

University of Victoria Special Collections

Alford, Norman

SC004

Title

Norman Alford fonds

Dates

1962-1990

Extent

65 cm of textual records
33 photographs

Biographical Sketch

Norman William Alford was born in Croydon, Surrey, England. He obtained a B.A. in English from the University of London in 1962, an M.A. in English from Birbeck College, University of London in 1964, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas in 1966. He taught school in Sussex, Ceylon, and Southern Rhodesia during the 1950s and also worked at the Federal Ministry of Education for Rhodesia and Nyasaland from 1961 to 1962. He came to the University of Victoria in 1964, first as a student and later as a professor, and taught in the Department of English. After leaving the University of Victoria, he moved to Mexico in 1984. Throughout his career, Alford has published novels, short stories and scholarly works, including a book about the Rhymers' Club. Some of his stories, including "Allergy" and "Bungalow", have been published in the Malahat Review.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of correspondence and drafts of Alford's critical works, including his biography of George Egerton (Mrs. Mary Chavelita Bright), Alford's Ph.D. dissertation on the Rhymers' Club, drafts of works on Stephen Hudson (Sydney Schiff), George Eliot, Aldous Huxley and A. Bronson Alcott; notebooks and journals kept by Alford, with holograph notes on his works of fiction and autobiography as well as fragments of stories; drafts of Alford's novel "A Garden Enclosed", drafts of short stories; and drafts of Alford's autobiographical works "In Pursuit of Any Arse", "Time Exposure", and "Travelling Hopefully: A Simple Record of Unsentimental Journeys to the Okanagan and Thereabouts, 1977-1978", including photographs; and correspondence with Howard Gerwing (UVic SC Librarian), 1984-1990.

Finding Aids

Inventory available with series and file level control.

Title Source

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

INVENTORY OF THE RECORDS OF

NORMAN ALFORD

Prepared by Anne Maclean

University of Victoria Archives

February 1991

INTRODUCTION

The records of Norman Alford were acquired by the University Archives in 1980 and 1991. They document many aspects of his creative and scholarly work, and will be of particular interest to students of English literature and the creative process. Detailed series and file descriptions follow.

More accruals are expected; this inventory will be updated as necessary.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Norman William Alford was born on 2 September 1929 in Croydon, Surrey, England. He obtained a B.A. in English from the University of London in 1962, an M.A. in English from Birbeck College, University of London, in 1964, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas in 1966. He taught school in Sussex, Ceylon and Southern Rhodesia during the 1950's and also worked at the Federal Ministry of Education for Rhodesia and Nyasaland from 1961 to 1962. He first came to the University of Victoria in 1964, originally as a student and later as a professor, and taught in the Dept. of English until 1981 (he was on study leave from U. Vic. in 1978-79). In 1984 he moved to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where he still lives.

Throughout his career Alford has published novels, short stories and scholarly works, including a book about the Rhymers' Club which was based on his Ph.D. dissertation. Some of his stories, including "Allergy" and "Bungalow" have been published in *The Malahat Review*.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

- I CRITICAL WORKS, 1964-1980**
Accession 80-62, Box 1, Files 1-13
23 cm.
Arranged alphabetically by subject or title.

Correspondence and drafts relating to Alford's biography of "George Egerton" (Mrs. Mary Chavelita Bright); copy of Alford's Ph.D. dissertation on the Rhymers' Club and material

relating to his book based on this dissertation; drafts of monograph on Stephen Hudson (Sydney Schiff); drafts of essays on George Eliot, Aldous Huxley, A. Bronson Alcott.

II NOTEBOOKS AND JOURNALS, 1962-1969

Accession 80-62, Box 1, Files 14-18

12 cm.

Arranged chronologically.

Notebooks and journals kept by Alford, with holograph notes relating to his works of fiction and autobiography. Includes some loose-leaf notes and fragments of stories.

III PROSE FICTION, 1973-1980

Accession 80-62, Box 1, File 19; Box 2, Files 1-34

25 cm.

Arranged by type: novels first, then short stories; stories arranged alphabetically by title.

Drafts of Alford's novel, "A Garden Enclosed"; drafts of short stories, including a copy of a short story by Ronald Firbank and brief account of Firbank by Alford. Includes holograph notes, typescripts, carbons and photocopies.

IV AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 1977-1980

Accession 80-62, Box 2, Files 35-41

15 cm.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Drafts of "In Pursuit of Any Arse", "Time Exposure" and "Travelling Hopefully: A Simple Record of Unsentimental Journeys to the Okanagan and Thereabouts, 1977-1978". Includes holograph fragments and drafts, typescripts, and photographs.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

V CORRESPONDENCE, 1984-1990

Accession 91-18 Box 1.

2 cm.

Arranged in reverse chronological order.

Correspondence from Alford at his home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, to Howard Gerwing, U. Vic. Special Collections. Includes memo from Colin Partridge, U. Vic. Dept. of English, and carbon of letter from Chris Petter, U. Vic. Archives. Subjects discussed include publication of Alford's stories and his life in Mexico.

Accession 80-62

Box 1

- 1.1 "George Egerton" - *A Biography* (Mrs. Mary Chavelita Bright, formerly Clairmonte, formerly Melville, nee Dunne): 1859-1945. Correspondence with book shops, universities and Egerton friends, 1968-1981; Canada Council application, 1967; copies of essay on Egerton; notebook and holograph loose-leaf notes.
- 1.2 "George Egerton" - *A Biography*. Holograph notes, transcriptions of letters.
- 1.3 "George Egerton" - *A Biography*. Photocopies and tss. of letters.
- 1.4 "George Egerton" - *A Biography*. Photocopied pages of *Six Modern Women* (1896) and *The Psychology of Feminism* (1897).
- 1.5 "George Egerton" - *A Biography*. Photocopy of ts. with hol. rev., p. 1-118.
- 1.6 "George Egerton" - *A Biography*. Photocopy of ts. with hol. rev., p. 119-265.
- 1.7 "George Egerton" - *A Biography*. Draft with variant title, "Chavelita: The Mind and Heart of a Woman, 1859-1945". Ts. with hol. rev., p. 1-120.
- 1.8 "George Egerton" - *A Biography*. Variant title, "Chavelita..." Ts. with hol. rev., p. 121-277; hol. notes, 10 leaves.
- 1.9 *The Rhymers' Club (Founded 1891): A Study of Its Activities and Their Significance*. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Texas, 1966. 266 p.
- 1.10 *The Rhymers' Club*. [Book based on Alford's thesis]. Correspondence, requests for copies, 1967-1980.
- 1.11 *The Rhymers' Club*. Galley proofs with holograph markings.
- 1.12 "Stephen Hudson" (Sydney Schiff). Monograph. Ts. with hol. rev., 72 leaves.
- 1.13 Essays by Alford - on *Middlemarch*; Aldous Huxley's "The Gioconda Smile"; A. Bronson Alcott's *Concord Days and Journals*. U. Vic., 1964. Tss. with holograph markings and instructor's comments, 40 leaves total.
- 1.14 Journal, 1962-1963. Rhodesia and England.
- 1.15 Notebook, January 1966 - January 1967.
- 1.16 Notebook, May - June 1966. Includes holographs and tss. of stories and poems.
- 1.17 Notebook, 28 September 1967.
- 1.18 Notebook, January - July 1969.
- 1.19 "A Garden Enclosed" - novel. Original hol. ms., 1973 - May 1974. 316 leaves; 1 ts. leaf.

Accession 80-62

Box 2

- 2.1 "A Garden Enclosed" - novel. Early draft. Ts. with hol. rev., 213 leaves.
- 2.2 "A Garden Enclosed". Carbon ts. with hol. rev., 213 leaves.
- 2.3 "Writings (Not Verse) I". Fragments and drafts of stories. Tss. with hol. rev., ca. 100 leaves.

Short stories:

- 2.4 "Allergy". Two drafts, carbons with hol. rev., 8 leaves each.
- 2.5 "Ash, Moon, Wood, Clock, Face". Carbon ts., 10 leaves.
- 2.6 "Boy on a Train". Ts. with hol. rev., 4 leaves.
- 2.7 "Bungalow". Two drafts, tss. with hol. rev., 17 leaves total.
- 2.8 "Cities of the Plain". Carbon ts. with hol. rev., 7 leaves.
- 2.9 "Cloud-Cuckoo-land". Photocopy of carbon ts., 5 leaves.
- 2.10 "Coasting Along Very Nicely, Thank You." Photocopy of ts. with hol. rev., 10 leaves.
- 2.11 "Concrete Flowers". Holograph drafts, 14 leaves; ts., 9 leaves; photocopy of ts. with hol. rev., 12 leaves.
- 2.12 "Cruising". Holographs, 9 leaves; ts., 9 leaves.
- 2.13 "Doug's Affairs". Three drafts. Tss., carbon, 27 leaves total.
- 2.14 "Figures in a Landscape". Ts. with hol. rev., 4 leaves.
- 2.15 "Friends and Relations". Ts., 20 leaves.
- 2.16 "In and Out of Africa". Photocopy of ts., 16 leaves.
- 2.17 "In Queer Street". August 1980. Holographs, 7 leaves.
- 2.18 "Just Friends". Ts. with hol. rev., 7 leaves.
- 2.19 "Minus One". Holograph, 14 leaves; carbons, 26 leaves total.
- 2.20 "An Old School Friend". Holograph, 6 leaves; ts. 1 leaf.
- 2.21 "Responsibilities". Two drafts. Ts. with hol. rev., 8 leaves; photocopy of ts., 8 leaves.
- 2.22 "Sanctuary". Two drafts. Ts. with hol. rev., 8 leaves; revised ts., 8 leaves.
- 2.23 "Since That Day". Two drafts. Photocopy of ts. with hol. rev., 5 leaves; carbon ts., 5 leaves.
- 2.24 "Some Place in the World". Ts. with hol. rev., 10 leaves.
- 2.25 "A Swept Place". [published in *The Malahat Review*]. Two drafts. Ts. with hol. rev., 7 leaves; carbon, 7 leaves.
- 2.26 "To Italy". Two drafts. Tss. with hol. rev., 12 leaves total.
- 2.27 "To the Uncharted Land". Ts. with hol. rev., 8 leaves.
- 2.28 "Vacuum". Two drafts. Ts. with hol. rev., 13 leaves; variant ts. with hol. rev., 13 leaves.

Accession 80-62

Box 2

Short stories:

- 2.29 "A View of Suva". Two drafts. Holograph, 8 leaves; carbon ts., 9 leaves.
- 2.30 "The Way Back". Two drafts. Holograph, 4 leaves; ts. with hol. rev., 6 leaves.

Stories by or about other people:

- 2.31 "Ronald Firbank in Texas". Carbon ts., 11 leaves.
- 2.32 Short story by Ronald Firbank, copied by Alford. Ts. with hol. rev., 3 leaves.

- 2.33 Variant drafts of short stories; hol. notes and fragments. 1 of 2.
- 2.34 Variant drafts of short stories; hol. notes and fragments. 2 of 2.
- 2.35 "In Pursuit of Any Arse: A Biographical Adventure", compiled by Alford. Ts., p. 1-80.
- 2.36 "In Pursuit of Any Arse". Variant ts., p. 3-76.
- 2.37 "Time Exposure" - autobiography. Hol. notes written on loose-leaf binder cover. October 1980.
- 2.38 "Time Exposure". Hol. fragments, ca. 40 leaves.
- 2.39 "Time Exposure", Vol. III. Holograph, p. 220-428.
- 2.40 "Time Exposure". Ts. with hol. rev., 220 leaves; outline, carbon ts. with hol. rev., 10 leaves.
- 2.41 "Travelling Hopefully: A Simple Record of Unsentimental Journeys to the Okanagan and Thereabouts, 1977-1978". Ts. with hol. rev., 53 leaves. With 30 b & w photographs and 3 colour photographs affixed to pages (many photos are loose).

Accession 91-18

Box 1

- 1.1 Correspondence from Alford at his home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, to Howard Gerwing, U. Vic. Special Collections. Includes memo from Colin Partridge, U. Vic. Dept. of English, and carbon of letter from Chris Petter, U. Vic. Archives. 1984-1990.