

SFU **Simon Fraser University Special Collections and
Rare Books**

Finding Aid - William Stafford collection (MsA-22)

Generated by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books on May 02, 2022
Language of description: English

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William Stafford collection

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	4

Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books
Title:	William Stafford collection
Reference code:	MsA-22
Date:	1961-1973 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1 cm of textual records
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Created December 23, 2015. SS

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

William Stafford was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, on January 17, 1914. He received a BA and an MA from the University of Kansas at Lawrence and, in 1954, a PhD from the University of Iowa. During the Second World War, Stafford was a conscientious objector and worked in the civilian public service camps—an experience he recorded in the prose memoir *Down My Heart* (1947). He married Dorothy Hope Frantz in 1944; they had four children.

In 1948 Stafford moved to Oregon to teach at Lewis and Clark College. Though he traveled and read his work widely, he taught at Lewis and Clark until his retirement in 1980. His first major collection of poems, *Traveling Through the Dark*, was published when Stafford was forty-eight. It won the National Book Award in 1963. He went on to publish more than sixty-five volumes of poetry and prose. Among his many honors and awards were a Shelley Memorial Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Western States Lifetime Achievement Award in Poetry. In 1970, he was the Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (a position currently known as the Poet Laureate). William Stafford died at his home in Lake Oswego, Oregon, on August 28, 1993.

Custodial history

Records were in the custody of Frederick Candelaria prior to their acquisition by Simon Fraser University Rare Books and Special Collections.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of correspondence, handwritten poems, a newspaper clipping and an essay written by William Stafford and mailed to former SFU professor Frederick Candelaria. Photographs of manuscript pages are also included.

Notes

Title notes

Conditions governing use

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Related material

Related materials are at the Aubrey R. Watzek Library, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
 - **Status description:** Published
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Access points

- Stafford, William (subject)
- Candelaria, Frederick (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Photographic material (documentary form)
- Arts and culture (subject)
- Family and personal life (subject)