

Guide to the Papers of Richard C. Marius



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Collection Summary

Creator: Richard C. Marius
Title: Richard C. Marius Papers
Dates: ca. 1992
Quantity: 3 boxes; 3.35 cubic feet
Identification: 94/2
Contact Information: AUM Library
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Montgomery, AL 36124-4023
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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: Richard C. Marius Papers, Auburn University Montgomery Library, Archives & Special Collections.

Acquisition Information: The collection was donated to Auburn University at Montgomery in three phases, on October 5, 1990, on September 14, 1992, and on February 22, 1993. The initial donation consisted of 12 double sided, double density computer discs, 2 single sided micro-floppy discs, and 2 double sided, double faced micro-floppy discs. At the time of this transfer, the title for the novel was in doubt. As a result, the Library's deed of gift reflects the tentative title "Once in Arcadia." The second transfer was from Marius's editor, Ann Close, who sent the 1985 draft (folders 59-80). The final donation consisted of 2 cubic feet of manuscripts, totaling roughly 4,300 pages. Following receipt of the initial gift, the computer discs were printed out and efforts began to sort the files according to their appropriate drafts. Many files retain the

computer headings used in the on-line storage. As a result of the computer storage and lack of an outline, any original organizational sequence was destroyed.

Processed By: Rickey Best, Archivist/Special Collections Librarian (1994); Jason Kneip, Archivist/Special Collections Librarian (2005); Jimmy Kanz, Student Assistant (2005).

Restrictions

Restrictions on access: There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

Restrictions on usage: Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

Index Terms

The material is indexed under the following headings in the Auburn University at Montgomery's Library catalogs – online and offline. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Subjects

Tennessee--Fiction
Immigrants in Literature
World War I, 1914-1918, Tennessee Fiction

Biographical Information

Richard Curry Marius was born July 29, 1933, in Martel, Tennessee. The son of Henri and Eunice (Henck) Marius, he was raised on a farm near Lenoir City, Tennessee, where his father served as the general manager of a foundry operated by the Southern Railway company. Marius's father was a Greek immigrant from Belgium, wounded in the First World War. Marius's grandfather had escaped from Greece after killing a man. Both of these situations served as center pieces for the novel *After the War*.

Following graduation from high school, Marius attended the University of Tennessee, from which he graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in 1954. After working as a journalist, Marius attended two seminaries, the Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, from which he received the bachelor of divinity degree in 1958. Marius next attended Yale University from which he received the Master of Arts (1959) and a doctorate (1962) in history.

Upon graduating from Yale, Marius served as an assistant professor of history at Gettysburg College from 1962 to 1964. In 1964, Marius returned to the University of Tennessee, eventually becoming a full professor of history. In 1978 he was hired by Harvard University president Derek C. Bok to direct the university's expository writing program.

A scholar of Thomas More, Marius has written biographies of both More and Martin Luther. He has edited volumes 6 and 8 of the *Complete Works of Thomas Moore* (Yale University Press), and developed a writing handbook for McGraw-Hill Press. In addition to his historical and expository writing, Marius has written three novels, *The Coming of Rain* (1969), *Bound for the Promised Land* (1976), and *After the War* (1992).

For further information regarding Richard Marius, please see the *Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook: 1985* (Gale, 1986) and *Contemporary Authors: New Revision Series*, vol. 29 (Gale, 1990).

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of drafts for the novel *After the War*, in addition to lectures and essays prepared by Marius on the education, the teaching of writing, on *Hamlet* and Martin Luther. *After the War* is a continuation of Marius's earlier novels *The Coming of Rain* and *Bound for the Promised Land*.

After the War (once called "The Immigrant" and "Once in Arcadia") is loosely based on the lives of Marius's parents and is set in the fictional Bourbonville (Lenoir City) Tennessee. Other potential titles for the novel are included on the verso of page 1 in folder 250.

The drafts of the novel exist in mostly incomplete fragments. Through textual analysis, eighteen different versions have been identified. These range from sections indicating that the novel had its beginnings as a mystery to being written in a third person narrative style. The drafts are arranged loosely in what appears to be the order of creation.

The novel centers on the appearance of a wounded immigrant (in actuality Marius's father) whose appearance disrupts the town. The novel raises significant questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life.

Of particular note are sections excised from later drafts, such as the story of the air race (folders 127-137). Alterations suggested by editor Ann Close are also of interest and appear in many of the later drafts. The Library also has galley proofs for the novel.

Also of interest are the folders in the Miscellaneous Writings series (267-274). These folders contain copies of lectures on the teaching of writing, on *Hamlet*, and on Martin Luther. Each folder contains information relevant to Marius's views on education and the issues relating to the meaning of life.

A final element of interest is in a draft from an unidentified novel containing a chapter in which rum and the slave trade play a role. It is possible that this "novel" would be the first (chronologically) in the series which would lead to the establishment of Bourbonville.

Arrangement

The material is arranged into the following series:

SERIES I. AFTER THE WAR (Marconi Drafts).

Folders: 1-13. Arranged numerically by section.

This series consists of what appears to be the earliest drafts of the novel. According to the plot line developed, it appears to have been written as something of a mystery. The main characters of Paul, Guy and Bernal, Leonora and Palmyre remain, but a new character, Signor Marconi is introduced. Marconi is a smuggler and the stories developed indicate Paul assists Marconi in his smuggling enterprise.

There is no complete version of the story here. There remain a few disparate chapters. One of the longer versions exists in folder 5 and discusses Marconi's past life. Folders 7-9 discuss another character, the "Baron." Not enough of the story line exists to determine the ultimate outcome, but the draft lacks the philosophical interests in life that appear in the published version of novel.

SERIES II. AFTER THE WAR (Early Drafts).

Folders: 14-15. Arranged numerically by section.

Though incomplete in terms of story plot, there are indications that this is an early draft. Begins with a section headed "October 1917" with Paul on a train to Bourbonville, riding with a drunk who went to New York to see his son off to war. Though early in the apparent story, Vasilis visits Paul and tells him he can go home. He admits to killing a man because the man had a knife.

SERIES III. AFTER THE WAR (Ponsonby Draft).

Folders: 16-23. Arranged numerically by section.

This version contains Stanely Ponsonby as the manager of the Car Works. Paul's last name is Kephass. Darcy Coolidge and others in the town are trying to set Paul up with Laetitia Lavender. Bessie Hancock remembers the changes in the community and the foreignness of things. Paul repairs a broken crane in the foundry. Paul takes Virgil to drink with Father McNamara.

SERIES IV. AFTER THE WAR (Price Draft).

Folders: 24-31. Arranged numerically by section.

Written in third person, Stanely Price is the manager of the Car Works. Paul's last name is Kephas. Hub, Virgil, Caleb and Paul sit around drinking whiskey. A preacher comes and buys whiskey from Caleb. Virgil reminisces about a family trip to California. He realizes that he does not love his wife Alva.

SERIES V. AFTER THE WAR (Evelyn Draft).

Folders: 32-38. Arranged numerically by section.

In this draft, the basic plot line is becoming closer to what appears in the final draft. There remain some significant differences, however. Virgil is friendly to Paul though his mother, Evelyn Ledbetter, is antagonistic to him. Laetitia Lavender still mentioned. Paul remembers teasing with Bernal for attention of Palmyre. Paul did not want to marry her. Hub Delany was voted out as Sheriff because people remembered he had shot a preacher.

SERIES VI. AFTER THE WAR (Brizidine Draft).

Folders: 39-45. Arranged numerically by section.

This draft contains scenes preparatory to the strike. Virgil is present and is involved in trying to rectify things and to prevent violence. During the strike, Philip Drodge tries to arrange a settlement. After the National Guard shoots the strikers, Jack Brizidine murders Pinkerton and runs away.

SERIES VII. AFTER THE WAR (Virgil Draft).

Folders: 46-49. Arranged numerically by section.

This version contains some specific memories by Virgil Weaver of his speeches against the war (folder 44) and how everything was tied to Aaron. The character of Bernal contains more contentious characteristics.

SERIES VIII. AFTER THE WAR (Early Strike Draft).

Folders: 50-58. Arranged numerically by section.

Details the events leading up to the strike and the murder of Pinkerton. Bernal in this draft is an unbearable harpy and very jealous of Jenny. Dr. Youngblood is hurt by Jenny's marrying a Doctor in California. Folders 50 and 51 show Virgil contemplating the mysteries of life. Guy tells of having sex with Leonora in a church.

SERIES IX. AFTER THE WAR (Paul's Story).

Folders: 59-80. Arranged numerically by section.

Contains the introduction of Paul's story, written while his wife is still alive for his sons. Writes of his introduction to Bourbonville and to Pinkerton. Virgil is written of as a more active character in this draft, which takes the story line up through the Christmas Paul and Bernal spend with Palmyre.

SERIES X. AFTER THE WAR (3rd Person).

Folders: 81-86. Arranged numerically by section.

Written in the 3rd person, Bernal's character is unbearable in death. Draft begins after D.B. has gone to war. Virgil makes his speech thanking the town for loving D.B. and for loving him. When D.B. is killed, Virgil grieves for Melvina. Mary Eunice Schmidt is introduced, and Pinkerton fires the black workers. The Strike begins.

SERIES XI. AFTER THE WAR (Air Race Draft).

Folders: 87-170. Arranged numerically by section.

This draft contains significant episodes cut or otherwise altered in later drafts. The story includes the plot of M.P. Brown and Paul being involved in an air race from New Orleans to Washington, D.C. (folders 127-137). Another significant alteration is the murder of Pinkerton by Brian Ledbetter. The draft also includes Brian's trial.

SERIES XII. AFTER THE WAR (Caleb Draft).

Folders: 171-183. Arranged numerically by section.

An early draft with Caleb as the murderer. The story line mentions the 1919 funerals (Hub Delaney, McCawley, Pinkerton, and Caleb). Caleb gets Paul to take him to Pinkerton whom he then shoots. Paul appointed temporary head of the Car Works. With Dr. Youngblood he goes to try to get blacks back to work. Paul and Dr. Youngblood meet with Reverend Chaney, who insists that an Oscar Jenkins be fired. Jim Ed is hired as labor superintendent, and he beats up and fires Jenkins. Jenkins wife then kills him.

A special note in this draft is the discovery of the body of John Wesley Campbell's son. Virgil had sold his office to a new Doctor in town who begins to tear the old house down. In the demolition, a skeleton is discovered under the house. Paul contemplates moving to Burma.

SERIES XIII. AFTER THE WAR (Airplane Draft).

Folders: 184-221. Arranged numerically by section.

This draft essentially follows the story line of the published version, ranging from Paul's description of the Car Works and the laborers to the discovery of M.P. Brown at the airport. Of special note is folder 220, which contains a long sequence with Guy and Bernal criticizing Paul for not spending more time with them.

SERIES XIV. AFTER THE WAR (Edited Draft A).

Folders: 222-249. Arranged numerically by section.

An incomplete draft of the story, this version begins with Darcy Coolidge's discovery of Paul talking to himself during the electrical storm and continues on through the conclusion. Marius's editor, Ann Close, makes numerous suggestions regarding cuts or other alterations to shorten the story line. One change from the final draft (made by Marius) is to rename M.P. Brown M.P. Wallace. This change did not take, and M.P. was renamed "Brown" in the later drafts.

SERIES XV. AFTER THE WAR (Edited Draft B).

Folders: 250-256. Arranged numerically by section.

An incomplete portion of a rewritten draft, edited by Ann Close with handwritten changes by Richard Marius. The draft begins with Thanksgiving dinner at the Weaver's and concludes with Paul running the Car Works after the strike. On the verso of page one, folder 250, there are what appear to be suggestions by Close for a title for the work.

SERIES XVI. AFTER THE WAR (Edited Draft C).

Folders: 257-262. Arranged numerically by section.

A portion of a rewritten draft, with suggestions by Ann Close and alterations handwritten by Richard Marius. Begins with Paul and Daisy going for a drive and concludes with Paul and Eugenia's married life, with Paul being encouraged to apply for the job in Burma.

SERIES XVII. AFTER THE WAR (Miscellaneous).

Folders: 263-266. Unarranged.

Because insufficient narrative was available, it was difficult to locate a draft in which these sections were suited. Of note is folder 264, which contains a section where Guy analyzes the relationship between D.B. and Virgil. In folder 265, Paul is given money by laborers in the Car Works to have his suit cleaned, in thanks for repairing the crane. In folder 266, Eunice discovers Paul is Greek.

SERIES XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS.

Folders 267-274. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

This series consists of drafts of writings unrelated to the novel *After the War*, and includes copies of lectures on the teaching of writing, on Hamlet, and on Martin Luther. Also included (folder 271) is a draft for a chapter from an unidentified novel in which rum and the slave trade play a role. There is also a draft of the play *Coming of Rain* (1997).

Inventory

Box	Folders	Description
1	1-13	AFTER THE WAR (Marconi Drafts)
	14-15	AFTER THE WAR (Early Drafts)
	16-23	AFTER THE WAR (Ponsonby Draft)
	24-31	AFTER THE WAR (Price Draft)
	32-38	AFTER THE WAR (Evelyn Draft)
	39-45	AFTER THE WAR (Brizidine Draft)
	46-49	AFTER THE WAR (Virgil Draft)
	50-58	AFTER THE WAR (Early Strike Draft)
	59-80	AFTER THE WAR (Paul's Story)
	81-86	AFTER THE WAR (3rd Person)
2	87-170	AFTER THE WAR (Air Race Draft)
	171-183	AFTER THE WAR (Caleb Draft)
	184-221	AFTER THE WAR (Airplane Draft)
3	222-249	AFTER THE WAR (Edited Draft A)
	250-256	AFTER THE WAR (Edited Draft B)
	257-262	AFTER THE WAR (Edited Draft C)
	263-266	AFTER THE WAR (Miscellaneous)
	267-276	Miscellaneous