Collection: Mss. 2014:5

Contact information:
Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
University of South Carolina Libraries
1322 Greene Street
Columbia SC 29208
(803) 777-3847
(803) 777-4661 fax
email: tclrare@mailbox.sc.edu
http://library.sc.edu/p/Collections/Rare

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Descriptive Summary

Title: The Erwin Ford Collection of George V. Higgins, 1963-2007

Collection Number: Mss. 2014:5

Creator: George V. Higgins; Erwin Ford

Extent: 3 boxes

Administrative Information

Provenance: Gift, 2014

Processed by: Erin Patterson

Access Restrictions: Open to research

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Scope and Contents Note

The Erwin Ford Collection of George V. Higgins contains a collection of typescripts, books, articles, reviews, recordings of interviews with national figures that knew Higgins, and correspondence from Higgins over 20 years, providing national and international scholars, faculty, and students an opportunity to discover a wealth of materials that capture Higgins’ singular impact on the development of the American literary canon.

Interviews are located in the audio/video series with the corresponding notes located in a different series. Also included is an extensive collection of materials that Higgins wrote including manuscript drafts of some of his works and other published materials,
particularly newspaper columns written by Higgins at various newspapers. Additional notes are located at the beginning of each series.

Related Material

All related materials are housed in the Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

The George V. Higgins Archive

Matthew J. Bruccoli collection of George V. Higgins, including books, periodical appearances, manuscripts, and ephemera. See library catalog.

Matthew J. Bruccoli Correspondence Collection within the Matthew J. Bruccoli Papers, includes extensive incoming correspondence with George V. Higgins.

Foreign, large print, and books-on-tape editions of George V. Higgins. See library catalog.

Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series I: Correspondence</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Series II: Audio/Video</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series III: Writings</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series IV: Research Materials</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series V: Interview Notes/Summaries</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series VI: Legal Materials</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series VII: Clippings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Container List

Series I: Correspondence

Correspondence is arranged chronologically.
Box 1

From Higgins

1986-1987 (2 folders)
1988-1989 (2 folders)
1990-1991 (2 folders)
1992-1993 (2 folders)
1994-1995 (2 folders)
1996 (3 folders)
1997 (2 folders)
1998 (2 folders)
1999

Re: Higgins, 1987-2007 (2 folders)

Orphan envelopes, 1988-1995

Series II: Audio/Video Materials

This series contains taped interviews of Higgins and other individuals. Tapes are arranged alphabetically by interviewee/title written on tapes by Ford. Notes and summaries of some of these interviews are in a separate series. Files on the first compact disc are not readable to date.

Cassette Tapes, 1987-1996, no date (3 folders)

BBC Third Ear – George V. Higgins, Curveball, Spitball, Knuckleball, Strike; Presenter: Russell Davies, Producer: Noah Richler, May 21, 1991


Blewitt, Peter, October 30, 1990
Butler, LT. John D, 1989
Butler, John D, no date
Campbell, Levin Hicks, Phone interview, Boston Mass., August 10, 1989
Finan, Ernest, [Mass. State Police Det], December 21, 1993
Hastings, Wilmot, Worthington Mass., July 6, 1989
Higgins, George V., Interview, E.H. Ford, Locke Ober’s Boston, May 9, 1987
Higgins, George V., Locke Ober’s, Boston, May 9, 1987
Higgins, George V., The Rat on Fire, February 9 and 16, 1988
Higgins, George V., Lectures, Cogan’s Trade, The Last Hurrah, February 23 and March 1, 1988
Higgins, George, SUNY Buffalo, Wonderful Years, March 8 and 14, 1988
Higgins, George V., Mother’s Day, April 25, 1988
Higgins, George V., SUNY Buffalo, May 1988
Higgins, George V., “The Connection” WBUR 90.9 Boston, June 1996
Higgins, July 1996
Higgins, George V., Interview, Terry Gross, Philadelphia, no date
Mayo, Walter H., Interview and Coughlin, Mary, Interview, June 21 and 22, 1989
McCrae, no date
McKinley, November 12, 1993
Mills, David, Part II, July 6, 1989
Richardson, Elliot, Interview, Washington D.C., November 30, 1988
Rogovin, Prof. Charles, Temple University, Philadelphia, August, 1989
Sweeney Intro and Bomber Ad, no date
Microcassette Tapes, 2006-2007, no date
A. Green May 16, 2007
Gerry O’Neill, July 13, 2007
Jay Goodman, March 16, 2007
Jay Goodman, May 16, 2007
Judge Tauro, April 12, 2007
Liddy, [G. Gordon], May 15, 2007
Loretta phone, March 6, 2007
Mart[in] Kelly, no date
Series III: Writings

Box 2

All writings were written by Higgins unless otherwise noted. Manuscripts and published stories/articles are organized chronologically. Newspaper columns/articles are arranged alphabetically by newspaper then chronologically.

**Manuscripts**

- A New England Education, draft, typescript, 1985
- “Citizen Cohn” review, typescript and photocopies, 1988
- Marion Barry article, typescript, January 22, 1990
- Field of Dreams, typescript, Spring 1990
- Untitled computer fragment, typescript, May 29, 1993
- Dances with Muses, typescript, 1995
- A Note to the Copy Editor, typescript, May 1996
- Food for Thought, Boston University remarks, typescript, December 2, 1997
- The Agent, second draft, typescript, 1997 (4 folders)
- The Man in the Old Silver Car, typescript, 1997
- Whitey and the Rifleman, draft, typescript, April 4-6, 1998
- Whitey and the Rifleman, draft, typescript, May 18, 1998
- At End of Day, early draft “A Very Nice Arrangement”, typescript, July 6, 1999
  (5 folders)
- A Martini for Father McBride, typescript, no date
- A Practitioner’s Theory of Fiction, typescript, no date
Boston, unpublished essay for National Geographic, typescript, no date
Many in Area Mourn Rachel Geary, typescript, no date
On Evil, unpublished computer fragment, typescript, no date
“The Choice” review, typescript, no date
Tommy Dees, computer fragments, typescript, no date
Untitled unpublished computer fragments, typescript, no date
“William Faulkner : American Writer” review, typescript, no date

Newspaper Articles/Columns
Partial bibliographies, no date
The Boston Globe, photocopy, 1 March – 31 August 1980
The Boston Phoenix, photocopy, 3 January – 10 February 1986
Harper’s Magazine, December 1986
Newsweek, 3 March 1975
Philadelphia Inquirer, 30 October 1988
Providence Journal, , 1 February 1963 – 23 August 1965

Published Stories/Articles
Witness : Something of A Memoir, 1969
Mass in Time of War, September 1969
Dillon explains that he was frightened, Fall 1970
The Habits of the Animals : The Progress of the Seasons, Winter 1971
Two Cautionary Tales, Fall 1973
The Judge who tried harder, April 1974
The Friends of Richard Nixon, November 1974
Two Donnelly Stories, Spring 1977
The Friends of Richard Nixon, June 10, 1977
The Dublin Coat, August 1980
Don’t Fence Me In, August 20, 1982
All Day There Was All There Was, 1983
Professor Richardson et al.: A New England Education, 1985
One Good Man, Fall 1988
An Invitation to Golf, 1992
Landmark Theater May Shut Down, March/April 1997
Afterword, no date
My Say, no date

**Series IV: Ford Research Materials**

These materials were collected by Erwin Ford while he was researching George V. Higgins and in preparation for *George V. Higgins: The Life and Writings*.

- Hinesburg, VT materials, Hinesburg books, 1976-1993, no date
- Hinesburg, VT materials, photocopied documents, no date
- Scholarly articles on Boston, Boston Irish, and Irish Immigration
  - 1905-1985
  - 1991-2006, no date

**Series V: Interview Notes/Summaries**

These notes and summaries maintain the original order kept by Ford. The taped interviews are located in the audio/video series.

- 1986
- 1989-2006
- 2007-2013, no date

**Series VI: Legal Materials**

Case briefs, 1974-1987

**Series VII: Clippings**

Box 3

General, 1965-1997, no date
Book Reviews
   6 February 1972-1975
   22 February 1986-18 June 1990
   30 July 1990-1993
   28 January 1994-19 December 2004

Literary Criticism, no date

Obituaries, 7 November 1999 – 2000

Magazines
   Boston College Magazine, Spring 1991
   Crime and Detective Stories, volume 37, May 2000
   Crime and Detective Stories, volume 38, November 2000
   Stylus, May 1958