

UQFL283

Helen Darville Collection

Size	4 boxes
Contents	Drafts, proof pages, reviews, notebooks, correspondence, newspaper cuttings
Date range	1987 to 1996
Biography	<p>Helen Darville was born in Brisbane, Queensland, in 1971, the daughter of English migrants. She was educated at Rochedale Redeemer Lutheran College between 1984 and 1988. In 1989 she began an arts degree at The University of Queensland. By 1992 she had adopted Demidenko as her last name and claimed to be of Irish-Ukrainian ancestry. Darville's novel, <i>The Hand That Signed the Paper</i>, which claimed to be a family history based on oral testimony, won the <i>The Australian/Vogel</i> National Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript in 1993, the Australian Literature Society Gold medal in 1994 and the Miles Franklin Award in 1995. It produced wide-spread discussion in literary circles because of its perceived anti-Semitism, but this discussion escalated when Darville's real background was revealed. Darville continued to play the role of an Irish-Ukrainian, frequently wearing Ukrainian peasant blouses to literary events and listing herself in <i>Who's Who of Australian Writers</i> (2nd. ed. 1995) as: Demidenko, Helen(a) (Markova). In 1995, the novel was re-issued, attributing authorship to Helen Darville. In 2002 Darville announced that she would be auctioning her Australian Literary Society gold medal to fund a law degree.</p>
Notes	<p>Open access, except some items in Box 4 restricted. Application for access to restricted material may be submitted to the Fryer Librarian for consideration. The collection was rehoused in 2014 and box numbers were reallocated. Refer to the chart at the end of this listing to convert old box numbers to new numbers.</p>

Box 1

Manuscripts: *The Hand That Signed the Paper*

Early draft of manuscript with accompanying with compliments slip from Helen Littleton, Fiction Assistant, Allen and Unwin, typescript with handwritten annotations, 3 Feb 1995

About 3rd draft, typescript, 1992

6th draft, typescript, 1993

About 8th draft, typescript with handwritten annotations, 1993?

Draft with editor's annotations. This draft has header: 'Allen and Unwin: Hand that signed the paper...14 Feb 1994'. With accompanying computer diskette, Microsoft Word 5.5 and letter from Kim Smith, Production Assistant to Helen Demidenko, 21 Jul 1994

Publisher's proof pages

3 folders of photocopied newspaper, magazine and journal reviews from Publicity Department, Allen and Unwin

2 copies of publication, *The Hand That Signed the Paper* by Helen Demidenko (Sydney, Allen and Unwin, 1994)

Box 2

Manuscripts: stories, articles and statements, etc

'Corrida' by Helen Darville, 5 leaves typescript with accompanying letter by Helen Darville to Toby Creswell, editor, *Juice* magazine

'Easter Story', 1st draft, [5] leaves typescript with handwritten annotations

'Easter Story', 2nd draft, [11] leaves typescript with handwritten annotations

'Easter Story', 3rd draft, 12 leaves typescript with handwritten annotations

'Easter Story', 4th draft, Jan 1996, 17 leaves typescript with handwritten annotations

'Easter Story', 5th draft, 17 leaves typescript with handwritten annotations

'Easter Story', 6th draft, 17 leaves typescript

'Easter Story', final draft, 17 leaves typescript, publication date 12 Feb 1996; with accompanying letter to Andrew Greenwood, Minter and Ellison from Caroline Kelly, News Editor, *News Weekly*, 22 Jan 1996

'Helen Darville apologises' by Helen Darville, 3 leaves typescript; first leaf is signed H. Darville and also signed by Jonathan Peter Meadmore, 24 Aug 1995. Other two leaves are drafts of this statement

'Never such innocence (parts 1 and 2)' by Helen Darville, 6 leaves typescript, handwritten note on first leaf: *Courier-Mail* 27 Jul

'One Summer' by Helen Darville, proof copy of story, pp 199-209

'Pieces of the Puzzle' by Helen Demidenko, proof copy of story, pp 402-409, first leaf has handwritten note: *Meanjin*

'The Trial' by Helen 'Demidenko' Darville, photocopy from *New Weekly* 19 Feb 1996 ; 6 photocopied pages

Publications

Australian Aviation, July 1995

Meanjin, vol, 55, no 3, 1996, issue title: 'Broken Hearts'

Reimer, Andrew, *The Demidenko Debate* (Sydney, Allen and Unwin, 1996), with accompanying letter from Patrick Gallagher, Allen and Unwin, to Helen Darville, 18 Jan 1996

Correspondence

Folder 1

Letters from public (including other writers), arranged alphabetically by correspondent, A – K

Folder 2

Letters from public (including other writers), arranged alphabetically by correspondent, L – W

Folder 3

Cards (correspondents include Natalie Jane Prior)

Box 3

2 binders of newspaper clippings, correspondence, invitations, etc, 1994-1995 (grey spiral binders)

Newspaper cutting: 'Well, who is she really?' by Luke Slattery, *Australian*, 13 Jan 1996

1 plastic sleeve of clippings and cartoons : 3 Michael Leunig cartoons : 'The Denko Scale', 'The Darville Section' and 'The Literary hoaxer waits for punishment...'; P. McGuinness, 'Fantasies about identity and anti-Semitism

9 leaves handwritten notes [relating to *The Hand That Signed the Paper* ?]

Pamphlet *The Truth of Viet Cong Terror* by R. G. Wylie (Saigon: Ministry of Information, n.d.)

Copy of publication "West of Moscow", by Dmytro Chub.

Folder 1

Letters from journalists (unsorted)

Folder 2

Business correspondence :

- Government
- Literary agents
- Newspapers
- Publishers
- Angus and Robertson (sorted by date
- Allen and Unwin (sorted by author, then date; blurbs at end)
- Random House
- Thorpe
- UQP
- Universities
- Writers centres

Folder 3

Business correspondence:

- General (arranged alphabetically by author or body)
- Miscellaneous or unidentified

Folder 4

Writings (including '1995 Miles Franklin Award acceptance speech' and papers relating to publication of *The Demidenko Diary* by Natalie Jane Prior)

Box 4

Notebook containing handwritten notes, poems and prose (red Collins 3880 Series notebook)
(Partial restriction : application for access to Helen Darville and Fryer Library)

Notebook containing handwritten notes, poems and prose (red 1987 diary, Woods no. A41F)
(Partial restriction : application for access to Helen Darville and Fryer Library)

Folder 1

Personal correspondence (includes copy of academic record) **(Restricted)**

Folder 2

Legal correspondence **(Restricted)**

Folder 3

Newspaper clippings, 1993

Folder 4

Newspaper clippings, 1994

Folder 5

Newspaper clippings, 1995

Folder 6

Newspaper clippings, 1996

Folder 7

Newspaper clippings, n.d.

Folder 8

4 magazines, 1995 to 1996

Folder 9

'1995 Miles Franklin acceptance speech' (2 copies)

Folder 10

Letter from Michael Leunig, with drawings (copies)

Box Number Conversion Chart

Old no.	New no.
1	1
2	2
3	2, 3
4	3
5	4
6	4