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| Reference Number | 2018.0002 |
| Collection/Series Title | NOTEBOOKS |
| Creator | Greer, Professor Germaine |
| Creator's Activity/Occupation | Producer - Journalists - Academics - English - Feminists - Authors |
| Creator's Historical Note | |
| <p>Germaine Greer, author, journalist, broadcaster, feminist and conservationist was born in Melbourne, Australia on January 29, 1939. She was educated at Star of the Sea College, Gardenvale, studied English and French literature and language at the University of Melbourne, (BA Hons) and graduated MA (Hons I) from the University of Sydney with a thesis on Byron's satiric verse, and was a Senior Tutor in English (1963-1964). Greer earned a PhD from the University of Cambridge on Shakespeare's Early Comedies and was appointed Lecturer at the University of Warwick (1967-1972). Greer was one of the first women appointed full members of Cambridge University Footlights Dramatic Club and subsequently played roles in comedies for television, with regular appearances on radio and television continuing throughout her career. A contributor and editor for the underground press Oz and Suck magazines, Greer was also a gardening columnist 'Rose Blight' for Private Eye in the late 1960s and 1970s. Greer has written widely throughout her career for the mainstream press as a journalist, columnist and reviewer.</p> <p>In 1970 Greer published <i>The Female Eunuch</i>, which explored the limitations on women's lives and selves in the wider context of the liberation movements of that time. It created a shock wave of recognition in women around the world, became an international bestseller and a landmark in the history of the women's movement and was reprinted and widely translated. This launched Greer's career as an author and was followed by a series of popular and academic books including: <i>The Obstacle Race: The Fortunes of Women Painters and their Work</i> 1979, <i>Sex and Destiny: The Politics of Human Fertility</i> 1984, <i>Shakespeare</i> 1986, <i>The Madwoman's Underclothes</i> selected journalism 1964-1985 1986, <i>Kissing the Rod: An Anthology of Seventeenth Century Women's Verse</i> (coedited with Susan Hastings, Jeslyn Medoff and Melinda Sansone) 1988, <i>Daddy we hardly knew you</i> 1989, <i>The Uncollected Verse of Aphra Behn</i> (Ed.) 1989, <i>The Change: Women Ageing and the Menopause</i> 1991, <i>The Collected Works of Katherine Philips: The Matchless Orinda</i> (vol. III The Translations) with Dr Ruth Little 1993, <i>Slip-Shod Sibyls: Recognition Rejection and the Women Poet</i> 1995, <i>The Surviving Works of Anne Wharton</i> (edited with Susan Hastings) 1997, <i>The Whole Woman</i> 1999, <i>John Wilmot Earl of Rochester</i> 1999, <i>101 Poems by 101 Women</i> (ed.) 2001, <i>The Boy</i> (2003), <i>Poems for Gardeners</i> (ed.) 2003, <i>Whitefella Jump Up: The Shortest Way to Nationhood</i> (Quarterly Essay) 2003-2004, <i>Shakespeare's Wife</i> 2007, <i>On Rage</i> 2008, and <i>White Beech</i> 2013. Greer is in addition the publisher of several volumes of seventeenth century women's writing under the imprint Stump Cross Books.</p> <p>Greer taught at the Universities of Tulsa (1979-1983) and Warwick (c. 1989-2003). She is the president of the invertebrate charity Buglife and the founder of Friends of Gondwana Rainforest charity which manages the Cave Creek Rainforest Rehabilitation Scheme in Southern Queensland. In 2013 Greer sold her archive to the University of Melbourne, with proceeds to benefit Friends of Gondwana. Greer is the recipient of numerous scholarships, honours and awards.</p> <p>Source: Who's Who in Australia.</p> | |
| Date Range of Collection/Series | 1972-1996 |
| Size/Extent | 1 Unit |

Access Conditions

Access: Restricted

Scope and Content of Series

The Germaine Greer Archive has been made available due to its historical and research importance. Statements which form part of the collection are not made on behalf of the University and do not represent the University's views. It contains material that some researchers might find confronting. This includes: explicit language and images that reflect either the attitudes of the era in which the material was originally published or the views of the creators of the material but may not be considered appropriate today; names, images and voices of deceased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in published and unpublished printed material, audio recordings and photographs; graphic descriptions of medical conditions and treatment.

This small series consists of 17 notebooks kept by Germaine Greer. The notebooks vary in size, colour and style, and are contained within a single unit in the archive. The notebooks are composed of text handwritten primarily by Greer but at times also include the hands of research assistants, and in one notebook the hand of Greer's close friend Gay Clifford. The content of the notebooks varies but they primarily contain: research notes, bibliographies, drafts of letters, lists, general musings and observations, and journal entries completed whilst travelling.

Pages within the notebooks are generally left unnumbered, however there is the odd exception, and several of the notebooks contain entries at both ends of the book. While most of the notebooks in the series are in good condition some have loose pages and failed binding. Several of the notebooks also contain other items loose within their pages, such as correspondence, photographs, receipts, notes and remnants of pressed flowers. Most of the notebooks were labelled on either the front cover or within the first few pages prior to accession, and where applicable these inscriptions have been used to title the items within this series. The arrangement of the series is consistent with the order in which it was received.

The earliest dated item in the collection is a small, red, A6 sized notebook with the words 'PETTY CASH' inscribed by hand on its cover. The first entry in the book is dated 5th of July 1972 and shows Greer's expenses for the day: £1.55 spent at Ryman's stationary store. According to the notebook, between 5 July 1972 and the final entry dated 12 August 1976, Greer's "petty cash" was primarily spent on postage, taxi fares, coffee, laundry, telephone calls and 'bog- roll' [toilet paper].

The item with the most recent known date in the series is a red and black notebook titled and dated 'Brisbane 20/9/96'. While the majority of the book's pages are blank, the few pages with written content are extremely varied ranging from observations gathered during a visit to Australia, a list of poems featuring skylarks and a draft letter relating to Greer's role in the television program 'Travels with Pevsner'. Beginning like a personal journal entry the first line reads: 'Brisbane 20/9/96. This town is still an extraordinary mess- the Hobart of the north – there is not a single elegant street or even precinct'. Included loose in the notebook is correspondence from the University of Nottingham, handwritten notes, a schedule to appear at the Royal National Theatre to discuss her book Slip-Shod Sibyls, and a colour photograph of a flowering plant.

Many of the notebooks in the series have been listed as undated as it is not clear when they were used. These undated books contain mostly Greer's research on Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century literature and poetry, a

subject which has been a long-term interest of Greer's. In these notebooks research notes are written in both Greer's hand and those of research assistants and have been gathered during research undertaken at various libraries and archives. Several of the notebooks labelled by Greer reference these collections, with titles such as 'B.L.'- British Library, 'C.U.L.'- Cambridge University Library and 'Bodley' [Bodleian Library].

While the majority of the notebooks are filled with research notes, statistics and bibliographical information there are more personal journal entries too. Throughout the Greer Archive there is evidence of Greer's experience travelling abroad, and the Notebook series is no exception.

While in Switzerland, Greer drafted a letter to her Uncle Bernard in a notebook: 'I'm actually sitting in the terrace of a restaurant in Coglio writing this'. Coglio is a village in Ticino, Switzerland, where Greer's mother Peggy's side of the family originate from. In a different notebook labelled 'Peggy', Greer drafted a letter to her siblings, again regarding Ticino but this time the subject is their mother: 'Our mother is (I hope) having a wonderful time laying waste in a Swiss clinic'.

In 1994 Greer travelled through Central Asia with her friend Ann Polis and this trip is documented in a notebook labelled 'With Ann in Central Asia'. The notebook contains Greer's impressions of the landscape, culture and people seen during her travels through Asia. Other notebooks in the series document travels through Russia, Finland and the United States of America.

In this series, personal reflections are often juxtaposed with scholarly research. One notebook with such a juxtaposition is a small black, white and red notebook labelled 'Gay's Daybook, given to her by Rita, 13th July, 1986'. The notebook originally belonged to Greer's close friend Gay Clifford. Clifford suffered from a stroke in 1984 and due to ongoing complications, her handwriting in the notebook is barely legible. One of the first lines Clifford has written states: 'This is written at Germaine's suggestion (to keep me quiet???)'. Clifford's writing fills only the first few pages of the book as she records basic observations such as the weather, and discusses her frustrations with her memory: 'Why can I remember everything and nothing?'. The entries written by Clifford end abruptly as Greer takes over the notebook on the very next page with a shift of focus. Greer begins by recording notes from historian David Hey's book 'The History of Myddle' and her next entry lists plants that she would like to include in her garden at The Mills, Essex. While most of the pages in the notebook are blank, several unused pages contain remnants of pressed flowers: petals, leaves and stains of colour. Whether the flowers were slipped into the pages of the notebook by its original owner Gay Clifford or by Greer remains unknown.

2018.0002 NOTEBOOKS 1972-1996

| Item Number | Unit/Box | Title | Date | Description |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2018.0002.00001 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | Petty Cash [notebook] | 5 July 1972- 12 August 1976 | Red A6 notebook labelled 'Petty Cash'. Pages are unnumbered. Majority of notebook is blank. The notebook contains a list of expenses, primarily: Ryman's [stationery], postage, laundry, coffee and telephone calls. Also contains a loose note listing expenses and a postage receipt. Subjects: Expenses; Money; Stationery; Petty Cash |
| 2018.0002.00002 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | [Margaret White and Henry Mortlock, notebook] | undated | Green A5 notebook, unlabelled. Pages are unnumbered. Majority of notebook is blank. The notebook contains research notes relating to Seventeenth Century printer Margaret White and bookseller/publisher Henry Mortlock. Also includes a short list of poets and a loose invitation to King's College lecture: 'Is Universalism in Ethics Dead?' by Professor Onora O'Neill [dated 2000]. Subjects: Book publishers; Booksellers; Printing--England--History; Theological literature; Women poets; Bibliography |
| 2018.0002.00003 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | [Women and literature, notebook] | undated | Red A5 notebook, unlabelled. Pages are unnumbered. Approximately half of notebook is blank. The notebook contains research notes primarily relating to Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century women poets. Includes hand drawn sketch of paper-makers watermark. Subjects: Research; Literature; English poetry; Anne Finch, Countess of Winchelsea; Letter writing; Women authors; Women poets |
| 2018.0002.00004 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | Brisbane [notebook] | 1996 | Black and red A5 notebook, unlabelled. Pages are unnumbered. Majority of notebook is blank. Notebook begins: "Brisbane 20/9/96. This town is still an extraordinary mess- the Hobart of the north". Notebook contains Greer's notes during a visit to Australia, a list of poems featuring skylarks, and a draft letter relating to Travels with Pevsner [television series]. Loose in notebook: correspondence from Dorothy Johnston from The University of Nottingham, a handwritten note relating to the Portland Papers held at Longleat Archives, correspondence and schedule relating to an appearance by Greer at the Royal National Theatre to discuss her book Slip-Shod Sibyls, and a colour photograph of a flowering plant. Subjects: Diary; Journal; Australia; Peggy Greer; Lectures and lecturing; Education; Community; Culture; Health; Medical profession; Mental health; Drug use; Sexuality; Poetry; Travels with Pevsner [television program]; Slip-shod Sibyls; Photography |

| Item Number | Unit/Box | Title | Date | Description |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------|--|
| 2018.0002.00005 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | C.U.L [Notebook] | undated | Grey A5 notebook, labelled 'C.U.L' [Cambridge University Library] in black text on cover. Pages are unnumbered and have come away from binding. The notebook contains research relating to Seventeenth Century poetry and literature. Subjects: Research; Cambridge University Library; Poetry; Literature |
| 2018.0002.00006 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | Bodley [Notebook] | 1994 | Grey A5 notebook, labelled 'Bodley' in black text on front cover. Pages are numbered 1-87. The notebook contains research relating to Seventeenth Century poetry and literature. Subjects: Research; Bodleian Library; Poetry; Literature; Anne Wharton |
| 2018.0002.00007 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | Dear Uncle Bernard [Notebook] | undated | Turquoise A5 spiral notebook, unlabelled. Pages are unnumbered. The notebook has entries at both ends and some pages are blank. Notebook begins with a letter written while in Vallemaggia, Switzerland: 'Dear Uncle Bernard...'. The notebook also contains research notes relating to literature and poetry. Subjects: Family research; Pietro Lafrank; Vallemaggia; Ticino; Switzerland; Cardiff City Library; Literature; Poetry and poets; John Dryden; Marcel Proust; Literary awards |
| 2018.0002.00008 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | Peggy [Notebook] | undated | Blue and black A5 notebook, labelled 'Peggy' on first page. Pages are unnumbered. The notebook has entries at both ends and some pages are blank. The notebook contains a draft for a letter from Greer to her siblings Barry and Jane concerning their mother Peggy Greer. Also contains research notes relating to Anne Wharton as well as women artists and art. Subjects: Family; Peggy Greer; Switzerland; Barry Greer; Jane Burke; Art; Painting; Artists; Académie Julian; Women artists; Literature; Anne Wharton |
| 2018.0002.00009 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | Ben's [Notebook] | 1994 | Red A5 notebook, labelled on cover: 'Ben's'. Pages are unnumbered. The notebook has entries at both ends and some pages are blank. Some pages have been cut from the front of the notebook. The notebook contains research notes written by Benjamin Evans [likely an assistant of Greer's] relating to Anne Wharton. Loose in notebook: Printed list of names with hand written annotations [3p.]. Document begins: 'Check Parish records of...'. Also contains a receipt from a rare books library dated 3/7/94. Subjects: Research; The Surviving Works of Anne Wharton; Literature |

| Item Number | Unit/Box | Title | Date | Description |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|--|
| 2018.0002.00010 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | B.L [British Library notebook] | undated | Red A5 notebook, labelled 'B.L' [British Library]. The notebook has entries at both ends and some pages are blank. Pages have come away from binding. The notebook contains research notes on seventeenth and eighteenth century literature, primarily women's literature. Loose in notebook: a pink post-it-note and a loose piece of torn paper. Subjects: Women authors; Women poets; Anne Finch; Anne Wharton; Aphra Behn; British Library; Poetry; Literature |
| 2018.0002.00011 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | Wom Lit [Notebook] | 1992 | Black Ryman A5 notebook with the word 'Ruled' embossed on the front cover. Pages are unnumbered. The notebook has entries at both ends and some pages are blank. The notebook contains research notes on diverse topics: seventeenth and eighteenth century literature; health and medicine; and the relationship between Australia and Britain. There is also a journal entry written while Greer was in Seattle where she spoke at the National Abortion Federation Conference. Subjects: Women's health; Women authors; Women poets; Literature; Battle of Britain; Letitia Elizabeth Landon; Miriam Thrall; Katherine Philips; Abortion; National Abortion Federation Conference; Politics; Australia-United Kingdom relations |
| 2018.0002.00012 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | The Petersburg Notebook | 1995 | Blue A5 notebook with the inscription "Leningrad / The Petersburg Notebook / Petrograd / 18th July- 1995" on the second page. Pages are unnumbered. Some pages are blank. The content of the notebook is varied and contains: observations and experiences while visiting Russia and Finland, research notes on topics of violence against women and an annotated bibliography of books relating to violence against women; and research notes relating to sixteenth and seventeenth century literature and poetry. Subjects: Russia; Finland; Culture; Fine Art; Architecture; Food; Opera; Women--Violence against; Rape; Crime statistics; Bibliography; Literature; Poetry |
| 2018.0002.00013 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | With Ann in Central Asia [notebook] | 1994 | Red A5 notebook with inscription "With Ann in Central Asia" on second page. Pages are unnumbered. Majority of notebook is blank. The notebook contains Greer's impressions of the landscape, culture and people seen during her travels through Central Asia. Subjects: Diary; Journal; Dunhuang; Jiayuguan; Lanzhou; Ann Polis; Travel; China |

| Item Number | Unit/Box | Title | Date | Description |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--|
| 2018.0002.00014 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | November 1993 [notebook] | 1993 | Grey patterned A5 notebook with the inscription 'November 1993' written on first page. Pages are unnumbered, the notebook has entries at both ends and the majority of the pages are blank. The notebook contains research notes relating to: Seventeenth century poets and poetry; notes from a 1991 census regarding parenting, conception and abortion; notes on hormone replacement therapy; notes on art in the enlightenment. Also includes entries made while in United States of America regarding art, cinema, opera and her hotel room. Loose in notebook: Five library slips from the New York Public Library [two used], and a receipt from Landmark Stationary. Subjects: Cinema; Art; Opera; Literature; Poetry; New York City; Ottawa, Luxury hotel; Womens health |
| 2018.0002.00015 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | Gay Clifford, Pianelli [notebook] | c.1986 | Red, black and white A6 notebook with the inscription 'Gay Clifford / Pianelli' on the first page. On the second page is the inscription 'Gay's Daybook, given to her by Rita, 13th July, 1986'. Pages are unnumbered, the notebook has entries at both ends and some pages are blank. The notebook originally belonged to Greer's close friend Gay Clifford whose diary entries fill the first few pages. Gay was unwell at the time and as such her handwriting is barely legible. In these entries Gay records basic observations such as the weather and documents some of her frustrations with her illness. After these entries from Gay, Greer began to use the notebook. Greer took notes from David Hey's book 'The History of Myddle' and wrote lists of plants that she would like to include in her garden at The Mills. Loose in the notebook: 1 plant sample [flower] and a piece of yellow paper with publisher Carmen Callil's letterhead and contact details. Subjects: Gay Clifford; Diary; Journal; Friendship; Illness; Pianelli; Research; English history; England; Myddle; Garden; Plants; The Mills; Essex |
| 2018.0002.00016 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | [Research Assistant, notebook 1] | c.1994 | Yellow A4 notebook. Pages are unnumbered, the notebook has entries at both ends and some pages are blank. The notebook contains research notes written by research assistants. The notes relate to Greer's work on Anne Finch. Subjects: Research; Literature; English poetry; Anne Finch, Countess of Winchelsea; Women authors; Women poets |



The University of Melbourne Archives
Records Description List

2018.0002 NOTEBOOKS 1972-1996

| Item Number | Unit/Box | Title | Date | Description |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|--|
| 2018.0002.00017 | 2018.0002 Unit 1 | [Research Assistant, notebook 2] | c.1994 | Red A4 notebook. Pages are unnumbered, the notebook has entries at both ends and some pages are blank. The notebook contains research notes written by research assistants. The notes relate to Greer's work on Anne Finch. Subjects: Research; Theological literature; Anne Finch, Countess of Winchelsea; Women authors; Women poets; Bible--Old Testament |