Octavia E. Butler Correspondence and Photographs

Finding aid prepared by Natalie M. Russell.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Octavia E. Butler Correspondence and Photographs,
Dates: 1993-approximately 2006
Collection Number: mssHM 80612-80709, FAC 2071
Creator OR Collector: Butler, Octavia E.Louis, Frances Deutsch
Extent: 98 items in 2 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
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Abstract: This is a collection of materials compiled by Professor Frances Deutsch Louis, primarily letters from American science fiction writer Octavia E. Butler (1947-2006) to Louis, and related photographs.

Language of Material: The records are in English.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of Item], Octavia E. Butler Correspondence and Photographs, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Acquisition Information
The collection was a gift from Frances Deutsch Louis, June 20, 2013.

Biographical Note
Octavia Estelle Butler (1947-2006) was an American science fiction writer, and the first black woman in her field. Frances Deutsch Louis (1937-) was a professor of English at York College, City University of New York (CUNY). The two met in a professional setting and found each other to be kindred spirits. They maintained a close friendship and correspondence thereafter, until Butler's passing in 2006.

• Octavia E. Butler Papers  (Call number: mssOEB 1-8000)

Scope and Content
This is a collection of materials compiled by Professor Frances Deutsch Louis, primarily letters from American science fiction writer Octavia E. Butler (1947-2006) to Louis, and related photographs.
The collection consists of letters from Butler to Louis and photographs, as well as one facsimile draft of an essay by Butler.
Often written in notecards, the brief notes to Louis provide a more intimate look into the everyday life of the shy Butler. The photographs include snapshots of Butler with friends, at events, and images of her home that she herself took and shared with Louis.

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged in the following 2 series:

- Manuscript and Correspondence
- Photographs

Items are organized chronologically.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

**Personal Names**

Butler, Octavie E.
Louis, Frances Deutsch

**Subjects**

Women authors, American - 20th century - Archives.
Science fiction, American - Women authors.
African American women authors - 20th century - Archives.

**Genre**

Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 20th Century
Manuscripts for publication -- United States -- 20th Century.

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**Box 1**

| Manuscripts, Correspondence and Photographs (HM 80612-80655, FAC 2071) |
| Phot. copy (MS., typewritten: 3p.); 28cm. |
| A.N.S. on a postcard. |
| A.N.S. on a postcard. |
| A.L.S. (1p.); 28cm. With envelope. |
| A.N.S. in a notecard. With envelope. |
| A.N.S. on a postcard. |
| A.N.S. in a notecard. With envelope. |
| HM 80618 | Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. 1995, Nov. 6. |
| A.N.S. in a notecard. With envelope. |
| HM 80619 | Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. 1995, Nov. 17. |
| A.N.S. on a postcard. |
HM 80620  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  ca. 1996.

HM 80621  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  1997

HM 80622  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  1998, Apr. 28.
   A.N.S. (1p.); 15cm. Also: “Favorite Muffins” booklet.

HM 80623  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  1998, Dec.
   A.N.S. in a notecard. With envelope.

HM 80624  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  ca. 1998.
   A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80625  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  1999, Jan. 7.
   A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80626  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  1999, Dec. 4.
   A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80627  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  ca. 1999.
   A.N. (1p.). 8x10cm.

HM 80628  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  ca. 1999.
   A.N. (1p.); 15cm.

HM 80629  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  ca. 1999.
   A.N. (1p.); 15cm.

HM 80630  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  2000, Oct. 19.
   A.N.S. on a postcard.

HM 80631  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  ca. 2000.
   A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80632  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  2001, May 21.
   A.N.S. on a postcard.

HM 80633  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  2001, July 9.
   A.N.S. on a postcard.

   A.N.S. on a postcard.

HM 80635  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  before 2007.
   A.N.S. in a notecard. With envelope.

HM 80636  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis.**  before 2007.
   A.N.S. in a notecard. With envelope.
HM 80637  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80638  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80639  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80640  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80641  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80642  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80643  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80644  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80645  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80646  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80647  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80648  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80649  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80650  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80651  **Butler, Octavia E. To Frances Deutsch Louis. before 2007.**
A.N.S. in a notecard.

HM 80652  **Ephemera: miscellaneous envelopes.**

HM 80653  ------.  **Octavia E. Butler at Museum of Glass. 2002, Aug.**
1 photograph: color; 11x31cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia E. Butler Aug 02 Tacoma Museum of Glass Redhut outside.”

HM 80654  ------.  **Octavia E. Butler and tall trees at Mt. Rainier. 2002, Aug.**
1 photograph: color; 11x31cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia Aug 02 Rainier trip.”

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Octavia E. Butler Correspondence
and Photographs
mssHM 80612-80709, FAC 2071
1 photograph: color; 31x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia E. Butler Mt. Rainier Aug 02.”

Box 2

Photographs (HM 80656-80709)

HM 80656 -----. Octavia E. Butler and Charles Coleman. 1993
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Prof. Charles Coleman York College/CUNY Fall 93 at York,” “Chuck w Octavia,” and “Gerald Gladney” (in background).

HM 80657 -----. Octavia E. Butler at York College. 1993
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Gerald Gladney Octavia York Fall 93.”

HM 80658 -----. Octavia E. Butler, Frances Deutsch Louis, and Gerald Gladney. 1993
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Gerald Gladney, Octavia, Me Fall 93.”

HM 80659 -----. Octavia E. Butler signing books, and Frances Deutsch Louis. 1993
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Fall 93.”

HM 80660 -----. Octavia E. Butler and York College group. 1993
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80661 -----. Octavia E. Butler signing posters at York College. 1993
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “York College CUNY” “Gerald, Octavia Fall 93.”

HM 80662 -----. Frances Deutsch Louis and Octavia E. Butler at York College. 1993
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Prof. Frances D. Louis w Octavia Butler Fall ‘93” “York College CUNY.”

HM 80663 -----. Octavia E. Butler signing a book for Gerald Gladney. 1993
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “York College CUNY Fall 93 Gerald with Octavia.”

HM 80664 -----. Charles Coleman, Octavia E. Butler, and Frances Deutsch Louis at York College. 1993
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Charles Coleman, Octavia Butler, Frances Louis Fall ‘93” “York College CUNY.”

HM 80665 -----. Unidentified woman, Frances Deutsch Louis, Octavia E. Butler, and Jane Schuyler at York College. 1993
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Prof. Jane Schuyler to right of Octavia” “York College/CUNY.”

HM 80666 Octavia E. Butler and York College students. 1993
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “York Student” “York College/CUNY” “left is Ameedal Oct right is Leatrice.”

HM 80667 Octavia E. Butler and York College students. 1993
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “York Fall 93 Octavia & students.”
HM 80668 Octavia E. Butler and York College students. 1993
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “York College CUNY” “Leatrice – rt Octavia Ameedal (to her left).”

HM 80669 -----. Octavia E. Butler with sphinx and Statue of Civilization at Los Angeles Public Library. 1995
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80670 -----. Octavia E. Butler and Atrium chandeliers in the Tom Bradley Wing of the Los Angeles Public Library. 1995
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia Fall 95 LA Library.” Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80671 -----. Octavia E. Butler at the Museum of Contemporary Art. 1995
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia LA 95 Mus of Cont Art.” Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80672 -----. Octavia E. Butler and oars at the Museum of Contemporary Art. 1995
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Fall 95 Octavia.” Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80673 -----. Octavia E. Butler at Barnes & Noble bookstore book signing. 1995
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Barnes & Noble Fall 95.”

HM 80674 -----. Octavia E. Butler signing books. 1995
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia signing NY 95.” Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80675 Butler, Octavia E. Tanker, the cat. 1996
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Note: with caption, “Tanker – My kitty friend.” Also: A.N.S, 1p. Enclosed in Butler, Octavia E. L. to Frances Deutsch Louis, ca. 1996, HM 80620, catalogued separately

HM 80676 Butler, Octavia E. Front corner view of Octavia E. Butler’s house. 1996
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph caption note, 1p. Enclosed in Butler, Octavia E. L. to Frances Deutsch Louis, ca. 1996, HM 80620, catalogued separately.

HM 80677 Butler, Octavia E. Front view of Octavia E. Butler’s house. 1996
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph caption note, 1p. Enclosed in Butler, Octavia E. L. to Frances Deutsch Louis, ca. 1996, HM 80620, catalogued separately.

HM 80678 Butler, Octavia E. Converted garage at Octavia E. Butler’s house. 1996
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph caption note, 1p. Enclosed in Butler, Octavia E. L. to Frances Deutsch Louis, ca. 1996, HM 80620, catalogued separately.

1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. Also: autograph caption note, 1p. Enclosed in Butler, Octavia E. L. to Frances Deutsch Louis, ca. 1996, HM 80620, catalogued separately.

HM 80680 Butler, Octavia E. Octavia E. Butler’s house from the back. 1996
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph caption note, 1p. Enclosed in Butler, Octavia E. L. to Frances Deutsch Louis, ca. 1996, HM 80620, catalogued separately.
HM 80681 -----. Octavia E. Butler wearing shawl over her head. 1999, Feb.
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. Also: autograph note by Octavia E. Butler and Frances Deutsch Louis, 1p.

HM 80682 -----. Frances Deutsch Louis wearing Octavia's shawl. 1999, Feb.
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia's note.”
Also: autograph note by Octavia E. Butler and Frances Deutsch Louis, 1p.

1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia (new shawl) w Marjorie Rick's friend Feb 99.” Also: autograph caption note, 1p.

1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph note by Octavia E. Butler and Frances Deutsch Louis, 2p.

1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia's note.”
Also: autograph note by Octavia E. Butler, 1p.

HM 80686 -----. Octavia E. Butler with shawl around her shoulders. 1999, Feb.
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Octavia sent this with her note about shawl.” Also: autograph note by Octavia E. Butler, 1p.

1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Lynne Bloom & Octavia N.Y.”

1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80689 -----. Frances Deutsch Louis, Octavia E. Butler, and Lynn (Marron) Bloom. 2002
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Francis Octavia Lynne Bloom.”

HM 80690 -----. Ellen Datlow, Octavia E. Butler, and Hal Clement at ReaderCon. 2002, July.
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “ReaderCon.”

HM 80691 -----. Ellen Datlow, Octavia E. Butler, and Hal Clement at ReaderCon. 2002, July.
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80692 -----. Octavia E. Butler and Hal Clement at ReaderCon. 2002, July.
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80693 -----. Octavia E. Butler at ReaderCon. 2002, July.
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80694 -----. Octavia E. Butler and Dr. Linda Barley at ReaderCon. 2002, July.
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “ReaderCon – w. Dr. Linda Barley.”
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “with “Chip” Delaney” “ReaderCon.”

HM 80696  -----. Octavia E. Butler and Dr. Linda Barley at ReaderCon. 2002, July.
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “ReaderCon” SF Con in Mass with Dr. Linda Barley (York CUNY).”

1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “ReaderCon.”

1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. Also: autograph caption note.

HM 80699  -----. Octavia E. Butler and Dr. Linda Barley at Readercon. 2002, July.
1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “She loved this jacket” “ReaderCon.”

HM 80700  -----. Dr. Linda Barley and Octavia E. Butler at ReaderCon. 2002, July.
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “w. Prof. Barley” “ReaderCon.”

1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note by Frances Deutsch Louis on the verso, “Oct in front of her house Aug 2002.”

HM 80702  -----. Octavia E. Butler looking up into a tree in front of her home. 2002, Aug.
1 photograph: color; 16x11cm.

1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note by Frances Deutsch Louis on the verso, “Seattle house.”

1 photograph: color; 11x16cm. With an autograph note by Frances Deutsch Louis, “Octavia loved this tree.”

1 photograph: color; 13x18cm.

1 photograph: color; 18x11cm. Also: autograph caption note.

1 photograph: color; 16x11cm. With an autograph note on the verso, “Victoria B.C. Aug ’02.” Also: autograph caption note.

1 photograph: color; 16x11cm.
HM 80709  -----. Tananarive Due, Jewelle Gomez, Samuel R. Delany, Octavia E. Butler, and Steven Barnes at Clark Atlanta University conference. 1997