Abstract: In these twenty letters to Nathalie Blondel, written between 1987 and 1990, American author Paul Bowles provided recommendations for editorial and publication decisions concerning three of Jane Bowles’s unpublished short stories.
### Descriptive Summary

**Identification:** MSS 099, F857  
**Creator:** Bowles, Paul, 1910-1999.  
**Title:** Paul Bowles letters to Nathalie Blondel  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1987–1990  
**Extent:** 20 items  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

### Administrative Information

**Citation:** MSS 099, F857, Paul Bowles letters to Nathalie Blondel, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.  
**Shelving Summary:** F857: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099 manuscript boxes  
**Location:** Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/  
**Source:** Purchase, 2006.  
**Processing:** Processed and encoded by Christopher La Casse, October 2009.  
**Access Restrictions:** The collection is open for research.  
**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction:** Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library, http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi
Biographical Notes

Paul Bowles

The American composer and author Paul Frederic Bowles was born in New York City on December 30, 1910. In 1938, Paul Bowles married the aspiring writer Jane Auer. Inspired by his wife's success and her dedication to writing, Bowles began his own career as an author, eventually surpassing his already successful reputation as a composer. After the 1940s, he produced numerous works of fiction, essays, travel writing, poems, autobiographical pieces, and other works.

Nathalie Blondel

British writer Nathalie Blondel edited the journals of writer Mary Butts and is the author of *Mary Butts: scenes from the life: a biography* (McPherson, c1998).

Sources:


**Scope and Content Note**

In these twenty letters to Nathalie Blondel, written between 1987 and 1990, American author Paul Bowles provided recommendations for editorial and publication decisions concerning three of Jane Bowles’s unpublished short stories.

While conducting archival research, Blondel discovered unpublished manuscripts in Jane Bowles’s notebooks. Blondel initiated correspondence in 1987 and then visited Paul Bowles at his residence in Tangier, Morocco, to discuss her discovery. Over this three-year period, Bowles provided both editorial and publishing advice. He helped Blondel navigate the realm of competing scholars and the small press publication of Jane Bowles’s works, supported her access to Jane’s papers, and aided her in understanding Jane’s writing style. Bowles’s editorial decisions included shaping the notebooks into three separate stories, and in his final letter, Bowles thanked Blondel and said he looked forward to reading Jane’s work in *Bête Noir*.

This small collection is an excellent archive of literary correspondence between a major writer and an important scholar, with good editorial, biographical, and literary content.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Bowles, Paul, 1910-1999--Correspondence.


Blondel, Nathalie--Correspondence.

Topical Terms

Authors, American--20th century--Correspondence.

Publishers and publishing--United States--History--20th century--Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

Correspondence.

Occupation

Authors.

Personal Contributors

Blondel, Nathalie, correspondent.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.

MSS 163 Paul Bowles papers

MSS 164 Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno papers related to Paul Bowles

MSS 323 Paul Bowles letters to William Saroyan

MSS 324 Paul Bowles letters to John Martin
Arrangement

The letters are arranged chronologically by date.
Detailed Description of the Collection

Correspondence February 1987 - October 1990, 1987-1990 [Box 60 F857]

20 items

Typed letter signed, 1987 February 17 [Box 60 F858]
1 p. with envelope
Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Replying to Nathalie Blondel concerning Jane Bowles's fiction

Typed letter signed, 1987 March 15 [Box 60 F859]
1 p. with envelope
Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Concerning Nathalie Blondel's visit to Tangier

Typed letter signed, 1987 May 10 [Box 60 F860]
1 p. with envelope
Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Confirming Nathalie Blondel's visit to Tangier

Typed letter signed, 1987 June 14 [Box 60 F861]
1 p. with envelope
Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Sending street address to Nathalie Blondel

Typed letter signed, 1987 July 15 [Box 60 F862]
1 p. with envelope
Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco, to Humanities Research Centre, University of Texas. Regarding permission for Nathalie Blondel to have photographic copies of any Jane Bowles material.

Typed letter signed, 1987 November 6 [Box 60 F863]
1 p. with envelope
Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Regarding the publication of Jane Bowles's unpublished stories.

Autographed postcard signed, 1987 December 22 [Box 60 F864]
1 postcard
From Tangier, Morocco. Regarding the publication of Jane Bowles's unpublished stories.
Autographed postcard signed, 1988 February 18 [Box 60 F865]

1 postcard

From Tangier, Morocco. Suggesting correspondence with Millicent Dillon in regard to Jane Bowles's work.

Autographed postcard signed, 1988 March 01 [Box 60 F866]

1 postcard

From Tangier, Morocco. Update regarding the publication of Jane Bowles's unpublished stories.

Autographed letter signed, 1988 March 27 [Box 60 F867]

1 p. with envelope

Suggesting correspondence with Wendy Lesser of the *Three Penny Review* to locate a copy of Jane Bowles's *Looking for Lane*

Typed letter signed, undated [Box 60 F868]

1 p.

Nathalie Blondel's draft of a letter to Paul Bowles.

Typed letter signed, 1988 April 22 [Box 60 F869]

1 p. with envelope

From Tangier, Morocco. Thanking Blondel for sending a draft of the first chapter of Jane's novel. Bowles discussed missing sentences and corrects some words.

Typed letter signed, 1988 June 28 [Box 60 F870]

1 p. with envelope

From Tangier, Morocco. Promising Blondel he will read and comment on a Jane Bowles manuscript that Blondel sent in the mail. Suggesting the writers Colette, Kafka, and Louise de Vilmorin, whom Jane consistently read as influences on her work.

Typed letter signed, 1988 August 13 [Box 60 F871]

1 p. with envelope

From Tangier, Morocco. Regarding delayed correspondence due to surgery.

Typed letter signed, 1988 December 18 [Box 60 F872]
1 p. with envelope

Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Regarding delayed correspondence due to PBS documentarians

Typed letter signed, 1989 February 20 [Box 60 F873]

1 p. with envelope

Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Regarding editorial decisions on an unpublished manuscript of Jane Bowles.

Typed letter signed, 1989 March 15 [Box 60 F874]

1 p. with envelope

Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Informing Blondel of Virago Press's intentions to include three unpublished Jane Bowles works, *Senorita Cordoba*, *Looking for Lane*, and *Laura and Sally* in *Plain Pleasures*.

Typed letter signed, 1989 March 31 [Box 60 F875]

1 p. with envelope

Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Approving Blondel's decision to publish material from Jane Bowles's notebooks in the *P.N. Review*.

Typed letter signed, 1989 August 06 [Box 60 F876]

1 p. with envelope

Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Suggesting scholars and writers, who have previously written on Jane Bowles, as potential contributors to an issue of the *P.N. Review* dedicated to Jane's career.

Autographed letter signed, 1990 October 26 [Box 60 F877]

1 p. with envelope

Air mail letter from Tangier, Morocco. Thanking Blondel for discovering three stories in Jane's notebooks, scheduled to be published in *Bete Noire*. 