Reference number: UQFL 177

Guide to the Papers of John Manifold

The University of Queensland Library, Fryer Library

2000

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Date completed:

September 2000

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This finding aid is published as part of the Australian Literary Manuscript Collections Project, which has received funding from the Australian Research Council's Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (RIEF) Scheme.

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Summary

Creator: Manifold, J.S. (John Streeter), 1915-1985
Title: Papers of John Manifold
Date range: 1953-1976
Reference number: UQFL 55
Extent: 3 boxes
Repository: The University of Queensland Library, Fryer Library

Abstract: The collection comprises typescript and handwritten drafts of poems, plays and short stories as well as a range of writing on literary, political and musical subjects, reflecting Manifold's wide area of expertise and interest. Also included are publications by Manifold and friends and associates, a collection of postcards and some correspondence.

Biographical Note

John Streeter Manifold, 1915-1985, was born in Melbourne and educated at Geelong Grammar School and Cambridge University. After graduating with a degree in modern languages (French and German), he worked as an editor-translator for a German publisher. With the outbreak of the Second World War, he returned to England and served in British army intelligence.

Manifold joined the Communist Party while at Cambridge and on his return to Australia with his English wife in 1949 he settled in Brisbane, Queensland and became active in the cultural and political life of the Party. He helped found the Realist Writers Group in 1950 and worked extensively in the teaching and performance of music, the manufacture of instruments and the collection and publication of Australian ballads and folk music. His publications in this area include Who Wrote the Ballads?: Notes on Australian Folksong (1954), The Violin, the Banjo and the Bones: An Essay on the Instruments of Bush Music (1957) and, as editor, the Queensland Centenary Pocket Songbook (1959) and the Penguin Australian Song Book (1964).

Manifold published his poems and verse translations in a wide variety of journals and magazines; his collections of verse include Verses 1930-1933 (1933), The Death of Ned Kelly and Other Ballads (1941), Selected

Administrative Information

Access
Collection is open to research

Restrictions on Use
See [http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/manuscripts#access](http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/manuscripts#access)

Preferred Citation

Additional Information

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

Access Terms

Titles
- *Bandicoot Ballads*

Subjects
- Folk-songs - Australia
- Poets, Australian - 20th Century

Occupations
- Authors
- Musicologists
- Poets
Series List and Descriptions

Series A: Literary Manuscripts

Plays

Folder/item 1
“The Dumb Wife: A Farce in One Act, Based on Rabelais”. 5 copies

Folder 2

Poems

Folder 3
[Chinese Poems] 5 poems in Chinese characters with English translations, not all by Manifold.

Folder 4
“Crow Behind other Men's Ploughs.” 8 leaves typescript, contents page, copies of verse translations and notes.

Folder 5
[Poems.] Typescript copies of poems from all Manifold's published volumes as well as some uncollected poems. Drafts have almost no emendations. Also handwritten poem entitled “Sketch for an Anthem”.

Folder 6
*Six Sonnets on Human Ecology*. Brisbane: Communist Arts Group, 1974. 9 leaves typescript drafts of poems for this collection. Also includes 2 leaves of author's notes not included in the published version. Other copies of these poems are in Folder 5.

Folder 7
Short Stories

Folder 8
“A Day in the Life of a Mud-Lark”.

Folder 9
“Another of Mitchell's Plans”.

Folder 10

Folder 11
“Demarcation Line 1945”.

Folder 12

Folder 13
“Fraser on Discipline”. 3 copies.

Folder 14
“It's an Old Story”.

Folder 15
“One New Australian”.

Folder 16
“Old Schultz”. 2 copies.

Folder 17
“A Pilgrimage to Mecca”.

Folder 18
“Smoko with the Balkans”. 2 copies.

Folder 19

Folder 20
“Twenty-Odd Years After”.

Folder 21
“Two African Sketches”.
Folder 22
[Untitled]. 6 l typescript of Chapter 1 of a novel or story.

Folder 23
“Websters' Lagoon”.

Series B: Critical and Political Writings

Box 1

Folder 24
“The Arts and the New Nationalism.” 17 leaves typescript.

Folder 25
“The Arts and the Revolutionary Party.” 7 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations.

Folder 26

Folder 27
“Arts Day with the Girl Guides.” 3 leaves typescript.

Folder 28
“Bush Literature Past and Present.” 16 leaves typescript article/lecture discussing the experience of judging the competition for the Bronze Swagman Award. Letter 13 Oct. 1973 re the 2nd edition of Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse and the 1973 competition for which Manifold was judge. Also letters from entrants and photocopies of some poems. See also Series E

Folder 29

Folder 30

Folder 31
Draft of a Preface. 2 leaves typescript. Discusses food and wine in Queensland.
Folder 32
“Foreign Uncle.” 3 leaves typescript re travels in China. Published in *Journal of the Australia-China Society*. See Series E.

Folder 33
“Four Sources: Four Forms.” Lecture on his own poetry. 13 leaves typescript.

Folder 34
“Goddess Foremost in Battle ....” 5 leaves typescript re goddess Athena.

Folder 35
[Heinrich Heine]. Multiple typescript drafts of an essay/article together with translations of Heine’s poems.

Folder 36

Folder 37

Folder 38
“The Little Languages of Europe.” 13 leaves typescript.

Folder 39
“A Lost National Song?” 2 leaves typescript. 2 copies.

Folder 40
“Love Poetry.” 42 leaves typescript.

Folder 41
“A New Red Songbook?” 5 leaves typescript.

Folder 42

Folder 43
“Notes on English Metre.” 27 leaves typescript.
Folder 44
“Notes Towards a Lecture on Bawdy Verse.” 19 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations.

Folder 45

Folder 46
“The Osipov Experience”. 6 leaves typescript re May Day concert by Osipov ensemble in Brisbane.

Folder 47
“The Poets, the Pundits and the Party: A Résumé with Annotations of Benjamin Goriely's 'Les Poètes dans la Révolution Russe'.” 15 leaves typescript. 2 copies.

Folder 48
“Precis of a Contribution to a Statement on Arts and Letters.” 5 leaves typescript.

Folder 49
“Professional Comedy.” 31 leaves.

Folder 50
“Resolution on the Party's Policy Towards Literature (1924).” 5 leaves typescript.

Folder 51
[The Soviet Union]. 5 short typescript articles on various aspects of life in the Soviet Union. One published in Adult Education See Series E

Folder 52
“A Study of A.B. Paterson.” 14 leaves typescript. Also 3 leaves typescript “Notes Towards a Paterson Programme”; 3 leaves typescript “Preliminary Study for a Paterson Programme”.

Folder 53
“The Tragicall History of Hamlet Prince of Denmark.” 6 leaves typescript. 2 copies.
Series C: Radio Scripts

Box 2

Folder 54

Folder 55

Folder 56

Folder 57
“Half an Hour of Traditional Australian Music.” 4 leaves typescript.

Folder 58
“The Princess of Tasmania: Grade IV 15 minutes.” 9 leaves typescript.

Folder 59
“Two Men in a Box: Draft Script for Radio.” 57 leaves typescript.

Folder 60
“The Young Heine: draft for a 30-minute Feature.” Original typescript with covering letter 25 July 1968 from Richard Connolly, ABC, re broadcast; ABC script.

Series D: Musical Manuscripts

The series illustrates Manifold's deep interest and involvement in the teaching and writing of music, instrument making, the development of group musical activities, particularly with children, and the revival of interest in Australian bush ballads. He formed the Bandicoots, a group which conducted weekly musical evenings at his Wynnum home and published Bandicoot Ballads, a series of three sets of broadsheets. He was president of the Federation of Bush Music Groups and also initiated the popular annual Ballad Night.
Box 2

Folder 61

*Bandicoot Ballads* [1953?]. Photocopies of annotated typescript drafts for 5 of these ballads published by Manifold in broadside form and printed by Rams Skull Press, Vic. Each sheet consists of words and music and has a rough pen and ink sketch at the top of the sheet, replaced in the published version with a lino-cut illustration by R. G. Edwards. Titles: “The Stockman's Last Bed”; “The Sheepwasher”; “The Overlander”; “Bill the Bullocky”; “Farewell to the Ladies of Brisbane”.

Folder 62

“Barbecue with Bandicoots.” 5 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations. Discussion of musical evening. Also 1 leaf duplicated typescript outlining program for musical group.

Folder 63

“Bush Orchestra.” 1 leaf typescript.

Folder 64

“Craiglea and Matilda.” 5 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations discussing the music for Waltzing Matilda. Accompanied by 2 leaves music ms. In folder labelled: Side-lines.

Folder 65


Folder 66

[Flutes] Assorted articles, essays, lectures scripts and draft chapters on the history and manufacture of flutes and the development of flute music. Includes “Flutes and the Goddess: Draft Script for Putting it Briefly” broadcast on 4QG. 6 leaves typescript (2 copies); letter 25 June 1976 from Sandra Forbes, Literature Board, Australia Council, asking for progress report on a project on ancient flutes for which Manifold had received a grant of $2000. Note: Rodney Hall in his study *J.S. Manifold: An Introduction to the Man and His Work*, St Lucia, Qld: University of Queensland Press, 1978, refers to an unpublished book *Flutes and the Goddess* on which Manifold was working.

Folder 67

[Folk Songs]. Typescripts and printed broadsheets of folksongs by various authors. 6 items.
Folder 68

Folder 69
Musical scores and arrangements mostly for flutes, piccolos and pipes.

Folder 70
“Notes on Australian Folksongs.” 4, 5, 6, 5, 6, 6, 6 leaves typescript.

Folder 71
“Notes on Musical History.” 11p. duplicated typescript. Possibly lecture given to Communist Party meeting or Communist Arts Group. 4 copies.

Folder 72

Folder 73
“Pipes at Padthaway.” 4 leaves typescript.

Folder 74
“The Queensland Drover: Folk-tune from the Dalby Area Collected and Arranged for Brass Quartet by J.S. Manifold.” 2 leaves music ms.

Folder 75
“Retrospect on Eleven Ballad Nights.” 7 leaves typescript.

Folder 76
“Roll up Young Man.” Ballad by John Manifold; words and music. 4 leaves typescript and music ms.

Folder 77
[Singing Round the Piano] Chapters of a book in progress on community music-making, Typescript top copies and carbon copies.

Folder 78
Series E: Publications

Box 3

Item 79: *Adult Education* 8.4 1964 and 9.2 1964. Former contains article on Soviet education by Manifold (see Series B).


Item 82: *Berkelouw Catalogue* No. 125.


Item 88: *The Flautist* 1.6 1971. Contains article by Manifold on bamboo flutes.


**Series F: Postcards/Correspondence**

Box 3

Folder 95

Letters to John Manifold from:

- Juilliard School, New York 4 Feb. 1966 re using some of Manifold's work.
- Nettie P[almer?] 3 undated postcards.
- Undated from [Ros?] re publishing “Musicians” and “Landscape”.
- Patrick Shea, 20 Dec. 1954 re Ned Kelly and enclosing copy of Irish ballad “Van Diemen's Land”.
- Barbara Ker-Wilson, Angus & Robertson, 6 July 1971 returning four stories offered for publication: “Bougainville and the Bunyip”, “Demarcation Line 1945”, “Fraser on Discipline”, “Smoko with the Balkans”. Short stories are filed in [Series A](#).

Folder 96

Letters from John Manifold:

- Undated (2) [to Katharine?] one while at Cambridge re difficulties studying and one during the war re Agata Lehmann. Both letters handwritten.
• Undated to Bill Sutton re publishing poems in broadsheet form. Two poems attached: “Inner Landscape”; “Castor Speaking”.

• 4 Mar. [n.d.] from the Federation of Bush Music Groups to Mrs Fox re permission to reprint songs. Manifold was chairman of the Federation.

• 19 July to Mr Smith enclosing two poems for inclusion in Queensland issue of *Poetry Australia*. Two poems attached entitled: “Two Sonnets from an Uncompleted Sequence”. [Versions of poems published in *Six Sonnets on Human Ecology*.]

Folder 97

Letter 2 May 1963 from [?] to Dr S Y Wong, Hong Kong. Handwritten note introducing John Manifold.


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**Box List**

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