

A. L. (Audrey Lilian) Barker:

A Preliminary Inventory of Her Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Barker, A. L. (Audrey Lilian), 1918-2002
Title:	A. L. (Audrey Lilian) Barker Papers
Dates:	1940s-1998
Extent:	16 boxes (6.72 linear feet)
Abstract:	The papers of British writer A. L. Barker reflect her literary life as a novelist, short story writer, free-lance writer, BBC sub-editor for <i>The Listener</i> , and active member of both the English P.E.N. and the Royal Society of Literature.
RLIN Record #:	None
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchase, 2003 (Reg. no. 15201)
Processed by:	Liz Murray, 2004
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

The papers of British writer A. L. Barker reflect her literary life as a novelist, short story writer, free-lance writer, BBC sub-editor for *The Listener*, and active member of both the English P.E.N. and the Royal Society of Literature. Although this collection is incomplete, it does contain the papers Barker had in her possession at the time of her death in 2002, which were originally bequeathed to the English P.E.N. Included here are drafts of many of her novels and short story collections; writings on Stella Benson, Katherine Mansfield, and Leslie Moore; plays for radio and television; literary and research notes; correspondence; photographs; and personal and professional papers. Barker was known as "Pat" to her friends and "A. L. Barker" for literary publishing. She used her married name "Bourne" at the BBC and for public documents, although she was married for only a brief period during World War II.

The papers are arranged in four series: Series I. Works and Related Material, 1940s-1990s; Series II. Correspondence, 1946-1998; Series III. Career-Related Material; and Series IV. Personal.

Series I. Works and Related Material, 1940s-1990s, is divided into Subseries A. Writings, and Subseries B. Works-Related Material. Arranged in alphabetical order, drafts or page proofs of novels in Subseries A include *The Haunt* (1995); *A Heavy Feather* (1978); *The Joy Ride and After* (novellas, 1963); *The Middling* (1968); and *Zeph* (1992). Material for published collections of short stories include *Any Excuse for a Party* (1991); *Element of Doubt* (1992); and *Femina Real* (1971).

Other writings in Subseries A. include story sketches, poems, and reviews from the 1940s; a typescript transcription of Stella Benson's letters to Laura Hutton that Barker sought to have published; a contribution on George Eliot for *Writers and Their Houses*; a lecture on the supernatural for the Royal Society of Literature; two short pieces on Katherine Mansfield and Leslie Moore; typescripts of short stories; and a number of radio and television plays.

Subseries B. Works-Related Material, contains primarily notes for her writing, and research on such topics as photography, plants, themes, quotes, and writers and writing. Barker was a prolific scribbler of ideas on scraps of paper and this subseries contains a substantial number of these notes.

Series II. Correspondence, 1946-1998, is divided into Subseries A. Literary, arranged chronologically; and Subseries B. Personal, arranged alphabetically. The literary correspondence includes letters to and from Barker's agent Jennifer Kavanagh, publishers, the BBC, and literary societies. The personal correspondence includes a small amount of Barker's outgoing correspondence, as well as letters from Sybille Bedford, John Brathy, Penelope Fitzgerald, Jane Gardam, Mary Hocking, Francis King, Pauline Neville, and Isobel Quigly, among others.

The career-related material in Series III reflects her literary activities with organizations such as the Cheltenham Festival of Literature, Lumb Bank, and the English P.E.N., as well as readings and judging for literary awards such as the Katherine Mansfield Prize and the Silver P.E.N. Award. Barker's receipt of the inaugural Somerset Maugham Prize in 1947, and nomination for the 1970 Booker Prize, are also represented.

Series IV. Personal, contains address books, biographical information, a long run of daybooks from 1955-1998, family papers, BBC-related employment material, divorce decree, membership cards, and photographs.

Related Material

Audio cassettes received with the papers, including Barker's public readings and BBC broadcasts, were transferred to the Ransom Center's Sound Recordings collection.

Separated Material

Sound Recordings were transferred to the Ransom Center's Sound Recording collection and are described individually in a list at the end of this finding aid and in a [searchable database](#)

Index Terms

People

Bedford, Sybille, 1911-2006.

Benson, Stella, 1892-1933.

Fitzgerald, Penelope.

Gardam, Jane.

Hocking, Mary.

King, Francis Henry.

Neville, Pauline.

Organizations

PEN (Organization).

BBC Radio.

Document Types

Barker, A. L. (Audrey Lilian), 1918-2002

Daybooks.

Typescripts.

Series I. Works and Related Material, 1940s-1990s

Subseries A. Writings

<i>Any Excuse for a Party: Selected Stories</i> (1991); correspondence, with introduction and jacket copy, 1990	Box 1 Folder 1
Benson, Stella	
"Stella Benson's Letters to Laura Hutton," also titled "Letters to Laura: The Travels of Stella Benson," corrected typescript	Box 1 Folder 2-4
Correspondence, notes, and material relating to Benson and Hutton	Folder 5-6
<i>A Case Examined</i> (1965), novel; sketch of cover design	Folder 7
Early writings, poems, and book reviews, 1940s	Folder 8
<i>Element of Doubt</i> (1992), ghost stories; corrected typescripts and correspondence	Folder 9
<i>Femina Real</i> (1971), short stories; corrected page proofs	Box 2 Folder 1
"George Eliot," in <i>Writers and Their Houses</i> (1993); typescript drafts, research material, and correspondence	Folder 2
"Ghosties and Ghoulies," lecture for the Royal Society of Literature, Oct. 18, 1990; typescript draft, correspondence, and notes	Folder 3
"Glory, Glory Allelujah!," play based on short story for BBC's Thirty Minute Theatre, 1973; typescript drafts and correspondence	Folder 4
"Happy Event," typescript synopsis of dramatized version for radio, Oct. 1985	Folder 5
<i>The Haunt</i> (1999), novel	

First draft, May 1992	Box 2 Folder 6
Second draft, with notes for third draft	Folder 7-8
Notes for third draft, cont'd	Box 3 Folder 1
Draft, 1997	Folder 2
Draft of "The Place," March 1997	Folder 3
Corrections	Folder 4
Notes and correspondence, 1992-1995	Folder 5-6
<i>A Heavy Feather</i> (1978), novel; corrected typescript	Folder 7
<i>A Heavy Feather</i> , typescript, cont'd	Box 4 Folder 1
<i>The Joy Ride and After</i> (1963), novellas	
Corrected page proofs	Box 4 Folder 2
Television adaptation, typescripts, March 1970	Folder 3
<i>Life Stories</i> (1981), autobiography and fiction; typescript drafts	Folder 4
"The Lodger," short story; inserts and notes	Folder 5
Mansfield, Katherine and Leslie Moore	
Introduction to <i>Katherine Mansfield: The Memories of L.M.</i> , typescript, 1985; and introduction to P.E.N. presentation by Day and Powell, 1991	Box 4 Folder 6
"A Question of Identity," essay on Mansfield and Moore, typescript drafts	Folder 7
<i>The Middling</i> (1968), novel; page proofs and publisher's catalog	Folder 8

"Miss Auriole," teleplay; typescript, Jan. 1959	Folder 9
"Pringle," radio play; typescripts, Jan. 1957	Folder 10
Short stories	
Alphabetical by title	Box 5 Folder 1-2
Compiled	Folder 3
Untitled	Folder 4-5
<i>A Source of Embarrassment</i> (1974), novel; reviews	Folder 6
"Tales out of School: The Early Misdeeds of the Famous," contribution to proposed book for charity, untitled typescript, 1983	Folder 7
<i>The Woman Who Talked to Herself</i> (1989), novel	
Notes, incomplete typescript, and correspondence, 1989	Box 5 Folder 8
Notes and corrections	Folder 9
Publicity photographs	Folder 10
"You Could Say," teleplay typescripts, March 1979	Folder 11
<i>Zeph</i> (1992), novel; typescript drafts	
Nov. 1988	Box 5 Folder 12
Nov. 1988, cont'd	Box 6 Folder 1-2
Oct. 1989	Folder 3
May 1992	Folder 4
Correspondence regarding cover and jacket, 1992-93	Folder 5

Subseries B. Works-Related Material

Clippings of reviews and publicity for <i>Apology for a Hero</i> (1950) and <i>Innocents</i> (1947)	Box 6 Folder 6
Notes, literary and research	
Handwritten notebooks, various works	Box 6 Folder 7-8
Handwritten notebooks, cont'd	Box 7 Folder 1-4
Lists of short stories	Folder 5
General research	Folder 6
Notecards and paper slips	Folder 7
Photography	Box 8 Folder 1
Plants and animals	Folder 2
Themes, quotes, and poetry	Folder 3
Various subjects	Folder 4
Works of others	Folder 5
Writers and writing	Folder 6

Series II. Correspondence, 1946-1998

Subseries A. Literary

1946-1949	Box 8 Folder 7
1950-1959	Folder 8
1961-1970	Folder 9
1971-1977	Box 9 Folder 1
1978-1981	Folder 2
1982-1984	Folder 3
1985-1987	Folder 4
1988-1989 (May)	Folder 5
1989, cont'd	Box 10 Folder 1
1990-1991	Folder 2
1992-1996	Folder 3
1997-1998	Folder 4
Undetermined date	Folder 5

Subseries B. Personal

A-D	Box 10 Folder 6
Barker, A.L., outgoing	Folder 7
Brathy, John	Folder 8
E-J	Folder 9
K-W	Box 11 Folder 1
Parties, 1989-1992	Folder 2-4
Unidentified	Folder 5

Series III. Career-Related Material

Almedingen Appeal, 1994-1995	Box 11 Folder 6
Arts Council, grants to writers	Folder 7
Bedford, Sybille; notes, essay, and press clippings	Folder 8
Booker Prize for Fiction, 1970, clippings	Folder 9
Cheltenham Festival of Literature, 1994	Folder 10
English P.E.N.	
Correspondence	
1980-1996 (A.L.B. outgoing)	Box 11 Folder 11
1988-1997	Folder 12
Public Lending Right, 1973-1974	Folder 13-14
Writers and writing	Box 12 Folder 1-2
Writers' Inc., Writers' House Project	Folder 3-6
Financial papers concerning the Galsworthy settlement and lease documents for P.E.N. Clubhouse	Folder 7
Silver P.E.N. Award, 1986 and 1990	Folder 8-9
Katherine Mansfield Prize, panelist, 1984	Box 13 Folder 1
Lamb, Robert; "Reparation," radio play typescript	Folder 2
Lumb Bank and the Arvon Foundation, tutorials, 1984-1988	Folder 3-4

Barker, A. L. (Audrey Lilian), 1918-2002

Moore, Reginald; notes for an obituary	Folder 5
Printed material, general literary	Folder 6
Raban, Jonathan; article about the North Sea	Folder 7
Royal Literary Fund	Folder 8
Somerset Maugham Award	Folder 9-10
South Bank Centre, 1991	Folder 11
West, Rebecca; research materials	Folder 12
Wolff, Charlotte; correspondence, articles, and obituary	Folder 13

Series IV. Personal

Address books	Box 14 Folder 1
Biographical information	Folder 2
Daybooks	
1955-1968	Box 14 Folder 3
1972-1980	Folder 4
1981	Folder 5
1982-1983	Folder 6
1984-1986	Box 15 Folder 1
1987-1990	Folder 2
1991-1993	Folder 3
1993-1994	Folder 4
1995-1996	Folder 5
1997-1998	Box 16 Folder 1
Undated	Folder 2
Family papers	Folder 3-4
Personal papers	Folder 5
Photographs, childhood through retirement	Folder 6-7
Postal supplies	Folder 8

Sound Recordings List

- C 2327 : audiocassettes : "No Word of Love" review
- C 2328 : audiocassettes "Men, Those Fabulous Creatures," short story by A. L. Barker / "Federico's Ghost," a poem by Martín Espada
- C 2329 : audiocassettes Kaleidoscope
- C 2330 : audiocassettes Sybille Bedford on Desert Island Discs, BBC
- C 2331 : audiocassettes The Tea Party!
- C 2332 : audiocassettes Homeless Debate, TX
- C 2333 : audiocassettes "Something of Fancy" by A. L. Barker, read by Joanna Myers
- C 2334 : audiocassettes "Brief Lives," a play performed by Roy Dotrice
- C 2335 : audiocassettes "The Haunt," Tape 1
- C 2336 : audiocassettes "The Haunt," Tape 2
- C 2337 : audiocassettes "The Haunt", Tape 3
- C 2338 : audiocassettes "The Haunt," Tape 4