

The William E. Stafford Archives, Series 8, Sub-Series 6: Criticism of Stafford's Writings, 1957-2011

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Stafford, William, 1914-1993
Title	The William E. Stafford Archives, Series 8, Sub-Series 6: Criticism of Stafford's Writings
Dates	1957-2011 (inclusive) 1957 2011
Quantity	500 items (approx.)
Collection Number	OLPb124STA
Summary	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 published criticism of Stafford's writings. The Index to the entire Stafford Archives can be found at: http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/findaid/ark:/80444/xv83782
Repository	Lewis & Clark College, Special Collections and Archives 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 archives@lclark.edu
Access Restrictions	This collection has no restrictions and is open for research.
Languages	English

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

Theses, serial publications, and books.

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

All of the published translations in this sub-series are described in detail in Section H of *William Stafford: An Annotated Bibliography* (2012) by James Pirie. The items are listed and housed chronologically by publication date.

Location of Collection

Special Collections

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)