

**Frederick Nicklaus Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm97084027>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009264>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2009  
Revised 2023 September

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Frederick Nicklaus Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1940-1999

**Bulk Dates:** 1973-1993

**ID No.:** MSS84027

**Creator:** Nicklaus, Frederick, 1936-1993

**Extent:** 1,150 items

**Extent:** 6 containers

**Extent:** 2.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm97084027>

**Summary:** Poet and editor. Correspondence, articles, clippings, notes, photographs, printed matter, and writings relating primarily to Nicklaus's poetry and personal life, with a small amount pertaining to his literary contemporaries.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Benzaquen, Rachel--Correspondence.

Bowles, Paul, 1910-1999--Correspondence.

Ferguson, Howard, 1908-1999--Correspondence.

Griffin, Howard, 1915-1975--Correspondence.

Hayes, Dorsha.

Klausner, Bertha, 1901-1998--Correspondence.

Leavitt, Richard F., World of Tennessee Williams. 1978.

Maxwell, Gilbert, 1910-1979.

Nicholl, Louise Townsend--Correspondence.

Nicklaus, Frederick, 1936-1993.

O'Connor, Francis V.--Correspondence.

Rutledge, Harry C.--Correspondence.

Thomas, Dylan, 1914-1953.

Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983.

Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983. World of Tennessee Williams. 1978.

### Subjects

Alcoholism.

American poetry.

Editing.

Poetry.

Publishers and publishing.

Travel.

### Occupations

Editors.

Poets.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Frederick Nicklaus were given to the Library of Congress as separate gifts by Rachel Benzaquen, James Nicklaus, Francis V. O'Connor, and Harry C. Rutledge in 1997. Additional items were given by Rachel Benzaquen in 2000 and James Nicklaus in 2005.

## Processing History

The papers of Frederick Nicklaus were arranged and described by Donna Ellis in 2002. The finding aid was encoded by Glenn R. Gardner in 2009. An addition was processed and the finding aid revised by Rachel McNellis in 2023.

## Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Two audiocassettes of Nicklaus's poetry readings have been transferred to the Recorded Sound Section of the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center. Books have been transferred to the Rare Books and Special Collections Divisions. Periodicals have been transferred to the Serial and Government Publications Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Frederick Nicklaus Papers. Patrons are encouraged to contact these divisions in advance of a research visit.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Frederick Nicklaus in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Frederick Nicklaus are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Frederick Nicklaus Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1936, Jan. 19	Born, Columbus, Ohio
1957	B.F.A., art history, Ohio State University
1958-1960	Editorial assistant, Simon & Schuster
1962-1964	Traveled with Tennessee Williams to Europe, Mexico, and Morocco
1964	Published <i>The Man Who Bit the Sun: Poems</i> . New York: New Directions
1964-1966	Editor, Twayne Publishers
1966-1972	Editor, Columbia University Press
1971	Published <i>Cut of Noon</i> . New York: David Lewis
1978	Fiction manuscript reader, Bertha Klausner International Literary Agency
Late 1970s	Poetry advisor, Asia Society publication program
1980	Fellow, MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, N.H.
1993, Mar. 23	Died, Columbus, Ohio

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Frederick Nicklaus span the years 1940-1999 and consist of correspondence, notes, photographs, printed matter, and writings. The correspondence contains both incoming and outgoing letters with Nicklaus covering a variety of topics such as alcoholism, foreign travel, the publishing and editing business, poetry composition, his work with Tennessee Williams, and other professional associations. Correspondents include Rachel Benzaquen, Paul Bowles, Howard Ferguson, Howard Griffin, Francis V. O'Connor, and Harry C. Rutledge. The index of correspondents was created by Harry C. Rutledge. The notes were written primarily by Francis V. O'Connor and document his interactions with Nicklaus. The writings consist of Nicklaus's published and unpublished poetry.

The 2023 Addition is comprised of book inscriptions, clippings, correspondence, photographs, printed matter, and writings. The correspondence includes letters to Nicklaus regarding his poetry and personal matters as well as condolence letters written to his brother, James Nicklaus. Correspondents include Rachel Benzaquen, Howard Ferguson, Harry C. Rutledge, Bertha Klausner, and Louise Townsend Nicholl. The subject files contain correspondence, articles, clippings, notes, poetry drafts, and event programs pertaining to individual writers and artists, including Dorsha Hayes, Gilbert Maxwell, and Dylan Thomas. The writings consist of Nicklaus's published and unpublished poetry, as well as texts by other authors that were inscribed, dedicated, or bequeathed to him. A copy of *The World of Tennessee Williams* signed by Richard Leavitt and Tennessee Williams is notable. An additional file of photocopied inscriptions from books in Nicklaus's personal collection further illustrates his broad network of literary connections.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1955-1981 (10 folders)
BOX 2	1982-1993, 1999, undated (7 folders)
BOX 2	Index of correspondents, undated
BOX 2	Notes, 1961, 1973-1993, undated (3 folders)
BOX 3	Photographs, 1953, 1963-1989, undated
BOX 3	Printed matter, 1964-1980, undated
BOX 3	Writings
BOX 3	Database of poems, 1973-1984
BOX 3	<i>The Double-Hearted Rose</i> , 1993
BOX 3	"The Glass and the Hour," 1990, 1997
BOX 3	"The Hunting Flight," 1975-1978
BOX 3	Miscellaneous poems, 1973-1989, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	<i>New York Times</i> , 1967, undated
BOX 3	<i>Pivot</i> (periodical), 1983-1990
BOX 3	The "Rachel" poems, 1973-1991
BOX 3	"Running Sleep," 1975-1981
BOX 3	"Snow Blindness," undated
	2023 Addition
BOX 4	Book inscriptions, 1944-1953, 1966-1978, 1985
BOX 4	Correspondence, 1962-1993, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1955-1956, 1964-1965, 1979, 1985, 1997, undated
BOX 4	Photographs, 1940, 1959-1989, undated
BOX 4	Publication contract for "Strong Toothed Skull of a Calf," 1963
BOX 4	Subject files
BOX 4	Bacon, Francis, 1961, 1990, undated
BOX 4	Claytor, Gertrude, 1959-1960, 1969-1973, undated
BOX 4	Hayes, Dorsha, 1972-1975, 1985-1986, undated
BOX 4	Hugo, Richard, 1975, 1984, undated
BOX 4	Kennedy, Mary, 1968, 1987, undated
BOX 4	Maxwell, Gilbert, 1965-1981, 1991, undated
BOX 4	Sullivan, A. M. (Aloysius Michael), 1970-1971, 1980-1981, undated
BOX 4	Thomas, Dylan, 1955, 1964, 1982, undated
BOX 4	Young, Vernon, 1971, 1981-1986, undated
BOX 4	Writings by Nicklaus
BOX 4	<i>American Weave: A Literary Journal</i> , 1965-1966
BOX 4	<i>Aetaeus</i> (periodical), 1971 Spring

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 4	"Burning of Pears," 1965
BOX 5	<i>Counterpoint</i> (periodical), 1956-1957
BOX 5	<i>Epos: A Quarterly of Poetry</i> , 1959 Summer
BOX 5	<i>Fiddlehead</i> (periodical), 1960 Winter
BOX 5	<i>Hawk &amp; Whippoorwill</i> (periodical), 1963 Winter
BOX 5	<i>The Kinsman</i> (periodical), 1961 Winter
BOX 5	<i>The Lyric</i> (periodical), 1961 Fall
BOX 5	<i>The Man Who Bit the Sun</i> , 1958-1965
BOX 5	Miscellaneous poems, 1991, undated
BOX 5	<i>New Directions in Prose and Poetry</i> 20 (periodical), 1968
BOX 5	<i>Pivot</i> (periodical), 1983-1990 (3 folders)
BOX 5	<i>Prairie Schooner</i> (periodical), 1959-1960
BOX 5	"The Pumice Edge," undated
BOX 6	<i>Voices: A Journal of Poetry</i> , 1958-1963 (3 folders)
BOX 6	Writings by others
BOX 6	Benzaquen, Rachel, "The City of Birds," 1994
BOX 6	Bowles, Paul, <i>Next to Nothing</i> , 1976, 1982 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Jennings, Leslie Nelson, <i>Milk Talk and Other Poems</i> , 1949, 1969-1972
BOX 6	Leavitt, Richard F., ed., <i>The World of Tennessee Williams</i> , 1978
BOX 6	Pendleton, Conrad, "Not Tonics Against Despair," 1965
BOX 6	Rutledge, Harry C., "The Guernica Ball: Studies in the Classical Tradition in the Twentieth Century," 1985