Summary

Creator: Haskell, Dennis
Title: Papers of Dennis Haskell
Date range: 1977 - 1997
Reference number: MS 9397
Extent: 2.31m (17 boxes)
Repository: National Library of Australia Canberra
Location: Manuscript Reading Room

Scope and Content
The collection includes correspondence, diaries, drafts and reworkings of poems, journal articles, book reviews, cuttings, review articles, research notes, background source material and conference papers. They document Haskell’s work as a poet, editor, literary critic, academic and organiser of literary events in Western Australia. In this role he has brought to prominence the work of Western Australian poets and writers. Haskell has developed a wide circle of correspondents both in Australia and overseas. They include Bruce Bennett, Delys Bird, Alec Bolton, Ray Coffey, Geoffrey Dutton, Elizabeth Jolley, Richard Harland, Jan Kemp, John Kinsella, Les Murray, Satendra Nandan, Simon Petch, Ian Templeman, and John Tranter. The three instalments have been amalgamated and arranged into seven series. Where possible, the original arrangement of the papers and file titles have been preserved by the Library.

Biographical Note
Dennis Haskell is a poet, editor, academic and literary critic. He was born in Sydney in 1948. His professional qualifications include: B. Com, University of New South Wales (1969); BA (Hons), University of Sydney (1977) and PhD, University of Sydney (1982).

Although he had a background in accountancy, Haskell began teaching English at Sydney University in 1973. In 1984 he moved to Perth where he is now Professor in the Department of English at the University of Western
Australia. Haskell is a past poetry reviewer for the ABC’s ‘Books and Writing’ program and has been co-editor of the literary magazine *Westerly* since 1985. He has published in a wide range of areas, including American literature, Australian literature, Asian literature, modernism and romanticism.

Haskell was a Harold White Fellow at the National Library in 1990.

**Publications**

*Listening at night*, Sydney, Angus and Robertson, 1984

*Wordhord: a critical selection of contemporary Western Australian poetry*, edited by Dennis Haskell and Hilary Fraser, Fremantle, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1989


*A touch of ginger: poems by Fay Zwicky and Dennis Haskell*, Applecross, Folio Press, 1991

*Poetry, essays, war despatches, war diaries, journalism, autobiographical material and letters of Kenneth Slessor*, edited by Dennis Haskell, St Lucia, University of Queensland Press, 1991

*Whose place?: a study of Sally Morgan’s ‘My place’,* edited by Dennis Haskell and Delys Bird, Pymble, Angus and Robertson, 1992

*Myths, heroes and anti-heroes: essays on the literature and culture of the Asia-Pacific region*, edited by Bruce Bennett and Dennis Haskell, Perth, Centre for Studies in Australian Literature, University of Western Australia, 1992

*Abracadabra*, South Fremantle, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1993

*Tilting at Matilda: literature, aborigines, women and the church in contemporary Australia*, edited by Dennis Haskell, South Fremantle, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1994

*The collected poems of Kenneth Slessor*, edited by Dennis Haskell and Geoffrey Dutton, Pymble, Angus and Robertson, 1994

*Australian poetic satire*, Townsville, Foundation for Australian Literary Studies, James Cook University, 1995

*The ghost names sing: poems by Dennis Haskell*, South Fremantle, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1997
Administrative Information

Access
Partly closed: series 1 is closed. Collection is available for reference.

Restrictions on Use

Preferred Citation

Provenance
The papers were purchased by the Library from Dennis Haskell in three instalments in 1994, 1996 and 1997.

Additional Information

Separated Material
Other papers of Dennis Haskell are held by the Scholars' Centre, The University of Western Australia, Western Australia.

Related Material
A talk by Haskell, while a Harold White Fellow, on the poetry of Kenneth Slessor is held in the Oral History Section at ORAL TRC 2558. There is also a recording of a seminar titled ‘Kenneth Slessor remembered’ at ORAL TRC 2688. Haskell was one of the four speakers who participated in the seminar.

Access Terms

Personal Names
- Bennett, Bruce
- Bird, Delys
- Bolton, Alec
- Coffey, Ray
- Bernstein, Charles
- Bird, Delys
- Dutton, Geoffrey
• Jolley, Elizabeth
• Harland, Richard
• Hetherington, Paul
• Kemp, Jan
• Kinsella, John
• Murray, Les
• Nandan, Satendra
• Petch, Simon
• Templeman, Ian
• Tranter, John

Titles
  • “The Cocos Novel”
  • Wordhord: a critical selection of contemporary Western Australian poetry
  • A touch of ginger: poems by Fay Zwicky and Dennis Haskell
  • Poetry, essays, war despatches, war diaries, journalism, autobiographical material and letters of Kenneth Slessor
  • Whose place?: a study of Sally Morgan’s ‘My place’
  • Myths, heroes and anti-heroes: essays on the literature and culture of the Asia-Pacific region
  • Abracadabra
  • Tilting at Matilda: literature, aborigines, women and the church in contemporary Australia
  • The collected poems of Kenneth Slessor
  • Australian poetic satire
  • The ghost names sing: poems by Dennis Haskell
  • Listening at night
Series List and Descriptions

Series 1: Correspondence, 1987-1997

This series consists of personal and business correspondence including letters, faxes, greeting cards, invitations, leaflets, and postcards. The letters discuss publishing news, academic gossip, news of appointments, literary events, book launches, conferences and seminars. There is correspondence with publishers and editors and also several overseas correspondents, usually university academics. Some correspondents have sent Haskell poems and articles for comment, or comment on his poetry. There are also a few articles, drafts of reviews and notes for talks.

Haskell has developed a large circle of correspondents both in Australia and overseas. They include Bruce Bennett, Delys Bird, Alec Bolton, Geoffrey Dutton, Elizabeth Jolley, Richard Harland, Paul Hetherington, Jan Kemp, John Kinsella, Les Murray, Satendra Nandan, Simon Petch, Ian Templeman, John Tranter, and Ray Coffey, and other staff of the Fremantle Arts Press.

The papers have been arranged in two sequences. The first instalment was contained in an expanding concertina file and arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent. The papers have been removed from the concertina file and placed in folders in the original alphabetical sequence. A further instalment was arranged in folders by date. This original order has been maintained. Haskell has annotated many of the incoming letters with the full names of the signatories.

Folder 1
Correspondence, 1987-1995 A

Folder 2
Correspondence, 1987-1995 B

Folder 3
Correspondence, 1987-1995 C

Folder 4
Correspondence, 1987-1995 D
Folder 5
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 E - G

Folder 6-7
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 H

Folder 8
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Folder 9
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 K

Folder 10
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 L

Folder 11
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 M

Folder 12
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 N - O

Folder 13
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 P - Q

Folder 14
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 R

Folder 15
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 S

Folder 16
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 T

Folder 17
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 U - V

Folder 18
  Correspondence, 1987-1995 W - Z

Folder 19 - 20
  Correspondence, 1992-1997

Folder 21
  Correspondence, 1995-1996
**Series 2: Diaries, 1984-1990**

This series consists of seven diaries kept from 1984 to 1990. They record appointments, meetings, functions, lecture sessions, special events, expenses and also contain general notes and reminders.

Folder 1  
Diaries, 1984-1985

Folder 2  
Diaries, 1986

Folder 3  
Diaries, 1987

Folder 4  
Diaries, 1988

Folder 5  
Diaries, 1989

Folder 6  
Diaries, 1990

**Series 3: Published works, 1984-1997**

This series consists of works written by Haskell and those that he has co-edited with other authors. They include drafts with re-workings, typescripts, final manuscripts, notes and source material, correspondence with publishers and galley proofs. They have been arranged chronologically by date of publication.

*Listening at night*, Sydney, Angus and Robertson, 1984

Folder 1  
Typescript copy with editor’s annotations, clean photocopy of typescript with some corrections, book reviews, correspondence with Angus and Robertson, 1983-1985, and a memorandum of agreement (1983).

Folder 2-5  
Drafts of handwritten and typescript poems with re-workings.
Folder 6-7

Rejected handwritten and typescript poems with re-workings.

*Wordhord: a critical selection of contemporary Western Australian poetry*, edited by Dennis Haskell and Hilary Fraser, Fremantle, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1989

Folder 8

Galley proofs.

Folder 9-11

Correspondence with publishers and contributors, 1988-1989, biographical details of contributors and photocopies of source material.


Folder 12

Handwritten and typescript drafts with corrections.

Folder 13

Handwritten and typescript drafts with corrections.

Folder 14


*A touch of ginger: poems* by Fay Zwicky and Dennis Haskell, Applecross, Folio Press, 1991

Folder 15

Photocopies of draft poems with corrections and a letter from John Kinsella relating to the publication date (n.d.).

*Poetry, essays, war despatches, war diaries, journalism, autobiographical material and letters of Kenneth Slessor*, edited by Dennis Haskell, St Lucia, University of Queensland Press, 1991
Folder 16

Drafts of introduction, paste-up copies of Slessor’s letters, photocopied extracts of *Bread and wine* by Kenneth Slessor and other background material by Slessor.

Folder 17

Paste-up copy with editor’s notes.

*Whose place?: a study of Sally Morgan’s ‘My place’,* edited by Dennis Haskell and Delys Bird, Pymble, Angus and Robertson, 1992

Folder 18

Copies of transcript of interview with Sally Morgan by Dennis Haskell and Delys Bird with corrections (1991), reviews of *My Place* by Joan Newman, Jo Robertson and Jody Brown and a draft bibliography.

*Abracadabra*, South Fremantle, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1993

Folder 19-21

Handwritten and typescript drafts of poems with amendments and comments. Some of the comments are by Paul Hetherington.

Folder 22

Typescript draft submitted to Les Murray with his comments .

Folder 23

Copy of a manuscript sent to Allan Urquhart with his comments .

Folder 24

Typescript draft with reworkings and a draft of the completed manuscript as it was sent to the publisher .

Folder 25

Typescript of manuscript and typeset draft copy with editorial annotations .
Folder 26

Correspondence with the publisher, 1989-1992, reader's report, cuttings of book review and typescript of manuscript.

*Tilting at Matilda: literature, aborigines, women and the church in contemporary Australia*, edited by Dennis Haskell, South Fremantle, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1994

Folder 27-29

Correspondence and drafts from contributors, 1994, with editor's notes and comments, and biographical notes on contributors.

Folder 30-31

Correspondence with publisher and contributors, 1993-1994, some draft chapters from contributors and a draft memorandum of agreement (1994).

*The collected poems of Kenneth Slessor*, edited by Dennis Haskell and Geoffrey Dutton, Pymble, Angus and Robertson, 1994

Folder 32

Page proofs with editor's notes.

Folder 33

Page proofs of notes section and appendix with editor's notes.

Folder 34

Typeset copy with editor's notes.

*The ghost names sing: poems by Dennis Haskell*, South Fremantle, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1997

Folder 35

Handwritten and typescript drafts with re-workings.

Folder 36

Draft at time of sending to the publishers.
Series 4: Other writings, 1977-1993

This series consists of other works by Haskell including journal articles, book reviews, critical writings, manuscripts and material for radio programs. Included are handwritten and word-processed drafts, final copies, correspondence with publishers and galley proofs. Many of the articles and reviews do not contain the date when they were written.

Articles

Folder 1

Drafts with corrections of an article *The modern American poetry of deep image* published in *Southerly Review*, July 1979. There is also a copy of the published version. The article was adapted from Haskell’s honours thesis of the same title.

Folder 2

Drafts, galley proofs and correspondence with publishers for an article titled *Landscape at the edge of a promise; Australian romanticism and John Shaw Neilson*. The article was based on a paper *Romanticism in Australian poetry* which was presented at a conference with the theme "Romanticism and the Imagination" held at the University of Melbourne, July 1989. The article was also published in *Meridian: the La Trobe University English Review* in October, 1990 and as a chapter in *Imagining romanticism*, West Cornwall, Locust Hill Press, 1991.

Folder 3


Folder 4

Drafts, final copy and galley proofs of *Long–legged fly and Yeats’ concept of mind* which was published in *Yeats Annual* 10, 1993. There is also correspondence, 1989-1993, with Warwick Gould of *Yeats Annual* relating to the publication of the article and other poetry matters.
Critical writings

Folder 5

A lady only by adoption – civilisation in A fringe of leaves: drafts and final version of an article A fringe of leaves by Patrick White. This article was published in Southerly in 1987.

Folder 6-9

Drafts and finals of book reviews and review articles, 1977-1993. The file also contains some correspondence with publishers and literary magazines relating to the publication of material, requests for contributions and a few general articles.

Manuscripts

Irrefutable songs of sixpence; the poetry of W. B. Yeats, (n.d.)

Folder 10

Chapter 1 with annotations and corrections.

Folder 11

Chapters 2 – 4, footnotes and index with annotations and corrections.

Folder 12

Revised manuscript consisting of handwritten and typescript pages.

Extracts cut from the thesis found in Folder 15 have been used to construct part of the text in the new version.

Folder 13

Typescript of manuscript which has, as yet, not been published.

Folder 14

Correspondence with Sydney University Press, 1983-1987, relating to the publication of Haskell’s manuscript on Yeats. The file also contains various articles on Yeats.

Folder 15
The poetic theory and practice of W. B. Yeats, 1981. Copy of thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Department of English, Sydney University, 1981. This copy has been annotated and edited with various extracts cut from its pages and used to produce a revised version for publication.

Poetry

Folder 16

Drafts and re-workings of poems going back to the Listening at Night period but not included in it or in Abracadabra.

Radio programs

Folder 17

Transcripts of readings for the ABC’s Radio Drama and Features program, 1986, and drafts of reviews for the ABC’s Books and writing broadcasts in 1984.

Series 5: Conferences, festivals, lectures and seminars, 1986-1997

This series consists mainly of papers presented by Haskell at literary conferences in Australia, Asia and India and documents relating to his role as organiser of literary events. He was a member of the organising committees for the literary section of the Festival of Perth for many years as well as presenting papers and readings at this annual event. He was also an active member of the W.B. Yeats Society of Western Australia. Included are drafts and final versions of papers, correspondence and administrative material relating to his participation in conferences and organisation of festival activities and special events.

Folder 1

Festival of Perth Poets' Lunch, February 1987

Correspondence relating to the organisation of the lunch, 1986-1987, list of entrants in the Poetry Competition and questions for the Poets’ Lunch quiz.

Folder 2

Perceiving other worlds: 1989 Symposium on Literature in the Asia-Pacific Region held at the National University of Singapore, 31 October – 3 November 1989
Drafts and final version of a paper presented by Haskell titled *People, traffic and concrete: perceptions of the city in modern Singaporean poetry* and later published in *Perceiving other worlds*, Singapore, Times Academic Press, 1991. The file also contains a list of conference participants, information and travel arrangements and some journal articles on poetry in Singapore and Malaysia.

Folder 3-4
*Future directions in poetry publishing – is poetry redundant?*: paper presented to a Future Directions in Print Seminar, held by the Fremantle Arts Centre, 1989

The file includes responses from publishers of a survey which was conducted in conjunction with preparing the above paper and some small poetry booklets. There is also a copy of *OzMuze* (July 1991) which contains an abridged version of the paper by Haskell.

Folder 5-6
*Festival of Perth. W. B. Yeats Symposium*, February 1989

Correspondence, 1988-1989, relating to the organisation of the symposium, minutes of meetings of the organising committee, 1988, program and notes.

Folder 7
*Festival of Perth. Writers’ Festival, Fremantle Arts Centre, 1991*

Minutes of meetings of advisory committee, 1990-1991, program and synopsis of sessions, publicity schedule and cuttings of reviews.

Folder 8
*The heroism of comedy: Smith’s Weekly in the 1930s*: lecture notes and overhead transparencies for a symposium on *Myths, heroes and anti-heroes in the literature and culture of the Asia-Pacific* held at the University of Western Australia in 1991

The papers from this symposium were later published as *Myths, heroes and anti-heroes: essays on the literature and culture of the Asia-Pacific region*, and edited by Bruce Bennett and Dennis Haskell (1992).

Folder 9
Also included is a symposium program and synopses of other papers.

Folder 10-12
Festival of Perth. Writers’ Festival, Fremantle Arts Centre, 1993

Minutes of meetings of advisory committee, 1991-1993, invitations to writers seeking participation in the festival, biographical details of participants, publicity schedule, poster and general notes.

Folder 13
Papers delivered at the Colin Roderick lectures, 1994 and subsequently published in 1995

The lectures, sponsored by the Townsville Foundation for Australian Literary Studies, are delivered annually by a distinguished Australian writer or academic at James Cook University. The file includes drafts and final versions of papers, a letter of invitation to deliver the lectures (1994) and other correspondence with the University relating to the lecture.

Folder 14
Festival of Perth. Writers’ Festival, Fremantle Arts Centre, 1995


Folder 15
*Keats and the notion of truth*: paper presented at the International Itinerant Conference on Keats, Bologna, Italy, 1995


Folder 16
*Cultural crosses: Ee Tiang Hong's nearing a horizon*: paper presented at a symposium in November, 1995 at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra

The paper was later published in *Crossing cultures*, London, Skoob Books, 1996, in association with the University College, Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra and the Centre for Studies in Australian Literature, University of Western Australia.
Folder 17
Asia/Pacific PEN conference, Tokyo, 26-28 November 1996

Draft and abstract of paper by Haskell, conference program, travel arrangements and a report on the conference.

Folder 18

Conference program and information, travel arrangements and correspondence, 1996-1997 with the organising committee.

Folder 19
National University of Singapore, Centre for the Arts, Writers’ Workshop, 17-25 February 1997

Correspondence, 1996-1997, relating to the workshop, travel arrangements and program.

Series 6: Manuscripts by others

Folder 1
Acts themselves trivial: typescript by Paul Hetherington with comments by Haskell (n.d.)

Folder 2
Unseasonal rain: revised version of Acts themselves trivial by Paul Hetherington with comments by Haskell (n.d.)

Folder 3
Page proofs of a book of poems titled Beyond by Brian Turner to be published in 1992

Series 7: Other papers, 1987-1996

This series consists of miscellaneous papers. They are mostly of an administrative nature and relate to Haskell’s placement as a visiting scholar in Singapore and his involvement with the W. B. Yeats Society of Western Australia. There is also a draft copy of a poem written inside the back cover of a published work on a flight to Adelaide.
Folder 1
Correspondence, International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges, 1987-1988

Documentation relating to Haskell’s placement as a visiting scholar at the National University of Singapore, November 1987 - February 1988. The file also contains papers of an administrative and organisational nature relating to the visit.

Folder 2
W. B. Yeats Society of Western Australia, 1987-1989

Papers relating to the W. B. Yeats Society of Western Australia, including correspondence, financial receipts, list of members, brochures and information on the Yeats Summer School Scholarship.

Folder 3
Copy of The gods of winter: poems by Dana Gioia, Calstock, Peterloo Poets, 1991

The back of this publication contains the draft of a poem Six years: Adelaide flights. A note indicates that it was written on a flight to Adelaide some time after the publication of Abracadabra.

Folder 4
Newsletter of the Haskell Family Society, 1993-1996


Folder 5
Information packages for the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Queensland

Information packages (2) for the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Queensland. Both packages contain notes and papers relating to job applications at this institution and at the James Cook University of North Queensland, Townsville.

Folder 6
Reader’s Tickets for various state, university and national libraries, 1991-1995

Reader’s Tickets for various state, university and national libraries, 1991-1995, and an unidentified word processing disc.
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