st typed draft and publisher's typed copy on Angus & Robertson stationery.

Folder 10
*The Slow Natives* 1965

Final draft. Typescript carbon copy with handwritten annotations. Author's note: Final draft with most corrections by me.

Folder 11-15
*A Kindness Cup* 1974

1st, 2nd and 3rd drafts, final edited version and miscellaneous re-writes of various pages. Typescripts with handwritten annotations and emendations. All versions have accompanying handwritten notes by Astley.

Folder 16-20
“Thurlow's Answer” 1969-1970

Unpublished novella. 3 notebooks with handwritten drafts, emended typescript and final typescript with cover of Curtis Brown literary agents. Author's note on catalogue record: Written after a visit to the Mootwingee Caves near Broken Hill.

Short Stories

Box 3-4

Folder 21-26
*Hunting the Wild Pineapple* 1979
2 notebooks with handwritten drafts; 1st and 2nd typed drafts; original typescript with handwritten emendations and printers' instructions returned from publisher Nelson Australia with covering letter 25 Sept. 1979; handwritten draft of short story “A Man Who is Tired of Swiper's Creek is Tired of Life”; photocopy of cover design.

Folder 27
“Beachmaster”

5 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations, signed; undated newspaper cutting from the Sun where the story was published as part of “The Sun Short Story Festival”.

Folder 28
[Freddie Whybrow].


Folder 29
“One of the Islands”.

Handwritten and typescript drafts. Accompanying handwritten note by Astley re publication.

Folder 30
“A Necessary Journey”. By Monica White.

9 leaves typescript.

Folder 31-32
“Cubby”.

Original handwritten draft; typed edited draft. Accompanying author's note.

Folder 33
“El Rio Es Mi Solico Amigo”.

2 signed typescript drafts, one with authorial annotation: Based on incident while at Rollins College, Florida, on study leave 1976. Newspaper cutting from the Sun where the story was published as part of “The Sun Short Story Festival” 13 Dec. 1976 p.21 with title “El Rio Es Mi Solo Amigo”.

Folder 34
“The Salad of the Bad Cafe”.

7 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations.

**Articles, Essays and Lectures**

Box 4

Folder 35
“The Author as Critic of Society”.

5 leaves typescript.

Folder 36
“Conservatorium Big Band”.

3 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations. Authors note: Plug for Con Big Band when Ed was at Con. pub in N.Times.

Folder 37
“The Idiot Question”.

15 leaves handwritten. Author’s note: First draft of “The Idiot Question” published in *Southerly*.

Folder 38-39
“The Queenslanders”.

3 typescript leaves signed; also carbon copy. Author’s note: A review for *National Times*, part used for Blaiklock lecture.

Folder 40
“Being a Queenslander: A Form of Literary and Geographical Conceit”.

8 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations. Author’s note: This was the first (only?) draft for the Blaiklock Lecture.

**Notebooks, Verse**

Box 4

Folder 41-43
Notebooks. 3 notebooks with handwritten verse and prose drafts.

Folder 44
Poems.

4 items:
• handwritten poem “Horace IV”

• accompanying note: My version of Horace IV. J.M. Couper has done a lovely parodic version - For you, Angela

• untitled poem begins "Landfall at night …"

• typescript and handwritten drafts of poem with author's note: Written in reply to a poem of J.M. Couper’s (Abelard and Eloise) pub in S.M.H.

**Series B: Novels and Short Stories 1985-1996**

The series includes drafts of all Astley's major writing for this period and provides an insight into the creative processes of her writing, illustrating her work pattern of composing handwritten drafts in notebooks before working through later typescript drafts. All the items have been labelled by Astley and descriptions are based on her comments and identifying labels.

Box 5

Folder 46-52

*Beachmasters* 1985

3 undated exercise books with handwritten drafts; 1st, 2nd and final drafts; final edited draft; final edited draft with author's note: My copy. 2 copies of published novel, 1 paperback, 1 hardcover.

Box 6

Folder 53-58

*Reaching Tin River* 1990

3 undated exercise books with handwritten drafts; 2nd, 3rd, 4th (3 copies) and 5th drafts. All drafts typescript, some with handwritten emendations. One 4th draft has title *Rubbertime* and author's note: Originally I wanted to call it Rubbertime.

Box 7

Folder 59-62

*Reaching Tin River* 1990

5th draft (3 copies); another draft with author's note: Copy with editor's suggestions (Jackie Yowell).
Box 8
Folder 63-64
*Reaching Tin River* 1990

Draft with author's note: Final edited draft - Draft 6 ?; copy-edited draft marked up for typesetter.

Box 9
Folder 65-70
*Vanishing Points* 1992

2 notebooks with handwritten drafts; 1st and 2nd typed drafts of each novella; copies of two published editions, Heinemann Australia edition and Putnams American edition.

Box 9
Folder 71
*Vanishing Points* 1992


Box 10
Folder 72-75
*Vanishing Points* 1992

Galley proofs: 3 sets from Octopus Publishing - 1 set with proofreader's marks, 1 clean set and 1 set with covering note from publisher marked: Author's Proofs; final typescript draft marked up by copy-editor for typesetter.

Box 11
Folder 76-79
*It's Raining in Mango* 1987

3 notebooks with handwritten drafts; 2nd draft (typescript); copy of Viking 1987 edition; dustjacket for another edition.
Box 12

Folder 80-82

_It's Raining in Mango_ 1987

Typescript drafts. Draft 3; draft 3a accompanied by 6 leaves of queries/corrections; draft 4 with attached reader’s report by Laura Green.

Box 13

Folder 83-88

_Coda_ 1994

Handwritten draft in notebook: unlabelled typescript draft; typescript draft labelled by author: Coda top copy; typescript draft labelled: Coda typed 1; typescript draft labelled: Coda typed 1 & 2 mixed; copy of Putnam’s American edition also jacket proofs and samples for this edition; letter 7 June 1994 from Martin Secker & Warburg re publishing _Coda_ and _Vanishing Points_ in 1995 and enclosing catalogue.

Box 14

Folder 89-92

_Coda_ 1994

Copy-edited draft marked up for typesetter returned from Reed Books with covering note 1 Aug. 1994 signed by Belinda Byrne; typescript draft with annotations and marking up; galley proofs with covering letter 11 Oct. 1993 from Heinemann Australia; page proofs and queries/corrections with covering letter from Reed Books 16 Dec. 1993; Also letters 3 Jan. 1992 from Putnams and 1 Sept. 1992 from Heinemann.

Box 15

Folder 93-100

_The Multiple Effects of Rainshadow_ 1996

Box 16

Folder 101-104

_The Multiple Effects of Rainshadow_ 1996


Box 17

Folder 105-107

_The Multiple Effects of Rainshadow_ 1996

Copy-edited draft marked up for typsetter and covering note from Meredith Rose, Penguin Australia; assorted typescript leaves labelled: Cuts; background research material for novel including maps, newspaper cuttings, photographs, articles.

**Box List**

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