Descriptive Summary

Title: The Donald J. and Ellen Greiner Collection of James Dickey, 1954-2005

Collection Number: Mss. 2005:9

Creator: Donald Greiner

Extent: 28 boxes

Administrative Information

Provenance: Gift, 2005

Processed by: Processed by Travis Ferrell, 2007

Access Restrictions: Open to research.

Preferred Citation: [Item], The Donald J. and Ellen Greiner Collection of James Dickey, Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of South Carolina Libraries.

Publication Rights: All rights reside with the creator.

Scope and Content Note


While at the university, he developed a strong friendship with the literary scholar, associate provost, and dean of undergraduate studies Donald J. Greiner. Greiner is the author of James Dickey: Classes on Modern Poets and the Art of Poetry, the research and working drafts of which comprise a major portion of this collection. Greiner is also the author of more than a dozen books on other writers and is a preeminent scholar of John Updike, about whom he published three books. Dr. Greiner has won both the University Award for Outstanding Teaching and the
University Award for Distinguished Research at the University of South Carolina and lives in Columbia, SC.

This collection is primarily comprised of printed ephemera about James Dickey's life and published works. It also includes Greiner's works on Dickey and attendant materials reflecting Dickey's presence at the University of South Carolina. Many of the items in this collection have been signed or inscribed by Dickey. A separate collection of books, many of them inscribed copies to the Greiners, is housed in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections and catalogued individually.

Series 4 and 5a, the bulk of the collection, contain clippings, entire magazine and journal issues, some photocopies, and other printed ephemera. Many are signed. The arrangement for both is chronological.

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Container List

**Series I: Correspondence**

**Box 1**


- Letter from James Dickey, 9 items (primarily letters of recommendation for Don Greiner), 1974-1996

- Sympathy letters to Dr. Greiner following Dickey’s death, correspondence, 1997

- Holiday and special occasion letters and cards to and from Dickey and the Dickey family, with Christmas ephemera, correspondence, cards, and paper decorations, no date

- Correspondence about Dickey, correspondence, email printouts, clipping, 1979-2003

**Series II: Manuscripts and typescripts**

- Greiner interview with Dickey about Robert Frost, Dec. 15, 1972, typescript and correspondence, 1972-74

- Dickey’s revisions to chapter introduction from To The White Sea, holograph, March 18, 1993

- James Dickey interview with Don Greiner, corrected transcript typescript and cassette tape, Oct. 1992

- J. L. Dickey Shakespeare 94, manuscript notes, 1 page, 1994

- Notes for final interview with James Dickey, typescript with handwritten notes, July 17 and 19, 1996

- Final interview with Dickey in his home, July 17 and 19, 1996, edited typescript. Conducted by Greiner, Bruccoli, and Ed Brelsad, 161 pages

**Box 2**

- Dickey interview transcription with corrections by J.D., corrected typescript, Oct. 7, 1996

- Dickey’s final class at USC, January 14, 1997, transcription

- Publisher’s proof for title page contents of James Dickey: The Selected Poems Ed. Robert
James Dickey holograph (blurb for Greiner’s book on Frederick Busch), note, no date

Some Lines from Samuel Johnson, Slightly Rewritten, typescript, signed, 1 page, no date

(Poem for Don Greiner and Ben Franklin, unpublished, in two copies only, to commemorate the Power Lunch Group of J.D., Greiner and Franklin, which met regularly for lunch twice a week from 1983-1997.)

Greiner’s remarks at the Dickey memorial service at the University of South Carolina, successive drafts, corrected typescripts, 1997

Greiner’s remarks at Dickey’s funeral in Litchfield, SC, letters, articles, typescript, Jan. 24, 1997

Series III: Books


The Eye Beaters, Blood Victory, Buckhead and Mercy, bookseller’s catalog, 1970

Sorties, reviews, clippings, 1971-1979

Jericho, The South Beheld, reviews, clippings, 1974-1975

The Zodiac, reviews and clippings, 1976

The Strength of Fields, reviews and clippings, 1976-1979

God’s Images The Bible: A New Vision, clippings, 1977

Tucky the Hunter, review, clippings, 1978

The Water Bug ’s Mittens, reviews, clippings, publicity, 1982

Puella, reviews, clippings, publicity, 1982

Night Hurdling, book jacket, reviews, clippings, 1983

Bronwen, the Traw, and the Shape-Shifter, review, clipping, 1986

Alnilam, reviews, clippings, publicity, 1976, 1985-1987

The Wayfarer, reviews, clippings, 1988
The Eagle’s Mile, reviews, publicity, clippings, 1990

May Day Sermon, (theatrical performance), clippings, publicity, 1992

The Whole Motion, reviews, order form, clippings, 1992-1994

To The White Sea, reviews, clippings, publicity, 1987-1993

Series IV: Poems and articles
Box 3
1954-1968
1972-1979

Box 4
1980 (This folder also contains the working notes for Dickey’s article American Poets Since The Second World War, for the Dictionary of Literary Bibliography).
1981-1982

Box 5
1983-1987
1990-1991

Box 6
1992
1993 (folder 1 of 2)

Box 7
1993 (folder 2 of 2)
1994

Box 8
1995-2001

Undated

Series V: About James Dickey
Clippings
1971-1979

Box 9
1980-1989
1990-1993

1994 (folder 1 of 2)

**Box 10**
1994 (folder 2 of 2)

1995-1996

1997 (2 folders)

**Box 11**
1998-1999

2000-2001

2002-2003

**Box 12**
2003-2005

Undated

Clippings and articles by Dickey’s students, 1986-1989

Clippings and articles about Dickey’s family, 1974-2003

James Dickey Newsletter, several issues, 1994-2001 [See also library catalog for complete run of newsletter.]

**Box 13**
Reviews of biographies and books of letters, newspaper and magazine clippings, 1989-2000

Programs, invitations, and signed programs to events with James Dickey, clippings and ephemera, 1982-1998

Published interviews of James Dickey and reviews
1966
1971-1973
1974-1977

**Box 14**
1979
1981-1994
1995-1998
Classes on Modern Poets and the Art of Poetry by Don Greiner

Box 15
Class Notes by James Dickey (unedited), notes, Sept. 1971 - April 1972 (2 folders)

Class Notes by James Dickey (edited), notes, Sept. 1971 - April 1972 (folders 1-2 of 3)

Box 16
Class Notes by James Dickey (edited), notes, Sept. 1971 - April 1972, (folder 3 of 3)

List of prospective reviewers and acknowledgments, poems (identification and permissions), notes, 2002-2003 (folders 1-3 of 5)

Box 17
Poems (identification and permissions), notes, 2002-2003 (folders 4-5 of 5)

Production and permissions, 2001-2003

Introduction, handwritten notes, no date

Introduction, successive versions of draft 3, notes, no date

Introduction, successive versions of draft 4 with notes on poems to be cited, notes, no date

Introduction, drafts 5 and 6, successive versions of draft 7, notes, no date

Box 18
Introduction, draft 8, successive versions of draft 9, final drafts not numbered, notes, no date

Draft of the Coda, poem notes, notes, no date

First reading, draft, no date (3 folders)

Box 19
Second reading, draft, no date (3 folders)

Box 20
Penultimate draft I without proofreading marks, draft, no date (2 folders)

Box 21
Penultimate draft I with proofreading marks, draft, no date (2 folders)

Penultimate draft II draft without proofreading marks, no date (folder 1 of 3)

Box 22
Penultimate draft II draft without proofreading marks, no date (folders 2-3 of 3)
Penultimate draft II draft with proofreading marks, no date (folders 1-2 of 3)

Box 23
Penultimate draft II draft with proofreading marks, no date (folder 3 of 3)
Copyedited manuscript with proofreading marks, Aug. 2003 (2 folders)
Marked manuscript, draft, no date (folder 1 of 2)

Box 24
Marked manuscript, draft, no date (folder 2 of 2)
Successive drafts of checklist of volumes mentioned in text, notes, no date
Photocopies of pictures to be used in text with associated text pages, notes, no date
Spiral-bound advanced proof, draft, 10/31/03
Letters of congratulations, publicity for the book, reviews, correspondence, newspaper clippings, 2002-2004

Other Greiner Projects about Dickey
Box 25
Stanley Burnshaw-James Dickey Correspondence, article for the Dictionary of Literary Biography, handwritten notes, photocopies of the original correspondence, between Burnshaw and Dickey, 1964-2002

My First Preston Lecture on Dickey, brochures for Greiner’s first Preston College [USC] lecture on Dickey, Aug. 29, 2000

My 2nd Preston Lecture on Dickey, correspondence, publicity, email printouts, and excerpts of pages and poems from Greiner’s book Classes on Modern Poets and the Art of Poetry, March 30, 2004

Working papers for special Dickey issue of South Carolina Review - Spring 1994, essays, correspondence, email printouts, handwritten notes, 1993-1994 (2 folders)

Series VI: Realia and miscellanea
Box 26
James Dickey 70th Birthday Celebration, correspondence, newspaper clippings, publicity, Sept. 17-18, 1993

James Dickey’s WWII aircraft, clippings, photographs, schematics, 1995, 1997

Suk-Im Yun. James Dickey’s Journey to a Great Circle, Ph.D. dissertation, University of South Carolina, 2000

James Dickey Concert, Koger Center, University of South Carolina, correspondence, newspaper clippings, publicity, Sept. 8, 2001

Series VII: Photographs

Photographs, no date (1 folder)

Series VIII: Audio / Visual
Box 27
Christopher Dickey on C-Span’s Booknotes (VHS), no date

Dickey 0-8:04 James Dickey: A Poet On His Own Terms South Carolinian of the Year (VHS), 1987

Dickey TV spot: 1990 USC All Spots 5x:30 (VHS), 1996

Dickey 1-4 July 17, 1996 and 5-8 July 19, 1996. Questions asked by Donald J. Greiner and Matthew J. Broccoli (VHS). (2 tapes)

James Dickey 1923-1997 (VHS), 1997

Box 28
James Dickey Tribute, January 27, 1997, (VHS) (2 copies)


The Sandlapper Singers-Conference on Poetry and Song Columbia College September 7, 2001, 3 Discs (CD)

Sandlapper Singers Dickey Concert Sept. 8, 2001, (VHS) (2 copies)

The Sandlapper Singers-Conference on Poetry and Song University of South Carolina September 8, 2001, 3 Discs (CD)

Series IX: Oversize items (1 folder)

May Day Sermon performance, poster, Aug. 13 - Sept. 3 (no date)
Southern Light, dust jacket mockup, poster, no date

Bronwen, The Traw, and the Shape-Shifter and May Day Sermon performances, single poster, Nov. 13 -14 (no date)

USC World War II Writer’s Symposium, television program on South Carolina Educational Television (PBS), poster, 1995

World War II Writer’s Symposium at the University of South Carolina, poster, April 12-14, 1995

Bronwen, The Traw, and the Shape-Shifter, publicity poster, Feb. 1 - March 8, 1998 (3 copies)