

# William Gibson fonds

Compiled by Christopher Hives (1993)

University of British Columbia Archives



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# Fonds Description

**William Gibson fonds.** - 1983-1993.

65 cm of textual materials

## Biographical Sketch

William Gibson is generally recognized as the most important science fiction writer to emerge in the 1980s. His first novel, *Neuromancer*, is the first novel ever to win the Hugo, Nebula and Philip K. Dick awards. *Neuromancer*, which has been considered to be one of the influential science fiction novels written in the last twenty-five years, inspired a whole new genre in science fiction writing referred to as "cyberpunk".

Gibson was born in 1948 in Conway, South Carolina. He moved to Toronto in the late 1960s and then to Vancouver in the early 1970s. Gibson studied English at the University of British Columbia. He began writing science fiction short stories while at UBC. In 1979 Gibson wrote "Johnny Mnemonic" which was published in *Omni* magazine. An editor at Ace books encouraged him to try writing a novel. This novel would become *Neuromancer* which was published in 1984. After *Neuromancer*, Gibson wrote *Count Zero* (1986), *Mona Lisa Overdrive* (1988), and *Virtual Light* (1993). He collaborated with Bruce Sterling in writing *The Difference Engine* (1990). Gibson has also published numerous short stories, many of which appeared in a collection of his work, *Burning Chrome* (1986).

## Scope and Content

Fonds consists of typescript manuscripts and copy-edited, galley or page proof versions of all five of Gibson's novels (to 1993) as well as several short stories. Of particular interest is the original manuscript for Gibson's first novel *Neuromancer*.

## Notes

File list available.

# File List

## BOX 1

### NOVELS

#### Neuromancer

- 1-1/3 Original typescript, complete with author's corrections, white-outs, and typed re-writes, 303 pages, dated at rear, "July 1983".
- 1-4/6 Photocopy of typescript, copy-edited with a few revisions not in original typescript, with a copy of Terry Carr's "Introduction" to the Ace Books SF series with the pages relating to Neuromancer in corrected typescript, with a cover letter from Sue Stone at Berkley Publishing returning the author's manuscript to him.

## BOX 2

#### Count Zero

- 2-1/3 Original typescript, complete with author's extensive manuscript corrections, white-outs and excised passages, 311 pages, along with a four page typescript synopsis of the story for its serialization in Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine.
- 2-4/6 Photocopy of typescript, copy-edited the publisher's working copy.

## BOX 3

#### Mona Lisa Overdrive

- 3-1/3 Original computer printout from the author's disk, with the author's manuscript corrections, 401 pages. Cover letter from Japanese agents re: Japanese translation.
- 3-4/6 Photocopy of printout, copy-edited, the publisher's working copy, with a letter from Bob Maley at Bantam Doubleday dated March 10, 1989, returning the author's "original" manuscript to him.

3-7/9 Photocopy of corrected printouts

3-10/11 Author's unbound page proofs, signed

#### BOX 4

##### The Difference Engine

4-1 Original computer printout of a five page book proposal, and a 41 page printout of a very early version of the book's first section.

4-2/4 Photocopy of Bantam page proofs

#### BOX 5

##### Virtual Light

5-1/3 Original computer printout, the author's original copy no corrections at all, (these would have been done direct to disk), 394 pages.

5-4/6 Corrected page proofs, copy-edited, the publisher's working copy, with inter-office memo from Seal Books Canada dated 15 March, 1993, pertaining to a separate Canadian edition of the book under the Seal Books imprint.

#### SHORT STORIES

5-7 "New Rose Hotel"  
Original typescript, heavy manuscript corrections, retitled (original was "Skull Ward"), 19 pages, and 2 pages misc.

5-8 "Hinterlands"  
Original typescript, manuscript corrections, 25 pages.

5-9 "The Belonging Kind" (with John Shirley)  
Original typescript, with some manuscript corrections, 16 pages.

5-10 "Burning Chrome"  
Original typescript, typescript runs the first 5 pages, plus 21 pages

photocopy, total of 25 pages, all with manuscript corrections by the author for publication in OMNI magazine.