UQFL 390
John Birmingham papers

Size 2 boxes

Contents Comprises drafts, proofs, background research material and legal and editorial correspondence relating to four of Birmingham’s books. Arranged into the following series: A. He Died with a Felafel in His Hand. B. Off One’s Tits. C. Dopeland. D. Weapons of Choice. E. General correspondence and other papers.

Biography John Birmingham was born in 1964 in Liverpool, England. He grew up and was educated in Ipswich, Queensland. He free-lanced as a journalist for ten years taking feature commissions from a wide variety of magazines such as Playboy, and Rolling Stone and between writing books, he has continued to work as a full time columnist, blogger and essay writer.

Notes Open access

BOX 1
Series A: He Died with a Felafel in His hand
- Photocopy of draft of comic edition
- Invitation to Sydney premiere of film version, 8 August [2001]

Series B: Off One’s Tits
- Legal report by Phillips Fox, Sydney, for Random House Australia, Sydney : 17, 21 Dec 2001 (13 leaves)
- Accompanying memos from Zoe Walton, Random House Australia, to John Birmingham : 6, 18, 21 Dec 2001 (3 leaves)

Series C: Dopeland
- Folder 1
  - Publisher’s proof, with additions and alterations to the text by the author (28 Feb 2003; 264 leaves)
  - ‘Boys own captions’ (20 leaves photocopied cartoons, drawings and maps)
  - Accompanying memo from Zoe Walton, Random House, Australia, to John Birmingham (28 Feb 2003; 2 leaves)

- Folder 2

Folder 3: Background material:
- Letter to Jeff Easton, Media Liaison Officer, Tasmania Police Service, 9 Sep 2002, 5 leaves, letter of accreditation from Random House, copy of interview questions
- Letter Peter Hazelwood, Media Liaison Officer, Tasmania Police Service, 24 Sep 2002, 6 leaves, copy of interview questions answered by Detective Senior Constable James Braithwaite, Territory Investigation Group, Drug Team, Australian Federal Police
- Government media statement, Tasmania, 5 Apr 2000, 6 leaves, changes to laws relating to possession of drugs
- Notes by John Birmingham on various drug laws in ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC and NT
- Copies of results of database search on AUSTROM, 9 leaves
- Dopeland, postcard
- Letter to John Birmingham from Paul Cummins, 6 Oct 2000, 3 leaves
- Ellen Whinnett, ‘Police raids fire up head bud’, Sunday Tasmanian, 20 Aug 2000, p3

Series D: Weapons of Choice
Item 1: Draft
- Typescript draft (497 leaves). Book 1: photocopy (with photocopied author’s corrections.) Book 2: original typescript, with annotations by the author in biro.

Box 2
Series D: Weapons of Choice (cont.)
Item 2: Draft
- Compact disc (Mac). Contains
  - earliest drafts of Weapons of Choice, and files of rewrites, insertions and cuts associated with editorial suggestions
  - background research material downloaded from Internet on World War 2

Item 3: Draft
- ‘Part one : Transit : 3rd draft’. Typescript (photocopy), with photocopied handwritten corrections by author.

Folder 4
Editorial comments
- Letter to John Birmingham from Steve Saffel, Ballantine Books, 17 Apr 2003, 12 leaves, comments on Book One of Weapons of Choice
- Letter to John Birmingham from Steve Saffel, Ballantine Books, 8 May 2003, 11 leaves, comments on Book Two of Weapons of Choice
• Letter to John Birmingham from Brianne Tunnicliffe, Pan Macmillan Australia, 7 Nov 2003, 1 leaf

• Email printout to John Birmingham from Steve Saffel, 19 Nov 2003, 1 leaf

• Cover for *Weapons of Choice*: Australian version, US version, and accompanying email (printout) from Cate Paterson, Macmillan, 18 Dec 2003

• Undated, unidentified editorial comments, 10 leaves

**Series E: General correspondence and other papers**

**Folder 1**

• Letter to John Birmingham from Dinh Tran, 7 Feb 1996

• Letter to John Birmingham from Roz Cheney, ABC Radio, 26 Nov 1999

• Email printout to John Birmingham from Annie Coulthard, Random House, 2 Dec 1999

• Letter to John Birmingham from Michael Duffy, Duffy & Snellgrove, 7 June 2001

• Letter to John Birmingham from Rose Wright, Adelaide Writers Week, 20 Dec 2001

• Letter to John Birmingham from Michael Meehan, Adelaide Writers Week, 21 Mar 2002

• Email printout to Peter McAllister from UQ High Society, 19 Sept 2002

• Letter to John Birmingham from Chris, Black Inc., 24 Sept 2002

• Letter to John Birmingham from Rosemary Cameron, Brisbane Writers Festival, 24 Oct 2003

• Letter to John Birmingham from Sheila, Sydney Lyceum Club, 13 July (no year)

• 7 photographs (6 depict John Birmingham at a restaurant; one depicts John Birmingham as a speaker at State Library of New South Wales)

• 2 invitations from Random House Australia for a dinner for Adelaide Writers Week, 4 March (no year)

**Folder 2**

• ‘A plushie lexicon’, 4 March 2002 (Internet printout, 8 leaves)

• Untitled typescript: first sentence: ‘When Tench and the marines had marched off to Botany Bay, the young Captain had thought them a wonderful sight’. (leaves 2-10)

• 1 leaf of sketches.