

**Entry type:** Resource  
**Entry ID:** AWH000986

## Elizabeth Backhouse interviewed by Stuart Reid for the Battye Library collection [sound recording]

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**Repository** National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

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**Reference** [ORAL TRC 2999](#)

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**Date Range** 4-May-93 - 24-Sep-93

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**Access** Access open for research; written permission required for public use during the lifetime of the interviewee

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**Finding Aid** Transcript available (typescript, 196 leaves, [17] leaves of plates) + index (3 leaves)

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### Details

Elizabeth Backhouse speaks of her life and achievements as a writer of novels, children's stories, plays, filmscripts, a ballet and a musical. She describes her family background; attempted rape; early writing; mother's inability to show affection; secretarial studies; writing poetry; enlisting in WAAAF; writing *Against Time and Place*; ideas for books; having books published; *The Iron Horse*; *Enone and Quentin*; reviews; themes; *In Our Hands*; C.H. Pitman; living in England in 1940s; encouragement to write detective novels; working at Korda Films with Paul Vincent Carroll, Leslie Arliss; working for American film-maker Slessor; European travels; writing thrillers, methodology, characterisation; book covers; nursing ill father; living with her mother after his death; rejected novels; *The Fourth Picture*; *The Thin Line*; *Mirage*, and its adaption to film; working as a co-producer; Freemasonry; writing for radio; *Kal*; *Rosie Fishman*; *Dickens' Magic*; *A History of Masonry*; *Windmill in the Sky*; writing and clarity; unpublished works; aborted film *Cry of the Gulls*; *Sparrows in the Square*; *The Fishbowl*; *Tune on a Samisen*; *The Young Vagabonds*; musical composition; sponsoring children; painting; relationships with men; Muriel Wenborne-Haynes; her clothing shops; writing income.

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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