



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	<b>John Gordon Morrison [1904-1998]</b>
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	<b>100/35</b>
<b>CATEGORY</b>	
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Authors
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	c. 1920s - 1995
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	6 archive boxes
<b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>	John Gordon Morrison was born in Sunderland, England in 1904 and migrated to Australia in 1923. Initially working on sheep-stations in NSW, in the 1930s he began a ten-year stint working on the Melbourne waterfront and subsequently joined the Communist Party. He published his first stories under the name of "Gordon" in trade union magazines during this time. He was later a member of the Realist Writer Group and went on to publish two novels, four collections of stories and a book of essays. After leaving the waterfront he worked as a gardener until 1963 when he became a full-time writer, publishing also book reviews and journalism. He was awarded the Gold Medal of the Australian Literature Society, the Patrick White Literary Award in 1986 and the Order of Australia in 1989. He died in 1998.
<b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>	July 2000
<b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>	Open
<b>NOTE ON COLLECTION</b>	This collection was acquired from John McLaren, John Morrison's literary executor, in July 2000. In November 2000, John McLaren added the collection of family photos which had been given him on a recent visit to the UK by Ruth Greaves of Sunderland, Morrison's niece.
<b>NOTE ON LIST</b>	This list complements a list to an earlier accession, accn. No 95/16.

<b>LISTED BY</b>	Jane Ellen
<b>DATE</b>	Aug 2000

Series:

1. Correspondence
2. Manuscripts
3. Publications
4. Miscellaneous
5. Photographs and tapes
6. Letters and photographs from England

**BOX 1      SERIES 1      CORRESPONDENCE**

**Summary:** 1/1 General Correspondence

1/2 Correspondence from other writers

1/3 Correspondence and Memoranda of Agreement  
with Publishers

1/4 Correspondence with Poland

1/5 Correspondence from students at the University  
of Tasmania

*Note:* This correspondence has been left in five separate groups, thus retaining John Morrison's own original ordering of it.

The correspondence has been arranged alphabetically. Only the general correspondence (1/1) and the correspondence from other writers (1/2) has been described at item level.

<b>Box 1</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>General Correspondence</b>
	<b>1/1/1</b>	<b>Letters to John Morrison</b>
	1/1/1/1	Letter from Hugh Anderson 15 Dec 1985

- 1/1/1/2 Letter from John Brennan  
7 Mar 1985  
East Brighton, Victoria
- 1/1/1/3 Letter from Ron Callander  
2 May 1984  
Mt Eliza, Victoria
- 1/1/1/4 Letter from Cathy Condell  
3 Nov 1985  
South Yarra, Victoria
- 1/1/1/5 Letter from Michael Costigan  
(Director, Literature Board, Australia Council)  
8 Jul 1983  
North Sydney, NSW
- 1/1/1/6 Letter from Michael Dugan  
(Consultant, Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs)  
29 Jun 1983
- 1/1/1/7 Letter from G.B. Eggleton  
30 Jul 1982  
Mildura, Victoria
- 1/1/1/8 Letter from N. Ferris  
20 Nov 1992  
Black Rock, Victoria
- 1/1/1/9** Letters from Tom Ferris:
- 1/1/1/9/1 13 Aug 1985  
Altona, Victoria
- 1/1/1/9/2 28 Apr 1986  
Altona, Victoria
- 1/1/1/10 Letter from D.A. Frogsh  
n.d. but c. 1941
- 1/1/1/11 Letters from Peter Haddow:
- 1/1/1/11/1 8 Jun 1983  
Preston, Victoria

- 1/1/11/2 18 Jun 1983  
Preston, Victoria
- 1/1/12 Letter from Jim Hamilton  
(President, F.A.W.)  
24 Sep 1984
- 1/1/13 John & Shirley Morrison  
(Wedding invitation)  
c. July 1983  
New Gisborne, Victoria
- 1/1/14 Letters from Stephen Murray-Smith:
- 1/1/14/1 12 Aug 1983  
Mt Eliza, Victoria
- 1/1/14/2 13 Mar 1984  
as above
- 1/1/15** Letters from Clare O'Brien:  
(Editor, Penguin Books)
- 1/1/15/1 15 Jun 1984  
Ringwood, Victoria
- 1/1/15/2 20 Mar 1985  
Ringwood, Victoria
- 1/1/1/3 27 Aug 1985  
Ringwood, Victoria
- 1/1/16 Letter from Adrian Peniston-Bird  
(State President, F.A.W.)  
24 Jan 1995  
Camberwell, Victoria
- 1/1/17 Letter from Ian Reid  
5 Aug 1983  
Ann Arbor, USA
- 1/1/18 Letter from Barrett Reid  
30 Sep 1985 or 1986?  
Bulleen, Victoria

*Note:* Two letters by people who only identify themselves by their first name and the first page of an unidentified letter are also contained in the folder.

**Box 1                      1/1/2                      Letters by John Morrison**

*Note:* All but one of the letters is written from John Morrison's address at 4/10 Maryville Street, St Kilda.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1/1/2/1   | Letter to Cathy Condell<br>7 Oct 1985  |
| 1/1/2/2   | Letter to Peg McColl<br>(Penguin Books)<br>n.d.  |
| 1/1/2/3   | Letter to Erika Moreau<br>(Volk und Welt, Publishers, East Germany)<br>3 May 1983  |
| 1/1/2/4   | Letter to John & Shirley Morrison<br>20 Sep 1974<br>Sherbrooke, Victoria   |
| 1/1/2/5   | Letters to Tom Shapcott:   |
| 1/1/2/5/1 | 31 Dec 1985  |
| 1/1/2/5/2 | 26 May 1986  |
| 1/1/2/6   | Letter to John Thompson<br>(Principal Librarian, Australiana Reference,<br>National Library of Australia)<br>14 May 1985 |
| 1/1/2/7   | Letter to unidentified government department<br>31 Oct 1983  |

**Box 1                      1/2                      Correspondence from other writers**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 1/2/1 | Letter from C.B. Christesen<br>(Editor, <i>Meanjin</i> )<br>15 Jun 1955<br>University of Melbourne |
|-------|--|

1/2/2	Letters from Frank Dalby Davison:
1/2/2/1	1 Feb 1953 Arthur's Creek, Victoria
1/2/2/2	22 Jan 1954 as above
1/2/2/3	23 Oct 1955 as above
1/2/2/4	26 Jun 1959 as above
1/2/2/5	17 Jun 1961 as above
1/2/2/6	9 Sep 1962 as above
1/2/2/7	16 Oct 1963 as above
1/2/2/8	8 May 1964 as above
1/2/2/9	1 Jun 1964 as above
1/2/3	Letter from Jim Farrell (James T. Farrell?) 13 Sep 1967 New York, USA
1/2/4	Letter from Frederick Macartney 26 Jul 1962 Black Rock, Victoria
1/2/5	Letter from Frank Hardy 16 Sep 1957 Narrabeen Nth, NSW
1/2/6	Letter from Dorothy Hewett 15 Aug 1966

South Perth, WA

- 1/2/7 Letters from Oksana Krugerskaya:
- 1/2/7/1 n.d. but c. 1966  
Sydney, NSW  
co-signed by Yevgeny Yevtushenko
- 1/2/7/2 n.d. but c.1966  
co-signed by A. Surkov
- 1/2/8 Letters from Alan Marshall:
- 1/2/8/1 7 Nov (or Feb?) 1949  
Harcourt, Victoria
- 1/2/8/2 12 Mar 1952  
Kosciusko, NSW
- 1/2/8/3 2 Aug 1952  
Townsville, Qld
- 1/2/8/4 18 Aug [1952]  
Cunnamulla, Qld
- 1/2/8/5 n.d. but 1952  
Near Barcaldine, Qld
- 1/2/8/6 8 Mar 1956  
Eltham, Victoria
- 1/2/8/7 4 Sep 1963  
Eltham, Victoria
- 1/2/9 Letter from Vance Palmer  
25 May [no year given]  
Kew, Victoria
- 1/2/10 Letter from Katharine Susannah Prichard  
18 Mar 1956  
Greenmount, WA

**Box 1 1/3 Correspondence and Memoranda of Agreement with Publishers**

*Note:* Material is arranged alphabetically by name of company without each item being listed.

	1/3/1	Memorandum of Agreement with Australian Large Print Pty Ltd 1987 Coburg, Victoria
	1/3/2/1-11	Correspondence, Memoranda of Agreement and Royalty Statements from Cassell and Co. Ltd. 1949 - 1975 London, UK
	1/3/3	Letter from Copyright Agency Limited n.d. Milsons Point, NSW
	1/3/4/1-2	Correspondence from Currey O'Neil Ross 1982-1983 South Yarra, Victoria
	1/3/5/1-3	Correspondence, Memorandum of Agreement and Royalty Statement from Gold Star Publications 1972-1974 Hawthorn, Victoria
	1/3/6	Memorandum of Agreement from Pascoe Publishing Pty Ltd n.d. Fairfield, Victoria
	1/3/7	Letter from Laurie Clancy (La Trobe University) 1986
<b>Box 1</b>	<b>1/4</b>	<b>Correspondence with Poland</b>
	1/4/1	<u>Letters to John Morrison</u>
-	1/4/1/1/1-13	Letters from Aleksandra Ambros and Stanislaw Bebenek, <i>Cyztelnik</i> , Publishers 1984 - 1986 Warsaw
	1/4/1/2	Letter from Polish Consulate



1986  
Sydney, NSW

1/4/2      Letters from John Morrison

1/4/2/1/1-5      Letters to Aleksandra Ambros and  
S. Bebenek, *Cyztelnik*, Publishers  
1984-1986

1/4/2/2/1-2      Letters to Polish Consulate  
1986-1987

**Box 1      1/5      Correspondence from students of the  
University of Tasmania**

1/5/1-19      Letters from Education students at the  
University of Tasmania to John Morrison  
discussing his book, *Northwind*.  
1983

**BOX 2      SERIES 2      MANUSCRIPTS**

**Summary :** 2/1 Manuscript short stories

2/2 Typescript short stories

2/3 Typescript articles and reviews

2/4 Notes for talks

*Note* Stories are either manuscript, in John Morrison's hand, or typescript;  
written on exercise books or on A4 size paper. Some have been annotated  
by J.M. indicating their place and date of original publication.

**2/1      Manuscript Short Stories**

*Note* The following manuscripts had been wrapped in a brown paper bundle with  
a label addressed to John Morrison from *Pravda* in Moscow. The label has been  
retained.

- 2/1/1 'Dago' Annotated 'The Polish Collection, July...'46'
- 2/1/2 'The Canadian Hector' Annotated, 'Black Cargo'
- 2/1/3 'Phoo and the Bodger truck' Annotated, 'May 52'
- 2/1/4 'The Jamaican Rider'
- 2/1/5 'To kill a snake' Annotated, 'Aus Post April '52'
- 2/1/6 'The Welcome' Annotated, 'Tribune, Aug '52'
- 2/1/7 'Bo Abbott'
- 2/1/8 'The Javanese Croaker' Annotated, 'Sun, April 28 '46'
- 2/1/9 'A man's world' Annotated, 'June 1<sup>st</sup> '59'
- 2/1/10 'Powder ground' Annotated, 'Australian Post'
- 2/1/11 'The determination of Kognialuk' Annotated, 'Australian Post'
- 2/1/1 2 'Sing me to sleep' Annotated, 'Balwyn Advertiser, June 8<sup>th</sup>, '46'
- 2/1/13 'Sydney or the bush'
- 2/1/14 'The Return of Peg-leg'
- 2/1/15 'The innocent' Annotated, 'Argus Women's Supplement'
- 2/1/16 'Escape' Annotated, 'Argus mag, Aug 30 '46'
- 2/1/17 'Black night in Collingwood'
- 2/1/18 'Second Preference Man'
- 2/1/19 & 20 Two ms stories with illegible titles.

<b>Box 2</b>	<b>2/2</b>	<b>Typescript Short Stories</b>
	2/2/1	'Joe'
	2/2/2	'The operation'
	2/2/3	'The better fetish'
	2/2/4	'Sing me to sleep'
	2/2/5	'Lascars aren't dumb' Annotated, 'Sun News Pic'
	2/2/6	'The innocent'
	2/2/7	'One delightful voice'
	2/2/8	'The return of Peg-leg'
	2/2/9	'Powder ground'
	2/2/10	'Escape'
	2/2/11	'Was it like this?'
	2/2/12	'Sing me to sleep'
	2/2/13	'The Javanese croaker'
	2/2/14	'The determination of Kognialuk'
	2/2/15	'The golden monkey'
	2/2/16	'Lena'
	2/2/17	'Mum', also titled 'Quiet night in Station Street'
	2/2/18	Author's note to 'Morning glory'
	2/2/19	'A coat for a sailor'
	2/2/20-22	'Five fine boys' (Three copies)
	2/2/23	'Breaking seven o'clock'
	2/2/24	'Perhaps you've got it'
	2/2/25	'Perhaps you've got it' (Re-worked version)

- 2/2/26-28 'Everything's different this morning' (Three copies, one untitled)
- 2/2/29 'The haunting of Hungry Jimmy'
- 2/2/30 Untitled ts. beginning 'The Bogan Swamp was a thing of wonder'
- Also, a one-page fragment of an unidentified ts.

**Box 3      2/3      Typescript articles and reviews**

- 2/3/1 'The diamond 88' Article on Ernestine Hill's 'The territory'
- 2/3/2 'Judah Waten'
- 2/3/3 'The last line' Article on Vic Williams' 'The days (*sic*) of Big Jim' (also fragment of earlier version)
- 2/3/4 Untitled review of Horace Webber's 'The years may pass on'.
- 2/3/5 'Alan Marshall' Annotated, 'From Walkabout, December 1950'.

**Box 3      2/4      Notes for talks**

2/4/1-7 Typescripts of lectures on literature. (Seven tss).

**BOX 3 & 5      SERIES 3      PUBLICATIONS**

- Summary**    3/1    Copies of John Morrison's published work
- 3/2    Book reviews and articles written by John Morrison
- 3/3    Articles written about John Morrison
- 3/4    "Gordon" stories from the *Communist Review*
- 3/5    Reviews of John Morrison's books

3/6 Editions of John Morrison's published work

*Note* This series, which has not been listed item-by-item, contains presscuttings, magazine offprints, editions of magazines and books, photocopies and book extracts of John Morrison's published work; articles about him; and presscuttings kept by him.

**Box 3            3/1        Copies of John Morrison's published work**

Offprints, presscuttings and photocopies of JM's stories published in *The Sun, The Argus, The Herald, The Bulletin, Meanjin, The Realist, Overland, Australian Short Stories, Australian Literary Studies* and *The Educational Magazine*.

There is also an offprint of an a biographical article by Rachel Morrison, 'A matter of survival: Rachel Morrison in Germany, 1923-1933'.

2 folders.

**Box 3            3/2        Book reviews and articles written by John Morrison**

Presscuttings of book reviews written by JM of other author's works and published in *The Age* (mainly) and *The Argus*. Also article from *Tribune*.

1 folder.

**Box 3            3/3        Articles written about John Morrison**

Offprints and presscuttings of articles and interviews with John Morrison published in *The Age, The Herald, Free Press, Australian Short Stories* and *The Australian Literary Calendar*.

1 folder.

**Box 3            3/4        "Gordon" stories from the *Communist Review***

Photocopied presscuttings of 14 short stories published in the *Communist Review* by "Gordon", 1938-1939. (Several copies of each).

1 folder.

**Box 3            3/5        Reviews of John Morrison's books**

Presscuttings of reviews of Morrison's books from *The Bulletin*, *Overland*, *The Age* and other unidentified sources. *Also* transcript of a radio review by Colin Roderick of *The creeping city* in 1949.

1 folder.

**Box 4            SERIES 4       MISCELLANEOUS**

*Note* This series, which has not been listed on an item-by-item basis, contains a miscellany of personal documents and other material retained by John Morrison.

**Box 4            4/1        Waterside Workers' Federation documents**

Membership cards, constitution and other documents pertaining to John Morrison's membership of the WWF.

8 items/1 folder.

**Box 4            4/2        Personal documents**

John Morrison's British passport, vaccination certificate, 1965 visa to East Germany, original birth certificate (and photocopy) and photocopied marriage certificates of his two marriages.

6 items/1 folder

**Box 4            4/3        Notes and quotations**

Observational notes made by John Morrison; also quotations from other authors. Mainly typescript on exercise paper.

1 folder.

**Box 4            4/4        Biographical and bibliographical notes**

Autobiographical and biographical fragments compiled by John Morrison; lists of his short stories; material re Morrison's inclusion in a Film Australia project, *Australian Biography*.

1 folder.

**Box 4            4/5        Re The Patrick White Award**

Photocopied presscuttings of newspaper articles written about John Morrison when he won The Patrick White Award in 1986.

1 folder.

**Box 4            4/6        Presscuttings kept by John Morrison**

Presscuttings from *The Age* and *The Sunday Age* of miscellaneous articles kept by John Morrison.

1 folder.

**Box 4            4/7        Re theatre production of 'Black Cargo'**

Presscuttings and poster relating to the Melbourne Workers Theatre's production of 'Black Cargo'.

1 folder.

**Box 4            4/8        Re the Order of Australia**

Correspondence, photocopied citation and material regarding the protocol of John Morrison's 1989 award of the Order of Australia. Includes letters of congratulation from Elaine Lindsay (Australia Council), John Cain (Premier, Victoria), Laurie Muller (President, Australian Book Publishers' Association), Fij Miller (Adelaide Festival), Elaine Miller (Mayor of St Kilda), Gail Cork (Australian Society of Authors), Ian Sinclair, MP, Tom Shapcott (Australia Council), Donald Horne (Australia Council), Alan Brown, MLA, and Frances Awcock (National Book Council).

1 folder.

**Box 4            4/9        Maps**

Touring maps of Melbourne, London and rural Australia.

1 folder.

**Box 5 Editions of John Morrison's published work**

Copies of *Meanjin* and *Overland* that feature JM's stories. (10 volumes). Also copies of JM's *Australian by choice* and *The happy warrior*; Wendy Lowenstein and Tom Hills, *Under the hook : Melbourne Waterside workers remember, 1900-1980*; Danielle Kapel's *Creatures of real life: the social vision of John Morrison* (unpub. thesis, Monash University); *An approach to the text: Stories of the Waterfront by John Morrison* (NSW Department of School Education) and Alan Marshall's *These are my people*. [18 volumes].

**BOX 6 SERIES 5 PHOTOGRAPHS AND TAPES**

**Box 6** Three photographs of John Morrison. Two are original prints on photographic paper; one is a tear-sheet from the *Australian Literary Calendar 1989*.

Also, copy of *Australian Literary Calendar 1989*.

**Box 6 Cassette tapes**

Four cassette tapes of John Morrison either speaking or reading. Recording dates not known.

**BOX 4 SERIES 6 LETTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM ENGLAND**

*Note* These items were sent to Australia by JM's niece after his death. They comprise family photos of a young JM and his family in Scotland; photos and postcards JM sent back to the family from Australia during all periods of his life. The postcards have messages written on them. People depicted in the photos incl JM's parents and siblings, his first wife, Frances, and children, his second wife Rachel. There is also a letter from JM to his niece, Ruth. Mar 10, 1951. [40 photos and postcards].

E N D

E:\UMArchives\Lists(L-O)\Morrison John (100~35).doc