

Alan Furst:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Furst, Alan
Title:	Alan Furst Papers
Dates:	1961-2005
Extent:	31 boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 1 oversize folder, 1 galley folder (14.62 linear feet), and 1 electronic file (2.5 MB)
Abstract:	The papers of American writer Alan Furst contain drafts of his novels and non-fiction works, as well as articles, book reviews, essays, poems, screenplays, and stories. Correspondence and career-related material are also included.
RLIN Record #:	None
Language:	English.
Access:	Open for research. To request access to electronic files, please email Reference .
Restrictions on Use:	Certain restrictions apply to the use of electronic files. Researchers must agree to the Materials Use Policy for Electronic Files before accessing them. Original computer disks and forensic disk images are restricted. Copying electronic files, including screenshots and printouts, is not permitted.

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchase, 2005 (Reg. no. 15374)
Processed by:	Hope Donovan Rider and Liz Murray, 2005 Born digital materials processed, arranged, and described by Chance Adams and Brenna Edwards, 2015-2022.
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

The papers of American writer Alan Furst contain drafts of his novels and non-fiction, as well as articles, book reviews, essays, poems, screenplays, and stories. Literary and personal correspondence as well as career-related material is also included. The papers are organized into three series: I. Works, 1963-2004; II. Correspondence, 1963-2005; and III. Career-Related Material.

The Works series is subdivided into Subseries A. Books, and Subseries B. Other Writings. Book titles are arranged alphabetically and include the novels *Blood of Victory* (2002), *The Caribbean Account* (1981), *Dark Star* (1991), *Dark Voyage* (2004), *Heart of the Raining Queen* (serialized, 1977), *Kingdom of Shadows* (2001), *Night Soldiers* (1988), *The Paris Drop* (1980), *The Polish Officer* (1995), *Red Gold* (1999), *Shadow Trade* (1983), *The World at Night* (1996) including 1997 screenplay, and *Your Day in the Barrel* (1976). Also present is material for *The Book of Spies* (2002), an anthology of literary espionage edited by Furst, and drafts of *One Smart Cookie* (1987), written with Debbi Fields, founder of the cookie and baked goods chain "Mrs. Field's Cookies." All drafts are typed, rather than handwritten or computer-generated. Revised sections are often typed and taped on top of the original typescript. In addition, the drafts contain many handwritten changes. Frequently present are notes and research material, a succession of drafts, copy-edited typescripts, setting copies, proofs, dust jackets, publicity (including posters for *Dark Star* and *Red Gold*), and reviews. A small amount of editorial correspondence is available for a number of the novels.

Subseries B. Other Writings includes early typescripts such as a graduate school paper on Sir George Savile, a fragment from an untitled first novel, and poems. Also present are newspaper and magazine articles, numerous book reviews, essays, screenplays, and stories. Furst's articles on a variety of topics appeared in popular magazines and newspapers including *Architectural Digest*, *Elle*, *Esquire*, *50 Plus*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Islands*, *New Choices*, *New York*, *The New York Times*, *Pursuits*, *Salon*, and *Seattle Weekly*. The articles are arranged by year of publication and frequently include typescript drafts and tearsheets. Of note is the April 1984 *Esquire* article, "The Danube Blues," which sparked Furst's interest in writing espionage novels. Numerous slides of his 1983 Danube trip are also available. Unproduced screenplays include "Heros of the Last War" (1984), and "Warsaw" (1992). Stories and essays vary in title and topic, such as "A Crisis in Our Lives," for the 1961/1962 *Oberlin Yeoman*, "East Coast Time," "A New York Story," "Schmuck Economics" and "Things in the Woods. "

The correspondence in Series II, primarily incoming letters, is arranged in chronological order from 1963-2005, the bulk between 2001-2005. Correspondents include academics, agents, booksellers, literary associations, publishers, and readers worldwide. The small amount of personal correspondence from friends and acquaintances is virtually all related to Furst's books, with the exception of a 1963 letter from Furst's grandfather Max Stockman in which his grandson is urged to be a teacher and "write as a sideline" in his spare time.

Series III. Career-Related Material includes articles about Furst, book catalogs and festival fliers, contracts and royalty statements, interviews and publicity photographs.

Separated Material

Books, books on tape, and personal effects received with this collection were transferred to appropriate departments within the Ransom Center.

Index Terms

People

Fields, Debbi.

Document Types

Contracts.

Digital images.

Electronic documents.

Galley proofs.

Typescripts.

Series I. Works, 1963-2004

Subseries A. Books

Blood of Victory (2002)

Notes and proposal; early title "The Fools of Time"	Box 1 Folder 1
Research material	Folder 2-5
First draft, fragments, rough order	Folder 6-9
First draft, fragments, cont'd	Box 2 Folder 1-2
Draft fragment, pp. 1-47	Folder 3
Final first draft	Box Folder
Original typescript	Box 2 Folder 4-6
Photocopy	Folder 7
Photocopy, cont'd	Box 3 Folder 1
Final draft	Folder 2-3
Copy edited typescript, 4/7/2002	Folder 4-5
Page proofs, incomplete; dust jacket proofs	Folder 6
Reviews, foreign	Folder 7
<i>The Book of Spies</i> (edited by Furst, 2002), notes, introduction, contracts, correspondence, dust jackets	Folder 8

The Caribbean Account (1981)

"Isn't Life a Fountain?," early title, drafts	Box 3 Folder 9
"Isn't Life a Fountain?," cont'd	Box 4 Folder 1-2

Typescript titled "The Caribbean Account"	Folder 3-5
Setting copy	Folder 6-7
Setting copy, cont'd	Box 5 Folder 1
Reviews	Folder 2
<i>Dark Star</i> (1991)	
Notes, research, book synopsis, and chapter outlines	Box 5 Folder 3-6
Draft	Folder 7-8
Draft, cont'd	Box 6 Folder 1-2
Setting copy	Folder 3-5
Proofs, master set, first pass	Folder 6
Proofs, cont'd	Box 7 Folder 1
Dust jacket copy and jacket proofs	Folder 2
Publicity and reviews (*poster removed to Oversize Folder)	Folder 3*
<i>Dark Voyage</i> (2004)	
Notes	Box 7 Folder 4
First draft	Folder 5-7
First draft, cont'd	Box 8 Folder 1-5
Four intermediary drafts	Folder 6
Four intermediary drafts, cont'd	Box 9 Folder 1-7
Four intermediary drafts, cont'd	Box 10 Folder 1
Map. 1 electronic file: Adobe Illustrator, May 2004	Disk-ID-No. 0507004P_001

Furst, Alan

Setting copy

Original typescript

Box 10 Folder 2-3

Photocopy

Folder 4-5

Correspondence, re copy-editing

Folder 6

Dust jackets

Folder 7

Heart of the Raining Queen (1977)

Setting copy

Box 10 Folder 8

Setting copy, cont'd

Box 11 Folder 1

Serialization in *The Weekly: Seattle's Newsmagazine*, tearsheets (*oversize tearsheets removed to Box 32)

**Folder
2-4***

Kingdom of Shadows (2001)

Research, notes

Box 11 Folder 5-6

First draft, with book proposal

**Folder
7-8**

First draft, with book proposal, cont'd

**Box 12
Folder 1**

Copy-edited typescript

Folder 2-3

Setting copy

Folder 4-5

Proofs

Printer's proof

Box 12 Folder 6

Printer's proof, cont'd

Box 13 Folder 1

Master set, first pass

Folder 2-3

Master set, second pass

Folder 4-5

Reviews, with related correspondence

**Folder
6-7**

Night Soldiers (1988)

Furst, Alan

Notes and research	Box 14 Folder 1-2
Outline and plot summaries	Folder 3
Drafts	
Two uncorrected photocopies to p.109	Box 14 Folder 4-5
Top copy, with corrections	Folder 6-8
Top copy, cont'd	Box 15 Folder 1-2
Edited photocopy	Folder 3-6
Author's proofs	
First set	Box 16 Folder 1-3
Extra set	Folder 4-6
Paperback covers, dust jacket proofs and copy	Folder 7
Publicity, reviews, and related correspondence	Folder 8
<i>One Smart Cookie</i> (with Debbi Fields, 1987)	
Drafts, 1986	
Debbi's copy	Box 17 Folder 1
Master copy	Folder 2
Randy's copy	Folder 3
Copy-edited typescript	Folder 4-5
Correspondence re revisions	Folder 6
<i>The Paris Drop</i> (1980)	Box Folder
"Where's My Chocolate Chip Cookie?," early title, draft	Box 17 Folder 7
"Original manuscript"	Box 18 Folder 1-3
Reviews	Folder 4

The Polish Officer (1995, 2001)

Notes and research	Box 18 Folder 5
Drafts	
"First draft pages"	Box 18 Folder 6-7
"First draft pages," cont'd	Box 19 Folder 1
Intermediary drafts	Folder 2-6
Intermediary drafts, cont'd	Box 20 Folder 1
Setting copy and photocopy (*removed to Oversize Boxes 32-33)	Folder *
Proofs	
Copy-edited, 5/19/94	Box 20 Folder 2-3
Trade paperback edition	
Uncorrected, 6/28/01	Box 20 Folder 4-5
Master set, first pass, 6/28/01	Folder 6-7
Master set, second pass, 7/26/01	Box 21 Folder 1-2
Correspondence and publicity	Folder 3
<i>Red Gold</i> (1999)	
Proposal, "work points"	Box 21 Folder 4
Research	Folder 5
Drafts	Folder 6-8
Drafts, cont'd	Box 22 Folder 1-4
Revisions and notes	Folder 5
Poster (*removed to Oversize Folder)	Folder *

Furst, Alan

Reviews	Folder 6
<i>Shadow Trade</i> (1983)	
Drafts	
First draft, titled "Doubles"	Box 22 Folder 7-8
"Original manuscript"	Box 23 Folder 1-2
Proofs	Folder 3-4
Galleys (*removed to galley files)	Box Folder *
Dust jackets	Box 23 Folder 5
Reviews	Folder 6
<i>The World at Night</i> (1996)	
Novel	Box Folder
Proposal	Box 24 Folder 1
Research, notes	Folder 2
Draft	Folder 3-6
Publicity (*poster to removed to Oversize Folder)	Box 25 Folder 1*
Reviews	Folder 2-3
Screenplay, with James B. Harris	
First draft	Box 25 Folder 4
Draft titled "Soldiers of the Night," 1997	Folder 5
Draft, 1998	Box 26 Folder 6
<i>Your Day in the Barrel</i> (1976)	
Final draft	Box 25 Folder 7
Reviews and correspondence	Folder 8

Poster for reading at Montana Books, Seattle (*removed to Oversize Box 32)	Box Folder *
Subseries B. Other Writings	
"The Aphorisms of Sir George Savile," graduate school paper, 1963-1964	Box 26 Folder 1
Articles (*oversize removed to Box 32)	Box Folder *
Absolut vodka ads, various dates	Box 26 Folder 2
1976, 1981, Seattle Weekly	Folder 3
1983-1984, <i>Esquire</i> and <i>Islands</i>	Folder 4-9
1985-1987, <i>Esquire</i> , <i>Architectural Digest</i> , <i>Elle</i>	Box 27 Folder 1-3
1988-1990, <i>50 Plus</i> , <i>International Herald Tribune</i> , <i>New Choices</i> , <i>Pursuits</i>	Folder 4-6
2001-2002, <i>New York</i> , <i>Salon</i> , <i>The New York Times</i>	Folder 7-9
Book reviews	Folder 10-11
"First novel" fragment, spring 1963	Folder 12
"The Last Catalogue," with Jim Peterson	Folder 13
Notes, typescript and handwritten fragments	Folder 14
Poems, ca. 1969-1970	Folder 15
Screenplays	
"Heros of the Last War," screenplay	
Treatment, ca. March 1984	Box 28 Folder 1

Furst, Alan

Screenplay, second draft, October 1984, for Northwest Indies, Inc.

Folder 2

"Warsaw," screenplay

First revision, July 14, 1992

Box 28 Folder 3

Photocopy

Folder 4

Stories and essays, 1961-1983, and nd

**Folder
5**

Series II. Correspondence, 1963-2005

1963, letter from grandfather with photographs	Box 29 Folder 1
1975-1986	Folder 2
1988-1992, Paris	Folder 3
1993-2000	Folder 4
2001	Folder 5-6
2002	
January-March	Box 29 Folder 7
April-June	Folder 8
July-September	Folder 9
October-December	Box 30 Folder 1
2003-2005	Folder 2-4

Series III. Career-Related Material

Articles about Furst	Box 30 Folder 5
Book catalogs and fliers	Folder 6
Book festivals, fliers	Folder 7
Contracts, with related correspondence	
<i>The Caribbean Account</i>	Box 30 Folder 8
<i>Dark Star</i>	Folder 9
<i>The Heart of the Raining Queen</i>	Folder 10
<i>Night Soldiers</i>	Folder 11
<i>One Smart Cookie</i>	Folder 12
<i>The Paris Drop</i>	Folder 13
<i>The Polish Officer</i>	Folder 14
<i>Red Gold</i>	Box 31 Folder 1
<i>Shadow Trade</i>	Folder 2
<i>Your Day in the Barrel</i>	Folder 3
Magazine articles	Folder 4
Other works	Folder 5
Interviews	Folder 6
Photographs, personal and publicity (*oversize contact prints, April 1, 1981, removed to Box 32)	Folder 7*
Royalty statements and related correspondence	Folder 8

Furst, Alan

Box 32-33 Folder Oversize materials