



GUIDE TO THE ROBERT S. CLOSE COLLECTION

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title:	Robert S. Close papers
Collection dates:	[1903-1982]
Creator:	Close, Robert Shaw
Languages represented:	English
Repository:	Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library https://library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/
Extent:	4 boxes
Genre and Forms:	Manuscript material, typescripts, and correspondence.
Abstract:	Material related to the creative output of the author, Robert S. Close.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance

These papers (with the exception of Item 47) were purchased from the author, Robert S. Close. Walter Stone represented Robert Close when Fisher Library purchased the papers.

Item 47, *Of Salt and Earth* (typescript) was obtained from Nelson's publishing company on 18/9/1981.

Access

Rare Books and Special Collections is a closed access collection located on Level 1 of Fisher Library. Please make an appointment to use material from Rare Books and Special Collections using the online request form at <https://library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/request-form.html>

Staff will retrieve the material for you which must be read under supervision in the Rare Books Reading Room. You must provide identification (eg, University of Sydney library card, driver's license, passport) while you are using the material.

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Preferred citation

Robert S. Close papers, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library.

Biographical note

Robert Close was born in Melbourne in 1903. At 15 he went to sea and worked onboard the Shandon. He turned his hand to a variety of jobs, but he was to find more satisfaction and success as a writer.

The Australian publication of Robert Close's novel *Love Me Sailor* about a nymphomaniac aboard a windjammer resulted in an obscene libel charge for him and his publisher. He appealed the initial conviction and was freed from gaol but fined 150 pounds sterling. *Love Me Sailor* remained banned. He felt Australia too provincial and left in 1950 to live in France. He returned to Australia in 1975 but after two years he moved to Marjorca and died there in 1995. During his life he wrote many short stories, eight novels and an autobiography.

Sources:

Gavin De Lacy, 'Close, Robert Shaw (Bob) (1903–1995)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/close-robert-shaw-bob-23675/text32627>, published online 2019, accessed online 9 July 2020.

"Writer rocked boat" by P. Knightley, *The Australian*, 21 July, 1995 p.21

"Salt of the Earth" by S. Yates, *Daily Telegraph* 8 April, 2002 p.62

Local Catalogue Headings

Close, Robert S (Robert Shaw), 1903-1995

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Box 1

1. a) School reports - Swinburn Junior Technical College. [manuscripts]
b) Character reference from headmaster. 10 May 1918. [manuscript]
2. Diary of Robert S. Close's grandfather (same name) of voyage in the *Ravendale*, 1860. [typescript]
3. Poem. *Oh' why did you...* [typescript]
4. Photographs – 5x [some water damage]
5. Correspondence with Alan Marshall. 1939-1942.
6. Correspondence with W.H. Allen. 1961-1963.
7. Correspondence with Max Pfeffer. 1946-1960.
8. Correspondence with Kurt Hellman. 1956-1958.
9. Correspondence with U.S. agent Paul Reynolds. 1944-1947.
10. Correspondence from Mori Aaron Schweitzer (Attorney) to New York Times concerning their review of *Eliza Callaghan*. 1958. [typescript]
11. Correspondence from Miles Franklin; Dame Mary Gilmore; Sir Benjamin Fuller.

12. *Love me sailor*. Poem [typescript]
13. *Love me sailor - love me hard*. [original manuscript]
14. *Love me, sailor*. A play in three acts by K. Hudson-Youdale & Robert S. Close [typescript]

Box 2

15. *Love me sailor* trial. "Complete" [newspaper clippings]
Reviews of *The Dupe*. [newspaper clippings]
Love me sailor play. [newspaper clippings]
16. *Love me sailor*. [typescript]
17. Correspondence with Henry Miller. 1946-1948. [manuscripts]
18. *A garland of serpents*. 8 sections. [typescripts]
19. *A garland of serpents* - research material about Stiletto Jean & Pyjama Girl [newspaper clippings & typescript]
20. *More ways than one* [typescripts]
21. *I survived the gas chamber: The Nazi experiences of a new Australian*. Otto Schwartz. A radio documentary [typescript]
22. *The convict king* [typescript]
23. *Sea tigers of the South* [typescript]
24. *Morn of youth* – 6 part serial from *The Australian Journal*, 1 August, 1945. [journal clippings]
25. *Morn of youth* - radio script [typescript]

Box 3

26. *Tickles the palette (She's my lovely)* [typescript]
27. *Tickles the palette (She's my lovely)* [original manuscript]
28. *Eliza Callaghan* - musical project [typescript]
29. *Eliza Callaghan* - research material & court-related material [9 copies + 7 photographs]
30. *The voyage continues* [typescript and research material]
31. *But the voyage continues* [typescript]
32. *The Robert Close and Georgian House case* – Leonard Mann. 1949.
33. *Eliza Callaghan* – notes [typescript & manuscript]
34. *Eliza Callaghan* – notes [typescript & manuscript]
35. *Eliza Callaghan* – notes [newspaper clippings, typescript & manuscript]
36. *Eliza Callaghan* – correspondence
37. *Eliza Callaghan* [typescript]
38. *With hooves of brass* – storyline, first draft, cancelled chapter [typescript]
39. *With hooves of brass* – original draft [typescript] & envelope [photocopy]
40. *The voyage continues* – publisher's copy [typescript]

Box 4

41. *One of those things*. An Australian play in three acts.
42. *The dope pedlars*. A serial of 35,000 words. [typescript]
43. *Autobiography*. Bob Close [typescript]
44. *The dupe*. Robert S. Close. [typescript]
45. *Not of salt nor earth*. [typescript with corrections]

46. Autobiography. BC. [typescript]
47. *Autobiography*. Robert Close. Purchased 1982 \$350. [typescript] Includes letter from Bob Close to Walter Stone, 18/9/1981.
48. Some old incidents deleted from *Born of youth*. Pages 34-39, 60-61, 70, 142-154, 173-176. [typescript]
49. Correspondence with Alan Marshall [19 items]