

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

Roald Dahl's archive contains the literary and personal papers of Roald Dahl, writer (1916-1990), formerly stored in his garden work hut and house at Gipsy House, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, where he lived and worked from 1954. 'Literary' material includes correspondence with publishers and agents, manuscripts, printers' proofs and illustrations for books, stories, plays, films and articles, both published and unpublished. Series ref: RD/12 contains copies of interviews, biographies and studies of Roald Dahl's work which he collected during his lifetime or which were added to the collection by his family shortly after his death. His 'personal' papers include family photographs, personal correspondence and ephemera, some of which was inherited from his mother, Sofie Magdalena Dahl (1885-1967).

RD/1

Literary correspondence

RD/1/1	<p>Correspondence with US agents and publishers</p> <p>Correspondence between Dahl and his agents and publishers on general literary matters, including statements of royalties earned. The earliest files, RD/1/1/1-4, contain correspondence to both agents and publishers in the US and UK, although the US correspondence is much more numerous. Dahl began a separate series of correspondence with his UK agents (Pollinger) and publishers in 1961 which is recorded in RD/1/2. After this date series RD/1/1 contains US correspondence only.</p> <p>From June 1979, Ann Watkins Inc. no longer acted as Dahl's agents for any new books (see RD/1/1/9/147) although they continued with magazine sales and maintained their interest in all the publications they had handled up until that date.</p> <p>(10 files)</p>	1942-1990
RD/1/2	<p>Correspondence with UK agents and publishers</p> <p>All files contain correspondence relating to general literary matters, including file copies of royalties earned through the Pollinger agency.</p> <p>The Pollinger correspondence file for 1987-1988 is missing from the collection. It was last noted on a file list in the mid-1990s, but its current location is unknown.</p> <p>(9 files)</p>	1961-1990
RD/1/3	<p>Books: General files</p> <p>Correspondence, primarily with the publishers of Dahl's books, with a few letters from Dahl's literary agents. Dahl filed separately the correspondence originating in the UK and Europe from that of the USA, and created individual files on some long-running matters such as 'China' and 'Russia'.</p> <p>(14 files)</p>	1962-1989

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/1/4	<p>Books: specific titles</p> <p>Original files of correspondence with agents and publishers (in both the USA and UK) concerning the development and publication of Dahl's books. Includes adult and children's fiction. Some early titles are not represented - see general files in RD/1/3 or agents correspondence in RD/1/1-2. (28 files)</p>	1942-1991
RD/1/5	<p>Correspondence on plays, films and television works</p> <p>Original files of correspondence concerning plays, films and television scripts, both written by Roald Dahl and (in later years) adapted by other people from his work. A few items dated post-1990 were added to files by his widow, Felicity Dahl. These have been noted, where appropriate. (24 files)</p>	1942-1994
RD/1/6	<p>General correspondence</p> <p>Original files of correspondence, maintained by Roald Dahl under a 'General' heading, but still relating to his literary work. Some later items, dated post-1990, were added to files by Felicity Dahl. (19 files)</p>	1972-1998
RD/1/7	<p>Correspondence with schools</p> <p>Correspondence received from schoolchildren and teachers, together with examples of Dahl's replies. (3 files, 2 boxes)</p>	1985-1990

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/2	Books: published	1943-1992
	<p>Manuscripts, typescripts, proofs, publications and reviews of Roald Dahl's published books for both adults and children, proofs of collections of short stories and collections of poems published as books. This series does not include those collections of short stories for which Dahl did not contribute previously unpublished material or did not keep proofs or other drafts of the published volumes.</p> <p>No distinction is made in the arrangement between material for adults and material written for children, as Dahl himself often did not make this distinction.</p>	
RD/2/1	The Gremlins	1942-1943
RD/2/2	Over to You	1946
RD/2/3	Some Time Never: a Fable for Supermen	1947-1948
RD/2/4	Someone Like You	June-Sept 1953
RD/2/5	Kiss Kiss	1959-1960
RD/2/6	James and the Giant Peach	1960-1986
RD/2/7	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	1961-1972
RD/2/8	The Magic Finger	1963-1966
RD/2/9	Fantastic Mr Fox	1968-1973
RD/2/10	Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator	1971-1972
RD/2/11	Switch Bitch	1976
RD/2/12	Danny the Champion of the World	1974-1975
RD/2/13	The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More	1976-1985
RD/2/14	The Enormous Crocodile	February 1976-1978
RD/2/15	My Uncle Oswald	1979-1980
RD/2/16	The Twits	1979-1980
RD/2/17	George's Marvellous Medicine	1979-1982
RD/2/18	Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes	1981-1988
RD/2/19	The BFG	1981-1983
RD/2/20	Dirty Beasts	1980-1982
RD/2/21	The Witches	1982-1983
RD/2/22	Roald Dahl's Book of Ghost Stories	1982-1983
RD/2/23	Boy: Tales of Childhood	1984
RD/2/24	The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me	1984-1985
RD/2/25	Going Solo	1985-1986
RD/2/26	Two Fables	1986
RD/2/27	Matilda	1986-1988
RD/2/28	Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life	1988-1989
RD/2/29	Rhyme Stew	1988-1989
RD/2/30	Esio Trot	1989-1990
RD/2/31	The Vicar of Nibbleswicke	1990-1991

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/2/32	Memories with Food at Gipsy House	1990-1991
RD/2/33	The Dahl Diary 1992	1990-1991
RD/2/34	The Minpins	1988-1989

RD/3 Books: unpublished

Manuscripts and typescripts of unpublished material for books by Roald Dahl.

RD/3/1	Charlie in the White House	1978
RD/3/2	Fifty Thousand Frogskins	c1951

RD/4 Short stories: published

Manuscripts, typescripts, proofs, publications and other material relating to published short stories by Roald Dahl. Several 'stories' are non-fiction pieces, written in a fictional style.

RD/4/1	Shot Down Over Libya	August 1942
RD/4/2	The Sword	1943
RD/4/3	Katina	1944
RD/4/4	Only This	1944
RD/4/5	Beware of the Dog	1944
RD/4/6	Missing: Believed Killed	1944
RD/4/7	They Shall Not Grow Old	1944-1945
RD/4/8	Madame Rosette	1945
RD/4/9	Death of an Old, Old Man	1945
RD/4/10	Smoked Cheese	1945-1974
RD/4/11	Someone Like You	1944-1945
RD/4/12	A Piece of Cake	1942-1946
RD/4/13	Yesterday was Beautiful	1946
RD/4/14	An African Story	1943-1946
RD/4/15	The Mildenhall Treasure	1946-1997
RD/4/16	Collector's Item/Man from the South	1948-1953
RD/4/17	The Sound Machine	1949-1972
RD/4/18	Poison	1950-1953
RD/4/19	Taste	Sept 1951-June 1982
RD/4/20	Dip in the Pool	Jan-Oct 1952
RD/4/21	Girl Without a Name	1948-1976
RD/4/22	Skin	1947-1962
RD/4/23	My Lady Love, My Dove	c1951-1952
RD/4/24	The Amazing Eyes of Kuda Bux	1948
RD/4/25	Dog Race / Mr Feasey	1953
RD/4/26	Lamb to the Slaughter	1952-1953
RD/4/27	Nunc Dimittis	1947-1952
RD/4/28	Edward the Conqueror	1953
RD/4/29	Gallopig Foxley	March-Nov 1953
RD/4/30	Neck	1952
RD/4/31	The Wish	1949-1953

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/4/32	The Soldier	1953
RD/4/33	The Great Automatic Grammatizator	1953
RD/4/34	Mr Hoddy	1953
RD/4/35	The Ratcatcher	1953
RD/4/36	Rummins	1953
RD/4/37	The Way Up to Heaven	1953-1954
RD/4/38	Parson's Pleasure	1954-1957
RD/4/39	The Champion of the World	1958-1959
RD/4/40	The Landlady	1959
RD/4/41	Genesis and Catastrophe	1958-c1971
RD/4/42	Mrs Bixby and the Colonel's Coat	1957-1959
RD/4/43	Royal Jelly	1954-1957
RD/4/44	William and Mary	1956-1957
RD/4/45	Pig	nd [c1956]
RD/4/46	Georgy Porgy	1960
RD/4/47	In the Ruins	c1960-June 1964
RD/4/48	The Visitor	1963-1968
RD/4/49	The Last Act	c1964-1966
RD/4/50	The Butler	July 1973-c.April 1974
RD/4/51	The Great Switcheroo	April 1973-April 1974
RD/4/52	Bitch	1964-1974
RD/4/53	Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life	1974-1988
RD/4/54	The Hitch-hiker	June 1976-October 1988
RD/4/55	The Swan	Oct-Nov 1976
RD/4/56	The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar	Sept 1976-Jan 1977
RD/4/57	The Boy Who Talked With Animals	c1976
RD/4/58	Lucky Break: How I Became a Writer	January-March 1977
RD/4/59	Vengeance is Mine, Inc.	1949
RD/4/60	The Umbrella Man	1976
RD/4/61	Mr Botibol	nd [c1948]
RD/4/62	The Princess and the Poacher	1986
RD/4/63	Princess Mammalia	1984-1986
RD/4/64	The Bookseller	Jan-Dec 1986
RD/4/65	The Surgeon	1986-1988

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/5 **Short stories: unpublished**

Manuscripts and typescripts of short stories by Roald Dahl which were never published. Not all were submitted for editorial opinion.

RD/5/1	A Ticklish Little Thing	Feb1956
RD/5/2	Clarice	nd [c1953]
RD/5/3	The Dogchild	1948
RD/5/4	First Story ('The Kumbak II')	1926
RD/5/5	Foreign Intelligence	August 1947
RD/5/6	Maclean and Burgess: The Great Vanishing Trick	nd [1952]
RD/5/7	Nineteen Fifty-what?	nd [1950]
RD/5/8	On the Beach	nd [c1980]
RD/5/9	The Press Conference	nd [c1980]
RD/5/11	Reunion	nd [1950x1980]
RD/5/12	Sunny Boy	nd [1960]
RD/5/13	Uncle George	nd [c1953]
RD/5/14	Untitled wartime story: ginger cat	nd [c1945]
RD/5/15	Untitled wartime story: world leaders	nd [c1945]

RD/6 **Speeches and Articles**

Manuscripts, typescripts and published material (where appropriate) for speeches, short articles for magazines and pamphlets written by Roald Dahl.

RD/6/1	Speeches and Speaking Engagements	1971-1990
RD/6/2	Articles and Miscellaneous Pieces	1964-1990
RD/6/3	'My Wife, Patricia Neal'	June-Sept 1965
RD/6/4	Manuscript, labelled, 'Short Piece for 'The Writer' in Boston'	Oct 1975
RD/6/5	'Romanee-Conti and the Wine Maiden'	1980-1982
RD/6/6	Typescript, titled, 'Mdisho of the Mwanumwesi'	nd [c1984]
RD/6/7	Manuscript, titled, 'Ten days with Roald Dahl'	June 1985
RD/6/8	'Where art thou Mother Christmas' charity card	1988
RD/6/9	British Rail Book of Railway Safety	1990-1991

RD/7 **Unpublished pieces**

Manuscripts and typescripts of unpublished articles, notebooks of limericks and jokes.

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/7/1	Small Unpublished Pieces	1975-1989
RD/7/2	Olivia	nd [c1963]
RD/7/3	'Knock Knock' jokes	nd [c1966]
RD/7/4	Bawdy Limericks	nd [c1988]

RD/8 Screenplays (Film and Television)

Original screenplays and material adapted by Roald Dahl for film and television. Includes manuscripts, typescripts and bound scripts, some correspondence and research notes.

RD/8/1	Draft screenplay, titled, 'The Snow Goose'	9 Mar 1943
RD/8/2	Screenplay of 'Lamb to the Slaughter'	1958
RD/8/3	Teleplay, titled, 'Blind Landing'	nd [1959]
RD/8/4	Screenplay of 'William and Mary'	1961-1967
RD/8/5	Screenplay of 'Genesis and Catastrophe'	nd [1963]
RD/8/6	Oh, Death where is thy Sting-a-Ling	1964-1966
RD/8/7	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	1966-1968
RD/8/8	Teleplay, titled, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'	nd [July 1967]
RD/8/9	Stroke Counter Stroke	1969-1970
RD/8/10	Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory	1970-1971
RD/8/11	The Night Digger	1970-1971
RD/8/12	The Lightning Bug	nd
RD/8/13	James and the Giant Peach TV special	1973
RD/8/14	The Diddakoi	nd [c1973]
RD/8/15	Screenplay of 'Danny the Champion of the World'	1977-1984
RD/8/16	Spitting Image	1987

RD/8a Scripts for Television series

Manuscripts, typescripts and research notes for television series with which Dahl was involved as a writer and/or host. 'Scripts' consist of introductions to episodes, as any individual episodes written by Dahl are in series RD 8.

RD/8a/1	Ghost Time	1958-1959
RD/8a/2	Way Out	1961
RD/8a/3	Tales of the Unexpected	1978-1980

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/9 Stage Plays

Manuscripts, typescripts, bound rehearsal scripts and ephemera related to the performances of stage plays written by Roald Dahl. Of the plays in this series, only RD/9/2 'The Honeys' was performed on the professional stage.

RD/9/1	Untitled play, possibly, 'Double Exposure'	nd [1938]
RD/9/2	The Honeys	1955-1956
RD/9/3	The Great Switcheroo play	1976-1977

RD/10 Audio

Typescripts and cassette tapes of work adapted by Roald Dahl for audio.

RD/10/1	'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' condensed for Caedmon records	1975
RD/10/2	'Boy' read by Roald Dahl	[1 Jan 1989]

RD/11 Ideas

Roald Dahl's 'Ideas books', with his files of plot synopses and preliminary, undeveloped, work. Nearly all material is in manuscript form. Most are only brief notes.

RD/11/1	Ideas book (Exercise book)	March 1945- c1948
RD/11/2	Ideas book (Hard cover)	c1948-1987
RD/11/3	File, titled, 'Small Ideas'	nd [c1953-1983]
RD/11/4	File, titled, 'Stories: Some work begun'	nd [c1960-c1990]

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/12 Interviews, biographies and publicity

RD/12/1	Interviews with Roald Dahl	1965-1990
RD/12/2	Articles and Biographies	1965-1997
RD/12/3	Reviews	1942-1970
RD/12/4	Studies of Dahl's work.	1975-1991
RD/12/5	Publicity materials	1943-1990
	RD/12/5/1 Photographs of Roald Dahl with Walt Disney	
	RD/12/5/2 Publicity photographs of Roald Dahl	
	RD/12/5/3 Press releases and letters	
	RD/12/5/4 Large publicity photographs of Roald Dahl	
	RD/12/5/5 Photographs re 'Patricia Neal Story'	
	RD/12/5/6 Patricia Neal publicity and movie photographs	
	RD/12/5/7 Colour Photograph of RD	
	RD/12/5/8 Stickers, covers and publicity for Dahl's books (Puffin)	
	RD/12/5/9 Items and promotional literature for 'Charlie's 21st Birthday'	
	RD/12/5/10 Penguin Australian Tour	
	RD/12/5/11 Miscellaneous publicity photographs	
	RD/12/5/12 Photographs of Roald Dahl, A - L by photographer	
	RD/12/5/13 Photographs of Roald Dahl, M - Z by photographer	
	RD/12/5/14 'Memories with Food' photographs	

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/13 School letters and ephemera

Letters by Roald Dahl to his family (primarily to his mother, Sofie Dahl), School reports, essays, certificates and school photographs. Further descriptions of these are given at sub-series level.

RD/13/1	Letters from School	1925-1934
RD/13/2	School reports	1925-1934
RD/13/3	Essays and school notes	1927-1934
RD/13/4	School photographs and postcards	1925-1934
RD/13/5	Public Schools' Explorers Society	Aug-Sept 1934
RD/13/6	School certificates	1932-1933

RD/14 Correspondence with family

Letters and postcards written by Roald Dahl to members of his family from the time he left school until the death of his mother in 1967.

RD/14/1	Postcards from Norway	July 1935-August 1937
RD/14/2	Letters 'Roald to Mother'	1935-1938
RD/14/3	Letters from Dar-Es-Salaam	Sept 1938-Dec 1939
RD/14/4	Letters written whilst serving in RAF	Jan 1940- June 1941
RD/14/5	Letters 'Roald to Mother'	1942-1965

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/15 War ephemera

Maps, flying helmet and RAF log book

RD/16 Personal papers and correspondence

RD/16/1	Personal correspondence	1943-1990
RD/16/2	Certificates and Personal documents	1916-1990
	Includes passports, driving licences etc	
RD/16/3	Last will	1983-1990
RD/16/4	Miscellaneous	1950-1990
	Includes a roll of plans for extensions to Gipsy House and a proof for a book by Tessa Dahl.	

RD/17 Charities

Original files of correspondence and documents relating to charities which Roald Dahl supported.

RD/18 Hobbies

Correspondence, photographs, brochures, sale catalogues and albums collected or created by Roald Dahl in pursuit of his hobbies. The sub-series attached to this series are:

- RD 18/1 Stamp collecting RD 18/2 Photography RD 18/3 Art
- RD 18/4 Wine
- RD 18/5 Gardening

RD/19 Awards

Personal and literary awards. NB: The certificates of some literary awards are filed with correspondence in RD 1.

RD/20 Dahl family papers and ephemera

Mainly collected by Harald and Sofie Dahl. Includes personal documents, letters and newscuttings relating to the Dahl family, 1890-1947, together with a number of watercolours by the Norwegian artist Inge Breder.

RD/21 Family photographs

RD/21/1	Family photograph albums	1954-1971
RD/21/2	Family photographs and snapshots	1911-1990

Summary of Roald Dahl's archive

RD/21/3	Family negatives	c1938- 1970
RD/21/4	Reproduction prints of family photographs	1920s- 1930s
RD/22	Obituaries and Letters of condolence	1990-1991