

- [Visit](#)
- [Apply](#)
- [Give](#)
- [Search UMass.edu](#)

[Special Collections and University Archives](#)  
[UMass Amherst Libraries](#) [✉Email an archivist](#)

## Zee Edgell papers

1963-2009

(45 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 1206

- [About SCUA](#)
  - [SCUA home](#)
  - [Credo digital](#)
- [Scope](#)
- [Overview](#)
  - [Series 1. Kent State University](#)
- [Overview](#)
  - [Series 2. In Times Like This](#)
- [Inventory](#)
  - [Series 1. Kent State University](#)
  - [Series 2. In Times Like These](#)
- [Admin info](#)
- [Download](#)
  - [xml version](#)
  - [print version \(pdf\)](#)



Read collection overview

## Background on Zee Edgell

Zelma (Zee) Inez Edgell, nee Tucker, was born on October 21, 1940, on Cleghorn Street, in Belize City, the part of British Honduras (now Belize), to Clive A. Tucker and Veronica Tucker (nee Walker). She was raised in a family of nine children amid the country's growing nationalist and anti-colonial sentiments. Educated at Holy Redeemer Primary School and St. Catherine Academy, Edgell began developing a political and race-conscious attitude about Belizean socio-political practices. This awareness later shaped her literary voice and lifelong engagement with the multi-layered issues that permeated the country's history.

In pursuit of cultivating her educational praxis, she attended Regent Street Polytechnic (now the University of Westminster) in London, where she received a diploma in Journalism in 1965. Edgell credited her foundation in journalism as having contributed to her understanding of the universality of human behavior and emotions. She eventually commenced a successful career in journalism, which took her to Jamaica as a reporter for The Daily Gleaner. She later founded the Belizean newspaper called The Reporter in 1967 in Belize City. Edgell met her husband, Alvin George Edgell, shortly after, who was stationed in Belize with the developmental agency CARE. The couple married in Belize in 1968 and remained devoted partners until Alvin's passing in May 2020. Edgell and her husband had two children, Holly (1969) and Randall (1975). Shortly after the youngest's birth, Alvin's work led the family to Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Somalia. During this time of international travel, Edgell began working on her first novel, Beka Lamb. These global experiences greatly influenced Edgell's worldview and writing, thus helping to shape her creative mind. Her distance from Belize subsequently gave her a renewed and sharpened perspective on the country—its physicality, culture, and socio-political dynamics, all of which she factiously detailed in her first novel.

Zee Edgell wrote four novels over a span of 25 years, during which she built a thriving academic career as a professor of English. She first taught briefly, in two stints, at her alma mater, Saint Catherine Academy, in the 1960s and 1980s. She also served as a lecturer at the University College of Belize from 1988 to 1989. Edgell later became a tenured professor of English at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, where she taught until her retirement in 2009. In 2005, she earned a master's degree in liberal studies from Kent State. Her

role as a professor provided her with the opportunity to mentor and guide other young writers, fostering their creative writing sensibility. In recognizing her distinctive contribution to the field of literature, she received an honorary doctorate in literature at the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados, after her retirement in 2009. Though no longer with us, Zee Edgell's legacy lives on through her words, her teaching, and her international impact. The Black Feminist Archive is committed to preserving and amplifying her voice, illuminating her contributions to the development of Belizean literature and the broader global canon of Black women writers. From founding a women's workshop and reading group in Bangladesh to her filling the minds of inquisitive young writers, Zee Edgell's vision and impact remains relevant, felt, and necessary for Belize and the world.

## Scope of collection

## Series descriptions

### [Series 1. Kent State University](#)

1993-2009

1 box

This series documents Zee Edgell's academic and administrative career at Kent State University between 1993 and 2009. Materials include syllabi, course agendas, faculty meeting minutes, departmental correspondence, benefits and retirement documents, and evidence of Edgell's involvement in faculty searches and committee work. The series also contains Teaching evaluations completed by students for Zee Edgell's courses at Kent State University. These evaluations provide insight into students' perceptions of her teaching effectiveness, classroom engagement, and course content, offering a valuable perspective on her role as an educator and her impact on the academic environment. Also included in this series research awards, professional development activities, and ephemera related to university events. These records provide insight into Edgell's pedagogical approach, academic leadership, and contributions to feminist theory and post-colonial literature within the university setting.

## Series descriptions

### [Series 2. In Times Like This](#)

1980-1991

1 box

This series contains manuscript drafts, excerpts, research notes, and related materials for Zee Edgell's novel *In Times Like These*, developed primarily between 1980 and 1991. The materials trace the evolution of the novel's title, which began as *Going Home*, later changed to *Good Intentions*, before Edgell ultimately settled on *In Times Like These*. Included are multiple iterations of chapters, draft revisions, editorial annotations, and research supporting the novel's development. The series also includes newspaper clippings, reviews, and promotional materials that contextualize the novel's literary and cultural reception. These documents illuminate Edgell's creative process and the thematic development of one of her major works.

## Inventory

Series 1. Kent State University

1993-2009

1 boxes

Academic Materials

1993-1994

Box 1: 1

Syllabi from the courses Zee taught

Academic Materials

1996-2008

Box 1: 2

Tentative agendas for classes taught

Academic Materials

1993-2007

Box 1: 3

Documents chronicling Zee's career advancement at Kent State

Administrative Materials

ca. 1998

Box 1: 4

Kent State Benefits Open Enrollment

Administrative Materials

n.d.

Box 1: 5

Retirement information

Administrative Materials

ca. 2009

Box 1: 6

Zee's retirement plan

Academic Materials

1996-2003

Box 1: 7

Department of English Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting minutes

Academic Materials

n.d.

Box 1: 8

Work policy proposal

Academic Materials

1997-1998

Box 1: 9

Cover letters from applicants applying for the English Department's search for a feminist theorist

Newspapers

ca. 1995-1998

Box 1: 10

Articles on Edwidge, Danticat, and an itinerary for campus visit

Academic Materials

2007-2009

Box 1: 11

Kent State Research and Creative Activity award application materials

Academic Materials

ca. 1993

Box 1: 12

Professional Women of Kent State University acceptance letter and constitution

Academic Materials

2003 Aug 15

Box 1: 13

Ohio Board of Regents Research Challenge Program

Written Materials

1997-12-10

Box 1: 14

Hurricanes and their Impact on the Belizean Environment

Ephemera

ca. 1999-2000 & 2008

Box 1: 15

Programs from various events attended by Zee

Academic Materials

1993-1997

Box 1: 16

Certifications of file completeness

Academic Materials

2003 Aug. 25

Box 1: 17

Subcommittee Reports: Provost's Initiative on Undergraduate Writing

Academic Materials

n.d.

Box 1: 18

Materials around Zee working on her MA in Liberal studies at Kent State University

Academic Materials

ca. 1995-1997

Box 1: 19

Peer evaluation done by Zee at the request of English Department chair F.S. Schwarzbach

Publication

n.d.

Box 1: 20

"The Devil's Syllabus" by Clark Brown & "In Living Color: Race and American Culture" by Michael Omi

Administrative Materials

n.d.

Box 1: 21

Miscellaneous business information

Academic Materials

ca. 1998

Box 1: 22

Course materials for Post-Colonial Literature

Academic Materials

ca. 1994, 1997-1998 & 2003

Box 1: 23

Wick Poetry Committee meeting minutes

Academic Materials

n.d.

Box 1: 24

Miscellaneous Wick Poetry materials

Publication

ca. 2001-2002

Box 1: 25

Books of poetry from winners of the Wick Poetry Prize

Correspondence

ca. 1993-2000

Box 1: 26

Correspondence on the Wick Poetry program

Academic Materials

ca. 1998

Box 1: 27

Itineraries from Wick Poetry guest

Academic Materials

n.d.

Box 1: 28

Itineraries from Wick Poetry guest

Correspondence

ca. 1996-1998

Box 1: 29

Interdepartmental correspondence

Academic Materials

ca. 1994-1997

Box 1: 30

Student's teacher evaluations on Zee's courses

Series 2. In Times Like These

ca. 1980-1991

1 boxes

Manuscript

Box 2: 1

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft

Manuscript

Box 2: 2

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft

Manuscript

Box 2: 3

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft

Manuscript

Box 2: 4

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, chapter 51

Manuscript

Box 2: 5

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, chapter 1

Newspapers

1993 Jan.

Box 2: 6

Ude, Wayne, "Visiting ODU Writer Weaves Political and Personal Intrigue in Latest Novel"

Manuscript

Box 2: 7

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, chapter 12

Manuscript

Box 2: 8

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, chapter 10  
Manuscript

Box 2: 9

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp 178-193  
Manuscript

Box 2: 10

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, chapter 14  
Manuscript

Box 2: 11

Going Home/In Time Like This manuscript draft, pp. 61-66  
Manuscript

Box 2: 12

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 57-60  
Manuscript

Box 2: 13

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 67-70  
Manuscript

Box 2: 14

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 164-176  
Manuscript

Box 2: 15

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft

Publication  
1991 Oct. 11  
Box 2: 16

Book review of In Times Like These by Hyde, Evan  
Printed materials

Box 2: 17

panel programs  
News Clipping

Box 2: 18

"Zee Edgell's New Novel set for Double Launching"  
Ephemera

1991 Dec. 10  
Box 2: 19

Program for the Belize Arts Council and the Belize Library Association

Publication

Box 2: 20

Book review of In Times Like These by Shea, Renee Hausmann

Publication

Box 2: 21

Book Review In Times Like These by Cooper, Carolyn

Publication

Box 2: 22

Book review of In Times Like These

Publication

Box 2: 23

Book review of In Times Like These by Forster, Imogen

Publication

Box 2: 24

Book review of In Times Like These by Newson, Adele S.

Publication

Box 2: 25

Book review of In Times Like These by Shoman, Assad

Publication

Box 2: 26

Book review of In Times Like These by King, Emory

Publication

Box 2: 27

Book review of In Times Like These by Hunter, Charles T

Manuscript

Box 2: 28

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft

Manuscript

Box 2: 29

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft  
Manuscript

Box 2: 30

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft  
Manuscript

Box 2: 31

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft  
Manuscript

Box 2: 32

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, chapters 7-9  
Manuscript

Box 2: 33

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, chapters 52-53, 58-59, 64, 67-68  
Manuscript

Box 2: 34

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft  
Manuscript

Box 2: 35

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 415-446  
Manuscript

Box 2: 36

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 258-270  
Manuscript

Box 2: 37

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 426-445  
Manuscript

Box 2: 38

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 377-382  
Manuscript

Box 2: 39

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 375-376



Manuscript

Box 2: 40

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 383-423

Manuscript

Box 2: 41

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 205-257

Manuscript

Box 2: 42

Research notes for In Times Like These

Manuscript

Box 2: 43

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 522-548

Manuscript

Box 2: 44

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 156-166

Manuscript

Box 2: 45

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft, pp. 471-477

Manuscript

Box 2: 46

Going Home/In Times Like These manuscript draft

Manuscript

Box 2: 47

Research notebooks for In Times Like These

Manuscript

Box 2: 48

Excerpts from Good Intentions manuscript draft

Manuscript

Box 2: 49

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapter 30

Manuscript

Box 2: 50

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 31 & 32

Manuscript

Box 2: 51

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 35, 37-38

Manuscript

Box 2: 52

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 40-44

Manuscript

Box 2: 53

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 45, 55-57

Manuscript

Box 2: 54

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapter 15

Manuscript

Box 2: 55

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapter 33

Manuscript

Box 2: 56

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 25 & 28

Manuscript

Box 2: 57

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 5, 43 & 55

Manuscript

Box 2: 58

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapter 51

Manuscript

Box 2: 59

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 23 & 24

Manuscript

Box 2: 60

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 2-5  
Manuscript

Box 2: 61

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 52-54  
Manuscript

Box 2: 62

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 19-20  
Manuscript

Box 2: 63

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 15-18  
Manuscript

Box 2: 64

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 47-50  
Manuscript

Box 2: 65

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 6 & 7  
Manuscript

Box 2: 66

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 25-28  
Manuscript

Box 2: 67

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 13 & 14  
Manuscript

Box 2: 68

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 9-13  
Manuscript

Box 2: 69

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 14-17  
Manuscript

Box 2: 70

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 18-21

Manuscript

Box 2: 71

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 22-28

Manuscript

Box 2: 72

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 29-32

Manuscript

Box 2: 73

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 21, 23 & 24

Manuscript

Box 2: 74

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 55, 58 & 59

Manuscript

Box 2: 75

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 33-36

Manuscript

Box 2: 76

Good Intentions manuscript draft, chapters 8, 10-12

## **Administrative information**

### **Access**

The collection is open for research.

### **Provenance**

Gift of Holly Edgell, 2023.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Taelore Marsh, Dominick Braswell, and Marisa Williams 2024-2025.

### **Language:**

English

### **Copyright and Use ([More information](#) )**

Cite as: Zee Edgell papers (MS 1206 bd). Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## **Search terms**

### **Subjects**

- Belize

Special Collections & University Archives

[University Libraries](#) : [UMass Amherst](#)

154 Hicks Way : Amherst, Mass. 01003-9275

Ph. 413-545-7282 (545-SCUA)



[Email an archivist](#)

2020 [Site Policies](#) [Accessibility](#)