Box 1

Typescripts of literary works by John Sommerfield, with manuscript revisions. The typescripts were transferred from ring binders to archival folders at the point of appraisal; where the original binders have titles or other information they have been retained with the contents.

/1 'The Inheritance', pp1-262, nd [c 1956]

/2 'The Inheritance by John Sommerfield', volume 2, pp262-464, nd [c 1956]

From ‘V. Now what Happens’. Carbon copy.

/3 'Press on Regardless', pp1-145, nd [mid-20th century]

Fourteen short stories relating to wartime service. With contents page.

/4 'Press on Regardless', pp1-145, nd [mid-20th century]

Carbon copy typescript with carbon copy manuscript title sheet. Filed with: typescript list of literary works by John Sommerfield, Couching Street, Watlington, Oxford, nd [c 1980s]; rough note recording names and addresses of literary agencies, nd [20th century]; photocopy of Sommerfield’s RAF ‘Certificate of service and release’, 1945

/5 'Now, Then and Later On', pp1-203, nd [c 1977]


Box 2

Typescripts and manuscripts of literary works by John Sommerfield (/1-19) and copies of publications incorporating articles written by John Sommerfield (/20-26). Many of the typescripts have manuscript or typescript revisions. Some of the publications are incomplete.

/1 'The Simple Life', pp1-344, nd [mid-20th century]

/2 'More Room for Us' from the novel, 'North West Five': radio script, pp[1]-53, 1960

/3 'The Voice of London: Draft synopsis', pp[1]-6, [20th century]

Incomplete (4ff)

/4 'The Voice of London: Draft of introduction', pp1-5, [20th century]

Carbon copy.
/5 'Mysterious Event on a Troopship', pp[1]-3, [20th century]

Revised manuscript.

/6 'Rooney: Synopsis', pp1-7, [20th century]

Synopsis of a play 'based on a small band of gypsies'. With comment, on a Post-It note, by PMS [Peter Sommerfield], 7 December 2008, 'First time I've seen this'.

/7 'What a Shame ...', pp1-9, nd [20th century]

/8 'What a Shame ...', pp1-9, nd [20th century]

Carbon copy; two versions of the final page (10ff).

/9 'What a Shame ...', p1, nd [20th century]

Incomplete. Differs to the opening page of /2 and /3 (1ff)

/10 'Five Girls': chapter one, pp1-27 (28ff), nd [20th century]

/11 'Who's laughing Now?', pp[1]-7, nd [20th century]

/12 'Fireproof Jack', pp 1-9, [20th century]

/13 'People in Glass Houses', pp[1]-5, nd [20th century]

/14 Untitled, opening words: 'The train went and her eyes filled with tears', pp[1]-23, [20th century]

/15 Untitled, opening words: 'Now the cinemas and theatres are emptying.', pp[1]-4, [20th century]

/16-17 Untitled, opening words: 'At about ten past four ...', pp[1]-2, [20th century]

With related press cutting of an article entitled: 'Dog takes tram for a ride'.

/18 'The Character of a Landscape (Theme for a film)', pp[1]-6, [20th century]

Carbon copy.

/19 Bundle of untitled manuscript papers found loose and not yet identified, including sheet with opening words: 'S'long fellers, he said.' (25 sheets)

/20 'Our Time', August 1945

Including, pp10-11, 'The Night of Fire', a short story by John Sommerfield (2 copies)

/21 'Our Time', February 1947

Including, pp148-149, 'Waiting for Tolstoy? War Reportage is not Enough' by John Sommerfield (2 copies)

/22 'Our Time', May 1947

A book review by John Sommerfield is missing from the volume (cutting not present)
/23 'Our Time', August 1947

Including: pp13-14, article by John Sommerfield entitled, 'A Real Waste', reviewing John Van Druten's 'The Voice of the Turtle', Florida Scott-Maxwell's, 'I Said to Myself' and 'Deep are the Roots' by Arnaud d'Usseau and James Gow.

/24 'Our Time', July 1948

Including: p257, article by John Sommerfield reviewing Alexander Baron's, 'From the City, From the Plough'.

/25 'London Magazine', volume 14, number 2, June-July 1974

Including: pp139-144: John Sommerfield's review of Douglas Day's, 'Malcolm Lowry: a biography'.

/26 'London Magazine', volume 17, number 5, November 1977

Including: pp87-89, John Sommerfield's review of Edward Upward's 'The Spiral Ascent'

Box 3

/1 John Sommerfield's notebook started whilst [volunteering with the International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War], nd [c 1936]

Autobiographical notes of time in Spain; verse and notes for a play. A photocopied cut-out of an aeroplane is loosely inserted towards the end of the notebook.

/2 John Sommerfield's notebook written whilst serving in the RAF during WW2, c 1942

Manuscript diary notes, verse and observations made whilst serving in the RAF. In a folder with papers which had been loosely inserted (see /3-4)

/3 John Sommerfield's RAF papers, c 1945

Filed with /2

/4 Sheet of manuscript notes, including 'Gremlinology', nd [?1940s]

Filed with /2

/5 Cuttings with portrait sketch and printed ephemera, 1939-1989

Reviews and notices of books of John Sommerfield; articles by John Sommerfield on the subject of English pubs published in 'The Guardian', 1989 and a Russian newspaper (title unknown). Also including a war-time handbill in Japanese, nd [1940s] and a pen and ink portrait [of John Sommerfield] which appears to have been intended for use in a publication, nd [c 1940s] (1 file)

/6 ALS to John [Sommerfield] from Dylan [Thomas], Strand Film Company, Filmicity House, 5a Upper St Martin's Lane, London, WC2, addressed 'Old John', 6 January 1941.

8-14 Black and white snapshots taken whilst Sommerfield was serving overseas during WW2, nd [1940s]

15 Colour photograph of [John Sommerfield and his wife, Molly Moss] standing in front of the Turl and Tudor bar, nd [c 1980s]