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# ANDREW COWAN (1960- ) ARCHIVE

BRITISH ARCHIVE FOR CONTEMPORARY WRITING

'Storehouse' deposit

Collection	Andrew Cowan (1960- ) Archive
Reference	ACO
Creation date	1985-2015
Extent and format	21 ring-binders; 3 archive boxes; 3 box files; 2.5 linear metres; paper.
Biographical history	<p>Andrew Cowan was born in Corby, Northamptonshire, in 1960 and educated at Beanfield Comprehensive and the University of East Anglia (UEA). He is the Director of the Creative Writing programme at UEA from which he graduated in 1985.</p> <p>His first novel, <i>Pig</i> (1994), won a Betty Trask Award, the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award, the Authors' Club First Novel Award, a Scottish Arts Council Book Award, the Ruth Hadden Memorial Award, and was shortlisted for five other literary awards. <i>Common Ground</i> (1996) and <i>Crustaceans</i> (2000) both received Arts Council bursaries. <i>What I Know</i> was the recipient of an Arts Council Writers' Award and was published in 2005. His creative writing guidebook, <i>The Art of Writing Fiction</i>, was published in 2011. His fifth novel, <i>Worthless Men</i>, was published in 2013.</p> <p>Previously a long-standing tutor for the Arvon Foundation, he was for three years the Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow at UEA. He was appointed to the faculty in 2004 and currently teaches and lectures at undergraduate and MA level, and supervises a number of PhD students. In 2011 he wrote UEA's successful submission to the 'Diamond Jubilee' Round of the Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education, and was promoted to a Chair in 2012.</p>
Immediate source of acquisition	The papers were deposited on loan in the British Archive for Contemporary Writing. The papers were delivered to the Archives between July and September 2016.
Scope and content	Papers and correspondence of Andrew Cowan (1960- ), writer. The collection is composed of his literary papers – novel manuscripts, correspondence, and research papers.
Appraisal destruction and scheduling info	N/A
Accruals	Accruals are expected.
Conditions governing access	Available for private, non-commercial research. Some correspondence is under embargo.
Conditions governing reproduction	Relevant copyright permissions must be obtained before any reproductions of documents can be made. The University of East Anglia does not hold copyrights for any material in this collection. Please address all copyrights queries to Andrew Cowan.
Language/ scripts	English.
Physical characteristics/ technical requirements	Paper, VHS, audio-cassettes.
Finding aids	Online listing; printed listing in Archives.
Existence and location of originals	N/A
Existence and location of copies	N/A
Related units of description	N/A
Publication note	N/A
System of arrangement	The collection is one of many individual deposits forming part of the wider <b>British Archive for Contemporary Writing</b> , est. 2015.

Arranged in three sections:

Ring-binders

Boxes

Box files

## RING-BINDERS

Introductory note:

Publications in date order:

*Pig* (1994)

*Common Ground* (1996)

*Crustaceans* (2000)

*What I Know* (2005)

*The Art of Writing Fiction* (2011)

*Worthless Men* (2013)

Andrew Cowan refers to his 5 published novels as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, in order of publication date. These numbers sometimes appear on the ring-binder covers.

### **PIG**

#### **PIG #1**

Draft typescript; five letters from Cowan to Tim (copy-editor), 1989-1992. The letter of 19/3/92 specifically comments on the text of *Pig*; the rest are personal letters. (Blue ring-binder).

#### **PIG #2**

Draft typescript, chapter 22 onwards; an 11 page letter from Tim (copy-editor) to Andrew, 15/3/92; chapter lengths (word counts); letters from Cowan to agents asking them to represent his work; notes from editors; corrections to MS; layout and typesetting of introductory pages and cover by publisher Michael Joseph. (Black ring-binder).

See also folder JENNIFER KAVANAGH (LITERARY AGENT) CORRESPONDENCE, 1993-1997.

See also folder MICHAEL JOSEPH/PENGUIN CORRESPONDENCE ON *PIG/COMMON GROUND*, 1993-1998.

See also folder *PIG* – Rejections, prizes, 1992-1995.

See also audio-cassettes.

### **COMMON GROUND**

#### **COMMON GROUND #1**

Novel outline; plot notes; addresses around the world from where the back-packer writes; character notes; chapter drafts (typed). (Black ring-binder).

#### **COMMON GROUND #2**

Draft chapter notes with corrections; notes on the environment and campaigns. (Black ring-binder).

See also folder MICHAEL JOSEPH/PENGUIN CORRESPONDENCE ON *PIG/COMMON GROUND*, 1993-1998.

See also audio-cassettes.

### **NORWICH ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE**

#### **NORWICH ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE #1**

Contains dozens of edited transcripts of oral interviews which formed part of the Norwich Oral History Archive. The interviews are primarily recorded in 1986 and the interviewee's name and birth dates are included, some were 100 years of age at the time. Names of interviewees are included.

A letter states that 22 Umatic tapes were deposited at the East Anglian Film Archive, dated 5/12/07. (Black ring-binder; original file title 'Oral History').

### **NORWICH ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE #2**

Chapter list and typescript. Relates to the memoirs of the people of Norwich. (Black ring-binder; original file title 'O.H.').

See also folder *HARD UP STREET* BY AGNES DAVEY, 1996-1998.

## **CRUSTACEANS**

### **CRUSTACEANS - NOTES**

Includes dates and time-line, plot notes, character notes, backdrop and the landscape, hospital and illness notes, dying and death notes. Some material is printed and there are letters from Cowan asking for information from professionals, correspondence with a father who had lost a child to meningitis and who had written publicly about this loss. (Black ring-binder; original file title '3 Notes').

### **CRUSTACEANS - DRAFTS #1**

Typed drafts. (Black ring-binder; original file title '3 – drafts #1').

### **CRUSTACEANS - DRAFTS #2**

Typed drafts. (Black ring-binder; original file title '3 – drafts #2').

### **CRUSTACEANS - MS**

Typed manuscript with corrections. (Black ring-binder; original file title 'M.S. 3rd').

See also folder MBA LITERARY AGENTS' CORRESPONDENCE, 1996-2012.

See also folder SCEPTRE CORRESPONDENCE, 1997-2005.

## **WHAT I KNOW**

### **WHAT I KNOW - DRAFT 1**

The footer is variously '4th – draft' or '4th' or the chapter number and sometimes title. Drafts were written circa June 2001 and December 2003. (Black ring-binder).

### **WHAT I KNOW - DRAFT 2 and PREP**

Typescript of chapters 16-20; chapter plans; flowchart of questions and thoughts relating to the plot; notes on the backdrop and plot; table showing the breakdown of the 26 chapters and their contents; 'jottings' on individual chapters; email correspondence between Steve of Tracker Investigation Services and Andrew on the plausibility and accuracy of some of the investigative activities of the main character; examples of solicitors' forms and notices; background information on private investigators, surveillance technology and divorce proceedings. (Black ring-binder).

### **WHAT I KNOW - DRAFT**

Draft typescript of chapters 1-20 with an additional version of chapter 20. (Red ring-binder).

### **WHAT I KNOW - PREP**

Notes and editorial comments; precis of chapters; character sketches; plot notes; draft sections under the following headings 'offcuts'; 'notes'; 'new notes'; 'stuff'. (Black ring-binder).

See also folder SCEPTRE CORRESPONDENCE, 1997-2005.

## **THE ART OF WRITING FICTION**

### **THE ART OF WRITING FICTION - DRAFTS**

Typed draft. Initial title: 'An introduction to writing prose fiction'. Includes a leaf with a diagram showing word spacing calculations. It is reported that Cowan would sometimes choose a replacement word in order to make

the text align more perfectly (this was before the use of Word™ and its facility for justifying text). (Black ring-binder; original file title 'Intro drafts').

See also folder *THE ART OF WRITING FICTION, 2005-2011*.

## **WORTHLESS MEN**

### **WORTHLESS MEN - WORKING NOTES #1**

*Worthless Men*. Synopsis; plot points; draft MS. (Black ring-binder).

### **WORTHLESS MEN - WORKING NOTES #2**

*Worthless Men*. Handwritten chapter titles; sketch plan of the family home; handwritten notes, 2005-2010; typed notes; character outlines. (Black ring-binder).

### **WORTHLESS MEN - RESEARCH**

Research papers and notes. Includes printed articles. Some of the subjects covered: home front, war, glossary of war terms, Zeppelin, pardons given to soldiers for WWI military offences (BBC article), sex and contraception, women and abortion in Victorian England, eugenics, 'toffs', Carrow House in Norwich, poor law and workhouses, shops and chemists in the early part of the 20th century, clothing and Edwardian dress, animals and animal markets, transport, carriages and wheelwrights, barbed wire and wire netting, factories and ironworks in Norwich. (Red ring-binder; original file title '5 Research 1').

### **WORTHLESS MEN - HANDWRITTEN MS**

*Worthless Men*. Handwritten MS, 2005-2010. (Black ring-binder; original file title '5 Handwritten').

### **WORTHLESS MEN - DRAFTS 1**

Pages are marked up in the footer as draft 01, 02, 03, 04, new notes, etc. These numbers relate to the chapter numbers, not draft versions. Some footers have a page number followed by 'Andrew Cowan'. Drafts written from 2006-2011. (Black ring-binder; original file title '5 draft 1, -06-07, -2009, Ch[apter] 14 →, written up by L[ynne]').

### **WORTHLESS MEN - DRAFTS 2**

Marked up by Lynne, chapters 1-12. Pages are marked up in the footer as draft 01, 02, 03, 04, alt structure, etc. These numbers relate to the chapter numbers, not draft versions. (Black ring-binder; original file title '5 Draft 2 written up by Lynne').

## **BOXES**

ACO BOX 1

ACO BOX 2

ACO BOX 3

### **ACO BOX 1**

This box contains correspondence relating to individual publications; correspondence filed by agency or publisher; and correspondence on Cowan's articles and short story writing.

#### **PIG – Rejections, prizes, 1992-1995**

Correspondence with agents and publishers re rejections and awards. (Plastic sleeve).

#### **PIG – Screenplay by Hannah Kodicek**

Includes script and seven leaves of notes by Cowan commenting on the script. Includes a sketch of the allotment and surrounds.

#### **MICHAEL JOSEPH/PENGUIN CORRESPONDENCE ON PIG/COMMON GROUND, 1993-1998**

Includes editorial comments; comments on the books generally by publishers; artwork, page layouts and jackets; and correspondence relating to awards and sales. (Plastic sleeve).

### **HARD UP STREET BY AGNES DAVEY, 1996-1998**

In 1997 The Larks Press published a book based on an oral history interview of Agnes Davey. This was *Hard Up Street: growing up in King Street, Norwich, 1914-1947*. The foreword is by Cowan. Included in the file is the transcript of the taped interview of Davey. There are a number of early rejection letters from 1996.

A letter from Norfolk and Norwich Temporary Central Library confirms that their transcripts of the recordings were destroyed in the [Library's] fire but that the recordings survived (letter, 13/1/98). (Plastic sleeve).

See also Cowan's two ring-binders NORWICH ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE.

### **THE ART OF WRITING FICTION, 2005-2011**

2005 correspondence by Cowan in which he reluctantly has to put the editing of an anthology [*Class Work*] aside as his workload at UEA is too great and his priority was to start writing a new novel.

Report/review on book proposal for *The Art of Writing Fiction* (2011); correspondence with editors; copyright and permissions queries; press release; review list/press release list. (Plastic sleeve).

### **JENNIFER KAVANAGH (LITERARY AGENT) CORRESPONDENCE, 1993-1997**

Correspondence largely relates to *Pig* and *Common Ground*; some mention of royalties and sales; includes summaries by Cowan of emails and phone calls; a letter dated 26/9/97 from Kavanagh tells of her decision for a career change. MBA would take over from her. (Plastic sleeve).

### **MBA LITERARY AGENTS' CORRESPONDENCE, 1996-2012**

This agency took over from Jennifer Kavanagh when she changed career and closed her agency. Includes Cowan's summaries of emails and phone calls; letters; correspondence concerning *Crustaceans*. (Plastic sleeve).

### **SCEPTRE CORRESPONDENCE, 1997-2005**

Includes letters and Cowan's summaries of emails and phone calls; a marketing plan; jackets. Relates to *Crustaceans* and *What I Know*. (Plastic sleeve).

### **ARTICLES, 1986-2015**

Correspondence concerning articles to be written by Cowan.

Some correspondents include The Writer's Voice; Penguin; The Guardian; Waterstones (re the stocking of *Pig*); Men's Health; Weber, Hodel, Schmid; Nicholas Royle; UEA colleagues; Camilla Nelson at the University of Notre Dame, Australia (re an article by Cowan on history and fiction).

Includes letters from publishers and other writers in response to Cowan's piece in *The Author* entitled '*Too Busy, Too Full, Never Heard of You*' concerning rejections (1996).

Correspondence relating to a Northamptonshire community project 'On Location' in which writers' observe or participate in a local arts project as inspiration for a short piece of writing (2000).

Cowan contributes a 100 word blurb on self-characterisation. He cites the self-contemplation of Duc De La Rochefoucault in which the Duc focuses on how he sees himself but also on how he wishes the readers to see him. This tension and dual focus is what EM Foster recognised as being responsible for the creation of a 'round' rather than a 'flat' character. (Piece submitted to Philp Terry, University of Essex, 2006).

Correspondence between Cowan and Stephen Benson considering the co-authoring of an essay about fiction and voice, plus Benson's 'academic spoiling tactics'. Terms like 'iambic pentameter', 'dactyls' and 'trochees' are thrown into the discussion (2006).

Outline for the book *On Writing a First Novel* (working title) and Cowan's copy-edited chapter for *Writing a First Novel: reflections on the journey* edited by Karen Stevens (2014), together with correspondence with Stevens, University of Chichester (2010-2013).

Contributions to a collection of essays *The Discipline of English*. Cowan's essay is entitled 'The rise of creative writing and how it relates to the wider discipline of English'. Correspondence is with Philip Seargeant, Open University (2013-2014).

#### **SHORT STORIES CORRESPONDENCE, 1985-2014**

Contains correspondence with magazines, newspapers and publishers; correspondence surrounding submissions of short stories, some are rejected, others accepted. Includes a 14 character miniature story submitted by Cowan for a Norfolk Arts Forum project, 23/5/14. (Plastic sleeve).

### **ACO BOX 2**

This box contains: 4 VHS, 2 audio-cassettes and 1 typescript.

**The Book Show, 23/8/94, For Ben X 3363 (PETE). [VHS tape]**

**Afternoon Live with London, Andrew Cowan, 6/9/95. [VHS tape]**

**Chris Pearson Bookshow, 19/9/00. [VHS tape]**

**Channel 4 News, 29/11/00 [VHS tape]**

**Radio interviews on *Common Ground*, 1996-1997 [Audio-cassette]**

Contains the following recordings:

Interview on Steve Riches Show, Radio Norfolk (8 mins), 10/5/96.

Kaleidoscope review (6 mins), 14/5/96.

Tony Mallion and Alison Turpin, Radio Norfolk (14 mins), 28/5/96.

Steve Riches Show, Radio Norfolk (8 mins), 27/3/97.

**Radio interviews on *Pig*, 1994-1995. [Audio-cassette]**

Contains the following recordings:

Radio 4 Kaleidoscope (17 mins), 16/8/94.

Interview. John Mills, Radio Norfolk (9 mins), 5/6/95.

Interview. Talk Radio UK (5 min), 31/8/95.

Interview. Keith Skipper, Radio Norfolk (15 mins), 13/9/95.

Interview with Malcolm Bradbury and Jane Harris, re: *Class Work*, Keith Skipper, Radio Norfolk (35 mins), 10/10/95.

**WORTHLESS MEN. Annotated typescript, p. 1-397**

### **ACO BOX 3**

This box contains files of papers on awards received by Cowan, conferences he attended and his judging activities. There's also a couple of miscellaneous or 'other' files. Files are presented in plastic sleeves. Each section is roughly in chronological order.

This box contains four sub-sections.

Awards

Conferences

Judging

Other

#### **AWARDS**

**GRANTS, 1993-2004**

Selected contents includes a bursary awarded to Cowan by the Scottish Arts Council (1994); a financial award

from The Society of Authors (1995); Eastern Arts Board bursary award (1997); a financial award from The Society of Authors (1999); The Authors' Foundation (2002); Arts Council England (2003); Arts Council England (2004); summary of email correspondence. Also includes unsuccessful applications.

## **CONFERENCES**

**WORLDS 2009: THE CREATIVE WRITER, Norwich, June 2009**

**BEYOND THE WORKSHOP: THE CREATIVE WRITING MA AND THE MARKET: A one-day symposium at Edinburgh Napier University, 24 February 2010**

**CREATIVE WRITING CONFERENCE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, March 2010**

**AAWP CONFERENCE, Melbourne, November 2010**

Australian Association of Writing Programs (AAWP). Strange bedfellows or perfect partners – the role of literary studies in creative writing programs.

**WORLDS 2011, Norwich**

Worlds 2011: Influence.

**DEREHAM LIBRARY, November 2011**

Contains Cowan's notes and questions for Anjali Joseph and Luke Williams.

**AWP CONFERENCE AND BOOKFAIR, CHICAGO, March, 2012**

Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP).

**R&D TRIP TO CHINA, May 2012**

**WORLDS LITERATURE FESTIVAL, June 2012**

Managed and delivered by Writers' Centre Norwich.

**CREATIVE WRITING CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITE PARIS 8, June 2012**

Creative writing programs and the contemporary literary field. Held at the University Paris VIII or University of Vincennes in Saint-Denis.

**CHASE POSTGRADUATE CREATIVE/CRITICAL WRITING CONFERENCE, UEA LONDON, November 2012**

**STORYVILLE. KYOTO, March 2013**

Includes notes on exercises for students on stories, plots and characterisation. In 'Twenty Question' each student holds up a photograph of someone and must answer 20 personal questions according to how they think the person in the photograph would answer.

**SOZOPOL (BULGARIA) SEMINARS, May 2013**

**WORLDS 2013 (International Writers Gathering), Norwich, June 2013**

Managed and delivered by Writers' Centre Norwich.

**TRANSLATION SCHOOL, JADAVPUR, KOLKATA, September 2013**

**1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CREATIVE WRITING, ATHENS, GREECE, 4-6 October 2013**

Universities and the institutionalisation of writing.

**INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE AND TRANSLATION (FILIT), IAȘI, ROMANIA, 23-27 October 2013**

Festivalul Internațional de Literatură și Traducere (FILIT).

**UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIAS'S FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (FLY), June 2014**

**UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN MACEDONIA, October/November 2015**

## **JUDGING**



### **GLEN DIMPLEX NEW WRITERS AWARDS 2006**

Cowan was on the judging panel. Includes correspondence and printed ephemera.

### **MCKITTERICK PRIZE JUDGING, 2006-2008**

This prize is offered by the Society of Authors. The prize is for a first novel published in the UK by an author over 40. Judges for this award are appointed for a term of office of three years. An annual judge's fee is offered. Cowan was asked to judge for a three year term beginning in 2007. Includes correspondence and details of submissions; and Cowan's notebook.

### **EDP-JARROLD EAST ANGLIAN BOOK AWARDS, October 2009**

Correspondence. Cowan judged.

### **INSPIRE WRITING COMPETITION, 2010**

Cowan was on the judging panel. Hosted by the Inspire Discovery Centre, Norwich. Three categories ran: under 11's, 12-17 years and 18+.

### **YOUNG MUSLIM WRITERS AWARDS 2015**

Cowan was on the judging panel. Includes extracts from submissions.

### **'GET IT WRIT' SHORT STORY COMPETITION AT ESSEX BOOK FESTIVAL, March 2013, 2012-2013**

Cowan was on the judging panel. Includes press releases; extracts from submissions; a longlist of 27 stories; Cowan's comments after the competition; correspondence.

### **AWARDS JUDGING - MISCELLANEOUS, 1995-2015**

- **Authors' Club Best First Novel Award.** Correspondence, 1995-96.
- **The Norwich Prize, 2002.** This prize was created by Norwich City Council to celebrate the city as a national and international centre for creative writing. In 2002 the prize was restricted to students on the city's renowned creative writing courses. Contains correspondence and printed ephemera.
- Contains submissions for **'Bookmarked! Competition'**, these were very short stories. The winning bookmarks were then printed. Cowan was on the judging panel (2006).
- **About.** A competition run by Arts Council England for women in the East of England to create a short text which lends itself to performance and the page. Each text explores the life of one woman and her relationship to place within the East of England, 2015.

## **OTHER**

### **MISCELLANEOUS, 1993-2014**

Correspondence of a general nature. Correspondents include Mike Gardom, Derek Neale (OU), Garan Holcombe, C.A. Meade, Creative Arts East, BookTrust, Magda (summarised emails), Chapter 6 Publishing, Gale Research, British Sky Broadcasting, Telegraph Magazine, Ann Carter (Secretary of the Authors' Club), The Society of Authors, The Norfolk Society, Martin Figura, Claire McNamee Photography.

### **ENDORSEMENTS, 2007-2015**

Cowan endorses the work of others. This includes endorsements for: Megan Bradbury, Richard Beard, Emily Bullock, Dave Wilson, Reina James, Mark McNay, James Mulholland, etc.

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### **CORRESPONDENCE EMBARGOED, [20--]**

A small amount of correspondence with UEA faculty members and external contacts is held under embargo (review date Oct 2027).

## **BOX FILES**

## **ACO BOX FILE 1**

### **ARVON TEACHING**

*Dates: 1997-2008*

## **ACO BOX FILE 2**

This box contains two sub-sections.

*Dates: 1994-2010*

### **OTHER TEACHING**

### **READING, EVENTS ETC**

## **ACO BOX FILE 3**

This box contains three sub-sections.

### **OTHER TEACHING**

### **READING, EVENTS ETC**

*Dates: 2010-2016*

### **ROYAL LITERARY FELLOWSHIP**

*Dates: 2002-2004*

BG 27/6/17, 11/2017; JM 29/6/17 (minor additions)