

Guide to the Susan M. Watkins Papers

MS 2120



compiled by Michelle Wickham

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2120

CREATOR: Watkins, Susan M., 1945-2022

TITLE: Susan M. Watkins papers

DATES: 1954–2013

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.42 linear feet (20 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Susan M. Watkins was a Seth researcher and author of books including "Conversations with Seth." She was known for her writings on psychic and spiritual phenomena including extrasensory perception (ESP), as well as for being a long-time friend and associate of Seth channeler Jane Roberts. The papers include correspondence and interviews with Roberts and others in the Seth community, audio and videotapes, manuscripts, publications, and related materials.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2120>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2120>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Sean Watkins, 2021.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Susan M. Watkins Papers (MS 2120). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Related Materials

Related materials: Mary Dillman papers (MS 2119); Jane Roberts papers (MS 1090).

Biographical / Historical

Susan M. Watkins (1945-2022) was a Seth researcher and author of books including "Speaking of Jane Roberts" and "Conversations with Seth." She was known primarily for her writings on extrasensory perception (ESP) and other psychic and spiritual phenomena, as well as for her association with Jane Roberts and with the wider Seth community.

Scope and Contents

The Susan M. Watkins papers include correspondence and interviews with Jane Roberts and others in the Seth community, audio and videotapes, manuscripts, publications, and related materials. The bulk of the material consists of correspondence, as well as materials relating to the efforts of Watkins and others to write books about Seth and related topics.

A significant portion of these files pertains to Watkins's book "Conversations with Seth: The Story of Jane Roberts's ESP Class." Included in this category are the series ESP classes and the series, "Conversations with Seth," by Susan M. Watkins (1980), located in Series II.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in five series: I. Correspondence, 1954-2013. II. ESP classes, 1969-1999. III. Manuscripts and publications, 1968-2007. IV. Subject files, 2008. V. Audiovisual material, 1982-2008.

Collection Contents

	Correspondence	1954–2013
	Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by folder title and then chronologically.	
b. 1, f. 1	Dates unknown Processing note: folder 1 ("Correspondence, dates unknown") includes an envelope containing coins.	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Laurel Davies	2008–2013
b. 1, f. 3-4	Richard Kendall	1975–2000
b. 1, f. 5	Robert Butts and Jane Roberts personal notes and letters	1978–1981
b. 1, f. 6	Robert Butts and Laurel Davies	1976–1999
b. 2, f. 1	Robert Butts and Laurel Davies	2000–2008
b. 2, f. 2-3	Robert Butts and Walter Zeh	1954–1995
b. 2, f. 4	Robert Butts correspondence regarding unpublished biography and memoir of Jane Roberts	1991
b. 2, f. 5	Susan Watkins articles and correspondence regarding channeling and lawsuit	1984–1988
b. 2, f. 6	Susan Watkins correspondence with publishers regarding "Conversations with Seth"	1981–1989
b. 2, f. 7	Susan Watkins letters to Tam Mossman	1978–1987
b. 2, f. 8	Tam Mossman letters to Susan Watkins	1975–1988
b. 2, f. 9	Yale University and Susan Watkins	1984–1987
	Chronological files	
b. 3, f. 1	1974-1979	1974–1979
b. 3, f. 2	1980	1980
b. 3, f. 3	January-June	1981
b. 3, f. 4	July-September	1981
b. 3, f. 5	October-December	1981
b. 3, f. 6	January-February	1982
b. 3, f. 7	March-April	1982
b. 3, f. 8	May-June	1982
b. 3, f. 9	July-September	1982
b. 3, f. 10	October-December	1982

Chronological files (continued)

b. 3, f. 11	January-June	1983
b. 4, f. 1	July-December	1983
b. 4, f. 2	January-June	1984
b. 4, f. 3	July-December	1984
b. 4, f. 4	January-March	1985
b. 4, f. 5	April-June	1985
b. 4, f. 6	July-September	1985
b. 4, f. 7	October-December	1985
b. 4, f. 8	January-June	1986
b. 4, f. 9	July-September	1986
b. 4, f. 10	October-December	1986
b. 4, f. 11	January-September	1987
b. 4, f. 12	October-December	1987
b. 4, f. 13	January-May	1988
b. 5, f. 1	June-December	1988
b. 5, f. 2	January-March	1989
b. 5, f. 3	April-June	1989
b. 5, f. 4	July 24th	1989
b. 5, f. 5	July-December	1989
b. 5, f. 6	1990	1990
b. 5, f. 7	1991-1994	1991-1994
b. 5, f. 8	1995-1999	1995-1999
b. 6, f. 1	2000-2004	2000-2004
b. 6, f. 2	2005-2011	2005-2011
	Extrasensory perception (ESP) classes	1969-1999
b. 6, f. 3	Book orders	1982
b. 6, f. 4	Class lists	1970-1979
b. 6, f. 5	Class tape information	1988
b. 6, f. 6	Completed questionnaire consent forms	1979
b. 6, f. 7	Information from other ESP class members	1970-1980

b. 6, f. 8	Original <i>Conversations with Seth</i> questionnaire	1978
Student files		
This subseries is arranged alphabetically by student surname.		
b. 6, f. 9	Marianne Alexander-Wade	1978
b. 6, f. 10	Robert Axelrod	1979
b. 6, f. 11	George Bartley	1979
b. 6, f. 12	Richard Bartlow	1979
b. 6, f. 13	Nancy Borrelli	1979
b. 6, f. 14	Hope Brown	1979
b. 6, f. 15	Barbara Coultry	1979
b. 6, f. 16	Rebecca D'orio	1979
b. 6, f. 17	Barrie Gellis	1972–1980
b. 6, f. 18	Tom Haight	1979
b. 6, f. 19	Palm Hall	1980
b. 6, f. 20	Ruth Klebert ("Rachael Clayton")	1979
b. 7, f. 1	Jean Klufft	1980
b. 7, f. 2	Pat La Grassa ("Priscilla Lantini")	1980
b. 7, f. 3	Frank Longwell ("F. Lorton")	1987
b. 7, f. 4	Jeff Marcus	1980–1999
b. 7, f. 5	Tom Milligan	1969–1981
b. 7, f. 6	Joyce Moskowitz	1979
b. 7, f. 7	Tam Mossman	undated
b. 7, f. 8	Richard Nissenbaum ("Kendall")	undated
b. 7, f. 9	Al Oberg	1979
b. 7, f. 10	Sheri Perl	1979
b. 7, f. 11	George Rhoads	1979
b. 7, f. 12	Richard Roberts	1979
b. 7, f. 13	Vickie Smith	1998
b. 7, f. 14	Ricky Stack and Rich Wolinski	1979–1999
b. 7, f. 15	Carroll Stamp	undated

Student files (continued)

b. 7, f. 16	Dan Stimmerman	1979
b. 7, f. 17	Orville Tigerman	1978
b. 7, f. 18	Hugh Wheeler	1979-1981
	Manuscripts and publications	1968-2007
	General	1975-2000
b. 7, f. 19	<i>Dream Network</i> magazine, volume 15, number 1	1996
b. 7, f. 20	Miscellaneous publishers	1978-1998
b. 7, f. 21	Moment Point Press	1999-2000
b. 7, f. 22	Periodicals regarding Seth	1986-1987
b. 7, f. 23	Prentice-Hall	1975-1990
	<i>Conversations with Seth</i> by Susan M. Watkins (1980)	1973-2000
b. 8, f. 1	<i>Conversations with Seth</i> illustrations and notes	circa 1974
b. 8, f. 2	Photographs	circa 1979-2000
	Photographs by George Bartley ("Geoffrey Beam")	1974
b. 8, f. 3	Number 41	circa 1973-1974
b. 8, f. 4	Number 42	1974
b. 8, f. 5	Number 43	1974
b. 8, f. 6	Number 44	circa 1973-1974
b. 8, f. 7	Number 45	1974
b. 8, f. 8	Number 46	1974
b. 8, f. 9	Number 47	circa 1973-1974
b. 8, f. 10	Number 48	1974
b. 8, f. 11	Photographs by Richard Wolinski ("Will Petroski")	1973-1974
	<i>Dreaming Myself, Dreaming a Town</i> by Susan M. Watkins (1989)	1980-1996
b. 8, f. 12	<i>Dreaming Myself, Dreaming a Town</i> correspondence, press, and related materials	1989-1996
b. 8, f. 13	<i>Dreaming Myself, Dreaming a Town</i> publishing materials	1986-1990
b. 8, f. 14-15	Letters regarding dream questionnaire	1980
b. 9, f. 1	<i>The Mediumship of Zachary Larue</i> manuscript by Susan Watkins (unpublished)	undated
	<i>The Seth Material</i> by Jane Roberts (1970)	

The Seth Material by Jane Roberts (1970) (continued)

b. 9, f. 2	Robert Butts' original proposal for publication of <i>The Seth Material</i>	undated
b. 9, f. 3-5	<i>Seth on Dreams</i> manuscript by Debbie Harris (unpublished)	undated
	<i>Speaking of Jane Roberts</i> by Susan M. Watkins (2001)	1968-2007
b. 9, f. 6	Articles, book reviews, and news clippings regarding work of Jane Roberts	1979-1980
b. 9, f. 7	Background research and correspondence regarding remembrances of Jane Roberts	1997-1999
b. 9, f. 8	Carroll Stamp essays regarding Jane Roberts	1997-1999
b. 10, f. 1	Debbie Harris journal notes and email correspondence	2003-2007
b. 10, f. 2-4	Dreams about Jane Roberts	1985-1999
b. 10, f. 5	Jane Roberts' and Susan Watkins' writings	1968-1987
b. 10, f. 6	Jane Roberts interview transcripts	1977-2000
b. 10, f. 7	Letters and notes regarding Jane Roberts	1986-2000
b. 10, f. 8	Letters regarding Jane Roberts	circa 1999
b. 10, f. 9	Miscellaneous research and correspondence	1997-2000
b. 10, f. 10	Notes and press clippings	1993-2000
b. 11, f. 1	Original copy of Debbie Harris journal with footnotes and annotations by Susan Watkins	1980-1999
b. 11, f. 2-3	Personal recollections of Jane Roberts	1994-1996
b. 11, f. 4	Photographs for <i>Speaking of Jane Roberts</i>	2000-2004
b. 11, f. 5-6	Research, drafts, and revisions	circa 1999
b. 11, f. 7-9	<i>Speaking of Jane Roberts</i> manuscript	undated
b. 12, f. 1	Susan Thornton comments used in <i>Speaking of Jane Roberts</i>	1999-2000
b. 12, f. 2	Transcript of Frank Longwell speaking about Jane Roberts, Robert Butts, and Seth	undated
b. 12, f. 3	Richard Kendall writings regarding Jane Roberts	1991-2000
	Subject files	2008
b. 12, f. 4	Robert Butts' last days and obituary	2008
b. 13	Topical note cards	undated
	Audiovisual	1982-2008
b. 14	Dave Scott "All Night Live" Seth discussion group videotape (VHS)	1982 October 23
b. 12, f. 5	Note by Susan Watkins accompanying "All Night Live" videotape	1982

b. 15	Günter Sostarić 2021-m-0012-0001 <i>1 CD-R 28842576 bytes (28.84 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)</i> Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Public Services for further information. This material was imaged or captured by Beinecke staff in 2024 for preservation and access. Additional information about actions taken may be available at the repository.	2008 June 26
b. 12, f. 6	Letters by Günter Sostarić accompanying compact disc (CD-R)	2008
b. 16	Interview with Susan Watkins by Bob Terrio in Elmira, New York, videotape (VHS)	1997 June 21
b. 17	"New York Boys" videotape (VHS)	1994 October 11
b. 12, f. 7	Letter by Susan Watkins accompanying "New York Boys" videotape	2002 March 20
b. 18	"Songs for Susan" audiocassette	1991
b. 12, f. 8	Letter by Anna Peck accompanying "Songs for Susan"	1991 February 14
b. 19	"Story for Sean and message to Sue" audiocassette	undated
b. 20	"Various Sumari Songs" audiocassette	1997
b. 12, f. 9	Note by Paul and Joanne Helfrich accompanying "Various Sumari Songs"	1997 July 10

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Occupations

Authors

Subjects

Channelers (Mediums)
Extrasensory perception
Spiritualism
Spirit writings

Names

Butts, Robert F.
Roberts, Jane, 1929-1984
Seth