



Inventory

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Autograph manuscript, typescript and other material relating to “Falstaff”.

I. **FALSTAFF (a novel). 1976**

1. Autograph manuscript notebook. [ca.1973-4]. 45pp. Foolscap. Some drafts of material in the novel, plus reading and background notes. Other material includes 4pp. possibly not in the author’s hand but dictated, being reviews of Keith Sagar’s The Art of Ted Hughes and of Elizabeth Jennings’s Growing Points (a book of poems).
2. Early plan for the novel. Autograph manuscript notes, 5pp. Quarto. With photocopy of a typed letter of Nye to Giles Gordon, 6 November 1974, and accompanying notes (together 6pp. 4to). The notes sent to Gordon are a subsequent reworking of the manuscript notes, conjuring up themes from the known and invented career of Sir John Falstaff. Together 11pp.

Giles Gordon, the novelist, apparently first suggested Falstaff as a subject for Nye. Nye dedicated Falstaff to him.

3. Working notes. Autograph manuscript notes and jottings on 8 small leaves and approx 100 postcards. Often very closely written, some of the notes are on both sides of the postcards. Covers themes, motifs, authors to be consulted as to manner, etc. Approx 120pp. Octavo.
- 4-5. Final typescript, used as printer’s copy-text (London, Hamish Hamilton, 1976). [546]pp. Comprising Preliminaries (6pp), text, pp. Numbered 1-536 with four additional inserted pages (62a, 162a, 189a and 175a). Lightly revised in the author’s hand and in typescript, and with printer’s markings. Together with 12pp. Material comprising designer’s mock-up of preliminaries, proofs of preliminaries, photocopy of title-page with note for alteration of type-face, etc.
- 6-7. Photocopy of the above. [546]pp. Foolscap. Some revision supplied in manuscript, conforming to the above.

Page Proofs

8. First Setting. (Two pages of text to the sheet). 224 sheets (lacks 2 sheets, representing pp.32/33 and 154/155 – the latter sheet being used in the item below). In this setting material relating to Falstaff’s stepson Stephen Scrope was printed in bold capitals throughout, conforming to the typescript copy-text.

9. Second Setting. Preliminaries (6 sheets) and complete text. Together 231 sheets (some sheets photocopied). Bearing proof-reader's markings. Last sheet torn.

At Nye's request, apparently, the Scrope material was re-set in the same type as the body of the text. Some exceptions occur in this set of proofs (pp.440-443) which were later corrected.

With photocopy of a typed letter from Nye to the publishers and attached photocopy of proof of pp.154/155 bearing an additional sentence for insertion supplied in his autograph (this appears in the proof-reader's hand in the above) and photocopy of pp.440/441 in the emended setting, bearing a further correction of a misprint.

10. Dust-wrapper. Advance proof in colour and typography varying from the final version (also present).
11. A batch (approx 50 sheets) of proofs, some wrongly trimmed, etc.

Early Versions and Worksheets

Large collection, approx 750pp. Foolscap. This material has been sorted into five sections, as follows:

12. Early typescript drafts of Chapters I-LXI. Pages numbered 1-265 by the author. Extensively revised in manuscript, sometimes the addition or inserted material running to versos, especially pp.68/9 bearing an additional of approx 1,000 words. (Chapter numbers were later revised as new material was supplied or text broken up, thus Chapters here numbered LI and LII became LXXVI and LXXVII in the published version).
13. Drafts for Chapters LXI-C (last). Pages numbered by the author 264-469, 476 (last page of novel) and 4pp. unnumbered. Together 211pp. Foolscap. Occasional manuscript revisions or insertions. While some extended passages are present, this material represents more in the nature of a skeleton outline. Much comprises key phrases or first words of paragraphs placed in position on the page as the author envisaged future workings.
14. Later interim versions of Chapters I-IX and XVI, with further odd pages. Together 88pp. Foolscap. Heavily revised and re-worked in manuscript.
15. Odd typescript worksheets (unnumbered). Approx 150pp.

16. Autograph manuscript (5pp.) and some 30pp. typescript (some revised in manuscript) being drafts for title-page, contents, dedication and material for Chapter I, also including a draft for the blurb and biographical material.

II. **FALSTAFF (a play). By Robert Nye and John Abulafia**

A collection of typescript and carbon typescript material (102pp.) and related photocopy material. Together approx 200pp. Foolscap. Some autograph manuscript revisions and notes by both Nye and Abulafia. This material appears to chart the progress of four stages in the preparation of a stage drawing upon Nye's novel. Sorted as follows:

17. Typescript, revised in manuscript. 11pp. Scenario for a version in two acts. With photocopies.
18. ? Second version. 21pp. A scene by scene "breakdown" including "subtext" and "devices". Some manuscript annotations. This version has a three-act structure. With covering letter from Abulafia to Nye, n.d. Plus photocopied material.
19. Third version. Amalgam of typescript and other material, 49pp. Extensively revised in manuscript. Dated in Nye's hand January-March 1977. Plus photocopied material.
20. ? Final version. Title-page and first 22pp. of Act One. Typescript, lightly revised in Nye's hand. Title-page bears the label of Nye's agent. This appears to be the most polished version. Plus photocopies of most of this. With small miscellaneous group of papers including some manuscript notes.
21. Reflections of a Knight. A short story of approximately 2,500 words.
22. New Fiction magazine of July 1976 containing an interview with Robert Nye on Falstaff (novel).