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### Stafford, William E. (1914-1993), Collection, 1980-1996

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## INTRODUCTION

A collection of correspondence, clippings, images, and writings which pertain to the poets William Stafford and Denise Low.

## DONOR INFORMATION

The materials were purchased from Denise Low in 1996.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Edgar Stafford (1914-1993) was born in Hutchinson, Kansas. He attended the University of Kansas where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1937, Master of Arts degree in 1947, and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. As a pacifist and conscientious objector during World War II, Stafford served in Civilian Public Service Camps. During that time he met and married his wife, Dorothy Hope Frantz, and later had four children. In 1948 he became an instructor at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, where he remained until his retirement in 1980. During his time in Oregon he published his first major collection of poetry. Titled Traveling through the Dark, it won the National Book Award in 1963. In 1970 Stafford was named Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, a position now known as Poet Laureate of the United States. He was the Poet Laureate of Oregon from 1975 to 1989. Following his retirement in 1980, Stafford traveled extensively, giving readings of his poetry until his death in 1993. Denise Low has been an instructor at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, for over twenty years. In 2007 she was named the second Poet Laureate of Kansas.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The William E. Stafford Collection consists primarily of correspondence, newspaper clippings, and images. The correspondence is mostly between William Stafford and Denise Low. Newspaper clippings consist of articles about Stafford, including his obituary. The images consist of photographs of Stafford and posters of events that he attended. The collection is arranged into four series: **Correspondence**, **Clippings**, **Images**, and **Miscellaneous**.

The **Correspondence Series** includes letters, postcards as well as other items that were originally enclosed with letters. The correspondence dates from 1980 to 1996 with most correspondence between William Stafford and Denise Low relating to the publication of the book Kansas Poems.

The **Clipping Series** includes newspapers and newspaper clippings about William Stafford from 1981 to 1994. This includes a collection of his obituaries that appeared in various newspapers.

The **Images Series** consists of photographs of Stafford and posters of events. This series also includes the drawing by Ted Watts of William Stafford printed in the first issue of The Little Balkans Review. A drawing by Ted Watts of Denise Low is also included.

The **Miscellaneous Series** includes a list of items in the William Stafford Collection prepared by curator Eugene DeGruson at the time of purchase; a poem titled "Purifying the Language of the Tribe"; and a pamphlet from the Pomegranate Press.

## FOLDER LIST

### **Correspondence Series**

f. 1 1980-1996

### **Clippings Series**

f. 2 1981-1994

### **Images Series**

f. 3 1980-1994

### **Miscellaneous Series**

f. 4 1984-1996

## INDEX LIST

<u>American Poetry Review, The</u>	f. 2
<i>Approach with Caution</i>	f. 1
Bob Woodley Memorial Press, The	f. 1
<i>Choosing a Dog</i>	f. 1
<u>Collegio</u>	f. 2
DeGruson, Gene	f. 1
<i>Dream of Now, The</i>	f. 1
Edgar Wolf Literary Award	f. 3
<i>Epiphanies of an Old-Model Hoover</i>	f. 1
<i>In Camp</i>	f. 1
<i>It's All Right</i>	f. 1
<u>Kansas City Star, The</u>	f. 1-2
Kansas State Department of Education	f. 1
Klaviter, Helen L.	f. 1
Lawson, Robert N.	f. 1
Leighty, Richard	f. 1
Leonard H. Axe Library	f. 1, 4
<u>Life and Works of William Stafford, The</u>	f. 1
<i>Light by the Barn, The</i>	f. 1
Low, Denise	f. 1-4
Moore, Felicia	f. 1
<u>New York Times, The</u>	f. 1-2

## INDEX LIST (continued)

<u>Oregonian, The</u>	f. 2
<u>Poets and Writers</u>	f. 2
<i>Poets to Consider for Next Season's Series</i>	f. 1
Pomegranate Press	f. 4
Potpourri Publication Company	f. 1- 2
<i>Purifying the Language of the Tribe</i>	f. 4
<i>Reading With Little Sister: A Recollection</i>	f. 1
<i>Report from K9 Operator Rover on the Motel at Grand Island</i>	f. 1
<u>Re-Publish: A Magazine of the Literary Arts</u>	f. 2
Roitman, Judy	f. 1
Samford, Richard	f. 1
<i>Sky, The</i>	f. 1
Stafford, Kit	f. 3
Stafford, William E.	f. 1-4
Swafford, Herman M.	f. 1
<i>Third Street</i>	f. 1
<i>Tragedy</i>	f. 1
Tranbarger, Ossie	f. 1
<i>Trouble with Reading, The</i>	f. 1
<i>Trying to Tell It</i>	f. 1
Watts, Ted	f. 3
<u>Wichita Eagle, The</u>	f. 2