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Creator: Aldridge, John W.
Title: John W. Aldridge Papers
Inclusive dates: 1942-2006
Bulk dates: 1950-2000
Extent: 14.5 linear feet
Call number: 2009135 Aa 2

Language: Material is in English.
Acquisition: Accession received through Patricia Aldridge in 2009 (donor no. 10178).
Access: Restricted access in part; see access restrictions on following page.
Photographs: Photographs located in Box 1
A-V Material: Reel-to-reel audiotapes and VHS videotapes in Box 14.
Copyright: Copyright is held by the Regents of the University of Michigan.
Processed By: Kate Donovan, May 2009

Access Restrictions for University of Michigan Records

University records are public records and once fully processed are generally open to research use. Records that contain personally identifiable information will be restricted in order to protect individual privacy. Certain administrative records are restricted in accordance with university policy as outlined below. The restriction of university records is subject to compliance with applicable laws, including the Freedom of Information Act.

The John W. Aldridge Papers include restricted material in the following categories:

- Publications, Writings, & Projects (Unpublished Memoir Manuscript, *Against the Current*) -- Box 12
- Student Academic Records (Correspondence--Letters of Recommendation)-- Box 4

Categories of Restricted Records

- ◆ **Personnel related files**, including search, review, promotion, and tenure files, are restricted for thirty years from date of creation.
- ◆ **Student educational records** are restricted for seventy-five years from date of creation.
- ◆ **Patient/client records** are restricted for one-hundred years from date of creation.
- ◆ **Executive Officers, Deans and Directors files**
University records generated by the university's Executive Officers, Deans, Directors and their support offices are restricted for a period of twenty years from their date of accession by the Bentley Historical Library. The restriction is subject to applicable law, most notably the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Files restricted for 10 years

Records added to a record group in this category prior to January 1, 2001 are restricted for a period of ten years from the date of creation

Files restricted for 20 years

Records added to a record group in this category after January 1, 2001 are restricted for a period of 20 years from the date they were added to the record group.

Restricted files are indicated in the contents list with a restriction note indicating the restriction type and the date of expiration.

CR (Client/Patient records, 100 years from date of creation)

PR (Personnel related records, 30 years from date of creation)

SR (Student educational records, 75 years from date of creation)

ER (Executive Officers, Deans and Directors records, 20 years from the date the material added to the record group)

For further information on the restriction policy and placing FOIA requests for restricted material, consult the reference archivist at the Bentley Historical Library or the University of Michigan Freedom of Information Office website at:
<http://www.umich.edu/~urel/foia.html>

Abstract

University of Michigan professor of English (1964-1991), director of the Hopwood Program (1975-1988), USIA Special Ambassador to Germany (1972-1973), and esteemed literary critic. Papers (1943-2004) include extensive personal and professional correspondence, published and unpublished manuscripts and writings, notes and lecture materials for courses taught, USIA program materials and correspondence, topical files, photographs, and audio-visual recordings.

Biography

John (Jack) Watson Aldridge was an esteemed literary critic and professor of English at the University of Michigan (1964-1991). As a critic, Aldridge devoted himself to what he called “the ideal of creative independence and free critical dissent which has come down to us in the central tradition of American thought and letters,” (*Current Biography*, 1958) and throughout his career he commented upon and critiqued many of the twentieth century’s most important writers, including Joseph Heller, Norman Mailer, Ralph Ellison, John Horne Burns, Malcolm Cowley, Arthur Miller, Gore Vidal, Wright Morris, Saul Bellow, William Styron, Philip Roth, and Truman Capote, many of whom he also counted as his friends.

John W. Aldridge was born on September 26, 1922 in Sioux City, Iowa to Walther Copher and Nell Madge (Watson) Aldridge. Aldridge spent his early years in Iowa, until the age of twelve, when the family moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Aldridge attend the University of Chattanooga (now the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) from 1940 to 1943, and studied English during the summer of 1942 at Middlebury College’s School of English at Bread Loaf in Vermont, prior to enlisting in the Army and serving in World War II as an infantry rifleman and information specialist (July 1943- August 1945). Following his military service, during which he earned a Bronze Star and five battle stars for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and the Ardennes, Aldridge enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley in 1946. At Berkeley, Aldridge worked as the editor of the school’s *Occident* literary magazine, and earned his Bachelor of Arts in 1947.

Prior to coming to the University of Michigan, Aldridge was a lecturer and later assistant professor at the University of Vermont (1948-1950, 1954-1955), a lecturer for the Christian Gauss Seminars in Criticism at Princeton University (1953-1955), and a visiting professor at Sarah Lawrence College (1956-1957), Queens College of the City of New York (1957), and New York University (1958). Aldridge also served as a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Munich (1958-1959) and the University of Copenhagen (1962-1963), and as critic-in-residence and visiting professor at Hollins College (1959-1962).

Aldridge came to the University of Michigan in 1964 as a visiting associate professor of English language and literature, and was promoted to professor in 1965. Aldridge was well-known at Michigan for his lectures on the contemporary novel, and his students heralded his teaching abilities. In addition to guiding the scholarship of scores of graduate and undergraduate students, Aldridge also served as the chair of the editorial board of the *Michigan Quarterly Review* (1978-1992), and director of the Hopwood Program at the University of Michigan and chair of the Hopwood Writing Awards Committee (1975-1988).

In addition to traditional academic appointments, Aldridge also served as a Special Ambassador for American Studies at the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany (1972-1973), as a book commentator and reviewer for “The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour” on

public television, and as a book critic for the *New York Herald Tribune Book Week* (1965-1966) and the *Saturday Review* (1970-1979). Aldridge was also the recipient of a Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship for the 1976-1977 academic year.

Aldridge was an active writer and critic throughout his career, publishing numerous essays and book reviews in a wide range of publications, including *Harper's Magazine*, *Saturday Review*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Partisan Review*, *Nation*, *Playboy*, *Commentary*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The American Scholar*, *Chronicles*, *Esquire*, *Chicago Tribune Book World*, *New Republic*, *New York Herald Tribune Book Week*, and *Life*. Aldridge was also a cofounder, with author Vance Bourjaily, in 1951 of *Discovery* magazine, an influential literary magazine published by Pocket Books.

In addition to writing regular essays and book reviews, Aldridge was the author of numerous works of literary criticism, a novel, *The Party at Cranton*, and a sociological study of youth culture, *In the Country of the Young*. Aldridge considered his literary criticism of contemporary writers his most important work, however, telling *Contemporary Authors* (Gale, 2002), "I am, and have always wanted to be, a critic of the literature of my own time. With the exception of my novel, *The Party at Cranton*, and an informal sociological study, *In the Country of the Young*, my books have all been studies of current literature, primarily American fiction. I have never considered criticism in any sense a minor or inferior literary form, and one of my ambitions has been to write criticism in such a way that it can be seen to have the qualities of style, structure, and dramatic development which are normally associated with fiction." Aldridge placed such primacy on his critical works that he devoted a substantial portion of his unpublished autobiography, *Against the Current*, to discussions of the intellectual bases of his criticism and the sometimes laudatory, sometimes negative, reception it received.

Aldridge's first book of criticism, *After the Lost Generation* (1951), was one of the first critical treatments of major post-war writers such as Norman Mailer, John Horne Burns, Truman Capote, Gore Vidal, and others, and earned Aldridge high acclaim in the literary world and established his reputation as one of the foremost literary critics of his generation. When *After the Lost Generation* was reprinted in 1985, Norman Mailer wrote in the "Introduction," that "Aldridge was the nearest guideline to absolute truth that the working novelist had in my young days. I wonder if there was ever a critic who understood any better the roots of the problems that beset the novelists of his own generation." Aldridge's literary criticism incited strong reactions amongst those in the literary world, with Gore Vidal including him in a list of "literary gangsters." Aldridge, however, relished the impassioned responses to his work, saying, "I suppose I have had what is called a 'controversial' career. All my books have provoked argument and discussion. And, I am pleased that this should be so, for I function best in an atmosphere of controversy and would very probably die if I were ever read with indifference." (*World Authors, 1950-1970*, 1975)

During the long course of his career Aldridge contributed introductions, forewords, and essays to numerous works, in addition to serving as an editor for *Critiques and Essays on Modern Fiction* (1952) and *Selected Stories of P.G. Wodehouse* (1958). Aldridge was also the author of nine books: *After the Lost Generation* (1951), *In Search of Heresy: American Literature in an Age of Conformity* (1956), *The Party at Cranton* (1960), *Time to Murder and Create* (1966), *In the Country of the Young* (1970), *The Devil in the Fire* (1972), *The American Novel and the Way We Live Now* (1983), *Talents and Technicians* (1992), and *Classics and Contemporaries* (1992).

Aldridge retired as an University of Michigan professor of English in 1991. While in retirement with emeritus status (1991-2007), Aldridge maintained an active scholarly lifestyle and continued producing articles and book reviews, as well as writing two unpublished manuscripts, *In the Company of Lions*, a work of criticism, and *Against the Current*, a memoir. Married five times and the father of five sons, John W. Aldridge died February 7, 2007.

Scope and Content Note

The John W. Aldridge Papers document the professional and personal life of one of the twentieth century's most distinguished literary critics, and a longtime University of Michigan professor of English. The records in this collection measure 14 linear feet, and date from 1943 to 2006, with the majority of the records from the period 1950 to 2000. They are primarily comprised of correspondence, lectures and addresses, teaching materials, writings and publications, research notes, clippings, program and topical files, and are arranged into nine series: **Biographical Materials, Correspondence, Hopwood Awards Program, Lectures and Addresses, Scrapbooks, Teaching, USIA/Special Ambassador, Writings, and Audio-Visual Materials.**

The **Biographical Materials** series, 1945-2000 (0.25 linear ft.), contains materials on the Aldridge family genealogy, Aldridge's veteran status, Aldridge's fifty-year high school reunion, and undated photographs that appear to span the period from 1943 to 1985, approximately.

The **Correspondence** series, 1943-2006 (3 linear ft.), contains correspondence both to and from John W. Aldridge over a 66 year span. The series is organized into subseries chronologically by year, as well as by correspondent. In addition to personal and business letters, this series also includes a subseries of letters of recommendation Aldridge wrote on his students and colleagues' behalf. Noteworthy materials in this series include a 53 year correspondence with Aldridge's friend Grant Genung and correspondence with four of Aldridge's wives, as well as original and photocopied letters from William J. Buckley, Jr., John Dos Passos, Ralph Ellison, William Gaddis, Donald Hall, Joseph Heller, Norman Mailer, Bernard Malamud, Arthur Miller, Wright Morris, Anais Nin, William Styron, Lionel Trilling, John Updike, Gore Vidal, Kurt Vonnegut, Robert Penn Warren, Tom Wolfe, and P.G. Wodehouse.

Researchers should note that while much of the correspondence in the John W. Aldridge Papers can be found in the correspondence series, additional correspondence is located in the Hopwood Awards Program, Lectures and Addresses, Teaching, USIA/Special Ambassador, and Writings series.

The records in the **Hopwood Awards Program** series, 1964-2000 (0.25 linear ft.), document Aldridge's work with the University of Michigan's Hopwood writing program. The series contains administrative files, program materials for the fiftieth anniversary of the Hopwood Festival, and Aldridge's introductory and welcome addresses for Hopwood speakers, including Joan Didion, E.L. Doctorow, William Gaddis, Joseph Heller, Lewis Lapham, Norman Mailer, Bernard Malamud, Walker Percy, and Tom Wolfe, among others.

The **Lectures and Addresses** series, 1951-1995 (0.25 linear ft.), includes drafts and final copies of lectures, addresses, and presentations Aldridge gave at academic conferences, university functions, and memorial services. Included in this series are remarks Aldridge gave at the State University of New York at Potsdam on the work of T.

Coraghessan Boyle, as well as his address and notes for a conference at the US Air Force Academy in 1986 celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*.

The **Scrapbooks** series, 1947-1992 (1 linear ft.), includes seven scrapbooks assembled by Aldridge containing clippings of reviews of his published works.

Materials in the **Teaching** series, 1948-1991 (2.5 linear ft.), document Aldridge's long teaching career and scholarship on the contemporary American novel. This series is divided into five subseries: administrative materials, assignments, course descriptions and syllabi, lecture/class notes, and students.

The administrative materials subseries documents Aldridge's academic appointments at different institutions, and contains his curriculum vitae, teaching evaluations, and teaching-related correspondence. The assignments subseries includes copies of final exams for courses taught by Aldridge, as well as preliminary exam questions. The course descriptions and syllabi subseries has copies of the course descriptions, syllabi, and class schedules for the English courses Aldridge taught over the course of his career and documents his evolving approach to his courses on the contemporary novel. The lecture/class notes subseries is the largest in the teaching series, and contains notes, drafts, and completed lectures on a wide range of topics including modernism and postmodernism, writers between the world wars, politics and literature, and the state of the American novel, as well as lectures on individual authors.

The **Topical Files** series, 1967-2003 (0.25 linear ft.), includes a variety of materials that Aldridge segregated into separate files within his personal papers. Subjects in the topical files series include Leslie (Felker) Aldridge (Aldridge's third wife), Eileen Bender, Alan Cheuse, the Norman Mailer Society, Charles Keller Watson, and the National Humanities institute.

The **USIA/Special Ambassador** series, 1971-1974 (0.25 linear ft.), contains records documenting Aldridge's 1972-1973 appointment by the United States Information Agency (USIA) as a Special Ambassador for American Studies to the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany. The series includes correspondence relating to the appointment and Aldridge's cultural mission, information on the German-American Writers Conference he organized, program materials, and lectures Aldridge gave in thirteen European cities.

The materials in the **Writings** series, 1943-2007 (5.25 linear ft.), document Aldridge's scholarly and creative work over a 64 year period. The series is organized into three subseries; publications, projects, and unpublished writings.

The publications subseries is further divided into subsubseries devoted to administrative materials (such as contracts and permissions), books, *Discovery* magazine, essays, and reviews. The publications subseries includes correspondence, notes, drafts, manuscripts for Aldridge's books *After the Lost Generation*, *The American Novel and the Way We Live Now*, *Classics and Contemporaries*, *The Devil in the Fire*, *In the Country of the Young*, *In Search of Heresy*, *The Party at Cranton*, *Selected Stories by P.G. Wodehouse*, *Talents and Technicians*, and *Time to Murder and Create*. This subseries also includes drafts, manuscripts, and correspondence relating to Aldridge's published book reviews and essays, including some of those for which he garnered significant literary attention, including "Afterthoughts on the Twenties and *The Sun Also Rises*," "*Catch-22* Twenty-Five Years Later," and "New American Assembly Line Fiction."

The projects subseries includes a range of written materials on a variety of projects in which Aldridge participated either as an author, interviewer, reviewer, or advisor. Records in this subseries include notes and transcripts of an interview between Aldridge and Norman Mailer (related note: the audiotape of this interview is in the audio-visual series in box 14), Aldridge's work as a reviewer for the "MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour," his work for the *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and his notes as a member of the advisory board for the WETA television program "William Kennedy's Albany," and his notes for a biography of George Orwell.

The unpublished writings subseries includes notes, drafts, and manuscripts of poems, reviews, and novels, as well as for books of criticism and a memoir. While some of the materials in this series may have been published later in another form, the materials here constitute drafts and notes. Among the noteworthy materials in this series are early writings from Aldridge's military and college years, an unpublished work of criticism title *In the Company of Lions* that Aldridge completed in the years before his death, and his unpublished memoir, *Against the Current*.

The **Audio-Visual** series, 1950s-1995 (1 linear ft.), consists of audio and visual materials documenting Aldridge's projects. The series includes video of Aldridge's appearance at a conference on T. Coraghessan Boyle, as well as a video of the series "William Kennedy's Albany," on which Aldridge served as a consultant. There are also two audiocassettes in the series, one with Aldridge's 1979 interview with Norman Mailer, and the other titled "Jack on the Death of Cousin." Additionally, the series contains 21 reel-to-reel audiotapes circa 1950s, one of which contains audio of a dinner hosted by Aldridge and attended by Norman Mailer and William Styron.

Processing Note

The John W. Aldridge Papers were received by the Bentley as 19 linear feet of records in March 2009, through Patricia Aldridge, John W. Aldridge's widow. While some of these records clearly reflected Aldridge's original organizational schema, the majority of the records lacked any indication of original order. The processor attempted to respect this original order in so far as was possible, but at the same time imposed an organizational structure onto the records.

The **Correspondence** series mirrors Aldridge's own organizational schema in which Aldridge maintained separate files for some correspondents, while grouping other letters together by year. The materials in series were loosely organized chronologically by twenty year periods, but were not in chronological order. Thus, in processing the correspondence, the processor adhered to the implied organizational structure and organized the letters both by year and correspondent. In some cases, as with the Norman Mailer correspondence, some letters were originally filed by name and others by decade. In cases such as these, with major literary figures or important correspondents, the processor filed the letters by correspondent name. .

The records in the **Biographical Materials**, **Hopwood Awards Program**, and **Lectures and Addresses** series were all combined together and the processor imposed an organizational structure upon them. The materials in the **USIA/Special Ambassador**, **Teaching**, and **Writing** series were roughly organized, that is, segregated from one another, but not organized at any greater level of detail. Thus, the processor organized the different components of these series into more discernable subseries and levels. The **Scrapbooks** and **Audio-Visual Materials** series reflect the original order of the files as received by the Bentley.

Box No. Description

Biographical Materials, 1945-2000

Box 1

Aldridge Genealogy
Aldridge, Nell
Class Reunion
Curriculum Vitae and Profile
Photographs (2 folders)
Veteran Records

Correspondence, 1943-2006

By Year

1945
1947
1948
1949
1950
1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959
1960
1961
1962 (2 folders)
1963 (2 folders)
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968

Box 2

1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986

Box No. Description

Correspondence, 1943-2006 (cont.)

By Year (cont.)

Box 2 (cont.)

1987

1988

1990s

2000-2004

Undated

By Correspondent

Agnew, Spiro

Aldridge, Alexandra

Aldridge, Henry

Aldridge, Jeremy

Aldridge, John W. (correspondence to Grant Genung), 1943-1953

Aldridge, Lanice

Aldridge, Leslie

Aldridge, Patricia

Aldridge, Pieter

Aldridge, Stephen

Allen, Steve

Blackmur, R.P. (Richard Palmer)

Bowles, Paul

Brooks, Van Wyck

Brossard, Chandler

Buckley, William F. Jr.

Cochran, Robert

Cowley, Malcolm

Dickey, James

Dos Passos, John

Ellison, Ralph

Erbe, Pamela

Fleming, Thomas

Box 3

Gaddis, William

Gaiser, Carolyn

Genung, Grant (12 folders)

1949-1954

1960

1970

1971

1972

1973

1975

1976

1977-1978

1980-1989

1990-1994

2001-2002

Genung, Lorraine

Gold, Herbert

Hall, Donald

Hebel, Udo

Box No. Description

Correspondence, 1943-2006 (cont.)

By Correspondent (cont.)

Box 3 (cont.)

Heller, Joseph
Horowitz, Glen
Kazin, Alfred
Knoll, Robert
Kostelantz, Richard
Kumin, Maxine
Leclair, Tom
Leigh, Colston
Lennon, J. Michael
Lucid, Robert
MacDonald, John D.
Mailer, Norman
Malamud, Bernard
Manchester, William
McCauley, Gerard (2 folders)
Miller, Arthur
Morris, Wright
Ndongo, Oumar
New York Times Book Review
Nin, Anäis
Panichas, George
Pritchett, V.S.
Ramsey, Paul
Styron, William
Targ, William
Tate, Allen
Tomkins, Calvin
Trilling, Lionel
Updike, John
Vidal, Gore
Vonnegut, Kurt
Warren, Robert Penn
Willingham, Calder
Wolfe, Tom
Wodehouse, P.G.

Letters of Recommendation

Box 4

Colleague Recommendations
Student Recommendations (4 folders) [SR Restricted until July 1,
2079; removed to box 15]

Box No. Description

Hopwood Awards Program, 1964-2000

Box 4 (cont.)

Administrative
Hopwood Festival/50th Anniversary
Hopwood Lecture (26 folders)
Alvarez, Al
Delbanco, Nicholas
Didion, Joan
Doctorow, E.L.
Gaddis, William
Garrett, George
Hall, Donald
Heller, Joseph
Justice, Donald
Lapham, Lewis
Kingston, Maxine Hong
Kizer, Carolyn
Kumin, Maxine
Kunitz, Stanley
Mailer, Norman
Malmud, Bernard
Merrill, James
Oates, Joyce Carol
Percy, Walker
Rexroth, Kenneth
Sharrar, Jack
Simon, John
Simpson, Eileen
Spender, Stephen
Wilbur, Richard
Wolfe, Tom

Lectures and Addresses, 1951-1995

City College "The Outlook for the Future in American Fiction"
Columbia University "The Outlook for the Future of American Fiction"
Detroit Women Writers
"Following *After the Lost Generation*"
Gindin, James Memorial
Hayden, Robert Conference
Hillsdale College, "The Novel and the Imperial Self"
Modern Language Association Convention/Norman Mailer Panel
Potsdam Conference, "The Bountifully Talented Mr. Boyle"
Powers, Lyall
Rice, Warner
Squires, James Radcliffe Memorial
University of Michigan Alumni Association, "The American Novel"
University of Michigan English Department Emeriti Luncheon
University of Michigan, Presidents' Club Spring Weekend, "What
Makes a Best Seller?"
University of Vermont, "Education at the University of Vermont—Four
Years of What?"
US Air Force Academy *Catch-22* Conference

Box No. Description

Scrapbooks, 1947-1992

Box 5

1947-1952
1953-1956
1956-1959
1959-1961
1963
Undated (2 books)

Teaching, 1948-1991

Administrative Materials
Academic Appointments (7 folders)

Box 6

Hollins College
New York University
Princeton
Queens College
University of Copenhagen
University of Michigan
University of Vermont
Correspondence
Curriculum Vitae
Evaluations
Reports
Research Partnership Application
Salary
University of Houston
United States Educational Commission for France
Assignments
Final Exams
Preliminary Exam Questions
Course Descriptions and Syllabi
English 539, "Classic Contemporary Novel"
Syllabi and Course Schedules
Lecture/Class Notes
American Fiction, 1920-1958
American Novel
Austen, Jane
Background of Modernism
Barth, John Simmons
Beat Generation
Beckett, Samuel
Burns, John Horne
Browning, Robert
Camus, Albert
Capote, Truman & McCullers, Carson
Conrad, Joseph (4 folders)
Chance
General
Heart of Darkness
Under Western Eyes
Conrad, Joseph & Joyce, James

Box No. Description

Teaching, 1948-1991 (cont.)

Lecture/ Class Notes (cont.)

Box 6 (cont.)

DeLillo, Don
Didion, Joan
Dostoevsky, Fyodor
Eliot, T.S.
Ellison, Ralph
English 151: Introduction to English Literature
"Everyman"
Faulkner, William
Fitzgerald, F. Scott (2 folders)
Flaubert, Gustave
Forms of the English Novel
Frazer, James George, Marx, Karl and Nietzsche, Friedrich
Freud, Sigmund
Gide, André
Hawkes, John
Heller, Joseph (2 folders)
 Catch-22
 Something Happened
Hemingway, Ernest (3 folders)
 A Farewell to Arms
 General
 The Sun Also Rises

Box 7

Huxley, Aldous
James, Henry (5 folders)
 The Ambassadors
 Daisy Miller
 Early & Middle Period
 Portrait of a Lady
 Turn of the Screw
Joyce, James (4 folders)
 Dubliners
 Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
 Ulysses (2 folders)
Jung, Carl
Kafka, Franz
Kosinski, Jerzy
Lessing, Dorris
Mann, Thomas
March, William
Metaphysical Poets
Modernism
Modernism and Postmodernism
Nabokov, Vladimir
Nietzsche, Friedrich
Penn Warren, Robert
"The Phoenix"
Plath, Sylvia

Box No. Description

Teaching, 1948-1991 (cont.)
Lecture/ Class Notes (cont.)

Box 7 (cont.)

Poetry
Politics and Literature
Salinger, J.D.
Shakespeare, William
Styron, William
Techniques of Fiction
Thirties
Tolstoy, Leo
Twenties
Vonnegut, Kurt
Woolf, Virginia
World War I and Literature
World War II and Literature
“Writers of the Two World Wars” (2 folders)
 General
 Summation
Students
 Graduate Students

Topical Files, 1967-2003

Aldridge (Felker), Leslie
Bender, Eileen
Cheuse, Alan
National Humanities Institute
Norman Mailer Society
Watson, Charles Keller

USIA/ Special Ambassador, 1971-1974

Box 8

Correspondence (2 folders)
 1972
 1973
German-American Writers Conference
Lectures (11 folders)
 Berlin
 Barcelona/Madrid
 Brussels
 Dusseldorf
 Hamburg/Luneberg
 Helsinki
 London
 Marburg
 Paris
 Regensburg
 Stuttgart
Program Materials

Box No. Description

Writings, 1943-2007

Publications

Administrative Materials

Box 8 (cont.)

Contracts
Dust Jackets
Reprints and Permissions
Articles (Magazine Pieces and Reviews)
Books

After the Lost Generation

Correspondence
Manuscript (2 folders)
Promotions

The American Novel and the Way We Live Now

Correspondence
Manuscript (2 folders)
Notes
Publication
Promotion
Reviews

Classics & Contemporaries

Publication
Promotion

The Devil in the Fire

Promotions

Box 9

Manuscript (5 folders)
In the Country of the Young
British Edition
Correspondence (2 folders)
Drafts and Notes (9 folders)

Box 10

Manuscript (3 folders)
Promotions
In Search of Heresy
Correspondence
Revised Edition Notes and Drafts
Manuscript
The Party at Cranton
Correspondence (2 folders)
Manuscript
Promotions
Selected Stories by P.G. Wodehouse
Correspondence
Notes
Talents & Technicians: Literary Chic and the New Assembly Line
Correspondence
Manuscript (2 folders)
Publication
Reviews
Time to Murder and Create
Manuscript (2 folders)

Box No. Description

Writings, 1943-2007 (cont.)

Publications (cont.)

Box 10 (cont.)

Discovery Magazine

Editorial Letter

Essays

“Afterthoughts on the Twenties and *The Sun Also Rises*” (2 folders)

“American Fiction Then and Now”

“American Literature as a Reflection of American Culture”

“Catch-22: Critical Reception and Literary Impact”

“Catch-22 Twenty-Five Years Later”

“Communication”

“Cormac McCarthy’s Bizarre Genius”

“Fact as Fiction; Fiction as Fact”

“Fiction In Search of a Subject”

“Hostages to Fortune” (2 folders)

Correspondence

Manuscript

“Improving on Alison Lurie”

“In Memory of William Faulkner”

“Introduction to *The End of My Life*”

“Introduction to *The Grandmothers*”

“Introduction to Hamilton Basso’s *The View from Pompey’s Head*”

“Introduction to John Horne Burns’ *The Gallery*”

“The Irrelevance of Outrage in Recent Southern Fiction”

Box 11

“Little Magazines”

“Malcolm Cowley at Eighty”

“Miller and Mailer”

“New American Assembly Line Fiction”

“The New Generation of Writers,” Correspondence

“No One in Charge”

“Note: The New Generation of Writers”

“On Norman Mailer”

“The Place of Values in Contemporary American Fiction”

“Proposal for a National Student Organization”

“Speaking of Books”

Untitled Essays

“War and Contemporary Literature”

“William Styron’s Holocaust Chic”

“World War II and the Contemporary American Novel”

“Wright Morris”

“Wright Morris Country”

Box No. Description

Writings, 1943-2007 (cont.)

Publications (cont.)

Reviews

Box 11 (cont.)

Alley Jagers by Paul West
An American Dream by Norman Mailer
American Fictions 1940/1980 by Frederick R. Karl
Bluebeard by Kurt Vonnegut
The Brigadier and the Gold Widow by John Cheever
Celine: A Biography by Patrick McCarthy
Closing Time: The Sequel to Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
Cold Spring Harbor by Richard Yates
The Collected Essays, Journalism, and Letters of George Orwell
 edited by Sonia Orwell and Ian Angus
The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter by Katherine
 Anne Porter
The Dangerous Summer by Ernest Hemingway
Deadeye Dick by Kurt Vonnegut
The Death of William Posters by Alan Sillitoe
The Devil's Stocking by Nelson Algren and Sam Holman by
 James T. Farrell
The Diaries of Evelyn Waugh by Michael Davie
The End of Intelligent Writing by Richard Kostelanetz
Ernest Hemingway: Selected Letters Edited by Carlos Baker
Exile's Return by Malcolm Cowley
Genius and Lust by Norman Mailer
Great Tom by T.S. Matthews
Harlot's Ghost, Norman Mailer
Hellman and Hammett by Joan Mellen
Henry James: The Master by Leon Edel
Humboldt's Gift by Saul Bellow
If Beale Street Could Talk by James Baldwin
Instant Chronicles and A Mania for Sentences by D.J. Enright
The Intricate Music by Thomas Kiernan
James Gould Cozzens by Matthew J. Bruccoli
JR by William Gaddis
Kalki by Gore Vidal
The Late John Marquand by J.B. Lippincott
Making It by Norman Podhoretz
The Man Who Knew Kennedy by Vance Bourjaily
My Life As A Man by Philip Roth
Of the Farm by John Updike
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
Principles and Persuasions by Anthony West
The Ragman's Daughter and Other Stories by Alan Sillitoe
The Saddest Story by Arthur Mizener
The Schatten Affair by Frederic Morton
Seduction and Betrayal by Elisabeth Hardwick
Selected Letters of William Faulkner edited by Joseph Blotner
A Sinking Island: The Modern English Writers by Hugh Kenner
The Sixties by Edmund Wilson
Something Happened by Joseph Heller

Box No. Description

Writings, 1943-2007 (cont.)

Publications (cont.)

Reviews (cont.)

Box 11 (cont.)

Sophie's Choice by William Styron
Stephen Crane Edited by Robert Wooster Stallman
Success Stories by Russell Banks
The Tidewater Tales by John Barth Putnam
Tough Guys Don't Dance by Norman Mailer
The Twenties By Edmund Wilson
The Unwritten War by Daniel Aaron
Vulnerable People by Josephine Hendin
Whistle by James Jones
White Noise by Don DeLillo
Why Are We in Vietnam? by Norman Mailer
William Faulkner: American Writer by Frederick R. Karl

Projects

Aldridge-Garrett Interview
Aldridge-Mailer Interview
American Studies Seminar
Bread Loaf
Fulbright Program
Guggenheim Fellowship
MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour
Michigan Quarterly Review Editorial Board
Orwell Biography
Program in Literature and Culture in the Netherlands
"Reviewing of Novels," Rockefeller Foundation
WETA Advisory Board, "Authors' America"

Unpublished Writings

Box 12

"After Television Violence, What?"
Against the Current
Correspondence
Manuscript (2 folders) [Restricted until July 1, 2019; removed to
box 15]
Notes
"Alaska Helicopter Hunt"
Alpine Novel
"American Metropolis in Contemporary Fiction"
Bellow, Saul and *The Adventures of Augie March*
Cannes
Capote, Truman
Contemporary Novel Proposal
Contemporary Novelists Notes and Drafts
The Day of the Wedding Notes and Drafts
"Definitions on a Moral Theme"
Early Writings (3 folders)
1943-1948
To Sleep Against the Ground
Untitled

Box No. Description

Writings, 1943-2007 (cont.)
Unpublished Writings (cont.)

Box 12 (cont.)

“England and America”
English Novelists Drafts
Fables and Fantasies
Fleming, Ian and James Bond
The Flight of the Lion
The Friends
Halloween
Huxley, Aldous
Idea for a Novel
In the Company of Lions
Correspondence
Drafts (7 folders)

Box 13

Manuscript (4 folders)
The Laboratory
Lawrence, D.H., Notes
Mailer, Norman
Munich Article
Novel Notes
“Prodigy”
Pynchon, Thomas Notes and Drafts
Ravello (Italian Novel) Notes and Drafts
“Self Image”
The Temper of Place Drafts
Three Trains
Three Women
“A Visit with Norman Mailer”
Why I Left America Notes and Drafts
“The Writer at the Present Time”
Writing Notebook
Writing Notes and Drafts (2 folders)

Audio-Visual Materials, 1950s-1995

Box 14

Audio Cassettes (2 tapes)
“Mailer-Aldridge Tape,” 1979
“Jack on ‘The Death of Cousin’ and Jack with Alexis and Michael Allen,” 1969
Reel-to-Reel Audiotapes, ca. 1950s (20 tapes) (labels include
“Burlingame,” “Canby,” “Cowley,” “Fadiman,” “Fisher,”
“Geismar,” “Marquand,” “Norman and Jack,” “Styron, Mailer,
etc.” and “Jack on ‘Night Beat, April 3, 1957’”)
Soundsciber Dictation Recording Disks, ca. 1950s
Videotapes, (2 VHS tapes)
“A Symposium on Contemporary American Fiction Featuring: T.
Coraghessan Boyle, State University of New York College at
Potsdam,” 1995
“William Kennedy’s Albany,” WETA, 1996

Box No. Description

RESTRICTED FILES

Box 15

Correspondence, 1943-2006

Letters of Recommendation

Student Recommendations (4 folders) [**SR Restricted until July 1, 2079**; removed from box 4]

Writings, 1943-2007

Unpublished Writings

Against the Current

Manuscript (2 folders) [**Restricted until July 1, 2019**; removed from Box 12]