

Clyde Robert Bulla papers, 1969-1973

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Bulla, Clyde Robert
Title	Clyde Robert Bulla papers
Dates	1969-1973 (inclusive) 1969 1973
Quantity	0.1 linear feet, (2 folders)
Collection Number	A 297
Summary	Clyde Robert Bulla (b. 1914) is an author of books for young people. The collection includes manuscripts relating to Bulla's interest in historical fiction.
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.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

Clyde Robert Bulla was born on January 9, 1914, on a farm near King City, Missouri. The youngest son of Julian W. Bulla, a farmer, and Sarah Ann (Henson) Bulla, a homemaker, he was educated in a one-room schoolhouse run by one of his older sisters. As a child, Bulla had a strong desire to be a writer; he once told *Contemporary Authors*, "by the time I was seven or eight, I was enamored of words." Though he was not encouraged in this pursuit by his family or friends, none of whom had ever seen an author, he spent the evenings of his school years writing, "as long as I could stay awake."

At the age of ten, Bulla entered a writing contest and won a small prize. Bolstered by this success, he became convinced that he was a writer. He continued to attend school with enthusiasm, though after only one year at King City High School, he was forced to leave in order to help his family on the farm. He finished his education by correspondence, teaching himself to play the piano and gaining an interest in opera. He farmed until 1942, when the family moved to King City because Mrs. Bulla had become ill. He then joined the *Tri-County News* in King City as a linotype operator and columnist in order to help support the family. He continued to write and send out stories, hoping for publication.

Though many of his early works were rejected, Bulla sold his first story in 1934 to a women's magazine. During the depression, he helped his family stay afloat by selling stories to pulp magazines. He also joined a national group of writers who read and critiqued each other's work. Due to this association, he met Emma Thibodaux, an elementary school teacher who encouraged him to try writing children's books. After years of varied success writing for adults, Bulla decided to try this new approach. He wrote a story called *The Donkey Cart* (1946), which was met with immediate interest from his editor, who requested another book. This second book was *Riding the Pony Express* (1948), and after its publication, Bulla wrote a book or two every year.

With a career that lasted over sixty years and produced almost one hundred books, Bulla proved that he could make a lasting impact in the field of children's literature. He has written historical fiction, contemporary fiction, nonfiction, music, poems, retellings of opera plots and Biblical stories, and books set in foreign lands. He has won awards and critical acclaim for his simple, straightforward style and ability to explain complex concepts in an engaging manner, especially as displayed in *Benito* (1961); *Jonah and the Great Fish* (1970); *Pocahontas and the Strangers* (1971); *Noah and the Rainbow: An Ancient Story* (1972); *Shoeshine Girl* (1975); and *A Lion to Guard Us* (1981).

Clyde Robert Bulla is a member of the Authors Guild, the Authors League of America, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. In addition to writing, he is interested in music, theater, and travel.

(Source: Gale Literary Databases. "Clyde Robert Bulla." Contemporary Authors. 3 November 2003. 2 August 2005.)

Content Description

The Clyde Robert Bulla Papers consist of manuscripts for two of his books: *Dexter* (1973), which includes a holograph and three drafts; and *The Moon Singer* (1969), which includes five drafts.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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

Archival 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], Clyde Robert Bulla papers, A 297, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Clyde Robert Bulla in 1975.

Processing Note

Collection processed by staff.

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

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)		Description
Box	Folder	
1	1	<i>Dexter</i> . Holograph notes; first, second, and third drafts of manuscript
1	2	<i>The Moon Singer</i> . Drafts of manuscript

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Authors, American--20th century

Historical fiction, American

Young adult fiction, American--Authorship

Form or Genre Terms :

Manuscripts for publication

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by processing staff
2006



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

Clyde Robert Bulla papers, 1969-1973

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv82774>

About Creative Commons Licenses in Archives West:
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/cc-zero.shtml>