

COLLECTION TITLE	Papers of Barbara Ker Wilson
COLLECTION IDENTIFIER	MSS 087
INCLUSIVE DATE(S)	1981 to 1988
EXTENT	1 box + 1 AV box
CREATOR	Barbara Ker Wilson, 1929-2020
RELATED ENTITIES	Barbara Ker Wilson, 1929-2020 David Fielding, 1944- Ida Rentoul Outhwaite, 1888-1960
RELATED COLLECTIONS	Papers of Barbara Ker Wilson
ACCESS POINTS	Authors English literature -- 20th century Women writers -- Australia -- Archives

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

As a child, Barbara Ker Wilson used to accompany her father to a large publishing office in London, to deliver the corrected proofs of his latest engineering textbook, and she knew then that she wanted to work in the world of writing and publishing. Her first 'successful' work, written when she was eight, was a play based on the coronation of King George VI, performed at her primary school in England. Throughout her childhood, she wrote poetry, short stories and unfinished 'novels' and was later educated at North London Collegiate School, England. The Second World War influenced Ker Wilson greatly, particularly the experience of living through air raids in London. With the end of the war she had her first experience of travelling abroad and subsequently travelled extensively in Europe and Asia.

As a writer, her primary interest was to tell a story, repeatedly returning to the refreshing vigour of the world's original stories - folktales - that she regarded as the springboard for all fiction. As an editor, she worked mainly with books for young readers, including Bodley Head, for whom she edited C.S. Lewis's *The Last Battle* (1956). Ker Wilson wrote several books for children before moving to Australia and continued her publishing career with Angus & Robertson, Hodder & Stoughton, Readers Digest and University of Queensland Press. While she was with Angus & Robertson she instigated the Australian exhibitions at the Bologna Book Fair, and also lectured on writing for children at schools and libraries throughout Australia. Ker Wilson was married to Peter Tahourdin, a composer, with whom she had two daughters.

In addition to works individually indexed on AustLit, Barbara Ker Wilson is authored a biography of English children's writer Noel Streatfeild (London: Bodley Head, 1961), before she arrived in Australia.

Reference: Austlit - <https://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/A15983>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection comprises papers of Barbara Ker Wilson, including manuscripts and typescripts (*Jane Austen in Australia*, *The Quade Inheritance*, *Acacia Terrace*), correspondence and photographs. There are three folders of material relating to Ker Willson's revision of Ida Rentoul Outhwaite's 'Hoppity's House' and photographs of paintings by David Fielding used to illustrate Ker Wilson's picture book *Acacia Terrace*.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Access: Open Access

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SOURCE OF ACQUISITION

The collection was acquired in 1990

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ORIGINALS

Special Collections, UNSW Canberra

Collection Contents

Papers of Barbara Ker Wilson (MSS 087)

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Audiovisual material (MSS 087.AV)

AV 1 (MSS 087.AV.1)

5 photographs of David Fielding and Barbara Ker Wilson
19 photographs of paintings by David Fielding used to illustrate Aston Scholastic *Acacia Terrace* picture book, published 1988

Box 1 (MSS 087.B1)

Typescripts, manuscripts, correspondence

Folder 1 (MSS 087.B1.1)

Annotated typescript of *Jane Austen in Australia*, with related correspondence (1981-1985)

Folder 2 (MSS 087.B1.2)

Annotated typescript of *The Quade Inheritance*, with related correspondence (1987-1988)

Folder 3 (MSS 087.B1.3)

Photocopy of handwritten version of 'Hoppity's House' by Ida Rentoul Outhwaite
Annotated typescript of 'Hoppity's House', as revised and rewritten by Barbara Ker Wilson
Related correspondence (1987-1988)

Folder 4 (MSS 087.B1.4)

Typewritten annotated copy of *Acacia Terrace*
Related correspondence (1986-1988)
Typewritten notes about *Acacia Terrace* plus photocopies of the photographs of the illustrations for the book
Two copies of *The Adelaide Review* (November 1986, February 1987) with cover designs by David Fielding
