

**The Steinman Vietnam Veteran Poetry Collection**  
**MSS Collection #230**  
**2.1 linear feet**

**Scope & Content**

The collection consists of correspondence, poetry manuscripts, and ephemera related to the 1987 St Lawrence University David B. Steinman Festival of the Arts entitled “Art and the Vietnam Experience.” The collection consists mostly of unpublished poem manuscripts written by people who served in the armed forces during the Vietnam War.

**Dates**

1966-1986

**Creator**

In the summer of 2023, Haley Sundstrom (St. Lawrence '25) inventoried the poems and arranged the materials into a manuscript collection. Her work was part of a St. Lawrence Research Fellowship Program.

**Availability**

The collection is open for research.

**Biographical Note**

The Steinman Festival of the Arts ran from 1958 to 1991 with funding provided by David and Irene Steinman. David Steinman was an engineer and bridge designer of some note. In 1987 a theme of “Art and the Vietnam Era: The Politics of Memory” was developed by a university administrator and veteran Tom Coakley, along with his wife Nellie, Professor of English Peter Bailey, Professor of Philosophy Eugene Valentine, and University Librarian Richard Kuhta. Steinman Festivals celebrated all forms of art, and as a part of the 1987 festival Tom and Nellie Coakley solicited poems from veterans of the Vietnam war from various veterans organizations. One hundred and forty veterans responded, sending hundreds of poems. From these submissions a selection was published as a booklet titled *Poetry and the Vietnam Experience*. Themes that emerge in the poems include protest, combat experience, comradery, death, estrangement, alienation, guilt, returning home, on war, patriotism, post-war experience, and religion and spirituality.

**Extent**

5 boxes, 2.1 linear feet.

## Language of the Materials

English

## Arrangement

### Box One

- Festival Announcements
- Two copies of *Poetry and the Vietnam Experience*
- Correspondence
- Copies of books published by poets who submitted work to festival

### Box Two

- Poem manuscripts filed by author last name A-D

### Box Three

- Poem manuscripts filed by author last name E-K

### Box Four

- Poem manuscripts filed by author last name L-R

### Box Five

- Poem manuscripts filed by author last name S-Z

## Provenance

The collection was in the possession of Nellie and Tom Coakley, and they donated the materials to St Lawrence University in 2022.

## Processing Information

Processed by the St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections staff.

## Repository Details

Part of the St. Lawrence University Libraries manuscript collections.

Contact:

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St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections

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## Collection Organization

### The Steinman Vietnam Veteran Poetry Collection

The Steinman Vietnam Veteran Poetry Collection is housed in the St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections area. The collection is divided into five boxes. Box One is a collection of ephemera related to the 1987 festival, and the remaining four boxes are the submitted poem manuscripts and correspondence of those individuals who responded to the call for poems. The poems are arranged by author last name.

Box One Festival Ephemera Brochures announcing the festival, 3 original copies of *Poetry and the Vietnam Experience*, correspondence related to festival, newspaper clippings, a signed Robert Bly broadside and accompanying note from Richard Kuhta (SLU Librarian in 1987).

Box Two Poets A-D Five published collections: *I Was Fighting for Peace, but, Lord, There Was Much More* By Gary Paul Johnson, *Nightvision* by George Evans, *Outer Banks & Other Poems* and *To Those Who Have Gone Home Tired* by W.D. Ehrhart, *Returning Fire* by David F. Brown. John-Michael Akili Syracuse NY, Neil Alley Athens OH, J.R. Avanti New Gretna NJ, Robert Bamberg Woodbridge VA, Barton Bean Dana Point CA, Fran Bellersen Columbus OH, Douglas Bergman New York NY, Richard Bergquist La Marida CA, Richard Brinson Islip NY, David Brown Berkeley CA, Lewis Bruchey Frederick MD, Thom Brucie Fresno CA, Lon Brusio San Diego CA, Betty Brzuchac Schenectady NY, John Buschek Ottawa ON, Spencer J. Campbell Laplace LA, Ray Catina Schenectady NY, Roosevelt Chapman Jr. Saginaw MI, John Clark Arlington VA, James Clarkin Fall River MA, James Clayton Plantation FL, Douglas Condit New York NY, Michael Cousino Gouverneur NY, David Cloxe Plantation FL, David Dahl Santa Barbara CA, Mark Danis Eugene OR, A.J. Danzinger Chicago IL, Lloyd Davis Chicago IL, Jackson Day Columbia MD, John DeCillo Lansing IL, Steve Diamonds Bluefield WV, Roberto Diffoot Levittow Lakes PR, Thomas Dimitry Rochester NY, Gary Downs Norfolk VA, Daniel Doyle, Richmond VA, Frank Dumschat Kearny NJ, Dale Dunham Salem OR, Mark Dunker West Palm Beach FL.

Box Three Poets E-K John Eckhardt III Rockland ME, Patrick Ellinham Fort Lauderdale FL, Raymond Enstine Water Mill NY, Gary Espiau Long Beach CA, George Evans San Francisco CA, Paul Ferraro Forest City PA, W.B. Fisk White River Junction VT, James Fitzroy Pleasantville NY, Marion Foddrill Washingtonville NY, Joseph Francis Jr. Charlotte NC, George Franczak Sunrise FL, Max Gabriel Hamburg NY, R.E. Gatewood Dallas TX, Vincent Genato La Quinta CA, Edwin German New York NY, Dan Gisel Fillmore CA, Patrick Gray Bellevue NE, Glen Hager Huntington WV, Don Harten, Pocatello ID, Steve Hassna San Leandro CA, John Healy Syracuse NY, Bruce Holsclaw Dunbar WV, Michael Honan Albany NY, Hank Houghton Norfolk MA, James Howard Columbus OH, Gene Huston Veneta OR, Leo Morris Jackson El Sobrante CA, Scott Jinnette Nashville TN, Vincent Kaspar Chicago IL, Peter Katopes

Douglaston NY, Brian Keeling Pearl Harbor HI, Philip Keinholz Winnipeg MB, Dennis Kitchin Salida CO, Chris Kruse Cincinnati OH, John Kurowski, St Paul MN,

Box Four Poets L-R Joseph Labriola Concord MA, Norman Lampert Philadelphia PA, Charles Lane Wichita Falls TX, Gretchen Leedy Mechanicsburg PA, Albert Lerner St Claire MI, Ray Lynch Oklahoma City OK, Rodger Martin Peterborough NH, Lawrence Maykel San Francisco CA, Frank Mazzie New Haven MI, Donald McCreary Cumberland MD, Garry McGivney Watertown NY, Robert McGowan Mesa AZ, John McGuire Syracuse NY, Robert McLane Shreveport LA, Marilyn McMahon Seattle WA, Edwin Mercer Topeka KS, David Millard Schaghticoke NY, Joseph Miller Galstonbury CT, Samuel Lee Miller Lenox MA, Thomas Miller White Plains NY, John Muir Santa Barbara CA, Charles Murphy Dobbs Ferry NY, Stanley Myers Monroe LA, David Nau Collins Point Arena CA, Warren Norwood Weatherford TX, Mark Osaki Berkeley CA, David Pudd Paduan Portland ME, Daniel Parker McAllen TX, Rickie Parker Canfield OH, William Phillips East Tallassee AL, Rick Privette West For AR, Doug Rawlings Mt. Vernon ME, Robert Reiff Latham NY, Chuck Reighard Iowa City IA, Jay Arthur Rice Phoenix AZ, John Ryan Troy MI, Daniel Rybczyk Peoria IL.

Box Five Poets S-Z David Samples Porter OK, Nichols Sand Edgewood NM, Michael Sargen Pinellas Park FL, Robert Allen Schledwitz Boston MA, E.M. Schorb Mooresville NC, Eric Schwartz San Francisco CA, Deloris Selinsky Shavertown PA, Thomas Sharp Green Bay WI, Ralph Slaughter Norcross GA, Robert Smith Mill WY, Herbert Snodgrass Henshaw WV, Ronald Staff, Minot ND, Geoffrey Stamm Mantua OH, David Stemen Pensacola FL, Bradley Stephens Berwyn IL, Thomas Stern Marchfield WI, William Stilwagen South Jamesport NY, Steven Stone Charleston WV, Marion Cornelius Trivette Richmond VA, Peter Ulisse Devon CT, Curtis Van Gorp Cedar Rapids IA, John Waterhouse Hartford CT, Rupert Wenzel Jr. Chicago IL, Bayla Winters Burbank CA, Glen Wood Riverdale MD, Walter Wook Central Bridge NY, Richard Wray Commerce City CO, David Zurawski Wyandotte MI.

### **Poems selected by Haley Sundstrom**

- “Westmoreland” by David F. Brown
- “Kenny’s Flag” by Joe Labriola
- “simple physics” by John Buschek
- “Dancing in the Parrot’s Beak” by Patrick Worth Gray
- “Weird,” “Sunday Picnic” and “Rungs” by Ray Catina
- “The Falling Rain” by Roosevelt Chapman Jr.
- “1919 until today” and “A Hill” by Thomas Dimitry
- “There Is a Difference” by David Samples
- Untitled (#3) by David L. Coxe
- Untitled (#1) by Douglas Condit
- “A Question for an Anonymous Salvadorean Poet” by Nichols S. Sands
- “Dying in the Rain” and “The Cure” by Lon R. Bruso
- “Soldier’s Prayer” by John A. Kurowski Jr.
- “Nightwalker” by Brian James Keeling
- “Another Quiet Day in Vietnam” by Chris Kruse
- “On the No Vote” by Doug Rawlings

- “Nineteen” by Joseph Miller
- “Winter Soldier” and “Dream of the Boom-Boom Girls” by Lawrence Maykel
- “I Remember” by Neil Alley
- “Death By Sniper” by Robert S. McGowan
- “Homecoming” by Jackson H. Day
- “Veteran” by John G. Healy
- “War Story #1: A Final Mission” by James Fitzroy
- “Three Years On” by Paul A. Ferraro
- “The Village of Lepers” by Frank Dumschat
- Untitled (#11) by Thomas C. Brinson
- “Helpless” by Gene C. Huston
- Untitled by Robert E. McLane
- “Private Goodrich” by Peter Ulisse
- “Point Don’t Smoke No Joint!” by Thomas Miller
- “A Winter’s Night in Phu Bai,” “Ephram” and “Silliness” by John C. Muir
- “J.D.” by Rodger C. Martin
- “Danny” by Glen D. Hager
- “Hide and Seek” by Rupert L. Wenzel Jr.
- “Flash Backs” by Daniel Rybczyk
- “River Song” by Rick Privette
- “Appreciation Day” by Billy J. Phillips
- “Boots” by George Evans
- “Earl G. – Point Man” by Peter Katopes
- “A Warning To My Students” by W. D. Ehrhart
- “Out of the Closet” by John McGuire
- “Bill’s Candle” by Vincent T. Kaspar