Guide to the Eric Lambert Papers

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Note
Arts and Humanities--Literature>
Guide to the Eric Lambert Papers, ca. 1960s

Collection number: Mss 62

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Eric Lambert Papers,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1960s
Collection Number: Mss 62
Creator: Lambert, Eric, 1921-1966
Extent: .4 linear feet (1 document box)
Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9010
Physical Location: Del Sur
Language: English.
Access Restrictions
None.
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Acquisition Information
Multiple purchases, ca. 1967-1968.

Biography
Eric Lambert (1918-1966) was born in London, England but raised in Sydney, Australia. He drew on his experiences in combat during World War II to become a successful novelist. He joined the Communist Party of Australia in the late 1940s, and his early works reflect both his Communist politics and his experiences fighting in the Middle East and Indonesia. He was active in the Melbourne literary scene in the early 1950s, and developed a reputation for being contentious and unpredictable. Following 1955, he moved to England and, disillusioned after the Soviet invasion of Hungary, changed his
politics and his works took on a decidedly right-wing anti-Communist tone. However, as the 1960s arrived, Lambert's sympathies moved to the center and then again sided with the left. He continued to draw upon his wartime memories in his later novels. He died of heart failure at his home in England in the spring of 1966. Works include:

*The Twenty Thousand Thieves* (1951)
*The Veterans* (1954).
*Watermen* (1956).
*Ballarat* (1962).
*Kelly* (1964).
*A Short Walk to the Stars* (1964).
*MacDougal's Farm* (1965).
*The Tender Conspiracy* (1965).
*Hiroshima Reef* (1967).
*Mad with Much Heart: A Life of the Parents of Oscar Wilde* (1967).

Further biographical details may be found in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection contains carbon typescript manuscript drafts of several of Lambert’s works, many with extensive handwritten corrections and revisions.

- **Box 1: 1** *The Drip Dry Man*
- **Box 1: 2** *Hiroshima Reef* (with handwritten corrections/revisions)
- **Box 1: 3** *The Long White Night* (with handwritten corrections/revisions)
- **Box 1: 4 - 5** *MacDougal's Farm* (synopsis and draft with handwritten corrections/revisions)
- **Box 1: 6** *A Short Walk to the Stars*