

Martin Seymour-Smith:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Seymour-Smith, Martin, 1928-1998
Title:	Martin Seymour-Smith Collection
Dates:	1942-1967, undated
Extent:	2 boxes (0.84 linear feet)
Abstract:	This collection of English poet and literary critic Martin Seymour-Smith consists of approximately equal amounts of manuscripts of his poetry and incoming correspondence.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-03793
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
Use Policies:	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation	Martin Seymour-Smith Collection (Manuscript Collection MS-03793). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
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Processed by: Joan Sibley and Richard Workman, 2018 **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 poem, The house of love..., Tms, 1 page, undated **Container 1.1**

Untitled poem, I am the lost mountaineer..., Tms with handwritten emendations, 1 page, March 1944. Original title, Apollo, deleted.

Untitled poem, The woman of autumn, Ams, 1 page, undated

Unidentified short story, Ams / incomplete with handwritten revisions, 26 pages, undated

The administrators (poem), 2 Ams / drafts, one with handwritten revisions, 1 page each; 2 Tms / drafts with handwritten revisions, one signed, 1 page, 2 pages, 3 August 1961

Advice to vermin (poem), Ams with handwritten emendations, 1 page, 1943

After the emission (poem), Ams, 1 page, 1943

The amazing bee (poem), Tms, 1 page, February 1945. Written with this: The sentry. **Container 1.13**

The answer (poem), 3 Ams / drafts with handwritten revisions, 2 pages, 5 September 1962 **Container 1.1**

The birds (poem), Tccms, 1 page, undated

Blitzenkrieger (poem), signed Ams with handwritten emendations, 5 pages; Tms with handwritten emendations, 5 pages; Tccms with handwritten emendations, 5 pages, 17 May 1958

The bone (poem), Tms, 1 page, February 1944

The cellar (poem) 2 Ams / drafts with handwritten revisions, 2 pages, 3 pages; 1 Tms, 2 pages, 23-25 September 1963

Christmas day (poem), Tms, 1 page, 20 December 1946

Commentary (poem), Tms, 1 page, April 1943. Written with this: Misery.

Commentary for his edition of Shakespeare's sonnets, 2 Tccms / incomplete, 73 pages, 19 pages, undated **Container 1.2**

The dead lover (poem), Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page, undated **Container 1.3**

The deciders (poem), Tms with handwritten revisions, 2 pages; Tccms with handwritten revisions, 1 page, June 1962

Elegy (poem), Tms, 1 page, March 1945. Written with this: Lust.

Container
1.9

Employment problem (poem), Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page, undated

Container
1.3

The execution (poem), Tms and Tccms with handwritten revisions, 1 page each, 1958

The fantastic cemetery (poem), Tms, 1 page, March 1945

A feeling for the English (short story), Tms, 41 pages, approximately 1951

Container
1.4

La fordada (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated

Container 1.3

Forthcoming attractions (poem), Ams with handwritten emendations, 1 page, 1954

Fortunemaster (poem), Tms, 1 page, 1952

Found on a building site (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated

The gipsies (poem), Tms, 1 page, March 1943

Green wall my grave (poem), Tms, 1 page, 1946

He came to visit me (poem), Tms, 1 page, 1945

Container 1.5

History lesson / also titled Chessman (poem), 4 Ams / drafts and workings, one signed, 7 pages; 1 Tms / draft with handwritten revisions, 1 page; 1 Tccms, 1 page, 15 June 1961

I shot the general (short story), Tms, 20 pages, approximately 1951

Container
1.8

I will have nothing to do with you whatsoever (poem), 2 Ams with handwritten revisions, 1 page, 2 pages; 2 Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page each; Tccms, 1 page, 3 July 1963

Container
1.6

Imagined child (poem), 2 Tms, 1 page each, 1948

In the market place (poem), Ams with handwritten revisions, 1 page; 2 Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page each, 17 October 1962

The infant man (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated

- Introduction for his edition of Shakespeare's sonnets, signed A and Tms with handwritten revisions, 42 pages; Tccms, 39 pages, 1962 **Container**
1.7
- The invitation (poem), Ams with handwritten revisions, 1 page, undated. Written on verso: Discarded draft of untitled poem. **Container**
1.6
- A journey remembered (poem), 4 Ams / workings, 5 pages; Tms with handwritten revisions and initialed note, 1 page, approximately 1949-1951
- Laura Riding (non-fiction), Ams / draft with handwritten revisions, approximately 130 pages, approximately 1955. Included with this: 5 Tms pages of chapter VI with signed handwritten note on first page. **Container**
1.10
- Living by the river (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated **Container** 1.9
- Lust (poem), Tms, 1 page, March 1945. Written with this: Elegy.
- The man from the ministry (essay), Tccms with handwritten emendations, 22 pages, 1962
- The map (poem), 2 Ams with handwritten revisions, one signed, 1 page each; 2 Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page each; Tccms, 1 page, 2 July 1962
- Misery (poem), Tms, 1 page, April 1943. Written with this: Commentary. **Container**
1.1
- Mistral (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated **Container** 1.9
- The months of birds (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated
- My sentinels the birds (poem), signed Tms, 1 page, undated
- No scenery but death in the day of the ape (poem), Tccms, 1 page, December 1944
- The northern monster (poem), Tms, 1 page, 1956
- An observation for unverifiable reconsideration in a game perhaps (poem), 2 Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page each, September 1962
- Old women against the wind (poem), Tms, 1 page, December 1944
- Out of what winter's agony (poem), Tms, 1 page, March 1944
- Pathetique (poem), 4 Ams / drafts, 3 with handwritten revisions, 1 signed, 1 page each, 30 August 1962 **Container**
1.11
- Perseus to Andromeda (poem), 8 Ams / drafts and workings, 1 page each; 2 Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page each, 1-26 June 1958

Pinchbeck (poem), 5 Ams / drafts with handwritten revisions, 1 signed, 3 initialed, 1 page each; 2 Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page each; Tccms with handwritten revisions, 1 page, 28-31 January 1963

Poetry jottings, 2 small signed Ams notebooks, undated. Contains also miscellaneous notes.

Poor fatso (poem), signed Ams / draft with heavy handwritten revisions, 2 pages; 2 Tms / drafts with handwritten revisions, 1 page each; Tccms, 1 page, 11 May 1961

Prelude (poem), Tms, 1 page, 1950

The prime minister / also titled The last chance (poem), Ams / signed drafts and workings, 20 pages; Tccms with handwritten revisions, 3 pages, May 21 no year

Problem in application (poem), Ams / workings, 1 page, undated

The punishment (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated

Quean leer (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated

The resurrection (poem), Tms, 1 page, December 1944

Container 1.12

Review of An introduction to Shakespeare's sonnets, for the use of historians and others by J. Dover Wilson, Tms with handwritten revisions, 4 pages, December 1963. For BBC European Service.

Reviews, Ams / drafts with handwritten revisions, some signed, 64 pages in notebook, 1963. Includes 2 drafts of letters to the editor of unidentified periodical.

Robin Hood and history (essay), Tms with heavy handwritten revisions and handwritten bibliography, 22 pages, 1952. Included with this: Ams / notes, 13 pages.

Sad salute (poem), Tms with handwritten emendations, 1 page, March 1944

**Container
1.13**

Saxelby (poem), 2 Ams / drafts with handwritten revisions, 1 page each, 19 October 1962. One written on verso of incomplete draft of Three cheers.

The scene and the ghost (poem), Tccms, 1 page, undated

The sentence (poem), 4 Ams / drafts with handwritten revisions, 1 page each; Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page, 1 November 1962

The sentry (poem), Tms, 1 page; Tccms, 1 page, February 1945. Written with this: The amazing bee.

The ship (poem), Tms with handwritten note, 1 page, October 1942

The stain of heaven (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated

Sunday morning walk (poem), Tms with handwritten emendations, 1 page, undated

Tea with Miss Stockport (poem), 2 Ams / early draft fragments, 1 page each; Tms with handwritten revisions, 3 pages, 11-12 June 1958 **Container**
1.14

Three satires (poem), Ams / fragment with handwritten revisions and initialed note, 1 page, 1957

The timeless year (poem), Tms, 4 pages, March 1945

To all watchers over public morality (poem), Ams / workings, 1 page; Tms with handwritten emendations, 1 page; Tccms, 1 page, 2 October 1961

To passers-by (poem), signed Ams with handwritten emendations, 1 page; Ams / draft with handwritten revisions, 2 pages; Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page; Tms, 1 page, 1-2 June 1958

The trap of day (poem), Tms, 1 page, March 1945

The traveler (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated

A trial in a dream (poem), Tms, 1 page, 1952

The victim (poem), Ams / draft with handwritten revisions and handwritten initialed note, 1 page, undated

The visitor (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated

What schoolmasters say (poem), Tms, 1 page, undated

Who is Sylvia? (short story), Tms, 41 pages, approximately 1951 **Container**
2.1

The wind blows leaves-- (poem), Tms with handwritten revisions, 1 page, undated **Container**
1.14

Recipient:

Unidentified author Jan. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 1 July 1966.

Container
2.2

Unidentified author John. 2 TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 27 June 1961.
Letterhead: Encounter.

Unidentified author Tom S. 2 TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 17 November 1965
and 26 January 1966.

Bly, Robert. 3 ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 14 September 1964, 29 April and
19 July 1965.

Bold, Alan Norman, 1943- . 2 TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 11 August and 14
September 1965.

Books of the Month. TLS Heather Malinska to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 19 March
1962.

Brown, George Mackay. 2 TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 26 April and 7
October 1965.

Bryant, Arthur, Sir, 1899- . TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 24 July 1953

Carroll, Donald. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 24 November 1965.

Cohen, J. M. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 4 October 1964.

Creeley, Robert, 1922- . 2 ALS, 6 TLS Bob to Seymour-Smith, Martin,
1964-1966.

Cronin, Tony. ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 8 January 1957.

Davie, Donald. 3 ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 23 November and 19 December
1956, 5 February 1957. Enclosed with 23 November 1956 letter: Tms / copy of
excerpt of translation from the Polish.

Container
2.3

Dobrée, Bonamy, 1891- . TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 26 March 1956.

Encounter. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 7 May 1957. Enclosed with this: TL /
copy Seymour-Smith to Stephen Spender re article for Encounter, 5 May 1957.

Ewart, Gavin B., 1916- . 5 ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 1965-1966.

Finlay, Ian Hamilton. 3 ALS, 3 TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 1965-1966,
undated.

Fradin, B. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 3 July 1952.

Fulton, Robin. ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 25 January 1966.

Graves, Robert, 1895- . 2 ALS, 1 Christmas card to Seymour-Smith, Martin, Christmas 1951, 1 September and 5 November 1955.

Grubb, Frederick. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 15 September 1965.

Gunn, Thom. ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 10 December 1954.

Hinde, Thomas, 1926- . ANS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 9 November 1965.

Hogg, Quintin. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 8 March 1967.

Horder, John. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 14 January 1965.

Jennings, Elizabeth, 1926- . 2 ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 18 September 1952, undated. **Container**
2.4

Levin, Bernard S. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 23 August 1956.

Lindsay, John Maurice, 1918- . 3 ALS, 1 TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 30 July and 11 September 1965, 22 March 1966, undated.

Macleod, Joseph Todd Gordon, 1903- . TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 20 January 1966.

Madge, Charles, 1912- . 2 ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 15 March and 25 October 1964.

Methuen & Co. Ltd. TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 29 June 1961.

Nye, Robert. 9 ALS, 1 AL, 19 TLS, 12 TLS / incomplete, 1 TL, 16 APCS, 1 APCI, 1 APC, 5 TPCS, 1 TPC to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 1958-1965, undated. Some directed to Janet Seymour-Smith. **Container**
2.5-6

Owen, Harold, 1872- . 3 ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 12 October 1964, 6 and 25 November 1965. **Container**
2.7

Read, Herbert Edward, Sir, 1893-1968. 4 TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 1966-1967.

The Regency Institute. TLS Harold Herd (director) to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 29 November 1961.

Smith, Gavin C. ALS, TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 17 July 1965, undated.

Spender, Stephen, 1909- . ALS, Telegram to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 6 May 1957, 26 October no year. Included with these: Criticism of article by Seymour-Smith on Roy Campbell, published later in October 1957 issue of Encounter.

Trocchi, Alexander, 1925- . TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 19 July 1965. Enclosed with this: Mimeo announcement.

Turnbull, Gael Ludin, 1928- . 5 ALS, 1 TLS, 1 Christmas booklet to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 1964-1966, undated.

Williams, Hugo Mordaunt, 1942- . ALS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, undated.

Wright, David John Murray, 1920- . 19 TLS to Seymour-Smith, Martin, 1962-1966, **Container**
undated. Enclosures. 2.8

Miscellaneous:

Finlay, Ian Hamilton. TLS to unidentified recipient Christopher, 29 January no year. **Container**
2.9

Fraser, George Sutherland, 1915- . Poem by André Breton, Tms, 1 page, undated.

Fraser, George Sutherland, 1915- . The taken town, Tms, 2 pages, undated.

Graves, Robert, 1895- . ALS to Seymour-Smith, Janet de Glanville, undated.

Nye, Robert Thomas, 1939- . 2 ALS, 1 TLS, 3 APCS, 1 TPCS to Seymour-Smith,
Janet de Glanville, 1964-1965, undated.

Seymour-Smith, Martin, 1928- . Sonnets by William Shakespeare, A and Tccms /
miscellaneous pages, 21 pages, undated.

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