

Christine Pullein-Thompson Collection

MS 5078

The papers in the Christine Pullein-Thompson Collection include draft manuscripts for published and unpublished works; diaries; scrapbooks; correspondence; photographs and financial records.

The Collection covers the year's c.1940-2003.

The physical extent of the collection is 145 files.

Introduction

Christine was born in Wimbledon on 1 October 1925, 20 minutes after her twin, Diana. However, the twins and their older sister Josephine grew up in the Oxfordshire village of Peppard. Their mother, Joanna Cannan, was a prolific novelist who was also credited with inventing pony stories for children, beginning with *A Pony for Jean* (1936). Their father, Captain Harold "Cappy" Pullein-Thompson, who had been a schoolteacher, was seriously wounded in the First World War and was awarded the Military Cross. A frustrated writer, he took on various jobs including selling refrigerators and board games, and later ran the Public Schools Employment Bureau. The Pullein-Thompsons also had a son, Denis, who became a successful dramatist and playwright who went on to collaborate with Christopher Fry.

Christine began riding aged seven and by 11, she and her sisters were looking after horses and breeding poultry. A few days after war broke out, the girls, then aged 15 and 14, were allowed to abandon their sketchy formal education and start their own riding stables at their home, The Grove. At the same time the sisters, who had been writing since they were six, began their first pony story, a joint effort, *It Began with Picotee*, written in 1941 which delivered a narrative from the rider's perspective rather than horse's (as had been the Victorian tradition with equestrian fiction). It was published in 1946. In 1948, Christine published her first solo venture, *We Rode to the Sea*.

For more than a dozen years, the three sisters lived the life described in their stories, riding and breaking in ponies, teaching children how to ride, at The Grove and at a second riding school in Wolvercote, and pouring out a stream of popular books.

When the Oxfordshire stables closed in 1952, the girls' mother refused to let them continue to pay for their upkeep. Christine and Diana decided to ease the financial burden on their father and obtained jobs as professional riders in America. Christine moved to Virginia but Diana, was prevented from doing so by a bout of

TB. When Christine returned to join her, she met and married Julian Popescu, an author and BBC monitor who had attended her riding school, in 1954. Back in Oxfordshire, she helped to launch two branches of Riding for the Disabled and settled into a routine of producing a book a year, adapting her stories for the vagaries in the children's market.

Christine Pullein-Thompson's fiction was not restricted to the world of gymkhanas: a ghostly element entered with the Phantom Horse series for Armada, and the series about Jessie the dog proved equally popular. In all, she wrote some 40 children's books not directly connected with horses.

Christine moved to Suffolk in the 1970s, where she continued to work with horses until a bad back compelled her to give up riding. She set up a bridleways group and was chairman of the parish council at Mellis. She collaborated with her sisters on the Black Beauty Trilogy (1975-79) and on an evocative memoir, Fair Girls and Grey Horses (1996) in which they recalled their eccentric upbringing.

Christine, the quietest of the three, was the most productive; she wrote more than 100 books, translated into 12 languages. Christine wrote sometimes under the name of Christine Keir.

Christine Pullein-Thompson died on 2 December 2005.

MS 5078/1 First typed draft of 'A day to go hunting' with corrections, published by London in 1966
c.1966

MS 5078/2 Typescript of 'A day to go hunting' with corrections
c.1966

MS 5078/3 Typescript of 'No one at home' with corrections, published by Hamish Hamilton in 1964
c.1964

- MS 5078/4** Typescript of the Reindeer series book 'Room to let' with corrections, published by Hamish Hamilton in 1968
c.1968
- MS 5078/5** Two typescripts of 'Dog in a pram', published by Hamish Hamilton in 1969
c.1969
One typescript marked 'Master copy'
- MS 5078/6** Typescript of 'Riders on the march' with corrections, published by May Fair in 1970
c.1970
- MS 5078/7** Typescript of 'Phantom horse goes to Ireland' with corrections, published by Fontana in 1972
c.1972
- MS 5078/8** Typescript of 'I rode a winner' with corrections, published by Armada in 1973
c.1973
- MS 5078/9** Typescript of 'A pony to love' with corrections, published by Pan in 1975
c.1975

- MS 5078/10** Typescript of 'Good riding' with corrections, published by Armada in 1975
c.1975
- MS 5078/11** Typescript of 'Strange riders at Black Pony Inn' with corrections, published by Pan in 1976
c.1976
- MS 5078/12** Typescript of 'Strange riders at Black Pony Inn' with corrections
c.1976
- MS 5078/13** Typescript of 'Mystery at Black Pony Inn' with corrections, published by Severn House in 1976
c.1976
- MS 5078/14** Typescript of 'Pony Patrol' with corrections, published by Dragon Books in 1977
c.1977
- MS 5078/15** Typescript of 'Pony Patrol fights back' with corrections, published by Dragon Books in 1977
c.1977

- MS 5078/16** Typescript of 'Pony Patrol SOS' with corrections, published by Dragon Books in 1977
c.1977
- MS 5078/17** Typescript of 'Father unknown', published by Dobson in 1981
c.1981
- MS 5078/18** Typescript of 'Mystery horse and the Pony Patrol' with corrections, published by Severn House in 1981
c.1981
- MS 5078/19** Original manuscript of 'Phantom horse goes to Scotland', published by Armada in 1981
c.1981
- MS 5078/20** Corrected and marked-up typescript of 'Phantom horse goes to Scotland'
c.1981
- MS 5078/21** Incomplete typescript of 'Ponies in the park' with corrections, published by Beaver in 1982
c.1982

- MS 5078/22** Carbon typescript of 'Ponies in the park'
c.1982
- MS 5078/23** Corrected and marked-up typescript of 'Ponies in the forest',
published by Beaver in 1983
c.1983
- MS 5078/24** Corrected and marked-up typescript of 'Ponies in the forest'
c.1983
- MS 5078/25** Typescript of 'Ponies in the blizzard' with corrections, published
by Beaver in 1984
c.1984
- MS 5078/26** Typescript of 'A home for Jessie' with corrections, published by
Goodchild in 1986
c.1986
- MS 5078/27** Typescript of 'Please save Jessie' with illustrations, published by
Tempo in 1987
c.1987

- MS 5078/28** Typescript of 'Please save Jessie' with corrections, published by Tempo in 1987
c.1987
- MS 5078/29** Typescript of 'Smoke in the hills' with corrections, published by Hodder & Stoughton in 1989
c.1989
- MS 5078/30** Typescript of 'Across the frontier' with corrections, published by Andersen Press in 1990
c.1990
- MS 5078/31** Typescript of 'Across the frontier' with corrections, part 2
c.1990
- MS 5078/32** Typescript of 'The long search' with corrections, published by Andersen Press in 1991
c. 1991
- MS 5078/33** Typescript of 'The long search' with corrections, part 2
c. 1991

- MS 5078/34** Typescript of 'The long search' with corrections, part 3
c. 1991
- MS 5078/35** Correspondence and drafts relating to 'Horse and Pony stories',
published by Kingfisher Books in 1992
c.1992
- MS 5078/36** Story outlines and drafts relating to 'Horsehaven', published by
Cavalier Paperbacks in 1996
c.1996
- MS 5078/37** Typescript of 'Horsehaven' with corrections
c.1996
- MS 5078/38** Typescript of Christine Pullein-Thompson's chapters in 'Fair girls
and grey horses', published by Allison & Busby in 1996
c.1996
- MS 5078/39** Typescript of short stories with corrections, part 1
Undated
Includes typescripts of 'Burnt Rosettes', 'The big drought', 'Going
to the dogs' or 'The night coach comes in', 'The Machine Gods'
and 'Hoofprints in the sand'

- MS 5078/40** Typescripts of short stories with corrections, part 2
Undated
Includes typescripts of 'Just a bit different', 'Purple rain', 'Too much trouble', 'Green with envy', 'The old dun pony', 'Downright cruelty' and two untitled stories.
- MS 5078/41** Typescripts of short stories, part 3
Undated
Includes typescripts of 'Firkin's ghost', 'Tally ho', 'Isobel's pony' and 'A ghost in the stable'.
- MS 5078/42** Typescripts of short stories, part 4
Undated
Includes typescripts of 'Skeleton rider', 'Ghostly cave', 'A ghost in the family', 'Strange vet' and 'The haunted mews'.
- MS 5078/43** Typescripts of short stories, part 5
Undated
Includes typescripts of 'One Christmas time', 'I want to win first prize' or 'I want to be first' and 'Tracey's pony'.
- MS 5078/44** Typescripts of short stories with corrections, part 6
Undated
Includes typescripts of 'Lessons in the top meadow' and an incomplete typescript of 'The road through the hills'.

- MS 5078/45** Collection of synopses and typescripts with corrections
Undated
Includes material relating to 'Candy has company', 'Candy meets the fire brigade', 'Candy goes green', 'Candy goes camping', 'Candy helps the police', 'Candy stops a train', 'Vets at the riding school', 'A vet too few', 'Catastrophe at Black Pony Inn' and 'Good deeds at Black Pony Inn'.
- MS 5078/46** Publications containing articles by Christine Pullein-Thompson 1951-1988
Publications include 'The Chronicle', an American sporting journal, 16 November 1951, 'School Magazine', August 1969 and 'Pony magazine', October 1988.
- MS 5078/47** Typescript of 'Black pioneer' with corrections
Undated
- MS 5078/48** Typescript of 'Come home Jessie' with corrections
Undated
- MS 5078/49** Typescript of 'Jessie keeps watch' with corrections
Undated
- MS 5078/50** Typescript of 'Competition of all kinds and how to run your own show' with corrections
Undated

- MS 5078/51** Short typescript of 'How to be a perfect grandmother' with corrections
Undated
- MS 5078/52** Typescript of 'The invaders of Fen Common' with corrections
Undated
- MS 5078/53** Synopsis and correct typescript of 'Lucy Hawthorne'
Undated
Typescript omits the first ten pages.
- MS 5078/54** Typescript of 'Lucy Hawthorne' with corrections
Undated
Typescript omits the first sixteen pages.
- MS 5078/55** Typescript of 'My little sister' with corrections
Undated
- MS 5078/56** Typescript of 'The mystery of the missing cats', part 1
Undated

- MS 5078/57** Typescript of 'The mystery of the missing cats', part 2
Undated
- MS 5078/58** Typescript of 'Phantom horse to the rescue' with corrections
Undated
- MS 5078/59** Typescript of 'The protest march', or 'A violent summer' with
corrections
Undated
- MS 5078/60** Typescript of 'Rider from America' with corrections
Undated
- MS 5078/61** Unpublished and untitled typescript on the subject of hunting
1954
- MS 5078/62** Incomplete typescript of a collection of detective stories
Undated
- MS 5078/63** Typescript of an untitled wartime story
Undated
Includes the first line 'They stood looking out of the bedroom
window.'

- MS 5078/64** Typescript of an untitled story
Undated
Includes the first line 'They were running home along...'
- MS 5078/65** Typed copy of 'The Grove Magazine'
1940
Family magazine edited by Christine, with contributions from the rest of the family.
- MS 5078/66** Galley proofs of 'Father Unknown'
1981
- MS 5078/67** Photocopies of illustrations for 'The Big Storm'
c.1988
- MS 5078/68** Photocopies of the short story 'The Bargain', published in 'Pony Holiday Special'
1983
Three photocopies
- MS 5078/69** Press cuttings
1960-1992

- MS 5078/70** Press cuttings
1993-2003
- MS 5078/71** Collection of short stories and articles written by Christine Pullein-Thompson
Sep 1951-Oct 1996
Collection includes short story **She won't jump**, included in Riding, September 1951; **Not a pony more, not a pony less** article in Harpers & Queen, August 1993; short story **The Betrayal** by C.P-T included in PEN Broadsheet, Spring 1982 and article **Childhood memories** included in Riding magazine, October 1996.
- MS 5078/72** Collection of unfinished exercise books, including stories and poems which may have been published in **Phantom Horse** in 1950
1950s
5 exercise books; 2 childhood books including stories and poems, unfinished 1954, undated and with no title
- 7 items
- MS 5078/73** Diaries and scrapbook of press cuttings
1985-1996
Includes diaries for years 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989; scrap book of press cuttings
1990-1996.
- MS 5078/74** Fan mail
[1970s-2000s]
Material divided into folders; undated. Includes letters from Becky and Fox, 1970s-2000s. Approx. 550 in all.
- 1 box

MS 5078/75 Childhood letters and a postcard from Christine Pullein-Thompson to her mother
Undated

8 letters, 1 postcard

MS 5078/76 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1979

MS 5078/77 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1980-1984

MS 5078/78 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1985

MS 5078/79 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1986

MS 5078/80 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1987

MS 5078/81 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1988

MS 5078/82 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1989

MS 5078/83 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1990

MS 5078/84 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1991

MS 5078/85 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1992

MS 5078/86 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1993

MS 5078/87 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1994

MS 5078/88 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1995

MS 5078/89 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1996

MS 5078/90 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1997

MS 5078/91 Correspondence with literary agent Jennifer Luithlen
1998

MS 5078/92 Correspondence with editors and others
1994-1996

MS 5078/93 Correspondence with editors and others
1997-1999

MS 5078/94 Correspondence with publishers, A-B
Undated

MS 5078/95 Correspondence with publishers, C-D
Undated

MS 5078/96 Correspondence with publishers, E-K
Undated

MS 5078/97 Correspondence with publishers, L-N
Undated

MS 5078/98 Correspondence with publishers, O-R
Undated

MS 5078/99 Correspondence with publishers, S-Z
Undated

MS 5078/100 Correspondence with publishers, Andersen
Undated

MS 5078/101 Correspondence with publishers, Armada paperbacks
Undated

MS 5078/102 Correspondence with publishers, Armada paperbacks
Undated

MS 5078/103 Correspondence with publishers, Beaver Books
Undated

MS 5078/104 Correspondence with publishers, Collins
Undated

MS 5078/105 Correspondence with publishers, Fontana
Undated

MS 5078/106 Correspondence with publishers, Goodchild
Undated

MS 5078/107 Correspondence with publishers, Granada
1971-1979

- MS 5078/108** Correspondence with publishers, Granada
1980-1983
- MS 5078/109** Correspondence with publishers, Hamish Hamilton
Undated
- MS 5078/110** Correspondence with publishers, Hodder & Stoughton
1977-1979
- MS 5078/111** Correspondence with publishers, Hodder & Stoughton
1980-1984
- MS 5078/112** Correspondence with publishers, Pan Books
1972-1975
- MS 5078/113** Correspondence with publishers, Pan Books
1976-1979

- MS 5078/114** Correspondence with publishers, Pan Books
1980-1986
- MS 5078/115** Correspondence with publishers, Severn House
Undated
- MS 5078/116** Correspondence with publishers, Simon & Schuster
Undated
- MS 5078/117** Correspondence with periodicals
1982-1992
Includes Horse & Pony, Pony Horse and Rider, Pony, Pony and
Light Horse, and Your Horse.
- MS 5078/118** Correspondence with television companies
Undated
Includes correspondence with Abbey Home Entertainments,
Childsplay Productions Limited, Granada, ITV, Middlemarch
Films Ltd., Primetime, Red Rooster, Richard Price Television
Productions Ltd., Wall to Wall Television Ltd.
- MS 5078/119** Correspondence with literary agents Dianne Coles and Rosica
Colin
Undated

- MS 5078/120** Miscellaneous correspondence and papers
1952-2002
- MS
5078/120a** Euology for Julian John Hunter Popescu (d. 2/2/2008), written
by his son Philip
Undated [2008]
- MS 5078/121** Letters from famous people' including Robert Hardy, Michael
Heseltine MP, Tony Durant MP, Donald Swann and Jilly Cooper
Undated
- MS 5078/122** Correspondence and items relating to Childrens' Book Week
Oct-80
- MS 5078/123** Permissions for 'Christine Pullein-Thompson's book of pony
stories' and 'The book of pony stories'
c.1975-1977
- MS 5078/124** Material relating to Christine Pullein-Thompson including
typewritten biographical details, programmes and book covers
Feb 1950-[c.1975]
Includes copy of Riding Feb.1950, Polo for the Pony Club 1972,
programme for the Horse of the Year Show 1975. Covers for 4
books by C. P-T; 'The Pony Dopers', 'Magical Pony Tales' and
'Incredible Pony Tales', 'A home for Jessie'.

MS 5078/125 Black and white photographs of the Pullein-Thompson family
and horses
Undated

MS 5078/126 Accounts relating to Burke Books
1959-1967

MS 5078/127 Accounts relating to Burke Books
1968-1974

MS 5078/128 Accounts files from accountants Thornton Baker
1980-1981

MS 5078/129 Cash book
1977-1981

MS 5078/130 Cash book
1981-1990

MS 5078/131 Small cash book
1975-1977

MS 5078/132 Accounts with Jennifer Luithlen, literary agent
1985-1989

MS 5078/133 Royalty statements
1975-1976

MS 5078/134 Royalty statements
1977

MS 5078/135 Royalty statements
1978-1979

MS 5078/136 Royalty statements relating to Granada Publishing
1979

MS 5078/137 Royalty statements
1980-1985

MS 5078/138 Royalty statements
1986-1987

MS 5078/139 Royalty statements
1988

MS 5078/140 Royalty statements
1989

MS 5078/141 Royalty statements
1990

MS 5078/142 Royalty statements
1991

MS 5078/143 Royalty statements
1991

MS 5078/144 Royalty statements
1992

MS 5078/145 Royalty statements
1993-2001