Reference number: MS 8241

Guide to the Papers of John Kinsella

National Library of Australia

Canberra
2000

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Encoded by:
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Summary

Creator: Kinsella, John, 1963-
Title: Papers of John Kinsella
Date range: 1980-1993
Reference number: MS 8241
Extent: 1.26 m. (9 boxes + 4 folio packages)
Repository: National Library of Australia, Canberra

Scope and Content
The collection consists of correspondence, personal papers, drafts of poems, and artwork associated with his published volume Night Parrots. The correspondence includes letters from family and friends, fellow poets, and literary and magazine editors. The personal papers are comprised of school and university results and congratulatory letters on academic achievement. The drafts of poems encompass manuscripts, edited typescripts and dummy proofs.

Biographical Note
John Kinsella has written and edited more than thirty books whose many prizes and awards include The Grace Leven Poetry Prize, the John Bray Award for Poetry from The Adelaide Festival, The Age Poetry Book of The Year Award, The Western Australian Premier's Prize for Poetry (twice), a Young Australian Creative Fellowship from the former Prime Minister of Australia, Paul Keating, and senior Fellowships from the Literature Board of The Australia Council. His Poems 1980 - 1994 and volume of poetry The Hunt (a Poetry Book Society Recommendation) were published in May 1998 by Bloodaxe in the UK and USA, and Visitants (Bloodaxe, 1999) has recently been released.

He is the editor of the international literary journal Salt, a Consultant Editor to Westerly (CSAL, University of Western Australia), Cambridge correspondent for Overland (Melbourne, Australia), co-editor of the British literary journal Stand, and International Editor of the American journal The Kenyon Review.
John Kinsella was made a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, in 1997, and has been appointed the Richard L. Thomas Professor of Creative Writing at Kenyon College (USA) for 2001. He is also an Adjunct Professor of English at Edith Cowan University, Perth.

Administrative Information

Access

Preferred Citation

Provenance
The papers were purchased from John Kinsella by the Library in 1990, 1992 and 1993.

Series List and Descriptions


Folder 1
Undated notebooks.
Includes drafts of prose and poetry.

Folder 2
Notebooks, 1980-82, and draft correspondence.
Includes drafts of short stories, poetry and a play “The chimney sweep”, and drafts of letters to Artlook and Fiona Newman.

Folder 3

Folder 4
Notebooks, 1985-86, and drafts of prose and poetry.
Some notebooks were written during John Kinsella's trip to Asia.
Folder 5
  The notebooks contain drafts of poems.

Folder 6
  Notebooks include drafts of poems, essays and reviews of poets.

Folder 7
  Notebooks, 1987-89.
  Notebooks contain drafts of poems, some related to *Night Parrots*.

Folder 8
  Notebook contains drafts of poems.

Folder 9
  Undated notebook.
  Notebook contains lecture notes, and drafts of poems.

Folder 10
  Undated notebook.
  Notebook contain lecture notes, some drafts of poems including early drafts of “Nebuchadnezzar” and “Lasseter”.

Folder 11
  Undated notebook.
  Notebook contains lecture notes, some drafts of poems including “Lasseter”.

Folder 12
  Drafts of short stories and a play.
  The drafts are typed and handwritten; the play is entitled “The chimney sweep”.

Folder 13
  Drafts and pictorial material for *The Book of Two Faces*. 
The drafts are mostly typed; includes photographs of John Kinsella.

Folder 14

*The Frozen Sea.*

Typed drafts and published copy.

Folder 15

Handwritten drafts of poems.

Some drafts are related to *Night Parrots*.

Folder 16

Typed drafts of poems.

Some drafts are related to *Night Parrots*.

Folder 17

*Night Parrots.*

Mostly handwritten drafts and other material related to *Night Parrots*.

Folder 18

“The dance movement of bees”.

Handwritten and typed drafts of poems for this section of *Night Parrots*.

Folder 19

“Lasseter” and “Nebuchadnezzar” drafts.

Handwritten drafts of these poems for *Night Parrots*.

Folder 20

“Lasseter” and “Nebuchadnezzar” drafts.

Typed and corrected drafts of poems for *Night Parrots*.

Folder 21

*Night Parrots.*

Material related to the writing of *Night Parrots*, including 3 photographs of John Kinsella’s great grandfather at the mines.

Folder 22

Typed drafts of *Night Parrots*.
Folder 23
Later typed drafts of *Night Parrots*.
Typed and corrected drafts of poems for *Night Parrots*.

Folder 24
Material related to *Night Parrots*.
Notes on arrangement of poems in *Night Parrots*; draft of letter to Wendy Jenkins; proof photographs of John Kinsella; invitation to launch of *Night Parrots* and programme of poetry readings.

Folder 25
Correspondence.
Correspondence with Fiona Newman, mostly regarding poetry and poets; letters to editors of literary journals including letters to David Brooks.

Folder 26
Diaries written while travelling in Asia.

Folder 27
Diary, August-October 1983.

Folder 28
Letter from Craig Loney.

Folder 29-31
Drafts of experimental prose.
Drafts include “Morpheus: the paradigm”.

Folio 1-4
Artwork associated with *Night Parrots*.

**Series 2: Correspondence, personal papers, drafts and notebooks, 1988-1991.**
The material in this series is part of a consignment received on 25 May 1992.

Folder 32-35
The correspondence includes letters from family, literary and magazine editors, Robert Adamson, Dorothy Porter, Peter Porter, Fay Zwicky, David Brooks and Craig Loney. (The Loney letters are in Folder 28, Box 4, restricted).

Folder 36
Personal papers.

The personal papers include school reports and university results, congratulatory letters on academic achievement, references, and photographs. The notebooks contain manuscript drafts of poems including the “Lilith poems”, notes on Max Dupain's photography and a few pages of diary entries.

Folder 37-47

Folder 48-51
“Lilith poems”.

Contains drafts and final typed version.

Folder 52-54
Proofs of poems from *Eschatologies*.

Includes photocopies of source material particularly related to the divining rod, a theme of one of the series from *Eschatologies*.

Folder 55-58
Typescripts of poems, mainly published in *Eschatologies*.

Typescripts are annotated.

Folder 59
Copies of published works.

Includes *Eschatologies, Ultramarine, The Bird Catcher's Song, and Salt*.

**Series 3: Correspondence, drafts and notebooks, 1989-93.**

The material in this series was received as a consignment on 21 June 1993.
Folder 60-62
Correspondence, 1989-91.

Letters from family members and poets, including Dennis Haskell, Ken Bolton, John Tranter, Fay Zwicky and Anne Brewster; acceptances and rejections from publishers; letters concerning poetry readings and residencies, and submitting poems to Salt.

Folder 63
Syzygy.

Typescript annotated drafts.

Folder 64-66
Full Fathom Five.

Typescript annotated drafts, and comments on the poems.

Folder 67-70

The notebooks contain drafts of poems.

Folder 71
Notebook, 1992-.

The hardcover notebook is entitled “Parallels: an illuminated volume”. It includes drafts of poems, including some for Syzygy, illustrations, photographs, diary entries and addresses of contacts and journals for review. Many of the entries are dated.

Folder 72
Notebook, 1993-.

The hardcover notebook includes personal comments about family.

Folder 73
The Bird Catcher's Song.

Contains poems submitted for this anthology.

Folder 74-76
Salt.

Contains proofs and poems submitted for Salt.
### Box List

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<th>Box</th>
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