Finding Aid for the Stathis Orphanos Papers, ca. 1983-

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Finding Aid for the Stathis Orphanos Papers, ca. 1983-

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Processed by:
Dan Luckenbill, May 1999
Encoded by:
Dan Luckenbill and Caroline Cubé
Online finding aid edited by:
Josh Fiala, May 2003

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Stathis Orphanos Papers,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1983-
Collection number: 527
Creator: Orphanos, Stathis, 1940-
Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Stathis Orphanos (1940- ) was an author, bookseller and photographer. He began bookselling with Sylvester and George Fisher in 1972 as Sylvester & Orphanos, and issued their first catalog in 1973. They began publishing limited editions as Sylvester & Orphanos in 1976. Orphanos' first portfolio of photographs was published in Ontario Review in 1983. The collection consists of copies of portraits, reproductions of portraits in various literary magazines, lists of publications and exhibits, ephemera relating to publications and exhibits, memoirs, correspondence with David Zeidberg, and a copy of a letter about his short fiction piece, Bathyllus, from Colin Wilson.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Stathis Orphanos Papers (Collection 527). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4890405

Biography
Stathis Orphanos was born in North Carolina of Greek parents and resides in Los Angeles and at his home on the Greek island of Samos. He is a photographer who specializes in portraits of major figures, whose work has been included in many publications. He is also a partner with Ralph Sylvester in a publishing firm, called Sylvester & Orphanos.

Biographical Narrative
Stathis Orphanos was born on October 12, 1940 in Greensboro, North Carolina of Greek parents from the island of Samos; was raised in Connecticut and attended Cheshire Academy 1952-1958; attended Dennison University 1958-1959; attended CSULA 1960-1962, where he studied with Dorothy Parker, among others; attended UCLA summer 1960; met partner Ralph Sylvester in 1960; began bookselling with Sylvester and George Fisher in 1972; formed business as Sylvester & Orphanos and issued first catalog in 1973; began publishing limited editions as Sylvester & Orphanos in 1976 with Christopher Isherwood's *Christopher and His Kind*, a special edition of the publisher's sheets and in 1978 with Joyce Carol Oates's *Sentimental education*, printed by Lillian Marks; began photography at age 15 in 1955 with his first Rolleiflex; met friend Juli Veee (Gyula Visnyei) in 1972 and first traveled with him to photograph authors on the East Coast in 1981; first portfolio of photographs published in *Ontario Review* in 1983; various shows of photography and Sylvester & Orphanos publications, including Los Angeles Art Association Galleries 1988 (curated by Shirley Burden), exhibit at UCLA Library Department of Special Collections 1990 (curated by Dan Luckenbill), Beverly Hills Public Library 1995 (curated by Stefan Klima); author of fiction, including stories set in Greece; author of non fiction, e.g. memoirs about photographing sitters, including memoir of knowing and photographing Christopher Isherwood published in *The Isherwood*.

Scope and Content
The papers consist of papers, manuscripts, portraits, photographs and ephemera related to authors and the subjects of Southern California-related books. Portraits are of Michael Nava, Mamie Van Doren. Includes material about Sylvester & Orphanos.

Expanded Scope and Content
Collection consists of copies of portraits of Michael Nava and Mamie Van Doren; reproductions of portraits in various literary magazines; lists of publications and exhibits; ephemera relating to publications and exhibits; memoirs about photographing famous authors with traveling companion Juli Veee, of photographing Mamie Van Doren, and of photographing U.S. Marines in a series entitled *Kouroi*; correspondence with David Zeidberg; and copy of a letter about his short fiction piece, *Bathyllus*, from Colin Wilson.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Orphanos, Stathis--Archives.
Sylvester & Orphanos (Firm).
Photographers--Archival resources.

• Portrait of bookseller Peggy Christian (gift of Peggy Christian), and of actress and Greek Minister of Culture, Melina Mercouri (gift of the Estate of Peggy Christian). In Photographers Collection (Collection 98). Available at Department of Special Collections, UCLA.
• Records of the Sylvester & Orphanos exhibit are in University of California. Library. Department of Special Collections Collection (Exhibit records, 1967-1991). Available at University Archives, UCLA.
• Records of the Beverly Hills exhibit and lecture by Dan Luckenbill are in the Dan Luckenbill Papers (Collection 1484). Available at Department of Special Collections, UCLA.
• Sylvester & Orphanos: catalog of an exhibit, October-December 1990. Written and compiled by Dan Luckenbill, 1990. Available at Young Research Library, UCLA.

Writing, Photograph, and Publication Material

Bookselling

Sales Material
Catalogs
Box 1, Folder 11

Sylvester & Orphanos catalogue no.23. n.d.

Scope and Content Note
Cover reproduces portrait of SO.

Note
Other catalogs are in the Department's bookseller catalog collection and in the papers of Dan Luckenbill.

Items Collected

Greek Related
Ephemeral Material
Box 1, Folder 14

Cancelled Melina Merocuri stamp. ca. 1995.

Photographs

Authors
Reproductions
Box 1, Folder 9
Box 1, Folder 16

Copies of The Southern Review, no photos by SO. 1996.

Note
Sent to SO.

Mamie Van Doren
Materials Related to Portraits
Box 1, Folder 4


Physical Description: 3 articles. With envelope addressed in Mamie Van Doren's hand and with lipstick prints.
Scope and Content Note
Also copy of article sent to DZ by SO.

Prints
Box 1, Folder 3

Portrait, two figure studies. 1992[?].

Physical Description: 3 prints.

Michael Nava
Print
Writing, Photograph, and Publication Material

Photographs

Box 1, Folder 1
Portrait. n.d.
Physical Description: 19.4 × 22.7 cm. Signed by SO.

Box 1, Folder 2
Portrait with Andrew Ferrero. n.d.
Physical Description: 21.1 × 19.5 cm. Signed by SO.
Note
Cf. prints in Michael Nava Papers (collection 1714). Available at Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

Related Material
Publicity Material
Box 1, Folder 7
Scope and Content Note
Includes ephemera of production of Illya Darling, Los Angeles 1995 (SO had show of photographs at the theater).

Various
Reproductions
Box 1, Folder 8
Scope and Content Note
First reproductions of photographic work. Cover and portfolio.
Note
Some of these photographs are mentioned in Dan Luckenbill’s Sylvester & Orphanos.

Publications

Various Sylvester & Orphanos
Catalog(s)
Box 1, Folder 12
List(s) of publications. ca. 1995.

Publicity Material
Box 1, Folder 13

Writing

Breasting the ‘90s: Photographing Mamie Van Doren
Manuscript Material
Box 1, Folder 5
Copy of reminiscence. 1992[?].
Physical Description: [1], 6 leaves. Typescript and word processor[?].

Untitled [Photographing Writers]
Manuscript Material
Box 1, Folder 6
Copy of account of trip with Juli Veee in 1981 to photograph authors, etc. on East Coast. n.d.
Physical Description: 3 leaves. Typescript.
Scope and Content Note
Also photocopy of letter from Susan Cheever, 1984. 1 leaf.

Writing - Fiction

Bathyllus
Box 1, Folder 10

Post Manuscript Material


Physical Description: Photocopy.

Scope and Content Note

*Bathyllus* is a short fiction, set in ancient Samos, the Greek island birthplace of SO.