

Jon Bracker:

An Inventory of His Collection of Christopher Morley Research Materials at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Bracker, Jon, 1936-
Title:	Jon Bracker Collection of Christopher Morley Research Materials
Dates:	1959-1966, undated
Extent:	7 document boxes, 5 card boxes (4.36 linear feet)
Abstract:	Jon Bracker's Collection of Christopher Morley Research Materials contains correspondence, extensive biographical research notes, microfilm, photographs, and printed materials gathered between 1959 and 1966 for multiple projects about the American author Christopher Morley (1890-1957).
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-54223
Language:	English
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	Jon Bracker Collection of Christopher Morley Research Materials (Manuscript Collection MS-54223). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
Acquisition:	Gift of Jon Bracker, 1967.
Processed by:	Joan Sibley, 2025.
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

Student, educator, poet, editor, and writer Jon Bracker (1936-) attended school at The University of Texas at Austin and earned his M.A. degree in 1961 upon acceptance of his thesis on the American author Christopher Morley (1890-1957). He also cataloged Morley manuscripts at the Humanities Research Library (now known as the Harry Ransom Center), began work toward a Morley biography, and curated a Morley exhibition displayed on campus from December 1961 through February 1962. He later edited a collection of Morley poems (*Bright Cages*, 1965) and co-authored a Twayne biography of Morley (1976). After leaving Texas, Bracker subsequently taught English and creative writing at several colleges and universities and his poetry has appeared in magazines, anthologies, and in at least ten chapbooks. Since 1973, he has lived in San Francisco and continues to write and publish poetry, most recently *Adventures of an Elderly Man* (2023).

Sources:

Bracker, Jon. Christopher Morley, Enthusiast. Thesis (M.A.), University of Texas at Austin, 1961. Austin, Tex.: 1961.

Bracker, Jon. "The Christopher Morley Collection. " *Library Chronicle*, vol. VII, no. 2, Summer, 1962.

Morley, Christopher. *Bright Cages: Selected Poems and Translations from the Chinese*, edited by and with introduction by Jon Bracker. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1965.

University of Texas. Humanities Research Center. *An Exhibition of C.D.M. Manuscripts and First Editions at the Humanities Research Center, the University of Texas, Austin, Texas, December 1961-February 1962*, compiled by Jon Bracker. Austin, Tex.: 1961.

Wallach, Mark I. and Jon Bracker. *Christopher Morley*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1976.

Scope and Contents

Jon Bracker's Collection of Christopher Morley Research Materials contains correspondence, extensive biographical research notes, microfilm, photographs, and printed materials gathered between 1959 and 1966 for multiple projects on the American author Christopher Morley (1890-1957).

Most of the correspondence is from a variety of people who knew Christopher Morley, sharing their remembrances, insights, and advice for a Morley biography. Among the correspondents are family members, colleagues, and friends, including Book-of-the-Month Club associates (Basil Davenport, Harry Scherman, and Meredith Wood), Blythe Morley Brennan (Morley's daughter, who wrote under the names Blythe Morley and a pseudonym Stanley Hopkins, Jr.), H. Tatnall Brown, Jr., Pearl S. Buck, Frances Curran (Christopher Morley Knothole Association), Doubleday & Company, Inc. staff (Ken McCormick, Louise Thomas, and others), Buckminster Fuller, William S. Hall (Baker Street Irregulars), Haverford College, Maurine Isensee, William McFee, Felix Morley and Frank Morley (Morley's brothers), Harry Hunt Ransom and F. Warren Roberts (Harry Ransom Center), Harrison Smith (*Saturday Review*), Mary Mayo Scott (re Don Marquis), Vincent Starrett, and E. B. White, among many others.

The research notes are extensive and consist of notes in notebooks, notes in folders, and notes written on index cards. These notes, together with microfilm, photographs, and printed materials, were used during several research projects, including Bracker's M.A. thesis; a Morley exhibition; an article describing the Morley Collection; a proposed Morley biography; a proposed collection of Morley's letters; and work toward the Morley poems collected and published as *Bright Cages*.

Related Material

Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin: [Christopher Morley Collection, 1787-1996 \(bulk 1895-1957\).](#)

Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin: [Paul Foreman Papers, 1919-1979, and the Records of Thorp Springs Press, 1967-1982.](#)

Lilly Library, Indiana University: [Bracker mss, 1965-1970.](#)

Index Terms

People

Brennan, Blythe Morley, 1923-2002.

Morley, Blythe, 1923-2002

Morley, F. V. (Frank Vigor), 1899-1980.

Morley, Felix M. (Felix Muskett), 1894-1982.

Subjects

American literature -- 20th century.

Authors, American -- 20th century.

Morley, Christopher, 1890-1957.

Document Types

Correspondence.

Notes.

Printed materials.

Correspondence, 1959-1966:

Letters from various people to Jon Bracker:

A - B

Container 1.1

Brennan, Blythe Morley, 1959-1966

C - F

Container 1.2

G - L

Container 1.3

M

Container 1.4

Morley, Felix, 1959-1965

Morley, Frank, 1960-1962

Morley, Harry J., 1962-1965; with enclosures (1923-1960), undated

N - R

Container 1.5

Permissions, 1959-1960

Publishers, 1959-1963

S

Container 2.1

Starrett, Vincent, 1959-1963

T - Z

Container 2.2

Bracker, Jon. Morley correspondence (mostly outgoing), 1961-1962

**Container
2.3**

Morley, Christopher. Letters (copies, 1916-1957); intended to be published as
Collected letters by Christopher Morley, edited by Jon Bracker, undated

**Container
2.4**

Notes in notebooks, 1960?, undated:

Bracker correspondent names and addresses	Container 3.1
Bracker daily notes 5/19 -6/21 (no year), New York City address on cover, from Morley interview trip, 1960?	Container 3.2
Morley notes, 1900-1910	Container 3.3
Morley notes, 1910-1920	Container 3.4
Morley notes, 1920-1930	Container 3.5
Morley notes, 1930-1940	Container 3.6
Morley notes, 1940-1950	Container 3.7
Morley notes, 1950-1960	Container 3.8
Morley notes, undated; A-Z tabs have inserted pages for Boswell's London Journal; Joseph Conrad; Morley diaries; Reading; Stevenson; Tristram Shandy; Walt Whitman; Vertical File UT	Container 3.9
Morley notes in 39 small notebooks of varying sizes	Container 4

Notes in folders, circa 1960-1965, undated:

Agendas	Container 5.1
Bibliography	
BOM/Book of the Month Club	
BSI/Baker Street Irregulars	
Burton, J. M. (Jeanne Morton)	
Chronological, 1890-1957 (16 folders)	Container 5.2
Conrad, Joseph	Container 5.3
Hoboken	
Interviews	
Marquis, Don	
Miscellaneous	Container 5.4
Names list	
Morley family	
Morley newsletter (by Robert H. Schutz), 1961-1963	
Morley, Christopher:	
1890-1957 (pages removed from a notebook)	Container 5.5
Journals, 1890-1957 (4 folders)	Container 5.6
Memo books	Container 6.1
Works:	
The Ammonoosuc	Container 6.2
Essays	
Hasta la vista	
History of an autumn	

Human being

John Mistletoe

Kathleen

Kitty Foyle

Lectures

Loose leaves, by Barclay Hall

The man who made friends with himself

Container 6.3

Parnassus on wheels/Haunted bookshop

Container 6.4

Paumanok

Song of songs

Swiss family Manhattan

Thorofare

Thunder on the left

The Trojan horse

Where the blue begins

Morley, Helen

Container 6.5

Others on Morley

Poems (uncollected)

Poems (materials for Bright cages poetry collection, published 1965)

Ransom, Harry Hunt

Roslyn

A Sense of place (early work on M.A. thesis?, accepted 1961)

Style and vocabulary

Used (includes materials from interview trip by Bracker, 1960?)

Container
7.1-2

Bracker, Jon, 1936-

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Whitman, Walt

Container 6.5

Winspear, Elizabeth

Notes written on index cards, undated:

Outline of Morley's life: two general segments (on Morley family and then Christopher Morley), followed by cards filed by chronology 1890-1957 that are broken down by geographical locations: Haverford; Baltimore; Haverford; Oxford; New York City; Philadelphia; Roslyn; Hoboken	Container 8-9
Places (notes on)	Container 9
Subjects (notes on)	Container 9-10
Titles of Morley works	Container 10-11
Writings (notes on)	Container 11
Names of people/organizations	
Writers (notes on)	Container 11-12
Contemporaries (not writers, notes on)	Container 12
Unfiled/not in order/unidentified	

Miscellaneous, 1922-1966, undated:

Microfilm (1 roll): Franklin D. Roosevelt/Christopher Morley correspondence, undated

Container
7.3

Photographs (3 prints): Christopher Morley bust by Jo Davidson, circa 1961

Printed material: Haverford College, map, publications, 1943-1957, undated

Container
7.4

Printed material: Loose items, 1922-1963, undated

Printed material: Various items, 1922-1966, undated