

Acc.12394
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Inventory

Acc.12394

Alison Fell

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Literary papers, 1971-2003, of Alison Fell (b. 1944), poet and novelist. Alison Fell was born in Dumfries, and lived in various parts of Scotland before moving to London in 1970, where she worked in the Women's Street Theatre Group and for *Spare Rib*.

Her first collection of poems, *Kisses for Mayakovsky*, won the Alice Hunt Bartlett Award in 1984, and her novel, *Mer de Glace*, won the Boardman Tasker Award in 1991.

This collection includes papers relating to the following published works:

The Bad Box (London: Virago, 1987)

The Crystal Owl (London: Methuen, 1988)

Dreams, Like Heretics (London: Serpent's Tail, 1997)

Every Move You Make (London: Virago, 1984)

The Grey Dancer (London: Collins, 1981)

Kisses for Mayakovsky (London: Virago, 1984)

Mer de Glace (London: Methuen, 1991)

The Mistress of Lilliput (London: Doubleday, 1999)

The Pillow Boy of the Lady Onogoro (London: Serpent's Tail, 1994)

Tricks of the Light (London: Doubleday, 2003)

Bought, 2004.

This collection has been divided into the following groups of documents:

- 1-8. Diaries, 1971-1975.**
- 9-32. Notebooks, 1977-2001.**
- 33-34. Manuscript drafts of poems, undated.**
- 35. Audio recording of a poetry reading, undated.**
- 36-64. Manuscript and typescript drafts of novels, circa 1981-2003.**
- 65-78. Radio, film and television scripts, 1983-1995, and undated.**
- 79-80. Audio recordings of broadcasts, 1995 and undated.**
- 81. Theatre, 2000-2001.**
- 82-84. Correspondence, 1975-2003.**
- 85. Photographs, 1971-1997.**

1-8. Diaries, 1971-1975.

These diaries date from the early 1970s, when Alison Fell was writing for journals such as *Ink*, *Islington Gutter Press*, and *Spare Rib*, and was involved with various women's groups including Red Rag and the Essex Road Women's Centre.

1. July to September 1971.

This is a record of a visit to the United States of America with the 'Mayday' antiwar movement.

2. August to September 1974.

This diary includes an account of the 'Windsor Free Festival'.

3. October to December 1974.

4. December 1974 to January 1975.

5. February to March 1975.

6. March to April 1975.

7. May to June 1975.

8. July to August 1975.

9-32. Notebooks, 1977-2001.

These notebooks contain diary notes, drafts of poems, and notes for prose works and plays.

For further notebooks, see Acc.12394/40, 45, 54-59 and 84.

9. 1977.

10. 1978-79.

This notebook includes drafts of poems which were published in *Smile Smile Smile* (London: Sheba, 1980).

11. circa 1980.

This notebook includes drafts of poems included in *Kisses for Mayakovsky* and notes for *Every Move You Make*.

12. 1982-1983.

This notebook includes notes for a play, 'Tiger Lilies', drafts of poems included in *Kisses for Mayakovsky* and notes for *The Bad Box*.

13. 1985.

14. 1986.

This notebook includes notes from the period when Alison Fell was a writing fellow at the New South Wales Institute of Technology in Sydney, Australia. It also includes notes for *Mer de Glace*

15. 1986.

This notebook includes notes for *Mer de Glace*.

16. 1986.

This notebook includes notes about an Alpine training course, and notes for *Mer de Glace*.

17. circa 1986-1987.

This notebook includes drafts of poems included in *The Crystal Owl* and notes for *Mer de Glace*.

18. 1988-1989.

This notebook includes notes from a research trip to Chamonix.

19. 1990.

This notebook includes notes about a visit to the Pyrenees.

20. circa 1991.

This notebook includes notes on opera in Germany, which formed the background to a story in 'Infidelity' collection, notes for *Tricks of the Light* and for a film script entitled 'The Weaver'.

21. 1991

This notebook includes notes for *The Pillow Boy of the Lady Onogoro*.

22. 1991-1992.

23. 1993.

This notebook includes a record of a journey to Crete and Georgiopolis, and drafts of 'Le Poisson de Bonheur', 'Mother', 'Live Waters', and 'Pietà'.

24. 1993.

25. circa 1993-1994.

26. 1994.

This notebook includes drafts for 'In Memoriam' section of *Dreams, Like Heretics*, drafts and notes for an unpublished 'Fish' book and research about fish in Mediterranean and the Near East never completed, drafts and notes for *Mistress of Lilliput*, and a record of a trip to Key West in ? January 1995, meeting Pulitzer prizewinners Phil Caputo, Richard Wilbur and Alison Lurie.

27. circa 1995.

This notebook includes drafts of poems for 'Dreams, like heretics'.

28. 1997.

This notebook includes a record of a British Council trip to Ontario and San Francisco with Alison L Kennedy, notes from a visit to Kaminaki, Corfu, comments on political and cultural events, including the hand-over of Hong Kong to China and the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, notes on a visit to Warsaw with Judith Kazantzis and comments on the *The Mistress of Lilliput*.

29. 5 October 1997- 1998.

This notebook dates from a period when Alison Fell was a writing fellow at the University of East Anglia. It includes drafts of poems and notes for *Tricks of the Light*.

30. late 1990s – 2000.

This notebook includes drafts of poems for 'Light – Year'.

31. ? 2000.

This notebook was mostly written at Cape Cornwall, while Alison Fell was working on *Tricks of the Light*. It includes poetry notes for poems in 'Light – Year' cycle, drafts of Micky and Lockhart sections of *Tricks of the Light*, notes from Zakynthos (Alikanas), and drafts of 'Rowing Backwards to Albania'.

32. 2000-2001.

This notebook includes notes for a 'Medea' play ('Mapping the Edge') for Sheffield, notes from Newlyn, late 2000, notes from Nidri, Lefkada (September) and notes on Greek dancing.

33-34. Manuscript drafts of poems, undated.

33. Manuscript drafts of poems published in various works, including *Crystal Owl* and *Dreams, Like Heretics*.

34. Manuscript drafts of poems for 'Light – Year'.

35. Audio recording of a poetry reading, undated.

Cassette tape recording of poetry reading and discussion with Gillian Allnutt (National Extension College Trust publication).

36-64. Manuscript and typescript drafts of novels, circa 1981-2003.

36. *The Grey Dancer* (1981)

Annotated typescript, circa 1981, with a letter, 1982, of Ingrid Selberg of Collins.

37. *Every Move You Make* (1984)

Corrected typescript, with a printed publicity poster.

38-39. *The Bad Box* (1987)

38. Manuscript notes and drafts.

39. Corrected typescript.

40-44. *Mer de Glace* (1991)

40. Notebook, 1984.

- 41. Photographs from visits made by Alison Fell to the Alps.
- 42. Manuscript notes and drafts
- 43. Corrected typescript
- 44. Revised typescript

45-46. The Pillow Boy of the Lady Onogoro (1994)

- 45. Notebook, manuscript notes and drafts.
- 46. Corrected and copy edited typescript.

47. Unpublished novel

Manuscript notes and drafts, and typescript drafts of an unpublished novel, 'the "Fish" book'.

48-51. *Mistress of Lilliput* (1999)

- 48. Manuscript research notes.
- 49. Manuscript research notes and drafts, with some pages of corrected typescript, circa 1996.
- 50. Manuscript draft, with some pages of corrected typescript.
- 51. Corrected typescript, circa 1997.

52-64. *Tricks of the Light* (2003)

- 52. Manuscript drafts, some entitled 'Temptation Point', notes and notes from readings on Faust.
- 53. Discarded manuscript drafts ('old re-writes'), with some pages of corrected typescript. Some of these pages have been removed from the notebooks (Acc.12394/54-59) containing further notes and drafts.
- 54-59. Notebooks containing manuscript drafts and notes, and research notes.
- 60. Manuscript research notes.
- 61. Manuscript drafts of Micky Flint sections.
- 62. Manuscript drafts of Broom Alps sections.
- 63. Manuscript drafts of Lockhart sections.

64. Manuscript drafts of AI flashback sections.
- 65-78. Radio, film and television scripts, 1983-1995, and undated.**
65. 'Old, Old Stuff', a folder containing:
- Typescripts, 1970s, of two short stories, 'A Far-out Woman' and 'The Letter'.
- Typescript draft, 1970s, of a short story 'Scènes de la Mediterranee', with a letter, 1983, of Nigel Fountain of *City Limits*.
- Script of 'Tiger Lilies' and letter, 1984, of Robert Love of Scottish Television.
- Corrected typescript of 'The Shining Mountain', a short story for BBC Radio for Schools, 1986.
66. Scene cards and corrected typescript draft of 'The Sleeping Car Attendant', a film script for the National Film School, 1992.
- 67-68. 'The Weaver', a screenplay.
67. Typescript drafts of treatment.
68. Revised typescript drafts of treatment, with letter, 1992, of Ruth Caleb of BBC Wales.
- 69-74. 'One Green Bottle or The Fragile Summit', a screenplay based on the novel *One Green Bottle* by Elizabeth Coxhead.
69. Undated manuscript draft.
70. Revised typescript drafts, and letters, 1992-1994, of Jericho Productions, Robert Chesshyre and Arena Films Limited.
71. Typescript screenplay, 1993.
- 72-74. Three Amstrad disks containing text of 'One Green Bottle':
72. 'One Green Bottle 1-2-3'
73. 'One Green Bottle 4-5-6'
74. Unlabelled.
- 75-76. 'Whispers in the Dark', a programme about Calvinism and the imagination for BBC Scotland.
75. Treatment, research notes, drafts, correspondence, 1994-1995.

76. Video recording of 'rough cut'.
77. Letter, 1997, of Lennox Wiseley, assistant to Roland Joffé, concerning 'Vatel'.
78. Two undated screenplay treatments written for Jo Ann Kaplan: typescript of 'The Expedition', and manuscript draft of 'The Story of Plane'.
- 79-80. Audio recordings of broadcasts, 1995 and undated.**
79. Cassette tape recording, 1980s, of 'Eve without Adam', a radio documentary portrait of *Spare Rib*.
80. Cassette tape recording, 1995, of 'Storyline. Shouting It Out', a series produced by David Jackson Young for BBC Radio Scotland which included the short story 'Our Lady of the Mammoths'.
- 81. Theatre, 2000-2001.**
- 'Mapping the Edge. A Medea for Sheffield': research notes, correspondence, 2000, and manuscript and typescript drafts for 'Mapping the Edge' a co-production by WilsonWilsonCompany and Sheffield Theatres. This play was produced in Sheffield in September 2001, and adapted for Radio 3 in October 2001.
- 82-84. Correspondence, 1975-2003.**
82. 'The Blue Letters': correspondence between Alison Fell and Marsha Rowe, 1975-1978, with a proposal for their publication.
83. Correspondence between Alison Fell and Dave Cook, 1992-1993, and photographs, press cuttings and papers concerning Dave Cook.
- This file includes a journal of a cycle tour around the Mediterranean made by Dave Cook.
84. Personal correspondence, 1975-2003.
- Correspondents include Steve Ashton, Ivan Coleman, Patricia Duncker, Nigel Fountain, Scott Lewallen, Sheila Neate, Sue O'Sullivan, Rosie Parker, Ellen Ray, Pat Richardson, Michèle Roberts, Dilys Rose, and Marsha Rowe.
- This file also includes a journalism notebook, ca. 1980.
- 85. Photographs, 1971-1997.**
- Photographs, mainly of Alison Fell, with some other writers, 1971-1997.