



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Ron Query Papers 1951-2006

Collection SWWC-098

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Query, Ronald B. (Ronald Burns), 1943-
Title:	Guide to the Ron Query Papers
Dates:	1951-2006
Abstract:	The papers of Ron Query document the author's life from his childhood, through the progression of his writing career, to his travels. Query's writings depict the intersection of white and native worlds, and he is the author of <i>Death of Bernadette Lefthand</i> and <i>Bad Medicine</i> as well as his memoir, <i>I See by My Get-Up</i> . The papers are arranged in eight series: correspondence; published works; other writings; subject files; images; audio-visual materials; artifacts, and oversized materials.
Identification:	SWWC-098
Extent:	13 Linear Feet, 26 boxes (Plus oversize.)
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical Notes

Ronald B. Querry (1943-) is an internationally-acclaimed, American author and member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Querry was in the Marine Corps during the 1960s and, after his term of service, studied English at the University of Oklahoma. Querry later earned his Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of New Mexico in 1975. His dissertation, titled “The American Prison as Portrayed in Popular Motion Pictures of the 1930’s,” examined myths and realities in twenty-one popular motion pictures. Querry has taught and lectured at colleges and universities across the United States and served as writer-in-residence at the University of Oklahoma and the Amerind Foundation in Arizona. In addition, he has taught and lectured at the Seminar in Native American Studies at Comune di Spello, Provincia di Prugia, Italy; Étonnants Voyageurs, Festival International du Livre, Saint-Malo, France; and at a chapter of PEN International in Mexico. In addition to being an accomplished author and scholar, Querry has also served as the Associate Dean of Education at the Penitentiary of New Mexico, as a rancher, and a racing official for the American Quarter Horse Association.

Of mixed Native American and European American descent, many of Querry’s writings depict the intersection of white and native worlds. He is the author of two novels, *The Death of Bernadette Lefthand*, winner of the 1993 Border Regional Library Association Southwest Book Award and the 1994 Mountains and Plains Booksellers Association Regional Book Award, and *Bad Medicine*, both of which have been translated and published in French and German. Querry is also the author of the juvenile non-fiction work *Discrimination: Native Americans Struggle for Equality*, a memoir entitled *I See by My Get-Up*, and a collection of works titled *Growing Old at Willie Nelson’s Picnic and Other Sketches of Life in the Southwest*. He has also contributed numerous articles to newspapers and magazines.

Querry lives in northern New Mexico, in a century-old Queen Anne/Victorian house with his wife--fine art photographer Elaine Querry.

(Taken from ronquerry.com)

Scope and Contents

The Ron Querry Papers consist of correspondence, manuscripts, books, literary journals, VHS and audiocassette tapes, photographs, magazines, newsprint, pamphlets, as well as memorabilia. The Wittliff Collections acquired his papers in 2009 from the author, and it covers the author's career from his childhood writings, to published works, and his travels related to his career. His wife Elaine, a photographer with whom he collaborated, is present throughout his papers. She is in both his personal letters and has contributed photographs. The papers have a strong southwestern theme, and as a registered member of the Choctaw tribe, include many materials on Native Americans.

The collection is divided into eight series. The author's correspondence comprises the first series. All material associated with Querry's published works is in the second series, which comprises the bulk of the collection. The series containing published works is further divided by correspondence, research and notes, drafts, galley proofs, final copies, and publicity, where applicable. Other writings make up the fourth series, followed by photographs in the fifth series and audiovisual materials in the sixth series. Artifacts are contained in the seventh series and oversized materials in the eighth series. Notable objects in the collection include materials related to fellow authors Larry L. King, N. Scott Momaday, and Leslie Marmon Silko; Querry's application for admission into the Choctaw Nation, and signed copies of his published works. Querry kept correspondence with several authors, photographers, translators, and presses. His letters illuminate the life of a professional writer and provide a window into Native American culture and activism.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research

Source of Acquisition

Gifts of Ron Querry, beginning in 2004.

Conditions Governing Use

Materials from the Wittliff Collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study. The user assumes responsibility for determining copyright status, obtaining permission to publish, and abiding by U.S. copyright laws.

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Preferred Citation

Ron Querry Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Physical Location

aterials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use:

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Controlled Access Headings

- American literature -- Indian authors
- Authors, American -- 20th century

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Correspondence, 1952-2004, undated

Certificates, 1953-1994

Box Folder

1	1	University of New Mexico transcript, elementary school track, Colorado State University (College of Veterinary Medicine), Border Regional Library Association, Selective Service Card, Domain of Neptune, Corrections Dept. Penitentiary of New Mexico.
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Legal, 1982-2004

1	2	Publishers correspondence (alphabetical)
1	3	Contracts, Southwest Montage, Elaine Querry book of photograph
1	4	Vicinanza Agency, John Hawkins Associates
1	5	Choctaw (includes Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood)

Financial, 1982-1999

1	6	Royalty Statements – University of Oklahoma Press, Red Crane Books
1	7	Receipts - Mexico
1	8	IRS - international matters
1	9	Financial journals

Notes/Story Ideas, 1989-1997, undated

1	10	Titled sketches (also includes 1989 journal), 1989, undated
2	1	Southwest Montage, others , undated
2	2	“Serving Suggestions” (a novel in progress), 1990
2	3	Notes for talk at PEN International and Center for Creative Photography, on writing Bernadette, others. Also correspondence for Tucson Talking Pictures

Personal Papers, 1990, 1993

2	4	Business cards, newspaper clippings, rolodex cards
2	5	Calendars, 1990, 1993

Publicity/Promotional, undated

2	6	Interview materials
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Readings, 1992-1997

2	7	Readings (chronological)
2	8	Personal reviews, 1992-1997

General, 1983-2004

2	9	D. Birchfield (Choctaw writer)
2	10	Choctaw Writer's Guild, Moccasin Telegraph
3	1	Don Watt, Craig Womack, Larry Watson, Philip Red-Eagle, Bloomsbury Review
3	2	Larry L. King
3	3	Raven Chronicles
3	4	University of Oklahoma Press, August 1990 - June 2004
3	5	Salem Press. (Primary correspondent is John Wilson)
3	6	Correspondence, 1983-1997
3	7	Correspondence with family and friends, 1985-1995
4	1	Correspondence. Texas Tech University, Center for Creative Photography, emails, 1983-1998

Conferences

4	2	Santa Fe Writer's Conference, University of Arizona Writing Works Center
4	3	American Indian Encyclopedia, Tucson College, Chicago Tribune
4	4	PEN New Mexico
4	5	Returning the Gift Indian Writers Conference
4	6	SOMOS
4	7	Western Writers of America

Foreign

5	1	Bermuda
5	2	Bulgaria
5	3	France –Danielle Laurelle
5	4	Saint Malo, ephemera
5	5	Saint Malo, event correspondence
5	6	France – Morlaix
5	7	France – Morlaix, L'Express
5	8	France - Paris
5	9	France – Publicity
5	10	France – French Photo Book Project
6	1	Germany
6	2	Germany – Publicity
6	3	Germany – Isabel Schneider Dissertation
6	4	Italy – Spello
6	5	Mexico
6	6	Mexico – Notes
6	7	Mexico – Notes and Sketches
7	1	Europe , 1995-1996

7	2	Foreign Rights
7	3	Miscellaneous

Series II: Published Works, 1980-2004, undated

Growing Old at Willie Nelson's Picnic and Other Sketches of Life in Southwest

7	4	Personal and Publisher Correspondence
7	5	Permissions
7	6	Contracts. One publishing contract with Texas A & M University Press, 1982
7	7	Notes and Receipts
8	1	Corrected galley proof with post-its attached. 162 pages plus appendix
8	2	Final copy, signed by Ron Querry, N. Scott Momaday, Larry L. King, Larry McMurtry, Kirk Purcell, Leslie Marmon Silko, William Eastlake, and Lawrence Wharton. 277 pages, 1983
8	3	Book reviews, 1983-1985
8	4	Documentation for images: fee guidelines, copies of images, and source and placement information
8	5	Photographs
9	1	Original sketch of cow eating

I See by My Get-Up

9	2	A Book of Days for the Literary Year (with Querry annotations), 1985
9	3	Personal and Publisher correspondence
9	4	Contracts, 1986, 1993
9	5	"Manuscript pieces for Get-Up"
9	6	Draft, edited by Larry L. King, with edited forward by Larry L. King. Also includes copy edit print version. 82 pages
9	7	Copy-edited manuscript. 203 pages
9	8	Final manuscript. 205 pages. Includes letter from John Nichols, July 22, 1986
10	1	Hardcover first edition. Inscription to Elaine and Ron Querry by Bill Gersh (artist commissioned to paint the cover image). Includes photograph of Bill Gersh taken by Elaine Querry. 151 pages, 1987
10	2	One paperback first edition, signed by Ron Querry. Also, one paperback reprint edition signed by Ron and Elaine Querry. , 1987, 1994
10	4-5	Book reviews, 1987-1996
10	6	Images and photographs
10	7	Photograph case

Discrimination: Native Americans Struggle for Equality

11	1	Two signed hardcover copies, 1992
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The Death of Bernadette Lefthand

- 11 2 Personal and publisher correspondence. (Correspondents include Carol Caruthers, Renee Gregorio, Richard Haywood, Jim Mafchir, and Michael and Marianne O' Shaughnessy), 1991-2001
- 11 3 Royalty statements and receipts, 1993-2004
- 11 4 Permissions, 1992
- 11 5 Contracts with Doubleday, Bantam Books, and Red Crane Books, 1989-1998
- 11 6 Research material: Newspaper articles
- 11 7 Research material: hardcover copy of When Buffalo Free the Mountains (with inscription to Ron and Elaine from "Nancy Wood"), 1980
- 11 8 Research material: hardcover copy of Bordertowns (includes tabs on particular photographs), 1988
- 12 1 First draft, titled "The Killing of Bernadette Lefthand" , 1989
- 12 2 Copy-edited manuscript with corrections. 298 pages
- 12 3 Corrected galley proof. 308 page
- 13 1 Page proofs
- 13 2 Advanced reading copy, signed by Querry, 1993
- 13 3 Hardcover copy of the first edition, signed by Querry, 1993
- 13 4 Two signed paperback copies, 1993
- 13 5 French translation, titled Le Dernier Pow Wow. Signed by "Danielle" with inscription, 1993
- 13 6 Two copies of the German translation, titled Das Kurze Leben der Bernadette Lefthand. One copy is a hardcover and signed by Querry and with inscription by Bernd Samland. The other copy is signed by Querry, 1993
- 13 7 General publicity. Includes publisher publicity, bookstore publications, Publishers Weekly articles, and other materials, 1993-1997
- 14 1 Newspaper and journal reviews, 1993-1996, undated
- 14 2 Correspondence concerning endorsements by authors, 1992
- 14 3 Review requests, 1993, undated
- 14 4 Awards ceremonies (Mountain Plains and Border Regional Library Association), book signings, and book readings, 1993-1994, undated
- 14 5 Press releases, undated
- 14 6 Publisher catalogs, 1993-1998
- 14 7 Materials for Amerind Foundation exhibit, "Imagining 'The Death of Bernadette Lefthand': A Collaboration of Words and Images," includes placard text, notes by Elaine Querry, revision to "promotional copy" by Anne Woosley, 1995, undated

Bad Medicine

- 14 8 Publisher correspondence. (Correspondents include Christine Brooks, Beverly Lewis from Bantam Books, Sharon Friedman, Peter Wilfert from Wolfgang Kruger Verlag, PEN New Mexico Publications Committee, and Chris Lotts and others at Bantam Books), 1997-1998, 2003
- 14 9 Draft correspondence. (Correspondents include Sharon Friedman and Beverly Lewis), 1997
- 14 10 Personal correspondence. (Correspondents include Tony Hillerman, Silvia Foster, and Colonel Frank Smith (Also includes Beverly Lewis memorial notice)), 1997-1999

14	11	Contracts. Bantam Books, John W. Hawkins & Associates, Inc., Ralph M. Vicinanza, Ltd., Wolfgang Kruger Verlag, and La Presses de la Cite, 1993-1998
14	12	Expenses and advances, Ralph M. Vicinanza, Ltd. and Bantam Books, 1998-1999
15	1-2	Research materials: Three VHS tapes, titled "48 Hours: In the Danger Zone" , "Hot Zone/Day 1", and "Hantavirus", 1994-1995, undated
15	3	Research material: Navajo Taboos, signed by author Eric Bulow, 1982
15	4-5	Research materials: Newspaper articles, 1990, 1993-1997
15	6	Research materials: Journal articles, 1977, 1993-1996
16	1	Research material: News bulletins from government agencies and others, 1993-1994
16	2	Miscellaneous research materials: map of Navajo and Hopi Nation, library book call numbers written on index cards, postcard from El Rancho Hotel in Gallup, New Mexico, and "How to Protect your Family from the Hantavirus" pamphlet, 1992, undated
16	3	Research materials: Notes for text, undated
16	4	First draft (includes notes for text), undated
16	5	First draft, edited by Beverly Lewis (Includes correspondence with Sharon Friedman (Ralph M. Vicinanza, Ltd. and Beverly Lewis), undated
17	1	First draft, edited by Beverly Lewis (Includes correspondence with Sharon Friedman (Ralph M. Vicinanza, Ltd. and Beverly Lewis), undated
17	2	Copy-edited manuscript. 479 pages. Includes "fictional calendar of events" and page layouts/settings copy, undated
17	3	Final draft (includes letter to Sharon Friedman), undated
18	1	Final draft (includes letter to Sharon Friedman), undated
18	2	Galley proof, undated
18	3	Signed advanced reading copy, 1998
18	4	Two signed final copies in English Paperback has note laid in from Beverly Lewis. Hardcover has a letter laid in from Christine Brooks, 1998
19	1	Signed French translation, titled La Tablette Sacrée, 1999
19	2	One paperback and one hardcover signed German translations, titled Der Tanz des Kojoten, 1999
19	3	Publicity, 1998, 2001

Series III: Other Writings, 1951-2006, undated

19	4	Childhood writings. "An early attempt at 'Autobiography'" , 1951
19	5	Dissertation. "The American Prison as Portrayed in Popular Motion Pictures of the 1930's." University of New Mexico, May 1975
19	6	Book proposal for "Getting Here and Then There" , 1987, 1991, undated
20	1	"Sketches (Mexico mainly)" - Book proposal for "Lidia" ("Bullfight novel") and "Mexico" manuscript , undated
20	2	Letters and titled sketches, 1989-1991, undated
20	3	Newspaper articles, 1977-1991

20	4	Journal and magazine articles, 1956-1995, undated
20	5	Magazine articles, 1973-1989, 2000
21	1	Unidentified articles, 1983, undated
21	2	Book reviews, 1991-1992
21	3	Contract correspondence for The Second Trail of Tears, 1991-1992
21	4	Correspondence for The Second Trail of Tears. Correspondents include Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, and others, 1991-1993
21	5	Documents concerning "Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk." Includes, letters, pamphlets, newspaper articles, flyers, and other ephemera, 1991-1992
21	6	Choctaw ephemera
21	7	Research material. 1825-1995. Photocopies of historical documents, scholarly articles, magazine articles, and handwritten notes
21	8	Research on Mississippi Choctaw. 1961, 1992. Newspaper articles and programs
21	9	Rough drafts. Chapters sent in by different authors, undated
21	10	Native Writer's Circle of the Americas. Directory and pamphlets, 1993-1995
21	11	Choctaw Nation Documents. 1903-2006. Photocopies of historical documents, applications for membership, voter registration, letters
21	12	Choctaw Nation Ancestral Documents. 1898-1906. Photocopied historical documents

Series IV: Subject Files, 1976-1977, undated

21	13	William Eastlake (annotated bibliography of Eastlake's work, rough draft of Query's introduction to the annotated bibliography, correspondence, and Eastlake's obituary), 1990-1993
22	1	Larry L. King (plays written by King), 1983-1986
22	2	Larry L. King (clippings), 1985-1994
22	3	Elaine Query. Photographs in magazines and document concerning Saint-Malo Exhibit, 1988-1990, 1997
22	4	Walk Tall America ephemera (Bowling shirt, photograph of Query, letter, and certificate), 1978-1983
22	5	American Quarter Horse Association documents, press badge, membership cards, postcard, and business card, 1976-1984

Series V: Images, 1959-2003, undated

22	6	Havana, Cuba photographs, February 1999
22	7	Brittany photographs. "Photos of Peter and Sabina (and us) on our drive through Brittany after Saint-Malo." Includes a postcard from "Sabine and Peter", 1997
22	8	"Negatives-Variou", undated
22	9	Various photographs. Includes photographs of Ron and Elaine Query, Nanci Griffith, Leslie Marmon Silko, Larry L. King, Larry McMurtry, John Nichols, N. Scott Momaday, and others, 1956-2003, undated
22	10	Redneckin': A Hell-raisin', Foot-Stompin' Guide to Dancin', Dippin' and Doin' Around in a Gen-U-Wine Country Way, with inscription, 1983

Series VI: Audiovisual Materials, 1987-1994, undated

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| 23 | 1-2 | <p>VHS tapes (5), 1987-1993</p> <p>“Books and Company” (October 1994); “Books and Company –Ron Querry, #221”; “On Assignment, #2005” (November 4 and 7, 1987); “RQ/Sherman Alexie/Annie Hausen-Reading: Seattle” (11/1992); “Houston Live,” “On Assignment,” (11/4/1987) and “Arizona Illustrated” (7/15/1993)</p> |
| 23 | 3 | <p>Audiotapes (10), 1990-1994, undated</p> <p>‘Writing the Southwest: A Radio Documentary Series’ John Nichols and Barbara Kingsolver (undated), two copies of “Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public” (1994), “Ron Querry Reading Death of Bernadette Lefthand, 5/5/1994,” “Bad Medicine, Dr. Ron Querry” (undated), “Kuat Feature with Ron Querry: ‘The Death of Bernadette Lefthand’ -Aired 6/30/1993,” “Ron Querry: Arts Upbeat and Kuat Feature-Aired 6/30/1993 Tucson,” “The Death of Bernadette Lefthand, KSFR 98.7 FM,” “Music and Lyrics: Larry L. King, 1990.</p> |

Series VII: Artifacts, 1984, undated

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| 23 | 4 | <p>Fan gifts. (Metal “Lefthand” charm, “New Age” crystal, 2 x 3 picture of native man with beaded frame), undated</p> |
| 23 | 5 | <p>Scrotal sac and photograph of castration. From Lake Ranch in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. Note with sac reads, “I believe the first one I ‘cut’ during that summer of 1984...” Photograph has quote from John Graves from “Nineteen Cows” , 1984, undated</p> |
| 23 | 6 | <p>“Personalized” Bullie Bag. Includes article from New Mexico Horse Breedertitled “Bullie for Lewis Kinhead” , August 1984</p> |

Series VIII: Oversized Materials, 1960-1997, undated

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| 25 | 1 | Headshot of Ron, taken in Dragoon, Arizona by Ann-Simmons Meyers |
| 25 | 2 | Photograph of “Ron, St. Malo, Mai 1997” by David Belicki, May 1997 |
| 25 | 3 | Group photograph of native writers at “Returning the Gift: A Festival of North American Native Writers, University of Oklahoma”, July 7-10, 1992 |
| 25 | 4 | Photograph from Medicine River Photographic Expedition, with correspondence, release forms, and a copy of Hungry Mind Review |
| 26 | 1 | Book jacket proof for Le Dernier Pow Wow (The Death of Bernadette Lefthand), undated |
| 26 | 2 | Newspapers with articles by Querry, 1960-1997 |
| 26 | 3 | Newspapers with articles related to Querry, 1963-1993 |
| Map-case 16 | | “The Night Hank Williams Died.” Signed with inscription by Larry L. King, February 29, 1988 |
| Map-case 16 | | “What Does Molly Say?” Signed with inscription by Molly Ivins, April 30, 1994 |

Map-case 16	Two copies of "The Death of Bernadette Lefthand." Signed by Ron Querry, undated
Map-case 16	Mountains and Plains Booksellers Association "Authors' Banquet" , March 19, 1994
Map-case 16	Mountains and Plains Booksellers Association "1994 Regional Book Award Winners." Signed by Ron Querry, Anna Castillo, Barbara Kingsolver, Larry Watson, Susan Lowell, N. Scott Momaday, 1994