Cormac McCarthy: A Bibliography

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October 2011 Update of Cormac McCarthy: A Bibliography

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Preface

The following is a listing of English-language print materials relevant to Cormac McCarthy studies, updated and expanded from its first versions, which were published in *Southern Quarterly* (1992) and in *Perspectives on Cormac McCarthy* (1993). Omitted here are listings of primary materials, foreign language studies, and most English-language items published in countries whose predominant language is other than English, except for those available in the United States. (Such lists appear elsewhere on the Cormac McCarthy Web site.) Internet publications are not indexed here except for a few interviews.

New in this update is an annotated section on archives of documents relating to McCarthy and his work. These include holdings of his early writing for his high school and university periodicals, correspondence, drafts of his work, and materials related to the work of McCarthy scholars.

Another change introduced in this update is that the section on scholarly studies has been separated into two listings, alphabetical by author: the first on printed books devoted to McCarthy's work, and the second on book chapters and articles in periodicals, including entries in reference books and reviewessays of scholarly books. Also included in the articles section are a few items that are not scholarly in nature, but which appear in professional journals. To document McCarthy's reception in the scholarly community, even very brief or insignificant treatments of his work have been included; for many of these, annotations identify the nature of the material relating to McCarthy. Most reviews of scholarly books on McCarthy are not included in the bibliography. Reviews of McCarthy's books by scholars are not listed in section II, but in the Reviews section of the bibliography.

Sections IV and V are comprised of the ever-growing lists of dissertations and theses devoted to McCarthy. Most of these completed in the past five years are available in PDF form on dissertation databases, as are some earlier ones. Section VI is an expanded listing of interviews, McCarthy's public statements, and others' accounts of conversations with him. Because of their importance, the clips from McCarthy's interview with Oprah Winfrey made available on the Oprah's Book Club website are included, as is Ira Flatow's online interview with McCarthy, Werner Herzog and Lawrence Krauss.

The Reviews section identifies book reviews for each of McCarthy's works in order of original publication from The Orchard Keeper (1965) through The Road (2006). A few incompletely cited reviews from the clipping files of Albert Erskine housed at the University of Virginia are included in this update. Reviews of The Road appear in two consecutive sections: one for reviews of the novel alone, and a second for reviews of the novel and film together or reviews of the film that make significant comments on its adaptation of the novel. With these exceptions, the hundreds of reviews of the films of All the Pretty Horses, No Country for Old Men, and The Road are not included in this bibliography. In the subsections for McCarthy's dramatic works, The Gardener's Son (1996), The Stonemason (1994) and The Sunset Limited (2006), reviews of both his texts and productions of the works are included. The lists of reviews include assessments published in scholarly journals, national periodicals, major newspapers such as the New York Times and the London Times, and some smaller newspapers. Until recently, I had not attempted to locate all reviews published in local newspapers throughout the United States, except in those cities where McCarthy has lived for a substantial period. But with the availability of electronic databases such as LexisNexis, it has become possible to be much more inclusive and more international. The two most recent updates of the bibliography include a substantially increased number of recent news articles and reviews in this country and abroad. Only some of this expansion is due to the wider recognition McCarthy has earned since the 1990s; the rest is due to improvement in bibliographical finding aids. The texts of most reviews published in the past decade are available through subscription databases at university libraries. As in past versions of the bibliography, reviews and other newspaper pieces have not been listed in their multiple appearances in newspapers across the country. Usually, only the first appearance of a review is listed here except for reviews that have been reprinted in another country. And in this update I have omitted notices of McCarthy's books that do not include assessments of their merits and slight pieces that indicate only that someone of note is reading one of his works.

A chronological listing of pieces from news media and popular magazines follows the Reviews sections. For the early years, many of these are slight and are included only to document McCarthy's reception and recognition. Others, if used with caution, are helpful in establishing biographical details about this most private author: marriage and death notices about his family members, interviews with and articles about McCarthy's second wife, Anne DeLisle, and interviews with directors and screen-writers involved with filming his works, for instance. Some provide context for the design, editing and publishing of his work. McCarthy has by now become widely known in this country and abroad, and for the first time I have found it necessary in this update to be selective in the listing of journalism. Omitted here are many brief and insignificant mentions of McCarthy and passing comparisons of new novelists' work to his. But

I have also included in this update a few more significant articles for which there is incomplete bibliographical information because of the easy availability of these pieces in databases or online versions of newspapers.

The final section, with no claim to exhaustiveness, cites a miscellany of references to McCarthy's life or work by other literary figures. Taken together with the assessments of his books by such writers as Nelson Algren, John Banville, Madison Smartt Bell, Guy Davenport, and Shelby Foote listed in the Reviews section, these items attest to the influence and reputation McCarthy holds among his peers. Of biographical interest is poetry by McCarthy's first wife, Lee McCarthy.

The checklist as a whole includes every American and British print publication relating to McCarthy that I have been able to locate and verify to date, with the exception of some items insignificant to scholars. Asterisks mark those items I have not personally seen, but which are included here because I was able to acquire complete bibliographical information about them from sources I deemed likely to be accurate. Items new to this update appear in red.

I am grateful for the help of many McCarthy scholars and readers who have called my attention to some of the materials which appear in the bibliography or who helped locate them. Special thanks go to Travis Gordon of the Midlands Technical College English Department and to Marty Priola, webmaster of the Cormac McCarthy Home Page for their generous advice and assistance in preparing this document for Web access. Appreciation is also due to the library staffs of Midlands Technical College and the University of South Carolina.

This checklist is updated periodically with new listings appearing in red. Authors and researchers are invited to make suggestions for additions or corrections by emailing the compiler.

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I. Archives

- Albert Erskine Random House Editorial Files. Accession # 13497, Special Collections, U of Virginia Library, Charlottesville. [1962-1994: manuscripts, correspondence, and reviews relating to McCarthy's novels]
- Cormac McCarthy Collection. Southwestern Writers Collection, The Witliff Collections, Texas State U—San Marcos. [1984 and undated: drafts of dramatic works: *The Stonemason*, "Whales and Men", "Cities of the Plain"]
- **Cormac McCarthy Papers.** Southwestern Writers Collection, The Witliff Collections, Texas State U–San Marcos. [1964-2007: correspondence, notes, drafts, setting copies, proofs for all novels and

- screenplays from *The Orchard Keeper* through *The Road*, and restricted material relating to his unpublished *The Passenger*]
- **Dale L. Walker Collection on Cormac McCarthy**. Southwestern Writers Collection, The Witliff Collections, Texas State U–San Marcos. [Clippings and photocopies of articles about McCarthy; print-outs from "The Cormac McCarthy Home Page"]
- **Faulkner Foundation Papers**. Faulkner-Massey Collection, U of Virginia Library, Charlottesville. [Documents relating to McCarthy's winning the William Faulkner Foundation Award for *The Orchard Keeper*, 1966]
- **John Sepich Papers**. Southwestern Writers Collection, Texas State U–San Marcos. [Research notes, drafts and correspondence relating to Sepich's *Notes on Blood Meridian* and related articles]
- **Knoxville Catholic High School Library**. Knoxville, TN. [Incomplete run of issues of the *Gold and Blue* from the years McCarthy attended]
- Perspectives on Cormac McCarthy Collection. Southwestern Writers Collection, Texas State U–San Marcos. [Drafts and proofs of articles in Edwin Arnold and Dianne Luce's special McCarthy issue of Southern Quarterly (1992) and its revision as Perspectives on Cormac McCarthy (1993); related correspondence]
- **Richard Inman Pearce Collection.** South Caroliniana Library, U of South Carolina, Columbia. [Materials relating to the research and writing of *The Gardener's Son*, compiled by the film's director; Pearce's copy of the shooting script]
- **Robert Cumbow Collection.** Southwestern Writers Collection, Texas State U–San Marcos. [Letters, 1985-87]
- University of Tennessee Archives. Knoxville, TN. [Issues of the UT *Orange and White* literary supplement, *The Phoenix*, with McCarthy's apprentice stories "Wake for Susan" (Oct. 1959) and "A Drowning Incident" (Mar. 1960)].
- Woolmer Collection of Cormac McCarthy. Southwestern Writers Collection, Texas State University–San Marcos. [1969-2006: extensive correspondence between McCarthy and Howard Woolmer, photocopied drafts, reviews and articles, Woolmer's drafts of a primary bibliography of McCarthy's works]

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- ---- "One Author Took a Final Refuge in his Friend's Success." News-Sentinel [Knoxville, TN] 21 May 1999: A19. Revised as "Fading Star, Flaming Star." New Millenium Writings 4.2 (Winter 1999-2000): 116-118. [When Leslie Garrett's In the Country of Desire was published in the same year as All the Pretty Horses, Garrett was delighted: "There are only two great writers at work in America today. Me and Cormac. And we're going mano a mano, hand to hand, just me and him" (118).]