

Muriel Spark:

An Inventory of Her Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Spark, Muriel, 1918-2006
Title:	Muriel Spark Collection
Dates:	circa 1931-1960, undated
Extent:	2 boxes (.84 linear feet)
Abstract:	Includes manuscripts and letters written by the Scottish-born British novelist Muriel Spark. The collection contains works and correspondence related to Spark's early career as a poet, critic, and biographer, working with her long-time friend, author and literary scholar Derek Stanford. The correspondence is dominated by letters from Spark to Stanford and exchanges with Spark's former agent, novelist Paul Scott.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-3926
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by:	Joan Sibley and Jamie Hawkins-Kirkham, 2011 Note: This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Works:

Untitled play, handwritten manuscript / partial summary and dialogue fragments, 9 pages, undated. **Container**
1.1

Air for Miss Bassano, by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, typescript, 1 page; carbon typescript, 1 page; undated.

The antithesis of tragedy, handwritten manuscript / note outline, 6 pages, undated.

The black star, handwritten manuscript with revisions, 8 pages, undated. "Story written in last term at school."

Bluebell among the sables, carbon typescript, 1 page, undated.

Chloe, by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, typescript, 1 page; carbon typescript, 1 page; undated. "Translated from the twenty-sixth ode of Horace, Book III."

Chorus of the young girls who died in 1915, by Guillaume Apollinaire, translated by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, typescript, 1 page; carbon typescript, 1 page; undated.

Elegy for the tipsy malingerers of autumn, by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, carbon typescript with handwritten emendations, 1 page, undated.

Family rose, typescript with handwritten revisions, 1 page, undated.

Invocation in a churchyard on All Hallows Eve, by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, carbon typescript, 1 page, undated.

The last word in folly, typescript, 1 page, undated.

The miners, by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, carbon typescript, 1 page, undated.

Notebook, signed handwritten manuscript / drafts with revisions, 75 pages, undated. Includes draft of introduction for Forum 2 and drafts of letters and works. Included with this: AN by Derek Stanford. **Container**
1.2

On music for statues, signed typescript, 1 page, 22 February 1948. **Container**
1.1

Ophelia falls for the wrong sort, by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, typescript, 1 page, undated.

Out of a book (poem), printed sheet, 1 page, circa 1933. Poem written by Spark (Muriel Camberg) at the age of 15 while attending James Gillespie's High School for Girls, Edinburgh. The poem won a trophy presented by the Heather Club to commemorate the centenary of the death of Sir Walter Scott and was printed and sold, with proceeds sent to the Children's Shelter, High Street. Purchase, 2003 (R15175); not described in card catalog.

Poem for a Kensington churchyard, by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, carbon typescript, 1 page, undated.

Poem XVII from Shadows of my love, by Guillaume Apollinaire, translated by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, carbon typescript with handwritten revisions, 1 page; carbon typescript, 1 page; undated.

Poetry notebook, handwritten manuscript, 28 pages, circa 1931-1932. Juvenilia. Contents: The elfin market; They say; Old winds; Pan's piper; The gallop; Colours; Says Beetle; Out of a book.

Rejected schemes in abeyance, typed and carbon manuscript / summaries, 13 pages, undated. Descriptions of Spark or Spark and Stanford projects. Included with these: descriptive note by Derek Stanford. **Container** 1.3

Review workbook, handwritten manuscript / drafts with revisions, 56 pages, undated. Included with this: descriptive note by Derek Stanford. **Container** 1.4

St. Swithin's Eve, carbon typescript, 1 page, undated. **Container** 1.3

She wore his luck on her breast, carbon typescript, 1 page, undated.

Testimony for the second Sunday in August, by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, 2 typescripts, 1 page each; 1 carbon typescript, 1 page; undated.

To the most beautiful part, by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, 2 carbon typescripts, 1 page each, undated. "After the French of Guillaume Apollinaire."

Wanhope-by-the-Pear, typescript, 1 page, undated.

Workbook 1, signed handwritten manuscript / drafts and notes, 24 pages, undated. Included with this: descriptive note by Derek Stanford.

Workbook 2, handwritten manuscript / drafts and notes, 73 pages, undated. Includes drafts of letters. Included with this: descriptive note by Derek Stanford. **Container** 1.5

Workbook 3, handwritten manuscript / drafts and notes, 63 pages, undated. Includes drafts of letters. Included with this: descriptive note by Derek Stanford. **Container** 1.6

Letters:

AL / draft to unidentified recipient, undated. Spoof by Spark and Derek Stanford under name Hyacinth R. with poem jointly composed by his half-sister Desdemona (Arethusa) Cavendish. **Container**
1.7

ALS to Barclay's Bank, 17 June 1955.

AL / draft to Heinemann (William) Ltd. and other publishers re proposed Wordsworth book, undated. Joint letter with Derek Stanford.

AL / draft to Phoenix House, undated.

6 ALS, 3 TLS, APCS to Scott, Paul, 1960, undated.

93 ALS, 7 ALI, 18 TLS, 2 TLI, ANS, telegram to Stanford, Derek, 1939-1958, undated. **Container**
1.8-9

TLS / copy to the Tom Gallon Trust, 23 June 1955. **Container** 1.7

Recipient:

Methven, Colin. ALS to Spark, 14 August 1949.

Container 1.10

Scott, Paul. 4 TccL to Spark, 1960.

Miscellaneous:

- Unidentified author. Waking, handwritten manuscript, 1 page, undated. **Container**
1.11
- London Mystery Magazine, ANS to Stanford, Derek, undated.
- Owen (Peter) Limited. TPCS to Stanford, Derek, 9 February no year.
- Spark, Muriel, 1918-2006:
- List of publications by Muriel Spark and Derek Stanford, typescript with
handwritten emendations, 1 page, undated. **Container**
1.11
- List of subscribers to Forum, handwritten manuscript, 11 pages, undated.
- Mutual agreement: insertions, handwritten manuscript / draft, 3 pages,
undated. For contract re Newman by his contemporaries. Included with this:
Descriptive note by Derek Stanford.
- Outline for proposed anthology with Derek Stanford, handwritten manuscript,
1 page, undated.
- Stanford, Derek, 1918- :
- Unidentified novel, handwritten manuscript / draft / incomplete with revisions,
183 pages in 2 notebooks, undated. Other material also included. **Container**
2.1-2
- Emily Brontë: fragment, typescript / fragment, 1 page, undated. **Container**
1.11
- Notes on Wuthering Heights and the poems of E. B., handwritten manuscript /
notebook, 41 pages, undated.
- Review of The mystery of Keats, by John Middleton Murry, initialed
handwritten manuscript / draft with revisions, 2 pages, 1949. Written on
publisher's cover note.
- Workbook 1, handwritten manuscript / drafts, 97 pages, undated. Contains
unfinished draft of novel, article, and review. **Container**
2.3
- Workbook 2, handwritten manuscript / drafts, 164 pages, undated. Contains
drafts of reviews and part of Brontë book. **Container**
2.4

Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date