



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Rick Bass Papers

1982-1994

Collection SWWC-020

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Bass, Rick
Title:	Guide to the Rick Bass Papers
Dates:	1982-1994
Abstract:	The Rick Bass papers are comprised of manuscripts, galley proofs, notes, clippings, correspondence, legal papers, photographs and artifacts, 1924 to the present, relating to Bass' career as a writer.
Identification:	SWWC-020
Extent:	4.5 Linear Feet, 9 boxes (Plus oversize)
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical Note

Novelist, essayist, and short story writer Rick Bass was born March 7, 1958 in Fort Worth, Texas. He was raised in Houston and graduated with a B.S. in Geology from Utah State University in 1979. Employed as a petroleum geologist in Mississippi from 1979 to 1987, Bass has since written full time on environmental issues and the vanishing wilderness. Bass has been an active environmentalist and member of the Sierra Club, Montana Wilderness Association, Cabinet Resources Group, Round River Conservation Studies, and the Yaak Valley Forest Council. He regularly publishes articles in magazines such as *Field and Stream*, *Sports Afield*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Outdoor Life*, and others. Bass and his wife Elizabeth moved to Montana's Yaak Valley in 1987, where Bass finds the isolation he requires to write. Describing Bass's storytelling voice, Leigh Tillman Partington writes that Bass tells a story "true, strong, and intimate; the details of his language are lush and pure, providing just the right amount of landscape and inner turmoil. Above all, his stories are about precarious balances: between men and women, children and adults, friends, lovers, and between humans and the natural world. His language reflects that balance. Like Eudora Welty, to whom he is often compared, Bass plays close attention to inner and outer surfaces, watching where and how they meet, and he captures those meeting places on the page" (*Contemporary Southern Writers*, 1999).

Scope and Contents

The Rick Bass papers are comprised of manuscripts, galley proofs, notes, clippings, correspondence, legal papers, photographs and artifacts, 1924 to the present, relating to Bass' career as a novelist. Series include Works, Clippings and Reviews, Writing Related Files, Environmental Concerns, General Correspondence, and Personal. The largest of these series is the first, Works, which is comprised mainly of photocopied pages from Bass' handwritten notebooks which serve as the forum for Bass' ideas and notes.

Administrative Information

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use: .
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gifts of Rick Bass and Scott Slovic beginning in 1991.

Preferred Citation

Rick Bass Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Conditions Governing Use

Materials from the Wittliff Collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study. The user assumes responsibility for determining copyright status, obtaining permission to publish, and abiding by U.S. copyright laws. .
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Controlled Access Headings

- Authors, American -- Texas -- 20th century
- Environmentalism
- Natural history literature

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Works, 1984-1994, undated

Box	Folder	
1	1	"The Afterlife," drafts, undated
1	2	Alaska journal notes, 1991
1	3	"Angel," drafts, 1991, undated
1	4	Audubon, notes, 1994
1	5	Barry Hannah, notes, 1993
1	6	Bedichek, notes, 1993, undated
1	7	Beloit, notes, 1993, undated
1	8	"Caribou," typed draft, undated
1	9	"Chances," draft, undated
1	10	"Dark-Eyed Owl," third revision on floppy disk, September 29, 1992
1	11	"Deer Pasture," notes, 1991
1	12	"A Dog in the Hand, and other pointers from the bird-dog man of Texas," in <i>Esquire</i> , October 1989
1	13	"Dog Poem," for Amy Hempel, undated
1	14	"Earth Divers," first page of typed draft, May 1994
1	15	"Ferns," draft, undated
1	16	"Field Events," draft and notes, 1984
1	17	"Field Stripping Arizona," in <i>The Discovery Channel Magazine</i> , June 1990
1	18	Fire story, notes, undated
1	19	"First Snow, On the Road with Rick Bass," in <i>The Climbing Art</i> , Summer 1991
1	20	"Four Coyotes," in <i>Northern Lights</i> , undated
1	21	"Four Days," drafts, notes, and corrections, undated
1	22	"Four Deer," drafts, 1993, undated
1	23	"Grace," in <i>Gray's Sporting Journal</i> , Fall 1986
1	24	Grant proposal, notes, undated
1	25	"Green Valley," notes, drafts, 1994, undated
1	26	"Grizzlies in Non-Fiction," draft, 1992
1	27	Hawaii notes, "Paradise Rising," in <i>Traveler</i> , June 1993
2	1	History of Rodney in "Fireflies," drafts, undated
2	2	"Hounds", undated
2	3	"Idaho," notes, 1992
2	4	"In the Loyal Mountains," draft (1985), published article in <i>Southwest Review</i> , 1985-1990
2	5	"India," notes, drafts, 1993, undated

2	6	"The Indians," draft, undated
2	7	Interview with Doug Peacock, Jim Tolisan, and Dennis Sizemore, transcript, undated
2	8	"Key West," notes, drafts, undated
2	9	"Krapweed," notes, draft, undated
2	10	"Mahatma Joe," notes, typed draft, 1993, undated
2	11	McKibben, Bill, quote for his book
2	12	"Memphis," typed draft, undated
2	13	"Mississippi," in The Cimarron Review, June 1987
2	14	"More Dennis Stories," notes, 1994
2	15	Myths of Bears, typed draft, notes, undated
2	16	"La Nalgai," notes, typed draft, 1988, undated
3	1	Ninemile Wolves, notes and drafts, 1991, undated
3	2	Ninemile Wolves, edited typescript drafts (pgs. 3-90), undated
3	3	Ninemile Wolves, proof, 1992, undated
3	4	"Northern Rockies," notes, drafts, undated
3	5	Notes for the Prade Ranch, undated
3	6	Oil Notes, typed draft, 1991
3	7-8	Oil Notes, copy edited draft , 1988
4	1	"On Willow Creek," in L. A. Times Magazine, undated
4	2	"The Other Fort Worth Bases," drafts, undated
4	3	"Out on the Wild Fringe," in Audubon, January-February 1994
4	4	"Peacock"/ "San Juans," notes, drafts, 1993-1994, undated
4	5	"The Perfect Day," notes, drafts, 1993, undated
4	6	Plans, notes, 1993, undated
4	7	"Plimpton," draft, 1993
4	8	"The Prisoners," drafts, 1994
4	9	"Quanah," draft, notes, undated
4	10	Quote for A Hunter's Road by Jim Fergus, 1992
4	11	"The Rage of the Squat Kings," disk and drafts, 1992-1993
4	12	"Records," unpublished draft, 1989
4	13	Review of Mao II by Don DeLillo, 1991
4	14	Review of The Moon by Whale Light and Other Adventures Among Bats by Diane Ackerman, 1991
4	15	Review of Our Happiness by Tom Jenks in The American Book Review, December 1991-January 1992
4	16	Speech given at the Public Lands Forum in Mesa, Arizona, February 28, 1991
4	17	"Romania," notes, drafts, 1993, undated
5	1	"Rust," draft, undated
5	2	"Sea," notes, 1994
5	3	Sierra article, draft, 1993
5	4	"The Silent Language," draft, 1993, undated

5	5	"Stephanie," notes, undated
5	6	"Swan Valley, Montana" draft, 1994
5	7	"Swans," drafts, 1992, undated
5	7	"Twin Grizzly Peak," early typed draft, undated
5	9	Unidentified manuscripts and general notes, 1992-1994, undated
5	10	"The Valley," draft, undated
5	11	"Valley of the Crows"
5	12	"The Wait," draft, undated
5	13	The Watch - Original publisher's draft, 1991
5	14	The Watch Master's set, first pass, undated
6	1	Master's set, second pass, undated
6	2	Master's set, confirmation, undated
6	3	"What Was Once Life," floppy disk
6	4	"When a Publisher Dies," unfinished draft, undated
6	5	"Where the Sea Used to Be," drafts, undated
6	6	"The Windy Day," notes and published version in The Quarterly, Winter 1992
6	7	Winter, drafts, notes, undated
6	8	"Wolves in Fiction," in Northern Lights
6	9	"Woodthieves," notes, drafts, undated
6	10	"Woods Where I Live," draft and published version in Scholastic Scope, January 14, 1994, undated
6	11	"Writers at Work," notes, draft, undated

Series II: Clippings and Reviews, 1987-1994

7	1	Reviews of The Watch, Winter: Notes from Montana, and Oil Notes, includes an interview with Bass in Kinesis, 1987-1991
7	2	Reviews of Winter: Notes from Montana and The Ninemile Wolves, 1992-1994
7	3	Reviews of Oil Notes, Wild to the Heart, Winter: Notes from Montana, and The Ninemile Wolves, undated

Series III: Writing Related Files, 1982-1994, undated

7	4	Correspondence with publishers and universities related to Bass' writing, 1982, 1991-1994
7	5	Readings, book signings, and other appearances, 1988-1989, 1991-1993
7	6	Teaching (University of Montana), includes syllabi, students' manuscripts, memos, notes, 1992, undated
8	1	Interview of Bass by Scott Slovic, cassettes and draft of published piece, 1993
8	2	General Materials, includes receipts, notes, business cards, etc.

Series IV: Environmental Concerns, 1990-1994

8	3	Correspondence (to and from Bass), 1990-1994
8	4	Flyers, clippings, and other promotional material, 1991-1994

Series V: General Correspondence, 1987-1993, undated

8	5	Wittliff, Bill, 1991, undated
8	6	General Correspondence, July-September, 1987
8	7	General Correspondence, December 1987-January 1988
9	1	General Correspondence, 1989-1993

Series VI: Personal, 1989-1993, undated

9	2	Memorabilia, includes address book, dog's tag, hunting licenses, membership cards, insurance documents, notes, calendar, shopping list, etc.
9	3	Travel, includes itineraries, guidebooks, maps, correspondence, 1993, undated
9	4	Photographs, childhood and with wife, 1989, undated
9	5	Family papers, includes father's draft card, clippings of articles written by his father, receipts, etc.
9	6	Clippings and articles
9	7	General papers, University of Mississippi newsletters, financial documents, listing for Bass' ranch, miscellaneous documents
9	8	Originals of photocopied clippings

Series VII: Artifacts, undated

10	1	Chainsaw blade
10	2-3	License plates
10	4	Notes on tree bark & Two Walkman radios, pens