
Guide to the Edward Dahlberg Papers M1551

Finding aid prepared by Joseph Geller

Department of Special Collections and University Archives

Libraries

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Title: Edward Dahlberg Papers

Identifier/Call Number: M1551

Contributing Institution: Department of Special Collections and University Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 8.0 Linear feet 12 manuscript boxes, 3 flat boxes

Date (bulk): Bulk, 1960-1977

Date (inclusive): Circa 1960-1977

Abstract: The papers document Dahlberg's writing career and personal life during the 1960s and 1970s.

Physical Location: Stanford University. Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives.

creator: Dahlberg, Edward, 1900-1977.

Other Finding Aids

Irving Rosenthal papers, M1550

Acquisition Information

Accession number: 2006-325 This collection was purchased by Stanford University, Special Collections in December 2006.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in Five series:

Series I. Personal

Series II. Correspondence

Series III. Professional

Series IV. Photographs

Series V. Clippings

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains correspondence, typescripts, photographs, periodicals, clippings, and ephemera. Included in the collection are typescripts for *The Olive of Minerva; or, The Comedy of a Cuckold*, (1976) and typescripts for the Crowell anthology, *Bottom Dogs; From Flushing to Calvary; Those who Perish: and Hitherto Unpublished and Uncollected Works* (1976). Other materials in the collection include unpublished typescript portions of *The Carnal Myth* (1968), *The Confessions of Edward Dahlberg* (1971), and extensive notes for miscellaneous works. The collection also contains incoming correspondence from a variety of prominent literary figures, as well as a few outgoing letters and drafts of letters by Dahlberg.

Biography

Edward Dahlberg, American writer of fiction, poetry, and criticism, was born in Boston in 1900. After a tumultuous early childhood, he was placed by his mother in the Jewish Orphan Asylum in Cleveland, where he remained until 1917. Dahlberg then joined the army and later worked as a day laborer while wandering the American West. In 1921, he enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, where he majored in philosophy and anthropology, before transferring to Columbia University to complete his degree.

Dahlberg moved to Europe in 1926 and became part of the expatriate group of American writers living in Paris. In 1929, he published his first novel, *Bottom Dogs*, based on his childhood experiences at the orphanage and his travels in the American West. After the publication of *Bottom Dogs*, Dahlberg returned to the United States and wrote a number of other works that reflected his early life, including *From Flushing to Calvary* (1932) and *Those Who Perish* (1934).

For a number of years, Dahlberg devoted himself to literary study. His extensive readings of the works of Dante, Shakespeare, Thoreau, and many others, resulted in a writing style quite different from the social realism that characterized his earlier writing. Dahlberg's new style, one rich in biblical and classical allusions, first appeared in *Do These Bones Live* (1941), a collection of essays on American Literature.

During most of the 1940s and 1950s, Dahlberg wrote little, but during the 1960s and 1970s, he became quite prolific and further refined his unique style through the publication of poetry, autobiographical works, fiction, and criticism. Dahlberg died in Santa Barbara, California in 1977.

Access

The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

Edward Dahlberg papers, M1551. Dept. of Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Dahlberg, Edward, 1900-1977.

American literature--20th century

Series I. PERSONAL

Scope and Contents note

This series contains materials from Dahlberg's personal life, including medical records, bankbooks, and passports.

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|-------------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Bankbooks 1948-1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Booksellers: letter, invoices 1958-1971 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Complaint responses: letters to Dahlberg regarding filed complaints 1970-1975 |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Disability claims: letters, forms 1954-1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Divorce materials: divorce certificate, letters from the Veterans Association 1949-1954 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Income tax: income tax returns and related documents 1964-1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Insurance claims: claims for lost and damaged books 1969-1977 |
| Box 1, Folder 8-9 | Inventory notebooks: spiral-bound notebooks with inventory of items (mostly books) to be shipped from Dublin to New York City. 1968 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Jewish Orphans Home: letters, flyers 1966-1971 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Medical documents: statements, letters 1957-1972 |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Memorial Record: commemorative prayer book from Dahlberg's funeral 1977 |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Miscellaneous documents: clippings, flyers, social security statement 1966-1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | Passports 1953-1964 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Relocation: letters, receipts, leases 1958-1975 |

Series II. CORRESPONDENCE

Scope and Contents note

This series contains incoming and some outgoing correspondence. Outgoing letters from Dahlberg have been specifically noted in the folder descriptions. Dahlberg made drafts of his letters, so in many cases it is difficult to determine if a letter was actually sent. For more information on Dahlberg's letter-writing process, see Irving Rosenthal's cover note in folder 2.1. Typescripts, clippings, and other materials originally included with incoming correspondence have been retained in this series in order to preserve the context of these items.

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| Box 2, Folder 1 | Cover note: note by Irving Rosenthal explaining Dahlberg's process for writing letters 2001 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Aaron, Daniel: letter 1970 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Allen, Mary E.: greeting cards 1967-1972 |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | Arnold, Walter: letters 1970-1972 |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Barnett, Anthony: letters 1972-1974 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Billings, Harold: letters 1972-1975 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Blankfort, Michael: letter, postcard 1972 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Boyle, Kay: letter, note 1967-1975 |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Britton, Coburn: letters 1967-1975 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Brown, Andreas: letter 1972 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Brown, Francis: letter 1969 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Brown, Garech: letters, note by Dahlberg 1970-1971 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Burnshaw, Stanley: typescripts of poems 1959 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Cech, John: letters 1971-1974 |
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Box 2, Folder 15	Corman, Cid: letter from Dahlberg 1964
Box 2, Folder 16	Dahlberg, Geoffrey: letters, receipt 1965
Box 2, Folder 17	Dahlberg, Joel: letters 1967-1974
Box 2, Folder 18	Dahlberg, Julia: letters, greeting cards, journal, medical records, notes, receipts, materials from Pinecrest Hospital chemical dependency program 1966-1983
Box 2, Folder 19	Dahlberg, Rlene: letters 1957-1958
Box 2, Folder 20	DeFanti, Charles: letters 1972
Box 2, Folder 21	Dobell, Byron: letters 1968-1969
Box 2, Folder 22	Duran, Gregorio: letters, greeting cards, notes 1965-1968
Box 2, Folder 23	Ellison, Nicholas: letters, telegrams 1974-1975
Box 2, Folder 24	Ford, Gerald: mailgram from Dahlberg 1975
Box 2, Folder 25	Haberman, Daniel: letter, greeting card 1972
Box 2, Folder 26	Howe, Fanny: letters, typescripts of poems, short prose piece on Dahlberg 1964-1977
Box 2, Folder 27	Johns, Richard: draft of letter from Dahlberg 1967
Box 2, Folder 28	Jovanovich, William: letters, mostly regarding the publication of Dahlberg's books by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, inc.; includes booklet by Jovanovich; letter from William Saroyan to Jovanovich. 1979-1983
Box 2, Folder 29	Kennedy, Robert F.: copy of letter from Dahlberg 1966
Box 2, Folder 30	Lipton, Victor: letter from Dahlberg 1958
Box 2, Folder 31	MacDonald, Nadine: letters, photographs 1972
Box 2, Folder 32	MacShane, Frank: draft of letter from Dahlberg, clippings, typescript 1966-1977
Box 2, Folder 33	Maloff, Saul: copy of clipping, Dahlberg's notes on Maloff's review of <i>Festschrift</i> (the Dahlberg issue) 1967-1972
Box 2, Folder 34	Matthews, Jack: letters 1971-1972
Box 2, Folder 35	Menn, Thorpe: letters, clippings, greeting card, notes 1965-1971
Box 2, Folder 36	Moramarco, Fred: letter 1971
Box 2, Folder 37	Olson, Charles: letter 1950
Box 2, Folder 38	O'Rourke, William: letters, typescripts 1967-1977
Box 3, Folder 1	Pearson, Drew: letter from Dahlberg 1958
Box 3, Folder 2	Perkins, Michael: postcard, greeting card 1969
Box 3, Folder 3	Perret, Juditte: letters 1968
Box 3, Folder 4	Ransom, Harry: letter from Dahlberg 1969
Box 3, Folder 5	Read, Herbert: letter from Dahlberg, clipping 1967-1968
Box 3, Folder 6	Ridge, George Ross: typescript, <i>The Black Beatitudes</i>, dedicated to Dahlberg 1962
Box 3, Box 7	Rodman, Selden: letter 1971
Box 3, Folder 8	Rohman, Richard: letters 1972
Box 3, Folder 9	Rozen, Susan W.: letters 1967
Box 3, Folder 10	Ryan, William: letters, letter by Dahlberg 1967-1972
Box 3, Folder 11	Skir, Leo: letter, clipping of journal article 1966
Box 3, Folder 12	Sorrentino, Gilbert: letters, draft of letter from Dahlberg 1972-1974
Box 3, Folder 13	Tate, Allen and Isabella Gardner: telegram, letters, letter from Dahlberg 1959-1977
Box 3, Folder 14	Wallace, George: letter from Dahlberg 1972
Box 3, Folder 15	Williams, Jonathan: telegram, letters, distribution list for <i>Festschrift</i>, typescript for Williams' tribute to Dahlberg, "The Dead are made to Eat Asphodels" 1963-1977
Box 3, Folder 16	Wilson, Edmund: letter no date
Box 3, Folder 17	Woolf, Douglas: letters 1974
Box 3, Folder 18	Miscellaneous correspondence: telegram, letter, note Circa 1950-1961

Series III. PROFESSIONAL**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains materials specifically related to Dahlberg's work as a writer and teacher. It includes typescripts, notes, proofs for specific books, miscellaneous notes listed chronologically, and correspondence with publishers and other professional contacts.

Box 3, Folder 19	<i>Abel's Confession</i>: typescript 1965
Box 3, Folder 20	Art foundations: letters, telegram, grant application 1961-1971
Box 3, Folder 21	Authors Guild: letters 1964-1972

Box 3, Folder 22	Biographical notes: drafts of short biographical notes for book jackets, etc. 1967-1975
Box 3, Folder 23	<i>The Carnal Myth</i>: typescripts for chapters 1, 2, 6, 9, and unpublished section 1967
Box 3, Folder 24	Community College: letters, memos, student exams, and other materials from Dahlberg's time as a community college instructor in New York 1968-1969
Box 3, Folder 25	<i>The Confessions of Edward Dahlberg</i>: notes 1968
Box 3, Folder 26	<i>The Confessions of Edward Dahlberg</i>: annotated typescript of unpublished section 1968
Box 3, Folder 27	Creative Artists Public Service Program: letters 1970-1975 Crowell anthology, <i>Bottom Dogs</i>; <i>From Flushing to Calvary</i>; <i>Those who Perish</i>; and <i>Hitherto Unpublished and Uncollected Works</i> (3.28-4.3.) 1976
	Note Typescripts listed below are usually annotated copies of previously published work; oversized proofs moved to flat box 5.
Box 3, Folder 28	Crowell anthology: copy of preface and introduction with annotations by Dahlberg 1976
Box 3, Folder 29	Crowell anthology: annotated typescripts; includes <i>Bitch Goddess</i>. 1976
Box 3, Folder 30	Crowell anthology: annotated typescripts; includes <i>Bottom Dogs</i>. 1976
Box 3, Folder 31	Crowell anthology: annotated typescripts; includes chapter 13 from <i>Bottom Dogs</i>. 1976
Box 3, Folder 32	Crowell anthology: annotated typescripts; includes <i>The Confessions of Edward Dahlberg</i>. 1976
Box 4, Folder 1	Crowell anthology: annotated typescripts; includes <i>From Flushing to Calvary</i>. 1976
Box 4, Folder 2	Crowell anthology: annotated typescripts; includes <i>Those who Perish</i>. 1976
Box 4, Folder 3	Crowell anthology: master pages 1976
Flat-box 5, Folder 1	Crowell anthology: annotated galley proof 1976
Flat-box 5, Folder 2	Crowell anthology: annotated page proof 1976
Flat-box 5, Folder 3	Crowell anthology: corrected page proof 1976
Box 4, Folder 4	Death camp survivor stories: copies of two typescripts by Holocaust survivor with annotations by Dahlberg Circa 1950
Box 4, Folder 5	Fans and students: letters from fans and students; includes postcards, greeting cards, booklet. Circa 1968-1975
Box 4, Folder 6	<i>Festschrift</i>: proof for piece published in <i>Festschrift</i> 1970
Box 4, Folder 7	House of El Dieff: letters and telegram from manuscript dealer regarding the sale of Dahlberg's papers to the University of Texas 1967-1969
Box 4, Folder 8	Invoices: invoices from Dahlberg's publishers 1967-1976
Box 4, Folder 9	Job references: reference letters for Dahlberg, flyers, description of Writer-in-Residence position 1952-1967
Flat-box 5, Folder 4	<i>The Leafless American</i>: broadside of Dahlberg poem, inscribed to Dahlberg by Harold and Bernice Billings 1968
Box 4, Folder 10	Miscellaneous publishers: letters from publishers; includes contract. 1958-1975
Box 4, Folder 11	New Directions: letters, postcards 1960-1974
Box 4, Folder 12	<i>New York Review of Books</i>: letters to the editor, clippings 1967
	Notes: typed and holograph notes for miscellaneous works, organized chronologically by Irving Rosenthal (4.13-9.1.) 1965-1976
Box 4, Folder 13	Notes Circa 1965-1975
Box 4, Folder 14	Notes, July 1965
Box 4, Folder 15	Notes, March 1966
Box 4, Folder 16	Notes, July 1968
Box 6, Folder 1	Notes, August-September 1969
Box 6, Folder 2-3	Notes Circa 1969-1975
Box 6, Folder 4	Notes, August-December 1970
Box 6, Folder 5	Notes, January-March 1971

Box 7, Folder 1	Notes, March-July 1971
Box 7, Folder 2	Notes, July-December 1971
Box 7, Folder 3-4	Notes, January-April 1972
Box 8, Folder 1	Notes, May-December 1972
Box 8, Folder 2	Notes, June-July 1974
Box 8, Folder 3	Notes, April-May 1975
Box 8, Folder 4-6	Notes, June-July 1975
Box 8, Folder 7	Notes Circa 1975
Box 9, Folder 1	Notes, January 1976
Box 9, Folder 2	Notes: removed from books in Dahlberg's library during processing no date
	<i>Olive of Minerva; or, The Comedy of a Cuckold</i>, notes: typed and holograph notes
	organized chronologically by Irving Rosenthal (9.3-11.2.) Circa 1964-1979
Box 9, Folder 3-4	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>, notes Circa 1964-1979
Box 9, Folder 5	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>, notes, January 1972
Box 9, Folder 6	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>, notes, December-March 1972-1973
Box 9, Folder 7-8	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>, notes, January-April 1973
Box 10, Folder 1	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>, notes, May-October 1973
Box 10, Folder 2	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>, notes in literary sequence, September-October 1973
Box 10, Folder 3-4	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>, notes, January-October 1974
Box 10, Folder 5-6	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>, notes, November-December 1974
Box 11, Folder 1-2	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>, notes, August-December 1975
	<i>Olive of Minerva; or, The Comedy of a Cuckold</i> (11.3-13.1.) 1973-1976
Box 11, Folder 3	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: sample proof of title page, chapter, and page specifications with corrections by Dahlberg June 19, 1973
Box 11, Folder 4	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: miscellaneous annotated typescripts 1973-1974
Box 11, Folder 5	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: front matter proof; includes publisher's corrections. 1974
Box 11, Folder 6	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: typescript; first revision with annotations by Dahlberg. 1975
Box 11, Folder 7	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: typescript; second revision with extensive annotations by Dahlberg. 1975
Box 12, Folder 1	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: typescript; third revision with minor edits. 1975
Box 12, Folder 2	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: typescript; final revision with editor's and printer's notes. 1975
Box 12, Folder 3	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: galley proof; includes annotated typescript inserts. 1975
Box 12, Folder 4	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: page proof 1975
Box 12, Folder 5	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: Dahlberg's notes on page proof corrections 1975
Box 12, Folder 6	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: trial dummy signed by Dahlberg 1975
Box 12, Folder 7	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: book published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company; contains Dahlberg's annotations; also Julia Dahlberg's distribution list. 1976
Flat-box 13, Folder 1	<i>Olive of Minerva</i>: proof for excerpts published in <i>Prose</i> 1973
Box 12, Folder 8	<i>Sorrows of Priapus</i>: annotated typescript for new edition Circa 1973
Box 14, Folder 1	<i>Three Tales of Love</i>: title page mock ups no date
Box 14, Folder 2	Weybright and Talley, inc.: letters, draft of letter from Dahlberg, copy of annotated proof for "Quotations from Edward Dahlberg's latest work: <i>The Carnal Myth</i>" 1968-1972

Series IV. PHOTOGRAPHS**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains photographs taken of Dahlberg between 1960 and 1977. It also includes photographs taken by Julia Dahlberg of friends and family after Dahlberg's death.

Box 14, Folder 3	Photographs of Dahlberg: includes negatives, clipping, a few earlier photographs, one may possibly be Dahlberg's father Circa 1960-1970
Box 14, Folder 4	Photographs of Dahlberg: 8" x 10" black and white portraits Circa 1970
Box 14, Folder 5-6	Dahlberg, Julia: photographs taken by Julia; includes note by Irving Rosenthal and negatives. 1978-1991

Series V. CLIPPINGS

Scope and Contents note

This series contains clippings of book reviews and other articles related to Dahlberg organized chronologically.

Flat-box 15,
Folder 1

Clippings 1961-1967

Flat-box 15,
Folder 2

Clippings 1968-1970

Flat-box 15,
Folder 3

Clippings 1971-1974