Chris Scott Papers

LMS-0108

Accession 1984-09

Prepared by Lorna Knight
February 1985
Revised by J. Murray
March 2006

Table of Contents

Page

Biographical Sketch 3

I. Correspondence 5

II. Poetry 8

III. Prose 8

A. To Every Several Man 8
B. Getting There 8
C. Bartleby 9
D. To Catch a Spy 9
E. Antichthon 9
F. Hitler's Bomb 10
G. Jack 11
H. Quabe's World 11

IV. Biographical Articles and Critical Commentaries 12

V. Clippings 12

VI. Photographs 12

CHRIS SCOTT

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

A Canadian citizen since 1975, Chris Scott was born in Hull, England in 1945. He studied and taught in England at the University of Manchester (M.A. 1967) and in the U.S. at Pennsylvania State University before settling in Canada. Since 1970 Scott has been involved in a variety of literary activities with the C.B.C., and reviewing books for Books in Canada (1972-1982).

Scott is best known as a writer of experimental fiction; to date he has published four novels:

Bartley, a novel. House of Anansi, 1971.

To Catch a Spy, a novel. Richard Seaver/Viking, 1978 and Penguin, 1979.

Antichthon, a novel. Quadrant Editions, 1982.

Hitler's Bomb, a novel. McClelland and Stewart, 1983 and Quadrant Editions, 1984.

In each, Scott stretches a familiar genre--Shandean anti-novel, le Carré spy thriller, historical novel, and the what-if suspense novel respectively--beyond its established conventions. That Antichthon was shortlisted for the 1983 Governor General's Award for Fiction attests to the stature of his work. At present, Scott is working on two novels:

Jack, a novelizied account of the life of Neill Cream whom Scott believes to have been Jack the Ripper, and

Quabe's World, a satire on the scientific way of looking at man in the twentieth century.

Scott lives in the Ottawa Valley with his wife, Heather Sherratt, and daughter, Kirsten Vega.

PROVENANCE

The National Library of Canada acquired Chris Scott's papers from the author in September, 1984. Material in this collection dates from 1969 to 1984.

THE COLLECTION (1.15 cm.)

With his papers, Scott included a descriptive list of contents. Scott's arrangement has been respected where possible in organizing his papers into six series:

I. Correspondence
II. Poetry
III. Prose
IV. Biographical articles and critical commentaries
V. Clippings
VI. Photographs

A scholar interested in either the works of Chris Scott or in the contemporary state of Canadian writing and publishing will find this collection of great interest.

Scott's correspondence assists the scholar in following the evolution of several of Scott's works from writer to reader. Of particular interest is the Dennis Lee-Chris Scott correspondence concerning the writing and revision of Scott's first published novel, Bartleby. Scott's efforts to place his manuscripts with publishers through various literary agents can be traced. As well, correspondence between Chris Scott and McClelland and Stewart documents the often tenuous relationship between contemporary Canadian writers and their publishers. Further, Scott's correspondence with George Woodcock and with the Canada Council adds another perspective to the issue of government support of Canadan culture. Poetry and prose typescripts comprise the bulk of the collection. These allow the scholar to trace the process of revision for several of Scott's published works. Drafts of two works in progress--Jack and Quabe's World--will inhere similar value when final versions are published.

The remaining series further enhance an appreciation of Scott's work to date. Clippings and research notes provide insight into some of Scott's sources and influences. Biographical articles and criticism in the form of book reviews reflect critical reception of his work.

I. Correspondence

All correspondence with Chris Scott is arranged chronologically. It relates mostly to Scott's literary concerns although some personal correspondence is included. Undated correspondence is filed separately at the end of the series.

Box 1

f.1 1970-1972
f.2 1974-1976
f.3 1977-1978
f.4 1979-1980
f.5 1981
f.6 1982
f.7 Jan.-July, 1983
f.8 Aug.-Dec., 1983
f.9 Jan.-July, 1984
f.10 Aug.-Sept., 1984
f.11 Undated correspondence

Index to Correspondence

Letters from Chris Scott precede the colon (:) letters to Chris Scott follow it.

Adachi, Ken (Toronto Star)
26/08/83; 01/08/84 :

Anansi see House of Anansi

Atkey, Ronald G.
: 25/04/78

Axelrod, Steve (literary agent, Curtis Brown)
:03/08/79; 06/09/79; 10/09/79; 30/01/80; 19/02/80; 30/04/80; 09/05/80

Berman, Morris
: 14/11/83

Books in Canada
: 14/03/79

Canada Council (includes correspondence with Tim Porteous, Steve Stevanovic)
07/06/82; 12/08/82; 25/08/83 : 25/05/83; 01/09/83; 23/07/84; n.d.

Curtis Brown see Steve Axelrod, Arthur L. Martin, Craig Virden

Editcetera see Jonathan Williams

Engel, Howard
: n.d.

Findley, Timothy
06/09/82 : 05/11/81; 06/11/81

Gatenby, Greg see Harbourfront

Geddes, Gary
21/12/82; 01/08/84; 30/08/84: 11/08/80; 18/09/81; 12/12/82; 29/07/84; 04/09/84

Glossap, Jennifer (editor, McClelland and Stewart)
27/01/81; 22/12/81: 03/11/82; 21/01/83; 11/03/83; 17/05/83; 26/08/84

Gow, Andrew
: 20/04/84

Harbourfront (Greg Gatenby)
: 16/08/79

House of Anansi
: 02/03/77

Konrad, John L. and Pat see also Dennis Lee
: 28/04/78; 26/12/78; 24/01/80

Lee, Denis (House of Anansi)
16/10/70; 14/10/70; 19/05/71; 04/10/71; 20/04/72; 19/09/72: 12/05/70; 23/08/70; 24/08/70; 21/09/70; 30/09/70; 01/10/70; 03/10/70; 14/10/70; 19/10/70; 13/11/70; 18/11/70; 04/01/71; 13/03/71; 13/05/71; 14/05/71; 20/05/71; 24/07/71; 09/09/84

Mandel, Sally Allen
: 30/03/78

Martin, Arthur L. (literary agent, Curtis Brown)

18/02/78; 08/06/83; 19/02/76; 02/04/76; 06/05/76; 10/06/76; 22/11/76; 03/01/77; 24/02/77; 02/04/77; 21/07/77; 20/09/77; 23/11/77; 22/02/78; 02/03/78; 08/03/78; 14/03/78; 13/04/78; 19/05/78; 05/06;78; 24/06/78; 05/07/78; 27/04/78

McClelland and Stewart see also Jennifer Glossap
11/09/81-12/01/84: 02/02/80-07/08/84

Mills, John
23/04/83: 16/06/83; 12/05/83; 23/08/83; 15/10/83; 18/01/84

Murdoch, Derrick (Crime Writers of Canada)
: 29/11/83; 14/12/83; n.d.

Penguin Books see Richard Seaver/Viking/Penguin

Quadrant Editions see Andy Wheatley

Rogers, Josephine (literary agent, Collins, Knowlton)
: 05/11/75

Seaver, Richar (Viking/Penguin)
: 21/12/76-31/10/79

Simpson, Leo
: 27/09/81; 06/10/81

Smith, Peter
: 04/04/78; 18/03/81; n.d.

Virden, Craig (literary agent, Curtis Brown)
: 17/08/78; 29/08/78; 28/09/78; 31/10/78; 06/11/78; 16/01/79; 11/05/79

Wheatley, Andy (Quadrant Editions)
26/12/83; 01/08/84; 30/08/84: 09/01/83; 19/09/83; 20/12/83; 15/03/84; 29/06/84; 15/07/84; n.d.

Williams, Jonathan (Editcetera)
26/06/82; 02/03/82; 16/03/82; 24/07/82: 22/04/78; 01/04/79; 30/09/80; 14/12/80; 08/01/81; 16/03/81; 19/04/81; 02/07/81; 21/08/81; 25/09/81; 10/10/81; 15/10/81; 17/12/81; 12/02/82; 20/02/82

Woodcock, George

06/09/82; 08/01/84: 27/10/81; 12/11/81; 25/11/81; 02/02/81; 10/09/82; 07/09/83; 06/10/83; 05/11/83; 08/09/83; 03/05/84; 10/08/84

Writers' Union of Canada
: n.d.

II. Poetry

Scott has written two volumes of poetry; neither have been published.

Box 2

A. Women, Men, and Gods
f.1 Ts, n.d. 89_pp. (dedicated to Heather Sherratt)
f.2 Ts, n.d. 89_pp.

B. Four Poems for a Summer Season
f.3 Ts, n.d. (photocopy) 78_pp. (with author's corrections)
Includes: "Spurn Point", "Opera Gothica". "Mors Dei, Barnstape Bay", and "Sutton Park"

III. Prose

In addition to Scott's four published novels, this series includes two early unpublished works (III.A and III.B) and two works in progress (III_G and III H).

A. To Every Several Man, a novel by Chris Scott.
"unpublished first novel, State College, Pennsylvania, July, 1969."
Ts, (photocopy) i-iv Table of Contents, 420_pp.

f.4 (i-108)
f.5 (109-210)
f.6 (211-316)
f.7 (317-420)

B. "Getting There, a novel by Chris Scott"
Ts, n.d. (carbon) 5_pp.

f.8 (1-5)

C. Bartleby.

1. "Fair copy, Second draft"
Ts, n.d. (photocopy) i-xiii Apology, 723_pp. (with author's corrections in pencil)

Box 3

f.1 (i-124) Apology-Ch. 11
f.2 (125-255) Ch. 12-Ch. 19
f.3 (256-386) Ch. 20-Ch.25
f.4 (387-502) Ch. 26-Ch. 32
f.5 (503-623) Ch. 33-Ch. 38
f.6 (624-723) Ch. 39-Ch. 42

2. "Cancelled chapters"
Ts, n.d. (mostly photocopy)

f.7 (96-103; 61-71; 21-32; 37-39; 1-9; 14; 447-541)
(96-103) Ch. 9
(61-71) Ch. 6
(21-32; 37-39) Ch. 3
(1-9; 14) Ch. 1
(447-541) Ch. 30-Ch. 34

D. To Catch a Spy.
Ts, n.d. (photocopy) 7_pp.
(Publisher's book jacket copy, style sheet, list of proper names)

f.8 7_pp.

E. Antichthon.

1. "Preliminary draft of an essay"
Ts, n.d. (photocopy) 20_pp.
(Chapter One only)

f.9 20_pp.

2. "Complete, uncut, unrevised version"

f.10 (1-125)
f.11 (125-258)
f.12 (259-424)

3. "Copy edited by the author, author's working papers"
Ts, n.d. (photocopy) 424_pp.

Box 4

f.1 (1-124)
f.2 (125-258)
f.3 (259-424)

4. "Typesetter's copy"
Ts, n.d. 424_pp.

f.4 (1-124)
f.5 (125-258)
f.6 (259-424)

5. "Corrected page proofs"
Ts, n.d. (photocopy) 234_pp.
(incomplete)

f.7 (1-123)
f.8 (124-234)

F. Hitler's Bomb
1. (working title Bandersnatch) "early draft"
Ts, n.d. (photocopy) 50_pp.
(includes Ch.1-Ch.4 and a synospis of Ch.5-Ch.11)

Box 5

f.1 50_pp.

2. Ts, n.d. (photocopy) 272_pp.

f.2 (1-139)
f.3 (140-272)

3. "Publisher's copy for typesetter"
Ts, n.d. (photocopy) 292_pp.

f.4 (1-145)
f.5 (146-292)

4. Ts, n.d. (photocopy) 3 pp.
(includes book jacket copy and Scott's criticisms)

f.6 3_pp.

G. Jack (unpublished novel)

1. Ms, (1975) 10 pp.
Research notes on Neill Cream and Jack the Ripper

f.7 10_pp.

2. "Work in progress, August, 1984"
Ts, 1984 (photocopy) 292_pp.

f.8 (1-144)
f.9 (145-292)

3. [Jack], Ts, 292_pp.

f.10 (1-144)
f.11 (145-292)

H. Quabe's World (unpublished novel)

1. "First draft of a work in progress, August_21, 1984"
Ts, 1984 (photocopy) 448_pp.
(no corrections, no appendices)

Box 6

f.1 (1-152)
f.2 (153-271)
f.3 (272-448)

2. "Second draft of a work in progress, August, 1984"
Ts, 1984 (photocopy) 507_pp. 8_pp., Appendices

f.4 (1-154)
f.5 (155-280)
f.6 (281-516)

3. ["Third Draft"]

Box 7

f.1 (1-154)
f.2 (155-276)
f.3 (277-392)
f.4 (393-516)

4. Assorted Pages [Revision of Third Draft]

f.5
f.6
f.7
f.8

5. "Miscellaneous working papers of a work in progress. Ts, 1984. (handwritten corrections)

f.9 (167; 297-334)

IV. Biographical Articles and Critical Commentaries

A. Biographical Articles

Box 8

f.1 Curriculum Vitae
Ts, 1984 3_pp.

f.2 Articles on Scott

B. Critical Commentaries (Book Reviews)
Sorted chronologically where possible.

f.3 Bartleby
f.4 To Catch a Spy
f.5 Antichthon
f.6 Hitler's Bomb

V. Clippings

Clippings Scott saved for research or for personal interest are arranged into two groups: dated and undated clippings. All clippings are photocopies.

f.7 Dated clippings (1974 ff.)
f.8 Undated clippings

VI. Photographs

Taken in conjunction with the publication of To Catch a Spy, this series includes contact sheets, negatives and photographs of Chris Scott. 1978)

f.9 Photographs