

Barry Unsworth:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers in the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Unsworth, Barry, 1930-2012
Title:	Barry Unsworth Papers
Dates:	1965-2007
Extent:	13 boxes (5.04 linear feet)
Abstract:	The materials in the Barry Unsworth Papers consist of items related to fifteen of the sixteen novels written by the author through 2006, including handwritten drafts, notebooks, typescripts with handwritten corrections, and correspondence. Also present are articles, essays, book introductions, book reviews, short stories, and travel pieces authored by Unsworth, as well as personal correspondence, fan mail, and interviews.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-05070
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchase, 2007 (R15440)
Processed by:	Stephen Cooper, 2007
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

The materials in the Barry Unsworth Papers consist of items related to fifteen of the sixteen novels written by the author through 2006, including handwritten drafts, notebooks, typescripts with handwritten corrections, and correspondence. Also present are articles, essays, book introductions, book reviews, short stories, and travel pieces authored by Unsworth, as well as personal correspondence, fan mail, and interviews. The collection is organized into two series: I. Works, 1965-2006 and II. Correspondence, 1974-2007.

The majority of Series I. is made up of handwritten drafts of Unsworth's novels, arranged chronologically. The earliest works are written on loose sheets and the later, beginning with *Sugar and Rum* (1988), are written into notebooks. Only one novel, *The Greeks Have a Word for It* (1967), is not represented by any materials in the archive. Additional notebooks contain notes, research, and journal entries related to novels Unsworth published in the 1980s and later, as well as notebooks from as early as 1965 with mainly general content not necessarily relating to any of his works. In many of these notebooks is a wide range of research that is reflected in the expansive themes of Unsworth's historical novels, covering places, topics, and time periods as varied as fourteenth-century England, Renaissance Venice, the eighteenth-century Atlantic slave trade, Constantinople at the turn of the twentieth century, and twentieth-century London. Typescripts with handwritten corrections are included with the materials beginning with *After Hannibal* (1996), and three folders contain articles, essays, short stories, travel pieces, and book reviews and introductions. Interviews given by Unsworth between 1987 and 1999 for magazines, journals, and one website fill the final folder of this series.

Series II. contains three folders of professional correspondence to and from Unsworth's publishers and agents, much of it typed, with some handwritten letters and a large number of printed emails and faxes. Perhaps as much as half of the correspondence is from Giles Gordon, Unsworth's longtime literary agent, while the remainder consists of letters to and from editors at the publishing house of Hamish Hamilton, which was later acquired by Penguin. Three additional folders contain correspondence with friends and fans, for the most part related to one or more of his novels. All of the correspondence was in rough chronological order upon arrival, and a small amount of organizing was done to complete this arrangement.

Series I. Works, 1965-2006

<i>The Partnership</i> (1966), handwritten draft	Box 1 Folder 1-3
<i>The Hide</i> (1970)	Folder
Handwritten 1st draft	Folder 4-6
Handwritten 2nd draft	Folder 7-8
Handwritten 2nd draft, cont'd	Box 2 Folder 1
<i>Mooncranker's Gift</i> (1973)	Folder
Handwritten draft "of just 30 pages"	Folder 2
Handwritten draft, titled "The Groom"	Folder 3-5
<i>The Big Day</i> (1976)	Folder
Early handwritten draft	Folder 6-8
Handwritten 2nd draft	Box 3 Folder 1-2
<i>Pascali's Island</i> (1980)	Folder
Handwritten draft	Folder 3-4
"Derived notebook"	Folder 5
<i>The Rage of the Vulture</i> (1982)	Folder
Early handwritten draft	Folder 6-7
Early handwritten draft, cont'd	Box 4 Folder 1
"Complete" handwritten drafts, part 1 and part 2	Folder 2-6
Small notebook	Folder 7
Notebooks "A" and "B"	Box 5 Folder 1-2
<i>Stone Virgin</i> (1985)	Folder

Handwritten draft	Folder 3-5
“Venice notebook”	Folder 6
<i>Sugar and Rum</i> (1988)	Folder
Handwritten 1st draft notebook	Folder 7
Handwritten 2nd draft notebook 1	Folder 8
Handwritten 2nd draft notebooks 2 and 3	Box 6 Folder 1-2
Handwritten rewrite of 2nd draft pp 141-169	Folder 3
<i>Sacred Hunger</i> (1992)	Folder
Handwritten final draft	Folder 4-8
“2nd workbook B”	Box 7 Folder 1
<i>Morality Play</i> (1995)	Folder
Handwritten preliminary draft, titled “The Devil’s Fool”	Folder 2
Handwritten 2nd draft notebook 1	Folder 3
Handwritten 2nd draft notebook 2; also contains 50 2nd draft pages of <i>After Hannibal</i> , titled ??Umbrian Mosaic??	Folder 4
<i>After Hannibal</i> (1996; drafts titled “Umbrian Mosaic”)	Folder
Handwritten rough draft and 3rd draft	Folder 5-6
Handwritten 2nd draft	Folder 7-8
Typescript with handwritten corrections	Box 8 Folder 1-2
<i>Losing Nelson</i> (1999)	Folder
Handwritten preliminary draft notebook A	Folder 3

Handwritten 2nd draft, titled "England Expects"	Folder 4-5
Handwritten 3rd draft	Folder 6-9
Notebook	Folder 10
Two notebooks	Box 9 Folder 1
Typescript with handwritten corrections	Folder 2-3
<i>The Songs of the Kings</i> (2002; drafts titled "Iphigeneia")	Folder
Handwritten 1st draft	Folder 4
Handwritten 2nd draft	Folder 5-6
Handwritten 3rd draft	Folder 7-8
Handwritten 3rd draft, cont'd	Box 10 Folder 1
Typescript with handwritten corrections	Folder 2-3
"Iphigeneia" notebook	Folder 4
<i>Crete</i> (2004)	Folder
Handwritten draft	Folder 5
Typescript with handwritten corrections	Folder 6
<i>The Ruby in Her Navel</i> (2006; handwritten drafts titled "The Mirrors of Favara")	Folder
Handwritten 1st draft	Folder 7-8
Handwritten 2nd draft	Folder 9
Handwritten 2nd draft, cont'd	Box 11 Folder 1-2
Handwritten 3rd draft	Folder 3-4
Typescript with handwritten corrections	Folder 5-7

Notebook	Box 12 Folder 1
Shorter works and related materials	Folder
Articles, essays, book introductions	Folder 2
Book reviews, 1986-2006	Folder 3
Handwritten notebooks	Folder
1965-1983	Folder 4
1978-1991	Folder 5
1983-1987	Folder 6
1983-2002	Box 13 Folder 1
Interviews of Unsworth, 1987-1999	Folder 2
Short stories and travel pieces, 1993-2002	Folder 3

Series II. Correspondence, 1974-2007

Professional letters	Box 13 Folder
1987-1993	Folder 4
1994-1995	Folder 5
1996-2007	Folder 6
Personal and fan mail	Folder
1974-1992	Folder 7
1993-1998	Folder 8
1999-2006, undated	Folder 9