

John Barth

**A Register of His Literary Manuscripts in the
Library of Congress**

**Prepared by Manuscript Division staff
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2008

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2008**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms008022>

Collection Summary

Title: John Barth Literary Manuscripts

Span Dates: 1955-1978

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1955-1968)

ID No.: MSS50971

Creator: Barth, John, 1930-

Extent: 90 items; 11 containers plus 2 oversize; 8.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Author. Holograph and annotated typed manuscripts and corrected galley and foundry proofs of several of Barth's early novels, short stories, nonfiction writings, and speeches.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Barth, John, 1930-

Borges, Jorge Luis, 1899-1986.

Subjects

American essays.

American fiction.

American literature.

Short stories.

Speeches, addresses, etc.

Related Names

Barth, John, 1930- Giles goat-boy; or, The revised new syllabus (1966)

Barth, John, 1930- The end of the road (1958)

Barth, John, 1930- The floating opera (1955)

Barth, John, 1930- The sot-weed factor (1960)

Occupations

Authors.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The literary manuscripts of John Barth, author, were given to the Library of Congress by Barth in 1968. Additional material was given by James L. W. West in 1979.

Processing History:

The literary manuscripts of John Barth were arranged and described in 1984. The collection was rearranged and rehoused and the finding aid was revised in 2008 when items formerly on deposit by Barth were removed from the collection.

Transfers:

Audiocassette recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the John Barth Literary Manuscripts.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of John Barth in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Restrictions:

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning these restrictions.

Preferred Citation:

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

Scope and Content Note

The literary manuscripts of John Barth (1930-) span the years 1955-1978 with the bulk of the material dating from 1955 to 1968. The collection consists of holograph drafts, annotated typed manuscripts, corrected galley and foundry proofs, and miscellaneous editorial material from four of Barth's novels: *The Floating Opera* (1955), *The End of the Road* (1958), *The Sot-Weed Factor* (1960), and *Giles Goat-Boy, or, The Revised New Syllabus* (1966). Other literary manuscripts include several of Barth's short stories, nonfiction essays, and speeches. Among the speeches are drafts of "Jorge Luis Borges and the Literature of Exhaustion" that Barth delivered at various universities in 1966 prior to the publication of his essay "The Literature of Exhaustion" in 1967.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged as fiction, nonfiction, and speeches and alphabetically thereunder by title or type of material. Oversize material is arranged and described according to the containers and folders from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Fiction
BOX 1	Novels
BOX 1	<i>The End of the Road</i> (working title "What to Do Until the Doctor Comes")
BOX 1	Holograph draft (probable first draft), 1955 (5 folders)
BOX 1	Typescript revised first draft, n.d. (7 folders)
BOX 1	Typescript final draft, carbon copy, n.d. (6 folders)
BOX 1	<i>The Floating Opera</i>
BOX 1	Holograph first draft, circa 1955 (4 folders)
BOX 2	(3 folders)
BOX 2	Typescript revised first draft, 1955 (10 folders)
BOX 2	Typescript final draft, n.d. (7 folders)
BOX 3	Revised edition, 1966
BOX 3	Preface
BOX 3	Setting copy <i>See also Oversize</i> (2 folders)
BOX 3	<i>Giles Goat-Boy</i>
BOX 3	"Test borings," prospectus, 1960-1965
BOX 3	Holograph first draft, 1965
BOX 3	Vol. 1 (12 folders)
BOX 4	Vol. 2 (10 folders)
BOX 4	"Posttape"
BOX 4	Typescript first draft, n.d.
BOX 4	"Publisher's disclaimer" and "Cover-letter to the editors and publishers"
BOX 4	Vol. 1
BOX 4	"Reels" 1-2 (7 folders)
BOX 5	"Reel" 3 (8 folders)
BOX 5	Vol. 2 (10 folders)
BOX 5	"Posttape"
BOX 6	Final typescript with corrections, n.d.
BOX 6	"Cover-letter to the editors and publishers"

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 6	Vol. 1 (15 folders)
BOX 7	Vol. 2 (10 folders)
BOX 7	"Posttape"
BOX 7	Miscellaneous editorial material, including style sheet, list of corrections, table of contents, and instructions to the proofreader from the copy editor, 1966 <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders)
BOX 7	Final galley proofs, 1966
BOX 7	Corrected reader's set <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 7	Uncorrected <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 7	Foundry proofs, 1966
BOX 7	With notations <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 7	Uncorrected <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 7	<i>The Sot-Weed Factor</i>
BOX 7	Character notes, plot notes, and synopsis, 1958, n.d. <i>See also Oversize</i> (2 folders)
BOX 8	Holograph first draft, 1958-1959
BOX 8	Parts 1-2 (19 folders)
BOX 9	Parts 3-4 (11 folders)
BOX 9	Typescript final draft with revisions (setting copy), 1960
BOX 9	Part 1 (4 folders)
BOX 9	Part 2
BOX 9	Chapters 1-5 (2 folders)
BOX 10	Chapters 6-32 (12 folders)
BOX 10	Part 3
BOX 10	Chapters 1-8 (4 folders)
BOX 11	Chapters 7-21 (6 folders)
BOX 11	Part 4
BOX 11	Final galley proofs, corrected, 1960 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 11	Foundry proof, 1960 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 11	Revised edition, setting copy, 1966
BOX 11	Miscellany, 1958-1968, n.d.
BOX 11	Short stories
BOX 11	"Ambrose His Mark," 1961, n.d.
BOX 11	"The Invulnerable Castle," 1958
BOX 11	"The Song of Algol," 1958, n.d.
BOX 11	"Water-Message," 1960, n.d.
BOX 11	Nonfiction
BOX 11	"Jorge Luis Borges," 1966

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 11	<i>New York Times</i> book review statement, 1967
BOX 11	"Publish or Perish," 1965
BOX 11	"Tobias George Smollett," 1963
BOX 11	Speeches
BOX 11	Introductions at writers series, State University of New York, Buffalo, N.Y., 1967
BOX 11	Borges, Jorge Luis
BOX 11	Heller, Joseph
BOX 11	Updike, John
BOX 11	"John Barth Speaks to Young Writers," 1977-1978
BOX 11	"Jorge Luis Borges and the Literature of Exhaustion," 1966-1967
BOX 11	Readings
BOX 11	Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 1967
BOX 11	Library of Congress, 1967
BOX 11	University of Maryland, College Park, Md., 1967
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Fiction
BOX OV 1	Novels
BOX OV 1	<i>The Floating Opera</i>
BOX OV 1	Revised edition, 1966
BOX OV 1	Setting copy (Container 3)
BOX OV 1	<i>Giles Goat-Boy</i>
BOX OV 1	Miscellaneous editorial material, 1966 (Container 7)
BOX OV 1	Final galley proofs, 1966
BOX OV 1	Corrected reader's set (Container 7)
BOX OV 1	Uncorrected (Container 7)
BOX OV 1	Foundry proofs, 1966
BOX OV 1	With notations (Container 7)
BOX OV 2	Uncorrected (Container 7)
BOX OV 2	<i>The Sot-Weed Factor</i>
BOX OV 2	Character notes, plot notes, and synopsis, n.d. (Container 7)
BOX OV 2	Final galley proofs, corrected, 1960 (Container 11)
BOX OV 2	Foundry proof, 1960 (Container 11)