

**UNISA LIBRARY MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION**

**John McIntosh (1930-1970) Papers**

Inventory



**Compiled by  
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## John Daniel Kerr McIntosh 1930-1970

John McIntosh was born in Zimbabwe. As the child of a bank manager, his childhood was spent in various parts of South Africa. He was educated at St Aiden's College (Grahamstown), Stutterheim High School, and at the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand where he studied science and the arts. In 1950, he worked as a journalist for SAPA and later joined the **Star**. McIntosh was sent to Britain and later became a sub-editor in Johannesburg. He left the **Star** in 1961 in order to spend more time on his own creative writing. In 1962 he was appointed to the staff of Boys' Town, Magaliesburg, where he taught until his untimely death from cancer in 1970.

During John McIntosh's years as an English teacher, he published short stories in collections such as *Winter's Tales* and *New South African Writing*. His first novel, *Blood Brothers*, which deals with the theme of racial conflict, was published in 1965 by Anthony Blond. Panther re-issued the publication as a paperback in 1969. McIntosh's second novel, *The Thorn Trees*, which is set on a remote farm at the edge of the Kalahari, was published by MacMillan in London in 1967. Two years later, MacMillan published McIntosh's third novel, *Come to My House*, which describes the pains of adolescence. His fourth and final book, *The Stonefish*, tells the story of a young man's journey from Johannesburg to Mozambique in search of reconciliation with loss. McIntosh was awarded the CNA literary prize posthumously for this publication.

At the time of his death, John McIntosh was busy writing a novel set in South West Africa. His unpublished manuscripts include 17 short stories, two plays and several novels.

## The John McIntosh Papers (0,4 linear metres)

The Unisa Library bought the John McIntosh Papers in 1991 from Mrs Gladys Hirst, a close friend of the author. The **Papers** include 11 soft-covered exercise books – the manuscript of McIntosh's book *The Thorn Trees*. The manuscripts of his other novels, plays, poems and short stories are held by Boston University in the United States.

The bibliographical information in the inventory was compiled from notes compiled by Prof Shirley Kossick and press cuttings in the **McIntosh Papers**.

## John McIntosh Papers (1951-1994)

0,4 linear metres

1	Personal and biographical	
1.1	Copies of correspondence with <i>Johan</i>	1951-1952
1.2	Gladys Hirst's correspondence	1967-1971
1.3	Requiem mass for John McIntosh	1970
1.4	Photograph album of John McIntosh	1970
1.5	CNA Literary Award	1971
1.6	Biographies by Prof SG Kossick and others	1967-1984
1.7	Press cuttings	1965-1991
2	Bibliographies	
2.1	Compiled by Unisa Library staff and copies of printed short stories	1979
2.1.1	<i>Starring Uncle Reggie, Ethne Vosloo and me</i> ( <i>New SA Writing</i> , Purnell, 1966)	
2.1.2	<i>Nobody could tell we were there</i> ( <i>Winter's tales 14</i> , Macmillan, 1968)	
2.1.3	<i>I'm anxious about Frikkie</i> ( <i>New SA Writing</i> , Purnell, 1969)	
2.1.4	<i>How Boetie came to marry a rich lady</i> ( <i>Winter's Tales 16</i> , Macmillan, 1970)	
2.2	List of unpublished manuscripts in John McIntosh Collection, Boston University, USA	
2.2.1	Copies of 2 handwritten short stories, Boston University	
3	Manuscripts (novels and short stories)	
3.1	<i>The Thorn Trees</i> (11 exercise books, see S823.914 MCIN in Archives)	
3.1.1	A film treatment outline by Max Whitehouse, based on this novel by John McIntosh	1967
3.2	<i>Besieged</i> (unpublished manuscript for children on <i>Siege of Mafikeng</i> )	
3.3	<i>Sweet birds sang / Sweet birds singing</i> (unpublished manuscript)	1953
3.4	<i>In no strange land</i> (unfinished manuscript, set in SWA); <i>Before the rains</i> - a film outline	1970
4	Manuscripts (copies of poems)	
4.1	<i>I saw my baby elephant</i> (handwritten)	
4.2	<i>The near-old</i>	
4.3	<i>When you are gone away</i>	
4.4	<i>Let us go away from all these places</i>	
5	Manuscript (play by John McIntosh ?)	
5.1	<i>Boundaries of day - a play in two scenes</i>	1951
6	Prof Shirley Kossick	
6.1	Correspondence, notes and annexures about John McIntosh	1981-1994
6.2	<i>The friendship</i> - screenplay by SG Kossick & Ian Ferguson, adapted from <i>Blood Brothers</i>	
6.3	<i>The Gibbs Brothers</i> - comedy series for TV, based on a John McIntosh short story	1986-1987
6.4	Stories and poems for children: correspondence and annexures	1986-1987