

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞
for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ **Robert Flanagan Papers, 1960-1998** ◀

MSS-124

Size: 6 linear feet

Provenance: Received from Robert Flanagan in 3 accessions between October, 1997 and September, 1998. (acc97-13, acc98-13, acc98-16)

Access: Open

Collection Summary: Papers consist of notes, worksheets, typescripts, and revisions of short and long works of fiction; correspondence; periodicals with Flanagan's contributions as well as those that he edited or advised; ephemera (fliers, announcements, invitations etc.); video tapes; and biographical information.

Subjects: [Literature](#)

Related Collections: Herbert Woodward Martin Papers, MSS-015, 095.

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Completed by: Lisa Sudlow, October, 1998; last updated: July 2014

**Robert Flanagan
Papers, 1960-1998**

Biographical Sketch

Robert Flanagan was born in Toledo, OH in 1941. His father was a disabled World War I Veteran and his mother supported the family working at Champion Spark Plug, a job that she obtained during the World War II work effort and kept for twenty years. Robert Flanagan married Kathleen Borer in 1963 and they have two grown daughters, Anne and Nora.

Mr. Flanagan is a graduate of Central Catholic High School, Toledo. He has a B.A. from the University of Toledo (1965) as an interdepartmental major in English literature, philosophy, and Spanish. He earned his M.A. in English language at the University of Chicago. He has also studied theology and literature at the University of Chicago Divinity School. In addition to his studies, Mr. Flanagan enlisted in the Marine Corps reserve in 1960. He was honorably discharged in 1966 as a corporal, E-4.

He has served as an English instructor at the Central YMCA Community College in Chicago's loop, 1966-67 and at Slippery Rock State College in Pennsylvania, 1967-9. In 1969 he joined the faculty at Ohio Wesleyan University where he now is a professor of English and Director of Creative Writing. He has also taught literature and writing to prison inmates at Marion (Ohio) Correctional Institute as an instructor in The Ohio State University's extension program.

Throughout his career Mr. Flanagan has been the recipient of numerous awards, honors, and grants from such organizations as The National Endowment of the Arts, The National Endowment of the Humanities, The Mellon Foundation, The Lilly International Project, as well as from numerous other sources. He has served as a judge for various literary contests and artist in residence at Firelands College. Mr. Flanagan has also given lectures, readings, and presentations throughout the country.

Mr. Flanagan is a prolific writer of not only short stories and poetry but also screenplays and novels as well. He has numerous publications in magazines and journals as well as several published collections of short stories and poetry. His first novel Maggot is in its 12th printing and has sold a quarter of a million copies.

Robert Flanagan credits the diversity of styles in his writing with the fact that writing is his "calling" rather than his career. For this reason, and a desire not to be "pigeon-holed" as a certain type of writer, he has become not only an accomplished poet and short story writer but also a dramatist and a screenwriter.

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Scope and Content Note

Robert Flanagan's papers trace his development as a writer from his days in graduate school in the 1960's to his current novel in progress. Included are drafts of his numerous short stories and poetry along with drafts of his novel, screenplays, and stage plays. Also included is correspondence with various other writers and associates as well as memorabilia from Mr. Flanagan's career.

The collection is arranged in four primary series. (S1) Manuscripts. The materials in this series pertain to the working drafts, typescripts, and research notes of Mr. Flanagan's short stories, plays, novels, and other writings. (S2) Correspondence. This series contains correspondence from fellow writers, associates, former students, publishers, and friends. (S3) Journals. This series consists of the various journals to which Mr. Flanagan served as an advisor, as well as the journals in which Mr. Flanagan's work was published. (S4) Ephemera/Memorabilia. This series consists of newspaper clippings, interviews, a videotape performance of Teller's Ticket, and an appearance by Mr. Flanagan on the TV program Not For Writers Only, as well as an audiotape of a reading Mr. Flanagan gave on April 24, 1998 at the Canaday Center.

Series List

S1 Manuscripts

1960-1998 5.5 linear ft.

arranged alphabetically

Included in this series are Mr. Flanagan's short stories written while a graduate student as well as working drafts and typescripts of many of his short stories, plays, and other writings including Jupus Redeye, Naked to Naked Goes, and Loving Power. Also included is the typescript for his novel Maggot, which has gone through 12 printings and has sold a quarter of a million copies. Of further interest are Mr. Flanagan's research notes and worksheets used when drafting his writings as well as the material he chose to discard from his final drafts.

S2 Correspondence

1960-1996 .85 linear ft.

arranged alphabetically

Materials in this series consist of correspondence from fellow writers, associates, former students, publishers, and friends. This correspondence, both personal and professional, reveals many different aspects of Mr. Flanagan's personality.

S3 Journals

1962-1992 2.15 linear feet

arranged chronologically

This series consists of journals for which Mr. Flanagan served as an advisor, including Owl, Ginger Hill, and The Green Fuse. Also included are journals in which Mr. Flanagan's works were published in the years between 1962 and 1992.

S4 Ephemera/Memorabilia

1960s-1990s .5 Linear feet

arranged by type

The Ephemera/Memorabilia series consists of newspaper clippings, memorabilia from various readings and presentations of Mr. Flanagan's work. In addition, there is a videotape of a production of Teller's Ticket and Mr. Flanagan's appearance on the TV program Not For Writers Only as well as an audiotape of Mr. Flanagan's April 24, 1998 reading given at the Canaday Center. Also included is a brief biography of Mr. Flanagan.

Folder List

Box Folder Description

S1. Manuscripts (5.5 linear feet)

1	1	“After the Invasion” typescript with annotations (n.d.)
	2	“All Alone & Blue” typescript and annotations (n.d.)
	3	“All Alone & Blue” photocopy and typescripts (n.d.)
	4	“The Apprentice” typescript with annotations (n.d.)
	5	“By Available Light” worksheets and typescripts (1989)
	6	College and Graduate Work - short stories – (1960s) 1 of 2
	7	College and Graduate Work - short stories - (1960s) 1 of 2
	8	“Champions” chapters 37 & 39 (Nov. 1997)
	9	“Comedy of Eros” typescript with annotations (n.d.)
	10	“Even As I” Rough Draft (1966-1969) 1 of 3
	11	“Even As I” (1966-1969) 2 of 3
	12	“Even As I” (1966-1969) 3 of 3
	13	“Even As I” notes, deleted material (n.d.)
	14	“Father’s Day” worksheets (1983)
	15	“The Flight” typescript (n.d.)
	16	“Heart of Darkness Too,” “Winter Term” typescripts w/annotations and manuscripts (1989)
	17	“Jupus Redeye” typescript with revisions (1983)
	18	“Jupus Redeye” with annotations (1988)
	19	“Jupus Redeye” suggested major revisions (n.d.)
	20	“Jupus Redeye” worksheets (n.d.) 1 of 3
	21	“Jupus Redeye” (n.d.) 2 of 3
	22	“Jupus Redeye” (n.d.) 3 of 3
	23	“Jupus Redeye” worksheets (1981)
	24	“Jupus Redeye” worksheets (1983)
2	1	“Jupus Redeye” worksheets (n.d.) 1 of 6
	2	“Jupus Redeye” (n.d.) 2 of 6
	3	“Jupus Redeye” (n.d.) 3 of 6
	4	“Jupus Redeye” (n.d.) 4 of 6
	5	“Jupus Redeye” (n.d.) 5 of 6
	6	“Jupus Redeye” (n.d.) 6 of 6
	7	“Life’s Fiction, Fiction’s Life” drafts (July 3, 1991)
	8	“Life’s Fiction, Fiction’s Life” drafts (n.d.)
	9	“Loving Power” galleys and drafts (n.d.) 1 of 2
	10	“Loving Power” (n.d.) 2 of 2

**Robert Flanagan
Papers, 1960-1998**

- 11 "Loving Power" worksheets (1986-1988) 1 of 3
- 12 "Loving Power" (1986-1988) 2 of 3
- 13 "Loving Power" (1986-1988) 3 of 3
- 14 "The Magic Hat" typescript with annotations (n.d.)
- 15 *Maggot* typescript with annotations (Nov. 1971) 1 of 3
- 16 *Maggot* (Nov. 1971) 2 of 3
- 17 *Maggot* (Nov. 1971) 3 of 3
- 18 "Move. Move, Move" final draft with annotations (1972) 1 of 3
- 19 "Move, Move, Move" (1972) 2 of 3

- 3 1 "Move, Move, Move" (1972) 3 of 3
- 2 "Move, Move, Move" typescript (n.d.) 1 of 2
- 3 "Move, Move, Move" typescript (n.d.) 2 of 2
- 4 "Nora's Nosey" typescript (n.d.)
- 5 "Self-Defense" typescripts and worksheets (n.d.)
- 6 "The Shooting Script" worksheets (1988-1989) 1 of 6
- 7 "The Shooting Script" (1988-1989) 2 of 6
- 8 "The Shooting Script" (1988-1989) 3 of 6
- 9 "The Shooting Script" (1988-1989) 4 of 6
- 10 "The Shooting Script" (1988-1989) 5 of 6
- 11 "The Shooting Script" (1988-1989) 6 of 6
- 12 "Swallow the World" research and revision (1971) 1 of 2
- 13 "Swallow the World" (1971) 2 of 2
- 14 "Teller's Ticket" screenplay worksheets (n.d.) 1 of 2
- 15 "Teller's Ticket" (n.d.) 2 of 2
- 16 "Travers" notes (1973) 1 of 3
- 17 "Travers" (1973) 2 of 3
- 18 "Travers" (1973) 3 of 3
- 19 "Travers" discards (1974) 1 of 2
- 20 "Travers" (1974) 2 of 2

- 4 1 "Travers" drafts (1973) 1 of 4
- 2 "Travers" (1973) 2 of 4
- 3 "Travers" (1973) 3 of 4
- 4 "Travers" (1973) 4 of 4
- 5 "Travers" typescript (1973-1974) 1 of 2
- 6 "Travers" (1973-1974) 2 of 2
- 7 "Volleys" 5th draft (April 1984)
- 8 "Volleys" 6th and 7th drafts (mid-May 1987)
- 9 "Volleys" typescript with annotations (n.d.)
- 10 "Volleys" revision (1991)

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Papers, 1960-1998**

- 11 "Whack's Biography Materials" (1970-1973)
- 12 "When Rush Comes to Kill" by Emerson James with Dave Tull at D.W.U. (n.d.)

S2. Correspondence (.85 linear feet)

- 13 Misc. Letters (1971-1974)
- 14 Misc. Literary Correspondence (1960s-1990s) 1 of 3
- 15 Misc. Literary Correspondence (1960s-1990s) 2 of 3
- 16 Misc. Literary Correspondence (1960s-1990s) 3 of 3
- 17 Correspondence: John Brick (1962-1973)
- 18 Correspondence: Arnell Douglas (1967-1971)
- 19 Correspondence: Brendan Galvin (1969-1984)
- 20 Correspondence: Tom Galvin (1987-1990)
- 4 21 Correspondence: Glyn Hughes (1970-1996)
- 5 1 Correspondence: Karl Shapiro (1979-1987)
- 2 Correspondence: Ben Spencer (1970-1981)
- 3 Correspondence: William Stafford (1969-1993)
- 4 Correspondence: Paul Takemoto (1979-1981)
- 5 Correspondence: Charles Winquest (1967-1978)

S3. Journals (2.15 linear feet)

- 6 Journals advised by Flanagan (n.d.) 1 of 3
- 7 Journals advised by Flanagan (n.d.) 2 of 3
- 8 Journals advised by Flanagan (n.d.) 3 of 3
- 9 Periodical Appearances (1962-1964)
- 10 Periodical Appearances (1965-1967)
- 11 Periodical Appearances (1969) 1 of 3
- 12 Periodical Appearances (1969) 2 of 3
- 13 Periodical Appearances (1969) 3 of 3
- 14 Periodical Appearances (1970) 1 of 2
- 15 Periodical Appearances (1970) 2 of 2
- 16 Periodical Appearances (1971) 1 of 2
- 17 Periodical Appearances (1971) 2 of 2
- 18 Periodical Appearances (1972) 1 of 3
- 19 Periodical Appearances (1972) 2 of 3
- 20 Periodical Appearances (1972) 3 of 3

- 6 1 Periodical Appearances (1973) 1 of 3
- 2 Periodical Appearances (1973) 2 of 3
- 3 Periodical Appearances (1973) 3 of 3
- 4 Periodical Appearances (1974)

**Robert Flanagan
Papers, 1960-1998**

- 5 Periodical Appearances (1975-1979)
- 6 Periodical Appearances (1982)
- 7 Periodical Appearances (1983)
- 8 Periodical Appearances (1984) 1 of 2
- 9 Periodical Appearances (1984) 1 of 2
- 10 Periodical Appearances (1987)
- 11 Periodical Appearances (1990-1992)
- 12 Periodical Appearances (undated)
- 13 Collections of Poetry and Short Stories (1973 & 1986)
- 14 Printed Materials - Ohio Wesleyan Publications (1997)

S4. Manuscripts and Ephemera (.5 linear feet)

- 15 Newsclippings and Interviews (1960s-1990s)
- 16 Ephemera (n.d.) 1 of 3
- 17 Ephemera (n.d.) 2 of 3
- 18 Ephemera (n.d.) 3 of 3
- 19 Sherwood Anderson Festival correspondence & ephemera (1987-1988)
- 20 Videotapes: "Teller's Ticket" & "Not For Writers Only" interview with Robert Flanagan (n.d.)
- 21 Audiotape: Reading at The Canaday Center (April 24, 1998)
- 22 Flanagan biographical material