

Denise Giardina, Author, Papers A&M 3740

Denise Giardina, Author, Papers
circa 1900-2016



Title Statement

Denise Giardina, Author, Papers A&M 3740

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Publication Statement

Publisher: West Virginia and Regional History Center

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URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu>



2010/07/14

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-06-18 13:23:11 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 3740

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/2179

Unit Date

circa 1900-2016

Language

English .

Creator

Giardina, Denise, 1951-

Extent

3.84 Linear Feet 7 document cases, 2.5 in. each; 5 document cases, 5 in. each; 1 notecard box, 3 in.; 1 flat storage box, 1.5 in.; 1 flat storage box, 1 in.

Extent

0.22 Gigabytes 56 files, formats include .txt, .doc, .docx, and .po

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift from Giardina, Denise, 2010/07/15

Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Denise Giardina, Author, Papers, A&M 3740, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Denise Giardina (1951-) was born in Bluefield, West Virginia and spent her childhood in a McDowell County coal mining camp named Black Wolf. Giardina's father and other members of her family were employed by the coal company. The mine closed when Giardina was thirteen, and her family was forced to move to Charleston in search of work.

Giardina pursued higher education at West Virginia Wesleyan College, graduating 1973 with a Bachelor's degree in History. She continued on to do graduate work at Marshall University. Giardina considered ordination in the Episcopal Church and pursued a Masters in Divinity at the Virginia Theological Seminary of Alexandria, Virginia, which she received in 1979. Giardina decided to write rather than to be ordained, publishing her first historical novel, "Good King Harry", in 1984.

Giardina's next two novels, "Storming Heaven" (1987) and "The Unquiet Earth" (1992) draw on the author's childhood experiences growing up in a coal camp and on the history of the West Virginia coalfields. Giardina has published several other novels on historical subjects. She currently teaches at West Virginia State University and serves as an ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church.

Scope and Contents

Papers of Appalachian author Denise Giardina, whose 1987 novel *Storming Heaven* received the W. D. Weatherford Award, and 1992 novel *The Unquiet Earth* received the American Book Award and the Lillian Smith Book Award for fiction. The collection includes research notebooks and draft manuscripts of her historical novels *Good King Harry*, *Storming Heaven*, *The Unquiet Earth*, *Saints and Villains*, and *Emily's Ghost*.

The collection also includes five 5.25 in. floppy computer disks containing electronic files and Giardina's notes, drafts for an unfinished and unpublished work of nonfiction entitled "The State of Appalachia", and a draft of a play about Senator Robert C. Byrd entitled "Robert and Ted." Digital files also include the script for a speech given by Giardina at a high school graduation.

Additional material pertains to her personal and professional life, covering topics including her childhood an Italian heritage, her travels, and her campaign for Governor of West Virginia in 2000.

Series include:

Series 1. Floppy Disks (undated), box 1

Series 2. *Good King Harry* (1984, undated), boxes 1-2

Series 3. *Storming Heaven* (undated), boxes 2-4

Series 4. *The Unquiet Earth* (undated), boxes 4-5

Series 5. *Saints and Villains* and *Fallam's Secret* (undated), box 5

Series 6. *Emily's Ghost* (2006-2009, undated), box 6

Series 7. Miscellaneous Manuscripts (2002-2013, undated), boxes 6-7

Addendum of 2014/06/30, *Animals* (undated), box 7

Addendum of 2016/12/15, Correspondence, Photographs, and Other Material (circa 1950-2008), boxes 8-10

Addendum of 2017/10/19, Photographs and Other Material (circa 1900-2016), box 11

Addendum of 2018/02/23, *Saints and Villains* and Other Material (circa 1979-1999, undated), box 12

Addendum of 2019/06/19, Family Records (1964-2019 and undated), boxes 13-14

Addendum of 2020/08/28, Draft and Other Material (1951-1983 and undated), box 15

Addendum of 2022/05/18, Graduation Speech Script (2022)

Keywords

Authors -- Letters and papers

Authors, American -- West Virginia

Coal miners
Coal mines and mining
American fiction -- West Virginia
West Virginia Feminist Activist and Women's History Collection
Giardina, Denise, 1951-

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Floppy Disks (box 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177984

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This series consists of five floppy disks with an attached sticky note from Giardina that identifies them as containing backups for The State of Appalachia and The Unquiet Earth.

Series 2. Good King Harry (boxes 1-2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177985

Unit Date 1984, undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2-3 (Folder)

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1-2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This series pertains to Giardina's first novel, Good King Harry (1984), a fictional re-telling of the life of Henry V of England. This series contains four notebooks: one containing research notes, the other three containing manuscript drafts. The research notebook contains news clippings, maps, and other material, some which was collected during Giardina's time studying abroad in England in 1972. The three draft notebooks contain the fourth notebook of the first draft, the first notebook of the second draft, and the last notebook Giardina used before she began to type a final version of the novel for her agent.

Series 3. Storming Heaven (boxes 2-4)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177986

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This series regards Storming Heaven (1987), a historical novel that tells the story of the coal town of Annadel, West Virginia through the eyes of its residents, culminating in the Battle of Blair Mountain. This series contains five notebooks. There are two research notebooks, the first of which is also the last notebook in Series 2. The remaining three notebooks contain draft versions of the novel. The first research notebook contains research notes, news clippings, and photocopies, most regarding labor and Charleston history, and other material. The second research notebook contains Giardina's earliest notes for Storming Heaven. The draft manuscript notebooks include the second and third notebooks of the first draft and the first notebook of a revised draft.

In the second notebook of the first draft of *Storming Heaven* (green notebook in box 3, folder 2) is an episode that was not included in the finished novel; it is titled "From the Diary of Lytton Davidson" and appears on pages 298-310.

Series 4. The Unquiet Earth (boxes 4-5)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177987

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 2-3 (Folder)

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This series regards *The Unquiet Earth* (1992), a historical novel and sequel to *Storming Heaven*. The series consists of three notebooks, each of which contains an early draft version of the novel.

Series 5. Saints and Villains and Fallam's Secret (box 5)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177988

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 2-3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This series regards *Saints and Villains* (1998), a historical novel concerning the life and death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian who was executed by Nazi Germany for crimes against the regime. This series contains two notebooks: the first containing research notes, and the other a draft version of the novel. The research notebook mostly consists of notes from a German language class that Giardina took. The second notebook also contains early notes for Giardina's subsequent novel, *Fallam's Secret*.

Series 6. Emily's Ghost (box 6)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177989

Unit Date 2006-2009, undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 1-2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This series regards *Emily's Ghost* (2009), a fictionalized re-telling of the life of Emily Bronte. This series contains two notebooks, the first containing research notes, and the second containing a draft version of the novel. Inside the front cover of the research notebook are a *New Yorker* article regarding cholera and a copy of a review of "Emily's Ghost" by Jennifer L. Holberg that was published in "Books and Culture: A Christian Review;" the review has underlining by Giardina.

Series 7. Miscellaneous Manuscripts (boxes 6-7)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177990

Unit Date 2002-2013, undated

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 3-5 (Folder)

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 1-3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This series includes manuscripts for several unpublished and unfinished works, including:

The State of Appalachia (undated), an unfinished and unpublished work of non-fiction. It consists of one notebook containing research notes and draft versions of the book.

Robert and Ted (2011-2013), an unfinished play about Senator Robert C. Byrd. Box 6 includes one typescript copy of the first draft of the first act of the play and an email authored by Giardina to a director regarding a staged reading of the play. Box 7 includes drafts 4-6 of the play; collection also includes digital files for these drafts.

Can These Bones Live? (2002). Notes for a speech created by Giardina on 25 October 2002 delivered at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, West Virginia regarding biblical stories.

Addendum of 2014/06/30, Animals (box 7)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177991

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This addendum includes both a printed and digital copy of a draft of a memoir titled Animals. This memoir recounts episodes from Giardina's life, focusing on the pets she and her family owned. She also writes about Italian immigration in WV, race relations and civil rights, life in coal camps, coal companies, her time in school, her political views, travel to England, religion, music, her mother, and her personal experience writing.

Addendum of 2016/12/15, Correspondence, Photographs, and Other Material (boxes 8-10)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177992

Unit Date ca. 1950-2008

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Scope and Contents

This addendum includes assorted professional and personal correspondence, photographs, and other material regarding Giardina's career and personal life.

Genealogical research (1884-1988)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177995

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Biographical information -- Mother

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177996

Unit Date 1939, undated

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Biographical information -- Early years (mostly clippings)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177997

Unit Date 1955-1978

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Correspondence -- Professional

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177998

Unit Date 1982-1987, 2008

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Correspondence -- Personal

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177999

Unit Date 1979-2005

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Correspondence -- Parents

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178000

Unit Date 1946, undated

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Writings -- Miscellaneous (includes Christmas story, proofs, etc.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178001

Unit Date 1970, 1989, undated

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Planner

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178002

Unit Date 1986

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Publications about Giardina (includes two interview transcripts and "Iron Mountain Review" Giardina issue)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178003

Unit Date 1993-1999

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Publications about Giardina (thesis by Cathy Pleska)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178004

Unit Date 1998

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Awards

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178005

Unit Date 1987-1993

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Programs (includes theatrical events and writers conference that Giardina was involved with)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178006

Unit Date 1998-2008

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Clippings (includes content on coal and labor issues)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178007

Unit Date 1988-2016

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Photographs (includes childhood photos)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178008

Unit Date ca. 1960s

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Photographs (includes travels to London, high school yearbook, childhood photos, Pittston strike)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178009

Unit Date ca. 1950s-1990s

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Photographs -- Bonhoeffer project

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178010

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Artifacts -- Great-grandmother's purse and eyeglasses

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178011

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Oversize clippings (includes an extensive compilation of material by and about Giardina; subjects include coal, her childhood, her work, politics, and her candidacy for West Virginia governor as part of the Mountain Party)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178012

Unit Date 1984-2016

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Addendum of 2017/10/19, Photographs and Other Material (box 11)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177993

Unit Date ca. 1900-2016

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Scope and Contents

This addendum includes Giardina family photographs, assorted correspondence, and other material.

Postcard from author Carolyn Chute

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178013

Unit Date 1985

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Note from West Virginia Governor Cecil Underwood upon mother's death

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178014

Unit Date 2005

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Publication featuring Giardina -- "Appalachian Heritage"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178015

Unit Date 2016

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Notebook -- Pittston strike

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178016

Unit Date 1989

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Manuscript narrative -- Memories of a public health nurse, by mother

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178017

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Miscellaneous (includes article regarding mother Leona [1977], article regarding "nuclear arms bazaar" that Giardina protested [1980], fan letter regarding novel Good King Harry [1986], and Giardina gubernatorial election campaign card [undated])

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178018

Unit Date 1977-1986, undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Photographs -- Youth (includes grade school, high school, and college pictures)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178019

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 7-9 (Folder)

Photographs -- Giardina with her father, mother, and brother

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178020

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Photographs -- Father

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178021

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Photographs -- Mother

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178022

Unit Date 1945, undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Photographs -- Grandfather

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178023

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Photographs -- Great-grandparents

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178024

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

Photographs -- Friends

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178025

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

Photographs -- Pet dogs Cyndy, Phyllis, and Snoopy

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178026

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

Photographs -- Miscellaneous (includes a picture with author Carolyn Chute)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178027

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)

Addendum of 2018/02/23, Saints and Villains and Other Material (box 12)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/177994

Unit Date ca. 1979-1999, undated

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Scope and Contents

This addendum includes research notes, correspondence, and other material used by Giardina in writing Saints and Villains and other material regarding Giardina's 2000 West Virginia gubernatorial campaign.

Gubernatorial campaign (contains letter from campaign treasurer)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178028

Unit Date 1999

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Grade school visit in Charleston, WV (includes messages and artwork by students to Giardina)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178029

Unit Date 1999

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Saints and Villains -- Incoming correspondence (includes three letters from readers responding to Giardina's novel; authors are Father J. Patrick Galivan, writer Annie Dillard, and Professor John Martell of Western Michigan University)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178030

Unit Date 1999

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Saints and Villains -- Notebook (labeled "Sophie and Dietrich," includes notes regarding a Bonhoeffer conference, among other material)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178031

Unit Date 1985, undated

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Saints and Villains -- Notebook (floral cover, research notes recorded during trip to Europe)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178032

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Saints and Villains -- Notebook (green cover, includes two pages on places in England and three pages of "first draft")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178033

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Saints and Villains -- Clipping regarding Bonhoeffer (in an issue of "Sojourners")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178034

Unit Date 1979

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Saints and Villains -- "Early notes" (seven pages of typescript notes by Giardina)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178035

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Saints and Villains -- Photographs (research photos by Giardina)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178036

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Saints and Villains -- Postcards from Germany, Flossenbergr brochure

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178037

Unit Date 1984, undated

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Saints and Villains -- Maps of Germany and Berlin, Ettal travel booklet

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/178038

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Addendum of 2019/06/19, Family Records

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/212633

Unit Date 1964-2019 and undated

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Mixed Materials 14 (Box)

Scope and Contents

This addendum includes family records, letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs, as well as several middle and high school literature awards, newspaper columns, and scrapbooks. Also included is a draft of "Storming Heaven."

Addendum of 2020/08/28, Draft and Other Material

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/212634

Unit Date 1951-1983 and undated

Mixed Materials 15 (Box)

Scope and Contents

This addendum consists of assorted certificates, photographs, papers, newspaper clippings, and the first draft of "Storming Heaven."

Addendum of 2022/05/18, Graduation Speech Script

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/212809

Unit Date 2022

Scope and Contents

This addendum consists of a script written for a high school graduation speech Giardina gave in 2022.