

<b>COLLECTION TITLE</b>	Papers of Craig Powell
<b>COLLECTION IDENTIFIER</b>	MSS 152
<b>INCLUSIVE DATE(S)</b>	1966 to 1990
<b>EXTENT</b>	1 box, 2 folders
<b>CREATOR</b>	Powell, Craig, 1940- -- Correspondence.
<b>RELATED ENTITIES</b>	Powell, Craig, 1940- -- Correspondence.
<b>RELATED COLLECTIONS</b>	Papers of Craig Powell
<b>ACCESS POINTS</b>	Australian poetry -- 20th century Poets

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

(John) Craig Powell was born on 16 November 1940 in Wollongong, NSW. He graduated in Medicine from the University of Sydney in 1964 and from the New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry in 1970. He later went on to run a private psychotherapy practice in Sydney. He spent the years between 1972 and 1982 residing in Canada.

Powell contributed lyrics to a musical score by Moya Henderson, *Nembutal Rock* (1974). As well as the awards listed on AustLit, Powell won the Quarterly Review of Literature 45th Anniversary International Poetry Competition in 1989.

Powell has been awarded:

Arts Queensland Judith Wright Calanthe Prize for Poetry, 2003: shortlisted  
 Quarterly Review of Literature 45th Anniversary International Poetry Competition in 1989  
 Mattara Poetry Prize, 1983: winner for 'Five pieces for a homecoming'  
 Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Award, Verse, 1969: winner for 'Tree and river bank'  
 Poetry Australia Prize, 1964: winner for 'Four portraits'.

References:

AustLit : The Resource for Australian Literature, March 2007.

#### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Craig Powell Papers feature a small selection of personal correspondence between Powell and some notable Australian poets, from the 1960s to 1990. Correspondents include Michael Dransfield, Peter Kocan, Les Murray, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Thomas Shapcott, Francis Webb and Judith Wright. Draft poetry sent to Powell is also included in the papers, as well as commentary about the contemporary Australian literary scene.

#### **ARRANGEMENT**

Special Collections staff has imposed the series arrangement of this collection to describe and preserve context and relationships.

#### **ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

Access: Open Access

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## SOURCE OF ACQUISITION

The collection was acquired from Craig Powell in 1991.

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## EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ORIGINALS

Special Collections, UNSW Canberra

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Collection Contents

### Papers of Craig Powell (MSS 152)

1966 to 1990 (Inclusive date(s))

The Craig Powell Papers feature a small selection of personal correspondence between Powell and some notable Australian poets, from the 1960s to 1990. Correspondents include Michael Dransfield, Peter Kocan, Les Murray, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Thomas Shapcott, Francis Webb and Judith Wright. Draft poetry sent to Powell is also included in the papers, as well as commentary about the contemporary Australian literary scene.

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#### Series 1 Correspondence, 1968-1980 (MSS 152.1)

1968 to 1980 (Inclusive date(s))

This series comprises a number of letters written to Powell between 1968-1980. The letters are of a personal and intimate nature and contain valuable information on writers, values and the literary scene of Australia in the changing society of the 1960s and 1970s.

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#### Folder 1 (MSS 152.1.1)

Includes correspondence from Michael Dransfield and Peter Kocan, an aspiring poet in a psychiatric hospital. It includes details on Kocan's daily life and contains drafts of 19 poems he submitted for Powell's criticism. There is correspondence from Les Murray on issues such as his position as editor of *Poetry Australia*, the fortunes of the journal and South Head Press, legal problems with publishing a selection of Francis Webb's poetry, the actions of journal owner Grace Perry and Powell's relationship with the journal. There is a letter from Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker), as well as three particularly affectionate letters from Francis Webb, dated 1970 and 1971, which discuss Powell's poem 'Hans' at length. There is also correspondence from Judith Wright, 1967-1971, discussing her abhorrence of literary criticism, her work, and her relationship with a troubled teenager.

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#### Series 2 Correspondence from Thomas Shapcott, 1966-1990 (MSS 152.2)

1966 to 1990 (Inclusive date(s))

This series contains particularly personal letters from Shapcott to Powell. Topics discussed include Powell's poetry, Shapcott's education and poetry, influences on poetical writing styles, various literary ventures and publications, as well as personal events in both their lives, such as births and deaths of children.

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#### Folder 1 (MSS 152.2.1)

Approximately 50 typewritten letters from Shapcott to Powell detailing family, literary and professional news over a period of 24 years.

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