UQFL97
Thea Astley Papers

Notes
Unrestricted access.

Series A: Literary Manuscripts 1953 to 1980

The series covers the period of Astley's earliest writing and includes early notebooks, an unpublished novella and the original drafts of short stories not collected until 1997. The descriptions of the items in the series are based on the author's own notes on the manuscripts themselves, on their covers or folders, or in accompanying handwritten notes. These notes contain information identifying various drafts and supplying dates and circumstances of the writing of the pieces.

Box 1

Novels

Folders 1 – 2
Girl with a Monkey (1958), 2nd draft, 1st typescript copy and final draft. Author's note: Approx. 2nd draft and 1st typed copy. Done on borrowed typers.

Folders 3 – 9
A Descant for Gossips (1960), 5 notebooks with handwritten drafts, 1st typed draft and publisher's typed copy on Angus & Robertson stationery.

Box 2

Folder 10
The Slow Natives (1965), final draft. Typescript carbon copy with handwritten annotations. Author's note: ‘Final draft with most corrections by me.’

Folders 11 – 15
A Kindness Cup (1974), 1st, 2nd and 3rd drafts, final edited version and miscellaneous re-writes of various pages. Typescripts with handwritten annotations and emendations. All versions have accompanying handwritten notes by Astley.

Folders 16 – 20
Thurlow's Answer (1969 to 1970), unpublished novella. 3 notebooks with handwritten drafts, emended typescript and final typescript with cover of Curtis Brown literary agents. Author's note on catalogue record: Written after a visit to the Mootwingee Caves near Broken Hill.
Box 3

Short Stories

Folders 21 – 26

Hunting the Wild Pineapple (1979), 2 notebooks with handwritten drafts; 1st and 2nd typed drafts; original typescript with handwritten emendations and printers' instructions returned from publisher Nelson Australia with covering letter 25 Sept. 1979; handwritten draft of short story "A Man Who is Tired of Swiper's Creek is Tired of Life"; photocopy of cover design.

Box 4

Folder 27

"Beachmaster", 5 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations, signed; undated newspaper cutting from the Sun where the story was published as part of "The Sun Short Story Festival".

Folder 28


Folder 29

"One of the Islands", handwritten and typescript drafts. Accompanying handwritten note by Astley re publication.

Folder 30

"A Necessary Journey", by Monica White, 9 leaves typescript.

Folders 31 – 32

"Cubby", original handwritten draft; typed edited draft. Accompanying author's note.

Folder 33

"El Rio Es Mi Solico Amigo", 2 signed typescript drafts, one with authorial annotation: Based on incident while at Rollins College, Florida, on study leave 1976. Newspaper cutting from the Sun where the story was published as part of "The Sun Short Story Festival" 13 Dec. 1976 p.21 with title "El Rio Es Mi Solo Amigo".

Folder 34

"The Salad of the Bad Cafe", 7 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations.
Articles, Essays and Lectures

Folder 35
"The Author as Critic of Society", 5 leaves typescript.

Folder 36
"Conservatorium Big Band", 3 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations. Authors note: Plug for Con Big Band when Ed was at Con. pub in N.Times.

Folder 37
"The Idiot Question", 15 leaves handwritten. Author's note: First draft of The Idiot Question published in Southerly.

Folders 38 – 39
"The Queenslander", 3 typescript leaves signed; also carbon copy. Author's note: A review for National Times, part used for Blaiklock lecture.

Folder 40
"Being a Queenslander: A Form of Literary and Geographical Conceit", 8 leaves typescript with handwritten emendations. Author's note: This was the first (only?) draft for the Blaiklock Lecture.

Notebooks, Verse

Folders 41 – 43
Notebooks. 3 notebooks with handwritten verse and prose drafts.

Folder 44
Poems, 4 items:
- handwritten poem "Horace IV"
- accompanying note: My version of Horace IV. J.M. Couper has done a lovely parodic version - For you, Angela
- untitled poem begins "Landfall at night ...
- typescript and handwritten drafts of poem with author's note: Written in reply to a poem of J.M. Couper's (Abelard and Eloise) pub in S.M.H.

Folder 45
6 leaves of photocopies of original University of Queensland Library catalogue cards which Thea Astley annotated on a visit to the library
Series B: Novels and Short Stories 1985 to 1996

The series includes drafts of all Astley's major writing for this period and provides an insight into the creative processes of her writing, illustrating her work pattern of composing handwritten drafts in notebooks before working through later typescript drafts. All the items have been labelled by Astley and descriptions are based on her comments and identifying labels.

Box 5
Folders 46 – 52

*Beachmasters* (1985), 3 undated exercise books with handwritten drafts; 1st, 2nd and final drafts; final edited draft; final edited draft with author's note: My copy. 2 copies of published novel, 1 paperback, 1 hardcover.

Box 6
Folders 53 – 58

*Reaching Tin River* (1990), 3 undated exercise books with handwritten drafts; 2nd, 3rd, 4th (3 copies) and 5th drafts. All drafts typescript, some with handwritten emendations. One 4th draft has title *Rubbertime* and author's note: Originally I wanted to call it Rubbertime.

Box 7
Folders 59 – 62

*Reaching Tin River* (1990), 5th draft (3 copies); another draft with author's note : Copy with editor's suggestions (Jackie Yowell).

Box 8
Folders 63 – 64

*Reaching Tin River* (1990), draft with author's note: Final edited draft - Draft 6 ?; copy-edited draft marked up for typesetter.

Box 9
Folders 65 – 70

*Vanishing Points* (1992), 2 notebooks with handwritten drafts; 1st and 2nd typed drafts of each novella; copies of two published editions, Heinemann Australia edition and Putnams American edition;

Folder 71

Box 10
Folders 72 – 75
Vanishing Points (1992), galley proofs: 3 sets from Octopus Publishing - 1 set with proofreader's marks, 1 clean set and 1 set with covering note from publisher marked :Author's Proofs; final typescript draft marked up by copy-editor for typesetter.

Box 11
Folders 76 – 79
It's Raining in Mango (1987), 3 notebooks with handwritten drafts; 2nd draft (typescript); copy of Viking 1987 edition; dustjacket for another edition.

Box 12
Folders 80 – 82
It's Raining in Mango (1987), typescript drafts. Draft 3; draft 3a accompanied by 6 leaves of queries/corrections; draft 4 with attached reader's report by Laura Green.

Box 13
Folders 83 – 88
Coda (1994), handwritten draft in notebook: unlabelled typescript draft; typescript draft labelled by author: Coda top copy; typescript draft labelled : Coda typed 1; typescript draft labelled : Coda typed 1 & 2 mixed; copy of Putnam's American edition also jacket proofs and samples for this edition; letter 7 June 1994 from Martin Secker & Warburg re publishing Coda and Vanishing Points in 1995 and enclosing catalogue.

Box 14
Folders 89 – 92
Coda (1994), copy-edited draft marked up for typesetter returned from Reed Books with covering note 1 Aug. 1994 signed by Belinda Byrne; typescript draft with annotations and marking up; galley proofs with covering letter 11 Oct. 1993 from Heinemann Australia; page proofs and queries/corrections with covering letter from Reed Books 16 Dec.1993; Also letters 3 Jan. 1992 from Putnams and 1 Sept. 1992 from Heinemann.
Box 15
Folders 93 – 100

Box 16
Folders 101 – 104

Box 17
Folders 105 – 107
The Multiple Effects of Rainshadow (1996), copy-edited draft marked up for typsetter and covering note from Meredith Rose, Penguin Australia; assorted typescript leaves labelled: Cuts; background research material for novel including maps, newspaper cuttings, photographs and articles.

Box 18
Folder 108
Thea Astley’s Bachelor of Arts Degree, awarded by the University of Queensland and dated 30 Jun 1948, accompanied by mailing tube

Folder 109
1972 Miles Franklin Award presented to Thea Astley for The Acolyte

Folder 110
Copy of A Kindness Cup presented to Thea Astley as the prize for the 1975 Age Book of the Year Award [with loosely inserted newspaper cutting listing the finalists, source and date unknown], accompanied by explanation of award

Parcel 111
Certificate of admission as a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia presented to Thea Astley, dated 14 Jun 1980 and signed by Governor-General Zelman Cowen
Certificate of admission as an Officer of the General Division of the Order of Australia presented to Thea Astley, dated 26 January 1992 and signed by Governor-General Bill Hayden
Folder 112
Certificate granting Thea Astley authority to wear the insignia of the Officer of the Order of Australia in spite of having not been formally invested with the insignia at a ceremony, dated 14 May 1992 and signed by Governor-General Bill Hayden

Folder 113
Order of Australia decorations in presentation box

Folder 114
H T Priestley Medal from the Foundation of Australian Literary Studies, presented to Thea Astley in 1980

Folder 115
Australian Literature Society Medal for Outstanding Literary Work, presented to Thea Astley in 1986

Parcel 116
The 1988 Steele Rudd Award presented to Thea Astley for *It's Raining in Mango* [with soft green canvas and leather carry case]

Folder 117
National Book Council Banjo Award Shortlist Medal presented to Thea Astley for *It's Raining in Mango* 1989

Folder 118
Honorary Doctorate of Letters presented to Thea Astley by the University of Queensland 18 Jul 1988, with accompanying correspondence and ceremony program

Folder 119
The 1990 New South Wales State Literary Award Christina Stead Prize presented to Thea Astley for *Reaching Tin River* with accompanying program and shortlist

Folder 120
The Australian Unity Literature Award, presented to Thea Astley for *The Multiple Effects of Rainshadow* at the Fellowship of Australian Writers Victoria Inc National Library Awards 1996
Folder 121
Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards 2000 award for Best Fiction Book presented to Thea Astley for *Drylands*

Folder 122
The New South Wales Premier’s Literary Award Special Award 2002 presented to Thea Astley

Folder 123
1980 diary

Folder 124
1996 and 2004 diaries

Box 19
Folder 125
Exercise book with the handwritten title ‘Dagsville’ on the cover. Various rough handwritten drafts of stories at the front, and roughly drawn plans for a holiday shack at the back

Folder 126
Exercise book with an early [probably the first] handwritten draft of *An Item from the Late News*, including character notes and rough chapter outline

Folder 127
Exercise book with an early [probably the second] handwritten draft of *An Item from the Late News*, along with drafts of three separate stories

Folder 128
Manilla folder with an early [probably the first] typewritten draft of *An Item from the Late News* with handwritten amendments

Folder 128a
*An Item from the Late News* (typewritten draft with handwritten amendments; handwritten title page with note ‘ed. version’; dedication page headed with handwritten note, ‘Draft copy 2’)

Folder 129
Exercise book of story drafts, including ‘Growing up in Brisbane’ and first draft of *It’s Raining in Mango*; also diary of her trip on the Writers’ Train through outback Queensland [pages loose]
Folder 130
Exercise book with hand written draft of ‘Diesel Epiphany’ [read by Thea at the Byron Bay Writers’ Festival two weeks before she died] and another untitled story draft

Folder 131
1978 diary of story and poem drafts including ‘Making it easy’ and ‘The Member for Cannabis’; also financial details of the purchase of a house at Kuranda

Folder 132
Handwritten draft and typescript copy with handwritten amendments of a speech given by Thea Astley at the Hotel Nikko about the relationship between writers and publishers [2 copies]
Typescript copy with handwritten amendments of a speech given by Thea Astley [possibly at Wordfest]
Typescript copy with handwritten amendments of a speech given by Thea Astley at Wordfest titled ‘On the Edge’
Photocopy from an unidentified journal of an article titled ‘Why I wrote a short story called “Diesel Epiphany”’ as read by Thea at Writers’ Week in Adelaide

Folder 133
Manilla folder, with handwritten notes and poetry on cover, of speeches from literary dinners and lunches [includes a copy of ‘Diesel Epiphany’ to accompany one of the speeches]

Folder 134
Typescript copy with handwritten amendments and incomplete published copy of the short story ‘Dr Forkhammer has a girl in his room’ by Thea Astley [published version from Westerley]

Folder 135
Short story ‘The Salad of the Bad Café’, typescript with handwritten amendments [2 copies]
Short story ‘Diesel Epiphany’, typescript with handwritten amendments
Short story ‘Not Quite the Same’, typescript
Short story ‘El rio es mi solico amigo’, typescript
Short story ‘Seeing Mrs Landers’, photocopy of version published in Festival and Other Stories (Melbourne: Wren, 1974)
Page of handwritten story notes
Page of typewritten notes on Australian history
Folder 136
Exercise book containing the original handwritten draft of *Drylands*

Box 20

Item 137
5 edited drafts of *Drylands* with accompanying correspondence from Penguin editor Meredith Rose, 1999-2000

Box 21

Folder 138
Postcard from Glenda Adams, 12 Dec 1986?
Letter from Glenda Adams, 1 Jan 1981, 1p
Letter from Louise Adler, 20 Mar 1991, 1p [publisher at William Heinemann Australia]
Letter from Sidney J Baker, 30 Jul 1956, 1p [addressed to Mr Cressy, one of Thea’s pen names, on Sydney Morning Herald letterhead regarding payment for a poem]
Letter from Tony Barker, 5 Sep 1991, 2p [thanking Thea for agreeing to launch his book]
Letter from Anne Baxter, 30 Mar 1967, 1p [American actress]
Letter from Carmel Bird, undated [c1975], 1p [re Age Book of the Year shortlist]
Postcard from Carmel Bird, undated
Letter from Carmel Bird, 6 Feb 1995, 2p
Letter from John Bryson, 18 Nov 1989, 1p
Letter from Geoffrey Cains, 7 Mar 2003, 2p [includes photocopied letter from Christina Stead dated 21 Sep 1968]
Letter from Gabrielle Carey, 1 Jun 1994, 2p
Postcard from Brian Castro, 4 Feb 1997
Letter from Rosemary Colmer, 4 Oct 1990, 1p [regarding Post-Colonial Literatures and Language Research Centre conference]
Letter from Deb Cox to Fiona Inglis, 18 Mar 2002, 1p [from CoxKnight Productions regarding the possibility of producing *Hunting the Wild Pineapple* for television]
Letter from Peter Craven, 24 Aug 1988, 1p [inviting Thea to contribute to *Scripsi*]
Letter from Bruce Dawe, 3 Oct 1980, 1p
Letter from Beatrice Davis, 4 Mar 1957, 1p [on Angus & Robertson letterhead re: the manuscript of *Girl with a Monkey*; in response to criticism in the letter that it is too light, Thea has covered the back of the letter in calculations of word length]
Letter from Beatrice Davis, 10 Nov 1966, 2p [with copy of a reference for a job at Macquarie]
Letter from Beatrice Davis, 11 Nov 1982, 1p
Letter from Beatrice Davis, 29 May 1987, 1p
Letter from Robert Dessaix, 12 Apr 1994, 1p
Letter from William de Winton, 28 Apr 1988, 1p [thanking Thea for her speech, probably at New Edition Bookshop and Tea Rooms in Western Australia]
Letter from Rosemary Dobson, 22 Jul 1986, 2p
Card from Rosemary Dobson, 21 Jan 1987
Letter from Robert Drewe, 1 Apr 1992, 2p

Folder 139
Letter from Carole Elicker, 29 Aug 1986, 1p [notifying Thea of the death of Vernon Young]
Letter from Clare Forster, 9 Apr 2002, 1p [publisher at Penguin Australia thanking Thea for her work on a novel by Judy Pascoe]
Letter from Helen Garner, 23 Sep 1986, 1p
Letter from Helen Garner, 7 Oct 1986, 2p
Postcard from Helen Garner, 1 Dec 1989
Postcard from Helen Garner, 16 Jun 1990
Postcard from Helen Garner, 26 Oct 1990
Letter from Kate Grenville, 17 Nov 1987, 1p
Letter from Jill Hickson, 24 Apr 1989, 3p [thanking Thea for choosing Hickson Associates as her literary agent]
Letter from Jill Hickson, 1 Jun 1989, 2p [confirming terms and conditions of Hickson Associates acting as Thea’s literary agent]
Letter from Jill Hickson, 15 Aug 199?, 1p
Letter from A D Hope, 10 Jan 1975, 3p
Postcard from Janet Turner Hospital, 3 Jul 1985
2 photos with ‘letter’ on back from Janet Turner Hospital, 16 Aug 1985
Letter from Janet Turner Hospital, 3 Jan 1991, 1p
Card from Elizabeth Jolley, 24 Dec 1996, 1p
Letter from Elizabeth Jolley, 20 Jan 1997, 1p
Card from Caroline Jones, 8 Mar 1994 [from ABC Radio Religious Department]
Letter from Leonie Kramer, 16 Jul 1980, 2p
Letter from Kathryn Lowe, 10 May 1997, 3p [also known as Kathryn Lowe-Henricks]
Letter from Mark Macleod, 13 Jul 1976, 2p
Letter from Mark Macleod, 1 Mar 1983, 6p
Postcard from Mark Macleod, 1989
Letter from Mark Macleod, 5 Oct 199?, 1p
Folder 140
Letter from Hal Porter, 19 Sep 1958, 1p
Letter from Hal Porter, 27 Nov 1960, 1p [congratulating Thea on winning a grant]
Card from Hal Porter, 13 Feb 1968
Letter from Hal Porter, 16 Apr 1970, 1p
Letter from Hal Porter, 25 Jul 1970, 1p
Letter from Hal Porter, 20 Apr 1971, 1p
Letter from Hal Porter, 2 Aug 1971, 1p [asking for contribution to anthology for secondary school students]
Letter from Hal Porter, 1 Dec 1971, 1p
Letter from Hal Porter, 18 Nov 1972, 1p
Letter from Hal Porter, Apr 1980, 1p
Letter from Hal Porter, 22 Apr 1980, 1p
Card from Hal Porter, 2 Sep 1980

Folder 141
Postcard from Judith Rodriguez, 1 Apr 1979
Letter from Helen Rosenman, 21 Nov 1989, 1p
Letter from David Rothwell, 13 Jul 1997, 2p
Letter from Susan Ryan, 17 Oct 1988, 1p [saying how sorry she is that she is no longer Thea’s publisher]
Card from Carolyn See, 20 Jan 1989
Postcard from Carolyn See, 20 May 1989
Letter from Carolyn See, 30 Jun 1989, 1p
Letter from Carolyn See, 27 May 1990, 1p
Letter from Carolyn See, 3 Mar 1993, 2p
Letter from Irene Stevens, 28 Feb 1997, 1p
Letter from Douglas Stewart, 28 Aug 1958, 2p [discussing the manuscript of Girl with a Monkey]
Letter from Douglas Stewart, 3 Jan 1998, 1p
Letter from Dal Stivens, 14 Dec 1974, 1p
Letter from George Turner, 26 Apr 1963, 1p [George and Thea were joint winners of the Miles Franklin Award in 1962]
Letter from Richard Walsh, 24 Dec 1980, 1p [publisher at Angus & Robertson]
Folder 142
Letter from Patrick White, 24 Mar 1960, 1p
Letter from Patrick White, 20 Mar 1961, 1p [criticising Thea's manuscript of 'My Little Lie' which wasn’t published]
Postcard from Patrick White, 24 April 1963
Letter from Patrick White, 16 May 1963, 3p
Postcard from Patrick White, 5 Jun 1963
Letter from Patrick White, 18 Jun 1963, 2p
Postcard from Patrick White, 3 Jul 1963
Postcard from Patrick White, 17 Jul 1963
Postcard from Patrick White, 22 Aug 1963
Letter from Patrick White, 28 November 1973, 1p [photocopy in envelope]
Note from Ray Whitrod, 28 Jun 1976, 1p [Queensland Police Commissioner]
Card from Fay Zwicky, 13 Sep 1978 [11 lines of prose by Thea handwritten on the back]
Letter from Fay Zwicky, 26 Oct 1978, 1p [torn]
Letter from Fay Zwicky, 12 Jan 1981, 1p
Card from Fay Zwicky, 5 Nov 1981
Letter from Fay Zwicky, 27 Sep 1982, 1p
Letter from Fay Zwicky, 18 May 1988, 1p
Card from Fay Zwicky, 22 Apr 1991

Folder 143
Letter dated 4 May 1978 from R J Ellicott, Minister for Home Affairs, appointing Thea to the Literature Board of the Australia Council
Series of three letters, dated 2 May 1980, 20 Aug 1980 and 1 Sep 1980, regarding the investiture of the insignia of Member of the Order of Australia

Folder 144
Folder of 9 letters labelled 'screwball' by Thea, 1973-1994

Folder 145
Correspondence regarding the Cairns Literary Trail and quotations from Thea’s work to be used therein, 1999
Letter from Queensland Arts Council, 16 May 1985, 1p
Folder 146
Folder of assorted letters, postcards and greeting cards from various correspondents, 1968-1993

Folder 147
Letter from Diane Cilento, 1997, 1p with accompanying green-bound script of the third draft of the play version of *It's Raining in Mango*

Folder 148
13 letters and a birthday card from Thea’s mother Eileen, 1963-1978
1 letter and 1 postcard from Thea’s father Cecil, nd [pre-1961]
Telegram and letter sent to Eileen Astley on the death of Cecil, Jun 1961. Also a copy of his obituary published Aug 1961

Folder 149
Correspondence and cards sent to Thea and her brother Phil regarding Eileen’s health and her move to Villa Maria nursing home
5 postcards sent to Eileen from various correspondents
Letter to Thea from the public curator regarding a protection order and a copy of a letter regarding Eileen’s grave at Nudgee cemetery

Folder 150
2 letters from Phillip Astley to his mother Eileen, 1978
9 postcards from Phillip Astley to his mother Eileen, 1943-1976
13 letters from Phillip Astley to Thea, 1976-1996 [Phillip was Thea’s brother; some also addressed to Jack Gregson, Thea’s husband]
25 greeting cards and postcards from Phillip Astley to Thea, Jack and/or Edmund, 1984-1997
1 letter from Phillip Astley to Edmund Gregson, 1979 [Edmund was Thea’s son]
17 greeting cards and postcards from Phillip Astley to unidentified recipients, undated

Folder 151
20 letters from Jack Gregson to Thea and Ed, 1975-1982
9 postcards from Jack Gregson to Thea [1975]

Folder 152
Postcards, greeting cards and letters from Thea to her family
Letter from Thea to Professor A Gillbs, School of English, Macquarie University, 30 Nov 1976, 2p [never posted, regarding her employment at the University]
Folder 153
Poems and articles by Phillip Astley, typescript and handwritten
Newspaper cuttings by and about Phillip Astley
Funeral home memorial book for Phillip Astley, 19 Jun 1997 [includes letters and cards sent to Thea after his death]

Box 22
Folder 154
Letters and articles regarding artist Charles Astley [Thea’s paternal grandfather]

Folder 155
Publishing contracts for works by Thea Astley

Folder 156
Itinerary and other materials relating to the Writers’ Train tour, 1990

Folders 157 – 159
Newspaper cuttings, reviews, press releases, invitations, programmes, some with covering correspondence, about Thea Astley and her work

Box 23
Astley, Thea Girl with a Monkey Sydney: Angus & Robertson 1958 [Inscribed by Astley to her parents]
White, Patrick The Living and the Dead London: Eyre & Spottiswoode 1962 [inscribed to ‘Thea from Patrick’]
White, Patrick Riders in the Chariot New York: Viking Press 1961 [inscription from Patrick to Thea]
Heseltine, Harry The Most Glittering Prize: the Miles Franklin Literary Award 1957-1998 Canberra: ADFA 2001 [includes inscription and letter from Heseltine to Thea]
Selected writings of Gerard de Nerval New York: Grove Press 1957 [inscription from Patrick White to Thea]
A Flash of Life Victoria: Christine Webb 1986 [a collection of poetry to honour Barrett Reid, compiled by Shelton Lea and Robert Harris, includes poem by Thea]
Murray, Malcolm W & Lentz, E Ernest A French Vocabulary Glasgow: Blackie & Son Ltd, nd [text book used by Thea at All Hallows school]
Evans, Ivor H *Brewer’s Dictionary of Phrase & Fable* London: Cassell 1981 [includes note from ‘Beatrice’ who sent the book to Thea]

**Parcel 160**
Green Hermes ‘Baby’ typewriter [present from Jack, used from late 1950s to 1970s]

**Parcel 161**
Cream Hermes ‘Baby’ typewriter [purchased mid-1980s]