

COLLECTION TITLE	Papers of Vivian Smith
COLLECTION IDENTIFIER	MSS 041
INCLUSIVE DATE(S)	1966 to 1994
EXTENT	13 boxes
CREATOR	Smith, Vivian, 1933-
RELATED ENTITIES	Smith, Vivian, 1933- James McAuley 1917-1976 Nettie Palmer 1885-1964
RELATED COLLECTIONS	Papers of Vivian Smith
ACCESS POINTS	Authors Critics

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Wikipedia article: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vivian_Smith_\(poet\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vivian_Smith_(poet))

Vivian Brian Smith was born on the 3 June 1933 in Hobart, Tasmania. After attending local schools, he graduated with an MA in French from the University of Tasmania. After teaching French for ten years, Smith moved to Sydney in 1967. He completed a PhD in English at the University of Sydney and taught there for many years, retiring as reader in English in 1996.

Smith published his first volume of poetry *The other meaning* in 1956. Since then he has published five more volumes, the most notable being *Tide country* (1982) which won the Grace Leven Prize and the NSW Premier's Poetry Prize. Smith's poetry maintains a close connection with Tasmania, but his descriptions of Sydney have drawn comparisons with the poetry of Kenneth Slessor. Influenced by Slessor and Judith Wright, Smith's poetry is often preoccupied with landscape and the sea, exploring themes such as loss and endurance, decay and renewal.

In addition to his poetry, Smith has edited a number of anthologies. He edited *Letters of Vance and Nettie Palmer* (1977) and wrote the poetry section of *The Oxford history of Australian literature* (1981). Smith has also written significant studies on Australian writers such as James McAuley, Vance Palmer and the American poet Robert Lowell.

Smith was awarded:

Patrick White Award, 1997: winner

Centenary Medal For service to Australian society and the humanities in the study of Australian literature

New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards, Poetry, 1983: winner for *Tide country*

Grace Leven Poetry Prize, 1982: winner for *Tide country*.

References:

AustLit : The Resource for Australian Literature, May 2006.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains manuscript material relating to the publication of *The poetry of Robert Lowell* (1974), *Selected poems* (1985), *The effects of light : poetry of Tasmania* (edited by Smith and Margaret Scott, 1985), *Australian poetry 1986 : the finest of recent Australian poetry* (edited by Smith, 1986), *Australian poetry 1988 : the finest of recent Australian poetry* (edited by Smith, 1988), *Nettie Palmer : her private journal Fourteen years, poems, reviews and literary essays* (edited by Smith, 1992), *Sydney's poems : a selection on the occasion of the city's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary 1842-1992* (edited by Robert Gray and Smith, 1992). It also contains reviews, articles, correspondence from publishers, literary editors, students and writers and correspondence and poetry by contributors to *Quadrant*, and office material.

Correspondents include Alec Bolton, Tom Shapcott, Anne Fairbairn, Alan Gould, Gary Catalano, Norman Talbot, Mark O'Connor, Les

Murray, Jeremy Nelson, Craig Powell, Bob Brissenden, Geoff Page, A D Hope, Margaret Scott, Jeff Guess, Thelma Forshaw, Andrew Sant, Robert Habost, Peter Porter, Graham Rowlands, Judith Beveridge, Bruce Dawe, Philip Hodgins, Walter Tonetto, Timoshenko Aslanides, David Brooks, Joan Priest, Michael Hulse, Judith Rodriguez, Margaret Diesendorf, Geoffrey Dutton, Rosemary Dobson, Rhyl McMaster, Robert Harris, Philip Martin, Judith Wright (photocopy), Bruce Beaver, Rod Moran, Michael Sharkey, Jan Owen and Fay Zwicky.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Access: Check with Curator

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Copying: Check with Curator

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION

The collection was acquired from Vivian Smith in five instalments between 1987 and 1994.

RELATED ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

Related Material

Further material relating to Vivian Smith is located in the papers of Vivian Smith, at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, NLA MS 4853 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.ms-ms4853>.

This collection originally included a number of publications, listed below. These works have been catalogued separately, and added to the Library's main collection.

Smith, Vivian. *The poetry of Robert Lowell*. Sydney: Sydney University Press, 1974.

Gray, Robert and Vivian Smith, editors. *Sydney's poems : a selection on the occasion of the city's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary 1842-1992*. Sydney: Primavera, 1992.

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ORIGINALS

Special Collections, UNSW Canberra

Collection Contents

Papers of Vivian Smith (MSS 041)

1966 to 1994 (Inclusive date(s))

This collection contains manuscript material relating to the publication of *The poetry of Robert Lowell* (1974), *Selected poems* (1985), *The effects of light : poetry of Tasmania* (edited by Smith and Margaret Scott, 1985), *Australian poetry 1986 : the finest of recent Australian poetry* (edited by Smith, 1986), *Australian poetry 1988 : the finest of recent Australian poetry* (edited by Smith, 1988), *Nettie Palmer : her private journal Fourteen years, poems, reviews and literary essays* (edited by Smith, 1992), *Sydney's poems : a selection on the occasion of the city's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary 1842-1992* (edited by Robert Gray and Smith, 1992). It also contains reviews, articles, correspondence from publishers, literary editors, students and writers and correspondence and poetry by contributors to *Quadrant*, and office material.

Correspondents include Alec Bolton, Tom Shapcott, Anne Fairbairn, Alan Gould, Gary Catalano, Norman Talbot, Mark O'Connor, Les Murray, Jeremy Nelson, Craig Powell, Bob Brissenden, Geoff Page, A D Hope, Margaret Scott, Jeff Guess, Thelma Forshaw, Andrew Sant, Robert Habost, Peter Porter, Graham Rowlands, Judith Beveridge, Bruce Dawe, Philip Hodgins, Walter Tonetto, Timoshenko Aslanides, David Brooks, Joan Priest, Michael Hulse, Judith Rodriguez, Margaret Diesendorf, Geoffrey Dutton, Rosemary Dobson, Rhyl McMaster, Robert Harris, Philip Martin, Judith Wright (photocopy), Bruce Beaver, Rod Moran, Michael Sharkey, Jan Owen and Fay

Zwicky.

Box 1 (MSS 041.B1)

Folder 1 (MSS 041.B1.1)

1966 to 1973 (Inclusive date(s))
Correspondence, 1966-1973

Folder 2 (MSS 041.B1.2)

1975 to 1979 (Inclusive date(s))
Correspondence, 1975-1979

Folder 3 (MSS 041.B1.3)

1980 to 1981 (Inclusive date(s))
Correspondence, 1980-1981

Folder 4 (MSS 041.B1.4)

1982 (Inclusive date(s))
Correspondence, 1982

Folder 5-6 (MSS 041.B1.5-6)

1983 (Inclusive date(s))
Correspondence, 1983

Box 10 (MSS 041.B10)

Folder 35 (MSS 041.B10.35)

Typescript, annotated typescript and photocopied typescript drafts of articles by Vivian Smith

Folder 36 (MSS 041.B10.36)

Manuscript, annotated typescript, photocopied typescript and carbon typescript drafts of poems by Noel Rowe, Judith Wright, A D Hope, Robert Adamson, Manfred Jurgenson and other contributors to *Quadrant*

Folder 37 (MSS 041.B10.37)

1981 (Inclusive date(s))
Manuscript (exercise book) list of poems used in *Quadrant* from 1981 to 1986 and photocopied manuscript list of poem numbers archived on disc

Folder 38 (MSS 041.B10.38)

1984 (Inclusive date(s))
Manuscript list of poems used in *Quadrant* from 1984 to 1989

Folder 39 (MSS 041.B10.39)

Annotated typescript, photocopied and annotated page proofs of some poems used in *Quadrant*

Folder 40 (MSS 041.B10.40)

1956 (Inclusive date(s))

Typescript, photocopied typescript and photocopied published pages of drafts of poems by Smith; photocopied draft of poems and music 'The last summer' and 'Night sowing' [1956]

Box 11 (MSS 041.B11)

Folder 41 (MSS 041.B11.41)

Annotated typescript, annotated photocopied typescript drafts and newspaper clippings of reviews written by Smith, reviews of Smith's publications and other reviews

Folder 42 (MSS 041.B11.42)

Miscellanea

Folder 43 (MSS 041.B11.43)

Miscellaneous newspaper clippings

Folder 44 (MSS 041.B11.44)

1981 (Inclusive date(s))

Small press items including *This roundabout* by Joy Boughton 1981; *Quadrant* No. 194, Volume XXVII, No. 10 October 1983; *Poetry Kanto* No. 7 Summer 1990; *Night in Sydney* [1993]; programme for the 4th International Symposium of Korean Literature, Sydney, 1993

Box 12 (MSS 041.B12)

Folder 45 (MSS 041.B12.45)

Publishers catalogues

Folder 46 (MSS 041.B12.46)

Annotated typescript and photocopied typescript and photocopied published pages of drafts of articles by Australian writers

Folder 47 (MSS 041.B12.47)

Typescript and annotated typescript drafts of articles; curriculum vitae of several Australian writers

Folder 48 (MSS 041.B12.48)

1989 (Inclusive date(s))

Photocopy of annotated page proofs of *A Porter selected* by Peter Porter (1989)

Box 13 (MSS 041.B13)

Folder 49 AV items (MSS 041.B13.49)

1973 (Inclusive date(s))

Photographs:

B/w photograph of Nettie Palmer;

B/w photograph of Gerald Murnane

Audio cassettes:

The poetry of Kenneth Slessor (1973);

'Vivian Smith' Poetica 9/5/89 and 'Flight paths' Poetica 16/5/98;

'Preview sample' - 'These wrens, this wattle tree' and 'The last summer';

'With changing key' - M Jones

Box 2 (MSS 041.B2)

Folder 7 (MSS 041.B2.7)

1984 (Inclusive date(s))

Correspondence, 1984

Folder 8 (MSS 041.B2.8)

1985 (Inclusive date(s))

Correspondence, 1985

Box 3 (MSS 041.B3)

Folder 9 (MSS 041.B3.9)

1986 (Inclusive date(s))

Correspondence, 1986

Folder 10 (MSS 041.B3.10)

1987 (Inclusive date(s))

Correspondence, January-June 1987

Box 4 (MSS 041.B4)

Folder 11 (MSS 041.B4.11)

1987 (Inclusive date(s))

Correspondence, July-December 1987

Folder 12 (MSS 041.B4.12)

1988 (Inclusive date(s))

Correspondence, 1988

Box 5 (MSS 041.B5)

Folder 13 (MSS 041.B5.13)

1989 (Inclusive date(s))

Correspondence, 1989

Folder 14 (MSS 041.B5.14)

1990 to 1991 (Inclusive date(s))
Correspondence, 1990-1991

Folder 15 (MSS 041.B5.15)

1992 (Inclusive date(s))
Correspondence, 1992

Folder 16 (MSS 041.B5.16)

1993 to 1994 (Inclusive date(s))
Correspondence, 1993-1994

Box 6 (MSS 041.B6)

Folder 17 (MSS 041.B6.17)

Correspondence, undated

Folder 18 (MSS 041.B6.18)

1974 (Inclusive date(s))
Manuscript and carbon typescript draft for *The poetry of Robert Lowell* (1974)

Folder 19 (MSS 041.B6.19)

1979 (Inclusive date(s))
Material relating to Vivian Smith's attendance at the 4th World Congress of Poets July 2-7, 1979 in Seoul, Korea. Includes schedules, poetry and travel/tourist material

Folder 20 (MSS 041.B6.20)

1983 (Inclusive date(s))
Typescript draft of Introduction to *Poetry Australia* No. 86 January 1983 and a published copy. Annotated photocopied typescript draft of Occasional Paper No. 37 *Tasmania and Australian poetry* for 1983 James McAuley Memorial Lecture delivered on 13 September 1983 and a published copy

Box 7 (MSS 041.B7)

Folder 21 (MSS 041.B7.21)

1985 (Inclusive date(s))
Manuscript, annotated typescript and annotated published pages and annotated photocopied published pages of poems for draft of *Selected poems* (1985)

Folder 22 (MSS 041.B7.22)

1985 (Inclusive date(s))
Manuscript, annotated photocopied typescript and annotated photocopied published pages of poems for draft of *Effects of light : the poetry of Tasmania* (1985) - incomplete

Folder 23 (MSS 041.B7.23)

1986 (Inclusive date(s))

Typescript, photocopied typescript and annotated photocopied typescript drafts of some poems not included and drafts of some poems accepted for *Australian poetry 1986 : the finest of recent Australian poetry*(1986)

Folder 24 (MSS 041.B7.24)

1986 (Inclusive date(s))

Manuscript, annotated photocopied typescript and annotated published pages of draft for *Australian poetry 1986 : the finest of recent Australian poetry* (1986) - incomplete

Folder 25 (MSS 041.B7.25)

1988 (Inclusive date(s))

Manuscript, photocopied typescript, annotated photocopied typescript and published pages drafts of some poems not included and some poems accepted for *Australian poetry 1988 : the finest of recent Australian poetry*(1988)

Box 8 (MSS 041.B8)

Folder 26 (MSS 041.B8.26)

1988 (Inclusive date(s))

Annotated typescript, annotated photocopied typescript, annotated newspaper clippings and annotated published pages draft of *Australian poetry 1988 : the finest of recent Australian poetry*(1988)

Folder 27-29 (MSS 041.B8.27-29)

1988 (Inclusive date(s))

Typescript, annotated typescript, photocopied typescript, annotated photocopied typescript, published pages, annotated published pages of draft for *Nettie Palmer : her private journal Fourteen years, poems, reviews and literary essays*(1988) [continued in Folder 30]

Box 9 (MSS 041.B9)

Folder 30 (MSS 041.B9.30)

1988 (Inclusive date(s))

Continuation of Folders 27-29. Typescript, annotated typescript, photocopied typescript, annotated photocopied typescript, published pages, annotated published pages of draft for *Nettie Palmer : her private journal Fourteen years, poems, reviews and literary essays* (1988) - incomplete

Folder 31 (MSS 041.B9.31)

1988 (Inclusive date(s))

Galley proofs of *Nettie Palmer : her private journal Fourteen years, poems, reviews and literary essays*(1988) and photocopied newspaper clippings of reviews

Folder 32 (MSS 041.B9.32)

1988 (Inclusive date(s))

Correspondence with literary editors, publishers and literary trustees regarding *Nettie Palmer : her private journal Fourteen years, poems, reviews and literary essays* (1988)

Folder 33 (MSS 041.B9.33)

1982 (Inclusive date(s))

Correspondence from Les Murray and research material regarding *Quadrant, twenty-five years*, (1982) and a photocopy

of music and words for 'Tasmania - for S.S.A.A. Choir', 1990

Folder 34 (MSS 041.B9.34)

1842 to 1992 (Inclusive date(s))

Photocopy of annotated page proofs of *Sydney's poems : a selection on the occasion of the city's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary 1842-1992* (edited by Robert Gray and Smith, 1992); includes an unbound unopened published copy
