Reference number: MS 152

Guide to the Papers of Craig Powell

Australian Defence Force Academy Library

Canberra 2000

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Summary

Creator: Powell, Craig, 1940-
Title: Papers of Craig Powell
Date range: 1966-1990
Reference number: MS 152
Extent: 2 cm (2 folders)
Repository: Australian Defence Force Academy Library
Canberra ACT 2600
Abstract: This collection comprises personal correspondence between Powell and some notable Australian poets, from the 1960s to 1990.

Scope and Content
The Craig Powell Papers feature a small selection of personal correspondence between Powell and some notable Australian poets, from the 1960s to 1990. Correspondents include Michael Dransfield, Peter Kocan, Les Murray, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Thomas Shapcott, Francis Webb and Judith Wright. Draft poetry sent to Powell is also included in the papers, as well as commentary about the contemporary Australian literary scene.

Biographical Note
(John) Craig Powell was born in Wollongong NSW on 16 November 1940. He graduated from the Sydney University Department of Medicine in 1964 and from the NSW Institute of Psychiatry in 1970. He now runs a private psychotherapy practice in Sydney.

Powell has won many awards for his poetry including the Henry Lawson Festival Award for Verse in 1969, the Mattara Spring Festival Poetry Prize in 1983 and the Quarterly Review of Literature 45th Anniversary International Poetry Competition in 1989.

Powell's publications include A different kind of breathing (1966), I learn by going (1968), Country without exiles (1972), Selected poems (1978), Rehearsal for dancers (1978), Face in your

Administrative Information

Access
This collection is restricted.

Restrictions on Use
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Preferred Citation
[Manuscript Item], Papers of Craig Powell, Australian Defence Force Academy Library, MS 152, Series [Number], Folder [Number].

Provenance
The collection was acquired by the Library under the Taxation Incentive for the Arts Scheme on 10 May 1991.

Series List and Descriptions

Series 1 Correspondence, 1968-1980

This series comprises a number of letters written to Powell between 1968-1980. The letters are of a personal and intimate nature and contain valuable information on writers, values and the literary scene of Australia in the changing society of the 1960s and 1970s.

Folder 1
Includes correspondence from Michael Dransfield and Peter Kocan, an aspiring poet in a psychiatric hospital. It includes details on Kocan's daily life and contains drafts of 19 poems he submitted for Powell's criticism. There is correspondence from Les Murray on issues such as his position as editor of Poetry Australia, the fortunes of the journal and South Head Press, legal problems with publishing a selection of Francis Webb's poetry, the actions of journal owner Grace Perry and Powell's relationship with the journal. There is a letter from Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker), as well as three particularly affectionate letters from Francis Webb, dated 1970 and 1971, which discuss Powell's poem “Hans” at length. There is also correspondence from Judith Wright, 1967-1971, discussing her abhorrence of literary criticism, her work, and her relationship with a troubled teenager.
Series 2 Correspondence with Thomas Shapcott, 1966-1990

This series contains particularly personal letters from Shapcott to Powell. Topics discussed include Powell's poetry, Shapcott's education and poetry, influences on poetical writing styles, various literary ventures and publications, as well as personal events in both their lives, such as births and deaths of children.

Folder 1
Approximately 50 typewritten letters from Shapcott to Powell detailing family, literary and professional news over a period of 24 years.

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