

# **Guide to the Walter Butts Papers MS.49**

**Finding aid prepared by Brantley Palmer & Hayley Lamberson**

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

February 04, 2016

College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College  
229 Main Street  
MS 3201  
Keene, New Hampshire, 03435  
603-358-2717  
archivist@keene.edu

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u> .....	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u> .....	4
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	6
<u>Series 1: Writings</u> .....	6
<u>Series 2: Correspondence</u> .....	9
<u>Series 3: Clippings</u> .....	12
<u>Series 4: Personal Material</u> .....	14

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College
<b>Title</b>	Walter Butts Papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1990-2010
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1974-2013
<b>Extent</b>	21.0 Linear feet & 21 clamshell boxes
<b>General Physical Description note</b>	This collection is contained in 21 clamshell boxes with 4 series and 25 subseries.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	This collection is comprised of the papers and physical artifacts of Walter E. Butts, former Poet Laureate of New Hampshire who served in the position from March 3rd, 2009 until his death on March 31st, 2013. The collection includes his writings and poems, correspondence, clippings, and personal material, including material on his appointment as state Poet Laureate.

### Preferred Citation note

Walter Butts Papers / Archives & Special Collections / Keene State College.

## Biographical/Historical note

---

Walter E. Butts was a professor and prolific poet, serving as New Hampshire Poet Laureate from March 3rd, 2009 until his death on March 31st, 2013 at the age of 69. He earned his M.F.A. from Vermont Collge of Fine Arts in 1995. He taught English as Hesser College and at the low residency Bachelor of Fine Arts program at Goddard College. Mr. Butts also taught Creative Writing workshops at the University of New Hampshire at Manchester.

A native of LeRoy, New York, Walter also lived in Rochester, New York, New York City, Boston, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Manchester, New Hampshire. Mr. Butts was the author of four full length books of poetry: *Movies in a Small Town*, *Sunday Evenings at the Stardust Cafe*, *Radio Time*, and *Cathedral of Nervous Horses: New and Selected Poems* as well as several chapbooks. He also edited issues of the *Crying Sky* anthology. *Sunday Evenings at the Stardust cafe* won the Iowa Source Poetry Book Prize and was nominated for the 2005 Philip Levine Prize in Poetry from California State University, Fresno. Mr. Butts was also nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

---

## Scope and Contents note

---

The papers consist of approximately 21 linear feet of archival material, dating from 1974 to 2013 but primarily between 1990 and 2010. The papers document the literary and publishing activities of Walter E. Butts, Poet Laureate of New Hampshire from March 2009 to his death on March 31st, 2013. The papers include manuscripts of his poetry books, drafts of poems and other works, correspondence, clippings, reviews, interviews, awards, material on his appointment as state Poet Laureate, and personal material, including audiovisual material, publication submissions letters, and material related to his education and teaching. In total, the collection is contained over 21 boxes, 4 series, and 25 subseries.

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Information

College Archives & Special Collections / Wallace E. Mason Library / Keene State College

### Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open and available to researchers.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission to publish from the owner of the copyright (the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates, or literary executors). The user agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Keene State College, its officers, employees, and agents from and against all claims made by any person asserting that he or she is an owner of copyright.

### **Processing Information note**

This collection was processed and the finding aid created by Brantley Palmer, the Assistant Archivist, in March of 2014. Additional processing was provided by Hayley Lamberson, Project Archivist, in the fall of 2015 as part of a New Hampshire Mooseplate grant.

### **Note on Microfilm**

In February 2016, the manuscripts of *Movies in the Small Town*, *Meditations on Leaving*, *Sunday Evening at the Stardust Cafe*, *What To Say If the Birds Ask*, *Radio Time*, *Cathedral of Nervous Horses*, *To Say We Are Dying Is Not Enough*, *Common Deed*, and *White Bees*, as well as assorted poems, essays, and proofs, were copied to preservation microfilm. These microfilm reels can be found at the Keene State College Archives & Special Collections.

Series 1: Writings

---

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Writings

#### Box 1

#### Subseries 1: Movies in a Small Town

Item 1: "Movies in a Small Town" bound manuscript of poems submitted by Butts as part of MFA program 1993-1995

#### Subseries 2: Meditations on Leaving Trust Fall 1996

Folder 1: "Poets on the Line: A Continuing Anthology" No. 4. Includes Butts' poem Meditations on Leaving Trust Fall 1996

#### Subseries 3: Sunday Evening at the Stardust Cafe ca. 2006

Item 2: "Sunday Evening at the Stardust Cafe" Manuscript Folder ca. 2006

#### Subseries 4: Crying Sky Vol. 2 No. 1 2007

Folder 2: Manuscript of "Crying Sky" Vol. 2 No. 1, edited by Butts 2007

**Subseries 5: Drafts of Poetry**

---

Folder 3: "Crying Sky" proofs

Box 2

**Subseries 5: Drafts of Poetry 2001-2011**

Folder 1: Drafts of poetry in bound folder 2001-2007

Folder 2: Poetry drafts in a bound folder 2008-2011

**Subseries 6: What to Say if the Birds Ask 2007**

Folder 3: "What to Say if the Birds Ask" typed manuscript 2007

**Subseries 7: Radio Time ca. 2012**

Folder 4: Radio Time typed draft ca. 2012

Folder 5: Radio Time proofs

Item 1: Radio Time bound manuscript n.d.

Box 3

**Subseries 8: Cathedral of Nervous Horses 2012**

**Subseries 9: To Say We Are Dying is Not Enough**

---

Folder 1: "Cathedral of Nervous Horses" typed draft 2012

Folder 2: "Cathedral of Nervous Horses" typed draft with email correspondence to Alison at Hobblebush Books 2012

Folder 3: "Cathedral of Nervous Horses" proofs

**Subseries 9: To Say We Are Dying is Not Enough n.d.**

Folder 4: "To Say We Are Dying is Not Enough" bound manuscript

Box 4

**Subseries 10: Other Writings**

Folder 1: Reviews written by Walter E. Butts of other books ca. 2007

Folder 2: Sharon Olds interview

Folder 3: "Reinventing the Self: Despair and Transcendence in the Poetry of Richard Hugo" essay by Butts as part of MFA program May 15, 1994

Folder 4: "Paradox and Authenticity in the Confessional Style: The Self as Persona" typed master copy

Folder 5: Article written for NH Home magazine by Butts n.d.

**Subseries 11: Common Deed**

---

**Subseries 11: Common Deed**

Folder 6: Common Deed final manuscript n.d.

**Subseries 12: White Bees**

Folder 7: White Bees proofs 2001

Folder 8: White Bees master manuscript 2001

**Subseries 13: A Season of Crows**

Folder 9: A Season of Crows proofs n.d.

**Series 2: Correspondence**

Box 5

Folder 1: Correspondence to Walter E. Butts re: his books 1/23/2006 - 3/12/2011

Folder 2: Correspondence from Richard Hugo 4/14/1982

Folder 3: Al Maginnes correspondence 2007-2008

Folder 4: Al Maginnes correspondence 2008-2013

Series 2: Correspondence

---

Box 6

Folder 1: Judy Platz correspondence 1989-2009

Folder 2: Kevin Pilkington correspondence 2006-2012

Folder 3: Susan Chandel correspondence 2006-2010

Folder 4: Jim Elaesser correspondence 2009

Folder 5: Richard Jones correspondence 2007-2010

Folder 6: Jim Darris correspondence 2007-2009

Folder 7: Jim Thatcher correspondence 1998

Folder 8: Richard Martin correspondence 2008-2012

Folder 9: Robert Louther correspondence 1983-1984

Folder 10: Pat Parnell correspondence 2002-2006

Folder 11: Bill Kemmett correspondence 2005-2011

Folder 12: Max Schwartz correspondence 2001-2004

Box 7

**Series 2: Correspondence**

---

Folder 1: James Haug correspondence 2001-2013

Folder 2: Jim Duffy correspondence 2006-2009

Folder 3: Tom Absher correspondence 2005-2012

Folder 4: Jack Myers correspondence 2004-2010

Folder 5: Glenn Freeman correspondence 1999-2011

Folder 6: Bob Graney correspondence 2007

Box 8

Folder 1: Rustin Larson correspondence 2000-2010

Folder 2: Dave Evans correspondence 2004-2011

Folder 3: Lisa Wells correspondence 2011

Folder 4: Gary Metras correspondence 2000-2008

Box 9

Folder 1: Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program correspondence 1998-2001

Folder 2: Crying Sky anthology correspondence 2006-2010

**Series 3: Clippings**

---

Folder 3: Other correspondence 1989-2012

**Series 3: Clippings**

Box 10

**Subseries 1: Magazines & Journals**

Folder 1: Blair & Ketchum's Country Journal June 1986

Folder 2: Wail! Magazine February 1991

Folder 3: Your North Shore Creative Writing Culture Magazine Summer 1991

Folder 4: ART/LIFE Magazine April 1992

Folder 5: POET Magazine Summer 1995

Folder 6: ART/LIFE Magazine 1998

Folder 7: Godard Clockworks Magazine Fall 2009

Folder 8: Vermont College of Fine Arts Magazine 2009-2012

Folder 9: NH Home Magazine Nov/Dec 2010

**Subseries 2: Newspapers**

---

Folder 10: Goddard Clockworks Magazine Spring 2010

Folder 11: The Writer's Chronicle Magazine February 2012

Folder 12: WAIL! Magazine n.d.

Folder 13: Vermont College of Fine Arts 1995-2001

Box 11

**Subseries 2: Newspapers**

Folder 1: Dark Horse Newspaper Fall 1978

Folder 2: Dark Horse Newspaper Spring 1979

Folder 3: Dark Horse Magazine Spring 1980

Folder 4: American Book Review May/June 1985

Folder 5: Iowa Source November 1996

Folder 6: Small Press Review Sept/Oct 2003-Jan/Feb 2008

Folder 7: Iowa Source February 2006

Folder 8: Iowa Source November 2007

**Subseries 3: Online Articles**

---

Folder 9: Stone Soup Gazette n.d.

Folder 10: Democrat & Chronicle August 6, 2006

Folder 11: Atelier January 1993

**Subseries 3: Online Articles**

Folder 12: Writing Without Paper article January 10, 2011

Folder 13: Tower Journal 2010

Folder 14: LeRoy Pennysaver 2006

Folder 15: Iowa Source 2008

Folder 16: Portsmouth Unabridged n.d.

Folder 17: New Hampshire State Council of the Arts newsletter January 2013

Folder 18: Parkway & West Roxbury Transcripts January 2003

**Series 4: Personal Material**

Box 12

**Subseries 1: New Hampshire Poet Laureate material**

---

**Subseries 1: New Hampshire Poet Laureate material**

Folder 1: NH Poet Laureate Award

Folder 2: Invitations 2009

Folder 3: Invitations 2010-2012

Folder 4: Materials on the state Poet Laureate Convergence

Folder 5: Materials on Endless Sky, a state Poet Laureate anthology

Folder 6: Correspondence related to NH Poet Laureate

Printout from NH State Council on the Arts about the NH Poet Laureate 9/29/2008

Email from Patricia Frisella to Walter E. Butts asking for a sample of his work 11/14/2008

Letter from Poetry Society of New Hampshire letting Walter know he's been nominated for Poet Laureate 12/11/2008

Letter from Jennifer Kuzma to Walter from the Office of the Governor letting him know he's been recommended to Governor Lynch to serve as Poet Laureate 2/2/2009

Letter from Governor Lynch informing Walter he's been nominated to the Executive Council to serve as Poet Laureate 2/18/2009

**Subseries 2: Other Awards**

---

Walter E. Butts CV n.d.

**Subseries 2: Other Awards**

Folder 7: Material related to the Pushcart Prize 1997-2006

Folder 8: Material related to the 2011 New England Book Festival Award for "Radio Time" November 23, 2011 - January 14, 2012

Folder 9: Material related to multiple awards May 21, 1996 - February 2, 2009

Box 13

**Subseries 3: Promotional Material**

Folder 1: Promotional material for Butts' books 1997-2006

Folder 2: Concord Literary Festival 2010

Folder 3: Poetry & Politics 2011

Folder 4: Riverwoods Poetry Festival 2012

Folder 5: New Hampshire Literature Awards 2011

Folder 6: Go Art! Batavia, New York Poetry Readings 2012

**Subseries 4: Interviews**

---

Folder 7: Nothern Forest Heritage Park First Annual Book Fair July 16, 2011

Folder 8: Seacoast Annual Fall Writer's Conference 1994-2009

Folder 9: Writers in the Round Creative Retreat on Star Island September 9, 2009

Folder 10: Wolfeboro Arts on the Edge 2010

Folder 11: Contest judging materials 2008-2011

Folder 12: Other promotional materials 1990-2012

Item 1: Oversize event advertisement n.d.

**General note**

Housed separately in the flat files.

Box 14

**Subseries 4: Interviews**

Folder 1: Iowa Source Interview August 21, 2007

Folder 2: NHWP Interview June 2009

Folder 3: Connotation Press Interview February 18, 2010

**Subseries 5: Reviews**

---

Folder 4: NH Writer Interview Fall 2010

Folder 5: Unmarked Interview Transcript n.d.

Folder 6: Solidus December 2012

**Subseries 5: Reviews**

Folder 7: Amazon reviews of Sunday Evening at the Stardust Cafe 9/30/2006

Folder 8: Radio Time review on Jill Magi's Blog 11/23/11

Folder 9: Reviews for Movies in a Small Town, The Required Dance, and White Bees 1990-2004

Folder 10: What to Say if the Birds Ask review by Cafe Review February 4, 2009

Folder 11: Blurbs ca. 2010-2011

**Subseries 6: Physical Artifacts**

Item 1: Mini DV tape labeled "Poet to Poet" n.d.

Folder 12: ID cards

Item 2: Who's Who Among America's Teachers plaque 2002

**Subseries 6: Physical Artifacts**

---

Item 3: Who's Who Among America's Teachers plaque 2003-2004

Item 4: Floppy disk labeled "Walter Mellon Poetry Press"

Item 5: Cassette tape labeled "Walter Butts Readings 1/6/95" 1/6/1995

Item 6: Cassette tape labeled "Walter Butts 1/3/9 "Paradox"" 1/3/1995

**Box 15**

Item 1: CD in an envelope labeled "C17 Derry Community Television Walter Butts" July 10, 2010, n.d.

Item 2: Framed photo

Item 3: Scrapbook with letters, clippings, and photos

Item 4: Badge and ribbon from Goddard College with New Hampshire Poet Laureate written on it n.d.

**Box 16**

Item 1: VHS labeled "Hesser College Poetry Reading, Walter Butts & Others" April 8, 2003

Item 2: Who's Who Among America's Teachers 2002

Item 3: Portsmouth Mayor's award

Item 4: VHS Tape labeled "W.E. Butts At The Piano Factory '06" 7/15/2006

**Subseries 7: Submissions for Publication**

---

Box 17

**Subseries 7: Submissions for Publication**

Folder 1: Acceptances 1983-1994

Folder 2: Acceptances 1995-1996

Folder 3: Acceptances 1997-1998

Folder 4: Acceptances 1999-2000

Box 18

Folder 1: Acceptances 2001-2004

Folder 2: Acceptances 2005-2006

Folder 3: Acceptances 2007-2013, n.d.

Box 19

Folder 1: Rejections 1998-2003

Folder 2: Rejections 2004

Folder 3: Rejections 2005

**Subseries 8: Education materials**

---

Box 20

Folder 1: Rejections 2005

Folder 2: Rejections 2006-2007

Folder 3: Rejections 2008-2012

Box 21

**Subseries 8: Education materials**

Folder 1: Transcripts and evaluations 1993-1995

Folder 2: Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA application 1988

Item 1: Norwich University Vermont College M.F.A. diploma 1995

**General note**

Housed separately in stacks.

**Subseries 9: Teaching materials**

Folder 3: Goddard College materials 2010-2012

Folder 4: Hesser College materials 2008

**Subseries 9: Teaching materials**

---

Folder 5: Correspondence & material related to the "ED"ies Awards 3/15/2011 - 5/17/2011, n.d.

Folder 6: Poet in the Schools materials 1990-2010

Folder 7: Thank you letters from schoolchildren to Walter 4/2/1974 - 4/20/2011, n.d.

Folder 8: Letters of Recommendation for Walter from others 11/2001 - 8/2/2006