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Guide to the Mary Dillman Papers

MS 2119

compiled by Camila Zorrilla Tessler

November 2021

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2119

CREATOR: Dillman, Mary

TITLE: Mary Dillman papers

DATES: 1950-2020

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8.5 linear feet (19 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English (Latin script)

SUMMARY: The Mary Dillman Papers contain research files, interview materials, correspondence, class materials, presentations, conference papers, and photographs related to Jane Roberts, a spiritualist who claimed to channel a spirit known as Seth. This material details Dillman's research into Jane Roberts and Seth and documents Dillman's relationships with the larger network of Seth researchers. Also included are materials created by members of the community that surrounded Roberts, Seth, and Roberts' husband, Robert Butts.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2119

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To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of David Harris, 2021.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research. Original computer files may not be accessed due to their fragility. Researchers must consult access copies.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has been transferred to Yale University for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by Mary Dillman. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Mary Dillman Papers (MS 2119). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Related Materials

Related materials: Jane Roberts papers (MS 1090), Susan M. Watkins papers (MS 2120).

Biographical / Historical

Mary Dillman (1946-2020) was a researcher who worked on, curated, and contextualized the Jane Roberts Papers (MS 1090). Dillman grew up in Minnesota and worked in Minneapolis until 1998 as a property tax consultant, when she moved to New Haven, Connecticut, to work on the Jane Roberts Papers. Dillman considered this her calling.

During her time in New Haven, Dillman researched, organized, and disseminated information on Roberts and Seth to the wider community of Seth and Roberts researchers. Dillman served as an information and documentation conduit between the Jane Roberts Papers the research community, assisting in introducing new researchers to the Jane Roberts Papers, interviewing people regarding Jane Roberts and Robert Butts (Roberts' husband), procuring written materials and photographs, and presenting at Seth conferences.

Scope and Contents

The Mary Dillman Papers contain research files, interview materials, correspondence, class materials, presentations, conference papers, and photographs related to Jane Roberts, a spiritualist who claimed to channel a spirit known as Seth. This material details Dillman's research into Jane Roberts and Seth and documents Dillman's relationships with the larger network of Seth researchers. Also included are materials created by members of the community that surrounded Roberts, Seth, and Roberts' husband, Robert Butts. This material is arranged in three series: Research, Correspondence, and Seth researcher community.

The Research series includes research files on Jane Roberts and Robert Butts, two item-level detailed inventories of specific boxes and photographs in the Jane Roberts papers, interviews with people who knew Roberts and Butts personally, and outlines for extrasensory perception (ESP) classes that Roberts taught. Some of these materials are annotated or edited, either by Dillman or by other members of the Seth research community. The Correspondence series includes correspondence between Dillman and members of the Seth community, as well as with Butts and Roberts. The Seth researcher community series primarily contains conference papers and other conference materials from the Austin Seth Center and other conferences around the world.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in three series: I. Research, 1950-2018. II. Correspondence, 1973-2008. III. Seth researcher community, 1971-2020.

Collection Contents

Series I: Research, 1950–2018

The Research series contains background research on Jane Roberts and Robert Butts; including notebooks; information on close associates of Roberts and Butts; transcripts and plans of extrasensory perception classes taught by Jane Roberts; interviews and the related interview permissions for people associated with Roberts and Butts; and photographs of Roberts, Butts, their homes, and travel related to research into Roberts' life.

Series I is arranged under four headings: Jane Roberts and Robert Butts material; Extrasensory perception class material; Interviews; and Photographs. Material within these headings is organized alphabetically.

	Jane Roberts and Robert Butts material	
b. 1, f. 1	Books associated with research project	2012
b. 1, f. 2	Butts, Laurel tapes for Dillman's review	2018
b. 1, f. 3	Butts, Robert	2002
b. 1, f. 4	Butts, Robert and Laurel scanned notebooks	1970
b. 1, f. 5	Butts, Robert and Laurel research material	1977
b. 1, f. 6	Butts, Robert paper	Circa 1984
b. 15	DeeJay's experiences health and medical procedures 2021-M-0013-0001 *1 CD-R* As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access.	2019 October 26
b. 1, f. 7	Logue, Madelon Rose information	1979–1993
b. 1, f. 8	Questions for Seth research material	1977–2013
b. 1, f. 9	Rescue in a Rescue Leggo Plane	2011–2012
b. 1, f. 10	Roberts family research	2016
b. 1, f. 11	Roberts, Jane journal	1977
b. 1, f. 12	Roberts, Jane notebook copies	1975–1977
b. 1, f. 13	Roberts, Jane poetry	1983
	Saratoga Springs	
b. 1, f. 14	Background information on cities, Saratoga Springs	1950
b. 1, f. 15	Research, and correspondence	1998–1999
b. 1, f. 16	Family records and photographs	Circa 2000
b. 1, f. 17	Field card	1999

Jane Roberts and Robert Butts material > Saratoga Springs (continued)

b. 1, f. 18	Information	2012
b. 1, f. 19	Seth speaks research	2001
b. 1, f. 20	Speaking of Jane Roberts roles	1992
b. 2, f. 1	Subject index	Circa 1975
b. 2, f. 2	The Village Voice interview transcript	1978
b. 2, f. 3	Watkins, Sue information	2010
	Yale research notes	
b. 2, f. 4	Page index of Jane's journals in the Jane Roberts Papers (MS 1090) at Yale University, boxes 1-3	
b. 2, f. 5	Photograph index of Accession 1990-M-057 of the Jane Roberts Papers (MS 1090) at Yale University	
	Extrasensory perception class material	
b. 2, f. 6	1968	1968
b. 2, f. 7	1970–1973	1970–1973
b. 2, f. 8-9	1971	1971
b. 2, f. 10	1972	1972
b. 3, f. 1	1972-1973	1972-1973
b. 3, f. 2	1973	1973
b. 3, f. 3	1974	1974
b. 14, f. 1	Attendees list	1973, 2014
b. 3, f. 4	Austin Seth Center course notes: Changing Personal Reality	Circa 1985
b. 3, f. 5	Austin Seth Center course in exploring the "Unknown" reality	Circa 1985
b. 3, f. 6	Class and workshop information	1979
b. 4, f. 1	Class material	
b. 4, f. 2	Class notes	Circa 1980
b. 4, f. 3	Class session tape list	2020
b. 4, f. 4	Richard Kendall session copies	1967–1969
b. 4, f. 5	Richard Kendall session copies	1970
b. 4, f. 6	Richard Kendall session copies	1975–1979
b. 4, f. 7	Seth seminar	1979
b. 4, f. 8	Seth session notes copies	1967

Interviews

b. 4, f. 9	Aber, Marilyn	Circa 2010
b. 4, f. 10	Alexander, Marianne and Wade	2012
b. 4, f. 11	Bickford, Shirley and Linda McCracken	2009
b. 4, f. 12	Bumbalo, Margaret	2009
b. 4, f. 13	Colucci, Marie and Andrew	2014
b. 4, f. 14	Corbett, Marjorie	2009
b. 4, f. 15	Cratsley, Merle and Lois	2011
b. 4, f. 16	Crittenden, Claire	2009
b. 4, f. 17	Dake, Robert	2000
b. 4, f. 18	Davidson, Rodney	1999
b. 4, f. 19	Diorio, Tom and Becky	2017
b. 4, f. 20	Dowler, Lawrence	2010
b. 4, f. 21	Emmer, Cynthia	2011
b. 4, f. 22	Fieno, Stephen	2012
b. 4, f. 23	Gallagher, Peg	2003
b. 4, f. 24	Hamlin, Sonya	2009
b. 4, f. 25	Herschaft, Larry	1974
b. 4, f. 26	Huddleston, Peg	2010
b. 4, f. 27	Hutter, Lois Potter	2011
b. 4, f. 28	Intelius premier profiles	2014
b. 4, f. 29	Interviews, future	2011
b. 14, f. 2	Interview list	2017
b. 4, f. 30	Interview notes	2007–2012
b. 4, f. 31	Interview refused	2011
b. 4, f. 32	Laub, Cecilia (Lord)	2012
b. 5, f. 1	Longwell, Eve and Jean Durkin	1997
b. 5, f. 2	Marcus, Jeff	2004
b. 5, f. 3	Milligan, Virginia information	1968
b. 5, f. 4	Mossman, Tam information	1974

Interviews (continued)

b. 5, f. 5	Murtough, Peter	1967
b. 5, f. 6	Norelli, Pat	2010
b. 5, f. 7	Oberg, Al	2010
b. 5, f. 8	Oratoga inquiries	2008
b. 5, f. 9	Peugh, Isham	2010
b. 5, f. 10	Puteri, Patricia	
b. 5, f. 11	Release forms in process	2011
b. 5, f. 12	Rhoads, George	
b. 5, f. 13	Richard Kendall	2000
b. 5, f. 14	Rutty, Marian and Judith Frandsen	2011
b. 5, f. 15	Spaziani, John	2013
b. 5, f. 16	Stamp, Carroll and Mary Pat Arnold	2011
b. 5, f. 17	Weissenbuhler, Elsbeth and Heinz	2007
b. 16	Weissenbuhler, Elsbeth and Heinz 2021-M-0013-0003 *1 CD-R* As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access.	2007 May 20
b. 17	Weissenbuhler, Elsbeth and Heinz 2021-M-0013-0004 *1 CD-R* As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access.	2007 May 20
b. 5, f. 18	Wiley, Philip, Princeton Library	1959
b. 5, f. 19	Yaudes, Len	2009
b. 5, f. 20	Young, Ed	2011
b. 5, f. 21	Zeh, Walter partial autobiography	Circa 1990

Photographs

b. 5, f. 22	Austin Seth Center	Circa 1960
b. 5, f. 23	Elmira trip	1994 May
b. 5, f. 24-26	Elmira trip	1996 May
b. 6, f. 1-2	Elmira trip	1996 November
b. 6, f. 3	Elmira trip	

Photographs (continued)

b. 6, f. 4	Elmira trip personal photographs	1996
b. 6, f. 5	Elmira trip personal photographs	1996 May
b. 6, f. 6	Elmira, Sue Watkin	1986–1988
b. 6, f. 7	House (probably Jane Roberts')	Circa 1990
b. 6, f. 8	Jane and Tom Sweeney, Rich and Suzanne Delisle	1987
b. 6, f. 9	Jane Roberts	1968 August 25
b. 6, f. 10	Jane Roberts portrait by Robert Butts	1997
b. 6, f. 11	List of original photographs	2001 February 1
b. 6, f. 12	Lynda Dahl	Circa 1990
b. 6, f. 13	Michael Banker	
b. 6, f. 14	New Haven trip	Circa 1990
b. 6, f. 15	New York City Seth conference	1988 November
b. 6, f. 16	Photograph negatives	
b. 6, f. 17	Reeve Diner	Circa 1975
b. 6, f. 18	Richard Kendall	
b. 6, f. 19	Richard Kendall	
b. 6, f. 20	Richard Kendall	Circa 1985
b. 6, f. 21	Robert Butts and Jane Roberts young photograph negatives	Circa 1960
b. 6, f. 22	Robert Butts	1987
b. 6, f. 23	Sethnet	1988
b. 6, f. 24	Sue Thornton and two men	1977

Series II: Correspondence, 1973–2008

This series contains correspondence between Dillman and members of the Seth researcher community, as well as correspondence with Jane Roberts and Robert Butts.

Series II is arranged alphabetically.

b. 7	General	2001-2004
b. 8, f. 1-2	General	2004-2005
b. 8, f. 3	Austin Seth Center	1985
b. 8, f. 4	Bertrand, Victor, and Seth paper	1982
b. 8, f. 5	Butts, Laurel-Davies	1985–2003
b. 8, f. 6	Butts, Laurel-Davies	1999–2008
b. 8, f. 7	Butts, Robert and Austin Seth Center	1979–1992
b. 8, f. 8	Butts, Robert and Nadine Frey Vogel	1994–1999
b. 8, f. 9	Butts, Robert	1997–2001
b. 8, f. 10	Butts, Robert	2000
b. 8, f. 11	Butts, Robert	2001–2005
b. 9, f. 1	Butts, Robert Medlon Rose Logue and Black Sheep letter	Circa 1980
b. 9, f. 2	Conversations with Seth correction emails	1997
b. 9, f. 3-4	Donations	2000
b. 9, f. 5	Estabrooks, George H.	2000
b. 9, f. 6	Fanmail	1997–2007
b. 9, f. 7	Freyvogel, Nadine	2001–2004
b. 9, f. 8	Gerardi, Jim	1979–1980
b. 9, f. 9	Kendall, Richard and Mary Dillman	1973–1987
b. 9, f. 10	Kendall, Richard and Robert Butts	1986–2003
b. 9, f. 11	Kendall, Richard	1988–1994
b. 9, f. 12	Kendall, Richard	2000
b. 9, f. 13	Kendall, Richard - Seth Network International	1997
b. 10, f. 1	Kendall, Richard correspondence and research	2001
b. 10, f. 2	Kendall, Richard correspondence regarding publishing Sue Watkins	1994
b. 10, f. 3	Moment Point email	2000
b. 10, f. 4	Mossman, Tam correspondence to Sue Watkins	1982

b. 10, f. 5	Ray, Sue and Robert Butts	2000–2012
b. 10, f. 6	Roberts, Jane and Robert Butts	1982–1984
b. 10, f. 7	Seth Material fanmail	1974
b. 10, f. 8	Smith, Vickie	1999
b. 10, f. 9	Sweeney, Jan correspondence with Jane Roberts	1982
b. 10, f. 10	Watkins, Sue	1999–2003
b. 10, f. 11	Watkins, Sue paper comments	1980
b. 10, f. 12	Watkins, Sue questionnaire	1979
b. 10, f. 13	Williams, Sue	1999–2000

Series III: Seth researcher community, 1971–2020

This series contains conference materials, presentations, and publications created by the Seth research community. There are several presentations in this series associated with the Austin Seth Center, a non-profit founded to promote the teachings of Seth and Jane Roberts, which hosts an annual conference called Seth World Conference. The Austin Seth Center is responsible for the publication *Beyond Reality*.

Series III is arranged under two headings: Conferences and presentations, and Publications. Material within these headings is organized alphabetically.

	Conferences and presentations	
	Austin Seth Center	
b. 11, f. 1	"All That Is" presentations	
b. 11, f. 2	Alternate focus and door exercises	1971
b. 11, f. 3	Correspondence	1984–1992
b. 11, f. 4	Dreams: Nature and values study	Circa 1980
b. 11, f. 5	Family of Consciousness presentation	Circa 1980
b. 11, f. 6	Freevogel, Nadine	1984
b. 11, f. 7	Freevogel, Nadine	1994
b. 11, f. 8	Fun and Responsibility presentation	Circa 1980
b. 11, f. 9	Healing presentation	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 10	Inner self communication presentation	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 11	Jane Roberts memorial service	1984 November 11
b. 11, f. 12	List of presentations and topics of talks given at the center	
b. 11, f. 13	Magical approach	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 14	Nature and scope, notes on Seth, questions, comparison, message, and blueprint	1980
b. 11, f. 15	Perception presentation	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 16	Photographs	2007
b. 11, f. 17	Precognition presentation	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 18	Probable realities presentation	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 19	Ravenwolf, Linda *Index Guide to Dreaming and Dream Reality*	Circa 1989
b. 11, f. 20	Reality change	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 21	Reality creation presentation	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 22	Research index	Circa 1985

Conferences and presentations > Austin Seth Center (continued)

b. 11, f. 23	Safe universe	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 24	Seth Dream Network	1985
b. 11, f. 25	Seth Group	Circa 1985
b. 11, f. 26	Sethian future	1985
b. 12, f. 1	Social situations, undesirable	Circa 1985
b. 12, f. 2	Tax exempt status	1985–1991
b. 18	Colorado Seth Conference 2021-M-0013-0002 *1 CD-R* As a preservation measure, original materials may not be used. Digital access copies must be provided for use. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access.	2003–2005
b. 12, f. 3	Dorrell, Jane, Seth Message	1982
b. 12, f. 4	Elmira SethNet conference	1997–1998
b. 12, f. 5	Internationlen Seth-Treffen conference program	2011 October
b. 12, f. 6	Neel, Karen Hoerner paper	2007
b. 12, f. 7	Ravenwolf, Linda Manual of Dream Art	1989
b. 14, f. 3	Rocky Mountain Seth Conference group photograph	1985
b. 12, f. 8	Safe Universe Seth tape transcript	1975
b. 12, f. 9	Seth conferences brochures	1999–2005
b. 12, f. 10	Freevogel, Nadine, Seth Friends (German/Swiss)	1989–1990
b. 12, f. 11	Seth Material publication proposal	Circa 1987
b. 12, f. 12	Seth Material publication proposal, annotated	1989
b. 12, f. 13	Seth Network International address list and conference notes	1999–2010
b. 12, f. 14	SethNet conference materials	1997–2004
b. 19	Seth World Conference t-shirts	1984-1986
b. 12, f. 15	Seth Video corresponding transcript	1986
b. 12, f. 16	Stewart, Helen, University for Metaphysical Studies draft proposal	1992
b. 13, f. 1	Williams, Sue compilations	2010
	Publications	
b. 13, f. 2	*Beyond Reality* magazine issue 6	1973
b. 13, f. 3	*Black Sheep* funzine index	2011

Publications (continued)

b. 13, f. 4	Conversations with Seth volume proofs	1981
b. 13, f. 5	*Coordinate Points* information	2020
b. 13, f. 6	*Coordinate Point International*	1983–1984
b. 13, f. 7	*Internationales Seth-Treffen*	1992
b. 13, f. 8	*Internationales Seth-Treffen*	1984 October
b. 13, f. 9	*La Realta Magica*	1995
b. 13, f. 10	*Multidimensionale Wirklichkeit*	1991 March
b. 13, f. 11	*Multidimensionale Wirklichkeit*	1997 September
b. 13, f. 12	*Multidimensionale Wirklichkeit*	1998 April
b. 13, f. 13	*Multidimensionale Wirklichkeit*	2005
b. 13, f. 14	*Prana*	1997 August-September
b. 13, f. 15	*Revision: A Journal of Consciousness and Change*, Volume 6 number 1	1983
b. 13, f. 16	*Seth World: The Game of All That Is*	2005
b. 13, f. 17	*Seth: Atraves de Jane Roberts*	1997
b. 13, f. 18	Watkins, Susan bibliography	Circa 1989
b. 13, f. 19	*What Can Elementary Particles Tell Us About the World in Which We Live?*	2000

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Channelers (Mediums)
Extrasensory perception
Spiritualism
Spirit writings

Occupations

Spiritualists

Genres / Formats

Correspondence
Interviews

Names

Butts, Robert F.
Roberts, Jane, 1929-1984
Seth
Watkins, Susan M., 1945-2022