

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

Note on Provenance of JCP manuscripts: While still living in America, Powys sold the manuscripts of his major early novels to a private collector. When he moved to Corwen, manuscripts went into the attic or a shed once they had been returned from his typist. With a few exceptions they remained there until they moved to a smaller house in Blaenau Ffestiniog in 1954. At that time, George Sims the book dealer bought a number of the manuscripts for £125 and sold them on to American universities and private dealers. Powys's books and remaining manuscripts went to Francis Powys (son of T.F. Powys) who had opened a bookshop in Hastings. When JCP died, his estate was left to Phyllis Playter. Phyllis left everything to Francis Powys. Francis sold some manuscripts and books privately but most were sold through Bertrand Rota.

Note: There are no JCP manuscripts in the Feather Gift.

[Bissell Gift]

Acharnians, The.

78 pp.

- described by Bissell as "unfinished manuscript"
- JCP refers to it on p1 as "a play."
- in his late handwriting but no reference to it in his diaries.
- also included original envelope in sleeve.
- also a full photocopy.

Condition: pen on cheap paper; good condition.

In Box I, clam 1

Astonishing Adventures of a Zulu, A Welshman and an English Sailor as narrated by the Welshman. "With life portraits of these three worthies." "Illustrated by the distinguished artist Theodore Francis Powys"

[The above is the hand-written title page]

10 holograph pages in JCP's early hand, with 3 pp of illustrations in middle, presumably by T.F. The manuscript is in the form of a hand-sewn booklet. Also included is the envelope from G.F. Sims to Bissell, on which is typed "very early (childhood) original manuscript £15/15"

In Box I, clam 1

Atlantis

1 page fragment [p709]

In Box II, clam 7

Brazen Head, The. Complete manuscript in 4 Clams (1 of the 4 clams contains only the original envelopes with JCP's chapter headings written on them in JCP's hand. His original division into chapters was later changed in the published version.)

*** See also under typescripts. Collection also has corrected typescript.

In Box I, clams 2,3,4,5

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

Confessions of Two Brothers. Manuscript of JCP's portion. Also Bissell's original envelope. 229 manuscript pages in JCP's hand, with many deletions, corrections. Appears to differ slightly from Manas Press published version. Complete as published except for missing page at end of Chapter I.

Condition: Written in ink on what appear to be pages ripped out of several different exercise books of different sizes. Paper fragile and edges ragged but fully readable.

Note: Re-housed according to published chapters, which differ from JCP's. Written in pencil on right hand top are the page numbers of the text as published by Manas Press.

Note: JCP has numbered pp 1 to 54 and called it "Preface". He then begins numbering again - 1 to 175 and calls this section "My Sensations and Ideas." It possible that the "My Sensations" was written as a separate essay and the "Preface" added later.

Box I, clams 6 & 7

Death of God, The. (Published as *Lucifer*) With introduction in manuscript and complete corrected galley proofs.

Manuscript in 6 booklets. A note either in Phyllis Playter's hand or possibly Sally Powys's hand stating that Book 6 is missing.

Box II, clam 4

"G.K. Chesterton".

- untitled; this is Bissell's title.

- contained in a black exercise book. In front in ink is initials JCP and beneath in pencil (light) is written 1913. Book has stamp "supplied by John Salter, Newsagent, Arundel. Handwriting early. No indication whether this was a lecture or intended for publication.

Pages unnumbered.

Condition: spine loose, pages yellowing and brittle but condition good.

Box I, clam 8

"England Revisited"

42 pp.

- was published in *Scribner's Magazine*, vol XCVIII, pp141-146.

Box I, clam 8

Glastonbury Romance, A.

2 manuscript pages of very rough notes (2nd page has notes on both sides)

*also slip of paper in P. Playter's handwriting: "Notes on all points he wants to bring into a dream he wishes to make his hero dream."

Box I, clam 8

Llowty- Ghowty

15 holograph pages in a red exercise book. Both handwriting and story indicate this is a very late story.

Box I, clam 8

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

Lost Chord, The. In three books. (incomplete and unfinished).

Box I

Maiden Castle. 58 discarded pages, many numbered. Also original envelope.

-holographs. These appear to be from a later version of the book, as it was being written in Dorchester or Corwen. (Wizzie's name appears, for example)

***also photocopy of discarded early starts. 5 separate starts, almost without doubt done at Rat's Barn.

See Ian Hughes, Powys Review 12, pp17-25 & PR15, pp14-21 for useful account of textual history of MC. Photocopy of these articles also enclosed for information.

****Note: M.K. disagrees with Hughes sequence of discarded starts. See notes on photocopies.

Box I, clam 9

Maiden Castle. First start – discarded.

Meaning of Culture, The. Manuscript introduction to the tenth Anniversary edition of W.W. Norton, 1939.

- 17 pp of manuscript.

The published introduction to the tenth anniversary edition differs considerably from the 1929 printed introduction (we do not have a manuscript or typescript of the 1929 introduction). ***This manuscript differs from the introduction actually published in 1939.

Note also that the 1939 edition has a new printed conclusion, referred to in JCP's diary entry, but the Collection does not have this.

Note diary entry concerning this introduction. (See page inserted).

Box I, clam 8

Porius. Page 2000 of manuscript of *Porius.*

- in melinex sleeve

Box II, clam 7

Preface to *Wood and Stone.*

- Early draft, according to Bissell.

- 7 pp holograph entitled "Preface" but no specific indication that it is to *Wood and Stone* except that the first sentence starts 'The following narrative gathers round...' as does the preface to W&S as published by Arnold Shaw in 1915, and other subsequent editions and publishers. It probably is an earlier and shorter version of the preface, but no indication of date given.

Box II, clam 5

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

Huw Menai's Poems, Preface to

50 pp in two sleeves. Plus 7 pages of unknown source ('When I came into my own' (poem); 'Beyond the slag-heaps' (poem); 'Both in and out of the grave, watching and wondering at it' (poem); then 5 pages of text.

This was published as preface to *The Simple Vision*. London: Chapman & Hall, 1945, pp 9-31

Also published as "The Simple Vision" pp 113-132 in *Obstinate Cymric: Essays 1935 – 1947*.

Condition: ink on thin paper. Some pages turned at bottom.

Box II, clam 5

Laurence Sterne's *Sentimental Journey*. Preface to

52 pages in 2 sleeves.

Written in 1947. Published as an introduction to Macdonald's edition, London, 1948.

This was commissioned by Eric Harvey, a director of Macdonalds, who liked JCP's work so much he doubled the payment from £50 to £100. (See preface to *Tristram Shandy*).

Condition: ink on thin paper, good condition, many corrections and deletions.

Box II, clam 5

Lawrence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*, Preface to

[3 sleeves].

Written in 1947. Published in the Macdonalds edition, London: 1949.

This was also commissioned by Eric Harvey, a director of Macdonalds.

Condition: ink on thin, poor quality paper; good condition with some page edges folded; many corrections and deletions.

Box II, clam 5

Translations of verses used in JCP's *Rabelais*

5 separate holograph sheets of JCP's translations of 5 of Rabelais's poems, as they appear in JCP's *Rabelais: His Life, The Story Told By Him Selections Therefrom Here Newly Translated, and an Interpretation of his Genius and Religion*. London: John Lane the Bodley Head, 1948.

37(d) is on pp 382/383

"The rub is that" p 37

152 p 90

'How clear the streams' P 35

Villon's death poem P 408

Box II, clam 3

'**My Welsh Home**'. *****Note: This is NOT 'My Welsh Home' as published in *Obstinate Cymric*.

63 sheets (there are 2 pages numbered '4' with many inserts) on various sized paper - some written on a partial typescript of 'Farewell America' and 2 pages (only) of n.b. letter from Blundell and Baker re 1935 *Glastonbury* libel case on back of one of the holograph pages.

In JCP's hand the title at the top is "My Welsh Home", but the beginning is the essay in *Obstinate Cymric*, Essay No 5, beginning p 55 O.C. entitled "Wales and America." Up to 22j in the

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

manuscript is the published "Wales and America," although there are a number of changes from the holograph in the published essay 'Wales and America.' It would appear that the manuscript was divided very arbitrarily into two: "W&A" and "My Welsh Home."

Box II, clam 3

"**My Welsh Home**" as published in *Obstinate Cymric*, Essay 6, p71 - 83 , begins in the manuscript in the middle of 22(q).

22k to 22 p and part of 22q, in the manuscript have been deleted entirely from both essays. They deal with a variety of matters, including the difference between Dorchester shop-keepers and Welsh shop-keepers, his annoyance that he cannot walk in Wales as he did in America because of the grouse-shooting and the innumerable barriers put up by small-holders. Also an appreciation of fox-hunting!

See: original letter from Griffin Beale and keyed in copy of his letter for further information.

This is in sleeve with the above.

Box II, clam 3

'Pair Dadeni' or 'The Cauldron of Rebirth'.

60 pp in 2 sleeves.

Published in *Obstinate Cymric: Essays 1935 - 1947*. Carmarthen: The Druid Press, 1947. Pp. 85 - 112.

Note: Collection also has manuscript discarded notes.

Box II, clam 3

'Pair Dadeni' and 'Dostoievsky'. Discarded manuscript pages from these essays.

Box II, clam 3

'The Spot on the Wall' ; 'The Incubus' (in *Romer Mawl*); 'The Harvest Thanksgiving'

- A manuscript book containing the above three short stories.

- with Bissell's transcriptions.

Box II, clam 6

'The Unconscious'.

- 24 pp holograph, heavily revised.

- undated but in JCP's old hand

Condition: flimsy paper but in good condition.

Box II, clam 6

'Vivisection and Moral Evolution'.

12 pp

Condition: ink on thin paper but condition good.

NOTE: In October, 2006, John and Mandy Powys donated an off-print of this article. It was published by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection n.d. Filed under JCP periodicals.

Box II, clam 6

Miscellaneous

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

(1) Beginning of a novel (?) about 'Bleddyn' - begins "A man neither graceful nor clumsy.."
-13 pp

(2) 6 foolscap pages also about 'Bleddyn'. Continuation of above? Or part of something larger now lost?

(3) Play: Untitled, but about 'Llewellyn, Prince of Wales'
-6 pp foolscap
-decidedly incomplete

(4) Poem?: "But play thy game, lord Arthur..."
-blue foolscap, 3 pp, marked 9, 10, 11

(5) Fragment: folded paper, written in pencil
-about Owen Glendower

(6) Fragment: 2 folded sheets, 11 pp
-about 'Mr Gard' – early thoughts about the character Gead in *Glastonbury Romance*?

(7) Fragment: For a church sermon? "God hath chosen the weak..."

(8) Fragment: For a lecture? Marked p 14 "But although this interior struggle..."

Box I, clam 1

A Collection of Early Poems. Rough drafts of poems, mostly unpublished.
If JCP gives no title, the first line is quoted in double quotes.

Poem: 'Thorn Tree Growing in Waste'
-4 sheets, 8 pp.
-several drafts for poem with above title
-Also Bissell's transcription.

Poem: To ~~Olive~~-Ella
- Olive is struck out and Ella substituted.
-1 p, early, signed JCP
-Bissell's transcription

Poem: "Titian! Transfixed on the rim of the world..."
-poor condition, piece of scrap paper
-Bissell's transcription

Poem: 'The Dream of Rhonabwy'
-on side of one sheet
-incomplete

Poem: "Come back and walk beside me here..."
-2 sides of folded notepaper edged in black
-draft only

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

- Poem: 'Yr Wyddfa: The Tomb' *****
-not in JCP's hand or Bissell's
- Poem: 'Southwick'
-appears to be addressed to JCP's Sussex friend, de Kantzow.
-red ink, 1 sheet of notepaper folded, writing on all 4 sides.
- Poem: 'Noon. Wales.'
-1 p, early hand
-very brittle condition
- Poem: 'Jan 1900'
-1 p, early hand
-very brittle condition
- Poem: 'To Alfred de Kanzow'
-1 p, early hand
-signed J.C.P.
-very brittle condition
- Poem: 'The Wind and the Bird'
-1 p, early hand
-rough drawing of an owl(?) At bottom
-fragile condition
-Bissell's transcription
- Poem: 'The Wall. Wales'
-1 p, early hand
-fragile condition
- Poem: 'Written on Tuesday morning, April 30 - Oak Villa Ph --? Farm'
-1 p, early hand
- Poem: 'To the Ash tree in front of my window, Jan 20, 1900'
-1 p, early hand
- Poem: 'The Acolyte turned Drummer Boy'
-1 p, early hand
- Poem: 'Suicide Rather Than Contemplation'
-1 p, early hand
- Poem: 'Christmas, 1900'
-1 p, early hand
- Poem: 'To the Ditchling Road'
-1 p, early hand
-fragile, piece out of paper, but legible. Bissell's translation
- Poem: 'An Evening in July'
-1 p, 2 sides

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

-signed J.C. Powys, Court House, near Lewes. Please return if refused.

Poem: "And what of thy familiar countenance?"

-1 p, early hand

-very fragile - piece torn but readable

Poem: 'Jan 22 1900'

-1 p, early hand

-very fragile

-Bissell's transcription

Poem: 'Brighton May 8th 1901

-1 p, early hand

-fragile

-Bissell's transcription

Poem: 'To Theodore, June 6, 1901'

-1 p, early hand

Poem: 'To Theodore, June 6, 1901'

-1 p, early hand

-as above, but slightly different punctuation

Poem: 'The Storm and the April Morning'

-1 p, early hand

Poem: "You Irish, you Irish..."

-draft of a poem written on ship stationary Cunard RMS 'Campania'

-1 sheet, 2 sides

Poem: "I think the deepest pleasures of my soul..."

-draft of a poem

-1 p, early hand

Poem: "The undulating, flowing leafy sea..."

-draft of a poem

-1 p, 1 side

Poems (s): "What stories these ancient houses tell..."

- 8 sheets, 13 pp

- about Hamburg

- difficult to tell if draft of one poem or several but paper and ink uniform

- keep together for the present

Poem: 'April 21st Early Morning'

-1 p foolscap

draft of a poem

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

Poem: "Let the heart that once has loved..."
- 1 p, torn in half

Poem: "April 1901 To a young lady asking for verses extempore"
-1 p, early hand
- additional 2 drafts of above poem

Poem: 'Jan 15th Hambury. To Meg'
-1 sheet, both sides
-early hand
-a draft of above but titled "Jan 14th - to Meg"

Poem: "We must have something to follow..."
-1 p, early hand
-fragile condition

Poem: "Once more to thee I turn sick with the sight..."
-1 p, early hand

Poem: "The night sweeps past on rustling wings..."
-1 p, early hand
-appears to be only a draft of a poem

Poem: "I met a shepherd on the lonely hills..."
-both sides of one foolscap sheet
-draft only, many corrections

Poem: 'The Land of the Sun and the Sea'
-2 drafts of above title and what appears to be a final version
-signed JCP April 20, 1901

Poem: 'Bruton (1)'
-3 foolscap sheets
-last page badly torn but legible
-probably initials JCP

Poem: 'Bruton March 4 - 1900 (2)'
-1 foolscap sheet, both sides
-signed JC Powys
-different poem from Bruton (1)
-what appears to be a first draft in pencil on paper marked "King's School, Bruton, Somerset"
-Bissell's transcription

Poem: 'Song'
-1 p, early hand

Poem: 'On London Bridge Looking towards the Tower - April 4th

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

-1 p, early hand
-fragile condition

Poem: 'The Blackbird'
-3pp A5, 6 sheets written on.
-early hand
-paper-clip rust marks, paper brittle.

Poem: 'To the Green Wood-Pecker'
-dated April 24th 1903
-complete on 2 sides one sheet of foolscap
-fragile condition

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IN ADDITION

M.K. found a heavy dark blue binder, with typed 'MSS OF POEMS' on front, however some are typescripts only, and some have typescripts as well as holograph.

Removed from binder and kept in exactly the same order as they appeared in binder, in a total of 4 sleeves. Binder kept in same clam.

**From internal evidence, they appear to be poems written while he lived at Hillsdale. The paper is American size.

In following order:

Poem: 'The Stone' - original holograph
-typed copy of above
-second typed copy of above

Poem: 'William Corby'
-2 pp

Poem: 'Mill-Wheel (1)'
-version A 2 pp
-version B 1 p

Poem: 'Mill-Wheel' (2)
-version A 2 pp
-version B 1 p
**note: two different poems with same name.

Poem: 'Teiresias'
- 1 p

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

Poem: 'Demophon'

-NOT manuscript, but a typescript.

-also Bissell's transcription tentatively dated by him, 1932

Poem: 'Drought by the River Bed'

-5 pp manuscript

-possibly written 1933 at Hillsdale (see Diary)

Poem: 'Celadines'

- 1 p

Poem: 'Green'

- 1 p manuscript

- 1 p typescript

- 1 p (both sides) copy as published in The Fortnightly, vol I, no 3, October 9/1931

- second copy of above.** this should perhaps be place in box marked 'periodical contributions'.

- photocopy of Fortnightly page

Poem: 'The Convolvulus'

-1 p

Poem: 'Saturn'

-2 pp

Poem: 'To ADF - Meditating a Retreat to Captivity'

-1 p

- ADF Arthur Davison Ficke

Poem: 'To Arthur on the occasion of his giving me the Home Book of Poetry - Sept 3, 1931'

-1 p

Poem: 'The Anonymous Tree - to ADF'

-1 p

Poem: 'To Arthur & Gladys. Dec 8, 1930'

-7 pp,(4 sheets)

- very rough draft

Poem: 'On Receipt of a certain ? Essay on Wordsworth properly aminadverted upon by the sender with the word "he lies" write in pencil by AF'

-2 pp

Poem: 'The Revolt of the Camel'

-1 p

Poem: 'Revolt in the Desert'

-1 p

JOHN COWPER POWYS - MANUSCRIPTS

Poem: 'Revolt in the Desert' or 'The Camel Kicks over the Traces'

-1 p

***all three of above appear to be attempts at one poem.

Poem: 'The Moon over Megalopolis'

-2 pp typescript

- in P.P.'s hand, "given to Sacco Vanzetti paper 'The Lantern'"

-Bissell's transcription

- a clipping about the S-V trial in Sunday Express, 26/6/63

Poem: 'The Peewit'

-1 p manuscript

- 1p typescript on which is written in P.P.'s hand: "given to William Needham and published in his paper 'The Rocker'?' (Rocket?)

Poem: 'The Ledge'

-1 p

Poem: 'To Merle'

-1 p draft version

-1 p final version (?) signed John Cowper Powwys, May 25, 1929.

Poem: "These leaves have quiverings..."

-2 pp, 1 sheet

Poem: 'That's for Thoughts'

-6 pp, 4 sheets

-various draft versions of one poem?

Poem: "What do you seek at the end of the world..."

-1 p incomplete draft of a poem?