

William Sansom:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Sansom, William, 1912-1976
Title:	William Sansom Collection
Dates:	1956-1972, undated
Extent:	1 document box (.42 linear feet)
Abstract:	Collection chiefly contains manuscripts for <i>The Birth of a Story</i> (1972) by the British novelist, travel and short story writer William Sansom, in which he traces his short story "No Smoking on the Apron" (1961) from inspiration through writing, revision, and publication. Also present are four notebooks with additional manuscripts for several more stories, essays, and travel pieces.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-03698
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.
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation William Sansom Collection (Manuscript Collection MS-03698).
Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Acquisition: Purchase, 1973 (R5971)

Processed by: Joan Sibley, 2019

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Works:

The Birth of a Story (1972):

No Smoking on the Apron, handwritten manuscript in notebook, 28 pages, 1961. Author has inserted paper flags marking pages to be reproduced for The Birth of a Story. Notebook also contains travel writings La Dolce Acquavita, Barcelona, and Baltic Paradise, 55 pages. **Container** 1.1

No Smoking on the Apron, typescript, 26 pages; galley proofs, 5 sheets; 1961. Includes acceptance letter from Charles Osborne of The London Magazine, January 25, 1962. **Container** 1.2

On Writing a Short Story, typed broadcast script for The World of Books, 4 pages, 1963. **Container** 1.3

"No Smoking Text-Book," handwritten manuscript in notebook, 115 pages plus loose pages 116-124, March 1971. Accompanied by 2-page outline and correspondence with Norah Smallwood (Hogarth Press), 1966, and G. W. Trevelyan (Chatto and Windus), 1970. **Container** 1.4

The Birth of a Story, typescript subdivided into introduction In Case of Interest, and Writing a Short Story (pages I-II, 1-34); No Smoking on the Apron: How the Story Was Written (pages 35-65); The Manuscript (pages 65a-92); and The Typescript (pages 92a-116); 1971. **Container** 1.5

Notebooks, undated:

Number 1. A Love of Looking, essay; Edvard Grieg, essay; Brothers, an essay on the Goncourts; A Helping Hand, a story; handwritten manuscripts in notebook, 76 pages, undated. **Container** 1.6

Number 2. Banjulee Days, story; The Almighty Test, story; Impact of Italy, essay, handwritten manuscripts in notebook; 78 pages, undated. **Container** 1.7

Number 3. Love at First Sight, story; One Fine Day, story; The Marmalade Bird, story; Pools of Great Price, essay; Bolt for the Blue, essay; handwritten manuscripts in notebook, 81 pages, undated. **Container** 1.8

Number 4. Hot and Cold, story; The Dog Dancer, story; untitled Copenhagen essay; A Strange Meeting, story; six short essays for the French magazine Réalités (Glasses of Fashion; The Sweet Bei and Bei; Night Flight; Water Wheels; Coming and Going; Jeweled Thieves; A Word for One-Bell Willy, one present in two versions), handwritten manuscript, 116 pages in notebook and an additional 10 loose pages, undated. **Container** 1.9

Speaking of Books, New York Times Review of Books clipping, 1956.

Container
1.10