Colin Fletcher Papers

Collection number: MS 17

The University Library
Special Collections and Archives
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California

Processed by:
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Date Completed:
January 2011, revised July 2013
Encoded by:
Mathew E. Simpson

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Colin Fletcher papers
Dates: 1900-2007
Dates: (bulk 1960-2000)
Collection number: MS 17
Creator: Fletcher, Colin
Collection Size: 169 half cartons
Repository: University of California, Santa Cruz. University Library. Special Collections and Archives
Santa Cruz, California 95064
Abstract: This collection includes manuscripts and drafts of both Colin Fletcher's published and unpublished material, personal and business correspondence, scrapbooks and biographical material, photographs, slides & maps related to his travels and writings, as well as some audio media and realia.
Physical location: Collection stored off-site at NRLF: Advance notice is required for access.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
Collection open for research.
Publication Rights
Literary rights are gifted to the Regents, but managed by literary executor Carl Brandt, of Brandt and Hochman Literary Agents, New York.
Preferred Citation
Colin Fletcher Papers. MS 17. Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.
Acquisition Information
Processing Information
This collection has been sorted but only minimally processed.
Biography
Colin Evan Boulton Fletcher was born in Cardiff, Wales on March 14, 1922. He was educated in England and served for six years in the Royal Marines, advancing from Marine to Captain during World War II. In 1946 he married his first wife, Sonia Mary Savage, in Bexhill, England. Together they managed a hotel in Kenya from 1947 to 1948, but in February 1951 the marriage ended in divorce, after Mr. Fletcher had already moved on to become a farmer. In July of 1952 he left Kenya to help with surveying and road building in Southern Rhodesia.
He then returned to England, and while working for an export company accompanied a shipment of cattle to Canada, where he stayed on, moving to a cabin in Cowichan Bay on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. He worked as a geologist's assistant in Canada until September 9, 1956, when he entered the United States and moved south to California.
One of his first jobs in San Francisco was acting as Santa Claus in the City of Paris department store, something he already had experience doing in Kenya and had enjoyed immensely. He soon found janitorial work at a San Francisco hospital, but from February of 1958 on he considered himself a professional writer. He had already been writing many articles and stories for various publications, even in Africa, but in 1958 he walked the length of California and the journey resulted in his first full-length book, The Thousand Mile Summer. He was briefly married a second time in 1959 to Thelma Iveagh Mary Brad. From 1962 through the autumn of 1971 he lived in Berkeley, attending at least one class at the University of California before turning to writing as a full-time occupation, on the way to becoming a best-selling author of ten books. His most famous book, The Man Who Walked Through Time, is based on the trek he completed in 1963, when he became the first person, by himself and all in one go, to walk the length of Grand Canyon National Park.

In late 1971 he moved to Carmel Valley, California, some 125 miles to the south, where he found a modest home above the valley and bordering the Ventana Wilderness to serve as a home base for his extensive travels. By this time he was considered "the father of modern backpacking" and an American folk hero.

In 2001 he was hit by a car while walking near his home, and although he was in excellent shape, he never completely recovered, and died six years later (in June of 2007) as a result of his injuries. Besides his 10 published books, there are 4 unpublished books and hundreds of articles and stories, as well as an autobiographical manuscript he had worked on for years, but which never got beyond covering his childhood. The successive editions of The Complete Walker remain definitive works in the history of backpacking.

**Title:** The Thousand Mile Summer,
**Date:** 1964
**Title:** The Man Who Walked Through Time,
**Date:** 1968
**Title:** The Complete Walker (1st ed.),
**Date:** 1968
**Title:** The Winds of Mara,
**Date:** 1973
**Title:** The New Complete Walker,
**Date:** 1974
**Title:** The Man from the Cave,
**Date:** 1981
**Title:** The Complete Walker III,
**Date:** 1984
**Title:** The Secret Worlds of Colin Fletcher,
**Date:** 1989
**Title:** River: One Man's Journey Down the Colorado, Source to Sea,
**Date:** 1997
**Title:** The Complete Walker IV,
**Date:** 2001

**Scope and Content of Collection**
This collection includes correspondence, business papers, notes, drafts and manuscripts of published and unpublished works, scrapbooks, maps, slides, audiotapes and photographs related to Fletcher's travels and writings. The collection is divided into 7 series: Biographical; Correspondence; Writings (monographs, short stories and articles, unpublished manuscripts, notebooks, and literary miscellany); Media; Maps; Images (slides, photographs and negatives); and Realia.

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Fletcher , Colin--Archives
Backpacking
Hiking
Grand Canyon (Ariz.)
California--Description and travel
### Separated Material

Mr. Fletcher's personal books (including those written by himself) and his personal copy of Edward Abbey's *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, have been cataloged separately. They are available through the library's online catalog.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>boxes 1-4, 133, 167</th>
<th>Series 1  <strong>Biographical, circa 1940-2000, or no date</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 6 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Series Scope and Content Summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This series contains material related to Mr. Fletcher's personal life, and interests not necessarily related to his writing activities, as well as awards he received.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**box 1**
- Fletcher family genealogy, travel ephemera, passports, letters of recommendation, biography, circa 1950-2000

**box 2**
- Desk and wall calendars, writing timetable, 1960-1972

**box 3**
- Calendars, house papers, travel material, 1971-2000

**box 4**
- Travel material, Carmel Valley material, West Buckland School, divorce documents, mining companies information for shareholders, 1980-2000

**box 133**
- Awards, 1988, or no date

**box 167**
- Notebooks, personal miscellany, no date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>boxes 5-17</th>
<th>Series 2  <strong>Correspondence, circa 1953-2004, or no date</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 6 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Series Scope and Content Summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This series contains the correspondence isolated by Mr. Fletcher himself. There is much more to be found mixed in with the writings files, when the letters are concerned specifically with a book or other writing project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**box 5**

**box 6**

**box 7**

**box 8**
- Correspondents P-S, incl. the Sierra Club, rejection slips, notes from publishers, circa 1953-2001

**box 9**

**box 10**
- F. F. Williams (father), World War II Commando Unit & "F Troop", circa 1932-1999

**box 11-14**
- Unsorted letters, 1954-1998

| box 11 | 1954-1975 |
| box 12 | 1976-1984 |
| box 13 | 1985-1992 |
| box 14 | 1992-1998 |

**box 15**
- Christmas cards, Get Well cards, 1999-2004, or no date

**box 16-17**
- Fan mail, circa 1964-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>boxes 18-140, 166</th>
<th>Series 3  <strong>Writings, circa 1949-2001, or no date</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 123 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains research notes, manuscripts, typescripts, &quot;propaganda&quot; and post-production correspondence, proofs, and other material related to Mr. Fletcher's fiction and non-fiction writings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrangement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged following Mr. Fletcher’s files, but further divided into three subseries: monographs, shorter works, and unpublished material, including autobiographical manuscripts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 3 Writings, circa 1949-2001, or no date
Subseries 1 Monographs, circa 1958-2000, or no date

Subseries 1 Monographs, circa 1958-2000, or no date

Physical Description: 98 boxes

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
Contains material related to the writing and production of Mr. Fletcher's published monographs.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by title, except for The Complete Walker, where all four editions are arranged together chronologically.

box 18
The Thousand-Mile Summer - Typescript with corrections, notes, possible titles, no date

box 19
The Thousand-Mile Summer - Typescripts "1", "2", "The Walk" and "Off The Road" with corrections, notes, correspondence, circa 1959-1964

box 20
The Thousand-Mile Summer and "Off The Road" - Clean typescripts, royalty statements, correspondence, circa 1958-2000

box 21
Lonesome Road [The Thousand-Mile Summer] - Typescript manuscript with corrections, notes, circa 1961

box 22
Lonesome Road [The Thousand-Mile Summer] - Typescript manuscript pages with corrections, notes, circa 1961

box 23
Lonesome Road [The Thousand-Mile Summer] - Typescript manuscript with corrections, notes, paperback subsidiary rights, retail sales, circa 1961-1987

box 24
The Man Who Walked Through Time - Manuscript pages with notes, corrections, no date

box 25
Man Who Walked Through Time - Manuscript and typescript pages with notes, corrections, circa 1964

box 26
The Man Who Walked Through Time - Typescript with corrections, notes, circa 1964

box 27
The Man Who Walked Through Time - Typescript pages with corrections, notes, circa 1964

box 28

box 29

box 30

box 31

box 32
Book of Walking [The Complete Walker] - Correspondence, outlines, manuscript pages with corrections, notes, 1964-1968, or no date

box 33
Book of Walking [The Complete Walker] - Manuscript with corrections, notes, copy 2 of typescript, no date

box 34
Book of Walking or The Complete Walker - Galley proofs, copy 3 of typescript, circa 1968-1969

box 35
The Complete Walker - Manuscript pages and typescript with corrections, post-publication material, circa 1968-1973

box 36

box 37
The Complete Walker - Galley proofs, revised first edition and marked set, circa 1968

box 38
The New Complete Walker - Fan mail, ideas from readers, post-publicity, propaganda, reviews, subsidiary rights, 1969-1984

box 39
Complete Walker II [New Complete Walker] - Correspondence; research on food, life vests, battery life, sleepings, and including "A Structural Analysis of Selected Backpack Frames" by Ron Barstad; sources, water needs, typescript pages with corrections, 1972-1974
box 40  
*Complete Walker II [ New Complete Walker]* - Final corrected typescript, notes, circa 1974-1975

box 41  

box 42  
*Complete Walker II [ New Complete Walker]* - Research material (gear catalogs), circa 1963-1973

box 43  

box 44  

box 45  
*The Complete Walker III* - Transcriptions of research tapes, research backup & correspondence, circa 1981-1985

box 46  

box 47  

box 48-51  
*The Complete Walker III* - Working papers, manuscript pages with corrections and edits, circa 1983-1985

box 52  
*The Complete Walker III* - Annotated typescript, Betty's typed index, circa 1983-1985, and no date

box 53  

box 54  

box 55  
*The Complete Walker III* - Final typescript, circa 1983

box 56  
*The Complete Walker III* - Annotated manuscript photocopies, revised proofs, circa 1983

box 57  
*The Complete Walker III* - Working galley and revised proofs, no date

box 58  
*The Complete Walker III* - Working galley proofs, previous editions with corrections and edits, circa 1983

box 59  
*The Complete Walker IV* - Manuscript & Acknowledgements, no date

box 60  
*The Complete Walker IV* - Draft #2 & notes, no date

box 61  

box 62  
*The Complete Walker IV* - Typescript, final draft, correspondence, circa 1985-2001

box 63  
*The Complete Walker IV* - Correspondence; Africa - *The Winds of Mara* - Pre-publication, illustrations, correspondence, manuscript with corrections, circa 1967-2001

box 64  
Research materials - Africa [ *The Winds of Mara*] - Maps, trip diaries, Mountain Travel, Inc. correspondence, circa 1960-1973

box 65  
Africa [ *The Winds of Mara*] - Manuscript, notes, notebook, circa 1967(?)-1973

box 66-67  

box 68  
Africa [ *The Winds of Mara*] - Original artwork, Flor Pereañez, Tom Harris, manuscript with corrections, & notes, propaganda, post-publication; *The Man from the Cave* [Trunkman] - articles, propaganda, post-publication, circa 1966-1985, and no date

box 69-70  
*The Man from the Cave* [Trunkman] - "Dead working papers Box II" - Manuscript pages with corrections, notes, research, circa 1975-1981

box 71  
*The Man from the Cave* [Trunkman] - "Dead working papers Box II" & "Trunkman - Dead Papers" - Manuscript pages with corrections, notes, research, circa 1975-1981

box 72  
*The Man from the Cave* [Trunkman] - "Dead Papers" - Manuscript pages with corrections, notes, research, circa 1975-1981

box 73-74  
*The Man from the Cave* [Trunkman] - "Dead Papers - Trunkman III" - Manuscript pages with corrections, notes, research, circa 1975-1981

box 75  
*The Man from the Cave* [Trunkman] - "Dead working papers Box II" - Manuscript pages with corrections, notes, research, circa 1975-1981

box 76-77  
*The Man from the Cave* [Trunkman] - Working papers - Manuscript pages with corrections, notes, research, circa 1975-1981
Series 3 Writings, circa 1949-2001, or no date
Subseries 1 Monographs, circa 1958-2000, or no date

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**box 78**  
The Man from the Cave [Trunkman] - Working papers - Revised manuscript pages with corrections, notes, circa 1975-1981

**box 79**  

**box 80-81**  

**box 82**  

**box 83**  

**box 84**  

**box 85**  
The Man from the Cave [Trunkman] - "T'man IV" working papers, circa 1975-1981

**box 86**  
The Man from the Cave [Trunkman] - "T'man IV" working papers, typescript photocopy, circa 1975-1981

**box 87**  

**box 88**  

**box 89**  

**box 90**  

**box 91-94**  

**box 95**  
River - CF's files, "Logistics & Schedule", "Clothing", "Equipment" notes, etc., no date

**box 96**  
River - CF's files, "RB - Researched Material", notes, etc., no date

**box 97**  
River - CF's files - River Rafting - Permits, map sources, food information, "READ", photography, Green & Colorado Rivers log, Mississippi pre-river rafting, American Airlines (Jeff Peachey), no date

**box 98**  
River - Articles, notes, location information, research materials, 2nd Montana trip, "River R7", "River R10", "River 19 RN", river rafting - Colorado, correspondence, photographs, post-publication, circa 1968-1999

**box 99**  
River - Research material re: Colorado River & Grand Canyon, correspondence & notes, circa 1988-1997

**box 100-112**  
River - Manuscript pages, typescript pages with corrections, etc. [original order], no date

**box 113**  
River - Final galleys (corrected), promotion, memo pad, uncorrected proof, Knopf material, circa 1996-1997

**box 114**  
River - Front matter & Chapters 1-22 typescripts, Bank Copy [final copy], promotion, circa 1995-1997

**box 115**  
River - Main notes from Colorado R3.1 Writings: River Trip, 1989-1990

**box 116**  

**box 131**  
"Green World - WW2II - River" - Notes, correspondence, old Walking notes, circa 1971-1987

**box 134**  
"Papers of Grace" [re: The Man From the Cave, Grace O. Mazeris - correspondence, legal documents, "Trails & trials" by Ruby Young & Grace O. Mazeris, writings, clippings; The Man From the Cave: A Play by George Crowe - draft, script, correspondence, circa 1940-1951, 1984

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**boxes 18, 98-99, 118-133, 135, 138, 166**  
Subseries 2 Short Stories, Articles and Miscellany, circa 1949-2000, or no date

Physical Description: 22 boxes

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
Contains manuscripts, notes and research for short stories, articles, and other miscellany written by Mr. Fletcher.

Arrangement
Arranged as found.
box 18  
*The Thousand Mile Summer*: possible titles; "Follow My Shadow" manuscript with corrections, notes; "The Outdoorsman's Medical Guide" by Alan Nourse, M.D. (typescript), no dates

box 98  

box 99  
Colorado River Basin River Mile Index, Maps re: Colorado River Basin & Grand Canyon, no date

box 118  
"It's the Altitude" manuscript, typescript with notes, corrections, rejection correspondence; "The Dream" First Arrangement; "Go Small, Go Slow, Go Simple"; "Whitewater Backpacking", circa 1952-1955, 1960-1969, or no date

box 119  

box 120  

box 121  

box 122  

box 123  

box 124  
"Hills" Chapters 1-9, J1-M44, "In His Own Image" manuscript, typescript with corrections, notes, "John Muir's a Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf", "Mrs. Merriman Meets Her Grunks", Road to the River", notes on birds, circa 1960-2000

box 125  

box 126  
"The Man Who Walked Through Wine", "2nd Time Around", "Don't Seal Off Those Labyrinths, Brother, Maybe They're All We Got", "From the Fish's Point of View", "I Married My Binoculars To My Camera", "I Walked the Length of Unspoiled California", "Shops That Pass in the Night", "The Rolling English Road", "What People Are Talking About in... England", "Think Like a Fish", "What's It Like Being a Real Santa Claus?", "Whitewater Backpacking", Wadell Creek, Grand Canyon story proposal, possible story ideas, circa 1956-1969, and no date

"Poems and Such" (manuscripts with corrections and correspondence), "Mojave" TV documentary - part of the story, "Moon Walking And Scorpions", "Surplice Syndrome" or "Surplus Surpluses", "The Man Who Walked Through Time" movie possibility, "The Lake" [Colin's Lake], "The Very Last Wilderness Trail Guide [TG]", "Three Men" or "Three Well-Known Men", "What a Wonderful Civilization We've Built! ... It?", Grand Canyon notes & miscellany, 1955-1990, or no date


"Backtrekking", Branwood [btBRAN.doc], Wellsprings & Branwood, preface material, Wales [bt2WALES.doc and WALES/Old Wales], no date


"Changing Times At the Old Cave Temple" manuscript with corrections, "Living in China" manuscript with travel diaries, correspondence, Adventure Travel article "Slightly Footloose on the Mongolian Grasslains" manuscript with corrections, notes, Miscellaneous files on China travel: cassettes and guide, research materials, photos by George Holton, 1979-1982

American Hiking Society, articles and ideas, possible RD articles, UCLA Green World Convention, 1977-1979, and no date

Proposing a Book: "Poems and Such" - photocopy & correspondence, misc. notes, no date

Illustrations, no date

Subseries 3  Autobiographical & Unpublished Material, 1972-2001, or no date

Physical Description: 6 boxes

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

Contains autobiographical material and other unpublished writing.

Arrangement

Arranged as found.
box 139  

box 140  

boxes 117 & 141  
Series 4 Media, circa 1989-1990s
Physical Description: 2 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains mostly audiocassettes used by Mr. Fletcher for interviews, but also some of his books on tape.

box 117  
box 141  
Books on tape; audiocassettes, no date

boxes 142-145  
Series 5 Maps, circa 1950-2000
Physical Description: 4 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains Mr. Fletcher's personal maps.

box 142  
box 143  
box 144  
box 145  
Canada, England, Germany, Mexico, circa 1950-2000

boxes 146-165  
Series 6 Images (Photographs, Negatives, & Slides), circa 1900-2007
Physical Description: 19 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains photograph albums, slide collections, negatives, and loose photographs related to both family and travels.

box 146  

Box 147  
Photographs of Colin Fletcher, miscellaneous subjects, Photo Stories, "Thousand Mile Summer", circa 1940-2007

box 148  
Photographs of mostly British Columbia, fishing, camping snapshots, and contact sheets, circa 1953-1956

Box 149  

Box 151
Negatives, circa 1940-2007

Box 152
Slides of the Grand Canyon, 1963-1964

Box 153

Box 154
Slides of Kenya, 1967-1968

Box 155
Slides of 2nd Kenya trip, Needles, Sierra [Nevada], 1967-1970

Box 156

Box 157
Slides of China (1980), Carmel Valley: animals, bugs, people, Sunday portraits; Trunkman, 1980, and no date

Box 158
Slides: 1000 Mile Summer, River; China, Ventana, Colin Fletcher portraits, Sierra, Mexico City, "Finish", 1958, 1980, 1989-1992, and no date

Box 159

Box 160
Slides: "Lonesome Road [TMS]" Rolls 1-18 (Mexico-Saratoga Springs), Rolls 19-30 (Saratoga Springs-Dead Horse MW), Rolls 19-42 (Dead Horse MW-Mt. Tullac; Calif. Coastline; Animals; Los Angeles; Yosemite, SF Walking Trips, Taylor St. SF, Sea Fishing, Wyoming, Wind River, Boronda & vicinity; Seals, Santa Claus, San Francisco, 1959-1961

Box 161

Box 162-163

Box 164

Box 165
Oversize photographs, no dates

Boxes 88, 168-169
Series 7 Realia, circa 1975-2000, undated

 Physical Description: 3 boxes, oversize items

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains artifacts from Mr. Fletcher's research into the "Trunkman", as well as some three-dimensional objects.

Box 88
The Man from the Cave [Trunkman] - artifacts, circa 1975-1981

Box 168-169
Miscellaneous realia, circa 1950-2000

Oversize Truck
Realia, no date