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Everett Hoagland Papers

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Poet Everett Hoagland was born and raised in Philadelphia and attended and graduated from Lincoln University, and later Brown University on a full fellowship for pursuing his Masters of Arts. Hoagland's poetry came of age during the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and the Black Arts Movement, and is often powerfully political. Driven by the history, music, rhythms, and both collective and individual stories from African and African American culture and experiences, Hoagland is one of the most significant African American poets of the late twentieth century. His second chapbook, *Black Velvet*, was published by the pioneering Broadside Press in 1970, and he has remained widely published and anthologized through to the present day, including a recent anthology addition, a poem about the Black Lives Matter movement. In addition to his writing, Hoagland has given readings across the nation and globe, and also served as a teacher and mentor to many, primarily in his position as a Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth for over thirty years. He has won numerous awards and honors, including a 2023 American Book Award, the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Poetry from the American Literature Association's Society for African American Literature and Culture, the Gwendolyn Brooks Award for Fiction, two state-wide poetry competitions for Massachusetts Artists Foundation fellowships, the Distinguished Service to University award from UMass Dartmouth, two MA Local Cultural Council grants for book publications, ForeWord Magazine's Best Poetry Book award, and the 2015 Langston Hughes Society Award. Hoagland also served, from 1994 to 1998, as the inaugural poet laureate of his adopted hometown of New Bedford, MA.

The Everett Hoagland Papers include manuscript materials and over twenty books documenting Hoagland's decades-long career as a poet and writer on racial politics and African American experiences. They consist of photographs, performance and presentation programs, reviews, and readings; interviews and articles; and unpublished and published writings including notebooks of drafts, copies of Hoagland's column in the New Bedford The Standard Times, a draft of his Master's thesis, short fiction stories, a scrapbook of unpublished poetry, and poetry in magazines, periodicals, Hoagland's authored poetry books, and numerous anthologies.

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Background on Everett Hoagland Papers

L to R: Sam Greenlee, Catherine Acholonu, and Everett Hoagland at the Pan-African Writers Association World Poetry Festival in Accra, Ghana, 1999

Born in Philadelphia on December 18, 1942, Everett Hoagland came of age as a poet and a writer during the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and the Black Arts Movement. He graduated with an AB from Lincoln University, a historically black university, in 1963 and began to teach English and adult literacy in Philadelphia public schools. While a senior at Lincoln, Hoagland met with one of his heroes, and fellow Lincoln man, Langston Hughes, who was meeting with student poets. Hughes reported on a couple of things that he liked about Hoagland's manuscript and gave him a few suggestions to improve. One of those poems then won the

creative writing award at the University, and over a half-century later, Hoagland would also win the Langston Hughes Society Award, a closing of the circle of his story with Hughes, whose advice had helped the young Hoagland forge his identity as a poet.

Already a published poet, Hoagland would next attend Brown University on a full fellowship, where he graduated with an MA in 1973 after submitting his thesis, a compilation of poems titled *Niggers and Flies*. Hoagland then began teaching at Southeastern Massachusetts University, now UMass Dartmouth, as a Professor of English, where he taught and mentored for thirty years.

Hoagland is one of the most significant African American poets of the late twentieth century and a significant contributor and supporter of the Black Arts Movement. His work is informed by a sense of history and struggle, and is driven by the weights of racial division, the rhythms of jazz, and both collective and individual stories drawn from African and African American culture and experiences. Broadside Press, the pioneering Black Arts press in Detroit, published Hoagland's second chapbook, *Black Velvet*, in 1970, and despite often being overlooked by academic critics, he remains widely published and anthologized through to the present day. Writer Maya Angelou described Hoagland as "someone who cares and someone who comprehends."

While the political and personal resound through Hoagland's poems, he also engages heavily with nature and the diversity and flow of the world beyond humanity. He has stated, "It's important that people know that black poets write all kinds of poems, including nature poems." A Baha'i for almost a decade, Hoagland also found in Unitarian Universalism a worldview that matched his own beliefs, particularly "the oneness-in-diversity of humanity, the interconnected web of existence, and universally equal human rights, [and] with no proscription against political activity." Believing that poems should be accessible and direct, and that poets should "distinguish themselves in the afterlife of their words" through their connections and social justice seeking action, Hoagland has worked to engage with readers and communities to evoke change and connection. An example is Hoagland's *Just Words*, a book of political poetry published in support of the New Bedford non-profit, Treatment on Demand.

Throughout his career, he has won numerous awards and honors. These include a 2023 American Book Award, the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Poetry from the American Literature Association's Society for African American Literature and Culture, the Gwendolyn Brooks Award for Fiction, two state-wide poetry competitions for Massachusetts Artists Foundation fellowships, the Distinguished Service to University award from UMass Dartmouth, two MA Local Cultural Council grants for book publications, ForeWord Magazine's Best Poetry Book award, and the 2015 Langston Hughes Society Award. Hoagland also served, from 1994 to 1998, as the inaugural poet laureate of his adopted hometown of New Bedford, MA.

Scope of collection

This collection documents Everett Hoagland's career as a poet and as a writer. It consists of manuscript materials, photographs, performance and presentation programs, posters, interviews, audio recordings, articles, and published and unpublished writings. Included are copies of Hoagland's column in the New Bedford The Standard Times, a draft of his Master's thesis, a scrapbook of unpublished poetry, and Hoagland's drafting notebooks, authored poetry books, and his poems in numerous serials and anthologies. Books and anthologies are organized chronologically.

Inventory

Articles, press coverage
ca.1970-2013

Box 4: 2

Articles, press coverage
1992-2015

Box 3: 1

Association of Afro-American Educators

1967

Box 1: 1

Bakara, Amiri

2014

Box 1: 2

Includes poetry inspired by Baraka and in his memory after his passing on January 9, 2014.

Correspondence

2002-2015

Box 1: 3

Events

14th Annual Celebration of Black Writing

1998 Feb

Box 1: 4

21st Annual MLK Jr. Celebration

2008 Jan 21

Box 1: 5

An Afternoon with Poet Everett Hoagland - Front Room Coffeehouse

2007 Feb 22

Box 4

Black History Month Poetry Reading [poster]

2002 Feb

Box 4

Black Orators: By Word and By Pen

2017 Sep

Box 1: 6

Black Poetry of the 1960s and 70s

ca.1980

Box 1: 7

Black Words Matter

2018 Jun

Box 1: 8

Boston Coalition for Freedom: Poetry and Politics
ca.2000
Box 1: 9
Drumvoices Review
2002 May
Box 1: 10
An Evening of Poetry and Song: Poems by Everett Hoagland and Vocals by Candida Rose [DVD]
2010 Aug 27
Box 1: 11
Furious Flower - 25th Anniversary Celebration - The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture
2019 Sep
Box 1: 12
The Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival
2002 Sep
Box 1: 12
Hoagland and Bassist Harold Anderson [CD]
2001 Oct 22
Box 1: 13
Hoagland Hosting a Program of Poets - Seamen's Bethel Chapel
ca.2002
Box 4: 4
International Conference on 20th Century American Poetry - Wuhan, China
2007 Jan-Jul
Box 1: 14
International Conference on 20th Century American Poetry - Wuhan, China [conference program]
2007 Jul
Box 1: 15
International Symposium on the Art, Life, and Legacy of Langston Hughes [program]
2002 Feb
Box 1: 16
Langston Hughes Centennial Conference
2002 Oct
Box 1: 17
Langston Hughes Society Award [address, photographs]
2014 Dec-2015 Apr
Box 1: 18
NAACP Freedom Fund Breakfast
2018 Jun
Box 1: 19
The Opening of the Field: A Conference on North American Poetry in the 1960s [program]
2000 Jun-Jul
Box 1: 20
Organization Development Network Annual Conference
1998 Nov
Box 1: 21
Pan-African Writers Association (PAWA) World Poetry Conference
1999
Box 1: 22
Paul Cuffe, 1795-1817, Following His Footsteps
2017 Sep
Box 1: 23
Philadelphia Black Film Festival
1973 Aug
Box 1: 24
Symphony of Just Words [CD, program, sheet music]
1998 May
Box 1: 25
UMass Dartmouth Poetry Reading
2015 Apr
Box 1: 26
Words of Life, Love, and Liberation
2013 Aug
Box 1: 27
Photographs
2003-2016
Box 1: 28
Photographs - Hoagland, Everett and son Kamel Everett Hoagland
1977-2014
Box 1: 29
Rose, Candida
2006, 2016
Box 1: 30

Includes two CDs, one a music album, KabuMerikana: The Sum of Me (2006), inspired by Hoagland's poetry; and the other a recorded interview of Hoagland by Rose (2016).

Southeastern Massachusetts University: Black Experience Brochure
ca.1977
Box 3: 2

SMU changed its name to UMass Dartmouth in 1991

Writings

Chapbooks

Black Velvet
1970
Box 1: 31

Xeroxed copy of Hoagland's first chapbook.

Black Velvet - Detroit, MI: Broadside Press
1970
Box 1: 32

First, private, printing of Hoagland's chapbook.

Scrimshaw: A Celebration of the American Bicentennial - New Bedford, MA: The Patmos Press
1967

Box 1: 33
Ten Poems - Philadelphia, PA: Lincoln University American Studies Institute
1968

Box 2: 1
Ten Poems in the Key of G - North Star Nova Press
2014

Box 5: 1
Notebooks

Notebook
2000, 2012-2016, 2020

Box 5: 2

Notebook

2008

Box 5: 3

Notebook

2008, 2019-2020

Box 5: 4

Notebook

2009

Box 5: 5

Notebook

2009-2013

Box 5: 6

Notebook

2010

Box 5: 7

Notebook

2010-2011

Box 6: 1

Notebook

2010, 2017-2019

Box 5: 8

Notebook

2011-2013

Box 6: 2

Notebook

2014-2015

Box 5: 9

Notebook

2014-2018

Box 6: 3

Notebook

2017-2018

Box 6: 4

Notebook

2017-2019

Box 5: 10

Notebook

2018-2019

Box 5: 11

Notebook

2019-2020

Box 5: 12

Notebook

2020

Box 5: 13

Reviews

"The Deathless Will to be Free," review of Amistad

1999 Dec

Box 2: 2

"Surviving Ourselves: Healing America," review of *Race Matters* by Cornel West

2006-2016

Box 2: 3

Includes the bound uncorrected manuscript of *Race Matters* read and marked up by Hoagland for his review. The book is inscribed and autographed by West.

Serials

The American Poetry Review

1975-1977

Box 3: 3

The American Poetry Review

1994-1998

Box 3: 4

The American Poetry Review

1999-2000

Box 2: 4

Black Arts Quarterly

2006

Box 4: 1

Black World

1974-1975

Box 2: 5

Blacks on Paper (B.O.P.)

1979

EH 1

Callaloo: Special Issue on Jazz Poetry

2002

Box 2: 6

Cape Cod Poetry Review Vol. IV and V

2018

EH 2

The Crisis

1999 May-Jun

Box 2: 7

Cross Cultural Poetics (Xcp) Vol. 5, 6, 8

1999-2001

EH 3-5

CRUX Literary Magazine

ca.2000

Box 2: 8

Drumvoices Review Vol. 9 No. 1-2

2000

EH 6

Essence

1991-1998

Box 2: 9

First World: An International Journal of Black Thought - Vol. 2 No. 4

1980

Box 2: 10

Indigeré: An Anthology of Future Black Arts

1978

Box 2: 11

Newspaper clippings

2000-2005

Box 4: 3

NIMROD: New Black Writing: African, West Indies, the Americas Vol. 21 No. 2

1977

EH 7

Players

1974 Nov

Box 2: 12

Political Affairs

2007

Box 3: 5

The Progressive

1999 May

Box 2: 13

Spare Change News

1999 May

Box 2: 14

The Standard Times: Bowspirit

1978 Feb

Box 3: 6

The Standard Times: City Council Racist Remark

1981 Aug-Sep

Box 3: 7

The Standard Times: Quiet as it's kept

1979-1980

Box 3: 8

The Standard Times: Quiet as it's kept
1981
Box 3: 9
The Standard Times: Quiet as its kept
1982
Box 3: 10
The Standard Times: Social Action Proposal and Resignation as Poet Laureate
ca.1992-1998
Box 3: 11
Temper: University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Annual Literary Review Vol. 21 No. 2
1992
EH 8
UU World: The Journal of the Unitarian Universalist Association
1998-2018
Box 3: 12
Unpublished

Niggers and Flies - Masters Thesis draft, pt. 1

1973
Box 2: 15
Niggers and Flies - Masters Thesis draft, pt. 2
1973
Box 2: 16
Poetry
2010-2022
Box 2: 17
Poetry scrapbook
1966 Jun
Box 4

Dedicated and given to Hoagland's mother for her birthday.

Short Fiction
ca.1974
Box 2: 18

Three short manuscripts written in the early 1970s:

- "Chittlin's, Puss'N'Boots.....Cold Duck"
- "The Good Shit of Sha"ir Izz"
- "Through the Looking Glass Lightly"

The Ways: Poems of Affirmation, Remembrance, Reflection and Wonder
2021
Box 6: 5

Draft book of poetry, with the majority of poems written 2020-2021.

Books

Hoagland, E. This City, and Other Poems. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, Inc.
1998

EH 9
Hoagland, E.Here... New and Selected Poems. Wellfleet, MA: Leapfrog Press.
2002

EH 10
Hoagland, E. Just Words? New Bedford, MA: North Star Nova Press.
2007, 2008

EH 11
Hoagland, E. The Music, and Other Selected Poems. New Bedford, MA: North Star Nova Press.
2015

EH 12
Hoagland, E. The Ways: Poems of Affirmation, Remembrance, Reflection and Wonder. New Bedford, MA: North Star Nova Press.
2022

EH 41
Anthologies

Brooks, G. (Ed.). A Broadside Treasure. Detroit, MI: Broadside Press.
1971

EH 13
Chapman, A. (Ed.). New Black Voices: An Anthology of Contemporary Afro-American Literature. New York: NY: Mentor.
1972

EH 14
Troupe, Q. & Schulte, R. (Eds.) Giant Talk: An Anthology of Third World Writings. New York: NY: Random House.
1975

EH 15
Feinstein, S. & Komunyakaa, Y. (Eds.). The Jazz Poetry Anthology. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.
1991

EH 16
Major, C. (Ed.). The Garden Thrives: Twentieth-Century African-American Poetry. New York, NY: Harper Perennial.

1996
 EH 17
 Thompson, C. (Ed.). *World Authors 1990-1995*. New York, NY: The H.W. Wilson Company.

1999
 EH 18
 Berg, S., Bonanno, D. & Vogelsang, A. (Eds.). *The Body Electric: America's Best Poetry from The American Poetry Review*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

2000
 EH 19
 Creeley, R. & Lehman, D. (Eds.). *The Best American Poetry*. New York, NY: Scribner Poetry.

2002
 EH 20
 Gouveia, J. & Stevens, J. F. (Eds.). *Dancing on Water*. West Barnstable, MA: Cape Cod Community College.

2002
 EH 21
 Hoffenberg, N. (Ed.). *The Brink*. Kerala, India: Yeti Books.

2002
 EH 22
 Gabbin, J. V. *Furious Flower: African American Poetry from the Black Arts Movement to the Present*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press.

2004
 EH 23
 Gilyard, K. & Wardi A. *African American Literature*. New York, NY: Pearson Education, Inc.

2004
 EH 24
 Rampersad, A. & Herbold, H. (Eds.). *The Oxford Anthology of African-American Poetry*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, Inc.

2006
 EH 25
 Robin, L. (Ed.). *Poetry Ink: The Tenth Anniversary Anthology*. Philadelphia, PA: Plan B Press.

2006
 EH 26
 Ho, F. & Mullen, B. V. (Eds.). *Afro Asia: Revolutionary Political & Cultural Connections between African Americans & Asian Americans*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

2008
 EH 27
 Zhenzhao, N. & Lianggong, L. (Eds.). *Our Common Sufferings: An Anthology of World Poets in Memoriam 2008 Sichuan Earthquake*. Shanghai, China: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.

2008
 EH 28
 Harris, L. & Cherkovski, N. (Eds.). *Beatitude: Golden Anniversary 1959-2009*. San Francisco, CA: Latif Harris.

2009
 EH 29
 Jahannes, J. A. *WordSong Poets: A Memoir Anthology*. Savannah, GA: Turner Mayfield Publishing Company.

2011
 EH 30
 Jones, P. C. (Ed.). *Encounters: Poems about Race, Ethnicity, and Identity*. Boston, MA: Skinner House Books.

2011
 EH 31
 Tontongi & Netchinsky, J. (Eds.). *Liberation Poetry*. Cambridge, MA: Trilingual Press.

2013
 EH 32
 Hoagland, E. (Ed.). *Ocean Voices: An Anthology of Ocean Poems*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, Inc.

2013
 EH 33
 Osayande, E. X. (Ed.). *Stand Our Ground: Poems for Trayvon Martin & Marissa Alexander*. Philadelphia, PA: FreedomSeed Press.

2015
 EH 34
 Bracey, J. H., Sanchez, S. & Smethurst, J. (Eds.). *SOS - Calling All Black People: A Black Arts Movement Reader*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press.

2015
 EH 35
 Medina, T. (Ed.). *Resisting Arrest: Poems to Stretch the Sky*. Durham, NC: Jacar Press.

2016
 EH 36
 Tuckey, M. (Ed.). *Ghost Fishing: An Eco-Justice Poetry Anthology*. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press.

2018
 EH 37
 Schultz, E. & Rice, K. (Eds.). *After Moby-Dick: An Anthology of New Poetry*. New Bedford, MA: Spinner Publications, Inc.

2019
 EH 38
 Revolutionary Poets Brigade. Hirschman, J., Curl, J. & Bailey, L. (Eds.). *Building Socialism II: Fighting Facism* San Francisco, CA: Kallatumba Press.

2021
 EH 39
 Revolutionary Poets Brigade. Bailey, L., Brown, K., Coleman, B., Curl, J. & Melander-Magoon, K. (Eds.). *Storm Warning: Poets for the Planet* Building Socialism San Francisco, CA: Kallatumba Press.

2022
 EH 40

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Donated by Everett Hoagland, April 2016 and November 2020.

Digitized content

Selected material from the Everett Hoagland Papers has been digitized and is available online through [Credo](#).

Processing Information

Processed by Blake Spitz, 2018.

Bibliography

Hoagland, E. (2004). Interview: 'The Afterlife of Words' (C. L. Walton, Interviewer). *UU World*, 18(4), 40.

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English

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- Black Arts movement
- Everett Hoagland, 1942-
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Contributors

- Everett Hoagland, 1942- [main entry]

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