Ward Swift Just, 1935-

Papers, 1958-1991
22 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 1990-34

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History

The son and grandson of newspaper publishers, Ward Swift Just was born 5 Sep 1935, in Michigan City, Indiana, and grew up in Waukegan and Lake Forest, Illinois. After graduating from Cranbrook School in 1953 and attending Trinity College (Hartford, Connecticut) in 1957, he took his first job as a reporter for the family newspaper The Waukegan News-Sun.

Between 1959 and 1965 Just wrote briefly for The Reporter, but primarily for Newsweek magazine’s offices in Chicago, Washington D.C., New York City, and London. After reporting for Newsweek on the 1957 war in Cyprus and the 1965 conflict in the Dominican Republic, Just was hired by Benjamin Bradlee at The Washington Post and soon was sent to Saigon as its Vietnam war correspondent.

From December of 1965 to May of 1967, the Post published close to 400 of Just’s articles, often on the front page. He was seriously wounded by North Vietnamese in June, 1966, while accompanying a reconnaissance patrol that came under heavy attack. After recovering in D.C., Just returned to Saigon for a second tour. Leaving Saigon in May, 1967, he went to Ireland where he wrote To What End: Report from Vietnam. The article, published in The Washington Post, was widely cited as an important adjunct to helping the nation understand the futility of the war. After covering the presidential campaigns of both Eugene McCarthy and Richard Nixon for the Post in 1968, Just was invited to join the Post’s editorial board.

Taking a leave of absence in 1969, Just moved to Vermont. There he wrote his first fictional work, A Soldier of the Revolution, in 1970 and then completed the research and wrote his last book of non-fiction, Military Men, which was published late in the same year. He then turned to the writing of short stories. The Atlantic Monthly magazine published nine of them (1971-1973) and they were later collected as The Congressman Who Loved Flaubert and Other Washington Stories (1973).

Although continuing to deal with the atmosphere and military involvements of Washington, Just again changed genres and produced two novels, Stringer (1974) and Nicholson at Large (1975). Just became a contributing editor for The Atlantic Monthly during this time and several of his short stories and two novellas were published. They appeared later as a collection, Honor, Power, Riches, Fame, and the Love of Women in 1979.

In Just’s 1978 novel, A Family Trust, the location shifted back to the American Midwest and concerns a family-owned newspaper that is moving into the third generation. It is heavily based on his early experiences with the family newspaper. The personal and political dynamics of Washington and Vietnam return in his next two works, In the City of Fear (1982) and The American Blues (1984).

Ward Just has been married three times: to Jean Ramsay in 1957, to Anne Burling in 1967, and to Sarah Catchpole in 1983. He has two daughters, Jennifer Ramsay and Julia Barnett, by his first wife and one son, Ian Ward, by his second.
Scope and Content of Collection

The papers of Ward Just are arranged to follow his development as a newswriter, war correspondent and author. They have been organized into five (5) series: PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED WORKS FILES; CORRESPONDENCE; MEMORABILIA; PROOFS AND DRAFTS; and BOOKS. In addition, an Index is provided.

The PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED WORKS series contains research sources; correspondence; clippings; reviews; page proofs; and editors’ comments related to Just’s early career as a newswriter for *Newsweek* (1962-1966), his work as a journalist and Vietnam War correspondent for *The Washington Post*, and as author of several non-fiction articles and books and many short stories, novels and novellas. The materials are grouped by genre within a chronological sequence. Unpublished works files are interfiled with published works files.

The CORRESPONDENCE series includes personal and business correspondence, notes from editors not related to a particular work. Correspondents include agents, friends, and publishers. Materials are arranged chronologically and by subject.

The MEMORABILIA series consists of diaries, calendars, notebooks, scrapbooks, and souvenirs from 1966 to ca. 1975. The notes cover Just’s personal experiences, reports, articles, and interviews.

The PROOFS AND DRAFTS series contains typescripts and proofs, with handwritten corrections of Just’s novels and stories. These have been arranged mainly in alphabetical order by title. The page order as received from the donor has been maintained. The typescript pages are numbered, but they are not arranged numerically, which reflects the original arrangement of Just’s revisions.

The BOOKS series includes copies of Just’s books. All published material in the collection is listed in a Bibliography appended to this finding aid.
Box 1
PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED WORKS FILES
6. Newsweek, Cyprus, typescript, article and misc. 1964.

Box 2

Box 3

Box 4
1. Review of A City on a Hill, George Higgins [n.d.].
5. Article, typescript, “On Gunning and Writing” [n.d.].

Box 4 (cont.)
PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED WORKS FILES (cont.)

Box 5
1. Interviews, various, of W. Just 1973-91.
2. Interview of W. Just by B. Fox, typescript 1967.

Box 6
CORRESPONDENCE

Box 7
3. The Congressman Who Loved Flaubert [1973], typescripts, reviews.
5-6. A Family Trust, [1978] clippings, reviews
8. The American Ambassador [1987], corres., reviews.
10. The Translator, [1991].
Box 8
MEMORABILIA
Calendars, notebooks, diaries 1969-1985

Box 9
1-9. Mrs. F. Ward Just Collection, articles, clippings, reviews.

Folder 1
Two scrapbooks containing *Washington Post* articles by Ward Just.

Box 10
PROOFS AND DRAFTS
1-2. Early short stories, typescripts [n.d.].
3-4. Various writings, unpublished.
19. Short stories, “Crocodiles” typescript and play script, and “Crocodile” typescript [n.d.].

Box 11
10. Short story, “In the Country” typescript [n.d.].
11. Short story, “Journal of the Plague Year” [n.d.].

Box 12
9. Short story, “Personal Effects of Stringer” [n.d.].

Box 13
1. Short story, “War Hero” [n.d.].
5. Short story, “The Young are No Match for the Old”, drafts, typescripts 1975.

Box 14
5. Out of Time, Pt. II unpub. version of A Family Trust.
6. A Family Trust early draft.

Box 15
The American Blues, typescripts.

Box 16
1. The American Ambassador, typescripts.
2-4. Born in His Time, 1974, typescripts.
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Box 18
2. *Dement* [unpublished novel], various drafts.
3. *In the City of Fear*, various drafts

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Box 20
3. *American Dreams*.
4-5. *St. John in Love*, various drafts and notes.
6-7. *American Dreams* and various short stories.

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Box 22
4. *A Family Business* [A Family Trust], draft and galleys.

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Box 24
1-10. *In the City of Fear*, various drafts.

Box 25

**Box 26**
1. *Out of Time*, typescript
2. *American Blues*, typescript
4. *In the City of Fear*, typescript

**Box 27**

**Box 28**
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Note: The following bibliographies consist of items, in their published forms, which are part of the Ward Just Papers donated to the Cranbrook Archives. Items included are magazine clippings, published books, newspaper sections, hardbound and paperbound books and galley proofs. This listing, although extensive, should not be considered as a comprehensive Ward Just bibliography. It is restricted to those items forwarded to the Cranbrook Archives by Mr. Just himself.

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"Journey to the End of the Night - In Four Parts." Washington Post, Potomac, 19 October 1975, 14.


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