

Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

**Gibson, Graeme, 1934-**  
Papers, 1959-[ongoing]  
4.75 metres (28 boxes)

Canadian writer and former president of PEN Canada.  
Drafts and final manuscripts for his novels,  
correspondence about them, editorial correspondence for Anansi Press, correspondence relating to  
PEN Canada and other organizations with which he was involved.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Graeme Gibson was born in London, Ont. in 1934. He studied at the University of Western Ontario and later taught at Ryerson. He has travelled widely, living abroad in England, France, and elsewhere. In 1959 he married Shirley Gibson, who later became President of Anansi Press (1972-1974). In 1969 his first novel, *Five Legs*, was published by Anansi Press, followed by his second, *Communion*, in 1971. In the 1970's he became active in various cultural organizations. He was a founding member of the Writer's Union of Canada, serving as its chairman in 1974/75. In 1975 he helped to establish the Book and Periodical Development Council, which he chaired the following year. He has also been chairman of the Writer's Development Trust. In 1973 he edited a collection of interviews entitled: *Eleven Canadian Novelists*, published by Anansi Press. In 1978 he was awarded a Scottish Canadian Exchange Fellowship. In 1982 he published his third novel, *Perpetual Motion*, and in 1993, *Gentleman Death*. He lives in Toronto with Margaret Atwood.

Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

## CONTAINER LIST

### *FIVE LEGS* MATERIAL

DRAFTS. [1958-196?]

#### **Box 1**

Folders 1-4 Holograph notes and notebooks in which aspects of the novel are developed.  
[ca.1958/-1962?]

Folder 5 General Plan. Typescript. 3 leaves.

Folders 6-8 Early typed drafts. Incomplete.

TYPESCRIPTS. [196?]

#### **Box 2**

Folders 1-15 Typescripts edited by Dennis Lee. Typescript edited by Dennis Lee. With his notes.

Retyped typescript incorporating revisions. Mixed carbon and top copies.

#### **Box 3**

Folders 1-6 Typescript of Lucan 1-3 (chapters 1-3 of *Five Legs*). "With some revision".  
Top copy and carbon copy.

Folders 7-8 Typescript of Felix I-II (chapters 4-6 of *Five Legs*)  
"Editing with John Robert Colombo". Carbon copy.

PROOFS AND PASTE-UPS. 1969.

Folder 9 Page proofs with revisions.

Folder 10 Final page proofs.

#### **Box 4**

Folder 1 Cover design and prelims. Ap. 1969.

Folders 2-7. Paste-ups

Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

CORRESPONDENCE, ETC. RE PUBLICATION. 1967-1969.

- Folder 8        Readers' reports on novel. One is dated Sept. 1967.
- Folder 9        Dennis Lee. Assessment of novel. Typescript. 2 leaves.  
Mimeo copy with Anansi letter head
- Folder 10       Scott Symons, Toronto, to Hugh Kane, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, Nov. 13,  
1967. Extolls the novel.
- Folder 11       Shirley Gibson. Correspondence re permissions for passages quoted in the novel.  
Feb. 1969. 2 T.L. (copies)
- Folder 12.      Publicity release. Apr. 1969. With mailing list

1994 ACCESSION

A collection of manuscripts of the novels and literary works of Graeme Gibson in various states of completion. The collection includes material relating to the process of publication of each work as well as some follow up (reviews, correspondence, etc.) relating to each work.

Extent: 14 boxes (2 m.)

- Box 5** Early attempt at a novel and *Five Legs* (Toronto: Anansi, 1969).
- Folders First novel (untitled). Composed in London, 1959 1-2 with holograph notes by Eugene Benson.
- Folder 3 First novel (untitled). Typed and holograph notes.
- Folder 4 Letter from Eugene Benson criticizing first novel. Dated 26 Oct. '60.
- Folder 5 *Five Legs* draft. Typescript of first chapter with holograph notes. (Written in Antibes, 1960).
- Folder 6" *Five Legs* notes. Holograph notes.
- Folders 7-17 *Five Legs* final version. Typescript of submission copy with holograph notes
- Folder 18 *Five Legs* readers' reports. Readers' reports and correspondence relating to first submission of text.
- Folders 19-20 *Five Legs* grant correspondence. Correspondence from 1965-1969 relating to Canada Council grants for the completion of *Five Legs* and *Communion*.
- Folders 21-25 *Five Legs* page proofs.
- Boxes 6-7** *Communion* (Toronto: Anansi, 1971).
- Box 6**
- Folders 1-2 Preliminary notes. Holograph notes on loose sheets and in note books
- Folders 3-7. First draft with numerous holograph notes throughout

Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

- Folder 8 Correspondence from Dennis Lee and Sean Kane (?) regarding first draft of "Communion".
- Folders 9-14 Draft A. Typescript, "Chopped and cut" (rearranged) with holograph notes throughout
- Folders 15-19 Draft B. Photocopy of first draft, rearranged with holograph notes throughout
- Folder 20 Short print-out concerning Felix and Oswald (characters from Communion).
- Folders 21-26 Final version. Typescript with holograph notes throughout.
- Folders 27-29 Page proofs.

**Box 7**

- Folders 1-21 Daily writings. Holograph and typescript notes for *Communion*. Many individual bundles of notes are dated.

**Box 8** Interviews for *Eleven Canadian Novelists* (Toronto: Anansi, 1973) and other projects with CBC radio.

- Folders 1-15 *Eleven Canadian Novelists* Interviews.
- Folder 1 Margaret Atwood. Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 2 Austin Clarke. Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders . 3-4 Matt Cohen. Typescript
- Folders 5-6 Marian Engel. Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 7-9 Timothy Findley. Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 10-11 [Jack Ludwig]. Typescript.
- Folders 12-13 Mordecai Richler. Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 14 Scott Symons. Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 15 Eleven Canadian Novelist reviews. Typescript by Peter Nazareth.
- Folder 16 CBC Radio: Radio Arts correspondence: Mavis Gallant and Norman Levine, 1973/74.

Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

Folder 17 CBC Radio: Radio Arts introduction for Mavis Gallant. Photocopy of typescript by Robert Weaver.

Folders 18-19 CBC Radio: Radio Arts Interview: Mavis Gallant. Typescript.

Folders 20-21 CBC Radio: Radio Arts Interview: Norman Levine.

Folders 22-24 Interview with Joyce Carol Oates. Typescript with holographic notes.

**Boxes 9-10** Film treatments of various works of literature and a short story, "Pancho Villa's Head".

**Box 9**

Folders 1-7 As for Me and My House (by Sinclair Ross), completed with Peter Pearson, 1970

Folder 1 File cards. Holograph notes.

Folder 2 Draft. Typescript with holograph notes.

Folders 3-7 Screen play. Typescript with holograph notes.

Folders 8-14 *The Strange One* (by Fred Bosworth), 1971/72.

Folder 8 Holograph notes.

Folder 9 Draft outline (A). Typescript with holograph notes

Folder 10 Draft outline (B). Typescript with holograph notes.

Folder 11 Final outline (copy A). Typescript.

Folder 12 Final outline (copy B). Carbon copy.

Folder 13 Notes and criticism from Budge Crawley and Harry Horner.

Folder 14 Correspondence with Budge Crawley and Harry Horner.

Folder 15 *The Bully* (by James Reaney). Typescript of structural outline

Folders 16-24 *Execution* (by Colin McDougal) [1983/84].

Folder 16 Holograph notes.

Folder 17 Structural outline. Holograph manuscript with corrections.

- Folders 18-20 Draft (A). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 21 Draft (B). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 22 Draft (C). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 23 Final draft. Typescript with a holograph letter to Michael MacMillan.
- Folder 24 Correspondence.

**Box 10**

- Folders 1-18 *The Diviners* (by Margaret Laurence) completed with Margaret Atwood, [n.d.].
- Folders 1-2 Card files. Holograph notes.
- Folders 3-7 First draft. Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 8-12 Revised draft. Photocopy of typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 13-14 Draft (A). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 15-16 Draft (B). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 17 Excerpts of draft. Typescript with holograph notes
- Folder 18 Correspondence.
- Folders 19-29 "Pancho Villa's Head" (appeared in *Canadian Fiction Magazine*, 1985).
- Folder 19 Holograph notes.
- Folder 20 First draft. Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 21 Second draft. Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 22 Revised draft (A). Typescript.
- Folder 23 Revised draft (B). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 24 Revised draft (C). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folder 25 Revised draft (C). Photocopy.



Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

- Folder 26            Final copy. Typescript.
- Folder 27            Correspondence (A): from Dennis Lee (?)and Geoff Hancock.
- Folders 28-29       Correspondence (B): French translation in Libert.
- Boxes 11-18        *Perpetual Motion* (Toronto: McClelland and Stuart 1982).

**Box 11**

- Folders 1-5         Working notes. Holograph notes on loose sheets and note books. Topics include hangings and pigeons.
- Folder 6            Draft (A). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 7-9         Draft (B). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 10-16       Draft (C). "Edinburgh version", typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 17-18       Incomplete excerpts (A). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 19-21       Incomplete excerpts (B). Typescript with holograph notes.
- Folders 22-24       Early drafts (A). Photocopies of typescripts with holograph notes.
- Folders 25-29       Early drafts (B). Photocopies of typescripts with holograph notes.

**Box 12**

- Folders 1-9         Original version. Typescript with few holograph notes.
- Folders 10-27       Final version before editing. Carbon copy of typescript with holograph notes throughout.

**Box 13**

- Folders 1-11        Final version before editing (copy 2). Photocopy of version above with some additional holograph notes.
- Folders 12-22       Final version before editing (copy 3). Photocopy of version above (without addition notes).

**Box 14**

- Folders 1-2         First submitted version. Photocopy of typescript (incomplete).

Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

- Folders 3-4 First submitted version (copy 2).
- Folders 5-6 First submitted version. With holograph notes and editing by Dennis Lee.
- Folders 7-18 Unedited version. Typescript draft (following Dennis Lee's editing) with few holograph notes.
- Folders 19-20 Unedited version (copy 2, incomplete).
- Folders 21-31 Unedited version. Photocopy of typescript draft with holograph notes

**Box 15**

- Folders 1-12 Edited version. Typescript draft with editorial notes throughout notes throughout. Includes a sample lay-out sheet (folder 12).
- Folders 13-21 Edited version (B). Photocopy of item above with several holograph notes by the author.

**Box 16**

- Folders 1-6 Master copy. Galleys with editorial notes throughout.
- Folders 7-12 Author's galleys. With holograph notes.
- Folders 13-20 Page proofs. Editor's set with holograph notes.
- Item 21 Page proofs. Author's copy bound in spiral binding. Holograph notes throughout.
- Folders 22-28 Page proofs. Final copy, dated 7/15/82.

**Box 17**

- Folders 1-4 Contracts. Various stages of contract with McClelland and Stewart.
- Folder 5 Contracts. Writer's Union standard contract.
- Folder 6 Contracts. Correspondence with McClelland and Stewart.
- Folder 7 Tour details. A collection of flyers, notices timetables, etc. regarding promotional tours.
- Folders 8-9 Promotional material.

Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

- Folders 10-11 Correspondence. A collection of correspondence with M&S regarding promotion of the book and follow up (royalties, stock levels etc.).
- Folder 12-13 Cover designs. A collection of design concepts and sample cover designs.
- Folders 14-17 Reviews. A collection of photocopied and original reviews from newspapers, magazines, etc.

**Box 18**

- Folder 1 St. Martin's Press, contracts.
- Folders 2-3 St. Martin's Press, correspondence. A collection of correspondence between St. Martin's Press and Gibson's agent Charlotte Sheedy
- Folder 4 St. Martin's Press, cover and catalogue
- Folder 5 Canongate Press, correspondence
- Folder 6 Seal Books, cover design. Sample cover with design concepts.
- Folder 7 Seal Books, correspondence
- Folder 8 Gallimard, correspondence
- Folders 9-12 Correspondence from foreign publishers.
- Folder 13 Classen, correspondence regarding publication in German.
- Folder 14 Correspondence. A collection of general correspondence regarding the early stages of the book
- Folder 15 Correspondence, private. A small collection of fan mail.
- Folder 16 University essays. A collection of three undergraduate papers on *Perpetual Motion*.

### 1995 Accession

A collection of manuscripts and notes relating to the novel *Gentleman Death*. The collection includes material relating to the process of publication of the work as well as some follow up (reviews, correspondence, etc.) concerning the work. Papers relating to Gibson's activities in PEN International and several small collections of correspondence are also included.

Extent: 10 boxes (2 m.)

### Boxes 19 - 27 *Gentleman Death* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1993)

#### Box 19

- Folders 1-5 Notes and plans. Holograph and typescript notes relating to the early stages of the work. Includes several clippings and brochures as part of research.
- Folder 6 First start. Typescript draft of opening passage under the title "Sonic Booms" and photocopy of draft under the title "Mirror of Narcissus". With holograph notes throughout. Both drafts dated Spring, 1986.
- Folders 7-8 Early draft (A). Typescript draft with holograph notes throughout. Heavily edited and rearranged (cut and paste).
- Folder 9. Early draft (B). Print-out of opening passage with holograph notes
- Folders 10-11 Early draft (C). Print-out of opening passage.
- Folder 12 Early draft (D). Print-out of opening passage.
- Folder 13 Early draft (E). Print-out of opening passage with holograph notes.
- Folders 14-17 Early draft (F). Photocopy of print-out of opening passages. With holograph notes by Dennis Lee.
- Folder 18 Dennis Lee's criticism. Two letters from Dennis Lee, dated 11 June, 1988 and 13 March, 1990.
- Folders 19-28. Early edits (A). Print-out of early edited version with holograph notes, in several hands

**Box 20**

- Folders 1-4 Early edits (B). Print-out of early edited version of opening passages. Copy has been compiled from several different versions. With holograph notes.
- Folders 5-6 Early edits (C). Print-outs of several edited passages. With holograph notes.
- Folders 7-10 Funding application (copy 1). Print-out of application to unnamed funding body. Includes a note of explanation and several selected passages from the work.
- Folders 11-14 Funding application (copy 2). Print-out of application to unnamed funding body. Includes a note of explanation and several selected passages from the work.
- Folders 15-18 Funding application (copy 3). Print-out of application to unnamed funding body. Includes a note of explanation and several selected passages from the work.
- Folders 19-20 Funding application (copy 4, incomplete). Print-out of application to unnamed funding body. Includes a note of explanation and several selected passages from the work.
- Item 21 Alternate version. Print-out of early draft with alternate opening in coil binding.
- Folders 22-28. Edited version (A). Print-out of late edited version with holograph notes

**Box 21**

- Folders 1-7 Edited version (B). Print-out of late edited version with holograph notes.
- Folders 8-19 Edited version (C). Print-out of late edited version with holograph notes; sent to Dennis Lee and other (see t.p.), September 1992.

**Box 22**

- Folders 1-12 Edited version (D). Photocopy of late edited version (on print-out) with holograph notes.
- Folders 13-19 Edited version (E). Print out-of late edited version with few holograph notes.

**Box 23**

- Folders 1-8 Submitted version. Print-out of draft submitted to McClelland & Stewart, with holograph notes. Dated Sept. 28, 1992.

**Box 24**

- Folders 1-11 Master version (original). Print-out of final draft.
- Folders 12-22. Master version (editor's copy). Photocopy of master with editor's notes

**Box 25**

- Folders 1-12 Master version (author's copy). Photocopy of editor's copy with added holograph notes and sample page layouts (folder 12).
- Folders 13-16 Master version (incomplete). Incomplete photocopy of editor's copy.

**Box 26**

- Folders 1-8 Galleys (A). Galleys with editorial notes. Dated 2 & 3 Feb. 1993.
- Folders 9-16 Galleys (B). Galleys with editorial notes. Dated 3 Feb. 1993.

**Box 27** *Gentleman Death* and Other Papers.

- Folders 1-16 *Gentleman Death*.
- Folders 1-6 Page Proofs (A). Few editorial notes. Dated 21-22 Feb. 1993.
- Folders 7-9 Page Proofs (B). Only those pages with editorial notes included. Dated 21 Feb.-9 Mar. 1993.
- Item 10 Page Proofs (C). In coil binding. Dated 21-22 Feb. 1993.
- Folders 11-12 Reviews, some of which are photocopies.
- Folders 13-14 Correspondence, editorial and personal, relating to *Gentleman Death*. Includes copies of G.G.'s letters.
- Folder 15 Rejection letters from foreign publishers.
- Folder 16 McClelland & Stewart Catalogue. Includes promotional blurb on *Gentleman Death* and sample cover.
- Folders 17-23 Other Papers.

Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

- Folders 17-18 Scottish-Canadian Writer in Residence Exchange. Papers, correspondence relating to Gibson's year in Scotland as the first Canadian participant in the programme (1978/79).
- Folders 19-21 Reviews written by Gibson. Includes drafts of reviews in process as well as originals and photocopies of published reviews.
- Folders 22-23 Essays on Gibson. Three photocopies of university essays and one published essay by Scott Symons (*Saturday Night*, 1969). Includes a letter from Dennis Lee who forwarded one of the essays from a student at York University.
- Box 28** PEN International (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Editors and Novelists) and Other Issues in Cultural Politics.
- Folders 1-6 PEN, 54th World Congress, Toronto 1989. Gibson was president of PEN Canada (English).
- Folder 1 Fiction supplement to *Toronto Life* magazine (August 1989) and a special issue of *Metropolis* (v. 2, no. 19, Sept. 21, 1989).
- Item 2 Final Report: The Writer: Freedom and Power.
- Item 3 Press Book: The Writer: Freedom and Power.
- Folder 4 List of Delegates and Participants.
- Folder 5 Minutes of the Meeting of the Assembly of Delegates of International P.E.N.
- Folder 6 Correspondence relating to the Congress in Toronto and Montreal. Includes letters from Lady Antonia Fraser and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.
- Folder 7 Writers in Prison Committee. Writers and Journalists Reported Kidnapped... Sept. 1989, and April 1990.
- Folder 8. PEN. Vision 21 controversy. Correspondence, newspaper clippings and memos relating to the controversy, late 1989, in which Vision 21 claimed that PEN was a racist organization
- Folder 9 Rushdie affair. Media notes. Newspaper clippings and press releases relating to the controversy surrounding Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*.
- Folder 10 Rushdie affair. Correspondence and press releases from PEN relating to the Rushdie controversy.

Ms.Gibson (Graeme) Papers  
Coll. Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library  
251

- Folder 11 Correspondence related to PEN's organization and the election of the president in Maastricht, 1989. Includes letters from Chinua Achebe, Constance Beresfore-Howe, Alexander Blokh and Francis King.
- Folders 12-13 Cuba correspondence related to the establishment of a writing centre in Cuba and to Cuban political prisoners.
- Folder 14 Writer's Centre Proposal. Correspondence and draft proposals for the establishment of a writer's centre in Toronto.
- Folder 15 Writer's Development Trust, journal proposal. Notes and drafts for a proposal to establish a journal of Canadian fiction.
- Folder 16 Book and Periodical Development Council, correspondence related to Gibson's role as Executive Director of the council (1977).
- Folder 17 Government grant, correspondence seeking support for grant applications.
- Folder 18 Government correspondence with government officials regarding such issues as free trade, the Leslie Street Spit and cultural identity. Includes a response from the office of Bob Rae.
- Folder 19-21 Correspondence, personal, mostly copies of G.G.'s letters, related to various political issues and writing projects, 1963-1983.
- Folder 22. House of Anansi and Larry Gaynor correspondence, 1972-1973, and readers' reports about a manuscript by Larry Gaynor. Includes report from Margaret Atwood
- Folder 23. House of Anansi, correspondence with Anansi publishers regarding Gibson's involvement with the publisher, 1974-1978. Includes some notices of Five Legs and Communion