Reference number: MSS 47-72

Guide to the Papers of Robert Drewe

Scholars' Centre, University of Western Australia Library

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**Summary**

**Creator:** Drewe, Robert, 1943-

**Title:** Papers of Robert Drewe

**Date range:** 1976-1991

**Reference number:** MSS 47-72

**Extent:** 12 boxes

**Repository:** Scholars' Centre, University of Western Australia

**Abstract:** The manuscripts comprise drafts of the majority of Drewe's published work. Three of the series describe the material according to genre, and include novels, short stories and drama. The fourth series describes a collection of literary papers, and contains correspondence, photographs and printed matter.

**Biographical Note**


His prize-winning books include *Fortune* and *The Bay of Contented Men*. His book *The Bodysurfers* has made Australian literary history, as a short story collection which not only became a best seller but has been adapted for television, radio and film, and performed on the stage. The *Times Literary Supplement* compared his vision of national mythology in *The Bodysurfers* to those of the painters Arthur Boyd and Sidney Nolan.

Robert Drewe lives mainly on the central coast of New South Wales.

**Administrative Information**

**Access**

Collection is open to 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 Robert Drewe, 1976-1991, MSS 47-72, Scholars' Centre, University of Western Australia.

Provenance
The manuscripts were purchased from Robert Drewe.

Series List and Descriptions


Subseries 1A: A Cry in the Jungle Bar, 1978-79

Box MS 0049

Typescript, with minor corrections and directions to the publisher in the author's hand.

Box MS 0049/A

First draft; working drafts (early attempts, notes etc.); “The jungle room”: origins of book, plus notes, jottings, plottings; chiefly typescript, with amendments in the author's hand; some holograph; photograph; slide.

Subseries 1B: Fortune, 1983-87

Box MS 0054
Fortune, 1986.

Final drafts, handwritten; typescripts; photocopies.

Box MS 0054/A
Fortune, 1983-87.

Early drafts in longhand; “Spargo” material (early plotting, etc.); jottings and musings; “Ricochet”, “Len Lawson” letters, memorabilia; chiefly typescripts, some holograph. Accompanying papers comprise correspondence, postcards, printed matter, telegrams, relating mainly to publication, purchase of collection, and literary activities.

Subseries 1C: Our Sunshine, 1991
Box MS 0070


Preliminary draft; notes; first attempts at early chapters; miscellaneous pertinent jottings; typescript; computer printouts; handwritten notes.

Box MS 0071


First draft (complete); typescript, with amendments in the author’s hand; some holograph.

Box MS 0072


Final draft (typescript) and page proofs, both with emendations, in package (40 x 30 cm.).

Subseries 1D: *The Savage Crows*, 1976

Box MS 0048


Notes; jottings; research; first and final drafts; galley proofs (folded), annotated with corrections; typescript, with minor corrections and directions to the publisher in the author’s hand.

Box MS 0048/A


First draft; in handwritten and typescript form.

**Series 2: Short Stories, 1983-c.1988.**

Box MS 0058


Corrected galley proofs and typescript, having minor corrections and annotations in the author’s hand; holograph notes; early draft; notes and jottings.

Includes “All the boys” (earlier titles, “Love line”, “Circumcision”); “Radiant heat” (earlier title, “Citronella”); “The needle 'story’”; “The Hammett Spiel”; “Mandalay” (former title, “Cards of

Box MS 0050
The Bodysurfers, 1983.

First drafts, including book cover; final manuscripts; amended drafts; transcript; miscellaneous material, including original synopsis for publisher.


Subseries 3A: The Bodysurfers: A Play, c.1989-1990

Box MS 0065
The Bodysurfers: A Play, c.1990.

Final edition of unpublished text: typescript (photocopy) in spiral binding. (First performed by the North Coast Theatre Company in Lismore, 30th August, 1989; based on the author’s book of stories with the same title.)

Box MS 0064

Preliminary drafts; production memorabilia & early drafts; chiefly typescript, with amendments in the author’s hand; printed matter.

Subseries 3B: South American Barbeque, 1991

Box MS 0067
South American Barbecue, c.1991.

Second draft; typescript, with amendments in the author's hand.

Box MS 0068

Final draft; typescript.

Box MS 0066
South American Barbecue: complete first draft and earlier attempts, c.1991.

First draft; typescript, with amendments in the author's hand.
Box MS 0069


Correspondence to Robert Drewe; agreement with theatre company; printed matter; sketch in pencil; handwritten notes, mainly related to production and performance.

**Series 4: Literary Papers, 1976-1985.**

Box MS 0047


Literary papers, 1976-1980; letters, memorabilia, etc., 1980-1985; photographs; correspondence to Robert Drewe; publishers’ statements; accounts; postcards; invitations; photographs; passports; printed matter, etc., mainly relating to publication and literary activities.