



# The Wittliff Collections

## Guide to the Ron Querry Papers

**1951-2006**

**Collection SWWC-098**

### Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Querry, Ronald B. (Ronald Burns), 1943-
<b>Title:</b>	Guide to the Ron Querry Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1951-2006
<b>Abstract:</b>	The papers of Ron Querry document the author's life from his childhood, through the progression of his writing career, to his travels. Querry'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.
<b>Identification:</b>	SWWC-098
<b>Extent:</b>	13 Linear Feet, 26 boxes (Plus oversize.)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Repository:</b>	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; Étonnantes 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](http://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.

### 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

### 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

### 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 proofs. 308 pages

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 <i>La Tablette Sacrée</i> , 1999
19	2	One paperback and one hardcover signed German translations, titled <i>Der Tanz des Kojoten</i> , 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 Querry'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 Querry. Photographs in magazines and document concerning Saint-Malo Exhibit, 1988-1990, 1997

22 4 Walk Tall America ephemera (Bowling shirt, photograph of Querry, 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-Various", undated

22 9 Various photographs. Includes photographs of Ron and Elaine Querry, 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**

23 1-2 VHS tapes (5), 1987-1993  
 "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)

23 3 Audiotapes (10), 1990-1994, undated  
 "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.

**Series VII: Artifacts, 1984, undated**

23 4 Fan gifts. (Metal "Lefthand" charm, "New Age" crystal, 2 x 3 picture of native man with beaded frame), undated

23 5 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

23 6 "Personalized" Bullie Bag. Includes article from New Mexico Horse Breedertitled "Bullie for Lewis Kinkead", August 1984

**Series VIII: Oversized Materials, 1960-1997, undated**

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