Reference number: UQFL 32

Guide to the Papers of Olga Masters

The University of Queensland Library, Fryer Library

2000

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Summary

Creator: Masters, Olga, 1919-1986
Title: Papers of Olga Masters
Date range: 1936 - 1989
Reference number: UQFL 32
Extent: 11 boxes
Repository: The University of Queensland Library, Fryer Library

Biographical Note

Olga Masters (1919-1986) was born in Pambula, NSW. She worked as a journalist on the Cobargo Chronicle.

In 1940 she married Charles Masters and over the following twenty years, they lived in New South Wales country towns and had a family of seven children.

Olga Masters continued working as a journalist for the Northern Star in Lismore and later for the Manly Daily, the Land and the Sydney Morning Herald.

She began her writing career in 1975. The Home Girls (1982), her first collection, won a National Book Council Award. This was followed by Loving Daughters (1984), A Long Time Dying (1985), and Amy's Children (1987). Her last collection, The Rose Fancier and her playscript A Working Man's Castle were both published in 1988.

A collection of her journalism, Reporting Home, was published posthumously in 1990. The University of Queensland Press published the Collected Stories of Olga Masters in 1996.
Administrative Information

Access
Collection is mostly open to research. Parts of the collection containing correspondence are closed. Application to the Fryer Librarian is necessary for access to the closed sections.

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

Related Material
Further manuscript material relating to Olga Masters is held in the University of Queensland Library in the University of Queensland Press Archive UQFL198.

Access Terms

Personal Names
• Jones, Dorothy
• Masters, Charles
• Masters, Chris
• Randall, D'Arcy

Corporate Names
• Australian Bicentennial Authority
• University of Queensland Press

Titles
• Amy’s Children
• The Home Girls
• A Long Time Dying
- **Loving Daughters**
- **The Rose Fancier**
- **A Working Man's Castle**

**Occupations**
- Authors

**Subjects**
- Authors, Australian - 20th Century

**Series List and Descriptions**

**Series 1: Literary Manuscripts**

Folders containing various parts of typescript drafts of *A Long Time Dying, Amy's Children, The Home Girls, Loving Daughters, The Rose Fancier* and *A Working Man's Castle*.

*A Long Time Dying (Box 1 - 2)*

*A Very Dull Place* is the working title of the short story sequence, *A Long Time Dying*, which was published in 1985.

Folders 1 - 7 contain annotated typescript drafts and galley proofs for *A Long Time Dying*.

Folders 8 - 24 contain typescript drafts of each short story on either yellow paper or butcher's paper heavily annotated with the author's handwriting. Some pages are water damaged and stained.

Folder 1 to 6

6 folders containing annotated typescript drafts of various short stories from *A Long Time Dying*, either as fragments or as whole stories.
Folder 7

Galley proofs of *A Long Time Dying*. Annotated typescript p.318 of “A Very Dull Place” and 2 carbon copies.

Folder 8 to 24

Each folder contains one of 17 short stories from the original draft of *A Long Time Dying*. The original wrappings for each short story are postal envelopes of varying size and type. These envelopes are marked with the number and title of each short story and are interfiled within each folder, with each short story in numerical sequence. Folder 8 contains short story 1. Folder 24 contains short story 17.

*Amy's Children* (Box 3)

The novel *Amy's Children* was published in 1987. Folders contain the original edited manuscript draft, various other annotated typescript drafts, the cover proof, galley proofs and set folios for *Amy's Children*. Other items are 1 letter concerning publication and 1 rough time sheet.

Folder 25

Cover proof for *Amy's Children* and annotated typescript papers. Letter from University of Queensland Press.

Folder 26

*Amy's Children*. Original edited manuscript.

Folder 27 - 29

5 annotated typescript draft versions of *Amy's Children*. Some drafts are incomplete with various chapters missing. Rough time sheet included in Folder 29.

Folder 30

Galley proofs of *Amy's Children*.

Folder 31

Set folios of *Amy's Children*.

*The Home Girls* (Box 4)
The Home Girls was Olga Masters' first collection and was published in 1982. Folders contain edited typescript manuscripts and publisher's drafts of The Home Girls.

Folder 32
Edited typescript draft of The Home Girls. Publisher's drafts of preliminary pages for The Home Girls.

Folder 33
“A Young Man's Fancy" and “Adams and Barker.”
Manuscript of annotated typescript draft of “A Young Man's Fancy”. Old Version. Annotated typescript draft of “Adams and Barker”. Old Version. Note about “A Poor Winner” saying Olga Masters can supply ms of this copy.

Folder 34
Edited manuscripts of various short stories from The Home Girls.
- Typescript of “A Poor Winner” attached to photocopy of letter from Geoffrey Dutton (the Bulletin) to Olga Masters 2 Mar. 1981.
- Photocopy of part of “A Good Marriage” from South Pacific Studies attached to typescript of same.
- Envelope labelled “The Creek Way”, with annotated typescript of The Creek Way.
- Envelope with annotated typescript of A Young Man's Fancy”. Photocopy of part of “A Young Man's Fancy” from Stories of Her Life attached to typescript of same.
- Photocopy of part of “Call Me Pinkie” from Sydney Morning Herald 30 July 1977, attached to typescript of same.
- Photocopy of part of “Adams and Barker” from Sydney Morning Herald 27 Dec. 1980 attached to typescript of same.
- Photocopy of first page of “A Good Marriage”.
- Envelope marked with “Ancol” Typewriter Paper logo containing various manuscript and annotated typescript pages from “A Dog that Squeaked,” “The Home Girls,” the title of a short story within the collection entitled The Home Girls and “Mrs Lister.”
- Annotated typescript pages from “A Dog that Squeaked.”

Loving Daughters. (Box 4)

The novel Loving Daughters was published in 1984.

The working title of Loving Daughters was “Small Henry.”
Folder 35
Annotated typescript draft of *Loving Daughters*.

Folder 36-37
Assorted manuscript pages and annotated typescript pages of *Loving Daughters*. Some unsorted.

Folder 38
Corrected typescript of *Loving Daughters* and envelope.

*The Rose Fancier* (Box 5)

*The Rose Fancier* is a collection of short stories, published posthumously, in 1988, by the University of Queensland Press.

Folder 39
Envelope labelled “Bicentennial Originals.” Contains heavily annotated typescript pages with title in the author's handwriting “Whatever Pa Says” an early draft of the fifth chapter of *The Rose Fancier*.

*A Working Man's Castle* (Box 5)

The working title of *A Working Man's Castle* was “Don't Mention It”. *A Working Man's Castle* was published, posthumously, in 1988 by The University of Queensland Press.

Folder 40
Annotated playscript of *A Working Man's Castle*.

Folder 41
Postal envelope containing 2 different annotated playscripts of *A Working Man's Castle*.

Folder 42
*A Working Man's Castle*.

Blue folder with typescript for “Don't Mention It - a Play in Two Acts” by Peg Wilson [pseudonym for Olga Masters?].
**Series 2: Journalism**

Box 6

Folders containing various typescript drafts of published and unpublished short stories written for newspapers and journal by Olga Masters.

Folder 43
Folder entitled "Life and Home Articles". This folder contains 35 manuscripts of untitled newspaper stories addressing various subjects.

Folder 44-45
Two folders of drafts of articles/reviews. Typescript with handwritten emendations.

Folder 46
Typescript draft of “Almost an Ordinary Morning.”

**Series 3: Personal Papers**

Box 7

Personal papers belonging to the Masters family. These include passports, birth, marriage and other certificates, genealogical details, travel documents and photographs. Also birthday cards and condolence cards, telegrams and letters.

Folder 47
Folder marked "Important Documents"

The folder contains the following:

- Certificate of entry in register of births [Charles Masters ].
- Birth certificate of Olga Meredith Lawler.
- Birth certificate of Charles Frederick Masters.
- Marriage Certificate. Charles Frederick Masters and Olga Meredith Lawler
- Birth Certificate of Royden John Masters.
- Birth brief of Quentin Hugh Masters.
- Copy of Birth register for Madoline McGarry.
- Copy of Birth Certificate for Olga Lawler.
- Copy of Marriage register for Alexander George Masters and Frances Eliza Campbell.
- Genealogical details on Masters Family.
• Genealogical details on Lawler Family.
• Genealogical details on Robinson Family.
• Result of search of birth registration records for Sarah Callemore.
• In blue plastic wallet labelled “Travel Strength Limited”. Ephemera related to Masters family trip to Los Angeles. Includes copies of passport photos, receipts for traveller's cheques.

Folder 48

The folder contains the following:
• Australian passport for Olga Masters issued 1974.
• Australian passport for Olga Masters issued 1979.
• Teachers Certificate for Charles Frederick Masters.
• Letter from J. Buggie (Director General of Education) to Mr. C.F. Masters 16 Dec. 1974 re: his retirement.
• Justice of the Peace Certificate of Appointment to Charles Frederick Masters with covering letter.
• Letter from O. Jones (Director of Primary Education) to Charles Masters 24 Nov. 1965 re: placement on the “Fourth” Primary Promoting List.
• Dept. of Education. N.S.W. First Aid Certificate for Charles Masters.
• Envelope addressed to J. Masters labelled “Tax return stuff” 1983/1984

Folder 49

The folder contains the following:
• Article “Take Me to the Printers” by Alex McGregor (mentions Olga Masters under the subheading UQP) in The Sydney Morning Herald Metro 18 Apr. 1986.
• Photo of woman (Olga Masters?) on construction site.
• Letter of reference for Olga Masters from D.C. Murray (Editor, Northern Star Ltd) 22 Mar. 1963.
• Copy of newspaper article “Waltzing Across Literary Australia” by Robert L. Ross in The Los Angeles Times Book Review section 7 Aug. 1988 (section on Olga Masters marked).
• Poem. Begins “Michael's Asleep... ” Copy attached.
• 6 copies of leaflet Their Brilliant Careers: Australian Women Writers from the 1870s to the 1980s (1 segment on Olga Masters).
• Los Angeles Times Book Review 28 May 1989 includes article on p.3 “Throwing Another Tormented Soul on the Barbie” by Jessica Teich which reviews A Long Time Dying and Amy's Children.
• Typescript about Michael's death.
Folder 50 - 53
Folders containing miscellaneous personal items.

- Folder 50 contains: photo, magazine, 1 door plaque to Olga’s room, publicity sheets.
- Folder 51 contains: 1 notebook with miscellaneous notes, 1 birthday card to Olga Masters (1981), 1 envelope with family photographs and an album of family photographs and birthday cards.
- Folder 52 contains 1 diary, dated 1985.
- Folder 53. This folder contains cards and letters of sympathy to Olga Masters regarding her illness, and cards, letters and a telegram expressing sympathy and condolence to Charles Masters, and the Masters family, on the death of Olga Masters. Also contains 1 "In Memoriam" booklet with cards from flowers at funeral.

Series 4: Correspondence

Box 8 and 9

This series consists of 12 folders of mainly incoming correspondence from 1973 to 1989. Correspondence relates primarily to literary activities. Folders contain correspondence with The University of Queensland Press (Box 8), the Australian Bicentennial Authority, the Warana Literary Arts Committee, The Literature Board of the Australia Council, The National Book Council and various other publishers, literary organisations and individuals (Box 9).

Folder 54 - 57
These 4 folders contain correspondence from the University of Queensland Press with enclosures including some newspaper articles, permissions for reprints, invoices and royalty statements in regard to Olga Masters' works *A Long Time Dying*, *Loving Daughters*, and *The Home Girls*, between 1981 and 1988.

Folder 58

This folder contains correspondence from family, publishers, literary organisations and individuals in the form of letters, postcards and Christmas cards. Additional items are 1 poem entitled “London Letter,” 1 photograph and pamphlets from Warana Writers' Week and various conferences and literary organisations.

Folder 59
Correspondence, 1976 to 1984.
Professional correspondence relating to literary functions, festivals, conferences and radio broadcasts. Includes enclosures such as publishing agreement.

Folder 60
Folder containing miscellaneous correspondence regarding trip to Russia, 1985.

Folder 61
Folder labelled "Miscellaneous Correspondence (since Olga’s death)", 1986 - 1987.

This file was kept by Charles Masters after Olga Masters' death. Correspondence includes various business and personal correspondence

- Letter from Martha Waller(?) to Olga Masters 1986.
- Publicity sheets on the SPACLALS (South Pacific Section of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies) 1987 Conference.
- Invitation to the launch of Rooms of Their Own by Jennifer Ellison. (Note to Olga from Jennifer on bottom of page.)
- Letter to Charles Masters from Christopher Williams 16 June 198? and copy.
- Letter to Charles Masters from Dorothy (?) (Dept. of English, University of Wollongong) 13 June 198? with attached copy of a review of Amy’s Children given by Deidre Coleman on the ABC.
- Draft programme for ASAL 86.
- Letter from Suzanne Falkiner (Editor, Room to Move) to The Executors 25 May 1987.
- Declaration of consent for interview with Jennifer Ellison to be published in Rooms of Their Own (unsigned).
- Enrolment form. Macarthur Region Fellowship of Australian Writers One day Seminar 8 Nov. 1986.
- Letter from Leone (?) to Charles Masters n.d.
- 11 copies of Call for Papers for the Olga Masters Memorial Conference 8-10 July 1988.
- Letter from Dorothy (?) (Dept. of English, University of Wollongong) to Charles Masters 11 July 198? 
- Cheque stub for Annual P.L.R. (Public Lending Right) payment 1986/87. (Cheque no. 036663525).
- 2 copies of a brochure on The Public Lending Right Scheme.
Folder 62

Correspondence with The Literature Board of the Australia Council, 1982 - 1987.

This folder contains correspondence regarding applications for grants, also a letter regarding Olga Masters' article “Searching for the Face of Russian Literature,” Russian pamphlets, newspapers and magazines.

Folder 63

Correspondence with enclosures such as newsletters, pamphlets and journals from the National Book Council, includes 3 copies of Australian Book Review, 1984 - 1987.

Folder 64

Correspondence and enclosures in folder labelled "Australian Bicentennial Authority". The folder contains letters and agreement regarding publication of “Harvest”, catalogues and issues of the journal Bicentennial Bulletin New South Wales, 1984 - 1988.
Folder 65
Correspondence from Rosemary Creswell, Literary Agent, regarding film contract for *Loving Daughters*.

Folder 66
Typescript of "Gabrielle" by Linda Pottage with letter to Olga Masters
Nov. 1982

**Series 5: Newspaper Cuttings/Critical Material**

Box 10

Folder 67
Critics' evaluation of *A Long Time Dying*.

Folder 68-69
Reviews and general articles.

Folder 70
Critics' evaluation of *The Home Girls*.

Folder 71
Critics' evaluation of *Loving Daughters*.

Folder 72
Media coverage and tributes.

Folder 73
Newspaper articles from Olga Masters' column in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. One article from *Island Magazine*.

Folder 74
Folder labelled "Miscellaneous Cuttings" which contains various newspaper and journal cuttings regarding articles by other authors; personal and literary items including submission, entry and rejection slips for works by Olga Masters.

Folder 75
Various newspaper and journal cuttings regarding articles, stories and essays by Olga Masters.

Folder 76
Research papers by Dorothy Jones, some with letters to Charles Masters.

Folder 77
Folder labelled Amy's Children. Folder contains 1 letter and an invitation from the University of Queensland Press to the launch of Amy's Children, reviews and photocopies of Amy's Children, as enclosures from the University of Queensland Press.

Series 6: Miscellaneous

Box 11

Folder 78
Folder labelled "Film Loving Daughters." Empty folder.

Separate items in Box 11

8 audiocassettes containing interviews with Olga Masters, readings during Warana Writers' Week, the launch of The Rose Fancier and other readings by various individuals, including Chris Masters.

Audiocassette contents are itemised in the following list:

- Mrs Olga Masters addressing students at Wollongong University about The Home Girls.
- Launch of The Rose Fancier at State Library of NSW and Tribute to Olga Masters.
- Interviews with Olga Masters.
- Warana Writers' Week 1986: Olga Masters.
- Warana Writers' Week 1986: Olga Masters session (Helen Garner, Gerard Windsor and Alison Cotes reading).
- Chris Masters, Maurie Scott, Deb ? and Brian Matthews reading
- The Home Front, No. 2 of 8: "The Threat From The North."
- The Home Front, No. 7: “Hello Goodbye.”
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