

2015

## Shannon Ravenel Editorial Papers, 1977-1990.

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## Collection Overview

- Title:** Shannon Ravenel Editorial Papers for *Best American Short Stories*
- Abstract:** This collection includes materials related to Shannon Ravenel’s editorial work for Houghton Mifflin’s *Best American Short Stories* series, including reading records, permissions, manuscripts, and correspondence.
- Creator:** Ravenel, Shannon, b. 1938
- Extent:** 1977-1990
- Size:** 3.94 cubic feet (8 boxes)
- Donor:** Shannon Ravenel, February 12, 2001 (Acc. # 3-5/2001)
- Access:** No restrictions.
- Rights:** Permission to quote from documents must be obtained from copyright owners.
- Related Collections**
- University Archives:**
- Q-4a: Alumni Files-Ravenel, Shannon
  - J-2: Student Publications-*The Spinster* (1957-1960); *Cargoes*
- Hollins Authors Collection & the General Collection:**
- PS551.N49 (*New Stories from the South*)
  - PS645.B4 (*Best American Short Stories*)

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## Biographical Statement<sup>1</sup>

Shannon Ravenel grew up in Charleston, South Carolina. She graduated from Hollins College in 1960 with a B.A. in English, cum laude. While at Hollins, Ravenel was the editor for *Cargoes*, the campus literary magazine and member of several campus organizations, including the Grapheon Literary Society and Joint Legislature. After graduation, she joined the staff of Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. in New York. Following her position at Holt, she worked eleven years for Houghton Mifflin in its trade editorial department. Ravenel accepted Houghton Mifflin's invitation to act as Series Editor of *Best American Short Stories* in 1977, and has co-edited eleven volumes of that anthology. In 1982, she joined her former teacher, Louis Rubin, to establish Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, "with the aim of publishing non-fiction and literary fiction of unpublished young writers." Ravenel edits the series *New Stories from the South*. She served as Vice President and Senior Editor and then became Editorial Director in 1991, when Rubin retired.

## Collection Description.

This small collection of materials contains the records of Shannon Ravenel, series editor for Houghton Mifflin's *Best American Short Stories*, 1977-1990. The reading records consist of lists of periodicals and any short stories published within each periodical for each year. The remaining material includes letters of notification and/or permissions, contracts, reviews and clippings of BASS, manuscripts, and drafts of introductions to the annual volume. In addition, there is correspondence between Ravenel and the authors, Houghton Mifflin staff, and the guest editors.

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: Key West Literary Seminar pamphlet for 1989 ; Hollins University. Office of Development. Alumnae files; Hollins University Archives Alumnae Files; "Shannon Ravenel, 1938- . Personal Information" in Gale Literary Database, accessed May 21, 2001, 3:30 pm.

## Best American Short Stories Box Lists:

Box 1	
Folder 1	Reading record 1977 – for Best American Short Stories 1978
2 – 4	Best American Short Stories 1978 – edited by Ted Solotaroff
Box 2	
Folder 5	Reading record of stories published in 1978
6 – 8	Best American Short Stories 1979 – edited by Joyce Carol Oates
9	Reading record of stories published in 1979
Box 3	
Folder 10 – 12	Best American Short Stories 1980 – edited by Stanly Elkin
13	Reading record of stories published in 1980
14	Best American Short Stories 1981 – edited by Hortense Calisher
Box 4	
Folder 15	Reading record of stories published in 1981
16 – 18	Best American Short Stories 1982 – edited by John Gardner
19	Reading Record of stories published in 1982
20	Best American Short Stories 1983 – edited by Ann Tyler
21	Reading record of stories published in 1983
Box 5	
Folder 22	Ravenel – St. Louis: Best American Short Stories 1984 – edited by John Updike
23	Ravenel – St. Louis: Reading records, 1984, for Best American Short Stories 1985
24	Ravenel – St. Louis; Best American Short Stories 1985 – edited by Gail Godwin
25	Ravenel – St. Louis: Reading records, 1985 for Best American Short Stories 1986
26	Ravenel – St. Louis: Best American Short Stories 1986 – edited by Raymond Carver
Box 6	
Folder 27	Ravenel – St. Louis: Reading records, 1986 (partial – this was the year of the computer experiment. Approximately 1,900 stories read for Best American Short Stories 1987 – edited by Ann Beattie
28 – 30	Ravenel – St. Louis: Best American Short Stories 1987 – edited by Ann Beattie
31	Ravenel – St. Louis: Reading records, 1987 for Best American Short Stories 1988
32 – 33	Ravenel – St. Louis: Best American Short Stories 1988

Box 7	
Folder 34 – 35	Ravenel – St. Louis: Best American Short Stories 1988 – edited by Mark Helprin
36 – 37	Ravenel – St. Louis: Reading record 1988 for Best American Short Stories 1989
38 – 41	Ravenel – St. Louis: Best American Short Stories 1989 – edited by Margaret Atwood
Box 8	
Folder 42	Reading record of stories published in 1990
43 – 49	Best American Short Stories, 1990 – edited by Richard Ford
50	Final selections – form letters

## Alphabetical List of Guest Editors

Atwood, Margaret (1989)  
Beattie, Ann (1987)  
Calisher, Hortense (1981)  
Carver, Raymond (1986)  
Elkin, Stanly (1980)  
Ford, Richard (1990)  
Gardner, John (1982)  
Godwin, Gail (1985)  
Helprin, Mark (1988)  
Oates, Joyce Carol (1979)  
Solotaroff, Ted (1978)  
Tyler, Ann (1983)  
Upike, John (1984)