



# Guide to the Padgett Powell Papers, 1972-2015

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Padgett Powell papers, 1972-2018

**Creator:**

Powell, Padgett

**Abstract:**

Author and professor at the University of Florida. Published works include *Edisto*, *A Woman Named Drown*, *Typical*, *Mrs. Hollingsworth's Men*, and *The Interrogative Mood: A Novel?*. Collection includes writings and drafts of Powell's early novels, including *Edisto* and *A Woman Named Drown*, as well as essays, short stories, and articles for popular magazines and literary anthologies. Some of these appear in *Typical*, a collection of Powell's short stories. The collection also includes correspondence, publishing contracts, reviews, interviews, and travel files, many relating to the publication of *Edisto*.

**Extent:**

12 Linear Feet  
9000 Items; 34 boxes

**Language:**

English

**Language:**

Material in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.01042

**Permalink:**

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/powellpadgett/>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Padgett Powell Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

The Padgett Powell Papers contains 4 series: Writings, Professional Materials, Correspondence, and Oversize Materials. The majority of the collection lies in the Writings Series, which includes drafts and publishing materials from Powell's books. The Writings Series also has a large run of Powell's "General Writings," which includes essays and articles for various publications, travel pieces, short stories (some of which later appeared in published books), and other drafts. These files may include multiple versions of the text, as well as correspondence with the piece's publisher.

Additional correspondence can be found in the Correspondence Series, which includes Powell's communications with editors, publishers, awards committees, and various literary figures. This series has been arranged to reflect Powell's initial arrangement: general and literary correspondence has been filed first, followed by an alphabetized subject and name file. Dates are included when known.

The collection's Professional Materials include both travel files, interview files, and some of Powell's academic work and records from his student days at the College of Charleston and at the University of Houston. The Oversize Materials series includes miscellaneous objects, usually related to publicizing or advertising Powell's readings or books.

### Biographical/Historical

Padgett Powell is an American author who teaches writing at the University of Florida. His first novel, *Edisto*, was published in 1984 to wide acclaim, and was nominated for the American Book Award. He has since published several more books, including *A Woman Named Drown* (1987), *Typical* (1991), *Edisto Revisited* (1996), *Aliens of Affection* (1998), *Mrs. Hollingsworth's Men* (2000), *The Interrogative Mood: A Novel?* (2009), and *You and I* (2011).

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is restricted. During Powell's lifetime, access to all correspondence and business records (now held in the Correspondence and Professional Materials Series) require prior written permission from him. Commercial use of any materials requires prior approval from Powell or his agent.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

### **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

### **Acquisition Information**

The Padgett Powell Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 1993, 2012, and 2015.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Meghan Lyon, July 2012; updated 2016

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 1993-0276, 2012-0129, 2015-0039, 2015-0182

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## Names and Subjects

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- American literature -- 20th century
- Authors, American -- 20th century
- College teachers as authors
- Authors, American -- 20th century -- Correspondence
- University of Florida -- Faculty
- Powell, Padgett -- Typical
- Powell, Padgett -- Edisto
- Powell, Padgett -- A Woman Named Drown

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## Collection Inventory

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### Writings, 1983-2015

#### Scope and Contents note

The majority of the collection lies in the Writings Series, which includes drafts, edits, and publishing materials from Powell's books. The Writings Series also has a large run of Powell's "General Writings," which includes essays and articles for various publications, travel pieces, short stories (some of which later appeared in Typical), and other drafts. These files may include multiple versions of the text, as well as correspondence with the piece's publisher.

### Edisto

#### Scope and Contents note

Materials relating to Edisto include early drafts of the book; correspondence and drafts from its excerption in The New Yorker; several revised galleys and proofs; "scraps" and "dead matter" leftover from the book's publication; foreign edition contracts; reviews; and screenplay versions of the text.

Masters' Thesis, University of Houston,  
December 1982

Box 1

Early drafts with revisions	Box 1
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Pat Strachan working manuscript and galleys	Box 1
Longhand drafts, undated	Box 2
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Draft, undated	Box 2
"Scraps" of draft	Box 2
Preface draft	Box 2
Farrar Straus and Giroux (FS&G) contract, 1983	Box 2
New Yorker proofs, 1983-1984	Box 2
New Yorker proofs, 1983-1984	Box 3
New Yorker original manuscript	Box 3
New Yorker published excerpt, 1983	Box 3
Page proofs	Box 3
"Dead matter"	Box 3
3 chapters, longhand draft	Box 3
Correspondence with FS&G, 1984	Box 3
Advertisements	Box 3
Book of the Month Club	Box 3
Braille edition	Box 3
Finnish edition	Box 3
French edition	Box 4
German edition	Box 4
Hebrew edition	Box 4

Italian edition	Box 4
Japan edition	Box 4
Paperback (Owl) edition	Box 4
Spanish edition	Box 4
Swedish edition	Box 4
UK edition	Box 4
Memorandum of agreement with Profile Books Ltd (UK edition), 2011 Jan. 26	Box 34
Fan mail, 1983-1985	Box 4
Academic reviews	Box 4
Reviews and press	Box 4
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
Published reviews and articles, 1984-1985	Box 4
MGM/UA, 1984	Box 5
Screenplay draft	Box 5
Screenplay, Lonner, David, 1985-1992	Box 5
Clippings re: film	Box 5
Sundance, 1986	Box 5
MacGill's Literary Annual, 1985	Box 5
Cover designs, undated	Box 34

## **A Woman Named Drown**

### **Scope and Contents note**

Materials from A Woman Named Drown include drafts and revisions, including a series labeled by Powell as A-S; "dead matter" and other excerpts from the text; foreign edition correspondence; and reviews and fan mail.

Drafts and manuscripts, undated	Box 5
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**Physical Description:** 3 folders

Drafts, undated, and correspondence, 1986	Box 6
Early drafts, 1986	Box 6
"Dead matter"	Box 6
Final longhand draft	Box 6
Drafts, A-S, 1986	Box 6
<b>Physical Description:</b> 5 folders	
Draft with text notes and edits	Box 6
Draft excerpts	Box 7
Draft	Box 7
Reading copy draft	Box 7
Cover, cat., flap, etc.	Box 7
Blurb, 1987	Box 7
Holt (paperback) edition	Box 7
French edition	Box 7
German edition	Box 7
Portuguese editions (Drown and Edisto)	Box 7
Swedish edition	Box 7
Fan mail, 1987	Box 7
Reviews (2 folders)	Box 7

## Typical

### Scope and Contents note

Materials relating to the publication of Typical, including various drafts of different stories, proofs and edits, reviews, and some fan mail. There are other versions of stories appearing in Typical in the General Writings subseries, described below.

Drafts of stories	Box 8
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Mr. and Mrs. Elliot and Cleveland draft	Box 8
Collection drafts	Box 8
"Dead matter," 1992	Box 8
Proofs with edits	Box 8
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Gallery proofs with edits, February 1992	Box 8
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Galley proofs with edits (legal size)	Box 10
Master pages with edits (legal size)	Box 10
Galleys and edits (legal size)	Box 10
Reviews	Box 11
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Fan mail	Box 11
German edition	Box 11
Reprints-BOMB/USIS	Box 11

### **The Interrogative Mood: A Novel?**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

This subseries includes only copyedited drafts and proofs from the publication of *The Interrogative Mood: A Novel?*.

2008 version	Box 11
Early draft with edits	Box 11
Master: first pass	Box 11
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Master: first pass	Box 12
Author's second pass	Box 12
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Copyedited draft	Box 12

Draft, 2007-2008	Box 22
Draft (sans 1st page) and proof, 2008-2009	Box 34
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
3 folders	
Book Tour, 2009	Box 22
New Yorker Cut, undated	Box 22
Profile Paper, undated	Box 22
Publicity/reviews, 2009-2012	Box 34
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes German, Spanish, French, and Italian. 3 boxes	

## You and Me

Manifesto/You and Me, undated	Box 23
Drafts, 2004 and undated	Box 23
Review Draft, 2011 Dec 23	Box 23
Proof, UK edition, 2011 May 8	Box 34
Incomplete proof, paperback edition, 2013 Mar. 15	Box 34
Jacket designs, undated	Box 34
Publicity/reviews, 2011-2012	Box 34

## Edisto Revisited

Draft, 1994 Nov 9	Box 23
Review Draft, 1st Pass, 1995 Oct 30	Box 23
Draft, undated	Box 23
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Draft 2, undated	Box 23
Draft 3, undated	Box 24

Partial Draft, 1995 June 12	Box 24
Working Draft, undated	Box 24
Working Draft A, undated	Box 24
Working Draft B, undated	Box 24
Working Draft C, undated	Box 24
2nd Draft, Bill's Copy, undated	Box 24
Edits from Pat Strachan (Houghton Mifflin), 2002 and undated	Box 25
Original Edisto Revisited Manuscript, 1996 Dec 16	Box 25
Miscellaneous Draft Pages, undated	Box 25
Publicity/reviews, 1996-1998	Box 34
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
3 folders	
Correspondence and commentary from Harry Rowohlt, 1996-1997	Box 34
Correspondence, 1996-1999	Box 34
Fan mail, 1996	Box 34
<b>Mrs. Hollingsworth's Men</b>	
Draft with Edits from Pat Strachan, undated	Box 25
Revised Version of pages 2-33, 2000 Feb 11	Box 25
Draft, 2000 Apr 6	Box 25
Copy-edited Manuscript, 2000 Mar	Box 25
Final Manuscript, 2001 July 25	Box 26
Master/Proofer Set, 2000 May 2	Box 26
Author's Marked Set, 2000 May 2	Box 26

Draft, undated	Box 26
Promotional Material, undated	Box 26
Book Tour, 2000	Box 26
Correspondence, 2000	Box 26
Manuscript Fragment, 2000 Apr 26	Box 26
Draft, 2000 May 2	Box 27
Marked Copy, undated	Box 27
Draft, undated	Box 27
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Publicity/reviews, 2000	Box 34

### **Hologram**

Manuscript Copy, undated	Box 27
First Edit (includes original folder with edits), undated	Box 28
2nd Edit (?), undated	Box 28
Blount 1 with edits and notes, 1996 and undated	Box 28
Blount 2, undated	Box 28
Draft with Edits, undated	Box 28
Correspondence and Miscellaneous Documents, 1999-2000	Box 28

### **Aliens of Affection**

Draft, undated	Box 29
Early Copy of Edited Manuscript, undated	Box 29
Various Proofs and Edits, 1997 and undated	Box 29
Miscellaneous Draft Fragments, undated	Box 29

Page Proofs (includes correspondence and notes), 1997 June	Box 30
Correspondence and Edits from Pat Strachan, 1996-1997	Box 30
Draft Fragments with Edits, undated	Box 30
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Early Copy-edited Manuscript, undated	Box 31
Page Proofs with Edits (1st Pass), 1997 June 6	Box 31
Page Proofs with Edits, 1997 June 6	Box 31
Cover/jacket design, 1997	Box 34
Publicity/reviews, 1997-1998	Box 34
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes German.	

### **Cries for Help, Various**

Drafts with File Lists, 2001-2002	Box 32
Various story drafts, undated	Box 32
Edited manuscript, 2014 Dec.	Box 33
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Corrected manuscript, photocopy, undated	Box 33
Copyedited manuscript with Powell's responses, 2015	Box 33
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Bound galley (advance reading copy) and final published copy, 2015	Box 33
Complete draft, 2007	Box 34
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
2 folders	

### **General Writings**

**Scope and Contents note**

The General Writings subseries includes drafts of articles, essays, short stories, and other writings by Powell for a wide variety of audiences, including newspapers, popular magazines, and anthologies. Some of these files include early drafts; others include published versions and accompanying correspondence between Powell and the publisher. Some writings are filed by publisher rather than by title; these distinctions were originally made by Powell and have been maintained during archival processing. Also included in this subseries are versions of short stories that later appeared in Typical, Powell's own collection of short stories.

Box 12

A Commencement Speech, undated	Box 32
The Allure of Southern Women, GQ	Box 12
Anthology appearances, 1990-1992	Box 12
Atlanta Constitution Weekly	Box 12
Barthleme tribute	Box 13
Bedtime, undated	Box 32
Biltmore, New York Times, 1991	Box 13
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
Book reviews	Box 13
Breakdown, undated	Box 32
Bullies, undated	Box 32
Change of Life, undated	Box 32
The Cork, undated	Box 32
Dizzy, undated	Box 32
Dogs are Coming, undated	Box 32
Dusk, undated	Box 32
Fear and Infinitude	Box 13
Fishing in the Modern World	Box 13

Five Stories and a Piece, 2012 June 21	Box 32
Five Stories and a Piece, draft with edits, 2012 Jul. 25	Box 34
Flood	Box 13
Frog and Spode	Box 13
Genie, undated	Box 32
Gift, undated	Box 32
Grading the Old Man	Box 13
Grinace	Box 13
Hard Candy, undated	Box 32
High Trash	Box 13
Hitting Back	Box 13
Hitting Back	Box 14
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
Home and Garden, Dec. 1991	Box 14
Horses, undated	Box 32
Humpy	Box 14
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
The Imperative Mood (includes edits, page proofs, and extract), 2012	Box 32
Joplin and Dickens, 2002 July 12, 2004 Apr 28	Box 32
Kansas	Box 14
Kills Twice and His Brother, undated	Box 32
Lebove and Son	Box 14
Letter From a Dogfighter's Aunt, Deceased	Box 14
Love, undated	Box 32

Many a One, undated	Box 32
Matter of Time, undated	Box 32
Miscellaneous, undated	Box 32
Modern Italian	Box 14
Mr. and Mrs. Elliot and Cleveland	Box 14
Mr. Irony	Box 14
Mr. Irony	Box 15
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Mr. Nefarious	Box 15
My Presidential Candidacy, undated	Box 32
New Orleans, New York Times, 1992	Box 15
New York Times Book Review, 1985	Box 15
Noble Soldier, undated	Box 32
Nougat, undated	Box 32
On the Range, undated	Box 32
Perhaps South America, undated	Box 32
Sermon, undated	Box 32
Sisters, undated	Box 32
Solitude, undated	Box 32
South Carolina/Mr. Desultory	Box 15
Southern Living 25th Anniversary	Box 15
Spy, undated	Box 32
Steel, undated	Box 32
Territory, undated	Box 32

Thompson, Sandra; St. Pete	Box 15
Ted Turner	Box 15
Tod, undated	Box 32
Typical	Box 15
USA Today, 1985	Box 15
Wayne II and III	Box 15
Wheat Tour	Box 15
Winnowing of Mrs. Schuping	Box 15
Winnowing of Mrs. Schuping	Box 16
Untitled or loose drafts, 1970s <b>Physical Description:</b> 4 folders	Box 16
Untitled, undated	Box 32
Wearing a Meat Shirt and Killing a Snake, undated	Box 32
"Scraps and scrappy letters"	Box 16
Blues	Box 16
Introductions	Box 16
"Juvenilia"	Box 16
Publisher Promotional Materials (Edisto Revisited and Aliens of Affection), 1996-1997	Box 31
Manifesto, draft with edits, 2007-2009	Box 34

### Writings by Others

Darling, by William Tester, December 1990	Box 20
Darling, by William Tester, December 1990	Box 21
Show Me the Way To Go Home, by Simmons Jones, 1991	Box 21

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## **Professional Materials, 1972-1993**

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes

### **Scope and Contents note**

The collection's Professional Materials include both travel files, interview files, and some of Powell's academic work and records from his student days at the College of Charleston and at the University of Houston.

### **Access Restrictions:**

During Powell's lifetime, access to the Professional Materials Series requires prior written permission from him.

Travel files, 1984-1989	Box 16
Travel files, 1989-1993	Box 17
Interviews, 1985-1987	Box 17
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Interviews, 1986-1993	Box 18
College of Charleston Moulin Rouge issues, 1972	Box 18
Academic records	Box 18
University of Houston work, 1981-1982	Box 18
Clippings about Powell, 1980s	Box 21
Magazines with published articles or works, 1984-1992	Box 21

**Physical Description:** 4 folders

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## **Correspondence, 1983-1993**

**Physical Description:** 3 boxes

### **Scope and Contents note**

Additional correspondence can be found in the Correspondence Series, which includes Powell's communications with editors, publishers, awards committees,

and various literary figures. This series has been arranged to reflect Powell's initial arrangement: general and literary correspondence has been filed first, followed by an alphabetized subject and name file. Dates are included when known.

**Access Restrictions:**

During Powell's lifetime, access to the Correspondence Series requires prior written permission from him.

General, 1983-1985	Box 18
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Literary, 1985-1987	Box 18
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
Literary, 1988-1992	Box 19
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	
AAIAL Rome Fellowship, 1986-1987	Box 19
American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1987	Box 19
American Book Awards, 1984	Box 19
Anthologies/reprints	Box 19
Author's Guild, 1980s	Box 19
Awards	Box 19
Ballet Met, 1988	Box 19
Bellow, Saul, 1992-1993	Box 19
Booksellers, 1985	Box 19
Buckley catalog, 1984	Box 19
Dunaway, Lynch - film, 1988	Box 19
Esquire, 1985-1986	Box 19
Fan mail, 1985	Box 19
FS&G, 1985-1991	Box 19
<b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders	

Fulbright/Walsh	Box 19
Gambone, Philip, 1985	Box 19
Guggenheim	Box 19
Harper's, 1989-1990	Box 19
Henry Holt & Co., 1997-1999	Box 34
Hope, Jonathan, 2011	Box 34
ICM and Lynn Nesbit, 1982-1986	Box 20
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
Janklow and Nesbit Associates, 1989-1990	Box 20
Merchant, Larry	Box 20
Murphy, Daniel, 1992	Box 20
Nan, undated	Box 20
NEA	Box 20
New Yorker, 1980-1991	Box 20
Poulouse, Pamela	Box 20
Professorship applications, 1985-1989	Box 20
Rogers, Bill, 1985	Box 20
Rolling Stone, 1989	Box 20
Roman dispatches, 1988	Box 20
Small, Adrienne, 1992	Box 20
Soho Square, 1991	Box 20
Sonneberg, Ben, 1989-1991	Box 20
Williams, George	Box 20
Wills, 1991	Box 20

World Authors, 1993

Box 20

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### **Oversize Materials**

**Physical Description:** 1 box and 1 folder

**Scope and Contents note**

Oversize material advertising Powell's works, including Edisto and other books.

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Miscellaneous oversize materials

Box 9

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Miscellaneous oversize materials

Oversize-folder 1

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