

Olivia Manning:

An Inventory of Her Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Manning, Olivia, 1908-1980
Title:	Olivia Manning Collection
Dates:	circa 1949-1980, undated
Extent:	21 boxes (8.82 linear feet), 2 galley folders (gf)
Abstract:	Includes chiefly manuscripts written by the English novelist Olivia Manning, including four of the novels comprising <i>The Balkan Trilogy</i> and <i>The Levant Trilogy</i> , both based on her experiences during World War II. Also present are large groups of her letters to Francis King and from Ivy Compton-Burnett which chronicle the friendship of the fellow novelists.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-2662
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by:	Joan Sibley and Apryl Voskamp, 2014 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:

The beautiful summer, signed handwritten manuscript with emendations, 8 pages, undated. Included with: A different space. From Hanley II.	Container 1.2
Cairo in wartime / titled Cairo in those days, carbon typescript with handwritten emendations, 13 pages, undated.	Container 1.3
Cairo in wartime / titled Cairo in those days, typed and carbon copy manuscript / drafts / discarded pages with handwritten revisions, 82 pages, undated. Included with these: handwritten notes, 26 pages.	Container 1.4
The danger tree (book one of The Levant trilogy). Not described in card catalog; purchase R7676, 1977:	
Handwritten manuscript / first draft with handwritten revisions and notes, approximately 1100 pages, undated.	Container 1.5-2.1
Intermediate drafts of various sections, chiefly handwritten also with some typed pages, approximately 1255 pages, undated:	
Section 1, Simon's arrival in Cairo, approximately 35 pages.	Container 2.2
Section 2, Simon goes with Clifford into desert, approximately 200 pages.	Container 2.3
Section 3, Simon sets out with convoy, approximately 90 pages.	Container 2.4
Section 4, Rewritten passages; Cairo in flap..., approximately 105 pages.	Container 2.5
Section 5, Flashback - pre Alexandria sequence, approximately 75 pages.	Container 2.6
Section 6, H. in Alexandria (cont.), approximately 100 pages.	Container 2.7
Section 7, Simon in action, approximately 300 pages.	Container 2.8
Section 8, Cairo sequence: Guy gets important job; Pringles move to Dobson's flat, approximately 100 pages.	Container 2.9
Section 9, Desert - Death of Hugo, approximately 40 pages.	Container 2.10

Section 10, Angela at the union, approximately 160 pages.	Container 2.11
Section 11, Final sequence, approximately 50 pages.	Container 3.1
Handwritten manuscript / notes on Egypt and war, 22 pages bound in small notebook, undated.	Container 3.2
Typescript /draft with handwritten corrections, approximately 230 pages, undated.	Container 3.3
Carbon copy manuscript / setting copy, 187 pages, undated.	Container 3.4
Galley proofs, approximately 100 pages, 1977 (date of publication).	Container gf 1
A different face, signed handwritten manuscript with extensive handwritten revisions, 624 pages, undated. Original title Message from the outside world deleted. Included with this: The beautiful summer. From Hanley II.	Container 3.5-8
The doves of Venus, handwritten manuscript with revisions, 1194 pages, undated. Earlier title partly lined through: In youth is pleasure, a London comedy. Versos of many pages contain drafts of Artist among the missing, The great fortune, A different face and The spoilt city. One page is written on verso of TL / draft Manning to the editor of The Observer, 30 August 1954.	Container 4.1-8
The doves of Venus, typescript / fragments with handwritten revisions, 68 pages, undated.	Container 5.1
Extraordinary cats:	
Handwritten manuscript / draft with revisions and few typescript pages, 241 pages; handwritten manuscript / draft / discarded pages with handwritten revisions, 63 pages; undated.	Container 5.2-3
Handwritten manuscript / notes, approximately 160 pages; typed and carbon copy manuscript / drafts / fragments with handwritten revisions, approximately 140 pages; undated. Not in order.	Container 5.4-5
Typescript with handwritten revisions, 75 pages, undated.	Container 5.6
Two typescripts / incomplete with handwritten revisions, 16 pages, 24 pages; typed and carbon copy manuscript / incomplete with handwritten revisions, 45 pages; carbon typescript / incomplete, 33 pages; undated.	Container 5.7
Typescript / printer's copy with handwritten revisions and a few mimeo pages, 90 pages, undated.	Container 5.8

Proof copy with handwritten corrections and emendations and typed inserts, 110 pages bound, 1967. Included with these: photocopy of 5 pages. Loosely laid in: later proof of front matter. **Container** 6.1

Friends and heroes (book three of The Balkan trilogy):

Handwritten manuscript / draft with revisions and two short typed passages of dialogue, 1648 pages, undated. Final handwritten draft. **Container** 6.2-7.1

Handwritten manuscript / first draft with revisions, 1311 pages, undated. Pages unnumbered and not in order. **Container** 7.2-7

Handwritten and typed manuscript / fragments / second draft with handwritten emendations together with notes, 1400 pages, undated. **Container** 8.1-5

Typescript / fragments of large parts of the second draft with handwritten revisions together with handwritten and typed notes, 593 pages, undated. **Container** 9.1-3

Typescript / rough draft with extensive handwritten revisions, 502 pages, undated. Titled When the sun sets. **Container** 9.4-5

Typescript / final draft with handwritten revisions, 513 pages, 1965. **Container** 10.1-3

Page proofs with handwritten emendations, 375 pages, 1965. **Container** 10.4-5

The great fortune (book one of The Balkan trilogy):

Handwritten manuscript with revisions and a few typed passages, 1372 pages, undated. **Container** 11.1-9

Typescript with handwritten revisions, 416 pages, undated. **Container** 11.10-12.3

Author's proof copy with handwritten corrections and note, 304 pages, 1959. **Container** 12.4

Guests at a marriage, typescript with handwritten emendations, 166 pages velo-bound, undated. Unpublished novel written during World War II, used as basis of her The great fortune and The spoilt city. **Container** 12.5-6

The play room:

Handwritten manuscript / draft with revisions, approximately 700 pages including discarded drafts on verso, undated. Not in order. **Container** 13.1-7

Handwritten manuscript / first draft / incomplete with revisions, 226 pages, undated. Not in order. **Container** 13.8-9

Handwritten manuscript / notes, approximately 200 pages; typed and carbon copy manuscript / fragments / discarded pages, approximately 60 pages; undated. Not in order.	Container 14.1-3
Typescript / preliminary draft with extensive handwritten revisions, 152 pages, undated.	Container 14.4
Typescript / printer's copy, 227 pages, undated.	Container 14.5-6
Proof copy with handwritten emendations and corrections, 188 pages, 1969.	Container 14.7
 The rain forest. Not described in card catalog; purchase R7293, 1976:	
Handwritten manuscript / first draft with handwritten revisions, approximately 1200 pages, undated.	Container 14.8-15.4
Typescript with handwritten corrections, 256 pages, undated.	Container 15.5-6
Typescript with handwritten revisions, 237 pages, undated.	Container 16.1-2
Typescript / carbon copy manuscript / setting copy with handwritten corrections, 126 pages, undated.	Container 16.3-4
Handwritten notes / fragments, 50 pages, undated. Includes ALS unidentified author to Manning and Smith, Reginald Donald, undated.	Container 16.5
Review of Hugh Kingsmill: A critical biography by Michael Holroyd, carbon typescript with handwritten emendations, 2 pages; typed and carbon copy manuscript / discarded pages of drafts, 14 pages; undated.	Container 1.1
Review of Letters to a sister by Rose Macaulay, typescript / discarded pages of draft, 6 pages, undated.	
Reviews: miscellaneous, typescript / discarded pages of drafts, 72 pages, undated. Included with these: handwritten manuscript / note; carbon typescript / discarded novel page.	
 A romantic hero and other stories:	
Composite of typed and carbon copy manuscript, printed pages, photocopies of printed pages, 210 leaves, 1967. Contains one story not in table of contents.	Container 16.6
Galley proofs, 3 pages, 1953.	Container gf 2

The spoilt city (book two of The Balkan trilogy):

Handwritten manuscript with revisions and a few typed passages, 868 pages, undated. The versos of 504 pages contain much of the first draft.	Container 17.1-9
Handwritten and typed manuscript / fragments and notes, 908 pages, undated. Pages unnumbered and not in order. Includes a few pages of manuscript for The great fortune.	Container 18.1-2
Handwritten and typed manuscript / preliminary notes, 774 pages, undated. Some of the notes are written on the versos of old correspondence.	Container 18.3-5
Handwritten and typed manuscript / preliminary notes and pages of the first draft with handwritten revisions, 933 pages, undated.	Container 18.6-19.2
Typescript with handwritten revisions, 371 pages, undated.	Container 19.3-4
Typescript / printer's copy with handwritten revisions, 522 pages, 1962.	Container 19.5-20.2
Proof copy with handwritten revisions, 327 pages, 1962.	Container 20.3
Proof copy / incomplete with handwritten emendations, pages 59-319, 1962.	Container 20.4

Letters:

2 TLS to Cooke, Harriet, 26 May and 16 June 1973. Not described in card catalog; purchase R12086, 1990. **Container**
20.5

61 ALS, 2 ALI, ANI, 143 TLS, TLI, 17 APCS, 14 APCI to King, Francis, **Container**
1957-1980, undated. 20.6-21.2

Recipient:

Compton-Burnett, Ivy. 9 ALS, 15 ANS, 67 APCS to Manning, Olivia, 1951-1969, undated. Includes ALS to Compton-Burnett from British Broadcasting Service; Compton-Burnett death announcement.

Container
21.3-4

Miscellaneous:

Friends and heroes: historical notes and working material, handwritten, typed, and carbon copy manuscript, 71 pages, undated. **Container**
21.5

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