

# The William E. Stafford Archives, Series 10, Sub-Series 2: General Biographical, 1950-2012

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Stafford, William, 1914-1993
<b>Title</b>	The William E. Stafford Archives, Series 10, Sub-Series 2: General Biographical
<b>Dates</b>	1950-2012 (inclusive) 1950 2012
<b>Quantity</b>	2 boxes, (1.5 cubic feet)
<b>Collection Number</b>	OLPb127STA
<b>Summary</b>	William Stafford (1914-1993) was one of the most prolific and important American poets of the last half of the twentieth century. This subseries of the collection includes general biographical materials about Stafford. The Index to the entire Stafford Archives can be found at: <a href="http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/findaid/ark:/80444/xv83782">http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/findaid/ark:/80444/xv83782</a>
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Lewis &amp; Clark College, Special Collections and Archives</a> Lewis & Clark College Special Collections and Archives Aubrey R. Watzek Library 0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd. Portland, OR 97219 Telephone: 503-768-7254 Fax: 503-768-7282 <a href="mailto:archives@lclark.edu">archives@lclark.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	This collection has no restrictions and is open for research.
<b>Languages</b>	English

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## Biographical Note

William Stafford (1914-1993) was one of the most prolific and important American poets of the last half of the twentieth century. Among his many credentials, Stafford served as consultant in poetry at the Library of Congress, and received the National Book Award for his poetry collection *Traveling through the Dark* (1963). During his lifetime, Stafford wrote over sixty books of poetry that still resonate with both scholars and general readers. Stafford's perspectives on peace, the environment, and education serve as some of the most articulate and engaging dialogues by a modern American writer about three of the most important issues of the second half of the twentieth century with lasting impacts on future generations. Howard Zinn, one America's most iconic modern historians, was keenly aware of Stafford's insight into modern American culture. Zinn claimed, "William Stafford's prose and poetry, wise and eloquent, speak directly to the violence of our time, and to our hope for a different world" (from cover of *Every War Has Two Losers*).

The William Stafford Archives, donated to Lewis & Clark College by the Stafford family in 2008, contain the private papers, publications, photographs, recordings, and teaching materials of the poet William Stafford. The Lewis & Clark College Special Collections actively add to this collection by acquiring unique Stafford related materials.

Stafford wrote every day of his life from 1950 to 1993. These 20,000 pages of daily writings form a complete record of the poet's mostly early morning meditations, including poem drafts, dream records, aphorisms, and other visits to the unconscious, recorded on separate sheets of yellow or white paper or when traveling, often in spiral-bound reporters' steno pads. The archive also includes typescripts of poems submitted for publication and for use in readings. Stafford listed where he submitted each poem, and whether it was accepted for publication on the typescript. Each of his published collections, large and small, is represented by its gathering of documentary copies (typescripts), called by Stafford a "put-together." Unpublished poems, poems published in journals, and reading copies of published poems were also gathered, in a virtually complete record from 1937 to 1993, totaling about 7,000 items. The collection also includes copies of all known Stafford books and translations. Stafford saved correspondence received, with an indication of the date of reply, and sometimes a copy of the reply, from the early 1960s to August 1993. Estimated at 100,000 sheets, the collected correspondence contains some full exchanges of correspondence initiated by WS. One such exchange is the correspondence with Marvin Bell on their sequence *Segues*. In addition to many photographs of and relating to William Stafford, the archive includes an estimated 20,000 photographs and negatives taken and developed by Stafford of fellow poets, family, friends, and Lewis & Clark College faculty. The archive provides documentation of Stafford's teaching career, including more than one thousand index cards, some dating from research at Iowa, others from later. These were much used in preparing for classes, workshops, and lectures. The files also contain scattered notes for workshops and lectures. The archive also includes course syllabi, and faculty documents relating to Stafford's teaching years at Lewis & Clark College.

## Content Description

Includes copies, correspondence, certificates, and other assembled biographical content about William Stafford.

## Use of the Collection

### Restrictions on Use

Permission to publish, exhibit, broadcast, or quote from materials in the Watzek Library Archives & Special Collections requires written permission of the Head of Archives & Special Collections.

### Preferred Citation

The William Stafford Archives, Lewis & Clark College Aubrey Watzek Library Archives & Special Collections, Portland, Oregon.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

The William E. Stafford Archives, Series 10, Sub-Series 2:  
General Biographical, 1950-2012  
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv59829>

Arranged chronologically.

## Location of Collection

Special Collections

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

### Awards and Diplomas, 1935-2009

Box1

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1.1	El Dorado Junior College, Kansas: Diploma 23 x 24 cm. Portfolio diploma declaring William E. Stafford has completed the courses of study as prescribed by the Board of Education.	May 31, 1935
1.2	State University of Iowa: Diploma 16 x 21 cm. State University of Iowa portfolio diploma conferring upon William Edgar Stafford the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.	February 6, 1954
1.2.1	Lewis & Clark College Grateful Recognition Citation 31 x 46 cm. Citation read to Lewis & Clark faculty at the First Annual Faculty Recognition Banquet, May 14th 1963.	December 30, 1963
1.3	Poetry Society of America: Shelley Memorial Award Program and Notification Letter	January 23, 1964
1.4	University of Oregon: Award for Distinguished Service 23 x 29 cm. Portfolio award for distinguished service presented to William Edgar Stafford from the University of Oregon.	1968
1.5	Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon: Diploma 20 x 15 cm. Diploma bestowing William Edgar Stafford the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters [Honorary].	May 17, 1970
1.6	Oberlin College, OH: Commencement Program and Citation	May 23, 1971
1.7	Oberlin College, OH: Diploma 17 x 23 cm.	May 23, 1971

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Oberlin College portfolio diploma conferring upon William Edgar Stafford the degree of Doctor of Letters.	
1.8	Oregon's Fourth Poet Laureate: Governor Tom McCall Citation 28 x 22 cm. Remarks from Governor Tom McCall on the occasion of the presentation of William E. Stafford as Oregon's fourth Poet Laureate, Portland Art Museum.	April 29, 1974
1.9	Phi Kappa Phi: Membership Award 22 x 28 cm. Election award declaring William Stafford a member of the Society of Phi Kappa Phi.	May 10, 1977
1.10	Willamette University, OR: Diploma and Citation 20 x 26 cm. [Diploma] Diploma conferring William Stafford the degree of Doctor of Literature, and copy of speech given by presenter of award.	May 13, 1979
1.11	Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon: Aubrey R. Watzek Citation Award 38 x 22 cm. Lewis & Clark College Board of Trustees, Aubrey R. Watzek citation award presented to William Stafford.	March 6, 1979
1.12	Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon: Aubrey R. Watzek Award Statue 18 x 8 cm. [diameter] Lewis & Clark College, Aubrey R. Watzek Award statue presented to William E. Stafford.	March 6, 1979
1.13	The Governor of Oregon: Award 26 x 21 cm. Award presented to William Stafford from Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh recognizing Stafford's exceptional contribution to the liveliness and quality of the arts in Oregon.	February 5, 1982
1.14	State of Idaho: Poet Laureate Panel Award 38 x 28 cm. Award presented to William Stafford by Idaho Governor John V. Evans appointing Stafford as a member of the Idaho Poet Laureate Panel.	May 10, 1983
1.15	Seattle Pacific University: Diploma 17 x 22 cm.	June 3, 1983

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Seattle Pacific University portfolio diploma conferring upon William Edgar Stafford the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.	
1.16	Seattle Pacific University: Citation Award and Program 28 x 22 cm. Citation award and program conferring William Stafford the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters [Honorary].	June 5, 1983
1.17	Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA: Diploma, Program and Speech 22 x 26 cm. [Diploma] Portfolio diploma conferring upon William A. Stafford the degree of Doctor of Letters from Gonzaga University. Included are copies of Gonzaga Presidents speech, and commencement program.	May 11, 1986
1.18	Fellowship of Reconciliation: Certificate of Merit 28 x 22 cm. Certificate of merit presented to William and Dorothy Stafford recognizing over 50 years of commitment to the Fellowship of Reconciliation.	May 24, 1986
1.18.1	Western Oregon State College Distinguished Service Award 36 x 28 cm.	ca. 1987
1.19	Western States Book Award: Poetry lifetime achievement award 36 x 22 cm. Poetry lifetime achievement award presented to William Stafford by the Western States Arts Federation for "My Name is William Tell" [Confluence Press].	1992
1.20	Search for Peace: Peacemaker Prize 6 cm. [diameter] Bronze medallion on ribbon awarded posthumously to William Stafford by The Search For Peace group founded in Missoula, Montana, and Portland, Oregon.	2009

## Oversized Awards and Diplomas, 1935-2009

Box1

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2.0	The National Book Award 40 x 41 cm.	March 12, 1963

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Certificate for the most distinguished work of poetry by an American author published in 1962.	
2.1	Oregon State Poetry Association: Honor of achievement in poetry 31 x 41 cm. Award presented to William Stafford by the Oregon State Poetry Association for his distinguished achievement in the writing of poetry.	October 15, 1966
2.2	City of Eldorado, KS: Certificate of Honorary Citizenship 24 x 30 cm. Framed certificate from the city of Eldorado, KS conferring upon William E. Stafford honorary citizenship.	April 27, 1971
2.2.1	Western Literature Association Distinguished Achievement Award 31 x 41 cm. Presented at the Eleventh Annual Meeting.	October 9, 1976
2.3	Metropolitan Arts Commission: Award 39 x 58 cm. Award presented to William Stafford from the Metropolitan Arts Commission in appreciation for the excellence to the arts in our community.	1979
2.4	Women in Communications: Edith Knight Hill Award 33 x 26 cm. Mounted plaque on wood base, Edith Knight Hill Award to Dr. William E. Stafford by the Portland Professional Chapter of Women in Communications Inc., for contributions to the state of Oregon.	May 1, 1981
2.5	Washington College, Maryland: Diploma 51 x 41 cm. Diploma conferring William Edgar Stafford the degree of Doctor of Literature [Honorary].	May 17, 1981
2.6	City of Dodge City, KS: Honorary Deputy Marshal Award 30 x 24 cm. Framed certificate from the city of Dodge City, office of the Marshal appointing William Stafford to the rank of Honorary Deputy Marshal of Dodge City.	September 14, 1983
2.7	Butler County Community College: Recognition Award 23 x 28 cm.	November 8, 1986

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Framed recognition award presented to William Stafford by the Butler County Community College for outstanding accomplishments in the field of creative writing.	
2.8	Willamette Writers: Lifetime Achievement Award 18 x 23 cm. Mounted plaque on wood base, Lifetime Achievement Award presented to William Stafford from the Willamette Writers.	August 10, 1991
2.9	Oregon Association of Broadcasters: Tom McCall Award 26 x 21 cm. Mounted plaque on wood base, Oregon Association of Broadcasters, Tom McCall Award presented to William Stafford for outstanding service to the state and nation.	1993

## Find Related Collections

### Subject Terms :

[Pacifism--Poetry.](#)

[Pacifism--United States.](#)

[Poetry -- Authorship.](#)

[Poetry -- Study and teaching.](#)

[Poetry--20th century.](#)

[Poets, American--20th century.](#)

[World War, 1939-1945 -- Conscientious objectors -- United States.](#)

### Personal Names :

[Stafford, William, 1914-1993--Archives](#)

[Stafford, Dorothy](#)

### Corporate Names :

[Lewis & Clark College \(Portland, Or.\)](#)

### Geographical Names :

[Kansas.](#)

[Oregon.](#)

### Other Creators :

#### Personal Names :

[Stafford, Kim](#) (creator)