

Ethel Nestell Fortner papers, 1958-1986

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Fortner, Ethel Nestell
Title	Ethel Nestell Fortner papers
Dates	1958-1986 (inclusive) 1958 1986
Quantity	21.5 linear feet, (41 containers)
Collection Number	Coll 182
Summary	Ethel Nestell Fortner (1907-1987) was a teacher, principal, and poet. The collection includes correspondence, manuscripts, biographical material, subject files, reviews, publications, scrapbooks, manuscripts by others, audio and reel-to-reel tapes, books, and photographs.
Repository	University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives. UO Libraries--SPC, 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 Fax: 541-346-3485 spcarref@uoregon.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open to the public. Collection must be used in Special Collections & University Archives Reading Room. Collection includes sound recordings, moving images, or digital files to which access is restricted. Access to these materials is governed by repository policy and may require the production of listening or viewing copies. Researchers requiring access must notify Special Collections & University Archives in advance and pay fees for reproduction services as necessary.
Additional Reference Guides	Paper finding aid with additional information is available in Special Collections & University Archives.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for production of this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Historical Note

Ethel Nestell Fortner (1907-1987) was born in Aspen, Colorado in February 11, 1907. The second of six children of Sam and Ida Nestell, Ethel was raised in the small mining towns of eastern Colorado. She attended public schools in Glenwood Springs. After graduating from high school Ethel attained a provisional teacher's certificate, and at the age of nineteen began her teaching career in a one-room

log schoolhouse. After two years of teaching she went on year (1927-1928) at Western States College in Gunnison and earned a lifetime certification to teach in Colorado. She then taught in a Colorado Mining Camp.

Believing that she could do better, Ethel Nestell came to Oregon in 1931. She accepted a teaching position at the Oregon School for the Blind in Salem and stayed there for twelve years, eventually becoming principal of the school. In 1937 she married fellow teacher Lawrence Fortner. She received her BA in psychology from the University of Oregon, also in 1937, by attending summer school and extension classes. She left her position at the State School for the Blind to become Vision Supervisor in the Oregon State Department of Education. After WWII she resigned that job to join her husband in Seattle where he was working for the Veteran's Administration.

After a year in Seattle, the Fortners settled on a farm near Estacada, Oregon, and Ethel returned to teaching. She taught school and worked as a school administrator until she retired thirteen years later.

Retirement gave Fortner the opportunity to pursue other interests, especially water color painting and poetry. Although she had begun writing poetry in 1927, she was not published until 1962, when her poem "December Morning" was printed in the Oregonian newspaper. From that time on, over two hundred of her poems were published in newspapers, magazines, and anthologies. She also published four collections of poems. Recognition of her talent came in the form of several awards, including first place in the Oregon State Poetry Association contest in 1964 and the "Voice of the Year" publication awards in 1967. Ethel Fortner died on April 16, 1987.

Content Description

The collection includes correspondence, manuscripts, biographical material, subject files, reviews, publications, scrapbooks, manuscripts by others, audio and reel-to-reel tapes, books, and photographs.

Correspondence is arranged chronologically (1964-1980) and includes both personal and business letters.

The manuscript series is separated into sections. The first section is book-length manuscripts comprised of Fortner's poem collections and the second section is made up of single poems with a few illustrations. The first two sections contain both published and unpublished poetry, drafts, revisions, and background material. The third section contains lectures and articles, and the fourth contains reviews by Fortner. All material is organized alphabetically by title. There is also one folder of manuscripts and publications by Larry (Lawrence) Fuller. The fifth section contains material for "New as a Wave," a book by Eve Triem that Fortner compiled and edited. This section contains poetry manuscripts by Eve Triem, sketches and illustrations by Fortner, and a transcription of an interview between Eve Triem and Kathryn Kaye, who acted as the book's promoter.

The subject files series contains files on poets, publishers, editors, organizations and periodicals, and are organized alphabetically.

The reviews series consists of reviews of Fortner's work.

The publications series consists of publications that contain Fortner's poetry, or publications that Fortner edited or compiled. This series is arranged alphabetically by title of publication.

The manuscripts by other authors series contains manuscripts that were sent to Fortner for her criticisms, suggestions and editorial skill, and are arranged alphabetically by author.

Also included in the collection are scrapbooks that contain poems by others and poetry by Lawrence Fortner, biographical files, publicity files, interviews, photographs, and books written by or edited by Fortner, as well as anthologies that contain her work.

Fortner, Eve Triem, Ogden Nash, and Ron Bayes are represented on reel-to-reel and cassette tape interview recordings.

Photographs include pictures of Ethel and Lawrence Fortner, Eve Triem, and William Stafford.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Property rights reside with Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries. Copyright resides with the creators of the documents or their heirs. All requests for permission to publish collection materials must be submitted to Special Collections & University Archives. The reader must also obtain permission of the copyright holder.

Archival material may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal and/or state right to privacy laws and other regulations.

Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in this collection without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g. a cause of action for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the University of Oregon assumes no responsibility.

If a researcher finds sensitive personal information in a collection, please bring it to the attention of the reading room staff.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Ethel Nestell Fortner papers, Coll 182, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Collection is organized into the following series: Correspondence, Manuscripts, Subject Files, Reviews, Publications, Manuscripts by Others, Publicity, Scrapbooks, and Volumes.

Processing Note

Collection processed by Robert Charbonneau, 1992.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

American poetry--20th century

Poets, American--20th century

Poets, American--Oregon

Women poets, American--20th century

Personal Names :

Fortner, Ethel Nestell--Correspondence

Form or Genre Terms :

Correspondence

Manuscripts for publication

Photographs

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by University of Oregon Libraries, Archivists' Toolkit
Project Team and Tanya Parlet.
2012



<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>

About Creative Commons Licenses in Archives West:

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/cc-zero.shtml>