Descriptive Summary

Title: James White papers


Date (bulk): 1965-1983

Collection Number: MS 208

Creator: White, James, 1928-1999

Extent: 4.58 linear feet (11 boxes)

Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.

Abstract: This collection is comprised of typescripts, galley proofs, notes, and other material by James White, an Irish author of science fiction novels, novellas, and short stories. Primarily includes manuscripts of White’s published and unpublished works (many contain hand annotations). Within this collection is material pertaining to the Sector General book series that White was best known for including Hospital Station, Major Operation, and Ambulance Ship. Typescripts of White’s popular short story compilations including Federation World, Deadly Litter, and The Aliens Among Us are also included.

Languages: The collection is in English.

Access

This collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

Information unavailable.

Processing History

Processed by Melissa Huntington, 2010.

Biographical Note

Irish Science Fiction writer James White was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland on April 7, 1928 and died of a stroke in August 23, 1999. White spent much of his early life in Canada and lived with foster parents throughout his adolescence. He wanted to be a pilot but was diagnosed with diabetes which ultimately severely affected his eyesight. In 1955, White married Margaret “Peggy” Sarah Martin and the couple had three children; Patricia, Martin and Peter. White worked most of his life for aerospace builders Short Brothers Ltd., as his writing, even though published, was never fully sufficient to support his family.

James White wanted to be a doctor but due to finances could never obtain the education. That fascination never abated as he took classes in first aid and home nursing, and developed what would be an inspiration and prominent theme throughout his writing. His interest in medicine was the major thread that connected the work he is most known for, the Sector General book series that featured the stories and characters, both human and alien, of a hospital in deep space. Sector General was first published in 1957 as a novelette before expanding into the long running series of books. White considered himself a pacifist and veered away from the doomsday themes that permeated popular Science Fiction of the time. White, however, did incorporate Irish history and locations into his stories as found in his first novel, The Secret Visitors. In addition to the Sector General book series, White was also a prolific short story writer creating multiple story compilations including Federation World and Deadly Litter.

White was inspired by Science Fiction writers, Robert A. Heinlein and E. E. "Doc" Smith, and along with his friend Walter A. Willis, produced the science fiction fanzines Slant (1948-1953) and Hyphen (1952-1965). White and Willis were both nominated in 2004 for the retrospective Hugo Award for Best Fan Writer of 1953. Towards the end of his career, White was also a council member of the British Science Fiction Association along with fellow author Anne McCaffrey.

1928: James White was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland on April 7th.
1955: Married Margaret “Peggy” Sarah Martin.
1957: Published his first novel The Secret Visitors.
1957: Sector General was first published as a novelette.
1999: James White died on August 23rd.
2004: Co-nominated (with Walter A. Willis) for the retrospective Hugo Award for Best Fan Writer of 1953.

Collection Scope and Contents
This collection is comprised of typescripts, galley proofs, notes, and other material by James White, an Irish author of science fiction novels, novellas, and short stories. Primarily includes manuscripts of White’s published and unpublished works (many contain hand annotations). Within this collection is material pertaining to the Sector General book series that White was best known for including Hospital Station, Major Operation, and Ambulance Ship. Typescripts of White’s popular short story compilations including Federation World, Deadly Litter, and The Aliens Among Us are also included.

Collection Arrangement
This collection is arranged into two series and four sub-series. The series/sub-series arrangement is as follows:

   Sub-series 1.2. Compilations, 1988, undated.
   Sub-series 1.3. Novels, 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
White, James, 1928-1999
Science fiction.
Science-fiction writers.

Genres and Forms of Materials
Galley proofs.
Notes.
Typescripts.
Box 1, Folder 1
Typescript of *Sector General*; pages 1-273, small printed biography (page 275), and publishers mockup of biographical information (hand annotated). undated.

Box 2, Folder 3
Notes for *Sector General*, referred to here as "SGB" (hand annotated). undated.

Box 2, Folder 4
Notes for *Genocidal Healer* (hand annotated). undated.

Box 2, Folder 4
Typescript of *The Genocidal Healer*; approximately 85,000 words, pages out of sequence (hand annotated). undated.

Box 4, Folder 1
Typescript of *Field Hospital*; approximately 55,250 words. undated.

Box 4, Folder 2
Typescript of *Star Healer*; formerly known as *Diagnostician*, approximately 75,500 words. undated.

Box 4, Folder 3
Notes for *Star Healer* (handwritten). undated.

Box 4, Folder 3
Typescript of *Star Healer*; first draft, approximately 80,620 words (hand annotated). 1982-1983.

Box 5, Folder 3
Typescript of *Ambulance Ship*; approximately 75,000 words, contained in printer’s wrapper (hand annotated). undated.

Box 6, Folder 5
Typescript of *Sector General*; includes table of contents and story list (hand annotated). undated.

Box 8, Folder 1
Typescript of *Sector General*; approximately 17,000 words, 69 pages (hand annotated). undated.

Box 9, Folder 1
Typescript of *O’Mara’s Orphan* (aka "Medic" as it appears on cover page); approximately 14,000 words, pages 1-57 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 9, Folder 2
Typescript of *Outpatient*; approximately 18,000 words, pages 1-73. undated.

Box 9, Folder 3
Typescript of *Visitor at Large*; approximately 16,000 words, pages 1-65. undated.

Box 9, Folder 5
Typescript of *Trouble with Emily*; approximately 12,000 words, pages 1-49. undated.

Box 9, Folder 15
Typescript of *Resident Physician*; approximately 10,500 words, pages 1-43. undated.

Box 9, Folder 19

Box 10, Folder 1
Typescript of *Blood Brother*; pages 1-65 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 11, Folder 5
Typescript of *Final Diagnosis*; approximately 92,000 words, 367 pages (hand annotated). undated.

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Sub-series Scope and Contents
This sub-series is comprised of typescripts, galley proofs, and other material regarding compilations of the literary works of James White. Includes material pertaining to the following compilations: *Deadly Litter*, *The Aliens Among Us*, *Monsters and Medics*, *Federation World*, and *The White Papers*.

Sub-series Arrangement
This sub-series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 5, Folder 1
Galley proof of "The Scourge"; story contained in compilation entitled *Federation World*, printed on newsprint, includes illustration (hand annotated). undated.

Box 5, Folder 2
Typescript of "The Scourge"; story contained in compilation entitled *Federation World*, approximately 20,000 words (hand annotated). undated.

Box 5, Folder 4
Typescript of "Federation World"; story contained in compilation entitled *Federation World*, approximately 8,500 words, 28 pages. undated.

Box 5, Folder 5
Box 5, Folder 5  
Typescript of "Federation World" with requested revisions and linking material; story contained in compilation entitled *Federation World*, approximately 5,000 additional words (hand annotated). undated.

Box 5, Folder 5  

Box 5, Folder 6  

Box 5, Folder 7  
Galley proof of "Federation World"; story contained in compilation entitled *Federation World*, publishers due date on cover page (photocopy). undated.

Box 5, Folder 8  
Progress sheet (double sided) for "The Answer"; story contained in compilation entitled *Federation World*. undated.

Box 6, Folder 1  
Typescript of "Something of Value"; story contained in compilation entitled *Federation World*, approximately 6,000 words, publishers mailing envelope included (hand annotated). undated.

Box 6, Folder 2  

Box 6, Folder 4  
Typescript of "The Scourge"; story contained in compilation entitled *Federation World*, approximately 20,000 words (hand annotated). undated.

Box 6, Folder 4  
Typescript of "The Scourge"; story contained in compilation entitled *Federation World*, approximately 28,500 words (hand annotated). undated.

Box 6, Folder 4  

Box 7, Folder 1  
Typescript of "Sanctuary"; story contained in compilation entitled *The White Papers*, progress sheet, approximately 12,000 words, possible first draft, pages 1-47 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 7, Folder 1  

Box 7, Folder 2  
Story notes for "Sanctuary"; story contained in compilation entitled *The White Papers*; includes original envelope (hand annotated). undated.

Box 8, Folder 3  
Typescript of "The Scavengers"; story contained in compilation entitled *The Aliens Among Us*, approximately 12,000 words, pages 1-47 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 8, Folder 7  
Typescript of "Curtain Call"; story contained in compilation entitled *Futures Past*, approximately 4,000 words, pages 1-18. undated.

Box 8, Folder 10  
Typescript of "The Conspirators"; story contained in compilation entitled *The Aliens Among Us*, approximately 11,000 words, pages 1-50. undated.

Box 8, Folder 11  
Typescript of "Outrider"; story contained in compilation entitled *Futures Past*, approximately 11,500 words, pages 1-52. undated.

Box 8, Folder 12  
Typescript of "Boarding Party"; story contained in compilation entitled *Futures Past*, approximately 10,500 words, pages 1-47. undated.

Box 8, Folder 13  
Typescript of "Question of Cruelty"; story contained in compilation entitled *Futures Past*, approximately 5,250 words, pages 1-24. undated.

Box 8, Folder 14  
Typescript of "Red Alert"; story contained in compilation entitled *The Aliens Among Us*, approximately 12,000 words, pages 1-57 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 8, Folder 17  
Typescript of "Patrol"; story contained in compilation entitled *Futures Past*, approximately 10,000 words, pages 1-41. undated.

Box 8, Folder 18  
Typescript of "The Lights Outside the Window"; story contained in compilation entitled *Deadly Litter*, approximately 11,500 words, pages 1-47. undated.

Box 8, Folder 19  
Typescript of "Tableau"; story contained in compilation entitled *The Aliens Among Us*, approximately 10,000 words, pages 1-41. undated.

Box 8, Folder 20  
Typescript of "False Alarm"; story contained in compilation entitled *Futures Past*, approximately 10,000 words, pages 1-41. undated.

Box 8, Folder 21  
Typescript of "To Kill or Cure", formerly known as "Wreck"; story contained in compilation entitled *The Aliens Among Us*, approximately 11,000 words, pages 1-45 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 9, Folder 4  
Typescript of "The Ideal Captain"; story contained in compilation entitled *Deadly Litter*, approximately 18,000 words, pages 1-76 (hand annotated). undated.

**James White papers**  
**MS 208**  
5
Box 9, Folder 6  Typescript of “Occupation: Warrior”; story contained in compilation entitled The Aliens Among Us, revision pages (hand annotated). undated.

Box 9, Folder 7  Typescript of “Dogfight”; story contained in compilation entitled Monsters and Medics, approximately 9,500 words, pages 1-39. undated.

Box 9, Folder 9  Typescript of “Grapeliner”; story contained in compilation entitled Deadly Litter, approximately 15,000 words, pages 1-61. undated.

Box 9, Folder 10  Typescript of “Deadly Litter”; story contained in compilation entitled Deadly Litter, approximately 17,250 words, pages 1-70 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 9, Folder 11  Typescript of “The Apprentice”; story contained in compilation entitled Monsters and Medics, approximately 14,250 words, pages 1-59. undated.

Box 9, Folder 12  Typescript of “Countercharm”; story contained in compilation entitled The Aliens Among Us, approximately 7,500 words, pages 1-31. undated.

Box 9, Folder 13  Typescript of “In Loving Memory”; story contained in compilation entitled Monsters and Medics, approximately 5,500 words, pages 1-14 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 9, Folder 14  Typescript of “Christmas Treason”; story contained in compilation entitled The White Papers, approximately 9,000 words, pages 1-37. undated.

Box 9, Folder 17  Typescript of “Fast Trip”; story contained in compilation entitled Futures Past, approximately 16,500 words, pages 1-70 (hand annotations). undated.

Box 9, Folder 20  Typescript of “Assisted Passage”; story contained in compilation entitled Futures Past, approximately 8,000 words, pages 1-34. undated.

Box 10, Folder 3  Typescript of “Spacebird”; story contained in compilation entitled Futures Past, approximately 9,500 words, pages 1-39. undated.

Box 10, Folder 4  Typescript of “Commuter”; story contained in compilation entitled The White Papers, approximately 7,250 words, pages 1-30. undated.

Box 11, Folder 1  Typescript of “Reality in Science Fiction”; story contained in compilation entitled Monsters and Medics, approximately 3,000 words, pages 1-12. undated.

Box 11, Folder 2  Typescript of “Nuisance Value”; story contained in compilation entitled Monsters and Medics, approximately 8,000 words, pages 1-37. undated.

Box 11, Folder 4  Typescript of “Answer Came There None”; story contained in compilation entitled Monsters and Medics, approximately 7,500 words, pages 1-32. undated.

Sub-series 1.3. Novels. undated.

Sub-series Scope and Contents

This sub-series is comprised of typescripts and other material regarding the novels of James White that are not part of the Sector General book series. Includes novels on medical themes (Second Ending and Dark Inferno), human survival (The Watch Below), prisoner-of-war camps (Open Prison), and exploration (The Dream Millennium).

Sub-series Arrangement

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

Box 1, Folder 5  Story outline for Dark Inferno; pages 1-10 with writer’s hand drawn illustrations. undated.

Box 1, Folder 5  Story notes for Dark Inferno (hand annotated). undated.

Box 1, Folder 6  Typescript of page insert for chapter one of Dark Inferno. undated.

Box 1, Folder 6  Typescript of Dark Inferno; approximately 65,200 words. undated.

Box 1, Folder 7  Typescript of Dark Inferno; first draft, approximately 70,440 words (hand annotated). undated.

Box 3, Folder 1  Typescript of The Silent Stars Go By; first attempt, 202 pages, formerly known as The Flight of the Aisling Gheal (hand annotated). undated.

Box 3, Folder 3  Typescript of The Silent Stars Go By; first draft (Part A), pages 1-410 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 3, Folder 4  Typescript of The Silent Stars Go By; first draft (Part B), pages 411-811 (hand annotated). undated.

Box 7, Folder 5  Typescript of The Dream Millennium; approximately 79,000 words, 325 pages. undated.
Sub-series 1.3. Novels. undated.

Box 7, Folder 6  Typescript of *The Dream Millennium*; first draft, approximately 86,780 words, 350 pages (hand annotated). undated.
Box 7, Folder 6  Story notes for *The Dream Millennium* (hand annotated). undated.
Box 10, Folder 5  Typescript of *All Judgment Fled*; approximately 64,500 words, pages 1-214 (hand annotated). undated.
Box 10, Folder 7  Typescript of *Tomorrow Is Too Far*; approximately 65,000 words, pages 1-273 (hand annotated). undated.
Box 10, Folder 8  Typescript of *Open Prison*; Part 1-3, approximately 58,000 words (hand annotated). undated.
Box 10, Folder 9  Typescript of *The Watch Below*; approximately 65,500 words, pages 1-277. undated.


Sub-series Scope and Contents
This sub-series is comprised of typescripts and other material regarding the short stories of James White that are not included as part of compilations. Includes stories pertaining to Ireland’s history ("Crossfire"), medical themes ("The High Road"), and man vs. machine ("Type ‘Genie’ and Run").

Sub-series Arrangement
This sub-series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

Box 1, Folder 3  Short story "Second Ending" (Part 1) from *Fantastic Stories of Imagination*; original envelope included (volume 10, number 6). 1961.
Box 1, Folder 3  Short story "Second Ending" (Part 2) from *Fantastic Stories of Imagination*; original envelope included (volume 10, number 7). 1961.
Box 7, Folder 3  Typescript of "Type ‘Genie’ and Run"; approximately 5,000 words, 21 pages (hand annotated). undated.
Box 7, Folder 3  Notes for "Type ‘Genie’ and Run" (hand annotated). undated.
Box 8, Folder 2  Typescript of "Crossfire"; approximately 8,000 words, 33 pages. undated.
Box 8, Folder 4  Typescript of "Starvation Orbit"; approximately 11,500 words, 48 pages (hand annotated). undated.
Box 8, Folder 5  Typescript of "Suicide Mission"; approximately 10,500 words, 44 pages. undated.
Box 8, Folder 6  Typescript of "Dark Talisman"; approximately 6,500 words, pages 1-29. undated.
Box 8, Folder 8  Typescript of "Pushover Planet"; approximately 9,250 words, pages 1-39 (hand annotated). undated.
Box 8, Folder 9  Typescript of "The Star Walk"; approximately 18,500 words, pages 1-81. undated.
Box 8, Folder 16  Typescript of "Tourist Planet", a revision and rewrite of "Ace"; approximately 50,750 words. undated.
Box 9, Folder 8  Typescript of "The High Road"; approximately 12,500 words, pages 1-51. undated.


Series Scope and Contents
This series is comprised of typescripts and other material regarding the unpublished works of James White. Includes a treatment for a radio adaptation of *Hospital Station* and the novella entitled "The Silence" as well as correspondence to White.

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

Box 1, Folder 2  Typescript of "The Silence" novella; approximately 20,000 words (hand annotated). undated.
Box 1, Folder 4  Biography for "Galaxy of Stars"; pages 1-3. undated.
Box 2, Folder 5  Typescript of "Sector General Under Narco-Synthesis"; approximately 750 words. undated.
Box 3, Folder 2  Correspondence to James White and his wife (from Bob and Sadie), Christmas letter with mailing envelope. 1989.
Box 6, Folder 3  Typescript of "Process of Elimination" (hand annotated). undated.
Box 6, Folder 3  Typescript of revisions for "Process of Elimination" (hand annotated). undated.
Box 7, Folder 4  Typescript of "Dynasty of One"; approximately 2,550 words, pages 1-12. undated.
Box 8, Folder 15  Typescript of "Tourist Class"; Chapter 8, pages 74-235 (hand annotated). undated.
Box 8, Folder 22  Typescript of "The Interpreters"; approximately 4,000 words, pages 1-14, mailing envelope included (hand annotated). undated.
Box 9, Folder 18  Editorial entitled "The Oppressed Minority"; unknown magazine, approximately 2,000 words, pages 1-8. undated.
Box 10, Folder 2  Treatment for a radio adaptation of Hospital Station; pages 1-15. undated.
Box 11, Folder 3  Typescript of "Dress Formal"; approximately 9,750 words, pages 1-41. undated.