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# RICHARD BEARD (1967- )

BRITISH ARCHIVE FOR CONTEMPORARY WRITING

'Storehouse' deposit

Collection	Richard Beard (1967- ) BACW Storehouse Deposit
Reference	RB
Creation date	1988-2015
Extent and format	14 boxes; 3.5 linear metres; paper and electronic discs.
Biographical history	<p>Richard James Beard (born 12 January 1967) is an English novelist, non-fiction writer and Creative Writing Fellow at the University of East Anglia. He has previously taught on the MA in Creative Writing (Prose Fiction) at UEA from which he also graduated in 1995. He currently teaches on the MFA (Master of Fine Arts). He has been Director of The National Academy of Writing (2009-2017) and is a visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo (2016/17).</p> <p>After reading English at Cambridge, he worked as a teacher in Hong Kong, then as a sports coach at the Dragon School in Oxford, followed by a year as the Private Secretary to the Duchess of Argyll. He was employed as general English-speaker at the National Library in Paris. In Paris he published under the pseudonym Marcel Barbon, and featured on the French radio channel, France Culture.</p> <p>Beard's first novel, <i>X20: a novel of not smoking</i>, was published by Harper Collins (1996), and in 1997 was a New York Times Summer Reading Selection. His second novel <i>Damascus</i> (1998), investigates 'the leap of faith that transmutes ordinary life into the condition of ecstasy, the condition of being wholly and transcendently in love', and was a New York Time Notable Book in 1999. Both these novels are influenced by the principles of the Oulipo, the French school of intellectuals who sought to trigger ideas and inspiration through constrained writing techniques. His other novels include <i>The Cartoonist</i> (2000) which uses 'an artificial, Oulipo-type constraint to illustrate a real-life constraint on the imagination', and <i>Dry Bones</i> (2004), a study of 'the big issues of personal accountability and civic responsibility'. Beard has published two retellings of biblical stories: <i>Lazarus is Dead</i> (2011), which retraces the relationship between Jesus and Lazarus; and <i>Acts of the Assassins</i> (2015) which tells the story of Jesus's death and resurrection, and the subsequent martyrdom of all the disciples, one by one. This was shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize, 2015.</p> <p>His first work of non-fiction, <i>Muddied Oaf: the last days of rugger</i> (2003) traces the changes to the game of Rugby Union. It was longlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award. <i>Manly Pursuits</i> (2006) retitled for the paperback edition as <i>How To Beat the Australians</i>, tells of how 'his sense of athletic inferiority led him to travel to the Sydney suburb of Manly to examine what makes Australians so competitive'. <i>Becoming Drusilla</i>, tells the story of long-time friend Dru who underwent gender reassignment (2008). All these non-fiction works contain elements of autobiography and travel writing.</p>

Beard was shortlisted for the 2008 BBC National Short Story Prize and longlisted for the 2010 Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award. His short stories have appeared in *Granta* and *Prospect* and have been recorded for BBC Radio 4. In 1997 and 2015 he received an Arts Council Authors Award and in 2000 was the recipient of a grant from the K Blundell Trust. He was selected as a writer-in-residence at Gladstone's Library (2013).

Immediate source of acquisition	Deposited in 2016: 1 suitcase, 2 large boxes and 4 file boxes. Suitcase and 2 large boxes re-boxed; 4 file boxes retained. Three notebooks deposited 1/2/17 and incorporated with other notebooks.
Scope and content	Typescripts, notebooks, notes, drafts, correspondence, press-cuttings, ephemera, electronic discs.
Appraisal destruction and scheduling info	N/A
Accruals	N/A
Conditions governing access	Available for private, non-commercial research.
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 copyright enquiries to Richard Beard.
Language/ scripts	English.
Physical characteristics/ technical requirements	Paper; electronic discs.
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.

### **Original layout of deposit**

1 suitcase, 2 large boxes and 4 file boxes. Suitcase and 2 large boxes re-boxed; 4 file boxes retained.

***Suitcase unpacked and sorted into 1/A and 1/B***

***1st original box unpacked and sorted into: 2/A, 2/B, 2/C***

***2nd original box decanted into: 3/A, 3/B, 3/C, 3/D***

***Boxes 4-8.***

### **Summary**

RB/1/A

Unpublished novels

RB/1/B

NOBLE DESIRES

Short stories

Letters

**RB/2/A - B**

Notebooks

**RB/2/C**

X20

FORUM/ EROTIC STORIES magazine

THE CARTOONIST

**RB/3/A - D**

ACTS OF THE ASSASSINS

**RB/4**

LAZARUS IS DEAD

BECOMING DRUSILLA

**RB/5**

MUDDIED OAFS

**RB/6**

THE CARTOONIST

**RB/7**

DAMASCUS

**RB/8**

MANLY PURSUITS

DRY BONES

Correspondence

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**RB/1/A**

**SECTORS** unpublished novel (folder)

Written in 1990s.

**THE BLACK TROUT** unpublished novel (folder)

Written in 1989. TS with corrections.

**UNPUBLISHED NOVEL NOTES, 1989-1990**

**AN APOLOGY FOR ARTHUR** unpublished novel

Written in 1994. TS, pp. 1-148. With corrections. Last page is torn.

**Incomplete novel, in style of Micky Spillane, 1990** (folder)

Draft TS with corrections.

**Novel in French, 1994**

(Inside envelope from AM Heath). TS with corrections. Attached letter in French from Michel Champendal.

**RB/1/B**

**NOBLE DESIRES. Pt 1. SECURITY MAN**

Note from RB 'Unpublished novel 3, Part 1, 1992-3'. TS with corrections.

**NOBLE DESIRES. Pt 2. FACTOR**

Note from RB 'Unpublished novel 3 1992/3'. TS with corrections.

**NOBLE DESIRES. Pt 3. RETAINER**

Note from RB 'Unpublished novel 3, Part 3 1992/3'. TS with corrections.

**Early short stories** (folder)

TS and MS all prior to RB's attendance on the MA course. Also contains press cuttings from TLS 1993 on French literature.

**Unpublished stories, 1989-1994** (plastic wallet)

Includes 'Common agent', 'Numbers', 'Extra time', 'Personal foul', 'Breaking the rules', 'Serve somebody'.

**Unpublished stories, 1989-1997** (plastic wallet)

Includes 'Art for art's sake', 'It hardly matters', 'In the maid's room', 'Good fortune'.

**LEARNING CURVES** short story

TS and rejection note from Mayfair (magazine?). Note from RB states that it was translated and broadcast on the French radio channel, France Culture in 1995.

**GENEVA, 1978** short story

TS with corrections.

**Rejection letters, 1989-2000** (folder)

From publishers and agents prior to RB's attendance on the MA course. Dates early-mid 1990s (some 2000 – post MA – rejections for teaching posts).

Personal correspondence – with friend **John Lee** – now a Professor, 1991

Contains 11 items/letters, 1991.

**Miss Almedingen's House/ Royal Society of Literature**

File of correspondence and photographs concerning an 18th century cottage in the Mendip Hills, Somerset 'Miss Almedingen's House'. RB lived there for a time in 1998– rented from RSL.

**University dissertation on Oscar Wilde, 1988-2000**

TS with corrections; and three reference letters, 2000.

**1 Box unpacked and sorted into: 2/A, 2/B, 2/C**

**RB/2/A**

**Notebooks**

Nine individual (A4 and A5) notebooks for multiple novels: ACTS OF THE ASSASSINS; DAMASCUS; DRY BONES; X20. Included is the unpublished story 'Advantage Bannerman'.

One passport type **photograph** of RB.

**RB/2/B**

**Notebooks**

Eleven individual (A4 and A5) notebooks for multiple novels: BECOMING DRUSILLA; THE CARTOONIST; LAZARUS IS DEAD; MANLY PURSUITS; MUDDIED OATS.

**RB/2/C**

**X20: a novel of (not) smoking, 1996-2000**

A novel generated by principles of structural restraint. X20 contains the same number of words as cigarettes smoked by the principal character during the time covered by the novel (letter, RB, 10/9/98).

File detailing UK and US reception of RB's debut novel – written while on the MA - including correspondence from fans, publishers (UK, US and others). Includes partial page proofs, reviews and jackets.

Correspondents include agency Curtis Brown, Arcade Publishing, David Bellos (translator and biographer), Harry Mathews (writer and translator), Pembroke College, Royal Festival Hall, Roberta Latow, etc. Rejection letters are included from William Morrow & Co., Doubleday, Broadway Books, Harper Collins, Henry Holt and Company and Crown Publishers.

**Times newspaper, 1/11/93**

Used in the writing of DAMASCUS. Every noun in the paper of 1/11/93 ended up in the novel DAMASCUS. This is another example of RB's novel generated by the principles of structural restraint.

**FORUM / EROTIC STORIES magazines, 1990-1992**

Padded envelope containing RB's short stories. This was his first ever publication, for which he received a fee.

'Skin deep'. Forum. vol.24, no.2, 1991, pp.61-66.

'Art for art's sake' Erotic Stories. pp. 6-11.

'Learning curves' Erotic Stories. 1991, pp. 36-43.

'Good fortune' Erotic Stories. vol.1, no.2, 1992, pp. 117-123.

'Substitutes' Erotic Stories. vol.1, no.4, 1992, pp. 6-11.

**8 floppy discs** of various novel drafts. Temporarily stored in locked stationery cupboard. Require conversion.

### **THE CARTOONIST, 1993-2000**

- Correspondence with agent and publisher, Biddle solicitors, The Society of Authors.
- Press-cuttings, reviews.
- Jackets (original and prints).
- RB's application to Hawthornden International Retreat for Writers, 2001.

See also Box 6 for more papers on THE CARTOONIST.

**2<sup>nd</sup> original box decanted into: 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D**

**RB/3/A**

### **ACTS OF THE ASSASSINS**

Shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize.

- Printed email Agent comments [Lucy Luck].
- Printed email Publisher comments [William Stuart, Random House].
- Handwritten notes by RB (planning book?)
- Annotated TS of 'plan'/outline for the book.
- Proof copy of MS including page by page edits, 2014.

**RB/3/B**

### **ACTS OF THE ASSASSINS**

- Various TSs of sections of the novel – rather than complete manuscripts. Includes one marked '21<sup>st</sup> draft before GL'?

Unclear as to the order/ versions otherwise.

**RB/3/C**

### **ACTS OF THE ASSASSINS**

- Various TSs of the novel – some the complete novel, otherwise some sections. All annotated. Unclear as to the order/ versions.

**RB/3/D**

### **ACTS OF THE ASSASSINS**

- Annotated TSs of the novel. One large pile of more than one version. Unclear as to the order/versions.

**RB/4**

A4 box file.

### **LAZARUS IS DEAD**

This book is structured around the biblically significant number seven. Chapter numbers count down from seven to zero and then up again. The chapter number prescribes the number of smaller sections within each chapter – there are seven in chapter 7, six in 6, and so on. The folder contains printed ephemera, some annotated – including press cuttings – which influenced the text. An additional folder of research notes (mainly printed from the internet) was deposited in 2017.

### **BECOMING DRUSILLA**

Press-cuttings from 2006 relate to Drusilla Marland and compensation she received for her unfair treatment by colleagues whilst working as an engineer at P&O Ferries. Marland had undergone gender reassignment. Marland was a longstanding friend of RB when they collaborated on BECOMING DRUSILLA (2008).

Also reviews of the 2008 publication, and jackets.

## **RB/5**

### **MUDDIED OAFS**

A4 box file, red.

- Notes.
- Drafts.
- MUDDIED OAFS [book] proposal.
- A few letters.
- Printed ephemera from Radley College R.U.F.C. and Pembroke College, Cambridge.
- Press-cuttings.
- Jackets.
- TS draft with title: Mid-Argyll Rugby Football Club, Lochgilphead 1991/2.
- TS drafts with title: Midsomer Norton RUFC (1998-2003).
- Rugby related press-cuttings written by RB, appearing in The Times.
- How I learned to love rugby once the ruggie-bugger disappeared by Jason Cowley. New Statesman, 23/6/03 [Journal article].

Some material is in French.

## **RB/6**

### **THE CARTOONIST**

A4 box file, red.

- Printed ephemera from Disneyland Paris including a student information pack.
- Press-cuttings in English and French relating to Disney.

See also Box 2/C.

## RB/7

A4 Box file, green.

### DAMASCUS, 1996-2002

- Supporting statement for the Arts Council Award. 'DAMASCUS – work in progress'. [1996/97?] (1 leaf).
- Announcement of the Arts Council of England Writers' Awards 1996/97 for which RB won an award for fiction.
- Statement by RB relating to his interest 'in the way truthfulness of expression is compromised in a second language by the limits of linguistic ability, and how this can be exploited in a narrative context'. RB hopes to explore the feasibility of writing a parallel novel in French; and to follow the seminar courses on Publishing and Modernist theory. (1 leaf).
- Handwritten notes with lists of the nouns taken from *The Times* and used in the novel. Shows the writing process and practical construction of the novel.
- Partial proofs.
- Jackets.
- Jacket quotes.
- Press-cuttings.
- Reviews.
- Marketing plan of Flamingo (Harper Collins Publishers).
- Correspondence: with agency **Curtis Brown, Arvon Foundation, Arcade Publishing, The Turman-Morrissey Company** - who turn down the making of a film of DAMASCUS, **Harry Mathews** (American writer and translator), **Birmingham Readers & Writers Festival, Howard Erskine-Hill, Rapture TV** of Norwich, **Avon Books** (USA), and **Association Georges Perec**.
- Portrait photos of RB ©Caroline Forbes.

### Other

- Publicity leaflet detailing RB and Andrew Cowan's appearance at the Guardian Hay Festival, 2002.

## RB/8

A4 Box file, blue.

### MANLY PURSUITS

- Typed draft proposal of MANLY PURSUITS with corrections.
- Maps of Manly.
- Publicity plan.
- Manly postcards and a sticker from an Austrian bar in Manly from where a shooting club operated (Österreichischer schützenverein, 1982).
- List of Manly Olympians, 1900-2000.
- Desk calendar.
- Photo of early rugby squad.
- 2003 Rugby World Cup memorabilia.
- Handwritten notes including addresses.

- General press-cuttings and printed articles on Manly and Australia/ns.
- Draft article by RB for The Observer on the 2003 Rugby World Cup final in which England beat Australia.
- Business card of Rick Shapter (Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Manly Council).
- On-line printed information on Manly Golf Club.
- On-line printed information on the test cricket performance of Gary John Gilmour.
- Savouring of the Australian soil? On the sources and affiliations of colonial newspaper fiction. Graham Law. Victorian Periodicals Review, vol.37, no.3, 2004, pp.75-97.
- Down under [chapter or main title], p. 113 (photocopy from a published work?).
- Reviews.

## **DRY BONES**

- Jackets.
- Postcard of church in Geneva.
- Photocopy of skeleton.

## **Correspondence**

Harry **Mathews** (American author and French translator (1930-2017)), 1998-2008

Stuart **May** (re MUDDIED OAFS), [2007]

Permissions request from **NHK Educational Corporation** for a programme entitled  
Comprehensive English A (2005), 2008

**Arvon Foundation** tutor's contract, 2008

Professor Howard **Erskine-Hill** (1936-2014), 2008

Patrick [**Surname unknown**] (3 letters and a note on LAZARUS IS DEAD), 2008-2009

Anthony [**Surname unknown**] (re animal sacrifice), [20--]

## **Miscellaneous notes**

2 items.