

Acc.12689
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Inventory

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Don Paterson

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Don Paterson (b. 1963) is an accomplished jazz musician as well as a poet. Born in Dundee, he left school to pursue a career in music, moving to London in 1984. At about this time he also began writing poetry. Stints in Brighton and Edinburgh followed as he developed his twin pursuits, forming the jazz-folk ensemble, Lammas, in the late 1980s and publishing his first poetry collection, *Nil Nil*, in 1993. This won the Forward Prize for the Best First Collection and secured him a place in the Poetry Society's 'New Generation Poets' promotion. Subsequent collections include *God's Gift to Women* and *Landing Light*, both recipients of the T. S. Eliot Prize. More recent publications include a collection of aphorisms, *The Book of Shadows*, in 2004, and his version of Rilke's *Orpheus* in 2006. Paterson is currently poetry editor at Picador, teaches in the School of English at St Andrews University, and lives in Kirriemuir, Angus.

[Biography largely taken from The Poetry Archive,
<http://www.poetryarchive.org/poetryarchive/home.do>]

Don Paterson's literary papers consist mainly of notebooks and poetry files in which his meticulous planning, working and reworking of the poems is evident. The notebooks are rarely given over exclusively to poetry and frequently contain sketchy doodles, odd bars of music and set lists relating to Lammas, 'mind-maps', packing lists and other such memory-aids, and lengthy notes often relating to his teaching activities. He frequently works from both the front and the inverted back of the volumes. The notebooks are all undated and the order in which they appear here is according to – where possible – a rough chronology based on when identified poems appeared in the published collections.

The files of loose papers are as drawn together by the writer.

Bought, 2006

The collection is arranged as follows:

1-6	Poetry files
7-54	Poetry notebooks
55-65	General notebooks
66-67	Aphorisms
68-74	Scripts
75	Juvenalia
76	Miscellaneous

1-6 Poetry files, as arranged by Don Paterson, relating mainly to the published anthologies

1 "V. early, circa [19]88-[19]89"

Hardback A4 notebook, originally possibly used for stock-control in a bookshop, containing draft poems; many folios loosely inserted. Includes photocopied typescripts of final versions of many of the poems published in *Nil Nil*.

2 "Early, pre Nil-Nil"

Manuscript drafts of poems, pre-1993.

3 "Nil-Nil & before"

Manuscript and corrected typescript drafts, pre-1994.

4 “Landing Light, early drafts”

Mainly word-processed print-out with manuscript corrections and a few manuscript drafts, pre-2004.

5 “Landing Light, mid draft”

Word-processed print-out with manuscript corrections and a few manuscript drafts, pre-2004.

6 “Later draft of Landing Light”

Word-processed print-out with some manuscript corrections, pre-2004.

7-54 Poetry notebooks, circa 1992-2006

7 Loose-leaf A4 notebook, ?1992, 7ff plus one loosely inserted. Contains notes and drafts of poems, no discernible titles.

8 Loose-leaf A4 notebook, c1992, many detached folios. Contains drafts of poems.

Titles include:

Dronley

A Ring

Little Corona

At The Limits of Salad

9 Loose-leaf A4 notebook, c1993, many detached folios and further folios loosely inserted. Contains notes, photocopy of a letter (1993) from Jeremy Reed, and drafts of poems.

Titles include:

Grass

The Dark Ages

Baptism

Morning Prayer

Sailor's joy

Dinner – Newtyle

A Dream

14:50: Dronley

Law Tunnel

Baldovan

10 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, c1993, some folios detached. Contains notes and draft poems; corrected typescripts of '19:00 Auchterhouse' and '01:00: Rosemill', and a leaflet for The Poetry Society's 1993 National Competition are loosely inserted.

On front cover:

21:00 Baldragon

Gen. advice and hints ...

Software

Notes []/ S. Robb, Libraries

11 Loose-leaf A4 notebook, ?pre-1994, many pages, including a substantial part of another notebook, loosely inserted. Mainly manuscript drafts of poems, few discernible titles but including:

Beltane

12 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, probably c1994, programme for 'Poetry International On The Road', 1994, loosely inserted. Contains drafts of poems, no discernible titles.

13 Hardback A5 notebook, c1996. Contains notes on Scottish literary figures (George Mackay Brown, Robert Louis Stevenson, William Montgomerie) and drafts of poems.

On cover:

3rd

Oil o/ a

Back: Notes

f/Rilke

S.T.O. 2//8

Titles/headings include:

Last

A draft for P/film

Oil o/a

The Cup

The Stuff

Burr

Tour note

Fairy child [music]

The Ball

Rilke (ii) 8

AUSS [possibly Aberdeen or Abertay University Summer School]

A terrible pain ...

14 Loose-leaf A4 notebook, ?pre-1998, many folios loosely inserted. Contains mainly drafts of poems.

Titles/headings include:

The Chartres of Gowrie

Thunder

Tripwire

The Brighton Line

Prologue

The Glass Church

[List of poems, many of which appeared in *Nil Nil* (1993)]

Draft information/biography for Lammas

House Rules (photocopied typescript)

'Fellatio As a Pair of Teeth', 1992 book review by DP of *Red-Haired Android* and *Black Sugar* by Jeremy Reed (photocopied typescript)

Micho (corrected typescript)

Tal-y-bont, Dyfed (corrected typescript)

Aphorisms

15 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, ?pre-1998, some blank folios and some folios loosely inserted. Contains mainly drafts of poems, titles include:

Early Dream
Paramour (manuscript music)
B'ton
The British Council
Monologue
Archaic []
Double Corona (ii)

16 Hardback A4 notebook, ?pre-1998, many blank folios. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

Titles/headings include:

Homesick Paterson, Live at the Blue Bannock, Thurso

House Rules

[List of poems, many of which appeared in *God's Gift To Women* 1997]

17 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, ?1998, many blank folios. Contains plotlines and part-draft of an unidentified script; inverted at back of notebook (with the title 'B'TON' [?Brighton]) are various notes and a draft of 'The White Lie'

18 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, ?pre-1998, lacks covers, some blank folios and many pages loosely inserted. Contains drafts of poems.

Titles include:

Kiosk

Tig

Stamps

Gelly

Penult.

Mast

[Addenda]

After Snowfall

Fall (typescript)

The Gift (typescript)

Private Viewing (typescript)

Tanka (typescript)

Dinosaurs (typescript)

Postmodern

19 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, ?pre-1998, some folios loosely inserted. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

Notes for Swedish schools lecture

Auchterhouse

Law Tunnel

Dronley

Other titles/headings include:

Chartres /O/T

Carse

Revenge o/t Kettle Bilers

20 Loose-leaf A4 notebook, pre-1998. Contains notes probably relating to a BBC Scotland television film, pre-1998, made by Kate Bannatyne with Don Paterson, about the Dundee-Newtyle railway, and drafts of poems.

Titles include:

Newtyle
Rosemill

21 Loose-leaf A4 notebook, pre-1998, many blank folios. Contains drafts of poems.

Titles include:

Buggery

22 Loose-leaf A4 notebook, probably pre-1998, some blank folios. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

Titles/headings include:

A Print []
Notes for spoof review
Shirley Temple []
19:00: Auchterhouse

23 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, probably pre-1998, some blank folios. Contents include drafts of poems; inverted towards the end of notebook are notes possibly on Scottish writing.

On front cover:

Alex II
Return o/ book
Rosemill
Whiskey

Titles/headings include:

House Rules
A Private Bottling
Postmodern

24 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, probably pre-1998, many folios loosely inserted. Contains some notes relating to Lammas/music and drafts of poems.

Titles/headings include:

Little Corona
Prologue

25 Fragment of an A5 loose-leaf notebook, pre-1998. Contains drafts of poems from the Dundee-Newtyle railway sequence; single sheet with draft manuscript of unidentified poem loosely inserted.

26 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1998, a few folios loosely inserted. Contains drafts of poems.

On cover:

Oil o/ angels
Rilke/[]/Münster
Advice t/ young husb/Li Po
Im. Cioran
Cavafy: []/ship

Cavafy: Ionic
Machado

Other titles/headings include:

A Short History / []
Draft only/Summer Night
Proverbios y Cantares
Preface
Moral Provs.
Fourteeners
Siesta
Skala
Rusi
The King of Münster

27 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1998, a few folios loosely inserted. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

Titles/headings include:

The Undead
Being on the horse
The ?Truth
Fable
AUSS

28 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1998, some folios detached/loosely inserted. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On back cover:

G G [God's Gift]

Titles/headings include:

21:00: Baldragon
Gods G
Les Six
Skala
SSU
The New Man
After Ssu Kung Shu
f/ 1001 nights: the early years
Skala II

29 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1998, some blank folios. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

AUSS I

Titles/headings include:

14.50
Maps
Sneeze
Mirror
Origami
Affairs
Aphoris

30 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1998, many blank folios. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

[?]Masefield Q

Gods G

Titles/headings include:

God's gift: stanz. plan

Argument

31 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1998, some blank folios. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

Ecz./Keanu ...

Also stanza plan/much of "God's gift"

Titles/headings include:

Breath

AUSS

32 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1998. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

Some AUSS. stuff – still untranscribed.

'Geiger'

Titles/headings include:

12:00: Newtyle

Sunsets

Reincarnations

Borrowing

Mirror/schema

Metaphor

Spir. courtesy

God's gift

Kristallnacht

AUSS. maps

Scars

33 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1998. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

Op Lab scenarios ... etc

Other titles/headings include:

God's gift

Schema

Against libretti

M Scot

Homesick P

20:00: Baldragon

End/Hameseek

00:00: Law

21:00: Baldragon

16:00 Dronley

34 Hardback A5 notebook, pre-1998. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

Titles/headings include:

G G, final stanzas
Apogee
Falkland
Storyline. ?P&P
06:00: Newtyle
Still Life in a Blue []

35 Hardback A5 notebook, pre-1998. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

G.G. last stanzas
Notes Angeloil
Undead/Falkland

Titles/headings include:

God's Gift – the final push ...
Argument
AUSS
Oil of Angels
Falkland

36 Hardback A5 notebook, pre-1998, one folio loosely inserted and many blank folios.

Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

G.G. absolutely the end ...
Homesick - radio

37 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1998. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

Third 1st n/b
Oil/ of A
Notes for Farewell & R.J.
Out/line/ harm / []
Machado

Other titles/headings include:

St Mungo: A prayer []
Notes [] Thurso
Chrystal Chan
Paper Lamp
Fly
Blank
Little Corona
A Meal
Behold t/ Lord
Behold t/ Lamb o/ God
The Third
Jazz/Dance

- 38 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-1999. Contains notes and drafts of poems.
Titles/headings include:
Dundee-Newtyle
Dronley
Last
02:00: Maryfield
Random notes/Treatment
Plot
Serious miscalcs.
- 39 Hardback A6 notebook, c1999, some blank folios. Contains notes and drafts of poems, no discernible titles.
- 40 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, probably late 1990s, one folio detached. Contents include questions evidently for an interview with Alasdair Gray, and draft poems.
Titles/headings include:
Magdalen Yard
Four-space
- 41 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-2000, many blank folios. Contains notes and drafts of poems.
Contents listed on cover include:
Jazz in mime
"Fixed Cloud"
Machado – Memory of childhood
Thurso Hotel
Machado II
- 42 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, pre-2004, many blank folios, but with some corrected word-processed print-outs of poems from *Landing Light* loosely inserted. "WHITE/PR" on cover.
- 43 Hardback A5 notebook, pre-2004. Contains notes and drafts of poems.
On cover:
"H/w notes H
Alex III
(disyzngy)
Reverb
Sunlit (back)
Moon/
D'Oscuri
V. late "Heart"
V. late Brighton"
Other titles/headings include:
V/H
Lyric
Rhet.
Skin Trade
Gripped It So Hard
My New Voice/Poem

Machado

44 Spiral-bound A5 notebook, pre-2004, some folios detached. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

Here:

1. Brighton
 2. White Lie
 3. Alex III
- []
-

B'ton
White Lie
Paddy & Pans
Alex III
Buses

Other titles/headings include:

Scott
Inferno, XXVI
Headnotes
Segue
Putative schema

45 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-2004, some detached folios. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

Fin
Highchairs
Notes f/ Goole AC
Sundial

Other titles/headings include:

Colophon
Schema
'96
Alex III
Reverb
Topic headings for lyric/rhythm
Devil Piece
Alex II
'verb – schema
AUSS

46 Hardback A5 notebook, ?pre-2004, some blank folios. Contains notes (including some on Scottish literary figures: William Montgomerie, George Mackay Brown, Robert Louis Stevenson, Norman MacCaig) and drafts of poems.

On cover:

AUSS II

Titles/headings include:

Mininarr
Buddha in []

Reverb Schema

47 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, pre-2007, some blank folios and some pages - including corrected word-processed print-off of poems from *Orpheus* - loosely inserted. Contains drafts of poems.

On cover:

ALEX III

List of titles inside back cover:

Alex III

Reverb

Papa

'96

Brighton

Fin

Double Corona

White Lie

Beatrice

The Buses

FI Mono

Crossed/[]/Falkland

St Brides

A Meal

48 Loose-leaf A4 notebook, undated. Contains drafts of poems, no discernible titles.

49 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, undated, many blank folios. Contents include drafts of untitled poems, prose and, inverted at the end of the notebook, notes under the heading 'What makes a literary event successful?'

50 Hardback A5 notebook, undated. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

Titles/headings include:

Van

?Falkland

Snow

AUSS

Paper

51 Spiral-bound reporter's notebook, undated, some blank and one detached folio.

Contains notes and drafts of poems.

Titles/headings include:

Spinster aunt

Room

Eschat VI

Cold

Divert attention

52 Hardback A5 notebook, undated, some blank folios. Containing notes and drafts of poems.

On cover:

Stirling, not much else

Reverb (after Angeloil)
Other titles/headings include:
Battle of Stirling Bridge
Burns
RLS
Machado
Stand on the bend
Garioch
Bend/Straight
The Scots
Between the King & poet

53 Hardback A6 notebook, undated, many blank folios. Contains notes and drafts of poems, no discernible titles.

54 Hardback A6 notebook, undated, many blank folios and one folded A4 folio loosely inserted. Contains notes and drafts of poems.

Titles/headings include:
AUSS
My New Voice

55-65 General notebooks

55 Ring-bound A6 notebook, ?1990, no discernible headings.

56 Ring-bound A6 notebook, ?pre-1993, some blank folios, no discernible headings.

57 Ring-bound A6 notebook, ?pre-1993, two folded A4 folios loosely inserted and some blank folios.

Titles/headings include:
AUSS

58 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, possibly c1994. Contents include notes possibly relating to a workshop or tutorial, mind map titled 'Big ?Ted', list of poem titles; leaflet for 'Writers Live!' at University of Dundee, May-June 1994 loosely inserted.

59 Spiral-bound notebook, 26x21cm, c1995, some folios detached and some loosely inserted. Contents include miscellaneous writings and notes probably relating to Lammas.

60 Ring-bound A6 notebook, ?post-1996, one fragment loosely inserted and some blank folios. Contains workshop and AUSS notes.

61 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, undated. Contains mainly notes for talks given at literary events.

62 Hardback A5 notebook, undated, some folios and 2 pages of annotated photocopied typescript loosely inserted. Contains notes on literature.

On front cover:

AUSS I;

On back cover:

- 1. Sib./ pres tense
- 2 Aphoris./joke
- 3 []
- 4 Hell/enf. solitude
- 5 Fury at Plath
- Maturation/complex
- Fallen or climbed

63 Ring-bound A6 notebook, undated.

Titles/headings include:

- Jokes f/ sales conference
- Bob Marley
- Read prologue
- AUSS
- Little Corona

64 Ring-bound A6 notebook, undated, many blank folios. Contents include brief autobiographical details headed 'Bio f/ Courier'.

65 Ring-bound A5 notebook, undated, mostly blank.

66-67 Aphorisms

66 “?AUSS/very early aphorism notes”

A file of early manuscripts, which the writer has subsequently gone through with a highlighter pen, evidently selecting some passages for revisiting. Includes a copy of part of a letter (?1996) from Don Paterson to Picador, and a copy of his review of *Conductors of Chaos* (London: Picador, 1996)

67 “Book of Shadows late draft”

Word-processed print-out with some manuscript corrections, pre-2005. Some of the aphorisms have been flagged with post-it notes.

68-74 Scripts

68 “BBC film/Opera Lab libretto/bits – all not v good”

Contents include word-processed print-out of script and poems for the BBC Scotland television film, pre-1998, made by Kate Bannatyne with Don Paterson, about the Dundee-Newtyle railway; libretto and score of a short operatic piece (possibly connected to the Dundee-Newtyle theme).

69 Word-processed print-off of script for the Dundee-Newtyle railway (variant of the version in file 68), with one folio of manuscript notes headed 'Men'.

70 “Aberdee – annotated script” [?stage version]

Word-processed print-out with manuscript annotations.

The radio version, 'The Aberdeen Brief', was broadcast on Radio Scotland, December 2000 and the stage version, 'A'body's Aberdeen', produced by Dundee Rep, 2001.

71 “The Land of Cakes”, produced by Dundee Rep, 2001.

Comb-bound script with manuscript amendments; additional folios loosely inserted.

72 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, undated, some folios detached and further folios loosely inserted. Contents include drafts of a comedy sketch, a corrected word-processed version of which is loosely inserted.

Titles/headings include:

Chair
Braille I
Section
Mirror
Dream
Mirror/Dream
China (Proph.)
Peripheral
Pearl Harbour
(inverted at end of notebook:)
Recruiting Offices
?Conjuring
Churchill's Bunker

73 Spiral-bound A4 notebook, undated, many blank folios. Contents include draft script(s) involving a character called McNab.

74 Manuscript draft, undated, of an untitled play script. Further (?related) notes at end of notebook.

75 Juvenalia

75 Primary School jotter, 1970, containing short compositions.

76 Miscellaneous

76 Typescript review of *Tale of the Mayor's Son* by Glyn Maxwell and *Longings of the Acrobats: selected poems* of Nicholas Moore (1990), probably by Don Paterson. Photocopied typescript, "The assassination of the poets (with apologies to Apollinaire, and everyone else below)" (Don Paterson is one of the poets 'assassinated').