

Joanna Richardson:

An Inventory of Her Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Richardson, Joanna, 1925-2008
Title:	Joanna Richardson Papers
Dates:	1844-1969 (bulk 1945-1969)
Extent:	10 document boxes, 1 oversize folder (osf), 1 galley folder (gf) (4.20 linear feet)
Abstract:	The Joanna Richardson Papers consist of manuscript and typescript drafts, page proofs, incoming letters, scrapbooks, research notes, and clippings documenting her early work as a biographer, translator, literary critic, and journalist from 1945 to 1969.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-3519
Language:	English and French
Access:	Open for research. Part or all of this collection is housed off-site and may require up to three business days notice for access in the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Please contact the Center before requesting this material: reference@hrc.utexas.edu

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchase, 1964 (R2088)
Processed by:	Shelley Rowland, 2009; updated by Heather Bollinger, 2012
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

Joanna Leah Richardson (1925-2008) was a prolific biographer, translator, literary critic, and journalist, known for her studies of nineteenth and early twentieth-century French and English authors.

Born on August 8, 1925, in London, England, Joanna Richardson was the daughter of Frederick and Charlotte Richardson. She spent her childhood at Hampstead Garden Suburb and was educated at the Downs School, Seaford, in Sussex. She then studied at St. Anne's College, Oxford, where she read modern languages. After graduation, she worked briefly as a research assistant to the illustrations editor of *Chambers's Encyclopaedia*, and then became a correspondent for the *New English Weekly*. She later returned to Oxford to do research under Enid Starkie, a literary critic and biographer of nineteenth-century French poets.

Richardson began her career as a biographer in 1952, with the publication of *Fanny Brawne: A Biography*, a study of the muse of poet John Keats. Her other biographies and studies of English poets include *Edward FitzGerald* (1960), *The Pre-Eminent Victorian: A Study of Tennyson* (1962), *The Everlasting Spell: A Study of Keats and His Friends* (1963), *Edward Lear* (1965), and *The Life and Letters of John Keats* (1981).

In 1958, Richardson published *Théophile Gautier: His Life and Times*, the first of many biographies of French authors. Her later works included *Verlaine* (1971), *Stendhal* (1974), *Victor Hugo* (1976), *Zola* (1978), *Colette* (1983), *Judith Gautier* (1986), and *Baudelaire* (1994). In 1989, Richardson was awarded the prestigious Prix Goncourt for biography for *Judith Gautier*, becoming the first non-French author to receive the award.

In addition to her biographies of authors, Richardson published biographies of historical figures such as Princess Mathilde Bonaparte, George IV, Leopold I of Belgium, and Louis XIV. She translated the poems of Verlaine and Baudelaire into English, as well as Théophile Gautier's *Mademoiselle de Maupin*. She contributed articles and reviews to numerous newspapers, magazines, and academic journals. She also contributed to BBC radio programs, recording features on literary history and translating plays for the radio from the French.

Richardson was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1959, and she served on the council from 1961 to 1987. She was appointed a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1987. Oxford University awarded her a DLitt several years before her death. Richardson died on March 7, 2008, at age 82. At the time of her death, she was writing a biography of Gustave Flaubert.

Sources:

"Dr. Joanna Richardson." *The Times* (London), March 24, 2008, p. 48.

"Joanna Richardson." *Contemporary Authors Online*, <http://galenet.galegroup.com> (accessed 13 October 2009).

"Joanna Richardson." *The Daily Telegraph* (London), March 12, 2008, p. 23.

Plowright, Piers. "Joanna Richardson." *The Independent* (London), March 18, 2008, p. 42.

Scope and Contents

The Joanna Richardson Papers consist of manuscript and typescript drafts, page proofs, incoming letters, scrapbooks, research notes, and clippings documenting her early work as a biographer, translator, literary critic, and journalist from 1945 to 1969. The material is arranged in two series: I. Works and Translations, 1953-1969, and II. Career and Personal Papers, 1844-1965 (bulk 1945-1965). This collection was previously accessible through a card catalog but has been re-cataloged as part of a retrospective conversion project.

Series I., Works and Translations, contains manuscripts, typescripts, and page proofs from Richardson's early biographies of European literary and historical figures, including *My Dearest Uncle: A Life of Leopold I, First King of the Belgians* (1961), *The Pre-Eminent Victorian: A Study of Tennyson* (1962), *The Everlasting Spell: A Study of Keats and His Friends* (1963), and *Princess Mathilde* (1969). Also present are manuscripts, typescripts, and page proofs for her series of biographies on the formative years of famous authors and historical figures. These include *The Young Lewis Carroll* (1963), *The Young Louis Pasteur* (1964), *The Young Tennyson* (1964), and *The Young Sarah Bernhardt* (1965). Richardson published the latter two works under the pseudonym Charlotte Hope.

Also present in Series I are a number of Richardson's articles, radio broadcast scripts, and lectures on British and French literary and cultural history. Richardson's work as a translator is represented by her translations of *A New Lease of Life* by Georges Simenon, plays by Charles Cordier and Michel de Ghelderode, and several poems by Verlaine. The collection contains a bound two-volume copy of her thesis, *Théophile Gautier: Journalist and Critic*. Other unpublished works in this series include *The Londoners*, an anthology of literary excerpts depicting historical London, and *Tatterdemalion*, a children's story.

Incoming letters, scrapbooks, research notes, and clippings comprise the bulk of Series II., Career and Personal Papers. Most incoming letters in the collection are from colleagues, publishers, and BBC radio staff and pertain to Richardson's published works, radio programs, and research. Incoming letters are also located in Richardson's scrapbooks. No outgoing correspondence is present in the collection.

Four scrapbooks document Richardson's career from 1950 to 1965, containing manuscript and typescript drafts of reviews and articles, newspaper clippings of items by and about Richardson, notes, incoming letters, and contracts. Research notes, transcriptions, and clippings document Richardson's research on a wide range of subjects and time periods.

Index Terms

People

Richardson, Joanna

Subjects

Biography--19th century

Biography--20th century

French literature--19th century

English literature--19th century

Document Types

Drafts

First drafts

Galley proofs

Manuscripts for publication

Page proofs

Radio scripts

Typescripts

Series I. Works and Translations, 1953-1969, undated

Articles, A-Z, 1958-1963, undated

Container 1.1

"The Critic and the Public," typescript with corrections and printer's notes, for *Essays by Divers Hands*, Vol. 32, 11 pp., 1961, 1963

"Dew-drops for the Opening Bud," adaptation of radio script "Children and What to Do with Them," proof sheet, 1 pp., undated

"A More Than Auditory Experience," carbon copy, 2 pp., undated

"New Light on the Hotel Pimodan," typescript, 3 pp., undated

"Sound Radio and Its Needs," undated

Manuscript and typescript with corrections, 5 pp.

Typescript with corrections and inserts, 7 pp.

Typescript with corrections, 2 pp.

Carbon copies, three copies, 2 pp. each

"Théophile Gautier fils: Auteur d'une oeuvre de son père?," typescript, 6 pp., undated

"Théophile Gautier: Unpublished and Unrecorded Writing," *The Modern Language Review*, Vol. 53, No. 2, 1958

The Disastrous Marriage (1960), unused introduction and plan for book, carbon copy, 5 pp., undated

Container 1.2

The Everlasting Spell: A Study of Keats and His Friends (1963)

Research notes on Charles Brown, bound, 19 pp., undated

Container 1.3

Research notes on Keats and his circle, 62 pp., undated

Postcard, John Keats, bronze cast from a life-mask, National Portrait Gallery, undated

Typescript with corrections, 120 pp., undated

Container 1.4-5

Typescript with corrections, 181 pp., undated

Container 1.6-7

Carbon copy with corrections, 278 pp., undated

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<i>Things Seen</i> by Victor Hugo (1964), corrected typescript fragment, 3 pp., undated	
Lectures, 1963, undated	Container 2.7
"Queen Victoria at Home" (1963)	
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Typescript with corrections, 10 pp., undated	
"Two Elian Editors: John Taylor and J. A. Hessey" (1963)	
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Typescript with corrections, 205 pp., undated **Container 4.1-2**

Typescript with corrections, 99 pp., undated **Container 4.3**

Typescript with corrections, 102 pp., undated **Container 4.4**

Typescript final draft with corrections, 108 pp., undated **Container 4.5**

Radio broadcast scripts, 1953-1963

"Alice and the White Knight: A Study of Lewis Carroll," mimeograph, 18 pp., 1962 **Container 4.6**

"Children and What to Do with Them: A Survey of Victorian Juvenilia," 1963 **Container 4.7**

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Typescript, paste-up with corrections, 10 pp.

Carbon copy, third script, 10 pp.

Carbon copy, fourth script, 14 pp.

Mimeograph copy with insert, 24 pp.

"Etudes et souvenirs: Théophile Gautier en Angleterre," typescript, 6 pp., 1954 **Container 4.8**

"The Growler Age," interview with Sir Charles Tennyson, mimeograph, 19 pp., 1962

"Irving, My Grandfather," interview with Laurence Irving, 1963 **Container 4.9**

Carbon copy with corrections, incomplete, 19 pp.

Transcription of recording, incomplete, 15 pp.

Mimeograph of script, 20 pp.

"Piazza di Spagna, or The English Traveller in Rome circa 1820," 1953 **Container 5.1**

Mimeograph copy with corrections, 35 pp.

Mimeograph script, 35 pp., two copies

"The Pilgrimage of the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bo," mimeograph, 21 pp., 1962

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"The True Elia: A Radio Essay on Charles Lamb," mimeograph, 26 pp., 1963

Reviews, undated

Container 5.3

[Review of four autobiographies], undated

Manuscript/first draft with corrections, 5 pp.

Typescript/second draft with corrections, 1 pp.

Typescript/third draft with corrections, 2 pp.

The King Incorporated, by Neil Ascherson

Manuscript/first draft with corrections, 5 pp., undated

Typescript/second draft with corrections, 1 pp., undated

The Magic Lantern of Marcel Proust, by Howard Moses

Manuscript/first draft with corrections, 2 pp., undated

Typescript/second draft with corrections, 1 pp., undated

Tatterdemalion, typescript, 29 pp., undated

Container 5.4

Théophile Gautier: Journalist and Critic, thesis, bound two-volume typescript with corrections, incomplete, undated

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5.5-6

Translations, 1955-1963, undated

Cordier, Charles

The Beauty from Samos, mimeograph of radio broadcast script, 43 pp., 1955

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The Guinea-Pigs

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Typescript/first draft with corrections, 32 pp., undated

Carbon copy/second draft, 32 pp., undated

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Knock Three Times Three

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Typescript, incomplete, with corrections, 8 pp., undated

Typescript, fragment, with corrections, 1 pp., undated

Typescript with heavy corrections, 14 pp., undated

Carbon copy, 16 pp., undated

Ghelderode, Michel de, "Mademoiselle Jaïre," mimeograph of broadcast script, 51 pp., 1956 **Container 6.2**

Simenon, Georges, *A New Lease of Life* (1963), typescript with corrections, 238 pp., undated **Container 6.3-4**

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"Colloque sentimental" from *Fêtes galantes*, typescript, 1 pp., undated

"L'heure du berger" from *Poèmes saturniens*, typescript, 1 pp., undated

The Young Lewis Carroll (1963)

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<i>Illustrated London News</i> , 1844-1866, approximately 121 items, undated	
<i>The Saturday Review</i> , 1 item, 1888	
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"The Critics on <i>Fanny Brawne</i> ," segment of radio broadcast script, 1952	
[Lear, Edward], <i>Emblems of the Ionian Isles</i> , manuscript, 1 pp., undated	
Richepin, Jean, brief handwritten note to unidentified recipient, undated	
Starkie, Enid, "Flaubert's <i>Madame Bovary</i> ," abstract of lecture given for the Royal Institution of Great Britain, two copies, May 4, 1949	
Unidentified author, "Below Hungerford Bridge, Victory Night, 1946," typescript, 1 pp., undated	
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Finch, Robert, diaries and correspondence	
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Tennyson, Alfred, miscellaneous correspondence (1856-1889), typed copies, undated	Container 10.8

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