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Ellsworth Barnard Papers

1924-2004

25 boxes (12.25 linear feet)

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Ellsworth "Dutchy" Barnard attended Massachusetts Agricultural College, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1928. Barnard began teaching college English in 1930 at Massachusetts State College. In the fall of 1957 he took a position at Northern Michigan University (NMU). As chairman of the English department, Barnard presided over a selection committee which brought the first African-American faculty member to NMU. During the 1967-1968 academic year, he led the faculty and student body in protesting the dismissal of Bob McClellan, a history professor. Although the effort to reappoint McClellan was successful, Barnard had already tendered his resignation at NMU and returned to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for the 1968-1969 academic year. He ended his career at UMass as the Ombudsperson, the first to fill that office. Barnard retired in 1973 and lived in Amherst until his death in December 2003.

Barnard's papers document his distinguished career as an English professor and author, as well as his social activism, particularly on behalf of the environment. They consist of course materials, personal and professional correspondence, drafts of essays, lectures and chapters, published works, a collection of political mailings, a number of artifacts both from the University of Massachusetts and other educational institutions and organizations, and a number of poems by Barnard and others.

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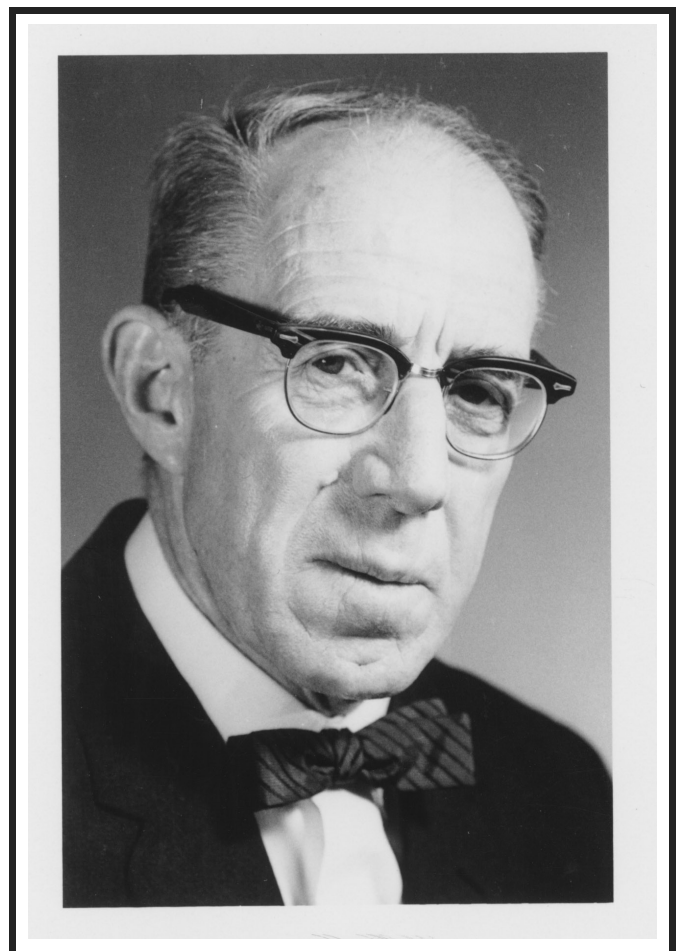
Background on Dutchy Barnard

Ellsworth 'Dutchy' Barnard was born in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, on April 11, 1907 to farmers David and Kate Barnard. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1928, he continued on for a Master of Arts (1929) and Doctorate (1935) at the University of Minnesota. He was a lifelong naturalist and birdwatcher.

While still writing his dissertation, Barnard began teaching, first at his alma mater in 1930, now renamed Massachusetts State College, and then at the University of Tampa in 1936, the same year he married Mary Taylor. After publication of his dissertation on the religion of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley in 1937, he accepted a position at Williams College, however he and colleague, Nathan Comfort Starr were dismissed in 1940 under what was considered scandalous circumstances. Barnard rebounded by accepting a position as head of the English Department at Alfred University, where he worked for nine years beginning in the fall of 1941.

A politically progressive critic of isolationist tendencies in the United States, Barnard had written in support of American entry into the Second World War as early as January 1940, and during his stint at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in the academic year 1940-1941, he spearheaded a faculty petition encouraging immediate aid for Britain and the Allies in Europe. Although rejected for military service when he tried to enlist after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Barnard taught in the Army Specialized Training Program at Alfred, instructing potential officers how to write accurate and readable reports.

The conflict with the administration that Barnard had experienced at Williams was repeated under two different



Ellsworth Barnard

presidents at Alfred, and after Barnard's refusal to swear that he was not a member of the Communist Party, he was forced out of his position in 1950. After a brief appointment teaching a summer session at the University of Rochester that year, he remained unemployed for two years, devoting his time to completing his second book, *Edwin Arlington Robinson: A Critical Study*, published in 1952.

With the completion of the Robinson book, Barnard secured a position at the University of Chicago, remaining a provocative figure in advocating for civil liberties. In his article "Communism is not the Question" (written in 1953, but published in 1955), he directly criticized the practice of barring communists from academic positions. During his three years at Chicago, he also began to build a home at High Ledges, a plot of land in Shelburne Falls that he had purchased with his wife.

After Chicago, Barnard held a one-year appointment at Bowdoin College, during which he began to explore a new and controversial system for teaching English grammar that focused on actual usage rather than specific rules, and he launched into a biography of Wendell Willkie. Moving on to Northern Michigan University in the fall 1957, he developed a system of student evaluations for professors, and remained long enough to rise up the ranks and become department chair in 1962-1963. He presided over a selection committee which brought the first African-American faculty member to NMU.

In 1961, after taking a leave of absence from Northern Michigan University for the fall of 1960, Barnard completed work on his biography *Wendell Willkie: Fighter for Freedom* (1966). Like his subject, Barnard remained politically active, leading a faculty and student protest against the dismissal of Bob McClellan, a history professor who had opposed administrative policies. Although McClellan's dismissal was avoided, Barnard had already tendered his resignation and returned home to Massachusetts to accept a position at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The latter years of Barnard's career at UMass were highlighted by continued work on Edwin Arlington Robinson and a series of self-published autobiographical works, as well as publications on teaching grammar. The last two years of his career at the University (1971-1973) were filled in the newly-created office of Ombudsman.

Even in retirement, Barnard continued to write. In 1998, the Massachusetts Audubon society published his book *In a Wild Place: A Natural History of High Ledges*, and his own Dinosaur Press issued both a collection of his poetry, *Verses in a Vanished Mode* (2002) and a posthumous collection of essays, *Don't Give Up the Fight, Ever*. Barnard lived in Amherst and High Ledges until his death on December 29, 2003.

Scope of collection

The papers of Ellsworth 'Dutchy' Barnard document his long and distinguished career as an author and professor of English, as well as his social activism and environmental conservationism. The papers contain the usual detritus of an academic career, including personal and professional correspondence, drafts of essays, lectures and chapters, published works, and course materials, along with a collection of letters to the editor (both published and unpublished), political correspondence, and a handful of artifacts. The collection is organized in 6 series: General correspondence, Subject files, Politics, Course materials, Published works, and Realia.

Series descriptions

Series 1. Correspondence

DATE
4 boxes (1.75 lin. feet)
The Correspondence consists of letters to and from Ellsworth Barnard. There are three types of correspondence in the collection. Folders labeled "Correspondence" hold letters organized alphabetically by correspondent.

While original order could not be maintained for the bulk of the correspondence, in cases where a clear grouping of correspondence on a single subject existed, the order was maintained. In cases where other material clearly relevant to the correspondence was grouped with the correspondence, the additional material was included with the correspondence.

Series 2. Subject files

DATE
8 boxes (4 lin. feet)
The Subject Files contain materials relating to specific topics grouped by subject and medium.

Series 3. Politics

1947-2003
2 boxes (0.75 lin. feet)
The politics series includes correspondence with public officials, writings on political topics and political publications and mailings.

Series 4. Course materials

DATE

2 boxes (1 lin. foot)

This series contains lecture notes, syllabi and assignments for classes taught by Ellsworth Barnard. Because the material was mostly unorganized when received, it has been organized by subject, course number and course title, depending on available identification, in alphabetical and numerical order.

Series 5. Published works

1932-2004

1 box (0.5 lin. feet)

This series includes Barnard's published books and publications with articles or essays by him. It also includes a small collection from his personal library. Below is a listing of included works.

Series 6. Realia

1994-1998

6 boxes (2.5 lin. feet)

This series consists of a variety of artifacts from Barnard's time at the university, as well as audio and video cassettes and academic scrolls.

Inventory

Series 1. Correspondence

DATE

4 boxes (1.75 lin. feet)

General correspondence

American Association of University Professors

Anderson, Paul Bunyon

Bartol, Frank

Bernstein, Melvin

Bothwell, Kay and Henry

Bowdoin, Helen

Brogan, Howard

Brown, Herbert

Bush, Douglass

Call, Reuben

Clark, Harry

Cram, Robert and Gertrude

Crane, Doris

Dennett, Tyler

Dunkelberger, Toby

Foley, Mary

Fure, Robert

Gainer, Ruth

Gray, Richard

Greason, Roy

Gurney, Louis

Hale, Morris

Harris, Helen

Hedlund, Harry

Houston, Howard

Hughes, Merritt

Laub, Herbert

Langworthy, Russ

Lund, Bruce

McLaughlin, James

Miller, William

Modern Language Association of America

Moore, Cecil

Quinn, Jack
Ryan, Alvin and Polly
Shafer, Robert
Sherman, John
Starr, Nathan
Stoddard, Herbie
Stone, Brint
Tippo, Oswald
Torrey, Ray
Wells, Carlton
Willkie family
Subject correspondence
Business
"In Sunshine and in Shadow Vol III: Life in the Ivory Tower"
Job Search
Mass Audobon- High Ledges
McClellan Controversy Case
McClellan Controversy and Honorary Degree from Northern Michigan University
Modern American Authors Memoranda
16 Modern American Authors (Later Edition)
Notes and Writings on Robert Frost
Press and Publication: Dinosaur Press
Press and Publication: "Generally Speaking"
Press and Publication: Robinson Book
Press and Publication: "Robinson's Reputation"
Press and Publication: Selected Poems by Shelley
Press and Publication: Willkie
E. A. Robinson Review
Taylor (Peace Corps) 1987-1990
"War and the Verities" and Job Search 1939-1941
"The Williams Debacle" Evidence
Series 2. Subject files
DATE
8 boxes (4 lin. feet)
Alumni (Class of 1928)
Atom Spy Case
Book Reviews
College English Association
Education
Articles
Essays
Lectures
Student Evaluations
English Language
Essays
Grammar
Lectures
Essays
By Others
Undergraduate
High Ledges
"In Sunshine and in Shadow"
Letters to the Editor
Abortion
Arab-Israeli Conflict
Atom Spy Case
William Bulger
Civil Liberties
Class

Communism
Death Penalty
Draft
Education
Environmentalism
Fair Reporting
Foreign Aid
Gender
Government Programs
Government Waste
International Agreements
Justice System
Labor Issues
Language
Literary
Marijuana
Other
Politics and Campaigns
Race
Rationing
Religion
Riots
Scandals
Taxation
Terrorism and State-Sponsored Terrorism
War
Wendell Willkie
Massachusetts Agricultural College (MAC)
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Modern American Authors
"The Nature of Things"
Newsclippings
Northern Michigan University
Poems
Bernstein, Melvin
Frost, Robert
Gatterman, Bruce
Grossman, Allen
Hecht, Anthony and John Hollander
Heyen, William
Holmes, John
Kinnell, Galway
Knapp, Lewis
MacDougal, Eveline
Other
Richer, Ted
Starr, Nathan Comfort
Tagliabue, John
Unknown
Walker, Paul
Robinson, E. A.
Essays
Term Papers
Willkie, Wendell
World War II
Series 3. Politics
1947-2003
2 boxes (0.75 lin. feet)
Subjects

Abortion
Affirmative Action
Committee on Un-American Activities
Environmental
Environment: Human Beings and Nature speech
Gun Control
National Committee for an Effective Congress
Other
Memorabilia
Correspondence
General correspondence
1947-1969
General correspondence
1970-1975
General correspondence
1976-1977
General correspondence
1978-1979
General correspondence
1980-1981
General correspondence
1982-2003
Brooke, Edward
Carter, Jimmy
Clinton, Bill
Conte, Silvio O.
Dukakis, Michael
Gore, Al
Kennedy, Edward M.
Kerry, John
McGovern, George
Presidents
Essays
Suggested Political Agendas
Series 4. Course materials
DATE
2 boxes (1 lin. foot)
Series 5. Published works
1932-2004
1 box (0.5 lin. feet)
Books by Barnard
Shelly's Religion (Inscribed to Max Goldberg)
1937
Wendell Willkie: Fighter for Freedom
1966
English for Everybody (Inscribed to Max Goldberg)
1979
In Sunshine and in Shadow: A Teacher's Odyssey
1983-1991
Volume I: A Hill Farm Boyhood
1983
Volume II: An Academic Apprenticeship
1985
Volume III: Life in the Ivory Tower
1987
Volume IV: Full Circle
1991
In a Wild Place: A Natural History of High Ledges
1998

Don't Give Up the Fight, Ever: Lectures and Essays 1930-2003

2004

Publications by Barnard (excludes book reviews)

Harper's Magazine "War and the Verities"

1940 Jan.

Vital Issues: "The Road to Peace"

1941 Aug.

Liasor: "Two New England Poets"

1944 Fall

Liasor: "That War is Never Won"

1945 Spring

College Composition and Communication: "On Teaching Teachers"

1955

Books in the collection not by Barnard

1932-1975

Dickson, G. Lowes: *A Modern Symposium*. New York : Doubleday Doren

1932

Hilton, Miriam: *Northern Michigan University: The First 75 Years*. Marquette, Mich. : Northern Michigan University Press

1975

Series 6. Realia

1924-1998

6 boxes (2.5 lin. feet)

Audiocassettes (2)

Baseball Uniform from the University of Massachusetts

ca.1928

Buckled Leather Strap with Massachusetts Agricultural College Insignia Badge

ca.1928

Eveline Sears Senior Activist Award

1998

Frederick S. Troy medal

Grade Books (Restricted until 01/01/2009)

Graduate Hood

undated

Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, Northern Michigan University

1996 Dec. 14

Mortar-board cap

Recognition of 70th Reunion Plaque, University of Massachusetts

1998 June 6

Scrolls

AAUP recognition scroll

1989 June 18

Bachelor of Science Degree, Massachusetts Agricultural College

1928 June 11

Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, University of Massachusetts

1969 May 31

Phi Kappa Phi diploma

1928

QTV Fraternity Scroll

1925 Jan. 26

Varsity Baseball Letter

1924 June 4

Videocassettes (2)

William Smith Clark Society Decorative Tile, University of Massachusetts

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Mary Taylor Barnard, widow of Ellsworth Barnard, 2004.

Related Material

Among other archival collections relating to Ellsworth Barnard are:

The Lilly Library at Indiana University holds research material related to *Wendell Willkie: Fighter for Freedom*
The University of Massachusetts at Amherst Oral History Project has an interview with Ellsworth and Mary Barnard
Mary Barnard Papers (FS 008), held in SCUA

Processing Information

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English

Copyright and Use (More information)

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Search terms

Subjects

College teachers--Massachusetts
English teachers--Massachusetts
Massachusetts Agricultural College. Dept. of English
Massachusetts State College. Dept. of English
University of Massachusetts Amherst--Faculty
University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dept. of English
World War, 1939-1945

Contributors

Barnard, Ellsworth, 1907-1993 [main entry]

Genres and formats

Photographs

Link to similar SCUA collections

Environment
Literature and language
Mass State College (1931-1947)
Oral history
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