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Everett Hoagland Papers

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Read collection overview

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They consist of photographs, performance and presentation programs, reviews, and readings; interviews and articles; and unpublished and published writings including notebooks of drafts, copies of Hoagland's column in the *New Bedford Standard Times*, a draft of his Master's thesis, short fiction stories, a scrapbook of unpublished poetry, and poetry in magazines, periodicals, Hoagland's authored poetry books, and numerous anthologies.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 Evrett 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
Indigéré: 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 it's 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.

2011
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.

2013
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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- Poetry--New England--Massachusetts

Contributors

- Everett Hoagland, 1942- [main entry]

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