

Ross Russell:

A Preliminary Inventory of an Addition to His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Russell, Ross, 1909-2000
Title:	Ross Russell Addition to His Papers
Dates:	1970s-1999
Extent:	11 boxes (4.62 linear feet)
Abstract:	This addition includes working papers, reserach files, personal and professional correspondence, resumes, chronology, and other biographical material prepared by Russell. Also present are papers relating to Russell's father and wife, property and financial records, personal photographs, travel diaries, and World War II documents. Of particular interest are more than eighty rolls of jazz negatives.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-03662
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchase, 2002 (Reg. no. 14989)
Processed by:	Liz Murray, 2003
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

This addition to the papers of jazz historian Ross Russell contains material remaining in his estate following his death in January 2000. As with previously received Russell material, this collection was prepared for shipment by La Jolla book dealer Laurence McGilverly whose descriptive notes are found throughout. The bulk of the material consists of Russell's project files covering a variety of subjects from notes and sketches for fiction to jazz topics. Although much of the material is undated, it appears that these files were in use during the last years of Russell's life. Russell's folder descriptions are retained and the folders are arranged alphabetically.

The materials are organized in three series: Series I. Working Papers and Research Files; Series II. Correspondence, 1980-1999; and Series III. Personal.

Russell was working on a book "The Bebop Era" at the time of his death. Materials relating to this project are found in Series I. Also of special interest are more than eighty rolls of jazz negatives taken primarily between 1967-1971 in settings such as Disneyland, San Diego, and at the Monterey and Newport Jazz Festivals. Contact prints, with a descriptive listing derived from Russell's numbered negative sleeves, have been prepared by the HRC to facilitate viewing and identification of these images. While the contact prints are available for patron use, the corresponding negatives are restricted. This series also includes information on Russell's biography of Charlie Parker *Bird Lives!*

The personal and professional correspondence in Series II reflects Russell's wide interests and activities. Correspondents include writer Prudence Crowther, biographer Albert Goldman, music librarian and blues archivist Edward Komara, and Tony Williams of Spotlite Records.

Series III contains resume, chronology, and other biographical material prepared by Russell for different purposes. Also present are papers relating to Russell's father and wife, property and financial records, personal photographs, travel diaries from 1982-1995, and World War II documents.

I. Working Papers and Research Files

"A. B. Blues" (After Bird Blues), music manuscript by Joe Albany	Box 1 Folder 1
The Al Haig project	Folder 2
"The Bebop Era," notes on book idea, 1989	Folder 3
Benedetti, Dean; The Dean Benedetti Story	Folder 4
Big bands, lists	Folder 5
"Bird," litigation	Folder 6
"Bird," screenplay by RR, 1977	Folder 7
"Bird Lives!"	
Quartet Books	Box 1 Folder 8
Reviews, 1973	Folder 9-10
Blue Note	Folder 11
Books, Edward R. Hamilton bookseller	Folder 12
Cadillac Slim, idea for a novel	Folder 13
Characters	Folder 14
"Collecting Hot: 70 Years of It," notes	Folder 15
Collectors' items for auction	Folder 16
Colloquialisms; notes on Jim Deal	Folder 17
Dial Classics, lists	Box 2 Folder 1
"Door to Door: Collecting in the 1930s," RR's presentation at 1994 IAJRC meeting	Folder 2

European labels--Barclay	Folder 3
Freda, notes for fiction	Folder 4
Gray, Martin; "Blues for Bird," poem, 1997	Folder 5
Jazz articles, jazz anthology--lists	Folder 6
"Jazz by Mail"	Folder 7
Jazz miscellaneous	Folder 8
"Jelly Roll" Morton, score	Folder 9
Keynote--Lim, Hammond, Keepnews	Folder 10
L.A. atlas, street maps used for Raymond Chandler biography	Folder 11
Leadbelly	Folder 12
Liners--Dial, Toshiba	Folder 13
Louis Armstrong bus trip, notes	Folder 14
Miscellaneous	Box 3 Folder 1
Names	Folder 2
Notes re jazz musicians and record industry	Folder 3
Photography--RR's jazz negatives sleeves	
Photography--contact prints from jazz negatives	
List; photocopies of negative sleeves	Box 4 Folder 1
#468-565	Folder 2
#569-579	Folder 3
#580-590	Folder 4
#621-649	Folder 5

#650-673	Folder 6
#674-683	Folder 7
#684-694	Folder 8
#695-713	Folder 9
Dial Press PR; Ross Russell; Misc. Ellington; photos used in "Jazz Style in Kansas City"; Apollo Theatre in Harlem; and others	Folder 10
Negatives (RESTRICTED)	Folder 11-21
Photography specifications, especially Rodinol developer	Box 5 Folder 1
Picaros, notes for novel	Folder 2
Pulps, typescript	Folder 3
Recording	
Joe Albany	Box 5 Folder 4
Contracts, rights, titles	Folder 5
Martial Solal	Folder 6-8
Spectra	Box 6 Folder 1
Spotlite masters	Folder 2
Reviews	Folder 3
Ross Russell Collection, description	Folder 4-5
Russell, Bill	Folder 6
Russell, Sanders, poetry	Folder 7
Saga--plot line	Folder 8
Savoy	Folder 9
Social novel	Folder 10

Solo Art, Dan Qualey

Folder 11

Tales of the Jazz Age

Folder 12

Toshiba, Tony Williams

Folder 13

Univ. of Texas at Austin, Symposium, 1992

Folder 14

Westwood, fiction

Folder 15

II. Correspondence, 1980-1999

Crowther, Prudence	Box 7 Folder 1
Daver, Manek	Folder 2
Fraser, Susan	Folder 3
Gardner, Mark	Folder 4
Goldman, Albert	Folder 5-7
Graz	Folder 8
IAJRC, 1994-96	Folder 9-10
Klett, Shirley	Folder 11
Komara, Edward	Folder 12-14
Leake, George	Folder 15
Parque, Steve	Box 8 Folder 1-3
Poston, Ken	Folder 4
Russell, Mary Webster, and RR's letters from South Africa, 1980	Folder 5-6
Snyder, John L.	Folder 7
Stearns, Jean	Folder 8
Williams, Tony	Folder 9
Vail, Ken	Folder 10
Miscellaneous, 1991-1999	Box 9 Folder 1-3
Personal, 1985-1988	Folder 4

III. Personal

Autobiography	Box 9 Folder 5-6
Biographical	Folder 7
Biographical data and proposal-- "The Bebop Era"	Folder 8
Chronology	Folder 9-10
Resume	Folder 11
Borrego Spring property	Box 10 Folder 1-2
Documents--Mary Webster Russell's will, RR's passports, marriage certificate, etc.	Folder 3
Neuhuber, Robert, RR's physician	Folder 4
Photograph album	Folder 5
Photographs, personal	Folder 6-7
Russell, R.M.	Box 11 Folder 1-3
Travel, Europe	
1982	Box 11 Folder 4
1983	Folder 5
1984	Folder 6
1986	Folder 7
1987	Folder 8
1989	Folder 9
1990	Folder 10
1992	Folder 11
1995	Folder 12
Royal Bank of Austria	Folder 13

World War II documents and 1942 *Life* magazine article by RR

Folder 14