Reference number: MS 114

Guide to the Papers of Thomas Shapcott

Australian Defence Force Academy Library

Canberra 2000

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Summary
Creator: Shapcott, Thomas, 1935-
Title: Papers of Thomas Shapcott
Date range: 1941-1989
Reference number: MS 114
Extent: 1.2 m (12 boxes)
Repository: Australian Defence Force Academy Library
Canberra ACT 2600
Abstract: The papers include notes, research material, manuscript and typescript drafts, a scrapbook, photographs and audio cassettes relating to Shapcott's literary and musical endeavours, predominantly in the years 1985-1989.

Scope and Content
The papers include notes, research material, manuscript and typescript drafts, a scrapbook, photographs and audio cassettes relating to Shapcott's literary endeavours, predominantly in the years 1985-1989. There are papers relating to the works “Travel light, leave no debts” [1976], Hotel Bellevue (1986), Travel dice (1987), Limestone and lemon wine(1988), The Literature Board, a brief history (1988), The search for Galina(1989) and The art of Charles Blackman (1989). The collection also includes drafts for several short stories, dramas and dance pieces, some of which remain unpublished. One strength of the collection is a scrapbook, 1970-1984, which contains publicity for Shapcott’s books, copies of reviews written by or about Shapcott, and other related material. There are also 12 audio cassettes in the collection which feature recordings of concerts for which Shapcott wrote libretti.

Organization
The original order of the collection has largely been maintained by the Library.
Biographical Note

Thomas (William) Shapcott was born in Ipswich, Queensland, on 21 March 1935. He attended Ipswich Grammar School, leaving in 1951 to work in his father's accountancy firm. He continued his education at the University of Queensland, completing an accountancy degree in 1961, and attaining a degree in Arts in 1967. Shapcott established his own accountancy firm in 1972, specialising in taxation for writers, artists and academics. In 1978 he became a full time writer, receiving a number of literary grants and fellowships to continue his writing. Shapcott served as Director of the Literature Board of the Australia Council, 1983-1990, and the Executive Director of the National Book Council, 1991-1997. In 1997 he became the inaugural Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide.

In 1989 Shapcott was awarded the Order of Australia for his services to literature, as well as an Honorary Doctorate of Literature from Macquarie University. Shapcott has also won many prestigious awards for his poetry and prose, including the Grace Leven Award for Poetry 1961, the Sir Thomas White Memorial Prize and the Myer Charity Trust Award 1967, the Canada-Australia Literary Award 1978, the Struga Golden Wreath International Poetry Award 1989 and the Christopher Brennan Award 1995.

Administrative Information

Access
This collection is available for research.

Restrictions on Use
No copying is permitted without the permission of the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation
[Manuscript Item], Papers of Thomas Shapcott, Australian Defence Force Academy Library, MS 114, Series [Number], Folder [Number].

Provenance
The collection was acquired by the Library from Shapcott in February 1990.

Additional Information

Separated Material
Further papers relating to Thomas Shapcott are held by the National Library at MS 5577, and by the Fryer Library, University of Queensland, at UQFL 56.

Series List and Descriptions

Series 1 Novels

This series contains letters, notes, research material, typescript drafts and reader's reports for Shapcott's novels Hotel Bellevue (1986) and The search for Galina (1989), together with an apparently unpublished novel “Travel light, leave no debts” [1976].

1.1 “Travel light, leave no debts” [1976]

This subseries contains a typescript draft and a reader's report for the novel, which appears to be unpublished.

Folder 1
Original typescript, 235 p.; reader's report from Craig Munro of University of Queensland Press, April 1976

1.2 Hotel Bellevue (1986)
This subseries contains letters, notes, research material, typescript drafts and a reader’s report for the novel, which was first published in 1986 by Chatto & Windus, London.

Folder 1
“The golden orb” (early title) original typescript draft, approximately 100 pages; manuscript outline; letter to Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, 16 July 1981; notes and research material, including photocopied newspaper clippings, 1977-1979, concerning demolition of the Belle Vue Hotel and an alleged Belmont slave camp

Folder 2
“In the park: a prelude chapter to the novel Hotel Bellevue” typescript draft, 5 p.

Folder 3

Folder 4
Annotated typescript and typescript photocopy draft

Folder 5
Annotated typescript draft, 227 p.

Folder 6
‘Replacement pages rewritten to avoid libel problems’, pages 81-87, 170-171, 20 December 1985

Folder 7
Heavily edited typescript draft, 227 p.; sample page proofs; letter from Chatto & Windus and The Hogarth Press, November 1986

Folder 8
Heavily edited typescript photocopy final draft, 227 p.

1.3 The search for Galina (1989)

This subseries comprises typescript drafts for the novel, which was first published in 1989 by Chatto & Windus, London. The second edition was published in 1990 by Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, New South Wales.

Folder 1
Folder 2
  Typescript draft, 308 p.

Folder 3
  Typescript photocopy second draft, 242 p.

Folder 4
  Typescript photocopy draft, 240 p.

**Series 2 Short Stories**

Shapcott’s short story collection *Limestone and lemon wine* was first published in 1988 by Chatto & Windus, London. The second edition was published in 1990 by Black Swan, Sydney. The series includes drafts and page proofs for *Limestone and lemon wine*, together with early drafts and revisions for many of the short stories published in the collection. There are also drafts of other short stories, some of which may be unpublished.

2.1 *Limestone and lemon wine* (1988)


Folder 1
  “Telephone links” (early collection title) annotated typescript and typescript photocopy draft, with note 'sent to RC and JB to read'

  This draft includes “Telephones”, “Lessons”, “The competition portrait” (marked as 'sent to Arnold Earnshaw and Coast to Coast 27/5/86’), “Small town story”, “The phantom baiter”, “Territories” and “Firemen's helmets”

Folder 2
  Annotated typescript and typescript photocopy revised draft, marked as 'sent to Carmen Callil and Chatto & Windus'

wine”, “Long service accrual” and “Telephones” (marked as ’Also sent to Geoffrey Dutton, July 1986’)

Folder 3
“Lemon wine” (early collection title) typescript photocopy draft, marked ’Canada (to come)’, 28 August 1986


Folder 4
Typescript photocopy draft, with note to Rose [?], 1 April 1987

This draft includes “Progressive barn dance” (not included in final collection), “Water and blood”, “Hec Williams”, “Lemon wine”, “The honey drum”, “The phantom baiter”, “Firemen's helmets” and “Long service accrual”

Folder 5
“Lemon wine” (early collection title) typescript photocopy draft, 21 January 1987, marked as ’Pianist and mother missing (sent to Women’s Weekly)’ and ’Canada with Tim [Read], 11/2/87’


Folder 6
“Limestone and lemon wine” annotated typescript final draft

2.2 Early drafts of short stories appearing in *Limestone and lemon wine* (1988)

This subseries contains various drafts of the short stories that were included in *Limestone and lemon wine* (1988). The stories were generally written in the years 1984-1988, although many are undated. They are listed in the order in which they appear in the collection.

Folder 1
“The phantom baiter” annotated typescript photocopy draft; “The competition portrait” four annotated typescript photocopy drafts

Folder 2
“Territories” five annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts; “Small town story” three annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts, including one originally titled “Agencies”

Folder 3
“Firemen’s helmets” eight annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts

Folder 4
“George’s centre” three annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts; “The honey drum” four annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts, including one originally titled “Cyril and Euphemia May”

Folder 5
“Long service accrual” nine annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts, including one originally titled “The sack”

Folder 6
“G. H.” three annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts, including one originally titled “H. G.”; “Water and blood” four annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts

Folder 7
“Pianist and mother” five annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts, including drafts originally titled “The pianist's mother”; “Hec Williams” three annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts

Folder 8
“Lessons” four annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts
Folder 9
“Lemon wine” seven annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts

Folder 10
“Canada” nine annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts

Folder 11
“I own the game” four annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts, including drafts originally titled “Leon”; “Telephones” five annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts

2.3 Other Short Stories

This subseries contains drafts of the short stories “Alex Sanger”, “Feather and claw”, “The Habsburg mouth”, “Progressive barn dance”, “Russian diary” and “Visiting James Dickey, 1986”. Each story has a number of revisions but no date. The stories are listed in alphabetical order.

Folder 1
“Alex Sanger” typescript draft; “Feather and claw” annotated typescript photocopy draft; “The Habsburg mouth” (originally titled “The Habsburg nose”) four annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts, including two drafts dated 11-18 July 1985, together with a letter to Rosemary Creswell, 17 July 1985 and a reader’s comment by Jean [?]

Folder 2
“Progressive barn dance” seven annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts; “Russian diary” three annotated typescript and typescript photocopy drafts, together with a note to Rose [?], 31 December 1985; “Visiting James Dickey, 1986” annotated typescript photocopy draft

**Series 3 Poetry**

This series contains manuscript and typescript drafts of Shapcott's poetry collection *Travel dice* (1987), which was published by the University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, Queensland.

*Travel dice* (1987)

Folder 1
Manuscript and typescript drafts of numerous poems in various stages, many heavily annotated
Series 4 Dramas and Dance Pieces


Folder 1
*The litanies of Julia Pastrana* (1983) typescript photocopy first draft of radio version, recorded but not broadcast by the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation), September 1983; “Motel room: a play in one act” typescript photocopy draft; “Public bar: a play in one act” typescript photocopy draft; “Dhang Hyang Kapulugan: dance of an old tiger” typescript photocopy fourth draft, 28 p.

Series 5 Other Prose


5.1 *The Literature Board, a brief history* (1988)

Shapcott's history of the Literature Board of the Australia Council, and its predecessor the Commonwealth Literary Fund, was published in 1988 by the University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, Queensland.

Folder 1

5.2 *The art of Charles Blackman* (1989)
The art of Charles Blackman was published by Andre Deutsch, London, in 1989. Shapcott's first study of the artist Charles Blackman, Focus on Charles Blackman, was published in 1967 by the University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, Queensland.

Folder 1
“Art of Charles Blackman” typescript photocopy final draft, 93 p.


This series contains a collection of items kept in a large scrapbook by Shapcott over the period 1970-1984. The scrapbook predominantly contains newspaper clippings concerning Shapcott and his work, his writing style and influences, and his place in the Australian literary scene. There are copies of interviews given, reviews of all his books, copies of nearly all book reviews written by Shapcott, articles and criticisms written by Shapcott for journals and newspapers, as well as correspondence. Other items include letters from publishers and newspapers, promotional material and dummy book covers, and programs for musical performances featuring libretti written by Shapcott.

Folder 1-2
Contents of scrapbook

Series 7 Photographs, 1941-1971

This series contains a number of photographs concerning Shapcott's childhood and family life, 1941-1950, together with photographs of a production of The seven deadly sins (1971), an opera with which Shapcott was involved.

Folder 1
Photograph album marked 'Tom - snapshots 1941-1950', containing primarily family photos which document holidays, school years, marriages and other special occasions, including approximately 80 captioned black and white photographs

Folder 2
Photograph album marked 'Opera - The seven deadly sins, Queensland Opera Company', including 39 captioned black and white photographs of the production

This series contains of audio cassettes relating primarily to Shapcott’s musical interests. Shapcott began writing libretti for composer Colin Brumby in 1969, collaborating on such works as Five days lost (1970), A ballad for Saint Cecilia (1970), I Tarocchi (1975), Orpheus Beach (1978), Three baroque angels (1979), Tenebrae (1985) and The vision and the gap (1985). He has also collaborated with composers Alan John, Bruce Mills, David Watson and others. Recordings of a number of these works are included in this series.

Folder 1
QUMS Concert (including Orpheus Beach), October 1978

Folder 2
Robert Ashley interview and reading of “The park” and “The backyard”

Folder 3-4
Australian Film Special

Folder 5
Tenebrae, Queensland University Chorale conducted by Colin Brumby, recorded in St John's Cathedral, 5 April 1985

Folder 6
A canticle for Karoly Pulszky (1982)

Folder 7
The vision and the gap, QUMS and Queensland Theatre Orchestra conducted by Colin Brumby, 22 May 1985

Folder 8

Folder 9
Orpheus Beach; Reading, Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education, May 1978

Folder 10
Three baroque angels and I Tarocchi

Folder 11
Celebration music by Shapcott for Bruce Mills, Queensland Youth Orchestra, Australian Youth Jazz Band and SCAT, 8 October 1982
Folder 12

*A ballad for Saint Cecilia, Twelve bagatelles and Five days lost*

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