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McCormack, (Derek) Papers

Gift of Derek McCormack, 2016

**Dates of creation:**

1995-2008

**Extent:**

22 boxes (2.7 metres)

**Biographical note:**

Derek McCormack (1969- ) is a Canadian novelist and short story writer whose work is characterized by its extreme brevity and dark humour. Born and raised in Peterborough, Ontario, he currently resides in Toronto.

McCormack's first book, *Dark Rides* was published by Gutter Press, a small Canadian press founded by Sam Hiyate as part of a mid-1990s boom in alternative publishing in Toronto. This book was edited by Ken Sparling who left his 'aggressively minimalist' imprint on it.

At the beginning of his career, McCormack was frequently described as being part of a new generation of Canadian writers, most notably in a 1996 *Globe and Mail* feature about him and other writers like Evan Solomon, Russell Smith and Andrew Pyper.

He received a nomination for *Wild Mouse* for the 1999 City of Toronto Book Award, and *The Haunted Hillbilly* has appeared on the *Globe and Mail* and *Village Voice* lists of the best books of the year for 2004.

**Scope and content:**

This first accession of Derek McCormack's papers contains manuscript drafts of novels *Dark Rides* (1996), *Wish Book* (1999), *The Haunted Hillbilly* (2003), *Christmas Days* (2005), *Grab Bag* (2004), *The Show That Smells* (2008); material related to chapbooks: *Halloween Suite*, *Western Suit*, *Faux*; notebooks; anthologies; and newspaper and magazine articles he's contributed to.

*Contains series:*

1. Manuscripts and other writing
2. Personal journals
3. Newspapers, magazines, literary journals and anthologies

**Custodial history:**

This is the first donation from Derek McCormack to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

**Notes:**

Folder descriptions are taken directly from titles given by McCormack.

<b>SERIES 1: Manuscripts and other writing</b>		
<b>BOX/ FOLDER #:</b>	<b>CONTENTS:</b>	<b>DATES:</b>
	<b><i>Dark Rides (1996)</i></b> <b>Drafts and galleys.</b>	
1:1-1:23	Story drafts from 'Dark Rides'.	[1995]
1:24-1:26	Draft: 'Dark Rides' [first edit with revisions]	[1995]
1:27-1:28	Draft: 'Dark Rides' [final edit]	1995
1:29-1:31	Galleys: 'Dark Rides' [includes notes and revisions]	1996
1:32-1:34, 2:1-2:8	Drafts: 'The History of Country Music' [early <i>Dark Rides</i> stories].	[1994-1995]
	<b><i>Dark Rides – other files.</i></b>	
2:9	Book contract with Gutter Press Inc. Includes loan agreement.	[1995-1996]
2:10	Mailing labels.	1996
2:11	Press release [3 copies].	1996
2:12-2:14	Photographs and invoices.	[1995-1996]
2:15	Photographs [on floppy disk].	1996
2:16	Photograph copyright information.	1995
2:17	Book catalogues.	1996
2:18-2:21	Press material Includes information pertaining to readings and appearances.	1996-1997
3:1-3:4	Reviews.	1996-1997
3:5	Correspondence: Dennis Cooper blurb [photocopy of letter]. Also includes an interview with Dennis Cooper.	1996/2001
	<b><i>Wish Book (1999)</i></b>	
3:6	Early draft	[199-]
3:7-3:11	Draft	[1997-1998?]
3:12-3:15	Galleys	1999
3:16-3:21, 4:1-4:6	Variously paginated drafts of: 'Wish Book'.	[1997-1998]
4:7-4:10	Draft – includes correspondence and note from Ken Sparling.	1997
4:11-4:13	Draft: 'Flashpaper' [old title] – Melissa's edit.	[1997-1998]
4:14-4:16	Draft: 'Flashpaper' [old title] - Esther's edit.	[1997-1998]
4:17-4:19	Draft: 'Wish Book' – Chris P.'s edit.	[1997-1998]
4:20-4:22	Draft: 'Wish Book' – Jason's edit.	[1197-1998]
	<b><i>Wish Book – other files.</i></b>	
5:1	Copy of book [a proof?] and cover image.	1999
5:2	Catalogue and book launch ephemera	Spring 1999
5:3-5:5	Reviews [press clippings]	1999

	<b>Research</b>	
5:6	Amusements	
5:7	Cake decorating	
5:8	Cosmetics	
5:9	Department stores	
5:10	Electroencephalogram (EEG/Sleep)	
5:11	Fishing	
5:12	Flowers and weeds	
5:13	Jewelry	
5:14	Scouting	
5:15	Taxidermy	
5:16	Undertaking	
5:17	Vending machines	
5:18	Weeds	
	<b><i>Halloween Suite (1999)</i></b>	
5:19	Reviews.	1998-1999
5:20	Proofs.	1999
	<b><i>Western Suit (2001)</i></b> <i>Western Suit</i> includes the first section of <i>The Haunted Hillbilly</i> . The chapter is printed in a handsewn chapbook. The chapbook is covered in faux-suede; a cloth label is hand-stitched to the cover. The book – along with a custom-designed western shirt pattern and sewing instructions – is packed inside a sewing pattern envelope.	
5:21	Word processed draft	2001
5:22	Mock-up	2001
5:23	Ephemera/promotional materials.	2001
5:24	Clippings	2001
5:25	<i>Western Suit</i> book in envelope with sewing pattern.	2001
	<b><i>The Haunted Hillbilly : A Novel (2003)</i></b>	
6:1-6:5	Early draft [variously paginated]. Contains correspondence with Ken Sparling.	2000
6:6-6:7	First draft [with revisions].	2002
6:8-6:9	Second draft [with revisions].	2002
6:10-6:11	Draft [with revisions]	2002
6:12-6:13	Draft – Ken Sparling 1 <sup>st</sup> edit.	2002
6:14-6:15	Draft – Michael Holmes edit.	[2002]
6:16	Cerlox-bound draft [final edit].	2002
6:17-6:18	Draft [the final edit]	2002
	<b><i>The Haunted Hillbilly – other files.</i></b>	
6:19	Soft Skull files. Includes contract, catalogue and exhibitor	2003

	badge.	
6:20	Book covers.	[2002-2003]
6:21	ECW Contract and correspondence.	2003
7:1	Press – Canada.	2003-2004
7:2	Press – United States.	2004
7:3-7:5	Reviews.	2003-2004
7:6	Sidemart Theatrical Grocery production of <i>The Haunted HillBilly</i> written by Graham Cuthbertson with music by Matthew Barber.	2008
	<b>Research</b>	
7:7	Comics	
7:8	Draft of ‘The Monster Comic’ [about <i>The Haunted Hillbilly</i> ].	
7:9	Country music museums	
7:10	Nudie Cohn	
7:11	Sequins. Includes draft: ‘The Story of Sequins’.	
	<b>Grab Bag (2004)</b>	
7:12-7:15	Draft [copy edits by Johnny Temple]	2003
7:16	Contact with Akashic Books.	2003
7:17	<i>The Haunted Hillbilly</i> and <i>Grab Bag</i> bookmarks.	2003-2004
7:18	Cover image. Includes catalogue and correspondence.	2003
7:19	U.S. Press [includes articles].	2004
7:20	Canadian Press [includes articles].	2004
	<b>The Show That Smells (2008)</b>	
7:21-7:22	Draft	[2007?]
7:23-7:24	Draft – Ken Sparling’s edit	[2007]
7:25	Draft [with revisions]	2007
8:1	Draft [notebook]	2007
8:2-8:3	ECW galleys.	2007
8:4	ECW contract and payment advance.	2007
8:5	ECW catalogue featuring ‘The Show That Smells’.	Fall 2008
	<b>Christmas days (2005)</b>	
8:6	Cerlox-bound draft: ‘Christmas Days: Making Christmas in Canada’.	[2004]
8:7	1 <sup>st</sup> draft: ‘Christmas Days: Making Christmas in Canada’ [cerlox-bound].	2004
8:8-8:11	Draft: ‘Christmas Days’ [with revisions]	2005
8:12	Book contract with Anansi	2003
8:13	Foreword draft: ‘Christmas Days’ [with revisions]	[2004-2005]
8:14	Book: ‘Santa Days’ [Chapter 9 from ‘Christmas Days’].	2005
9:1	Cover images and other ephemera.	[2004-2005]
9:2	Correspondence	2005

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9:3	Reviews	2005
9:4	Press clippings	2005
	<b>Other drafts</b>	
9:5-9:7	Retail Stories [initial edit]	1995
9:8-9:11	The Crepe-Hangers. Abandoned novel, variously paginated.	[199-]
9:12-9:14	Antibody: an autobiography [with annotations]	[200-]
	<u>Miscellaneous research</u>	
9:15-9:17	Miscellaneous research for novels. Includes correspondence.	1990s
	<u>Other</u>	
9:18	Reading Tours	2004-2005
9:19	Photographs (4) Includes photographs of Derek McCormack and Jason McBride.	n.d.
<b>SERIES 2: Personal Journals</b>		
<b>BOX/ FOLDER #:</b>	<b>CONTENTS:</b>	<b>DATES:</b>
Box: 10, 11, 12	'Dark Rides' notebooks (13)	1990s
Box 13	7 notebooks, uncorrected proofs for 'The Haunted Hillbilly', three advanced reading copies of 'The Show That Smells' and a WYNV cassette re: 'The Haunted Hillbilly'.	1990s-2000s
Box 14	4 notebooks for other books and research materials for 'The Haunted Hillbilly' including Hank Williams's articles, photographs from Hank and Audrey's Corral, and a book: 'Dream Suits: The Wonderful World of Nudie Cohn'.	1990s
<b>SERIES 3: Newspapers, magazines, literary journals and anthologies</b> Contains newspaper article clippings, magazines, literary journals and anthologies that Derek McCormack's work has appeared or reviewed in.		
<b>BOX/ FOLDER #:</b>	<b>CONTENTS:</b>	<b>DATES:</b>
Boxes 15, 16, 17	Newspaper and magazine clippings about Derek McCormack and his work.	1990s-2000s
Boxes 18, 19, 20	Magazine writing (articles by Derek McCormack). Also contained in box 20 is 13 floppy disks and 5 Smith Corona data disks containing DM's work.	1990s-2000s
Boxes 21, 22	Anthologies and literary journals.	1990s-2000s

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