

**Ai Ogawa Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2022**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2022086481>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms022016>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2022  
Revised 2024 May

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Ai Ogawa Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1820-2010

**Bulk Dates:** 1989-2009

**ID No.:** MSS86481

**Creator:** Ogawa, Ai, 1947-2010

**Extent:** 18,000 items

**Extent:** 51 containers plus 3 oversize

**Extent:** 21.8 linear feet

**Extent:** 18 digital files (1.78 GB)

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2022086481>

**Summary:** Poet, author, and educator. Correspondence, writings, subject files, research files, photographs, posters, negatives, slides, notebooks, notes, financial and legal papers, student papers, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other material in both physical and digital formats pertaining chiefly to Ogawa's career as a poet and professor.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Ai Ogawa were given to the Library of Congress by Ai's sister, Roslynn M. O'Caroll, in 2022.

## Custodial History

After Ai's unexpected death in 2010, her personal papers were boxed and placed in storage at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater, Oklahoma, until a repository was selected.

## Processing History

The papers of Ai Ogawa were arranged and described by Connie L. Cartledge with the assistance of Miles David Lawlor in 2022. The collection came to the Library with very little order. The papers were sorted and arranged into series to improve their navigation.

Digital files were received as part of the Ai Ogawa Papers on compact discs, each of which was assigned a unique digital ID number. Use the digital ID number to request access copies of the files associated with each media. A description of the standard processes taken on all born digital records can be found in the Processing History Note: Born Digital Collection Material at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.digital>.

## Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Sound recordings and a videodisc have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Broad sides have been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Journals have been transferred to the Serial and Government Publications Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Ai Ogawa Papers. Patrons are encouraged to contact these divisions in advance of a research visit.

## Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Ai Ogawa 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 Ai Ogawa are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Access to digital content is available onsite only in the Manuscript Reading Room and requires advanced notice. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

## Technical Requirements

Digital files were created in a Windows operating system, version unknown. The content includes a .txt file in plain text format, .dbf file in dBase III format, and audio files in .wav format. A moving image file, originally in CD-ROM/XA format, was converted to QuickTime format for access purposes. The files can be accessed with a standard file viewer. Files with a .VCD extension are not accessible with the current available tools.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or digital ID number, Ai Ogawa Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1947, Oct. 21	Born, Albany, Tex., as Florence Leah Anthony
1969	B.A., Oriental studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. Began using "Ai" as a pen name
1971	M.F.A., University of California, Irvine, Calif.
1973	Published <i>Cruelty; Poems</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin Changed name legally to Pelorhankhe Ai L'Heah Ogawa
1973-1974	Visiting instructor, Binghamton University, State University of New York, Binghamton, N.Y.
1976	Married Lawrence M. Kearney (divorced 1984)
1976-1977	Assistant professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.
1977-1978	Assistant professor, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.
1978	Awarded the Lamont poetry selection for <i>Killing Floor: Poems</i> by the Academy of American Poets
1979	Published <i>Killing Floor: Poems</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1981	Writer in residence, The Writer's Community, New York, N.Y. Writer in residence, George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.
1986	Published <i>Sin: Poems</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1987	Received the American Book Award for <i>Sin: Poems</i>
1987-1988	Visiting poet, George Mason University Visiting poet, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.
1988-1989	Visiting associate professor, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz.
1990	Visiting poet, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.
1991	Published <i>Fate: New Poems</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin Writer in residence, The Writer's Voice Project
1993	Published <i>Greed</i> . New York: W.W. Norton
1994-1998	Wrote "Black Blood: A Tale of Love, Death, Race, and Sex" (unpublished novel)
1996-1997	Visiting associate professor of English, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.
1998-1999	Substitute teacher, Tucson School District, Tucson, Ariz.
1999	Published <i>Vice: New and Selected Poems</i> . New York: W.W. Norton Awarded National Book Award for <i>Vice: New and Selected Poems</i>

1999-2010	Professor, Creative Writing Program, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla.
2000-2001	Vice president, Native American Faculty and Staff Association, Oklahoma State University
2001-2002	President, Native American Faculty and Staff Association, Oklahoma State University
2002-2003	Visiting chair, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Tex.
2003	Published <i>Dread</i> . New York: W.W. Norton
2004-2005	Vice president, Native American Faculty and Staff Association, Oklahoma State University
2010, Mar. 10	Died, Stillwater, Okla.
2010	Publication of <i>No Surrender</i> . New York: W.W. Norton

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Pelorhankhe Ai L'Heah Ogawa (1947-2010) span the years 1820-2010, with the bulk of the material dating from 1989 to 2009. Born Florence Leah Anthony, Ai legally changed her name in 1973 and preferred to use only the name Ai. The collection documents Ai's career as a poet, author, and educator. The papers are in English. The collection is arranged into six series: [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Oklahoma State University File](#), [Research File](#), [Writings File](#), and [Oversize](#).

The collection is not comprehensive. In a 1996 PEN America application for financial assistance, Ai commented that she had been unable to find a job since 1989, which forced her to sell her papers and other valuables to offset financial difficulties. This collection documents primarily Ai's work as a writer and professor. Ai was known for using dramatic monologues to explore topics such as poverty, rape, incest, sex, and murder. By focusing on these topics and giving voice to the marginalized, Ai changed American poetry by making it a more realistic depiction of the harsher aspects of American culture and society. The bulk of the papers relate to Ai's writings, including poetry, novels, memoirs, and research material for a memoir/family history about her multi-racial heritage, particularly her Native American ancestry. Also represented are files relating to Ai's academic teaching career with the largest group of files pertaining to her tenured professorship at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma (1999-2010). The collection features Ai's relationships and collaborations with poets, authors, academics, editors, publishers, and celebrities, among them Charles Apfelbaum, Sandra Cisneros, Willem Dafoe, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, Galway Kinnell, Annie Leibovitz, Chip Livingston, Edward Putzar, and W.W. Norton & Company.

The collection's series are listed and briefly described below. A fuller description of each series and a list of its contents can be accessed in the series descriptions within the container list.

The [Correspondence](#) series chronicles Ai's activities and interests chiefly between 1989 and 2009 and consists mainly of incoming letters and printed emails from editors, publishers, academics, poets, authors, friends, acquaintances, and the public.

The [Subject File](#) series documents Ai's varied interests and activities.

The [Oklahoma State University File](#) series focuses on Ai's tenure as a professor of creative writing from 1999 to 2010 and her role as vice president and later president of the Native American Faculty and Staff Association while at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater.

The [Research File](#) series contains Ai's research for a memoir and historical study about her Native American, white, and African American ancestry.

The [Writings File](#) series makes up almost one third of the collection and documents Ai's writings in various forms, including poetry, novels, memoirs, plays and teleplays, and editorial work for magazines.

The [Oversize](#) series is comprised of posters, calendars, magazines, broadsides, and a photograph portrait of Ai.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Correspondence, 1969-2010](#)

- [Subject File, 1969-2010](#)
- [Oklahoma State University File, 1973-2010](#)
- [Research File, 1820-2010](#)
- [Writings File, 1971-2009](#)
- [Oversize, 1976-2003](#)

## 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

Ai, 1947-2010  
 Ai, 1947-2010. Ai papers. 1820-2010.  
 Ai, 1947-2010. Black blood: A tale of love, death, race, and sex.  
 Ai, 1947-2010. Fate: new poems. 1991.  
 Ai, 1947-2010. Greed. 1993.  
 Ai, 1947-2010. Sin : poems. 1986.  
 Apfelbaum, Charles.  
 Cisneros, Sandra.  
 Custer, George A. (George Armstrong), 1839-1876.  
 Dafoe, Willem.  
 Kennedy, John F., Jr., 1960-1999.  
 Kinnell, Galway, 1927-2014.  
 Livingston, Chip.  
 Ogawa, Michael.  
 Presley, Elvis, 1935-1977.  
 Putzar, Edward.  
 Smith family.

### Organizations

Houghton, Mifflin and Company.  
 Native American Faculty and Staff Association.  
 Oklahoma State University--Faculty.  
 W.W. Norton & Company.

### Subjects

American literature.  
 American poetry.  
 Avarice in literature.  
 Creative writing--Study and teaching.  
 Detective and mystery fiction.  
 Fashion.  
 First person narrative.  
 Incest in literature.  
 Indian allotments.  
 Indians of North America--Census.  
 Indians of North America--Ethnic identity.  
 Indians of North America--Poetry.  
 Indians of North America--Social conditions.  
 Indians of North America--Social life and customs.  
 Indians of North America--Societies, etc.  
 Indians of North America--Wars.  
 Literature.  
 Massacres--United States.

Monologues.  
Motion pictures.  
Multiculturalism--United States.  
Murder in literature.  
Poetry.  
Poverty in literature.  
Race in literature.  
Race.  
Rape in literature.  
September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001.  
Sex in literature.

**Places**

Arapaho Tribe.  
Cheyenne Tribe.  
United States--Census.  
United States--History--20th century.  
United States--History--21st century.  
United States--Race relations--20th century.  
United States--Race relations--21st century.  
United States--Social conditions--20th century.  
United States--Social conditions--21st century.  
United States--Social life and customs--20th century.  
United States--Social life and customs--21st century.

**Occupations**

Authors.  
Educators.  
Poets.

## Description of Series

**Container**  
BOX 1-6

**Series**  
**Correspondence, 1969-2010**

The Correspondence series chronicles Ai's activities and interests chiefly between 1989 and 2009 and consists mainly of incoming letters and printed emails from editors, publishers, academics, poets, authors, friends, acquaintances, and the public. The majority of the letters are from editors and publishers requesting poems for journals or anthologies and invitations asking Ai to give poetry readings or to lead workshops. The correspondence reflects Ai's many relocations to find employment and provides a glimpse of the financial struggles she experienced throughout much of her life. Also present are letters from friends and colleagues conveying news about family, mutual friends, and their professional activities. Some letters from poets and authors include attachments of their writings or clippings about their work. Correspondents include Charles Apfelbaum, Galway Kinnell, Chip Livingston, and Edward Putzar.

Material types include letters, memoranda, cards, printed email, and digital files.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or type of material. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.

BOX 6-13

**Subject File, 1947-2010**

The Subject File series documents Ai's varied interests and activities. The biographical file, financial and legal files, and job search files chronicle Ai's monetary problems and reveal that, although an award-winning poet, she had to work persistently to market herself for academic teaching positions. The biographical file contains curricula vitae as well as vignettes (located in the undated chronological file and *Contemporary Authors* file) by Ai that provide information about her early life, insight about how she began writing poetry, and her discovery in 1973 that her biological father was Michael Ogawa, a Japanese man with whom her mother had an affair. As a way to claim Ogawa as her father, Ai legally changed her name in 1973 to Pelorhankhe Ai L'Heah Ogawa, which is documented in the financial and legal file.

The Subject File also documents Ai's penchant for saving clippings and articles about individuals and topics that interested her or inspired her writing, including Willem Dafoe, John F. Kennedy Jr., Elvis Presley, and the September 11 Terrorist Attacks in 2001. Dafoe was the inspiration for Ai's book *Fate: New Poems*. The Willem Dafoe folder contains a few letters between them discussing her book dedication to him, as well as a note from Annie Leibovitz mentioning Dafoe with an attached postcard of Leibovitz's photograph of him. Clippings and articles in the printed matter files also reflect Ai's interest in movies, mystery novels, fashion, and current events.

The Subject File series also includes a few files relating to Ai's teaching career at colleges and universities. From 1996 to 1997, Ai served as visiting associate professor of English at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado. The University of Colorado files include an age discrimination complaint filed by Ai. She, however, did not reply to subsequent letters from investigating officials requesting additional information, and the complaint was dismissed. Material relating to her tenured professorship at the University of Oklahoma at Stillwater, Oklahoma (1999-2010), is located in the Oklahoma State University File series.

The visual materials feature photographs of Ai (including her wedding to Lawrence M. Kearney in 1979), her family, her friends, her cats, and an assortment of snapshots. Some home photographs include Ai's desk and provide a glimpse of the surrounding items from which she drew inspiration.

Material types include correspondence, memoranda, notebooks, notes, financial and legal papers, address books, business cards, college transcripts, postcards, photographs, slides, negatives, contact sheets, student papers, evaluations, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of material.

BOX 13-22

**Oklahoma State University File, 1973-2010**

The Oklahoma State University File series focuses on Ai's tenure as a professor of creative writing from 1999 to 2010 and her roles as vice president and president of the Native American Faculty and Staff Association (NAFSA) while at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater. The bulk of the files comprises student papers, including one digital file, written for Ai's creative writing classes. Many of the student papers include Ai's handwritten comments. Class assignments, course readings, and syllabi files provide insight on Ai's approach to teaching. Also present is material pertaining to her participation as a NAFSA officer. The association was established to assist Native American students, faculty, and staff in discussing issues of concern and serve as a liaison between them and the university administration. This series includes documentation about NAFSA's scholarship program, which awarded scholarships to Native American students based on their academic performance.

Material types include correspondence, memoranda, printed email, photocopies of course readings, class assignments, syllabi, evaluations, student papers, exams, posters, newspaper clippings, printed matter, digital files, and other material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, topic, or type of material. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.

BOX 22-38

**Research File, 1820-2010**

The Research File series contains Ai's research for a memoir and historical study about her Native American, white, and African American ancestry. She described the project as a memoir that "evolved into a memoir/tribal history involving the Indian Wars, [George A.] Custer, massacres . . ." and a "meditation on race in America." Although she utilized some of this research in her poetry, she did not live to complete the memoir/history. The majority of the files consist of Cheyenne Tribe and Arapaho Tribe allotment records, United States census records, United States Indian census schedules, and research and notes relating to the Smith family, her mother's ancestors. An item of note is a grant application (May 10, 1999) in which Ai describes her writing, including her use of dramatic monologues, her focus on character, her fascination with good and evil, and the changes in her writing over time.

Material types include correspondence, memoranda, printed email, allotment records, notes, notebooks, maps, photographs, grant applications, newspaper clippings, printed matter, digital files, and other material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of family, topic, or type of material. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.

BOX 38-51

**Writings File, 1971-2009**

The Writings File series makes up almost one third of the collection and documents Ai's writings in various forms, including poetry, novels, memoirs, plays and teleplays, and editorial work for magazines. Although Ai wrote first drafts in longhand, the Writings File contains only a few handwritten drafts with the bulk of the files comprised of typescripts and manuscript proofs.

Most of the poetry files consist of manuscripts and other materials for Ai's books, although two collections of untitled poems and individual poems in various forms (handwritten, typescripts, proofs, and published) are also present. While the majority of Ai's writings are written in the first person, they are not autobiographical. She took on the personae of historical figures or fictional persons using strong language and vivid images to convey her narrative. In later years, however, Ai wrote two poems relating to herself and her family, "Baby Florence: AKA Ai Coming Through Fire" (from *No Surrender*) and "The Saga of Charlie Smith" (from *Dread*). Also pertaining to her family and documented in the Writings



File is Ai's unpublished novel "Black Blood: A Tale of Love, Death, Race, and Sex." The plot is based loosely on the suspicious death of her cousin, a young man accidentally shot while in the home of a young white girl in 1961. Although Ai revised the novel several times, it was never published.

Also featured in the Writings File are notebooks that include poetry, jottings of ideas for poems and projects, to do lists, and occasionally drawings. A drawing in Ai's 1992 notebook reveals her distress when the poetry editor at Houghton, Mifflin and Company described her book *Greed* as pornographic and not appropriate for them. The second part of the drawing displays Ai's triumph with W.W. Norton & Company welcoming the book for publication. The Writings File also includes material relating to Ai's readings, talks, and workshops about poetry.

Material types include correspondence, poems, book drafts, novels, plays and teleplays, notebooks, reviews, notes, broadsides, short stories, blurbs, posters, royalty statements, permission requests, business cards, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other material.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

**BOX OV 1-OV 3**

**Oversize, 1976-2003**

The Oversize series is comprised of posters, calendars, magazines, broadsides, and a photograph portrait of Ai.

Listed and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the material was separated. The items are physically grouped and housed by size.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-6	<p><b>Correspondence, 1969-2010</b></p> <p>The Correspondence series chronicles Ai's activities and interests chiefly between 1989 and 2009 and consists mainly of incoming letters and printed emails from editors, publishers, academics, poets, authors, friends, acquaintances, and the public. The majority of the letters are from editors and publishers requesting poems for journals or anthologies and invitations asking Ai to give poetry readings or to lead workshops. The correspondence reflects Ai's many relocations to find employment and provides a glimpse of the financial struggles she experienced throughout much of her life. Also present are letters from friends and colleagues conveying news about family, mutual friends, and their professional activities. Some letters from poets and authors include attachments of their writings or clippings about their work. Correspondents include Charles Apfelbaum, Galway Kinnell, Chip Livingston, and Edward Putzar.</p> <p>Material types include letters, memoranda, cards, printed email, and digital files.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of person or type of material. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.</p>
BOX 1	Apfelbaum, Charles, and Lois Apfelbaum, 1992-2009 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Chronological file
BOX 1	1976-1992 (8 folders)
BOX 1	1993, Jan.-July (3 folders)
BOX 1	1993, Aug.-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 2	1994-1997 (12 folders)
BOX 3	1998-2001 <i>See also Container OV 2, Posters, National Poetry Month</i> (16 folders)
BOX 4	2002-2003 (9 folders)
DF	2001, "The Trip," video created by Russ Barnes and Dean Schaller, featuring Schaller and filmed in California; media with video attached to a 2002 letter from Barnes <b>Digital ID:</b> mss86481_276_001
BOX 4	2004, Jan.
BOX 5	2004, Feb.-Nov. (3 folders)
BOX 5	2005-2009 (8 folders)
BOX 6	2010
BOX 6	Undated (7 folders)
BOX 6	Kinnell, Galway, 1969-1970, 1981, 1994, undated

## Correspondence, 1969-2010

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 6 Livingston, Chip, 1998-2007, undated  
(4 folders)

BOX 6-13 **Subject File, 1947-2010**

The Subject File series documents Ai's varied interests and activities. The biographical file, financial and legal files, and job search files chronicle Ai's monetary problems and reveal that, although an award-winning poet, she had to work persistently to market herself for academic teaching positions. The biographical file contains curricula vitae as well as vignettes (located in the undated chronological file and *Contemporary Authors* file) by Ai that provide information about her early life, insight about how she began writing poetry, and her discovery in 1973 that her biological father was Michael Ogawa, a Japanese man with whom her mother had an affair. As a way to claim Ogawa as her father, Ai legally changed her name in 1973 to Pelorhankhe Ai L'Heah Ogawa, which is documented in the financial and legal file.

The Subject File also documents Ai's penchant for saving clippings and articles about individuals and topics that interested her or inspired her writing, including Willem Dafoe, John F. Kennedy Jr., Elvis Presley, and the September 11 Terrorist Attacks in 2001. Dafoe was the inspiration for Ai's book *Fate: New Poems*. The Willem Dafoe folder contains a few letters between them discussing her book dedication to him, as well as a note from Annie Leibovitz mentioning Dafoe with an attached postcard of Leibovitz's photograph of him. Clippings and articles in the printed matter files also reflect Ai's interest in movies, mystery novels, fashion, and current events.

The Subject File series also includes a few files relating to Ai's teaching career at colleges and universities. From 1996 to 1997, Ai served as visiting associate professor of English at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado. The University of Colorado files include an age discrimination complaint filed by Ai. She, however, did not reply to subsequent letters from investigating officials requesting additional information, and the complaint was dismissed. Material relating to her tenured professorship at the University of Oklahoma at Stillwater, Oklahoma (1999-2010), is located in the Oklahoma State University File series.

The visual materials feature photographs of Ai (including her wedding to Lawrence M. Kearney in 1979), her family, her friends, her cats, and an assortment of snapshots. Some home photographs include Ai's desk and provide a glimpse of the surrounding items from which she drew inspiration.

Material types include correspondence, memoranda, notebooks, notes, financial and legal papers, address books, business cards, college transcripts, postcards, photographs, slides, negatives, contact sheets, student papers, evaluations, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization, topic, or type of material.

BOX 6 Address books, undated

BOX 7 Address books, undated

BOX 7 Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz., student papers, circa 1989

BOX 7 Awards and honors, 1978, 1998-2003, 2010

BOX 7 Biographical file

BOX 7 Chronological file, 1979, 1987-2009, undated  
(3 folders)

BOX 7 *Contemporary Authors*, 1997-2001, undated

BOX 7 Breast cancer, undated

BOX 7 Business cards and contact information, undated  
(2 folders)

BOX 8 Calendars, 1993-2006 *See also Container OV 1, same heading*

BOX 8 Cats, 1997-1999, undated

## Subject File, 1947-2010

Container	Contents
BOX 8	Cisneros, Sandra, 2003-2008
BOX 8	College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass., evaluations, 1987
BOX 8	College transcripts as Florence Leah Anthony, 1969-1971
BOX 8	Dafoe, Willem, 1987-1992, undated <i>See also Container OV 1, Interview (magazine)</i>
BOX 8	Davis, James G., 1979-1988, 1994, undated
BOX 8	Family papers, 1947, 1992-1997, 2003, undated (3 folders)
BOX 8	Financial and legal papers, 1974-1998 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Financial and legal papers, 2000-2009, undated
BOX 9	FX Networks, 1995
BOX 9	Job searches, 1976-2008, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Kennedy, John F., Jr., 1995-1999
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1989-2007, undated (4 folders)
BOX 9	Notebooks, undated
BOX 10	Notes, 1998-2003, undated (2 folders)
BOX 10	Poetry, 1986-2009, undated (3 folders)
BOX 10	Postcards, undated
BOX 10	Presley, Elvis, 1992-1993, 2000-2001
BOX 10	Press about Ai, 1986-1987, 1994-2003, undated <i>See also Container OV 1, Writer's Chronicle</i> (6 folders)
BOX 10	Printed matter
BOX 10	Clippings and articles
BOX 10	1980, 1988-1999 (3 folders)
BOX 11	2000-2010, undated (8 folders)
BOX 11	General, 1991-2002, 2008, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Recipes and nutrition information, 1988-2003, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001, 2001-2002
BOX 11	University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.
BOX 11	Employment discrimination charge, 1996-1998
BOX 12	Employment discrimination charge, 1996-1998
BOX 12	General, 1996-1997
BOX 12	Visual materials
BOX 12	Album, Japanese prints, undated
BOX 12	Contact sheets and negatives, 1972-1976, 1989, undated
BOX 12	Drawings and artwork, 1993, 2011, undated (2 folders)
BOX 12	Photographs
BOX 12	Cats, undated

## Subject File, 1947-2010

Container	Contents
BOX 12	Family, undated
BOX 13	Home, undated
BOX 13	Miscellaneous, 1972, 1979-1983, 1990-1996, 2008, undated (2 folders)
BOX 13	Ogawa, Ai
BOX 13	Portraits, 1976, undated <i>See also Container OV 1, Portrait of Ai</i> (2 folders)
BOX 13	Snapshots, undated
BOX 13	Wedding, 1976
BOX 13	With others, 1975, 1983, undated
BOX 13	Slides, 1991
BOX 13-22	<b>Oklahoma State University File, 1973-2010</b> The Oklahoma State University File series focuses on Ai's tenure as a professor of creative writing from 1999 to 2010 and her roles as vice president and president of the Native American Faculty and Staff Association (NAFSA) while at Oklahoma State University at Stillwater. The bulk of the files comprises student papers, including one digital file, written for Ai's creative writing classes. Many of the student papers include Ai's handwritten comments. Class assignments, course readings, and syllabi files provide insight on Ai's approach to teaching. Also present is material pertaining to her participation as a NAFSA officer. The association was established to assist Native American students, faculty, and staff in discussing issues of concern and serve as a liaison between them and the university administration. This series includes documentation about NAFSA's scholarship program, which awarded scholarships to Native American students based on their academic performance. Material types include correspondence, memoranda, printed email, photocopies of course readings, class assignments, syllabi, evaluations, student papers, exams, posters, newspaper clippings, printed matter, digital files, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by name of organization, topic, or type of material. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.
BOX 13	Class assignments, 1999, undated
BOX 13	Course readings, 1973, 2001-2002, 2008
BOX 13	Course readings, undated (2 folders)
BOX 14	Course readings, undated (3 folders)
BOX 14	Department of English, 1999-2010, undated <i>See also Container OV 2, same heading</i> (4 folders)
BOX 14	Evaluations by students, 2003-2008, undated (3 folders)
BOX 15	Faculty Appraisal and Development Program, 1999-2008
BOX 15	General, 1999-2010, undated <i>See also Container OV 2, Oklahoma Women's Summit</i> (3 folders)
BOX 15	Graduate student exams and committees, 2000-2010, undated (2 folders)
BOX 15	Letters of recommendation, 2000-2009, undated
BOX 15	Native American Faculty and Staff Association
BOX 15	General, 2000-2009, undated (3 folders)

## Oklahoma State University File, 1973-2010

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 15	Scholarships, 2000-2007, undated (4 folders)
BOX 15	Scholarships, 2008, undated
BOX 16	Student papers
BOX 16	1999-2004 (6 folders)
BOX 16	2005, spring (2 folders)
BOX 17	2005, fall
BOX 17	2006 (7 folders)
BOX 18	2007-2008 (5 folders)
DF	2007, audio files accompanying student's poetry collection for Ai's creative writing class <b>Digital ID:</b> mss86481_276_002
BOX 18	2009, spring (2 folders)
BOX 19	2009, fall (5 folders)
BOX 19	2010 (2 folders)
BOX 20	Undated (6 folders)
BOX 21	Undated (6 folders)
BOX 22	Undated (3 folders)
BOX 22	Syllabi, 2001-2008, undated (2 folders)

### BOX 22-38

#### **Research File, 1820-2010**

The Research File series contains Ai's research for a memoir and historical study about her Native American, white, and African American ancestry. She described the project as a memoir that "evolved into a memoir/tribal history involving the Indian Wars, [George A.] Custer, massacres . . ." and a "meditation on race in America." Although she utilized some of this research in her poetry, she did not live to complete the memoir/history. The majority of the files consist of Cheyenne Tribe and Arapaho Tribe allotment records, United States census records, United States Indian census schedules, and research and notes relating to the Smith family, her mother's ancestors. An item of note is a grant application (May 10, 1999) in which Ai describes her writing, including her use of dramatic monologues, her focus on character, her fascination with good and evil, and the changes in her writing over time.

Material types include correspondence, memoranda, printed email, allotment records, notes, notebooks, maps, photographs, grant applications, newspaper clippings, printed matter, digital files, and other material.

Arranged alphabetically by name of family, topic, or type of material. The file structure of the digital content maintained as received.

BOX 22	Correspondence
--------	----------------

## Research File, 1820-2010

Container	Contents
BOX 22	2001-2006 (6 folders)
BOX 23	2007-2010, undated (3 folders)
BOX 23	General, 2001-2008, undated
BOX 23	Grant applications, 1999-2000, 2009, undated
BOX 23	Japanese family research, 2001-2009 (4 folders)
DF	Spreadsheet of data for "Ogawa: The Y2K Ogawa Family Yearbook," 2004 <b>Digital ID:</b> mss86481_276_003
BOX 23	Native Americans
BOX 23	Bibliography, 1990-2009
BOX 23	Cavalry and military, 2004-2005
BOX 23	Cheyenne Tribe and Arapaho Tribe
BOX 23	Allotments
BOX 23	General, 1914-1923, 1932-1944, undated
BOX 23	No. 48, Black Woman, 1911
BOX 23	No. 114, Robert Yellow Eyes (also known as Robert White Eyes), 1914, 1921, 1935-1936
BOX 23	No. 115, Robert Bent Bird, 1904, 1915
BOX 24	No. 164, Morning Alfrey, 1917-1980 (2 folders)
BOX 24	No. 164, Albert Short Teeth and Myrtle Kelly, 1923-1968 (2 folders)
BOX 24	No. 220, Little Woman (also known as Blue), 1916-1923
BOX 24	No. 228, Standing Out Bent, 1911-1920, 1937-1955
BOX 24	No. 229, William Bent, 1911-1917, 1957-1958
BOX 24	No. 230, Charlie Bent, 1908, 1914
BOX 24	No. 231, Mary Bent, 1915, 1942-1943
BOX 24	No. 232, Daisy Bent and George Bent, 1911-1919, 1950-1962
BOX 24	No. 234, Julia Bent, 1912
BOX 24	No. 354, Broken Jar (also known as Broken Jaw), 1913-1914
BOX 24	No. 367, Julia Guerrier, 1933
BOX 24	No. 368, Edward Guerrier, 1923
BOX 24	No. 381, Smoking Slow, 1913-1914
BOX 24	No. 475, Stump Horn, 1915-1923, 1959
BOX 24	No. 477, Yellow Horse, 1911-1925
BOX 25	No. 602, Swallow family, 1892, 1913-1943, 1954-1957 (3 folders)
BOX 25	No. 640, Buffalo Thigh, 1913
BOX 25	No. 642, Kiowa Woman (Bent), 1913-1919
BOX 25	No. 672, Ponac Woman, 1892, 1912-1940 (2 folders)
BOX 25	No. 719, Big Medicine family, 1919-1985 (3 folders)
BOX 25	No. 719C, Black Bird, 1892

**Research File, 1820-2010****Container****Contents**

---

<b>BOX 26</b>	No. 720, Sitting Woman and Jeannette Big Medicine, 1907-1975 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 26</b>	No. 720, Joe Antelope, 1930-1974
<b>BOX 26</b>	No. 720B, Mary Springer Antelope, 1928-1967
<b>BOX 26</b>	No. 721, Big Medicine family, 1892, 1917-1986 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 26</b>	No. 722, Mary Springer (also known as Mary Antelope), 1892, 1916-1988
<b>BOX 27</b>	No. 722, Mary Springer (also known as Mary Antelope), 1892, 1916-1988 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 27</b>	No. 723, Mary Springer (also known as Mary Antelope), 1917, 1929-1931
<b>BOX 27</b>	No. 724, Pipe Woman, 1892, 1913-1922 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 27</b>	No. 728, Little Hawk, 1958-1960
<b>BOX 27</b>	No. 762, William Goodsell, 1915-1925
<b>BOX 27</b>	No. 844, Black Bull, 1892, 1913-1922
<b>BOX 28</b>	No. 3047, Robert Barnes, 1912
<b>BOX 28</b>	No. 3048, Ada Burns, 1913
<b>BOX 28</b>	No. 3061, Turtle John, 1901-1904, 1920
<b>BOX 28</b>	General, 1836, 1904, 1956, 1979, 1999-2008, undated (3 folders)
<b>BOX 28</b>	Choctaw Tribe
<b>BOX 28</b>	General, 1897-1899, 1905-1906, 1995-2004, undated
<b>BOX 28</b>	Seal, 1994
<b>BOX 28</b>	Comanche Tribe census lists, undated
<b>BOX 28</b>	Crazy Horse, 2000, 2006, undated
<b>BOX 28</b>	Custer, George A., and family, 1870-1876, 1940-1957, 1971, 1997-2009 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 29</b>	Delano family, 1870, 1937, 2006-2007
<b>BOX 29</b>	Diné clans, 2002
<b>BOX 29</b>	Fort Griffin, Tex., and Comanche Tribe, 1880, 1900, 1930, 1999-2004
<b>BOX 29</b>	General, 1840, 1855-1856, 1866-1955, 1962, 1970, 1981, 1988-2005 (8 folders)
<b>BOX 30</b>	General, 2006-2010, undated (7 folders)
<b>BOX 30</b>	Heskett family, 1902
<b>BOX 30</b>	Languages, 2004-2007
<b>BOX 30</b>	Maps, 2004-2005
<b>BOX 31</b>	Notebook, undated
<b>BOX 31</b>	Notes and related material, 1885-1940, 2000-2007, undated (4 folders)
<b>BOX 31</b>	Photographs (includes photocopies), 1864-2010
<b>BOX 32</b>	Photographs (includes photocopies), 1864-2010
<b>BOX 32</b>	Pushmataha family, 2002, undated
<b>BOX 32</b>	Relatives, doubtful, 1870-2005
<b>BOX 32</b>	Research assistant projects, 2000
<b>BOX 32</b>	Reynolds, Albert Eugene, 1916, 1988 (2 folders)



## Research File, 1820-2010

Container	Contents
BOX 32	Sioux Tribe families from <i>Indian Genealogies: Kiowa Agency, O.T. 1902, 1902, 2009</i>
BOX 32	Smith family, 1858-2006 (2 folders)
BOX 33	Smith family, 1858-2006 (5 folders)
BOX 34	Smith family, 1858-2006 (5 folders)
BOX 34	Swallow family, 1885-1940, undated
BOX 34	Thompson family, 1900-1907, 2002 (2 folders)
BOX 35	United States census records, 1820, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 (7 folders)
BOX 36	United States census records, 1820, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 (2 folders)
BOX 36	United States Indian census schedules and related documents, 1885-1940, undated (4 folders)
BOX 37	United States Indian census schedules and related documents, 1885-1940, undated (6 folders)
BOX 38	United States Indian census schedules and related documents, 1885-1940, undated
BOX 38	Waggoner family, 2001-2009, undated (2 folders)
BOX 38	Wild Hog, 1875-1899, 2009

BOX 38-51

### Writings File, 1971-2009

The Writings File series makes up almost one third of the collection and documents Ai's writings in various forms, including poetry, novels, memoirs, plays and teleplays, and editorial work for magazines. Although Ai wrote first drafts in longhand, the Writings File contains only a few handwritten drafts with the bulk of the files comprised of typescripts and manuscript proofs.

Most of the poetry files consist of manuscripts and other materials for Ai's books, although two collections of untitled poems and individual poems in various forms (handwritten, typescripts, proofs, and published) are also present. While the majority of Ai's writings are written in the first person, they are not autobiographical. She took on the personae of historical figures or fictional persons using strong language and vivid images to convey her narrative. In later years, however, Ai wrote two poems relating to herself and her family, "Baby Florence: AKA Ai Coming Through Fire" (from *No Surrender*) and "The Saga of Charlie Smith" (from *Dread*). Also pertaining to her family and documented in the Writings File is Ai's unpublished novel "Black Blood: A Tale of Love, Death, Race, and Sex." The plot is based loosely on the suspicious death of her cousin, a young man accidentally shot while in the home of a young white girl in 1961. Although Ai revised the novel several times, it was never published.

Also featured in the Writings File are notebooks that include poetry, jottings of ideas for poems and projects, to do lists, and occasionally drawings. A drawing in Ai's 1992 notebook reveals her distress when the poetry editor at Houghton, Mifflin and Company described her book *Greed* as pornographic and not appropriate for them. The second part of the drawing displays Ai's triumph with W.W. Norton & Company welcoming the book for publication. The Writings File also includes material relating to Ai's readings, talks, and workshops about poetry.

Material types include correspondence, poems, book drafts, novels, plays and teleplays, notebooks, reviews, notes, broadsides, short stories, blurbs, posters, royalty statements,

## Writings File, 1971-2009

### Container

### Contents

---

permission requests, business cards, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and other material.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

BOX 38	Blurbs, 1999-2002, undated
BOX 38	<i>Caprice</i> , 1996
BOX 38	<i>Cimarron Review</i> , 2000-2007 (2 folders)
BOX 38	Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1978-2000
BOX 39	Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1978-2000
BOX 39	Masters thesis, "Slice," 1971
BOX 39	Memoirs, undated
BOX 39	"Arrival"
BOX 39	"Crazy White Man"
BOX 39	Miscellaneous, 1981, 1990-1993, 1999-2002, undated (4 folders)
BOX 39	Notebooks, 1988
BOX 39	Notebooks, 1991, undated
BOX 39	Notebooks, 1992, undated
BOX 40	Notebooks, 1998, undated (6 folders)
BOX 40	Notes and ideas, 1995, undated
BOX 40	Permissions, 1992-2008
BOX 41	Permissions, 1992-2008
BOX 41	Plays and teleplays, undated
BOX 41	Novels
BOX 41	"Black Blood: A Tale of Love, Death, Race, and Sex"
BOX 41	Early drafts, undated
BOX 41	Set A
BOX 41	Set B
BOX 41	Set C
BOX 41	Set D
BOX 41	Set E
BOX 41	Set F (2 folders)
BOX 42	Partial drafts and fragments, undated (2 folders)
BOX 42	Revised drafts, undated
BOX 42	Set A (2 folders)
BOX 42	Set B (2 folders)
BOX 42	Set C
BOX 42	Set D (2 folders)
BOX 43	Set E
BOX 43	W.W. Norton & Company, comments, 1996, undated

## Writings File, 1971-2009

Container	Contents
BOX 43	"The Lie of Redemption" (unpublished), undated
BOX 43	Set A
BOX 43	Set B
BOX 43	"The Sin Eater" (unpublished), 1998, undated
BOX 43	Poetry
BOX 43	Books
BOX 43	<i>Cruelty: Poems</i> (1973), 1973, undated (3 folders)
BOX 43	<i>Dread</i> (2003), 2002 (2 folders)
BOX 44	<i>Dread</i> (2003), 2002 (3 folders)
BOX 44	<i>Dread</i> (2003), 2003
BOX 44	<i>Fate: New Poems</i> (1991)
BOX 44	Early drafts, undated
BOX 44	Final draft, 1990-1992
BOX 44	General, 1991, undated
BOX 44	Proofs, 1990 (2 folders)
BOX 44	"Ghost Pain" (unpublished), undated
BOX 45	<i>Greed</i> (1993)
BOX 45	Drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 45	General, 1992-1993, undated
BOX 45	Proofs, 1993 (5 folders)
BOX 45	<i>Killing Floor: Poems</i> (1979), undated
BOX 46	<i>Killing Floor: Poems</i> (1979), undated
BOX 46	<i>No Surrender</i> (2010)
BOX 46	Drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 46	General, 2006-2009, undated
BOX 46	<i>Sin: Poems</i> (1986)
BOX 46	Drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 46	General, 1986-1989, undated
BOX 46	Proofs, 1985
BOX 46	<i>Vice: New and Selected Poems</i> (1999)
BOX 46	Drafts, 1997, undated (2 folders)
BOX 46	General, 1998-1999, undated
BOX 47	Broadsides, 1981, 2003-2004 <i>See also Container OV 3, same heading</i>
BOX 47	Collections, untitled, undated (3 folders)
BOX 47	Individual poems
BOX 47	Drafts and typescripts, 1987, 1993-1995, 2003, undated (7 folders)

## Writings File, 1971-2009

Container	Contents
BOX 48	Publications and proofs, 1991-2005, undated (4 folders)
BOX 48	Readings and talks, 1985-2007, undated <i>See also Container OV 3, same heading</i> (11 folders)
BOX 49	Unidentified writings, undated
BOX 49	Workshops, 1989-1991, 1997-2002, undated <i>See also Container OV 3, Two posters, "The Healing Power of Poetry with Ai"</i> (2 folders)
BOX 49	Writings by others
BOX 49	Barnes, Russ, undated
BOX 49	Chronological file, 1985-1993, 2008 (5 folders)
BOX 49	Chronological file, undated (2 folders)
BOX 50	Chronological file, undated (3 folders)
BOX 50	Livingston, Chip
BOX 50	"Naming Ceremony: A Novel," undated (2 folders)
BOX 50	Poetry and short stories, undated
BOX 51	W.W. Norton & Company, 1992-2009, undated (3 folders)
BOX OV 1-OV 3	<b>Oversize, 1976-2003</b> The Oversize series is comprised of posters, calendars, magazines, broadsides, and a photograph portrait of Ai. Listed and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the material was separated. The items are physically grouped and housed by size.
BOX OV 2	Correspondence
BOX OV 2	Posters, National Poetry Month, 2000 (Container 3, Correspondence, 2000, Jan.-Feb.)
BOX OV 1	Subject File
BOX OV 1	Calendars, 1995, 2001 (Container 8, same heading)
BOX OV 1	<i>Interview</i> (magazine), 1988 (Container 8, Dafoe, Willem)
BOX OV 1	Writer's Chronicle, interview with Ai, 2003 (Container 10, Press about Ai)
BOX OV 1	Portrait of Ai, 1976 (Container 13, Portraits)
BOX OV 2	Oklahoma State University File
BOX OV 2	Department of English (Container 14, same heading)
BOX OV 2	Poster, English Graduate Programs, undated
BOX OV 2	Poster, reading by author Toni Graham, undated
BOX OV 2	Poster, reading by Robert Pinsky at the Cimarron Literary Festival, undated
	General
BOX OV 2	Poster, Oklahoma Women's Summit, 1999 (Container 15, General)
BOX OV 3	Writings File
BOX OV 3	Broadside, "Tormenta de Muerte, Hurricane Mitch, November 1998," number 45, by Ai, 2004 (Container 47, Broadsides)
BOX OV 3	Readings and talks (Container 48, same heading)
BOX OV 3	1993, three broadsides, lecture series by Ai, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz.

## Oversize, 1976-2003

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX OV 3	2000, poster, Texas Book Festival, Austin, Tex.
BOX OV 3	2003, poster, talk by Ai, Southwestern Writers Collection, Albert B. Alek Library, San Marcos, Tex.
BOX OV 3	Two posters, workshop, "The Healing Power of Poetry with Ai," 1997 (Container 49, Workshops)