

# John Updike Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2004**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82043729>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010250>

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin with the assistance of Jewel R. Parker

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John Updike Papers

**Span Dates:** 1962-1969

**ID No.:** MSS43729

**Creator:** Updike, John

**Extent:** 166 items

**Extent:** 7 containers

**Extent:** 2.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82043729>

**Summary:** Novelist, short story writer, and poet. Correspondence, galley proofs, plate proof, photographs, typescripts, notes, book covers, and poems. Included are drafts and other material for his novels *The Centaur*, *Of the Farm*, and *The Poorhouse Fair*, as well as poems, many of which were published in the *New Yorker*.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Updike, John.

Updike, John. *Centaur*. 1963.

Updike, John. *Midpoint, and other poems*. 1969.

Updike, John. *Of the farm*. 1965.

Updike, John. *Poorhouse fair*. 1958.

### Subjects

American literature.

American poetry.

### Titles

*New Yorker*.

### Occupations

Authors.

Poets.

## Provenance

The papers of John Updike, novelist, short story writer, and poet, were given to the Library of Congress by Updike, 1964-1970.

## Processing History

The papers of John Updike were arranged with a preliminary description in 1979. The collection was rehoused and described in 2003.

## Other Repositories

A collection of Updike papers is also located at the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Updike is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Updike are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John Updike Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1932, March 18	Born, Shillington, Pa.
1954	A.B., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1954-1955	Attended Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford University, England
1957	Published first novel <i>The Poorhouse Fair</i> . New York: Knopf
1963	National Book Award in fiction for <i>The Centaur</i> . New York: Knopf
1981	Pulitzer Prize for fiction for <i>The Rabbit Is Rich</i> . New York: Knopf
1990	Pulitzer Prize for fiction for <i>The Rabbit at Rest</i> . New York: Knopf

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Updike, novelist, short story writer, and poet, span the years 1962-1969. The collection consists of correspondence, galley proofs, plate proof, photographs, typescripts, notes, book covers, poems, and other material. Included are drafts and other material for his novels *The Centaur*, *Of the Farm* and *The Poorhouse Fair*, and drafts for the poetry anthology *Midpoint and Other Poems*. There is an additional group of poems, many of which were published in the *New Yorker*. Correspondence relates chiefly to the publications of Updike's works.

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Book file
BOX 1	<i>The Centaur</i>
BOX 1	Galley proof (3 folders)
BOX 1	Notes and memoranda (6 folders)
BOX 1	Plate proof
BOX 1	Setting manuscript
BOX 1	Original (2 folders)
BOX 2	(4 folders)
BOX 2	Preservation copy (2 folders)
BOX 2	Working manuscript (3 folders)
BOX 3	(5 folders)
BOX 3	<i>The Midpoint and Other Poems</i>
BOX 3	Author's proof
BOX 3	Draft (2 folders)
BOX 3	Photoprints
BOX 3	<i>Of the Farm</i>
BOX 3	Book jacket
BOX 3	Draft (2 folders)
BOX 4	(5 folders)
BOX 4	Galley proof (3 folders)
BOX 4	Miscellany (3 folders)
BOX 4	Printer's copy
BOX 5	Setting copy (5 folders)
BOX 5	<i>The Poorhouse Fair</i>
BOX 5	Author's final typescript (3 folders)
BOX 5	Designer's copy (3 folders)
BOX 5	Galley proof (2 folders)
BOX 6	Notes and discarded sheets (3 folders)

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Typist's transcript (4 folders)
BOX 6	Miscellaneous writings
BOX 6	Introduction of John Barth, 1968
BOX 6	"Sermon on Woman," 1964
BOX 6	Poems
BOX 6	"Air Show," 1966
BOX 6	"Airport," undated
BOX 6	"The Amish," 1966
BOX 6	"The Amoeba," 1966
BOX 6	"The Angels," 1966
BOX 6	"Antiqua," 1967
BOX 6	"The Average Egyptian Faces Death," undated
BOX 6	"Azores," undated
BOX 6	"Camera," undated
BOX 6	"Conclusion," undated
BOX 6	"The Dance of the Solids," undated
BOX 6	"Decor," 1965
BOX 6	"Dog's Death," undated
BOX 6	"Dream Objects," undated
BOX 6	"Exposé," 1965
BOX 6	"Fairwell to the Shopping District of Antibes," 1965
BOX 6	"Fellatio," undated
BOX 6	"Fireworks," 1964
BOX 6	"Home Movies," undated
BOX 6	"In Extremis," 1966
BOX 6	"Lamplight," 1964
BOX 6	"Midpoint," undated
BOX 7	"Miss Moore at Assembly," 1965
BOX 7	"My Children at the Dump at Ipswich," 1963
BOX 7	"The Naked Ape," undated
BOX 7	"Omega," 1967
BOX 7	"On the Inclusion of Miniature Dinosaurs in Breakfast Cereal Boxes," undated
BOX 7	"The Origin of Laughter," undated
BOX 7	"Poem for a Far Land," undated
BOX 7	"Pompeii," undated
BOX 7	"Postcards from Soviet Cities," 1965
BOX 7	"Roman Portrait Busts," 1965
BOX 7	"Sea Knell," 1964
BOX 7	"Seal In Nature," 1966
BOX 7	"Some Frenchmen," 1963
BOX 7	"Subway Love," 1967
BOX 7	"Sunlamp," 1965
BOX 7	"Sunshine on Sandstone," 1965
BOX 7	"Topsfield Fair," undated
BOX 7	"Vow," undated

## Container List

**Container**

**Contents**

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BOX 7

“Washington,” undated