Colin Wilson papers

Finding aid prepared by Melissa Huntington.
Special Collections & University Archives
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Colin Wilson papers
Date (bulk): 1973-1980
Collection Number: MS 190
Creator: O'Shea, June
Extent: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)
Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.
Riverside, CA 92517-5900
Abstract: This collection is comprised of correspondence, galley proofs, manuscripts, press clippings, and other material pertaining to the works of English literary figure Colin Wilson between the years 1965-1998. Includes correspondence between Colin Wilson and June O'Shea, galley proofs and manuscripts of Wilson's works in the science fiction genre, manuscripts and other material regarding Israeli paranormalist Uri Geller, press clippings of book reviews by Wilson, and manuscripts of interviews with Wilson.
Languages: The collection is in English.
Access
This collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[identification of item], [date if possible]. Colin Wilson papers (MS 190). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.
Acquisition Information
Provenance unknown.
Processing History
Processed by Melissa Huntington, 2010.
Biographical Note
Colin Wilson is a British novelist and writer of science fiction, true crime, and literary criticism. Wilson was born in Leicester, England on June 26, 1931 to Arthur and Anetta Wilson. His mother's love for books served as an early influence on Wilson and a science fiction magazine given to him at a young age by his grandfather sparked his interest in the genre for which he would publish multiple novels.
At the age of sixteen Wilson quit school and began work at various jobs including a coffee house in Paris where he began writing what would become his first published book, The Outsider. In 1956 The Outsider was published and met with high critical acclaim which instantly catapulted him to literary stardom. He quickly became associated with the "Angry Young Men," a British literary group, because of his depiction of social alienation in The Outsider. While Wilson's first literary effort was critically acclaimed, praise eventually turned sour as Wilson's next efforts were met with negative reviews. In 1960-1961, the critics turned back in favor of Wilson with the publication of Ritual in the Dark and Adrift in Soho.
Colin Wilson has gone on to become a prolific novelist in both fiction (science fiction) and non-fiction (true crime). He is also an accomplished essayist that has contributed to numerous literary journals. In 2004, Wilson's autobiography titled Dreaming to Some Purpose was published and typical to Wilson's career was received with a range of praise and negativity from critics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Born in Leicester, England on June 26th.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Married Dorothy Betty Troop and the couple had one son.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>The Outsider is published and met with high critical acclaim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Ritual in the Dark was published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Married Pamela &quot;Joy&quot; Stewart after his divorce from Dorothy and the couple went on to have two children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Adrift in Soho was published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-2003</td>
<td>The breadth of Wilson's literary work was published in this time frame.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2004 Published autobiography *Dreaming to Some Purpose*.

**Collection Scope and Contents**

This collection is comprised of correspondence, galley proofs, manuscripts, press clippings, and other material pertaining to the works of English literary figure Colin Wilson between the years 1965-1998. Includes correspondence between Colin Wilson and June O'Shea, galley proofs and manuscripts of Wilson's works in the science fiction genre, manuscripts and other material regarding Israeli paranormalist Uri Geller, press clippings of book reviews by Wilson, and manuscripts of interviews with Wilson.

**Collection Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into four series as follows:

- **Series 1. Correspondence, 1966-1981, undated.**
- **Series 2. Galley proofs, 1967-1975, undated.**
- **Series 3. Manuscripts, 1965-1978, undated.**
- **Series 4. Notes, press clippings, and other material, 1973-1998, undated.**

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

- Wilson, Colin, 1931-2013
- Geller, Uri, 1946-
- Authors
- Science fiction

**Genres and Forms of Materials**

- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Galley proofs
- Manuscripts

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**Series 1. Correspondence 1966-1981, undated**

**Series Scope and Contents**

This series is comprised of typed and handwritten correspondence primarily between Colin Wilson and June O'Shea. Also includes correspondence between Colin Wilson and others regarding the development and publication of Wilson's literary works.

**Series Arrangement**

This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

- **Box 2, Folder 3**  
  Correspondence to June O'Shea from Colin Wilson and other individuals 1973-1975

- **Box 2, Folder 4**  
  Correspondence to June O'Shea from Colin Wilson and other individuals 1976-1981

- **Box 2, Folder 5**  
  Correspondence to Colin Wilson 1974-1980, undated

- **Box 2, Folder 6**  
  Correspondence to June O'Shea from Colin Wilson regarding Wilson's essay on Humanistic Psychology 1975 August 30

- **Box 2, Folder 6**  
  Correspondence to Colin Wilson from the Psychological Service Associates regarding Wilson's essay for the book *The Challenge of Humanistic Psychology* 1966 March 23

- **Box 2, Folder 6**  
  Correspondence to June O'Shea regarding an interview with Colin Wilson in *Oui* undated

**Series 2. Galley proofs 1967-1975, undated**

**Series Scope and Contents**

This series is comprised of printed galley proofs of Colin Wilson's literary works. Includes the galley proof for *The Unexplained* as well as several other essay's Wilson wrote for various publications.

**Series Arrangement**

This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

- Box 1, Folder 2: Galley proof of *The Unexplained* (photocopy/hand annotated) June 1975
- Box 2, Folder 6: Galley proof of an essay by Colin Wilson titled "An Introduction to James Drought" from the *Los Angeles Times Calendar Magazine* 1967 January 15
- Box 2, Folder 6: Galley proof of an essay by Colin Wilson titled "Dual Value Response...A New Key to Nietzsche" (hand annotated) 1973 August 7
- Box 2, Folder 6: Galley proof of an essay by Colin Wilson titled “Civilization and Individual Fulfillment” from the *Philosophy Forum* 1973
- Box 2, Folder 6: Galley proof of an essay by Colin Wilson titled "A Writer’s Prospect - II" (photocopy) undated


Series Scope and Contents

This series is comprised of typed and hand annotated manuscripts of Colin Wilson's literary works. Included here are manuscripts for chapters in *The Unexplained, Lulu*, and *The Order of Assassins* as well as a complete manuscript for the book, *The Schoolgirl Murder Case*. Manuscripts regarding Israeli paranormalist Uri Geller are also included.

Series Arrangement

This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

- Box 1, Folder 1: Manuscript of the introduction to *The Faces of Evil*; 84 pages (typed/hand annotated) February 1976
- Box 1, Folder 3: Manuscript of *The Unexplained*; chapters 1-5, 68 pages (typed/hand annotated) February 1976
- Box 1, Folder 4: Manuscript of *Lulu*; chapter 1, 18 pages, page 14 is not included (typed/hand annotated) June 1976
- Box 1, Folder 5: Manuscript of *Lulu*; chapter 5, pages 93-117 (typed/hand annotated) undated
- Box 1, Folder 6: Manuscript regarding Israeli paranormalist Uri Geller; 17 pages (typed) undated
- Box 1, Folder 7: Manuscript of *The Path of the Dragon*; chapter 3, 166 pages (typed/hand annotated) September 1976
- Box 1, Folder 8: Manuscript of the introduction to *Mysteries* (typed/hand annotated) undated
- Box 1, Folder 9: Manuscript of “Giants and Witches” from *Mysteries*; chapter 2, pages 78-123 (typed/hand annotated) undated
- Box 1, Folder 10: Manuscript of “The Curious History of Human Stupidity” from *Mysteries*; part 2, pages 221-278 (typed/hand annotated) undated
- Box 1, Folder 11: Manuscript of “How Many Me’s Are There?” from *Mysteries*; pages 267-315 (photocopy/typed/hand annotated) February 1978
- Box 1, Folder 13: Manuscript of *The Geller Phenomenon*; chapters 2-6 (photocopy) undated
- Box 1, Folder 14: Manuscript of *Order of Assassins*; pages 1-150 (hand annotated) undated
- Box 1, Folder 15: Manuscript of *Order of Assassins*; pages 151-365 (typed/hand annotated) undated
- Box 2, Folder 1: Manuscript of *The Schoolgirl Murder Case*; approximately 301 pages (typed/hand annotated) 1974
- Box 2, Folder 2: Manuscript of the introduction to book on W. Reich; approximately 29 pages (typed/hand annotated) February 1978
- Box 2, Folder 6: Manuscript of an essay by Colin Wilson titled "The Magic Pendulum" from *Psychic Eye* December 1975
- Box 2, Folder 6: Manuscript of an essay by Colin Wilson titled "Crank and Weirdies" from *Cavalier* May 1965
- Box 2, Folder 6: Manuscript of an essay by Colin Wilson titled "Evolutionary Humanism and the New Psychology" (hand annotated) undated
- Box 2, Folder 6: Manuscript of article by Colin Wilson titled "Comments on Boredom" (typed/hand annotated) undated
- Box 2, Folder 6: Manuscript of the interview with Colin Wilson featured in *Oui* (typed) undated

Series Scope and Contents
This series is comprised of notes, press clippings, and other material regarding Colin Wilson. Includes film notes, press clippings on psychology and social behaviorism, an autobiographical essay by Bruce Boston, and a dust jacket for the book The Space Vampires.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Notes regarding a film tentatively titled <em>Journey to the End of Night</em>; 20 pages</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Notes regarding story outline and film project shooting schedule for the <em>Geller Effect</em> (photocopy)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
<td>Publication titled <em>Oui</em>, containing interview with Colin Wilson titled “Conversation with Colin Wilson” December 1973</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
<td>Press clipping featuring review by Colin Wilson of <em>Views from the Real World Early Talks of Gurdjieff as Recollected by his Pupils</em> from <em>The Spectator</em> (photocopy) 1974 March 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
<td>Press clipping featuring review by Colin Wilson of <em>Strong Opinions</em> (photocopy)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
<td>Press clipping featuring review by Colin Wilson of <em>The Romeo Error</em> from <em>The Spectator</em> (photocopy) 1974 October 26</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>Dust jacket of Colin Wilson novel, <em>The Space Vampires</em> (hand annotated on inner sleeve) May 1976</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>Brochure for A&amp;W Visual Library, includes description of Colin Wilson’s book <em>The Faces of Evil</em>, including brief description and publication information 1976</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>Press clipping featuring review of <em>Messengers of Deception</em> by Jacques Vallee reviewed by Dennie Stacy from the <em>San Antonio Star</em> (photocopy)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>Press clipping featuring review of <em>The New Psychology: New Image of Man</em> from the <em>Los Angeles Times</em> (photocopy) 1975 April 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>Press clipping of article titled <em>Abraham Maslow: Father of Humanistic Psychology</em> (photocopy)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>Autobiographical essay &quot;Fifteen Explanations in Search of a Life&quot; by Bruce Boston from volume 30 of <em>Contemporary Authors: Autobiography Series</em> (signed off-print) 1998</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>Press clipping of article on Colin Wilson titled &quot;Colin Wilson: Wer bin ich?&quot;</td>
<td>(photocopy) undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>