

Herschel Gower Papers

MSS # 176

Arranged and described 2010

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
Jean and Alexander Heard Library
Vanderbilt University
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Nashville, Tennessee 37203-2427
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Biographical Note

Herschel Gower, a native of Nashville, was born in 1919. He received his B.A. from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee and his master and doctorate degrees from Vanderbilt University. He spent 1954 - 1956 at the University of Edinburgh on a Fulbright Scholarship and has maintained a lifelong interest in Scottish culture and history.

He began his teaching career at Vanderbilt in 1956 in the English department and was awarded the title Professor Emeritus before his retirement from Vanderbilt in 1985. He taught courses in the ballad, the lyric, and American literature.

During his academic career he was a lecturer in the Vanderbilt in France study abroad program and at the University of Leeds for the Vanderbilt in England program.

Professor Gower is the author and editor of a number of books including:

Pen and Sword: The Life and Journals of Randal W. McGavock (1959)

The Sense of Fiction (1966)

The Hawk's Done Gone and Other Stories by Mildred Haun (ed. 1968)

Beersheba Springs: A History and a Celebration (1983)

Faces in a Nashville Arcade (1983)

Jeannie Robertson: Emergent Singer, Transformative Voice (1995)

Charles Dahlgren of Natchez: The Civil War and Dynastic Decline (2002)

He has contributed articles and poems to scholarly publications, magazines, and newspapers, many with a focus on Tennessee history.

At present he is a free-lance writer and lectures at the Athena Foundation, a non-profit organization, started by his wife Dona. They live in Dallas, Texas and have a home in Beersheba Springs, Tennessee.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is primarily comprised of 6.05 linear feet of manuscript materials, which include drafts of an unpublished novel with its title and text changes in various versions. The papers also include manuscripts of his novel *Faces in a Nashville Arcade* and of his biography of Charles Dahlgren, *Charles Dahlgren of Natchez: The Civil War and Dynastic Decline*.

Professor Gower was a friend of writer Mildred Haun and her literary executor. His work as an editor of her stories is represented in these papers.

In addition there are articles and research notes and materials concerning Randal McGavock and his descendants, the Howell family and their descendants, and articles and books he wrote on the historic community of Beersheba Springs, Tennessee. There are subject files for his research on

folklore, the D. Shelby Williams Trial which was used as background for his unpublished novel, and materials relating to poet John Crowe Ransom and author Peter Taylor.

A collection of correspondence and newspaper articles on the Yeatman and Polk families and their family ties with Gustave Eiffel, builder of the Eiffel Tower are included with these papers. There are fourteen reel to reel and cassette tape recordings, many of them songs recorded by the Scottish singer Jeannie Robertson.

Container List

Box 1

Correspondence

1. Cheney, Brainard and Frances Neel
2. Davidson, Donald and Theresa
3. Lytle, Andrew
4. Ransom, John Crowe
5. Wilson, Angus
6. Beatty, Richmond C.; Cornell, Katharine F.; Ford, Jesse Hill; Moore, Mrs. Merrill; Ransom, Ellene; Rice, Cole Young; Taylor, Peter

Writings by Gower

The Confessions of a Goo Goo Eater: An Odyssey of Nashville - a novel - typescript (early version of *Faces in a Nashville Arcade*)

7. Title page - page 48
8. Pages 49 - 102
9. Pages 103 - 161
10. Pages 162 - 177
11. Pages 178 - 209
12. Pages 210 - 227 and postscript

Faces in a Nashville Arcade - novel - typescript with corrections

13. Introduction and Chapter I
14. Title page - page 48
15. Pages 49 - 102
16. Pages 103 - 161
17. Pages 162 - 177
18. Pages 178 - 209
19. Pages 210 - 227 and postscript

Faces in a Nashville Arcade - novel - typescript

20. Title page, introduction, and pages 1 - 48
21. Pages 49 - 102
22. Pages 103 - 161
23. Pages 162 - 177
24. Pages 178 - 209
25. Pages 210 - 227 and postscript

Box 2

1. *Faces in a Nashville Arcade* - a novel published in 1983; letter from Joe S. Ellis for book cover photograph

***Escape from Belle Meade* - early drafts of a novel with corrections - holograph pages**

2. Pages 1 - 37
3. Chapter III, pages 1 - 25 (2 copies)
4. Chapter V (2 copies)
5. Chapter VII, pages 1 - 11 (2 copies)
6. Chapter IX
7. Chapter XI
8. Chapter XV - photocopies
9. Chapter XXIII - original and photocopies
10. XXV
11. XXVII
12. XXIX
13. Photocopies of letters to Sarah Estin Treadwell

***Escape from Belle Meade* - early drafts of a novel with corrections - typescript**

14. Chapter II, pages 4 - 10, 20 - 21
15. Chapter IV, pages 51 - 77, IB - 27B
16. Chapter VI, pages 78 - 93, 1-B - 16 - B; Chapter VIII, pages 94 - 134, A-1 - A41
17. Chapter X, pages 135 - 142
18. Chapter XXX, pages 245 - 279
19. Pages 280 - 297, C3a - C20
20. Pages 340 - 396
21. Pages 456 - 467
22. Pages 468 - 488, D13 - D32
23. Pages 489 - 494
24. Pages 505 - 508 (holograph copies)

Box 3

Writings

***Escape from Belle Meade* - typescript of a novel - masters with some corrections**

1. Chapter I
2. Chapter II
3. Chapter III
4. Chapter IV
5. Chapter V
6. Chapter VI
7. Chapter VII
8. Chapter VIII
9. Chapter IX
10. Chapters X and XI, XII, XIII
11. Chapters XIV, XV
12. Chapters XVI
13. Chapter XVII
14. XVIII
15. XIX

Box 4

Writings

***Escape from Belle Meade* - typescript of a novel - old version**

1. Part I : *Escape from Belle Meade*, pages 3 - 41
2. *Personae - The Treadwell Women*, Chapters I - III, pages 1 - 73
3. Chapter IV - pages 74 - 99
4. Chapters V, VI, VII, pages 100 - 138
5. Chapters VIII, IX, pages 139 - 176
6. Chapters X - XIII, pages 177 - 212
7. Chapters XIV - XVII, pages 213 - 259
8. Chapters XVIII, XIX, pages 260 - 302
9. Chapter XX, pages 303 - 322
10. Chapter XXI, pages 1 - 22; Chapter XXIII, pages 1 - 25

Writings

***Lament for Eden* - completed manuscript of a novel - version #5**

11. Chapters 1 - III, pages 1 - 72
12. Chapter IV, pages 73 - 98
13. Chapters V, VI, VII, pages 99 - 136

14. Chapters VIII, IX, pages 137 - 173
15. Chapters X, XI, XII, XIII, pages 174 - 207
16. Chapters XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, pages 208 - 253
17. Chapters XVIII, XIX, pages 254 - 296
18. Chapters XX - XXI, pages 297 - 338
19. Chapters XXII - XXV, pages 339 - 393
20. Chapter XXVI - XXVIII, pages 394 - 433

Box 5

Writings

***Lament for Eden* - completed manuscript of a novel - version #5**

1. Chapters XXIX, XXX, pages 434 - 465
2. Chapter XXXI, pages 466 - 510
3. Chapter XXXII - XXXVI, pages 511 - 554

***Bloodlines* - manuscript of a novel - version #6**

4. Chapters I - III, pages 1 - 72
5. Chapter IV, pages 73 - 94
6. Chapters V, VI, VII, pages 95 - 129
7. Chapters VIII, IX, pages 130 - 165
8. Chapters X, XI, XII, XIII, pages 166 - 198
9. Chapters XIV, XVII, pages 199 - 243
10. Chapters XVIII, XIX, pages 244 - 296
11. Chapters XX - XXI, pages 297 - 324
12. Chapters XXII - XXV, pages 325 - 393
13. Chapters XXVI - XXVIII, pages 394 - 433
14. Chapters XXIX - XXX, pages 434 - 451

Other manuscript chapters of the novel

15. Chapters II, XXII, XXIV
16. Chapters XXV, XXVI
17. Chapter XXVIII
18. Maps

***Telling Blood* - manuscript of a novel**

19. Bound manuscript - final version

Box 6

Writings

The Vagaries of Valor: The Dahlgren Family in America (1996) - Original draft complete

1. Foreword, Prologue, Acknowledgements, Genealogical Charts, List of Illustrations, Chapter 1, pp. 1 - 15.
2. Chapters II, III, IV, pages 16 - 87
3. Chapter V, pages 88 - 130
4. Chapters VI, VII, pages 131 - 182
5. Chapters VIII, IX, pages 183 - 239
6. Chapters X, XI, pages 240 - 291
7. Chapters XII, XIII, pages 292 - 330
8. Chapters XIV, XV, pages 331 - 371
9. Chapter XVI, Epilogue, pages 372 - 399
10. Endnotes, Index, pages 400 - 428

Charles Dahlgren of Natchez - manuscript published by Brassey's

11. Chapter VI
12. Chapter VII

Articles by Gower

13. "A Brief History of Central Hall" (Vanderbilt University) with research notes, 1958
14. "Beersheba Springs and L. Virginia French: The Novelist as Historian" in *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XLII, no. 2, Summer 1983
15. "The Beersheba Diary of L. Virginia French, Part 1, Summer and Fall, 1863 (edited by H.G.) in *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications*, Nos. 52 and 53 (1981 and 1982).
16. "Getting It Straight From the Archives" paper presented to Friends of the Library, January 25, 2004 in Special Collections at Vanderbilt University

Poems by Gower

17. "Mountain Storm" and others

Box 7

Writings by others, edited by Gower

1. *Another Harvest of Scottish Ballads, 1951 - 1956*

Mildred Eunice Haun

***The Hawk's Done Gone and Other Stories* - manuscript**

2. Introduction, Prologue, the Pit of Death, pp. 1 - 53
3. Chapters 3 - 4, pp. 54 - 100
4. Chapters 5 - 6, pp. 101 - 134
5. Chapters 7 - 8, pp. 135 - 180
6. Chapters 9 - 10, pp. 181 - 228
7. Chapters 11, pp. 229 - 254
8. Chapter 12, pp. 255 - 281
9. Chapter 13, pp. 282 - 304
10. *Other Stories* - "Shin-Bone Rocks"; "The Piece of Silver", pp. 305 - 354
11. *Other Stories* - "A Feeling of Pity"; "For the Love of God and Sam Scott", pp. 355 - 397
12. *Other Stories* - "The Picture Frame"; "The Turkey's Feather", pp. 398 - 426
13. *Other Stories* - "For Lead", pp. 427 - 442
14. *Other Stories* - "The Look", pp. 443 - 490
15. *Other Stories* - "Dave Cocke's Motion", pp. 491 - 507

Box 8

Writings by Others, edited and re-written by Herschel Gower, 1968

Mildred Eunice Haun

Short Stories - manuscripts

"Runner Girl" - unpublished (192 pages)

1. manuscript, pages 1 - 45
2. manuscript, pages 46 - 90
3. manuscript, pages 91 - 130
4. manuscript, pages 131 - 160
5. manuscript, pages 161 - 192

Short Stories - published and unpublished

6. "Dave Cocke's Motion" - published
7. "A Feeling of Pity"; "For Lead" - published
8. "The Picture Frame" - published
9. "The Piece of Silver" - published (5 copies)
10. "Joe" - unpublished
11. "The Red Flower Pot" - unpublished
12. "The Root" (3 copies) - unpublished
13. "Then the Fire Went Out" - unpublished (3 copies)
14. "The Warping Bars" - unpublished
15. "When the Wind Blows" - unpublished (multiple copies)
16. "Yours Sincerely" - unpublished
17. untitled fragment

18. untitled fragment

Other writings by Mildred Haun

19. "Barshia's Horse He Made, It Flew" in *American Prefaces*, Vol. 5, no. 6, March 90; "The Turkey's Feather" reprinted from the *Georgia Review*, Vol. VI, no. 4, Winter 1952
20. Songs collected by Haun for Vanderbilt University thesis *Cocke County Ballads and Songs* under the direction of Professor Donald Davidson
21. Photograph, newspaper articles and other papers relating to Haun's life and work.

Writings by others

22. Bradford, M.E. "Miss Eudora's Picture Book" in *The Mississippi Quarterly*, Vol. XXVI, no. 4, Fall 1973.

Box 9

Subject and Research Files

Folklore

1. *From Bishop Percy (1765) to John Jacob Niles (1974) 340 Books and Songs in the Berea College Collection*, revised February 1974; *Folklore and Oral History Catalogue* from the University of Vermont Bailey/Howe Library, 1981

Sadie Warner Frazer

2. Miscellaneous correspondence - includes plans for publication of her memoirs
3. "Reminiscences"
4. Memoirs (1)
5. Memoirs (2)

Ed Harris

6. Parodies of famous poems presented at a party with correspondence and photograph

Howell Family Genealogy with Texas connections

7. Genealogy charts and letters from Harriet Owsley, January 1986 and Dabney Hart, June 1993

Isabel Elliott Howell

8. Humorous comments; "Reflections of Miss Rebecca McLemore" (Isabel Howell); "Only Slightly Acid: Observations About Her Life and Times"; newspaper articles
9. Memorial tribute by Morton B. Howell; order of service, Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville; newspaper obituaries

Randal McGavock and descendants (including Margaret Lindsley Warden)

10. Correspondence and articles
11. Correspondence with Ed Gleeson concerning re-publication of *Pen and Sword*
12. *Pen and Sword* reprint - correspondence and press releases with Richland Press
13. Correspondence, articles, and photograph (1851)
14. Materials relating to the placing of a military marker on his grave at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, TN July 8, 1987
15. *Dixie Liberator* and correspondence
16. Correspondence and research papers
17. Genealogy and Illinois McGavocks - correspondence and other papers
18. Genealogy research and correspondence with Elizabeth Larkin
19. Margaret Lindsley Warden, great niece of Randal McGavock and owner of his journals - newspaper articles and correspondence

Box 10

Subject and Research Files

John Crowe Ransom

1. "All Verse is Not Poetry" in *Hika Magazine*, December 1941
2. "A Tribute to John Crowe Ransom on His Seventy-fifth Birthday" in *Shenandoah*, Vol. XIV, No. 3, Spring, 1963; "John Crowe Ransom: Gentleman, Teacher, Poet, Editor, Founder of *The Kenyon Review*: A Tribute from the Community of Letters" in *The Kenyon Collegian*, supplement to Vol. LXXXX, no. 7, 1964. Gambier, Ohio
3. Dedication of Ransom Hall, Symposium Held at Kenyon College, April 18, 1964
4. Publications of Kenyon College
5. Magazine and newspaper articles
6. Memorial service, November 1, 1974; notes for the *Vanderbilt Alumnus Magazine* with correspondence

Peter Taylor

7. Bibliography - note cards prepared by Herschel Gower
8. Bibliography - note cards prepared by Herschel Gower

Box 11

Subject and Research Files

D. Shelby Williams Trial/Mary Washington Frazer Williams

1. Parts I and II

2. Parts III
3. Part IV

Yeatman Family

4. Yeatmans - descendants of Gustave Eiffel and Thomas Yeatman, II - correspondence and articles (photocopies)
5. Yeatman - Polk and Eiffel families - newspaper articles
6. Savin Yeatman (great great grandson of Thomas Yeatman, II and Gustave Eiffel) newspaper articles and correspondence on his visit to the U.S. in 1982
7. (Thomas Yeatman, II) "Peace and the Presidential Election of 1864" by Harriet Chappell Owsley reprinted from *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XVIII, Number 1, March 1959
8. Ted P. Yeatman "Jesse James and Bill Ryan at Nashville" with newspaper article
9. Letters - Yeatman - Polk Collection (Tennessee State Library and Archives) (1) photocopies
10. Letters - Yeatman - Polk Collection (Tennessee State Library and Archives) (2) photocopies
11. Letters - Yeatman - Polk Collection (Tennessee State Library and Archives) (3) photocopies
12. Yeatman family - Book - *Eiffel* par Jean Prevost - Paris, M.CM. XXIX
13. Yeatman and descendants - correspondence, newspaper articles, and photographs
14. Yeatman family - correspondence, world's fair at Knoxville, TN 1982, photograph of Savin Yeatman, Alison Gower, M. Alain de Bel at Knoxville World's Fair

Box 12

Reel to reel tape recordings

1.
Gaelic Folk Songs – Scotland #1
Folk Songs and Music of Scotland #1
2.
Folk songs of Scotland Reel #2
Folk Songs of Scotland Reel #3
3.
Folk Songs of Scotland Reel #4
Folk Songs of Scotland Reel #5
4.
Note Cards With Contents of Recordings

Box 13

Reel to reel tape recordings

1.
Cherry Tree Carol: Larry Austin, John Butcher, Judy Coffman, Betty McDavid, Corky McKee
Med. Lyrics

2.

a. Child Ballads from Several Scottish Singers.

Side 1:

Margaret Stewart	The Knight and the Shepherd's Daughter Dowie Denso Yarrow Sir Hugh, or the Jew's Daughter Baron o' Braikley
Sheila Stewart	The Two Brothers
Bella Stewart Higgins	The Fause Knight Upon the Road
Duncan McPhee	The Fause Knight Upon the Road
Nellie McGregor Higgins	The Fause Knight Upon the Road
Geordie Robertson	The Bold Pedlar and Robin Hood
John (Jack) Whyte	The Two Sisters
Margaret Stewart	The Trooper and the Mind
Jimmy Stewart	Lord Randal

Side 2:

John Strachan	Lang Johnny Mhor (exerpts)
Jeannie Robertson	Andrew Lammie
Mrs. Elsie Morrison	The Gardner
Mrs. Jessie Murray	Lord Thomas and Fair Ellender
Jeannie Robertson	Famous Flower of Serving Men
John Strachan	Robin Hood and Little John
Willie McPhee	The Farmer's Curst Wife
Willie Mathieson	Capt. Wedderburn's Courtship
Mrs. Elsie Morrison	The Laird o' Drum
John Strachan	The Laird o' Drum Keech in the Creel The Knight and the Shepherd's Daughter

b. Ballad Tape for Herschel, with all the best from the School of Scottish Studies, Fair fa' ye man!

3.

a. Graduate English Club Lecture November, 17, 1961 in Old Central

Introduction: Tom Inge

First Speaker: Mr. John Crowe Ransom [73]

Second Speaker: Dr. Donald Davidson [68]

b. Bettie McDavid, English 282, January 1966, "The Three Ravens" - versions from Bertrand Bronson, The Traditional Tunes of the Child Ballads

4.

a. Jeannie Robertson Copied by Jon Porter Reel 1

b. Jeannie Robertson Copied by Jon Porter Reel 2

5.

a. Jeannie Robertson Copied by Jon Porter Reel 3

b. Jeannie Robertson Copied by Jon Porter Reel 4

6.
 - a. Jeannie Robertson Copied by Jon Porter Reel 5
 - b. Tribute to Jeannie

7.
 - a. Tribute to Jeannie Robertson, Easter Sunday 1975
 - b. Several Scottish Singers

Side 1:

Dodie Chalmers	The Golden Vanity 286
John Strachan	Glenlogie 238
Jimmy and Mrs. Miller	Lord Randal
John Strachan	Clyde's Water (The Mother malison) 216
Willie Mathieson	Bonnie Rantin' Laddie 240
Betsy Whyte	Sweet William's Ghost 77
Ewen McColl	Eppie Morie 223
Jimmy McBeth	The Broom of the Cowdenknowes 217
Bella Stewart Higgins	The Lowlands o' Holland
Bella Stewart Higgins	The Douglas Tragedy

Side 2:

Jeannie Robertson	The Butcher Boy (The Miller's Apprentice, SA, I, 407)
Jeannie Robertson	Peggy on the Banks o' Spey (When I was new, But Sweet 16)
John Strachan	Three Jolly Butchers
Bill Clark	Ellon Feeing Market
Ewing McColl	Still Growin' (College Boy)

8.
 - a. Selection of 21 Gaelic songs.
 - b. Gaelic Songs

9.
 - a. Pat Boone
 - Gloryland Way
 - Why Me
 - Campin' in Canaan land
 - Where Will I Shelter My Sheep
 - Acres of Diamonds
 - I Feel Like Traveling On
 - Way Down Deep in My Soul
 - I'll Meet You in Church Sunday Morning
 - Someone to Care
 - b. The Ballad, The Archetype, and Rock Music
 - Allman Brothers I
 - Allman Brothers II

10.
 - a. Side 1
Cornelius Watson
Ronie Watson
Side 2
Ora Watson
Arlie Watson
Ora and Arlie Watson, and Gaither Carlton
 - b. Cindy Hunter, Interview regarding Jeannie Robertson, Edinburgh, June 29, 1979

11.
 - a. Andy Hunter's Tape singing his own songs
Banter between him, Jeannie, and others
Andy's comments
 - b. Edinburgh Tape #1

12.
 - a. Jeannie Robertson excerpts from Peter Kennedy's Cassette "What a Voice"
 - b. Side I
Readings by Joyce Collie and Alexander Fenton
Side II
6 Scottish and English Folksongs collected in Scotland

13.
 - a. Interview with Jean Redpath
 - b. "The House Carpenter"
Joan Baez - "The Joan Baez Ballad Book"
Buffy Sainte Marie - "Little Wheel Spin and Spin"
Jean Ritchie - "British Traditional Ballads in the Southern Mountains"
Stefan Grossman - "Yazoo Basin Boogie"

14.
 - a. Scottish and English Folk Songs collected in Scotland
 - b. Folktracks (cassette)
Not identified
Not identified

15. Miscellaneous papers relating to the recordings including a term paper "The Ballad, the Archetype, and Rock Music" by John Muench