



THE IVAN DOIG ARCHIVE AT MSU

A Proposal for Carol Doig

August 31, 2015



SUMMARY

A partnership of Montana State University Library and the College of Letters and Science proposes a perpetual commitment to care for Ivan Doig’s archive and make it available to the public as quickly as possible. Guided by the principles of open access for the public and integration into MSU’s teaching and research programs, our commitment honors the legacy of a prominent Montanan and one of America’s greatest writers. We propose immediate digitization and posting of the collection on the Web through a searchable database, syndication to Internet search engines, and print and digital exhibitions. Longer-term plans include integration into teaching and research of the College of Letters and Science, a conference, a potential endowed professorship, and digital scholarship applications that set the stage for data analyses and visualizations.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Montana’s land-grant institution educates students, creates knowledge and art, and serves communities by integrating learning, discovery, and engagement.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies MSU as one of only 108 colleges and universities in the nation (out of more than 4,600) that maintain “very high research activity.” Of those 108 institutions, only 51 are also classified as having “significant commitment to community engagement” and MSU is one of them. This means that our students have unique access to cutting-edge research and creative opportunities—and to an engaging educational experience that fully integrates learning, discovery, and service.

LIBRARY

The Montana State University Library is a progressive research library, integral and committed to student success and the research enterprise of MSU. Our mission is to facilitate student and faculty success by providing access to information and knowledge. The Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections of the Library is the secure, climate-controlled proposed location for the Ivan Doig print archive. Special Collections is committed to assembling primary and secondary scholarly materials on the following topics in support of the university’s curricular and research needs:

- Prominent Montanans
- Montana history
- Agriculture and ranching
- Montana Native Americans
- Yellowstone National Park
- Greater Yellowstone ecosystem
- Trout and salmonids.

Our faculty research librarians are adept at campus collaboration and integrating our many resources into MSU curricula, ensuring meaningful undergraduate and graduate research experiences.

The Library has considerable expertise and experience with digitization projects of every format, as well as some of the most extensive search engine optimization and Semantic Web Identity expertise in the country.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

The College of Letters and Science (CLS) is the largest center for learning, teaching, and research at Montana State University. It offers students an excellent liberal arts and sciences education in nearly 50 majors, 25 minors and more than 25 graduate degrees within the areas of the humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, and social sciences.

Building on the great strength of our traditional disciplines, the college provides exciting opportunities for faculty and students at the cutting edge of interdisciplinary inquiry. The study of the ecology, history and literature of the American West is a particular strength of CLS and the college faculty includes several of the most distinguished contemporary scholars of the region.

Proposal

The Montana State University Library offers \$ [REDACTED] cash for the Ivan Doig collection. We will also commit to the outsourced digitization costs that will allow us to meet the aggressive timeline proposed below, and which we expect may exceed \$ [REDACTED] in costs. The Library further proposes to explore a short-term consulting contract with Betty Mayfield to advise on the collection and best methods for ensuring its use. Finally, ongoing commitments include time and effort of Library faculty and staff to make the collection available to the public in the print and digital methods described below.

The College of Letters & Science will commit \$ [REDACTED] toward the funding of a scholarly conference on the legacy of Ivan Doig in fall of 2017 (see below).

DETAIL OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Upon the successful negotiation of an agreement with Carol Doig:

1. Montana State University will issue a press release announcing acquisition of the collection and plans for making it globally accessible to students, scholars and the public.
2. MSU will contract with an approved and experienced shipper to deliver the collection safely to Bozeman.
3. MSU will initiate a procurement process to select a commercial digitization firm.
4. MSU will assign a lead worker/project manager to coordinate the website and digitization work.

Within Eight Months of Contracting with a Digitization Firm:

1. MSU Library will send the collection to the digitization firm via an approved and experienced shipper.
2. The digitization firm will scan 90 percent¹ of the collection and apply basic metadata to the digital files.
3. Upon its return the print collection will be integrated into the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections in the Library, with appropriate climate-controlled secure storage and public access to the materials under supervision of Special Collections staff.
4. Load digital files into the Library's digital preservation architecture and render them searchable in a Web-accessible database. Digitized audio files will be integrated with the Library's existing technical infrastructure for our digital sound archive, Acoustic Atlas (acousticatlas.org).
5. The Library will create a website that serves as an attractive entry to the collection.
6. Search engine optimization (SEO) techniques will be applied to the website and database so that the digitized material will have the best possible results from Internet search engines (Google, Bing, etc.).
7. A program focused on the collection will be proposed for presentation at the 2016 Western Literature Association Conference to be held in Big Sky, Montana, September 21-24, 2016.

Within Twelve Months:

1. Produce at least one print and one digital exhibition highlighting the collection.
2. Collect appropriate and freely available supplemental information to be included in the website, such as the interview with Ivan Doig from *The Author's Road* (authorsroad.com).
3. Apply Semantic Web Identity treatment to Ivan Doig's Web presence. For example:
 - a. Expand the relatively sparse existing Wikipedia article about Ivan.
 - b. Consolidate numerous existing Google+ pages, most of which have little valuable information, and whose proliferation confuses search engines.
 - c. Populate and maintain other Semantic Web data sources, such as Wikidata, which currently doesn't contain any record for Ivan Doig.
4. Work cooperatively with the manager of the *ivandoig.com* website to provide inbound links to both websites.
5. Begin to incorporate the collection into undergraduate and graduate class syllabi in American Studies, English, Geography and History.

¹ We will aim for 100% digitization, but there are certain to be unknown factors that may slow some progress: difficult formats; piecemeal work; securing rights; etc.

Within Twenty-Four Months:

1. The College of Letters and Science will host a two-day conference/symposium on the works and legacy of Ivan Doig with a particular focus on Montana and the American West. Distinguished scholars of the region and beyond will participate and the event will be open to MSU students and the general public.
2. The Library will develop at least one software application that can help students and researchers apply digital scholarship methods to analyze the corpus of text and to create innovative visualizations. Preliminary ideas include:
 - a. FictionWalk: The Places and Characters of Ivan Doig
 - i. A geo-visualization application mapping a tour of places and characters in Doig's novels.
 - b. Annotate Doig
 - i. Crowdsourced annotations to select manuscripts, allowing readers to share thoughts and commentary on the manuscripts.
 - c. Doig Space/Time Continuum
 - i. An application similar to Google Maps with a historical slider that shows time and space in Doig's novels and how landscapes and environments change over time; using manuscripts as source for the data.
 - d. Doig Speaks
 - i. Using correspondence, letters, interviews, and manuscripts as sources, provide a visualization of the vocabulary of Doig's writings including common words, how his words and expressions changed over time, etc.
 - e. Affinity Map Author Tree
 - i. Using correspondence, letters, and interviews as sources, create an app that shows an affinity mapping and graph visualization of Doig collaborators and partners to show his influence over time and show the broader author tree that explains his writings origins.

Long Term Plans:

The College of Letters & Science recently developed a Western Writer-in-Residence proposal to attract a major author to MSU on a visiting basis for a period of 1 to 3 years. The author is expected to be from the western region or who writes on the subject of the North American West, and **Rick Bass** has recently begun a three-year term as MSU's first writer in residence. Housed in the Department of English, this position will raise MSU's

profile in the field of creative writing and as a research and educational hub in the study of the American West.

As the College of Letters & Science and the Montana State University Alumni Foundation work to endow a *Western Writer-in-Residence* Visiting Professorship at the \$2 million level, we will seek opportunities to name this professorship in honor of Ivan Doig.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Library is at a major academic crossroads at Montana State University and our reach extends far beyond our campus boundaries. Incorporating Ivan Doig's papers into our collection will create endless possibilities for research and creative endeavors.

Letters from the following MSU leaders and faculty members, acclaimed writers and community members are included in this proposal packet. They emphasize the passion and enthusiasm for MSU to become the permanent home of the Ivan Doig Archive.

MSU Administrators, Faculty and Students

- Dr. Waded Cruzado, President
- Dr. Martha Potvin, Executive Vice President and Provost
- Jill Mackin, Doctoral student, History
- Dr. Gordon "Corky" Brittan, Regents Professor, Philosophy (retired)
- Dr. Susan Kollin, Professor of English
- Dr. Marshall A. Gingery, Chairman of CL&S Advisory Council
- Dr. Denise Malloy, Asst. Dean, College of Education, Health and Human Development
- Dr. Mary Murphy, Professor of History
- Dr. Robert Rydell, Professor of History
- Dr. Brett Walker, Regents Professor, History
- Dr. Bill Wyckoff, Professor of Geography

Local Writers of National and International Distinction

- Rick Bass
- Jamie Ford
- Al Kesselheim
- Carrie La Seur
- Craig Lancaster
- Tom McGuane
- Mark Miller
- Doug Peacock
- David Quammen
- Todd Wilkinson
- Paul Wylie

Other Community Leaders

- Sarah Calhoun, Owner of *Red Ants Pants*, based in White Sulphur Springs
- Susan Gregory and Paula Beswick, Directors of the Bozeman Public Library and the BPL Foundation
- Dr. Marilyn “Sue” and Jim Hamilton, Friends of the Library
- Ariana Paliobagis, Owner of *Country Bookshelf*

A Bozeman couple who has supported the Friends of MSU Library for many years, and who are ardent Ivan Doig fans, have generously committed their philanthropic support to the MSU Library in the amount of \$ [REDACTED] to help secure this historic acquisition.

Summary

As you can tell from the letters, our community will value, treasure, use, and widely share Ivan’s work while learning and teaching from his legacy. MSU’s relationship with Ivan is long and deep, as evidenced by the honorary doctorate the university bestowed upon him in 1984. As the land grant university serving each community in our state and educating the children of Montana’s working families, Montana State University is the natural home for Ivan Doig’s archive.

On behalf of Montana State University, thank you for your kind consideration of this unique proposal. If you have any questions, please contact:

- Kenning Arlitsch, Dean of the Library, 406-994-6978
kenning.arlitsch@montana.edu
- Dr. Nicol Rae, Dean of the College of Letters & Science, 406-994-4288
nicol.rae@montana.edu

Appendix - Related Websites

Montana State University
www.montana.edu

Montana State University Library
www.lib.montana.edu

MSU College of Letters & Science
www.montana.edu/lettersandscience/

MSU Special Collections & Archives
www.lib.montana.edu/archives/

ScholarWorks - MSU Research
Scholarworks.montana.edu

Acoustic Atlas - Natural Sounds Archive
acousticatlas.org

Rick Bass
196 Bridger Hollow Rd.
Emigrant, MT 59065

Rickbass27@gmail.com

August 26, 2015

Department of English

I'm writing to offer my fullest possible support and enthusiasm to the possibility of Montana State University securing Ivan Doig's papers. I offer this support not just as writer-in-residence at MSU, and not just as a fellow writer of fiction and nonfiction, but first and foremost as a Montanan. Ivan Doig's papers belong in Montana. In many ways Doig's work reminds me of the paintings of fellow Montanan Russell Chatham in its ability to refashion the lens of culture: the way entire populations look at landscape. "Looks like a Chatham painting" is a common refrain, traveling the cottonwood-lined rivers, and viewing the big mountains. Likewise, viewing the Rocky Mountain Front calls to mind the long career of Ivan Doig. He has done the most creative work of all: has changed how we see a thing; has instructed us how to look at our home. Of course he belongs in Bozeman, and in the mountains, and on the dry side of the Divide he loved so much. His voice is always compelling—wise, honest, clean—what we like to think of as Montana qualities—and his sensibilities are nuanced, wholesome, intelligent: again, fantastic qualities to have associated with our school.

Know that if there is anything I can offer public support for this endeavor, as well, I will be happy to do it. The chain of continuity—Mildred Walker and A.B. Guthrie, Jr., leading to Doig, and then to William Kittredge, et al—is pretty direct; there's no getting around it, he was essential in his time, and remains so to all who follow. I believe an accurate word is *foundational*.

As an instructor in the English Department, certainly it would be a boon to me and other faculty to have access to drafts and correspondences—the source material of place-based work, here in an institution that is absolutely place-based. As well, it would clearly be of great value and prestige in the ever-growing world of literary scholars who are increasingly cognizant of the import of Western writers in the canon of American literature. But I'd like to suggest again (though I suspect this has been much considered) that it will be the students who will prosper most from the tangible benefits of having source material from one of their own—one of their first-own, a Montana writer—on campus, free for them to look at and study any time they want, and also from the intangible benefits of knowing that their institution values and commits to such matters. It sends a great message to them; it is one more element in the building of a community predicated on mountains and minds. It is a great opportunity, so much so that I am tempted to say it is essential. Certainly, it is a magnificent opportunity, and again, I'm happy to assist in any way that I can. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rick Bass



2-176 Wilson Hall
P.O. Box 172300
Bozeman, MT 59717-2300

Tel (406) 994-3768
Fax (406) 994-2110

August 26, 2015

Nicol Rae
Dean College of Letters and Science
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Dean Rae,

This is to support Montana State University's effort to acquire the papers of Ivan Doig. Ivan Doig was not simply one of the greatest Western writers, but one of the most profound students of its history, its geography and climate, and of the human beings who immigrated here in the 19th and 20th centuries and made it their home. His papers will be of inestimable value to future students, both scholars and the interested public, and MSU is an ideal place to care for and make them available.

I first read *This House of Sky* around 1980, at my mother's urging (she and my father read just about every novel Ivan wrote and we discussed each book as it came out, perhaps especially *English Creek* and *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*, and it was a great moment for her when she met him at the Museum of the Rockies and asked him to autograph her copy of *Heart Earth*). It was a transformative experience for me (born in the same year, 1939, as Ivan, but in very different circumstances), my introduction to a radically different way of thinking and writing about family relationships and the pressures that living in the West imposed and the opportunities that it offered. As it happened, our ranch was next door to Martin Brekke's, and he was able to tell me in detail about his parents who loomed large in Ivan's early Ringling reading. In 1984, the same year that he received an honorary degree at our university, I heard his wonderful MSU Honors Lecture, "A Sense of Place," and that in turn inspired me (a philosopher by training) to team-teach a course in the College of Architecture with the same name and developing some of the same themes. There were other talks – at a Wheeler Center conference on Public Lands and Federal Policies in Montana, at a symposium (which I chaired) with Bill Kittredge on Wallace Stegner at the University of Montana, a Wallace Stegner Lecture at MSU – all of them beautifully prepared (most writers I know read from their work on such occasions, and add some commentary along the way; not Ivan – he invariably gave a talk to match the moment and express what he then was tossing over in his mind, wonderfully generous to his various audiences). My guess is that his papers will include at least some of the extensive background studies for the articles, books, and talks as well as the correspondence, making them even more valuable. All of this is to say that I was able to read, hear, talk with, and learn from Ivan over many years. The last time I spoke with him was several years ago when he returned from a trip to Russia made with a select group of prominent American writers and thinkers from a number of

areas and he called to say that he had spent some time during it with our mutual friend Dan Dennett. We talked about his coming once again to Bozeman and getting together, but unfortunately it never happened and then I read in the newspapers last April that he was gone.

I've talked about the great impression Ivan made on me as person, stylist, and thinker since there is no need to underline the role he played as one of our region's, in fact our country's, foremost men of letters. His papers will be a significant acquisition by any university library that manages to acquire them and an event of real consequence for ours. The question is: why is the MSU Library an ideal place to care for and make them available? A variety of answers are possible; here are three of them.

Montana State University has always had tremendous scholarly strengths in Western American literature and history. The strengths are perhaps best indicated by the fact that there are three endowed Chairs in the area – the Wallace Stegner Chair of Western American Studies, the Sheldon and Audrey Katz Chair of Native American Studies, and the Michael Malone Chair of History. These Chairs have been filled by eminent scholars and the Stegner Chair, in particular, has supported an annual lecture series that has included some of America's foremost writers, Peter Mathiessen, Terry Tempest Williams, and David Quammen for example, its greatest environmental historians, among whom William Cronon, Donald Wooster, and Richard White, as well as such renowned naturalist-writers as Jane Goodall. Stegner was delighted by the fact that a Chair in his honor was established at the University, and would have been delighted by the Library's acquisition of Ivan Doig's papers. Ivan received the Stegner Award from the Center for Western American Studies (whose founder-directors, Patricia Limerick and Charles Wilkinson, have both given Stegner Lectures on campus) and, although he didn't like to be "dissected" in this way, is now often referred to as Stegner's successor as the "Dean of Western Writers." Mike Malone, the distinguished professor of western history became President of MSU, and so great was the admiration that he and Ivan had for each other that Ivan spoke at Mike's Convocation.

Second, the MSU Library possesses a first-rate collection of books, papers, and other documents in Western Studies, a convenient and very well-appointed place in which they are housed and can be read in quiet, well-supervised surroundings, and a nationally well-known archivist, Kim Allen Scott, who is in charge of them. As one example among many, the MSU Library acquired the Coburg collection of the published writings of Wallace Stegner several years after his death, the foremost such collection in private hands at the time. Scholars from all over the country make extensive use of these materials. The papers of Ivan Doig would be both an indispensable and an extensive addition to them, the most important holding in the Montana State University Library.

Finally, Ivan spent critical years of his life in this part of the state - White Sulphur Springs, Ringling, and Bozeman, the nearest "go-to" big town. It helped form him. Having his papers

here would constitute a kind of home-coming. Those who read them will gather from his words but also from the surrounding area some sense of the place in which the ideas and emotions they embody first took hold.

For all of the above reasons and more, there are no papers I would rather have at the Library than Ivan's, still another way of honoring his memory, keeping his influence alive, and expanding the audience for and the study of Western history and literature.

Sincerely,



Gordon "Corky" Brittan
Regents Professor of Philosophy
Montana State University

Sarah Calhoun
Red Ants Pants
PO Box 690
White Sulphur Springs
Montana, 59645

August 27, 2015

Carol Doig
C/O Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
PO Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Carol,

I am so sorry for the loss of such a great man, your dear husband. I so enjoyed meeting both of you in Bozeman last Fall.

I want to echo how much he meant to the state of Montana and its people. He was a treasure. Ivan has influenced the lives of so many people in so many wonderful ways in White Sulphur Springs and around the globe.

As a land grant college and given Ivan's connection to the land, I am writing to express my support for Montana State University's request to become the repository for Ivan's archive. MSU's agricultural heritage and its ongoing commitment to educating new generations of farmers and ranchers provide a fitting home given his connection to the land. I see the concept of integrating his works into curriculum and community engagement as a lasting and powerful gift.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this, Carol. As you know, Ivan's work changed my life in such a positive way. Bringing his works back home to Montana would be another way to continue his positive influence in the area.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sarah Calhoun', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah Calhoun
Red Ants Pants
Owner, Red Ants Pants
Producer, Red Ants Pants Music Festival
Director, Red Ants Pants Foundation



August 28, 2015

Ms. Carol Doig
17277 15th Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Carol:

It is indeed an honor for Montana State University to be considered as the future home of your late husband's papers and archives. I remember meeting you and Ivan during your visit to Montana for his wonderful presentation to our Friends of the Library dinner in 2010. Like all Montanans and thousands of people in the West and in our nation, I deeply feel your loss; please accept my heartfelt condolences on his passing.

I trust you will be pleased with the proposal that deans Kenning Arlitsch and Nicol Rae have offered. As academic partners, the Library and the College of Letters and Science are already planning the integration of the archive of the "dean of Western writers" into existing and new curriculum and programs. Actually, I am convinced that the acquisition of Ivan's papers represents a transformative moment in the history of our institution.

We are thrilled at this possibility and I wish to assure you that we will be careful stewards of Ivan's archive. Montana State University will treat these materials with the utmost care and respect while making them widely available to students, scholars and the global community, both in their print formats and through digitization and the accessibility of Internet search engines. Our land grant mission of teaching, research and outreach make Montana State the natural partner for a man whose life and work is deeply tied to our state. Our historical commitment to educating the sons and daughters of the working families of America is clearly captured in Ivan's writings representing the lives and tribulations of ordinary people in rural Montana. This is a marriage made in Big Sky heaven.

Award-winning author Rick Bass began serving as Montana State University's first Western writer-in-residence in May 2015. Housed in the Department of English, his position will raise MSU's profile in creative writing and as a research and educational hub in the study of the American West. The college hopes to endow the Western writer-in-residence as a permanent position at MSU, and Ivan Doig's presence will also elevate this program.

Carol, there are many strong reasons why the Ivan Doig – Montana State University partnership are important to the literary and academic communities in our state and beyond. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these ideas further with you. Please know you have my personal commitment to the realization of this project.

Sincerely,

Waded Cruzado
President

Office of the President

211 Montana Hall
P.O. Box 172420
Bozeman, MT 59717-2420
www.montana.edu

Tel 406-994-2341
Fax 406-994-1893

August 25, 2015

Dear Carol,

I am so sorry for your loss.

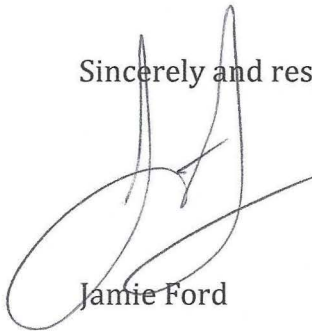
I met your husband eight years ago in Portland when I published my first book. I'm embarrassed to say how intimidated I was! To me, he stood among the Pantheon of great authors (and not just Montana writers). But of course, I soon realized he was a pure gentleman--kind, generous with his advice, and utterly without pretension.

I grew up in Seattle. I write about Seattle. But I make my home in Montana. Ivan was the opposite of that. We joked about how if she shook hands long enough we might have a "Freaky Friday" moment and switch brains.

Novelists, I've learned through experience, tend to write about what they know, what they miss, and what they lament. And through Ivan's stories it's clear where his heart wandered to while sitting at his writing desk.

Surely determining a home for your husband's papers and written legacy is a bittersweet endeavor. I wish you nothing but the best in your decision. But if you do decide on Montana State University, I'm certain that a part of Ivan will have finally "come home."

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Ford', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Jamie Ford
1232 Alpine Dr
Great Falls, MT 59404
(406) 868-3720
Jamie@jamieford.com

Marshall Gingery

*2522 Primrose Lane
Helena, MT 59601*

*406-442-4849
Cell 406-461-0402*

August 25, 2015

Nicol Rae PhD
College of Letters and Science
Montana State University Bozeman
Bozeman, MT

Dear Dean Rae:

This letter is in support of the proposal to bring the papers of the award-winning and beloved Montana author, Ivan Doig to be housed at Montana State University. There is no place that would be better suited to housing this outstanding collection of the works of Mr. Doig than the Montana State University Campus. The collection would draw scholars, students and the public to the University for an opportunity to view and to research this collection. The University has the facility and the technology to house the collection and to make it available to the public for the long term.

My first introduction to Mr. Doig's writings took place while I was living in North Carolina and Virginia and looking for writings from my home state of Montana. The writings brought me closer to home. I had shared an apartment with a Gordon Doig when we were students at MSC (MSU) so the name was familiar.

I am pleased to add my support to this opportunity to share Mr. Doig's writings and papers with his many fans, the students and the public.

Sincerely,



Marshall A. Gingery
Chairman of the College of Letters and Science Advisory Council
Montana State University Bozeman



626 East Main Street
Bozeman, MT • 59715
406-582-2400
fax 406-582-2424
www.bozemanlibrary.org

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
PO Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

August 27, 2015

Dear Kenning:


As the public library in Bozeman, we are very much in support of Montana State University obtaining the archives and becoming the repository of beloved author Ivan Doig's papers and manuscripts. We had the good fortune to chat with him and Carol last year at an American Library Association conference, and both of them expressed their fondness for Bozeman. We talked at the time about bringing him back for an event at the Bozeman Public Library, and Ivan said with glee, "Carol, they want me back! I love Bozeman. Let's make this happen." Then he posed for a photo. He was that kind of man – always showing appreciation for libraries and his adoring fans. Sadly, he passed away before he had the opportunity to visit our Library.

Ivan was such a powerful voice for Montana, our small communities, and the western lifestyle. Nowhere seems more appropriate as the official record-holder of his work than Montana State University. This impressive archive would be treasured by the MSU Renne Library, the College of Letters & Science, as well as the Bozeman Public Library and community at-large. We have a great partnership between the libraries, and we see this as a boon for everyone in the community, as well as the region and across the state. Montana State's ability to quickly make his work available in both print and digital format will provide coveted accessibility to students, scholars, and the public. Incorporating this collection into the College's curriculum, as well as opening it up to the public, is a wonderful way to honor Ivan and his body of work.

As we all know, Ivan is a treasured "hometown" American/Western writer who captured the spirit and tenor of our landscape. Both his fiction and non-fiction books are frequently checked out of the Bozeman Public Library, proving his continued relevance. This would be a tremendous achievement for Montana State, but also for this community of writers and readers.

Please accept our full support for this project.

Sincerely,


Susan F. Gregory
Director, Bozeman Public Library



Paula K. Beswick
Director, Bozeman Public Library Foundation

August 24, 2015

Dear Carol,

When Kenning privately shared with us that you were considering Montana State University for the archives of Ivan's work, we were honored and thrilled at the prospect. We cannot possibly express to you the impact that Ivan's work has had on the people of Bozeman. People still talk about the evening he came to speak at the Friends of the Library dinner as a magical moment and memory.

As an alumna of Montana State University, I am excited at the prospect that this material will be available, not only to our students and patrons, but readers and writers throughout the world. Ivan's gift of sharing the history and culture of the West, particularly Montana, as well as his eloquent prose are instructional instruments that will serve as a perpetual legacy. It is a resource that will be used for decades.

I am particularly happy to have Kenning as the Dean of the Library because his expertise and interest in digitalization would be essential in this process. We would be so pleased to have this archive at Montana State University and would like to provide support for its acquisition.

Thank you so much for considering our university as a possibility for this outstanding collection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn Sue Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative initial 'M'.

Marilyn "Sue" Hamilton, Ed.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative initial 'J'.

Jim Hamilton

August 25, 2015

Alan S. Kesselheim
415 E. Olive
Bozeman, MT 59715

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
PO Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Dean Arlitsch:

I am writing to urge you to embrace the opportunity for the MSU library to become the repository of Ivan Doig's papers and writings. Given the nature of Doig's writing, and his devotion to Montana landscape and history, it seems absolutely appropriate for his papers to reside here in Bozeman. Doig's writing has done much to inspire readers, and the location of his personal papers here in Bozeman would allow that influence to flourish close to Doig's own fount of inspiration.

I am a local writer, author of 11 books and hundreds of magazine articles. I have also taught classes at MSU since 2005. It has recently come to my attention that this bequest might be in the works. I know time is short, and I wanted to add my support to the voices encouraging you and the MSU library to take advantage of this extraordinary, one time, opportunity.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan S. Kesselheim



August 26, 2015

Dean Nicol Rae
College of Letters and Science
Montana State University
2-205 Wilson Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Dean Rae:

Department of English

I am writing to express my strong support for Montana State University's efforts at securing the collection and papers of the celebrated Montana author Ivan Doig. As a former President of the Western Literature Association and a researcher in the field, I believe this acquisition will greatly benefit the community and the many MSU students at the undergraduate and graduate levels who are interested in studying Doig's important contributions to the literary landscape of the region. During my twenty years at Montana State University, I have frequently taught Doig's fiction in my "Literature of the American West" classes with great success and look forward to developing additional opportunities for students to engage this material in closer detail.

To date, other faculty at MSU have placed Doig's work at center stage in their research. Professor Linda Karell in the MSU English department, for instance, devotes part of her book-length study, *Writing Together/Writing Apart: Collaboration in Western American Literature*, to an analysis of Doig's oral based storytelling in *This House of Sky* and *Heart Earth*. In particular, she examines how Doig worked against a narrowly-defined idea of western authenticity that has hampered innovation in regional writing. Her scholarship is part of a larger conversation that literary studies scholars have built around his writing in recent years.

While Doig's fiction and autobiographies are central to the field of western American literature, his books are also frequently assigned in History classes as a way of illustrating struggles over labor and landscape in local Montana settings. Likewise, in the field of Geography, MSU's own Professor William Wyckoff has written a very eloquent scholarly article in the *Journal of Cultural Geography* about Doig's efforts to develop a sophisticated place-based literature that links the region with national and global developments, and that creates a vernacular western language that is able to express the "regional character of Big Sky Country."

I can't imagine a better place in which to house the Ivan Doig Collection. With ongoing faculty knowledge of and interest in his work as well as a consistently

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strong student reception to his writing, I am confident that these papers will receive the critical literary attention they so richly deserve. I thus enthusiastically support securing these papers for MSU and the larger regional and national community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Kollin". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Professor of English
susan.kollin@msu.montana.edu

August 27, 2015

Craig Lancaster
2915 2nd Ave. South No. 102
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 794-1978
amindadrift@gmail.com

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
PO Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

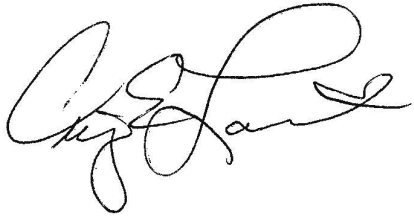
Dear Mr. Arlitsch:

I am writing to add my voice to the effort to bring Ivan Doig's archives to Montana State University. I can think of no better way to preserve and promote Mr. Doig's considerable work than to bring it home to the state that he loved so well.

I can speak to his influence from personal experience. I grew up in Texas, but because of a strong familial bond to Montana, I spent my formative years dreaming of someday moving here and being a part of this place. When I discovered Mr. Doig's work at the age of 19, it was just as my professional hopes of a life in letters were coming into focus. Mr. Doig's writing gave me an avenue into my imagination of this place, of my father's youth (he was born the same year as Mr. Doig and grew up on the Fairfield Bench, not so very far from Mr. Doig's hometown of White Sulphur Springs). From an artistic standpoint, Mr. Doig, through his work, helped me shape my own dreams—that I might someday have something to say and a writerly voice with which to say it. I'm proud to report that it all came to pass—the literary life, the life in Montana, and the greater understanding of this place and my family's history in it. It's hard to imagine that any of that would look the same had I not found inspiration in Mr. Doig's work.

Bringing Mr. Doig's archives to Montana State University and making them available to the people here will ensure that his influence here continues well after his final words were written. I wish you success in this effort to bring Ivan Doig home, and I stand ready to assist in whatever way you deem necessary.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Lancaster', written in a cursive style.

Craig Lancaster

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
PO Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

August 26, 2015

Dear Dean Arlitsch:

In support of the library's request to Carol Doig to become the repository for Ivan Doig's papers, I'm reproducing my remarks from the August 18 Doig tribute at Country Bookshelf in Bozeman, later published in the Huffington Post:

For many people, Ivan Doig is a way into Montana. I remember Sarah Calhoun, the founder of Red Ants Pants in White Sulphur Springs, telling me how she chose her new home entirely on the strength of Doig's account of it in *This House of Sky*. That is a common story. People read Ivan Doig and think they might oughta give Montana a try.

Doig is also a way into history. He invites us into a mythical Montana – maybe it really existed, maybe it didn't, but we want it to have existed, because it says something good about who we are that the rough beauty of those lives is our communal history. It makes us believe, as Doig told us, that “Life is wide. There's room enough to take a new run at it.”

What gets to me with Doig's stories is always the lives. Sure he can chew scenery right up there with Norman “A Realtor Runs Through It” Maclean, but Doig brings us characters so messily stamped from recent memory that I can almost see them in my grandpa's cramped living room, extra chairs drug in from the kitchen, passing around something I wasn't allowed to taste and telling stories like this one from *Bucking the Sun* in language that was also inappropriate for a child.

“Let me get my feet under me, a minute,” Hugh was saying slowly, there at the fenceline. “Land like this, taken for a dam halfway across Montana from here? You're sure you're on the reach of the river that you think you are, are you?”

Siderius compressed his lips and simply nodded yes.

“I can't believe you,” Hugh spoke as if telling him the time of day. “A dam that'd – why would they do such a thing?”

“It's kind of beyond me,” Siderius was forced to admit, “but they're about gonna do it.” In spite of himself he shook his head at what was even harder to swallow. “With dirt, no less.”

Hugh Duff's face changed radically.

Watching the man, Siderius warily got back to the part he knew by heart, “appraisal involved ... so-much per acre ... fair deal as possible but ...” But none of it made a dent in the stricken look that had come over the farmer. The growl of

the pickup from the far side of the field, the yelps of the two young men whenever the spreader clogged or the radiator spewed, all seemed as lost on this man Duff as Siderius's spiel.

Perplexed, Siderius decided to jump ahead of himself again and offer:

"You'll get preference."

"What's that supposed to mean, preference?"

"In getting hired. At the dam project."

Hugh let out an alarming chuckle, a sound of mirth gone dry and bitter.

"Man, do I look anything like a skilled hand at that sort of work?"

You look about like any other sad sonofabitch of a honyocker who needs a job, of whatever the hell kind, Siderius thought. *About like me.*

When I asked Emily Danforth, the author of *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, for her thoughts about Doig, this is what she told me:

I first read *This House of Sky* in New York, as a junior in college, during a time when I was doing a good job finding lots of things not to like about growing up in Montana and really romanticizing/congratulating myself on my escape to the east coast. But I felt that book deep in my bones, every word, and I think it's not too much to say that, in some crucial ways, Ivan Doig gave Montana back to me, reshaped it for me and made me again proud of it, proud to be from the place that's like no other. And also, crucially, the writing in that beautiful memoir gave me this kind of strange permission, I felt, to write about my own experiences growing up in Montana, something I'd not felt ready or able to do. Something that just hadn't seemed serious enough or substantial enough. But he'd done it so beautifully and with such care and that was and is still so inspiring to me. Of course I later read more of his writing, but *This House of Sky* is one I'll remember as one of those rare books I found at just the exact right moment. Or maybe it found me. I don't think we could have asked for a better man of Montana letters than Ivan Doig.

Others discover Montana for the first time through Doig's books. For Gwen Florio, a Montana journalist who writes a series of regional thrillers including *Montana* and *Dakota*,

Ivan Doig is the reason I came to Montana. Decades ago, one of the editors at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* suggested I read *This House of Sky*. I read it. Then I read it again. And again. Then I went to Montana on vacation. Then I started applying for jobs there. It only took me 15 years to land one. One of the first things I did upon arrival was attend a book signing by Ivan Doig at Montana Book & Toy in Helena. "Welcome to Montana," he wrote in my copy of *The Whistling Season*. It brought tears to my eyes then, and does now.

I don't think anyone recommended *This House of Sky* to me. I recall stumbling across it, in college out east like Emily, probably in the big off-campus bookstore where I avoided my Goth first-year roommate. Bookstores are refuges, among other vital services they

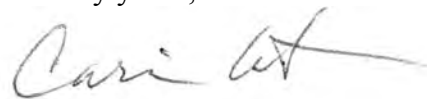
provide. I read Doig reluctantly, out of homesickness and alienation and every other hormonal emotion a college student bleeds. Mostly, I read Doig because from the first page of *This House of Sky*, he made me feel pain.

My family's history of western homesteading and ranching would not be recognizable to the Cartwrights or indeed, to anyone who got their ideas of the West from watching *Bonanza*. It started with a Mormon claim-jumping that left the family – people called Hopkins and Curtis, frontiersmen from Wisconsin – venturing north in the late summer of 1864 to what we now call the Gallatin Valley. From there the stories are a highly unbelievable litany of death, drought, and unvarnished bad luck that just had its sesquicentennial last year. Nobody got rich. We got poor and poorer, my family, lost most of the land, and then we worked road crews and the floor at the sugar beet factory to survive, while great-grandma gathered dandelion greens and performed faith-healings to keep food on the table.

Ivan Doig tells those stories. The question is why in the world we want to hear them, and why we hold them up as what's most precious about Montana. For me, out of my own heritage, the stories are a source of strength, both knowing what my ancestors endured and believing that they did it so the kids could have a better life. With that kind of precedent behind me, I'd better get my act together. For Emily, Doig offered a sense of pride in something she'd only wanted to escape. I can relate to that too.

But there are others who come to Doig's work fresh, without the wagon-load of fragrant emotional baggage some of us have where Montana is concerned. In a way, I envy anyone who can come to Doig's work with a fresh heart and none of the rough-healed scars of history. You'll notice a great many ex-pats among writers with Montana roots, including Doig, and I think it's because his true topic is, as he put it, "that larger country: life." Montana just happens to give an exceptionally good grounding, for better or worse, in reality.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carrie La Seur".

Carrie La Seur
Billings, Montana
Author of *The Home Place* (William
Morrow 2014)

Jill Ramaker Mackin
2224 Sourdough Road
Bozeman, MT 59715

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
PO Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

August 28, 2015

Dear Kenning,

As a doctoral student in History and a friend of the Doig family, I am writing to support Montana State University's request to be home for Ivan's personal papers. His great mind and his profound telling of the story of our home place, Montana, would be a source of continued inspiration to writers and academics working through our institution.

When Ivan moved down from the ranch to attend high school in Valier. He lived with my great aunt, Gertie Chadwick, in Dupuyer, MT. She had a great affinity for him and, I have to believe, was a mother figure to him during that time, as she was to so many people. Our family has been inspired by our connection to Ivan and Carol Doig. Ivan was encouraging to my own pursuit of a doctoral degree in History and to my telling of the story of this magnificent place and people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill Mackin", with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jill Mackin



August 25, 2015

Dear Dean Arlitsch,

I am writing to express my support for Montana State University becoming a repository for the work of Ivan Doig. To house such a collection in a research institution near the place of Mr. Doig's birth would not only honor this author's Big Sky roots, but also offer the opportunity for continued scholarly inquiry. For a writer whose words have profoundly impacted American literature, I can think of no better place for this collection than MSU. Being a part of the Bozeman and Montana State communities, I am well aware of MSU's commitment to preservation and access, for not only scholarly endeavors for researchers and students, but to the public. In the spirit of access, I can envision the university sponsored programming highlighting Mr. Doig's work through community engagement and outreach as well as through a speaker series.

From a personal perspective, as doctoral student and a writer for the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, having Mr. Doig's work on our campus would be a treasure for the state of Montana. His works such as "This House of Sky" have shaped my thinking about my life in the west. His magnificent narratives portray a Western landscape that has captivated me for the past fifteen years. Beyond the majestic backdrop of the scenery, Mr. Doig's words convey a powerful sense of family. His works so elegantly capture the spirit of the people and the place I am so fortunate to call home. Books such as Ivan Doig's not only shape who we are, they become a part of who we are.

It is my great hope that you will consider this request. I can think of no better way to honor Ivan Doig than having his collection housed at Montana State University.

Kind regards,

Denise Malloy, M.Ed., J.D.

Assistant Dean

College of Education, Health, and Human Development

Office of the Dean

250 Reid Hall
P.O. Box 172940
Bozeman, MT 59717-2940

Tel (406) 994-4133

Fax (406) 994-1854

8/27/15

Kenning Arlitsch, Dean

Montana State University Libraries

Dear Kenning Arlitsch,

I was pleased to learn that the Montana State University Libraries are a possible repository for Ivan Doig's papers. I don't think there could be a better or more appropriate place for them, in the heart of his home country and the location of his celebrated novels. When I led fund raising during the Second Century Campaign, I learned how close the university libraries are to the civic life of rural, urban and Native American Montanans. The MSU Special Collections plan for Ivan Doig's papers would integrate their access to the public, students and scholars worldwide in keeping with the wide interest in and importance of his work.

My experience with the archival dedication and resources arrived by accident: an old friend handed me a cardboard box filled with the records and effects of his ancestor and asked me to find a safe home for them. The ancestor, an ex-Confederate soldier, had moved to Montana at the end of the Civil War to fight Indians, mine and ranch. He was a town builder, an important pioneer legislator and a successful cattleman. The papers included his appointment as the first Territorial Land Agent for Montana and was signed by Ulysses Grant. His earliest ranching receipts were in gold dust. His journal recorded his days at war and his daily life as one of our earliest settlers. I conveyed these precious documents to Kim Scott, the chief archivist at MSU, who has done an exemplary job recording, preserving them and making them available to scholars and persons interested in Montana history. By contrast, I have seen the papers of the great John Updike at Harvard where they have languished in unopened boxes for decades.

Ivan Doig's papers would receive the concentrated attention and care befitting his place in our Montana history, as well as his importance to American letters in general. I hope placing them in caring hands at Montana State University will be given every consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas McGuane
McLeod, Montana

August 26, 2015

M. Mark Miller
1045 Boylan Road #15
Bozeman, MT 59715

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
PO Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Dean Arlitsch:

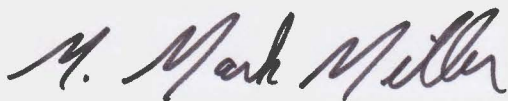
The Montana State University Library would be an excellent repository for Ivan Doig's archives. As a writer who uses MSU's research materials often, I find it easy to imagine Ivan sitting at one of those magnificent old oak tables in MSU Special Collections going through the Ranch and Livestock Histories assembled by the WPA during the Great Depression—histories he and I both used often.

I have been a Doig reader for decades. I always read the acknowledgment sections where he graciously thanks the people and places that helped him keep his books accurate and realistic. In them he often thanked The MSU Library and its staff. The fact that Ivan was grateful to MSU Libraries for helping him shows that MSU collections reflect his interests. His papers fit well there.

Ivan would also know of the scrupulous care the MSU Library provides for all documents entrusted to them. Equally important, he would know of the superlative job MSU librarians do to assure access to such documents. Excellent organization, finding guides and responsive staff make research there a pleasure. I can just see students and scholars setting at those old oak tables poring through The Ivan Doig Collection.

In summary, having Montana State University Library as the home for Ivan Doig's papers would ensure and amplify his magnificent legacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Mark Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. Mark Miller



August 25, 2015

Nic Rae, Dean
College of Letters and Science
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Nic,

I was so pleased to hear that MSU is hoping to house Ivan Doig's papers in Renne Library. I first came to Montana in 1980, a year after *This House of Sky* was published, and it was the first piece of Montana literature I read. It shaped the way I looked at Montana both as a new resident and as a developing western historian, and it has remained my favorite book about Montana, partly for those very reasons. Then Ivan wrote *Winter Brothers*, a dialogue between a historian and a historical subject, and it illuminated the creativity with which history could be written. I still love that book. It was during those years, the early 1980s, that I explored Montana and the Northwest, and Ivan's books were often my companions. I felt we often trod the same pathways, me as newcomer, and he as guide. When I worked on an oral history project in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Ft. Peck Dam, interviewing people who had worked on the project, and Ivan used some of those interviews for research in writing *Bucking the Sun*, I felt that our paths had truly crossed and I had paid back a little of the debt I owed him for showing me Montana.

When I heard that Ivan had died, I thought about the last time we had a real conversation. Although he had been in Bozeman several times in the last few years, I always seemed to be at conference or away during his visits. So it was somewhat shocking to realize we had last spoken at Dave Walter's memorial service. Dave was the research historian at the Montana Historical Society, a kind and gentle man with an encyclopedic knowledge of Montana history. And I couldn't help but think of what has been lost with the death of these two men, and how all Montanans have been graced by their work.

It would be an honor for MSU to house Ivan's papers. We have such a robust program in Western history, with a growing faculty and streams of students who care deeply about the region. It seems to me that MSU would be the perfect place to make Ivan's papers available to scholars who share his love of the West and great stories. Please count on me to do anything to assist with this project.

Cordially,

Mary Murphy
Distinguished Professor

**History and
Philosophy**

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[www.montana.edu/~wwwhi/
index.html](http://www.montana.edu/~wwwhi/index.html)

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COUNTRY BOOKSHELF

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Bozeman, Montana 59715
406.587.0166
countrybookshelf.com
ariana@countrybookshelf.com

27 August 2015

Subject: Letter of Support for Montana State University to Care for the Ivan Doig Archive

Dear Carol,

First, let me express my deep condolences to you. I've been trying to draft a card since I first heard, but it is so difficult to find the words. I don't have Ivan's skill with always finding the perfect words. I'm thinking of you. The loss of Ivan is a great loss.

However, I am so grateful that the Country Bookshelf was chosen to host a tribute evening in his honor earlier this month. It meant so much to me and to all of our staff, local authors, and the over one hundred people who came that evening to celebrate Ivan Doig and his work. That evening we started an "autograph book" like the one Donal uses in *Last Bus to Wisdom* to record folks' memories and appreciations of Ivan and his work. Once it is ready, I will be mailing that to you. I hope reading it will make up for my tardiness in expressing my thoughts to you. Both you and Ivan have been so kind, generous, thoughtful, and just amazingly encouraging and welcoming to me as I've begun my stint as caretaker for this great bookstore. I will always remember those good times.

In addition, I'm writing now to give my whole-hearted support to the proposal from Montana State University's Library and its College of Letters and Sciences in their application to be the repository for the archive of Ivan's papers. As an alumni of MSU and as a local community member, I have had such great experiences with the library and CLS that I truly believe they will be the perfect caretakers of this archive. As you know, this is the region that formed Ivan's early years and informed so much of his work. Readers and scholars closely associate him and his work with this area and would find great support in their research both from the MSU staff and resources but also from being in the part of the country that considers itself Ivan Doig country.

When we hosted our tribute evening, we asked six authors from around the state to join us and to give their tributes, and they came from all parts of the state: Missoula, Great Falls, Helena, and Bozeman; and even though there were similar tributes held that same night in some of those other cities, I believe the choice of many of them to travel to ours instead indicates how strongly people feel about Ivan's particular connection to Bozeman (as one of the closest large towns and bookstores to his much smaller hometowns). I also know what a close relationship he had with our shop and with Mary Jane DiSanti from the early years of his book publishing. The tribute

evening here in Bozeman garnered national press from both Shelf Awareness and the Huffington Post when they made their choice about which of the many tributes across the country to represent in their coverage.

If Ivan's papers come to MSU, I believe they will be a centerpiece of the library's literary collection, an incredible boost to its reputation as a top-notch research university. Ivan Doig is a revered American writer who any university would be honored to share with the world, but I don't feel that just any university would do him justice. Montana State University is not just a local college anymore and hasn't been for a long time. Its faculty, students, and researchers come from, study, and go all over the world, and it takes great pride in being involved in projects beyond the regional. In this way I think Ivan's work – as that of a great American writer who happened to be from and often wrote about this area but whose work transcends regionalism -- would be a fitting addition to their collection. I hope you will consider this application favorably.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any reason. I do hope I get a chance to see you sometime in the near future.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ariana Paliobagis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Ariana Paliobagis

August 25, 2015

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
PO Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

Letter in support of placing the Ivan Doig archives at MSU:

This is not an academic argument. Through the decades, whenever I saw him, Ivan gave me a great big hug, the kind of hug that stayed with me for years. The last hug I got from Ivan was in Bozeman.

The powerful landscapes of Ivan's books are the images that most haunt me, haunted me when I first read them and haunt me yet. They are as timeless as the books. When my mind looks out, it sees the dry east slope of the Montana Rockies, the country around White Sulphur Springs all the way to the Two-Med.

The only big Montana university of the east side of the Rockies is MSU. It's the closest best place.


Doug Peacock
Emigrant, Montana



August 25, 2015

Carol Doig
17277 15th Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Carol:

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal that deans Kenning Arlitsch and Nicol Rae have developed for Montana State University to become the repository for Ivan Doig's archive. The Library and the College of Letters and Science are two of the academic organizations that report to me, and the deans have quickly generated an exciting and impactful plan that I strongly endorse and hope addresses your goals.

The proposed partnership will ensure that the print collection is cared for in perpetuity, while also making it accessible as a research collection for students, scholars and the community. By digitizing the collection and posting it on the Web the Library will also make it accessible to a much larger audience around the world. The Library's expertise with digitization and search engine optimization will ensure significant visitation and use of the collection.

The College of Letters and Science will integrate the collection into its teaching and research curriculum. MSU faculty such as Drs. Mary Murphy, Robert Rydell, Brett Walker and Bill Wyckoff are enthusiastic about incorporating the collection into undergraduate and graduate courses in English, History and Geography, and Dean Rae is planning a two-day conference on the works and legacy of Ivan Doig in 2017.

Ivan's work is deeply loved in Montana, and you can see the enormous support that the community of local writers, community leaders and MSU faculty have demonstrated in their letters. Ivan's legacy, and yours, will be in good hands at Montana State University and I respectfully ask that you give our proposal serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Martha A. Potvin
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

**Office of the
Executive Vice
President for
Academic Affairs
& Provost**

212 Montana Hall
P.O. Box 172560
Bozeman, MT 59717-2560

Tel 406-994-4371
Fax 406-994-7989

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
P.O. Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

August 24, 2015

Dear Dean Arlitsch:

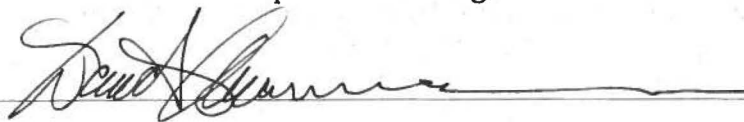
I write this in heartfelt support of the effort to bring Ivan Doig's papers to Montana State University. This seems to me an important and valuable effort, not just for the sake of MSU and the people of Montana, bringing home a favorite son, but for Ivan himself, whose professional background materials, working drafts, and personal papers would be welcomed with special warmth and appropriateness—it seems to me—in the state to which he was so attached and devoted, and at the institution that has carried the tradition of agricultural education in this state into the 21st century as an extremely diverse and powerful liberal arts university.

Let me say a little about my own experience of Ivan's work. I came to Montana in 1973, after graduate school at Oxford and with one published novel under my belt. I hoped and intended to make a career as a fiction writer, like my mentor, Robert Penn Warren, and my literary idol, Faulkner. For a few years, in Missoula, I paid the dues that young writers must and should pay: waiting tables at a restaurant, tending bar, watching the mailbox for letters from publishers and hoping that one might not be another rejection. Along the way, I made a very good and generous friend, a man who ran recreation programs at UM, with whom I cross-country skied and played basketball, and who was literate. At Christmas of 1977 (if my memory serves), he gave me a hardback copy of *This House of Sky*, just out. It cost about 26 bucks, a lot of money for both him and me at that point. I read it with great fascination and high admiration—both for its elegant yet honest style, and for its depth of earned wisdom about Montana.

This book was one of a handful that fueled my own transition from a would-be novelist into a nonfiction writer. For that reason and others, I still cherish it. I only met Ivan himself once, passingly, at a literary event, but I always admired his quiet dignity and his steady professionalism as a writer.

Other young writers, and literary scholars, should have the opportunity to examine Ivan's manuscripts, read his letters, puzzle over his process—as I once did with Faulkner's letters and manuscripts—and to learn from him something about the sweat, the intelligence, and the craft that goes into making a book. What better place for that to happen than at MSU. Good luck. I hope we can bring Ivan to Bozeman.

All best,



DAVID QUAMMEN

414 SOUTH 3RD AVE.
BOZEMAN, MT 59715

(406) 586-1162 PHONE
quammen@montanadsl.net

 davidquammen.com



25 August 2015

Dr. Nicol Rae, Dean
College of Letters and Science
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717

**Department of
History, Philosophy,
and Religious Studies**

Dear Nic:

I was so pleased to learn that Carol Doig is considering the MSU Library Department of Special Collections as the repository for Ivan Doig's Papers. I have read most of his novels, always with the knowledge in the back of my mind that Doig had a doctoral degree in history. Doig always impressed me as being at home writing about history's—and life's—contingencies, always making Montana's history proximate and accessible to readers. Gaining insight into how exactly he did this will be invaluable for historians and creative writers who wrestle with expressing the perspectives of ordinary people like the teachers, ranchers, youngsters, hustlers, labor radicals, and the rascals more generally who dance across the pages of his books. What changes did Doig make in the drafts of his manuscripts? How did his characters and stories evolve from concepts to actors and agents? What were Doig's intentions in writing his novels? Some literary critics would claim that "authorial intentions" don't really matter, but any writer (even the writer of this letter) knows that they do. But what did his readers think? I would assume that Doig received letters from readers who could recall their own lives and reclaim their own voices after reading his stories of this place that Joseph Kinsey Howard called "high, wide, and handsome." Questions about the relationship between history, memory, fact, and fiction have engaged scholars for decades; Doig's papers will afford a remarkable case study for exploring the creative tensions between the worlds of writing fiction and nonfiction.

Of course, scholars who use this collection could use it at any repository—for instance, Northwestern University where Doig received his undergraduate degree, or the University of Washington where he earned his doctorate. So what makes MSU such an ideal repository for this collection? The answer has to do with place—Doig grew up in White Sulphur Springs and came of age in the heart of Montana's sheep ranching country. But when it comes to archives and collections of personal papers, the matter of place resonates in a different key. In an archive, place is best defined by the

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Mountains & Minds

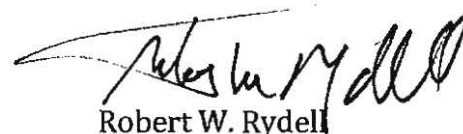
company a collection keeps on the shelves with other collections—and this is what makes MSU's Department of Special Collections, well, special. MSU's Department of Special Collections not only has a fine collection of Wallace Stegner's writings (and who wouldn't jump at the chance to write a comparative analysis of Stegner and Doig's perspectives on Montana, its land, and cultures?), but houses marvelous archives with information about the ranches and businesses and politics of this state—the "stuff" of history that Doig knew so well because he had grown up with it.

Let me put this a different way. Housed at MSU, the Doig Papers wouldn't simply be an addition to our collections; they would be an organic part of the wider sense of place that informed Doig's writings. Researchers having access to his collection here will have at their fingertips the raw materials of daily life in Montana—ranging from account books from small businesses to reports gathered by the WPA about rural Montana—that reflected the lives of ordinary and extraordinary Montanans—the very people that animate Doig's novels. What makes MSU unique is that its already existing collections will enable scholars to contextualize Doig's works and better appreciate his creative talents as a writer and historian. I especially appreciated learning about the MSU's Library's commitment to creating a "digital map" of this collection. What a splendid idea!

Here is one more observation about MSU. The cornerstone of our graduate programs in History and American Studies is the study of the American West. We currently have nearly forty active graduate students, who mostly come to MSU to study the American West. There is no doubt that these students will pore over Doig papers. To put this another way, this collection, housed here, will not simply sit on the shelves. It will be used; it will help prepare the next generation of scholars and writers—of fiction and nonfiction—to better understand how and why Montana and wider West matters for understanding who we are as human beings living lives filled with contingencies we often don't have the time to reflect upon. It would give me such pleasure one day to teach a course on the writing of history that would put the Doig Collection at its center. Perhaps this could be developed in conjunction with the conference you are planning!

Thanks very much for giving me the opportunity to join with my colleagues in underscoring the value of these papers for MSU—and the value of MSU as the permanent repository for this collection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Rydell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Robert W. Rydell
Professor

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
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August 27, 2015

TO: Nicol Rae, Dean, College of Letters & Science, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

FROM: Brett L. Walker, Edwin O. Reischauer Visiting Professor, Department of History,
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Dear Nic,

I hope this email finds you well. I write to you from Cambridge where, thanks to your generosity, I was allowed to pursue the prestigious Edwin O. Reischauer Visiting Professor at Harvard University.

When I first caught wind that the personal papers of author Mr. Ivan Doig might be available to Montana State University's Renne Library, I was thrilled. There are research and pedagogical reasons for my enthusiasm for this possible acquisition, as well as deeply personal ones. I'll start with the former.

Clearly, Mr. Doig stands as one of the most prominent writers of his generation. Most importantly, his writing strongly conjures a sense of place, one identified generally with the western states, but mostly with Montana. To my mind, this sense of place, particularly its portrayal of landscape, is best represented in his elegantly written 1977 memoir *This House of Sky*, which is a favorite of mine. Under your direction, the College of Letters & Science has been building a Center for the Study of the American West, and the papers of this singularly important author would prove an outstanding resource for student discovery. Often, the best research is fueled by a need to understand the place one inhabits, and Mr. Doig's papers would prove a wonderful launching pad for student and faculty research. In an age when we, as a community of educators, are constantly trying to motivate students to write better, Mr. Doig's contribution becomes all the more valuable. It is easy to see how his papers might inspire young people to pursue careers in writing, and help elevate the importance of lucid prose in the educational culture of Montana State.

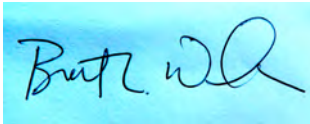
As you know, for the past decade, Montana State's MA and PhD programs in history have been growing and thriving, and the overwhelming majority of those students study the American west, particularly its landscape through the lens of environmental history. Mr. Doig's papers would be a treasure-trove for MA and PhD students because they offer a glimpse into the mechanics of focused observation, careful thinking, and good writing, as well as portraying western landscapes in all their complexity. Portraying landscapes remains a central part of environmental history, and Mr. Doig was a master of the craft. Rather than just sit in dusty boxes, his papers would be used for educational and discovery purposes, which I like to think would have been important to him.

Personally, like Mr. Doig, I was born and, in part anyway, raised in Montana. It's for this reason that his memoir in particular speaks to me in uncommonly personal ways. I feel strongly

that Montana State needs to be a defender and preserver of the heritage and history of our state, particularly as more out-of-state folks are attracted by the allure of Big Sky Country. This influx of people threatens the very landscape so beautiful written about by Mr. Doig. His voice is singularly important in this regard. Like Wallace Stegner and other western writers, he reminds of us the importance of distinctive landscapes in our lives, and why places, often “last best places,” are worth defending.

In sum, I couldn't be more excited about the prospect of acquiring Mr. Doig's papers, and hope that it works out. Please call or email if you have any questions.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Brett Walker" in a cursive, flowing script.

Brett L. Walker

Brett.laurence.walker@gmail.com

www.BrettLWalker.net

August 27, 2015

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
P.O. Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Kenning,

America's great literary canon is distinctive for writers who conveyed the spirit of their home regions, an endeavor that is actually incredibly difficult to do. Ivan Doig succeeded brilliantly in a way that places him in the top Western pantheon along with the late Wallace Stegner. Indeed, Ivan is a giant whose prose wandered large, wide and deep across the intersection of Montana's mountain and prairie. The paradox, of course, is that in his passing he now assumes a mantle he could not achieve in life: that of legend for the ages.

There could be nothing more apt than for the Montana State University Library in Bozeman to become the official repository of Ivan Doig's corpus spanning his complete life as a writer. It will be an invaluable reservoir to current and future generations, a touchstone for historians and scholars to draw upon, and maybe most importantly, a resource for young people who dream of becoming writers and want to tell the story of Montana through their own experience.

Ivan once told me: To be a decent writer you have to strive to be an extraordinary listener. Something else: Writers are more than their written words. We mull, tarry over sights and human experiences that are nearly ineffable, suffer, exalt, struggle, occasionally prevail and always seek to find "the zone" where the art of fine writing dwells. The Ivan Doig Archive at MSU will allow us to better understand a true American master at work. Having the opportunity to house it at MSU is something we cannot pass up. What a resource! It would be a high honor not only for MSU but our state.

With best regards,

Todd Wilkinson
Journalist/author
Bozeman, Montana

Phone: 406-587-4876
Email: tawilk@aol.com

August 25, 2015

Dean Nicol Rae
College of Letters and Sciences
Montana State University
Campus


Dear Nic:

Ivan Doig's *This House of Sky* was the first book I read when I arrived at Montana State University 32 years ago to teach human and cultural geography in the Department of Earth Sciences. For more than three decades, I have followed and appreciated Ivan's fine work, much of it dealing with Montana and the West. I had the pleasure of meeting him briefly several years ago when he was in Bozeman and we established a nice correspondence regarding all of the cultural geography embedded in his fiction and memoirs. Ivan was kind enough to send me manuscript copies of several maps he made for the Montana trilogy novels which I then used for an article—published in 2013 in the *Journal of Cultural Geography*—entitled “Ivan Doig's Montana and the Creation of Place-Defining Literature.” Ivan was keenly aware of the close relationship between people and place and how his stories sprouted from their interplay.

With Ivan's passing earlier this year, I have heard there is a possibility of Montana State receiving his papers for our Research Library. I strongly endorse the proposal and I hope these materials can find a home here at MSU. The collection would be a regional and national treasure given Ivan's contribution to Montana and the American West. His papers would open up so many unique opportunities for Montana students and researchers. It would also draw a diverse set of scholars from Literature, History, Geography, Western American Studies, Pacific Northwest Studies, and more. How appropriate that the collection would be in Bozeman, a place Ivan knew so well!

Please let me know what else I can do to lend my support to this effort.

Best regards,


William Wyckoff
Professor of Geography

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August 28, 2015

E-Mail: prwlaw@gmail.com

Kenning Arlitsch
Dean of the Library
Montana State University
PO Box 173320
Bozeman, MT 59717

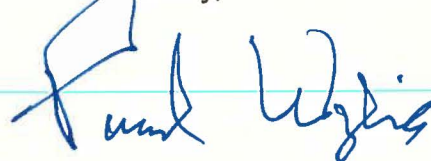
Dear Dean Arlitsch,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on your effort to acquire the Ivan Doig papers. I am enthusiastic about the proposal that the papers will not only be archived and digitalized in the Library, but will also be used for education and outreach. Placing his papers at here for teaching and research is the perfect follow-up to the honorary doctorate MSU awarded Ivan in 1984. What an opportunity it will give for the generations of Doig scholars that will come to see for themselves the magnificent landscapes that inspired him, and they will find that not far from Bozeman the culture that nurtured and informed him still exists. I don't know how many people not originally from this area have already discovered that, and a very good number of them have told me they selected Montana because they were fascinated by Ivan's books.

I had the privilege of knowing Ivan early on when we were both in grade school in White Sulphur Springs and would walk to school together. Ivan was always quiet but with those amazing powers of observation that the whole world would know about when he published *This House of Sky*. His intellect was no secret to my school-superintendent father who told me years later that during his tenure Ivan had the highest IQ recorded there. When I caught up with Ivan and told him that, he said with typical humor: "Damn, I'm glad I didn't know that until now!" After I had read *This House of Sky*, I had to ask myself how could Ivan have written such a great book just about his upbringing, and then I answered my own question: "I guess because he was Ivan and he was smart enough to do it!"

Later in life, as I was retiring from the practice of intellectual property law and looking for something meaningful to do, I took a look at my own upbringing in White Sulphur Springs, now made more positive by Ivan's writings. I was always so impressed that Ivan had become a famous writer, and I decided I might be able to get something published in history if I researched well. Six years of hard work later, with some good suggestions by Ivan in the process, The University of Oklahoma Press published *The Irish General: Thomas Francis Meagher* (incidentally White Sulphur Springs is in Meagher County, named after him) and today they have just typeset a second book *Blood on the Marias: The Baker Massacre* that will be out next March. I doubt I would have even tried these books if it hadn't been for Ivan's guiding light, and now I am enjoying a third career as a writer. In my work I have researched in archives all over the U. S. and abroad, and the MSU Library's special collections ranks right up there with the best. I have also received much help from the MSU faculty, and I know first hand that MSU has the resources and talent to see this project through and elevate even more the work and memory of Ivan Doig.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul R. Wylie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P".