



Poetry in the Code:

Processing J. M. Coetzee's Born Digital Materials

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Julia Alvarez

Russell Banks

Christine Brooke-Rose

Billy Collins

Gabriel García Márquez

Kazuo Ishiguro

Denis Johnson

Michael Joyce

David Lipsky

Norman Mailer

David Mamet

Peter Matthiessen

Ian McEwan

Terrence McNally

McSweeney's

Michael Ondaatje

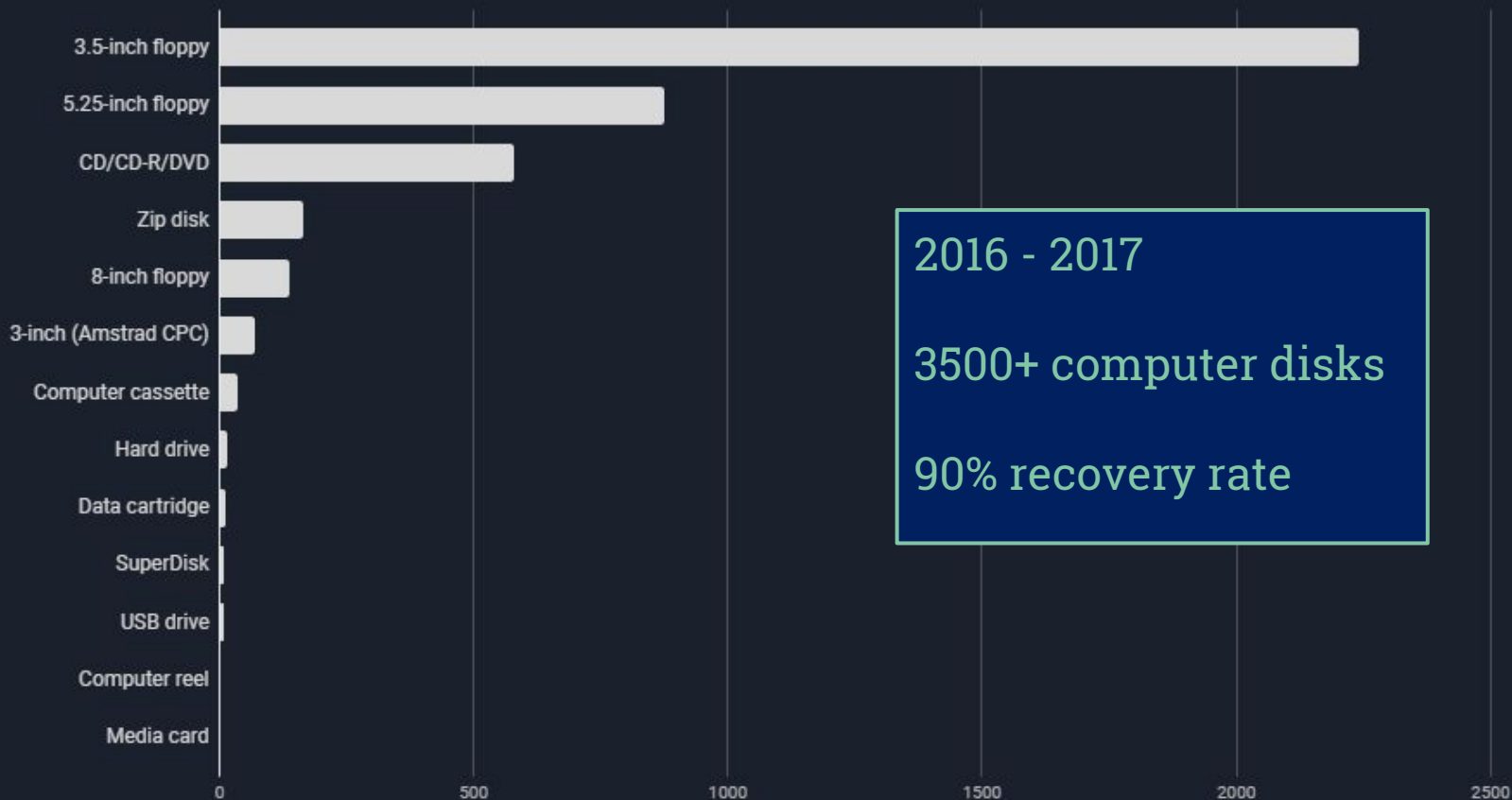
Iain Sinclair

Warren Skaaren

Arnold Wesker

Geoffrey Wolff

Disk types



J.M. Coetzee

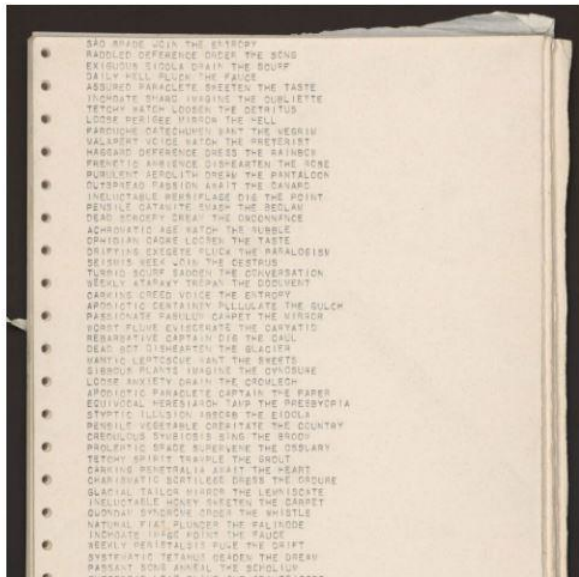


Photograph by Marsha Miller, 2010

- ca. 1984 - 2011
- Extent and media types:
 - 96 3.5-inch floppy disks
 - 75 5.25-inch floppy disks
 - 17k+ e-mails
 - 1 compact disc
 - 1 9-track computer reel
- Drafts, notes, correspondence, teaching materials, interviews

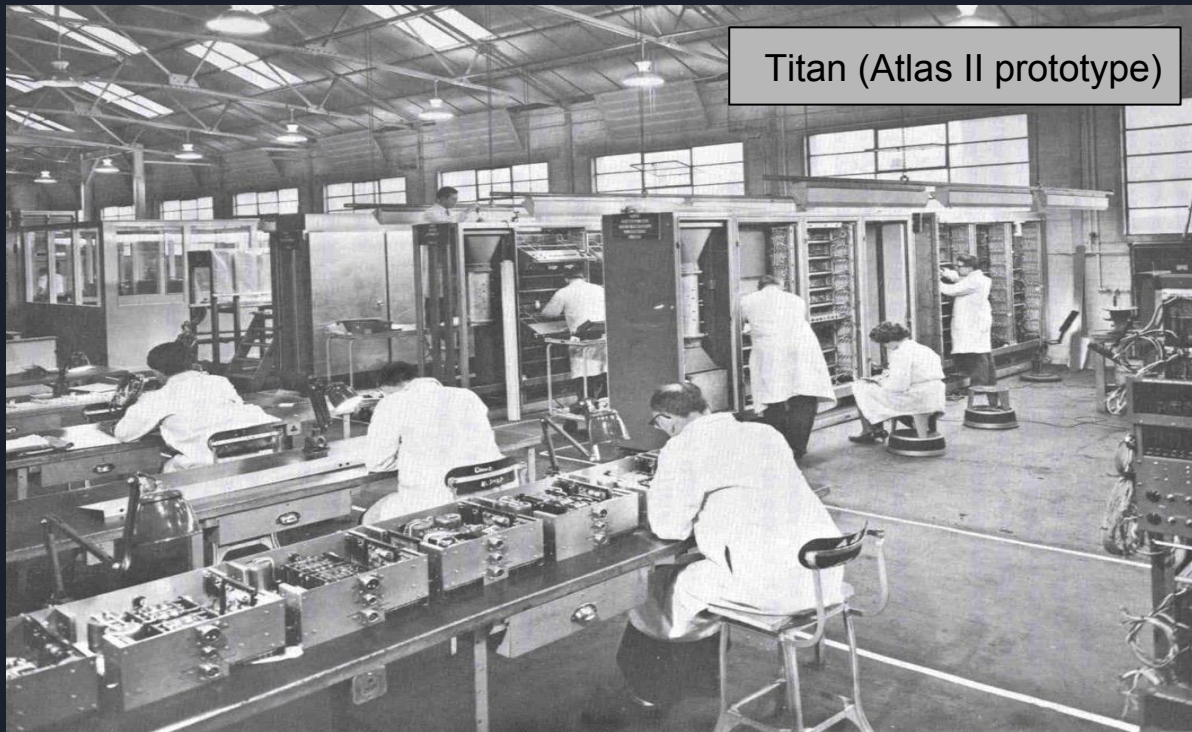
The computer poetry of J. M. Coetzee's early programming career

JUNE 28, 2017 By [REBECCA ROACH](#)



Writer J. M. Coetzee's early poetry is almost undecipherable. That's because it was written in computer code.

Coetzee's global reputation rests on his literary output, for which he received a Nobel Prize in 2003. Before he embarked on a career as a scholar and writer, the South African-born writer was a computer programmer in the early years of the industry's development (1962-1965). I believe that this experience, while short, was vital for the development of Coetzee's writerly project. While visiting the Ransom Center on a research fellowship, I examined Coetzee's papers, which offer tantalizing clues about his neglected "other career."

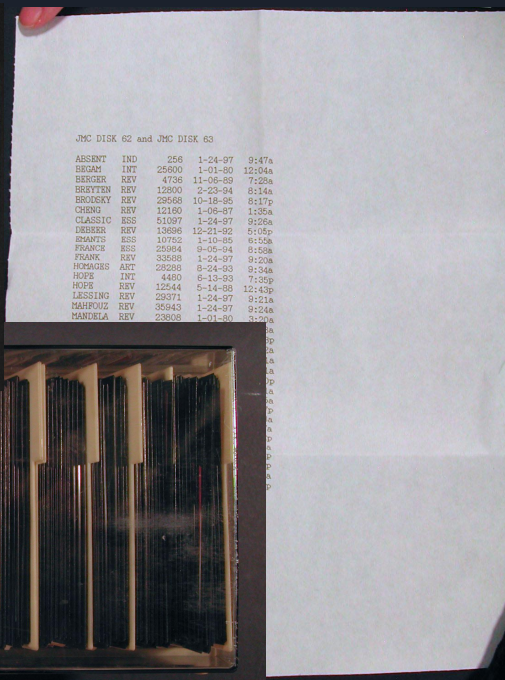


Titan (Atlas II prototype)

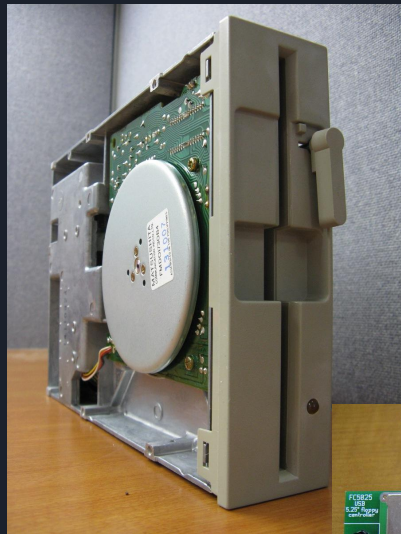
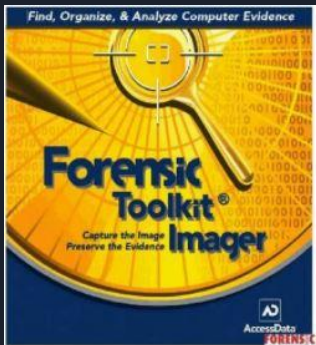


First Steps...

Photographing media



Data recovery



Computing history

1960s



ca. 1984 - ca. 1999

- IBM PC
- MS-DOS
- 5.25 in. floppy disks
- WordStar 3.0
- Word 5.0

ca. 1996 -

- 3.5 in. floppy disks

ca. 1998 -

- Windows OS

ca. 1990 - ca. 1999

- Bondwell 286





HARRY RANSOM
CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

ACQUIRING BORN-DIGITAL RECORDS: A GUIDE FOR INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

APPRAISAL & SELECTION

Careful appraisal and selection of electronic files prior to acquisition ensures that acquisitions of born-digital material align with the Center's collecting scope and prevents staff from overlooking valuable digital content.

Appraisal of electronic files should be done in consultation with the Ransom Center's Digital Archivist to ensure that the files are not altered or damaged in the process. For appraising or analyzing electronic files, a variety of tools (FTK Imager, AccessData FTK, TreeSize, BitCurator) are available. The Center has file viewing software (Quick View Plus, XnView) with the capability of identifying, analyzing, and accessing a wide variety of obsolete file formats. The Born-Digital/Forensics Lab (5.204A) houses disk drives for accessing obsolete media and write-blockers to prevent the alteration of file contents and metadata when viewing data on original media. See below for a list of media types accessible in-house. Consult the Digital Archivist regarding the use of these tools and applications. For more detailed information about the hardware and software available in the Born-Digital/Forensics Lab, visit the [Digital Collections Services wiki](#).

CREATOR INTERVIEW

It is important to gather information on a creator's born-digital materials and digital work habits before and during the acquisition process. These details will assist curators with assessing research value, the digital archivist during data retrieval, the processing archivist(s) with description in the finding aid, and researchers to understand the creator's computing history and digital writing habits. Keep in mind that gathering details about digital files that were destroyed can assist in explaining gaps in collections.

If the creator is deceased, consult with a close family member or friend with knowledge of the creator's computing history and habits.

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We are gathering this information on the key creative figures in the Center's collections, not necessarily from all the individuals we are acquiring materials from. For example, if we acquire e-mail from an individual who corresponded with a writer or artist whose papers reside here, the interview would not be necessary.

Below are some key questions to ask creators:


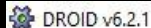
- Provide an overview of your computing history and habits and how they have changed over time.
- What computer models, operating systems, and software do you use now and have used in the past to create files?
- Can you provide a summary of the subject matter, file types, and date ranges of your digital files?
- How are your digital files, including e-mail, organized and named?
- Are personal files separated from business files?
- Where are your digital files stored (hard drive, network server, cloud storage, mobile devices, computer disks, etc.)?
- What e-mail programs and e-mail service providers have you used in your career? Do you have multiple accounts?
- Do you have any webpages or blogs; social networking accounts (FaceBook, Tumblr, Twitter, etc.); photo/video sharing sites (Flickr, Instagram, YouTube, etc.); document sharing sites (SlideShare, Scribd, Google Docs, DropBox, etc.)?
- Are any electronic files duplicated in print form?
- Do you regularly delete certain files or types of files?
- Could we take (or get) a photograph of your current workspace?

TRANSFERRING FILES

Consult the Digital Archivist to develop a plan for transferring files. When transferring electronic files from a creator to the Ransom Center, it is ideal to retrieve data from the original computer disk or



Challenges...



File Edit Run Filter Report Tools Help



New Open Save Export



Add Remove



Start Pause



Filter On

On



Report

Untitled-1 x

Resource	Extension	Size	Last modified	Ids	Format
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AUTOB-02.V05	v05	11.4 KB	5/6/95 7:56 AM		
AUTOB-03.V05	v05	9.6 KB	5/7/95 9:22 AM		
AUTOB-04.V05	v05	13.4 KB	5/8/95 3:42 AM		
AUTOB-05.V05	v05	38.2 KB	5/11/95 2:21 AM		
AUTOB-06.V05	v05	6.1 KB	5/12/95 3:06 AM		
AUTOB-07.V05	v05	6.5 KB	5/15/95 3:24 AM		
AUTOB-08.V05	v05	16.1 KB	5/26/95 3:33 PM		
AUTOB-09.V05	v05	9.8 KB	5/26/95 3:33 PM		CORR-82.COR 7/28/1997 12:22 PM
AUTOB-10.V05	v05	31.4 KB	5/26/95 3:34 PM		CORR-83.COR 2/12/1990 10:33 AM
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AUTOB-13.V05	v05	5.1 KB	5/26/95 3:36 PM		CORR-86.COR 1/20/1997 3:24 AM
AUTOB-14.V05	v05	15.8 KB	5/26/95 3:37 PM		CORR-87.COR 1/20/1997 3:35 AM
AUTOB-15.V05	v05	9.8 KB	5/26/95 3:37 PM		CORR-88.COR 1/4/1998 3:41 PM
AUTOB-16.V05	v05	23 KB	5/25/95 5:17 AM		CORR-89.COR 1/20/1997 3:53 AM
AUTOB-17.V05	v05	13.5 KB	5/26/95 10:25 AM		CORR-90.COR 1/20/1997 4:04 AM
					CORR-91.COR 1/20/1997 4:13 AM
					CORR-92.COR 1/20/1997 4:16 AM
					CORR-93.COR 9/2/1996 11:30 AM

- 1109014P_048
- 1109014P_049
- 1109014P_050
- 1109014P_051
- 1109014P_052
- 1109014P_053
- 1109014P_054
- files
 - [root]
 - [unallocated space]
 - logs
 - metadata
 - objects
- 1109014P_055
- 1109014P_056
- 1109014P_057
- 1109014P_058
- 1109014P_059
- 1109014P_060
- 1109014P_061
- 1109014P_062
- 1109014P_063
- 1109014P_064
- 1109014P_065
- 1109014P_066
- 1109014P_067

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<input type="checkbox"/> MOSTERT.REV	26 KB	REV File	12/12/1992 4:21 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> DEBEER.REV	14 KB	REV File	12/21/1992 12:05 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> SUZMAN.REV	15 KB	REV File	11/9/1993 4:02 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> BREYTEN.REV	13 KB	REV File	2/23/1994 3:14 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> BRODSKY.REV	29 KB	REV File	10/18/1995 3:17 PM
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<input type="checkbox"/> LESSING.REV	29 KB	REV File	1/24/1997 4:21 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> MAHFOUZ.REV	36 KB	REV File	1/24/1997 4:24 AM
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<input type="checkbox"/> !13440	0 KB	File	5/1/1998 7:51 AM

J.M. Coetzee
 Department of English
 Johns Hopkins University
 Baltimore, MD 21218
 Tel. (301) 338-7546

REVIEW

Mary Benson, Nelson Mandela. W.W. Norton, 1986. 269 pp.

Winnie Mandela, Part of My Soul Went with Him, ed. Anne Benjamin, adapted Mary Benson. W.W. Norton, 1985. 164 pp. \$14.95.

Nancy Harrison, Winnie Mandela. George Braziller, 1986. 183 pp. \$14.95.

Richard John Neuhaus, Dispensations. Eerdmans, 1986. 288 pp. \$16.95.

The recent bid by the South African government to exchange Nelson Mandela for two Soviet dissidents is only one in a long series of efforts it has made to disencumber itself of its most famous political prisoner. As long ago as 1973 Mandela was offered freedom (of a sort) if he would agree to lead a retired life in the Transkei "homeland." He refused. In 1985 he was offered release on the sole condition that he would distance himself from the advocacy of force. "Only free men can negotiate," he responded. "Prisoners cannot enter into contracts." (Benson, p. 237) He and the imprisoned senior leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) thus seem to be content, for the time being, to let Pretoria stew in its own juice.

In 1964, in his forty-sixth year, Nelson Mandela, with seven ANC colleagues, was sentenced to life imprisonment after being tried on charges of recruiting and training personnel to conduct revolutionary warfare, and of conspiring to aid foreign powers to invade the Republic. He did not attempt to deny the charges, the first of which was in essence true. He had set up an underground movement, Umkhonto we Sizwe ("The Spear of the Nation"), with the aim of carrying out sabotage attacks; he had toured Africa, raising support for the ANC; he had himself undergone guerrilla training.

Predefined Searches

- ☐ Biggest Files
- ☐ Oldest Files
- ☐ Temporary Files
- ☐ Internet Files
- ☒ Duplicate Files [1,215]

Custom Search

- ☐ Custom Search

Minimum Size: 1 Bytes

Compare using MD5 Checksum (more accurate)

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[x] FIRSTCHA.DOC	G:\MANUSCRIPTS\COETZEE_MS0842\1109014P\1109014P_128\files
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> 1109014P_0022b.jpg	14 Files
> 1109014P_0016d.jpg	14 Files
> 1109014P_0048b.jpg	11 Files
> 1109014P_0028b.jpg	10 Files
> 1109014P_0008b.jpg	11 Files
> 1109014P_0053e.jpg	4 Files
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1109014P_039	7/13/2017 4:07 PM	File folder	

METADATA

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 Author: **Keywords:**
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 Last Saved By: **mcotzee**
 Revision Number: **4**
 Source: **Microsoft Office Word**
 Edit Minutes: **16**
 Created: **4/8/2012 18:28:00**
 Last Saved: **4/8/2012 18:45:00**
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 Characters: **190060**
 Security: **0**
 Company: **Adelaide University, Australia**
 Lines: **1583**
 Paragraphs: **445**
 Characters (with Spaces): **222958**
 Scale Crop: **no**
 Links Dirty: **no**
 DTTM Created: **4/9/2012 03:58:00**
 DTTM Revised: **4/9/2012 04:15:00**

To: caineprize@jftaylor.com
 3 July 2000
 Dear Nick [Elam],
 We are into July already. Who is responsible for making
 arrangements for Dorothy and myself to travel to Harare?
 Best regards,
 John Coetzee

From: Eve Mainoo <eve@jftaylor.com>
 Date: Tue, 4 Jul 2000 13:13:47 -1200
 Dear John
 Comair will handle your and Dorothy's travel to Harare. I have a
 Hazel, the PA to the MD of Comair (011 1 0204) who will arrange
 suggesting you might fly up to Harare on 28 July (we are all gath-
 reception at the British High Commission that evening) and back.
 Comair will telephone you direct. I will book you into the Meikles
 Apologies for the delay: we have only just had confirmation from
 they can fly us all out from here as requested.
 Best wishes
 Nick

5 July 2000
 Dear Nick,
 Thanks for the message re travel, via Eve Mainoo.
 I had a call from Hazel of Comair last night and said I would get
 back to her after I had checked schedules and confirmed with Dor-
 (who is at present in the USA) that dates and times are OK.
 In the meantime, could I check with you:
 (a) whether we are being offered business class travel, and
 (b) whether an arrival time in Harare of 12 noon on Friday, 28 July
 and a departure time of 13h30 on Sunday, 30 July, would allow us
 do all we need to do there.
 Best regards,
 John Coetzee

From: Eve Mainoo <eve@jftaylor.com>
 Date: Wed, 5 Jul 2000 14:50:37 -1200
 Dear John
 The flights are offered by Comair "subject to availability". They
 provide dub class where they can, or the possibility of an upgrade
 is not guaranteed.
 The firm engagements we have in Harare are
 (1) Caine Prize Reception at British High Commission, Friday 28
 6.00 p.m.
 (2) Zimbabwe International Book Fair "Indaba" Reception - Sa-
 at 6.00 p.m. at Monomatapa Hotel
 (3) Caine Prize Award Dinner- Meikles Hotel, Saturday 29 July
 for 8.00 p.m.
 Kind regards
 Nick

From: "Hazel Atherton" <atherton@comair.co.za>
 Date: Fri, 7 Jul 2000 16:06:57 +0200
 Dear Professor Coetzee

Name	Size	Type
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002011_04_20110403-105316-sheilaohler@hotmail.com-RE-1	7 KB	E-mail Message
002011_04_20110403-215904-jmcoetsee1940@gmail.com-Re_Transfer_and...	86 KB	E-mail Message
002011_04_20110403-215452-jmcoetsee1940@gmail.com-Re_F.M.Ford-1	4 KB	E-mail Message
002011_04_20110403-221023-jmcoetsee1940@gmail.com-Re_My_essay_on...	7 KB	E-mail Message
002011_04_20110404-095228-tara_singh@us.penguingroup.com-Re_Quick...	19 KB	E-mail Message
002011_04_20110404-104043-hgillome@mweb.co.za-Re_Vorster-1	69 KB	E-mail Message
002011_04_20110404-131725-jmcoetsee1940@gmail.com-Scenes_from_Pro...	3 KB	E-mail Message
002011_04_20110404-132143-jmcoetsee1940@gmail.com-Re_speaker_s_fee...	3 KB	E-mail Message
002011_04_20110404-140152-jonatan_jarbo@svt.se-Request_from_Sweden...	14 KB	E-mail Message

Boo: John Coetzee <jmcoetsee1940@gmail.com>
 Received(Date): Sun, 3 Apr 2011 21:54:52 +0930
 Subject: Re: F.M.Ford
 From: John Coetzee <jmcoetsee1940@gmail.com>
 To: Jonty Driver <jontydriver@hotmail.com>

Dear Jonty,
 No idea. Sorry - it's getting on for half a century since I last read Ford.
 All the best,
 John

On Sun, Apr 3, 2011 at 8:44 PM, Jonty Driver <jontydriver@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear John

Could you help me with something, please? E. White in the NYRB on 24th March quoted F.M Ford
 this: Ford fervently believed... that a writer should write "nothing, nothing, that you couldn't in some
 circumstance, in the stress of some emotion, actually say". Do you know the start of that
 sentence? And do you know where it comes from?

Sorry to trouble you. Love to Dorothy, too.

Jonty

- Data Sources
- LogicalFileSet1 (1)
 - Business (22)
 - EML2000(Business)-RC-OK (4)
 - EML2001(Business)-RC-OK (11)
 - EML2002(Business)-RC-OK (14)
 - EML2003(Business)-RC-OK (16)
 - EML2004(Business)-RC-OK (12)
 - EML2005(Business)-RC-OK (12)
 - Files2006toHRC(Business)-RC-OK (4)
 - Files2007toHRC(Business)-RC-OK (4)
 - Files2008toHRC(Business)-RC-OK (3)
 - Files2009toHRC(Business)-RC-OK (7)
 - Files2010AprtoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (6)
 - Files2010AugtoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (1)
 - Files2010DectoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (6)
 - Files2010FebtoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (1)
 - Files2010JantoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (3)
 - Files2010JultoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (1)
 - Files2010MartoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (1)
 - Files2010MaytoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (1)
 - Files2010NovtoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (6)
 - Files2010OcttoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (6)
 - Files2010SeptoHRC(Business)-RC-OK (1)

Views

Results

- Extracted Content
- Keyword Hits
 - Single Literal Keyword Search (637)
 - Single Regular Expression Search (0)
 - Email Addresses (27094)
- Hashset Hits
- E-Mail Messages
- Interesting Items
- Accounts
- Tags
- Reports

Directory Listing

Keyword search 4 - Julian

Keyword search

Table Thumbnail

Name	Location	Modified T
EMLAug2001-RC-OK.rtf	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/EML2001(Business)-RC-OK/EMLA...	0000-00-00
EMLJul2001-RC-OK.rtf	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/EML2001(Business)-RC-OK/EMLJ...	0000-00-00
EMLJun2001-RC-OK.rtf	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/EML2001(Business)-RC-OK/EMLJ...	0000-00-00
PerryAnderson-Cyprus-LRB2008.doc	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/Files2008toHRC(Business)-RC-OK...	0000-00-00
EMLMar2001-RC-OK.rtf	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/EML2001(Business)-RC-OK/EMLM...	0000-00-00
EMLSep2001-RC-OK.rtf	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/EML2001(Business)-RC-OK/EMLS...	0000-00-00
EMLApril2008.doc	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/Files2008toHRC(Business)-RC-OK...	0000-00-00
EMLDec02-RC-OK.rtf	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/EML2002(Business)-RC-OK/EMLD...	0000-00-00
EMLJan02-RC-OK.rtf	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/EML2002(Business)-RC-OK/EMLJ...	0000-00-00
EMLAugust2008.doc	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/Files2008toHRC(Business)-RC-OK...	0000-00-00
EMLDecember2008.doc	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/Files2008toHRC(Business)-RC-OK...	0000-00-00
2010_07_20100712-114411-temp_pa@bobcarr_com_au-RE_JB_...	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/Files2010JultoHRC(Business)-RC-...	0000-00-00
EMLJuly2008.doc	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/Files2008toHRC(Business)-RC-OK...	0000-00-00
Temp_PA_Temp_PA_bobcarr_com_au-RE_JB_selections_rolling	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/Files2010JultoHRC(Business)-RC-...	0000-00-00
EMLJan2007.doc	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/Files2007toHRC(Business)-RC-OK...	0000-00-00
EMLOct02-RC-OK.rtf	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/EML2002(Business)-RC-OK/EMLD...	0000-00-00
EMLSep02-RC-OK.rtf	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/EML2002(Business)-RC-OK/EMLS...	0000-00-00
EMLJuly2009.doc	/LogicalFileSet1/Business/Files2009toHRC(Business)-RC-OK...	0000-00-00

<

Hex Strings File Metadata Results Indexed Text Media

Matches on page: 1 of 21 Match < > Page: 1 of 1 Page < >

Her living arrangements with Keith don't either seem to be working out. I don't know the full story, but there seems to be a lot of friction and unhappiness.

Dorothy and I leave for Adelaide in Australia at the beginning of February. I will be away 6 weeks, Dorothy somewhat longer. All good wishes for the New Year.

Love,

John

5 January 2001

Dear Julian,

I don't know whether any of these messages are getting through to you. Today is the day when you said you were aiming to get back to Gaja.

You may remember that you passed on a message from Smile Banking that there was a message online for you/me. I haven't been able to access it yet, since Smile works only with Internet Explorer, and everything here at UCT is based on Netscape Navigator. Things are not going well with Gisela. I think she is drinking too much, and then getting into states. Catherine Glenn, who has been seeing her, called me last night to voice her concern. I'm hoping to see Gisela tomorrow, and will let you know.

Love,

John

Date: Fri, 05 Jan 2001 19:26:47 +0000

Dear John

I am in Gaja at the moment - I will be leaving for Toulouse tomorrow (Saturday) and then getting back to London on Tuesday (9th). The car made it though all the travels with nearly flying colours - the exhaust gasket blew at the top of a Spanish mountain pass between St Sebastian and the road to Barcelona. The next town didn't have the right gasket but a similar one that is working fine. It

J. M. Coetzee:

An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Creator:	Coetzee, J. M., 1940-
Title:	J. M. Coetzee Papers
Dates:	1864-2012 (bulk 1960-2012)
Extent:	140 document boxes (58.33 linear feet), 13 oversize boxes (osb), 1 galley file (gf), 131 computer disks
Abstract:	The papers document all of Coetzee's major writings and include notes, typescripts, background research materials and publicity. Correspondence and materials documenting personal and family history are also present.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-00842
Language:	English, Afrikaans, Dutch, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
Use Policies:	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
Restrictions on Use:	Certain restrictions apply to the use of electronic files. Researchers must agree to the Materials Use Policy for Electronic Files before accessing them. Original computer disks and forensic disk images are restricted. Copying electronic files, including screenshots and printouts, is not permitted. To request access to electronic files, please email Reference . Authorization for publication is given on behalf of the University of Texas as the owner of the collection and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder which must be obtained by the researcher. For more information please see the Ransom Centers' Open Access and Use Policies.

Doubling the Point (Essay collection, 1992)

Notes and fragments. 18 electronic files: WordStar 4.0; 8 electronic files: ASCII, 1989-1991, undated	Electronic-file 1109014P_063- 1109014P_064, 1109014P_066
---	---

Drafts

Printouts

'Part I,' lightly corrected, circa 1991-1992	Container 50.1-2
'Part II,' lightly corrected, circa 1991-1992	Container 50.3-4
Late draft with portions of text pasted in, circa 1991-1992	Container 50.5

Chapter drafts. 57 electronic files: WordStar 4.0; 1 electronic files: ASCII, 1989-1991, undated	Electronic-file 1109014P_064- 1109014P_065
--	--

Photocopy printout, 'late draft,' interview portions only, circa 1991-1992	Container 50.6
--	----------------

The Master of Petersburg (Fiction, 1994)

Photocopied background research materials, 1956-1990	Container 33.8-9
--	------------------

Notes and fragments. 435 electronic files: Word Star 4.0; 2 electronic files: ASCII, 1991-1993, undated	Electronic-file 1109014P_042- 1109014P_051, 1109014P_085- 1109014P_090
---	--

Drafts

Handwritten draft 1 part A, 21 February 1991-4 February 1992	Container 19.1-2
Handwritten draft '1 part B,' with light revisions, 6 February-29 April 1993	Container 19.3-4

Printouts

Draft 2 with light revisions, 17 September 1991-17 January 1992	Container 20.1
Notes for draft 3 with light revisions, 1992	Container 20.2
Draft 3 with revisions, 1992	Container 20.3-4
Draft 4 with revisions, 15 September-11 November 1992	Container 21.1-2
Notes for drafts 4-5 with light revisions, 31 May 1992-4 February 1993	Container 21.3-4
Draft 5 and notes, with revisions, 5 December 1992-7 March 1993	Container 22.1-2
Draft '6A' with revisions, 23 February-8 March 1993	Container 22.3



Lessons Learned...

****File-level description is NOT sustainable OR necessary for access.****

WHAT IS NECESSARY?

- MPLP/programmatic methods
- Transparency in capture and preservation
- Context on the creation process and custodial history

Michael Ondaatje:
An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

[Example of a more streamlined method for describing born-digital collection materials Ransom Center finding aids. Text is included only for sections that apply to born-digital content.]

Dates: 1991-2005

Extent: .33 GB (500 electronic files)

Abstract: ...and electronic files

Use Policies:

Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.

Restrictions on Use:

Certain restrictions apply to the use of electronic files. Researchers must agree to the Materials Use Policy for Electronic Files before accessing them. Original computer disks and forensic disk images are restricted. Copying electronic files, including screenshots and printouts, is not permitted. Authorization for publication is given on behalf of the University of Texas as the owner of the collection and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder which must be obtained by the researcher. For more information please see the Ransom Centers' Open Access and Use Policies.

Processed by: Electronic files processed by Daniela Lozano and Abby Adams in 2018.

Scope and Content:

The majority of Ondaatje's electronic files, circa 1991 to 2005, relate to *The English Patient* and *Anil's Ghost* but *Divisadero*, *Handwriting*, *In the Skin of a Lion*, and *The*

Conversations: Walter Murch and the Art of Editing Film are represented, as well. Included are notes and drafts; research files; reviews; speaking engagements; and e-mail correspondence. Electronic files also contain correspondence and notes related to Ondaatje's former position as writer-in-residence at Columbia Medical School and his support of Sri Lankan refugees.

Electronic files document the final steps in Ondaatje's writing process, which involved a typist who transcribed audio recordings of Ondaatje's words and saved the documents onto 3.5-inch floppy disks that were sent back to the writer for review.

File inventory: <https://utexas.box.com/s/x2013x98ti784rbpxv53n8f16bn83bof>

Media photographs: <https://utexas.box.com/s/7nt94g1y6ku3b8iuxiifcofvowc2xcsb>

Separated Material:

Digital media were transferred to the Personal Effects collection at the Ransom Center.

Organization and Arrangement:

Original order was retained for electronic files in original file formats. Original order may not always have been preserved for derivatives due to the limitations of certain file format conversion tools. A full directory listing of the master copy is provided alongside the files for each disk. Please see the attached file directory list for a complete inventory for all available files.

Processing Information:

Ondaatje's electronic files were received on on 41 3.5-inch floppy disks, 11 Zip disks, 2 CD-ROMs, and 1 SuperDisk. The majority of the word processing files were created by Ondaatje's typist in Microsoft Word for MS-DOS. Digital images were saved in TIFF and JPEG formats on Zip disks and e-mail correspondence, format unknown, on 3.5-inch floppy disks, both using an Apple (Macintosh) computer with an HFS file system, type and age unknown.

Raw disk images from the floppy disks were created in July 2017 with a KryoFlux floppy controller and host software. E01 disk images from the Zip disks and SuperDisk were created with a Tableau TD3 Forensic Duplicator. ISO disk images from the CD-ROMs were created with a Windows instance of FTK Imager. Digital media are also photographed and images can be accessed online or on-site in the reading room. Files were extracted from all disk images with FTK Imager. A file-level inventory, which includes file names; last modified dates; file formats, if known; and checksums, was

Collection Name	Collection number	File path	File name	Extent in bytes	Last modified dates	File format	Format version	SHA256 hash
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_001\MS541	MO-T-1.RTF	69539	2005-01-27T02:37:56	Rich Text Format	1.0-1.4	733028da0e31f8f394c8dbffdc8f4c
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_001\MS541	MO-T-3.RTF	92781	2005-01-27T02:38:20	Rich Text Format	1.0-1.4	21183f7def669c44866dac0c968d
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_001\MS541	MO-T-5.RTF	81222	2005-01-27T14:41:51	Rich Text Format	1.0-1.4	b4a920f2644870f93ef227cf97ceb
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_002\MS541	MO-T-1.RTF	69539	2005-01-27T02:37:56	Rich Text Format	1.0-1.4	733028da0e31f8f394c8dbffdc8f4c
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_002\MS541	MO-T-3.RTF	92781	2005-01-27T02:38:20	Rich Text Format	1.0-1.4	21183f7def669c44866dac0c968d
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_002\MS541	MO-T-5.RTF	81222	2005-01-27T14:41:51	Rich Text Format	1.0-1.4	b4a920f2644870f93ef227cf97ceb
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	beforehand.jpg	45619	2002-06-10T12:53:13	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	7298309f09ace85b051c0efffa9fe1
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand and patient.jpg	64500	2002-06-10T12:53:46	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	70c7fffa9d04c03e9860c98c23033
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand and patient1.jpg	51981	2002-06-10T12:53:31	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	bd4d23b7a339370b2713ca99234
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand1.jpg	59503	2002-06-10T12:53:00	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	baebdfa2d6311aba714b048261a2
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand1a.jpg	61656	2002-06-10T12:42:28	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	2a85c66cd96492059dedf59ec109
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand2.jpg	57685	2002-06-10T12:55:37	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	188ade0c27635e827223b3468aae
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand3.jpg	56782	2002-06-10T12:56:55	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	9803c15e54145f56b4538a524f4a
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand3a.jpg	63997	2002-06-10T12:55:01	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	27acd42ebfa519159c3f3093bab0e
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand4.jpg	64328	2002-06-10T12:52:42	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	598b634baee6aed005c7d7c3f82f8
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand4a.jpg	60124	2002-06-10T12:54:27	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	5da4388eae5274276170888d195f
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand5.jpg	63017	2002-06-10T12:55:49	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	2ca78c520c183e38530303e5b37c
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand7a.jpg	59156	2002-06-10T12:54:16	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	6de4209138db65ff038466ffb420c
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	hand8a.jpg	70226	2002-06-10T12:53:59	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	b067516d9cc9131ad4b76f7bfac
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_003\MS541	patient1.jpg	77505	2002-06-10T12:52:06	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	b2fce99a6dcdffe7ebf3c0a7bde373
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_004\MS541	phone1.jpg	87356	2002-03-29T11:55:28	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	df680ab4d114ee298d608d29e0e2
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_004\MS541	phone2.jpg	87465	2002-03-29T11:55:11	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	97fbdcc046f99a627160456aa4d8f
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_004\MS541	phone3.jpg	86544	2002-03-29T11:54:32	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	048ab1ce3c3e2ece50c677ba831d
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_004\MS541	shoes1.jpg	69823	2002-03-29T11:54:53	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	0c79c56973f7ab03fa90ebc89c285
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_004\MS541	shoes2.jpg	69119	2002-03-29T11:54:11	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	8c0dae48a03f32e21f58cc74679de
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_005\MS541	rats10.jpg	56655	2002-04-24T05:53:01	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	97770ad18dbd347b62f2ceecd8ba
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_005\MS541	rats11.jpg	5850	2002-04-24T05:54:07	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	e9ce08ae3b56de34916075b7e50e
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_005\MS541	rats13.jpg	5626	2002-04-24T05:54:35	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	5631fcd9cde631a30a3b7b88f5d6
Michael Ondaatje papers	MS-54105	MS54105_1705015P_005\MS541	rats14.jpg	57426	2002-04-24T05:54:57	JPEG File Interchange Format	1.02	1c85f81101109f12bea51d3a222f



Access

Phase I

- On-site only
- Signed use policy
- Copying files not permitted
- Forensic disk images restricted
- HRC laptop
 - Read-only drive
 - Network connections disabled
 - Ports disabled
- Original formats, no derivatives

Phase II

- Public online access to:
 - Media photographs
 - DROID file inventory
- Online access to derivatives (restricted by IP address)
- ePADD
- Emulation as a Service (EaaS)



THANK
YOU!

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Grace Hansen (finding aid arrangement and description)

Virginia Dempsey (data recovery)

Rebecca Roach

rebecca.roach@kcl.ac.uk

“Ego-Media: The impact of new media on forms and practices of self-representation”

www.ego-media.org