



# Finding Aid for the Gerald Elliott papers Collection 529

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Prepared by Will Miner and Robby Peters

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Business Number: 616-988-5497

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/history/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids History Center
<b>Source - dnr:</b>	Elliott, Eric
<b>Creator:</b>	Elliott, Gerald
<b>Title:</b>	Gerald Elliott papers
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 529
<b>ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::ACCESSION]:</b>	1179
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1935-1991
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Gerald Elliott (1907-1994) was born in Grand Rapids and attended Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Junior College, and Davenport Business College. He worked as a professional musician (1924-1941), social worker for federal and state emergency relief (1933-1941), caseworker and administrator for the Bureau for Homeless and Unattached Men, soldier in the Second World War, and finally as editor for <i>The Grand Rapids Press</i> from 1941 to 1972. After his retirement, he worked as a staff writer and adjunct professor at Grand Valley State College (GVSC) (1973-1978), and as the local program advisor for WGVC-TV. This collection contains valuable genealogical material in the form of interview notes taken for his <i>Press</i> column "With Us Today", which highlighted the lives of many people of older age that were active in the West Michigan community in the 1970s and 80s, often describing their lives and families in great detail. The collection is also useful to anyone interested in the history of <i>The Grand Rapids Press</i> or any of the many organizations in which Elliott was active.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Gerald "Jerry" Albert Elliott (1907-1994) was born October 4, 1907 in Grand Rapids. He attended Straight Elementary School and later Union High School, and after graduating studied music composition and arrangement at Grand Rapids Junior College (GRJC). He then worked for Berkey & Gay Furniture as a supply storekeeper by day, and performed as a musician by night. In 1930 he briefly moved to Chicago but returned to Grand Rapids to again work for Berkey & Gay until their closure shortly thereafter. For the next six months he played with a large dance band at the Regent Theater Roof Garden until he found work writing marketing copy for a company in Greenville. Three years later, the company went bankrupt, so in 1934 he returned to Grand Rapids and began working as a social worker at a center for transient men. In 1938 he married Marie Willdeboer (1910-1948). In 1941 he became an editor at *The Grand Rapids Press*.

In December 1943, he was drafted into the Army and sent to Camp Lee (now Fort Gregg-Adams) near Petersburg, Virginia for basic training. He was then assigned to the Army postal installation in San Francisco, where his writing experience was put to use crafting speeches for the commanding officer. In 1945, Elliott returned to Grand Rapids and continued writing editorials at *The Grand Rapids Press*, in addition to music and theater reviews. Not long after, Marie gave birth to their second son, but she and the baby did not survive.

Outside of work for the *Press*, he wrote speeches and book reviews, edited the *Butterworth Hospital Magazine* for 20 years, wrote "Grand Rapids Symphony Notes" for 29 years, and wrote fiction and non-fiction magazine articles. He also worked in radio, producing two shows a week for the University of Michigan and providing commentary for the broadcasts of the Grand Rapids Symphony.

In 1957, Elliott married Helen (Smith) Davis (1910-2002), a widow with three teenage sons, and they together shared a blended family until Elliot's death on October 21, 1994. Helen retired as director of volunteer services for the Kent County Department of Social Services in 1976. They traveled extensively together and donated their time to various organizations, with Elliott serving on the executive committee of the Michigan Council for the Humanities, and also as a member of the board of governors and chairman of the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Gerald Elliott Papers consist of the writings and correspondence of Gerald Elliott from the 1930s through the 1990s. He worked as an editor for *The Grand Rapids Press* from 1941-1972.

His non-fiction writing consists of correspondence, speeches, essays, magazine articles, and various columns of *The Grand Rapids Press*. The collection also contains drafts of the many short stories and novels he worked on in his spare time, as well as scripts of musicals and sheet music.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Business Number: 616-988-5497

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/history/>

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Materials donated by Eric Elliott, 1996.003

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open and available for researcher use.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Newspapers.
- Authors, American -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Elliott, Eric

## Collection Inventory

### Fiction Works

#### Novels/Long-Form Writing

##### Manuscript, "Who's Gory Now?"

Title/Description	Instances	
"Who's Gory Now?" (First Draft, Chapters 1-13)	Box 24	Folder 1
"Who's Gory Now?" (First Draft, Chapters 14-23)	Box 24	Folder 2
"Who's Gory Now?" (First Draft, Chapters 24-29)	Box 24	Folder 3
"Who's Gory Now?" (Second Draft, Chapters 1-9)	Box 24	Folder 4
"Who's Gory Now?" (Second Draft, Chapters 10-18)	Box 24	Folder 5
"Who's Gory Now?" (Second Draft, Chapters 19-24)	Box 24	Folder 6
"Who's Gory Now?" (Second Draft, Chapters 25-29)	Box 24	Folder 7
Correspondence with publisher re: "Who's Gory Now?"	Box 24	Folder 8

##### Manuscript, "The 'Bug' Years of Your Life"

Title/Description	Instances	
"The 'Bug' Years of Your Life" (Draft, Introduction-Chapter 5)	Box 25	Folder 1
"The 'Bug' Years of Your Life" (Draft, Chapters 6-11)	Box 25	Folder 2
"The 'Bug' Years of Your Life" (Draft, Chapters 12-18)	Box 25	Folder 3
"The 'Bug' Years of Your Life" (Draft, Chapters 19-23)	Box 25	Folder 4
"The 'Bug' Years of Your Life" (Draft, Chapters 24-28)	Box 25	Folder 5

##### Manuscript, "Hell's the Second Door to the Left"

Title/Description	Instances	
"Hell's the Second Door to the Left" (Draft, Chapters 1-8)	Box 24	Folder 9
"Hell's the Second Door to the Left" (Draft, Chapters 9-16)	Box 24	Folder 10
"Hell's the Second Door to the Left" (Draft, Chapters 17-25)	Box 24	Folder 11
"Hell's the Second Door to the Left" (Draft, Chapters 26-29)	Box 24	Folder 12

## Scripts

### Play/Musical/Skit Scripts

Title/Description	Instances	
An Evening with Kurt Weill (Drafts), 1956	Box 18	Folder 1
An Evening with Kurt Weill, 1956	Box 18	Folder 2
An Evening with Kurt Weill (Photos), 1956	Box 18	Folder 3
An Evening with Kurt Weill (Congratulatory Telegrams), 1956	Box 18	Folder 4
Bank Robbery	Box 18	Folder 5
Billy Carter Interview	Box 18	Folder 6
Carter Interview, c. 1977	Box 18	Folder 7
Dog Catcher	Box 18	Folder 8
Down By the Riverside	Box 18	Folder 9
Dunkers - 1978	Box 18	Folder 10
European Crisis	Box 18	Folder 11
European Holiday, 1950	Box 18	Folder 12
Grand Jury Skit	Box 18	Folder 13
Grand Rapids Be-Dunked	Box 18	Folder 14
H.M.S. I've Been There Before, c. 1955	Box 18	Folder 15
How to Survive (Macheath, Mrs. Peachum, Chorus)	Box 18	Folder 16
Hunter's Bulletin	Box 18	Folder 17
Judge Noel Fox Skit	Box 18	Folder 18
Lawyer Sketch	Box 18	Folder 19
Once Over Lightly	Box 18	Folder 20
Our Future--At Last!, 1957	Box 18	Folder 21
Quick Hitters	Box 18	Folder 22
Red Barf Theatre Skit	Box 18	Folder 23
The Shark Has Pretty Teeth, 1961	Box 18	Folder 24
Sing Me No Sad Songs, 1991	Box 18	Folder 25
That Was The Year That Was--And We're Glad It's Over...	Box 18	Folder 26
Walchenbach Christmas Message	Box 18	Folder 27

We Need Your Head In Our Business, Said The Barber (Draft)	Box 18	Folder 28
We Need Your Head In Our Business, Said The Barber	Box 18	Folder 29
What A Relief!	Box 18	Folder 30
Who's Sorry Now?	Box 18	Folder 31
The Year The Damn Broke, 1960	Box 18	Folder 32

## Scripts (General)

Title/Description	Instances	
Hospital: Notes	Box 19	Folder 1
Hospital: Correspondence, 1956	Box 19	Folder 2
Hospital: Questionnaires	Box 19	Folder 3
Hospital: Scenes	Box 19	Folder 4
Hospital: Scene Synopsis	Box 19	Folder 5
Hospital: Scripts & Outlines	Box 19	Folder 6
A Century of Music: 1980 Scripts & Production Notes, 1980	Box 19	Folder 7
A Century of Music in America: 1955 Program, 1955	Box 19	Folder 8
A Century of Music: 1980 Program, 1980	Box 19	Folder 9
A Century of Music: 1980 Newspaper Article, 1980	Box 19	Folder 10
A Century of Music in America: 1955 Images, 1955	Box 19	Folder 11
A Century of Music in America: Scripts	Box 19	Folder 12
A Century of Music in America: 1955 Scripts & Production Notes, 1955	Box 19	Folder 13
A Century of Music in America: 1955 Negatives & Contact Sheets, 1955	Box 19	Folder 14
Midwest Politics: A Play in Three Acts	Box 19	Folder 15

## Scripts (for Clubs)

Title/Description	Instances	
An Evening at the Opera	Box 20	Folder 1
By the Dawn's Early Light, 1958	Box 20	Folder 2
Chamber of Commerce Cruise Script (Davy Crockett)	Box 20	Folder 3
The Changing World and Red Cross	Box 20	Folder 4
The Only Way is Up, 1962	Box 20	Folder 5



The Annual Dunkers Club Breakfast (Program), 1967	Box 20	Folder 6
Untitled Dunkers Club Script, 1970	Box 20	Folder 7
Try It -- You'll Like It!, 1971	Box 20	Folder 8
Dunkers Club Script, 1977	Box 20	Folder 9
Ed Murphy Benefit Script	Box 20	Folder 10
Grand Rapids Symphony Script	Box 20	Folder 11
Plan for United Nations Veterans League Announced, 1945	Box 20	Folder 12
Schubert Club, 1957	Box 20	Folder 13
Schubert Club, 1958	Box 20	Folder 14
Schubert Club Concert, 1960	Box 20	Folder 15
Sunday on the Corner	Box 20	Folder 16
Untitled Scripts	Box 20	Folder 17
Dunkers Club Programs, 1960-1961	Box 20	Folder 18
Belding: A Century of Progress (Scripts)	Box 20	Folder 19
Annotated Scripts	Box 20	Folder 20
Cast Contact Cards	Box 20	Folder 21
Programs, Receipts & Contracts	Box 20	Folder 22
Correspondence	Box 20	Folder 23
Notes	Box 20	Folder 24

## **Titled Fiction**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
A Little Old Dime	Box 21	Folder 1
The Accordion Man	Box 21	Folder 2
And You Ought to See the Scenery!	Box 21	Folder 3
Any Calls From Mr. Shakespeare?	Box 21	Folder 4
Assignment No. 2	Box 21	Folder 5
Bannister	Box 21	Folder 6
The Bracelet	Box 21	Folder 7
The Devil is the Fourth D	Box 21	Folder 8
The Devil to Pay	Box 21	Folder 9
Double Take	Box 21	Folder 10

Eclipsed	Box 21	Folder 11
Fingers of the Chill Night	Box 21	Folder 12
Fling Him a Handful of Star	Box 21	Folder 13
The Flowers That Bloom	Box 21	Folder 14
Further Advice on How to Be a Secretary	Box 21	Folder 15
Hamlet, Mr. Sneadham and the Waffle Iron	Box 21	Folder 16
He Didn't Know It Was Loaded	Box 21	Folder 17
Holdup	Box 21	Folder 18
Miss Universe	Box 21	Folder 19
Out of This World	Box 21	Folder 20
Pair of Shoes	Box 21	Folder 21
Sing Something Simple	Box 21	Folder 22
The Soft One	Box 21	Folder 23
Something's Always Happening	Box 21	Folder 24
Star Bright	Box 21	Folder 25
What's New in Lingerie?	Box 21	Folder 26
Your Phone's Ringing	Box 21	Folder 27
A Parable for Today	Box 22	Folder 1
Adieu... and Never Come Back	Box 22	Folder 2
And You Ought to See the Scenery!	Box 22	Folder 3
Carnaval	Box 22	Folder 4
The Chest	Box 22	Folder 5
Cornered	Box 22	Folder 6
Department Store Elegie	Box 22	Folder 7
The End of Something	Box 22	Folder 8
He Sure Hated Kids	Box 22	Folder 9
How to Make a Torte	Box 22	Folder 10
How Was I to Know?	Box 22	Folder 11
Last Train West	Box 22	Folder 12
The Man Who Knew Willie	Box 22	Folder 13
Marche Funebre in X	Box 22	Folder 14
On Collecting	Box 22	Folder 15

Reunion	Box 22	Folder 16
Service for One	Box 22	Folder 17
The Soft One	Box 22	Folder 18
Small Sound, No Fury	Box 22	Folder 19
Thanksgiving Day: A Parable	Box 22	Folder 20
Two to the Bar	Box 22	Folder 21
The Vengeance of Old Judd	Box 22	Folder 22
The Will and the Despair	Box 22	Folder 23
I Can Hear Them Now	Box 22	Folder 24
Murder Daubs a Canvas (Draft)	Box 22	Folder 25
Murder Daubs a Canvas	Box 22	Folder 26
Here's How it Happened	Box 22	Folder 27
Physical Portrait (Assignment No. 1)	Box 22	Folder 28
To Face This Moment	Box 22	Folder 29
Republic Strike (Assignment No. 5)	Box 22	Folder 30
A Little Old Dime	Box 22	Folder 31
Hungary, 1956	Box 22	Folder 32
The Dinner	Box 22	Folder 33
I Played Piccolo for Liberace	Box 22	Folder 34

## Untitled Fiction

Title/Description	Instances	
Untitled Fiction #1	Box 23	Folder 1
Untitled Fiction #2	Box 23	Folder 2
Untitled Fiction #3	Box 23	Folder 3
Untitled Fiction #4	Box 23	Folder 4
Untitled Fiction #5	Box 23	Folder 5
Untitled Fiction #6	Box 23	Folder 6
Untitled Fiction #7	Box 23	Folder 7
Untitled Fiction #8	Box 23	Folder 8
Untitled Fiction #9	Box 23	Folder 9
Untitled Fiction #10	Box 23	Folder 10
Untitled Fiction #11	Box 23	Folder 11

Untitled Fiction #12	Box 23	Folder 12
Untitled Fiction #13	Box 23	Folder 13
Untitled Fiction #14	Box 23	Folder 14
Untitled Fiction #15	Box 23	Folder 15
Untitled Fiction #16	Box 23	Folder 16
Untitled Fiction #17	Box 23	Folder 17
Untitled Fiction #18	Box 23	Folder 18
Untitled Fiction #19	Box 23	Folder 19
Untitled Nonfiction #1	Box 23	Folder 20
Untitled Nonfiction #2	Box 23	Folder 21
Untitled Nonfiction #3	Box 23	Folder 22
Untitled Nonfiction #4	Box 23	Folder 23
Untitled Nonfiction #5	Box 23	Folder 24
Story Notes	Box 23	Folder 25

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## Nonfiction Works

### Speeches

#### Personal

Title/Description	Instances	
"The Lilliputian Problem, or Inhibiting the Young Imagination", 1982	Box 15	Folder 1
Mental Health, 1962	Box 15	Folder 2
"The New Populism", 1972	Box 15	Folder 3
Newspapers, 1957	Box 15	Folder 4
Newspaper Editors	Box 15	Folder 5
"Old City Hall"	Box 15	Folder 6
Police Training	Box 15	Folder 7
"Proposed statement to be made at UCS hearing on Volunteers of America"	Box 15	Folder 8

"Another Opening of Another Show": The Grand Rapids Schubert Club Male Chorus, 106 Years of Song (1988-1989), 1989	Box 15	Folder 9
"An Apple for the Teacher": Sheridan PTA, 1959	Box 15	Folder 10
"The Community Looks at Social Agencies": Social Workers Forum	Box 15	Folder 11
"The Trouble with Judging": Piano Teacher Forum of Grand Rapids, 1956	Box 15	Folder 12
Twelfth Annual Festival of Faith: Central Reformed Church, 1968	Box 15	Folder 13
United Community Fund: Slide Commentaries, 1959	Box 15	Folder 14
United Community Service, 1965	Box 15	Folder 15
"What Can a Man Do?"	Box 15	Folder 16
What Place for Theatre?	Box 15	Folder 17
World Affairs: Sputnik Launch	Box 15	Folder 18

## Commissioned

Title/Description	Instances	
All Critics Have Cold Noses	Box 4	Folder 1
The Artist as Critic, 1962	Box 4	Folder 2
Battle Creek	Box 4	Folder 3
Beethoven, c. 1970	Box 4	Folder 4
Catherine Genovese, 1967	Box 4	Folder 5
Is Self Restraint in Lieu of Censorship Compatible with Freedom Guarantees?, 1955	Box 4	Folder 6
The City Planner -- Today's Paradox, 1957	Box 4	Folder 7
Coffee Concert, 1978	Box 4	Folder 8
The Concert Season, c. 1970	Box 4	Folder 9
Contemporary Literature	Box 4	Folder 10
Court of Current Opinion, 1948	Box 4	Folder 11
Dedication of Vandenberg Center	Box 4	Folder 12
Donald J. Porter	Box 4	Folder 13
Some Preliminary Notes on Eugene O'Neill, 1959	Box 4	Folder 14
Everyone His Own Music Critic, 1956	Box 4	Folder 15
Getting Involved	Box 4	Folder 16

Grand Rapids in Retrospect and Prospect, 1968	Box 4	Folder 17
Hitting the Campaign Book Trail, 1969	Box 4	Folder 18
Nobody Understands Anybody [Human Relations]	Box 4	Folder 19
Is Writing Poetry a Vice?, 1983	Box 4	Folder 20
Dr. James P. Muldoon, 1972	Box 4	Folder 21
Junior College	Box 4	Folder 22
Kendall School of Design Commencement, 1981	Box 4	Folder 23
Letters From the Revolution	Box 4	Folder 24
Literacy Demands in the Era of Telecommunications, 1983	Box 4	Folder 25
Newspapers + the Revolution, 1970	Box 4	Folder 26
Lady Godiva Never Rode in a Droshky, 1959	Box 4	Folder 27

## Articles/Essays

Title/Description	Instances	
A Couple of Bucks	Box 16	Folder 1
Bass Know Their Bait	Box 16	Folder 2
Bill Noble, 1953	Box 16	Folder 3
Congressman on Main Street	Box 16	Folder 4
Driftwood	Box 16	Folder 5
Driftwood Photos	Box 16	Folder 6
Dune Homes	Box 16	Folder 7
Flagstaff, Arizona	Box 16	Folder 8
From Minnows to Marina	Box 16	Folder 9
Girl With the Lipizzan	Box 16	Folder 10
Girl With the Lipizzan (Photos)	Box 16	Folder 11
Grand Rapids Chair & Boyne Mountain Railroad	Box 16	Folder 12
The Hemingway Country	Box 16	Folder 13
Jesiek Brothers Marina (Drafts)	Box 16	Folder 14
Jesiek Brothers Marina (Photos & Ephemera)	Box 16	Folder 15
Lafayette Clinic Pieces	Box 16	Folder 16
Lake Michigan Runs Wild	Box 16	Folder 17
New Weapons for Mental Health	Box 16	Folder 18

Nobody Dies Laughing	Box 16	Folder 19
Outdoor Life	Box 16	Folder 20
Sidebars	Box 16	Folder 21
Singapore/Saugatuck	Box 16	Folder 22
Summer Theatre	Box 16	Folder 23
Vickeryville Post Office Closing	Box 16	Folder 24
The West Comes East	Box 16	Folder 25
Women's Guilds / Butterworth Hospital	Box 16	Folder 26
Young Man Going Places: Edwin Butters	Box 16	Folder 27
Correspondence	Box 16	Folder 28
Correspondence	Box 16	Folder 29
Correspondence	Box 16	Folder 30
Correspondence	Box 16	Folder 31
Correspondence	Box 16	Folder 32
Miscellaneous Personal Correspondence	Box 16	Folder 33
Notes	Box 16	Folder 34
The Arts as a Saving Grace	Box 17	Folder 1
Case "A"	Box 17	Folder 2
City Shelters	Box 17	Folder 3
Concerning the Farm Situation	Box 17	Folder 4
Condensation	Box 17	Folder 5
Editorials	Box 17	Folder 6
The Four Dangerous Sisters	Box 17	Folder 7
Gerald Ford Cultural Center	Box 17	Folder 8
Laundry, 1954	Box 17	Folder 9
The Negro on Relief	Box 17	Folder 10
Principles and Problems of Public Welfare Administration	Box 17	Folder 11
Prins	Box 17	Folder 12
The Railroad Strike of 1922	Box 17	Folder 13
The Role of the Hospital in the Community	Box 17	Folder 14
That's a Live Mike!	Box 17	Folder 15
Sing Something Simple	Box 17	Folder 16

Sister Gervase	Box 17	Folder 17
Vocational Rehabilitation Center at Kent County Honor Camp	Box 17	Folder 18
What Shall We Do With the Homeless Man and the Migratory Worker	Box 17	Folder 19
Why Transients	Box 17	Folder 20
Boxed Material: Dorothy Smith-McAllister	Box 17	Folder 21
Boxed Material: Dorothy Leonard-Judd	Box 17	Folder 22
Boxed Material: Julius Amberg	Box 17	Folder 23
Boxed Material: Grand Rapids News	Box 17	Folder 24
Boxed Material: Stanley Ketchel	Box 17	Folder 25
Boxed Material: Rube Waddell	Box 17	Folder 26
Boxed Material: Ollie Praetorious	Box 17	Folder 27
Boxed Material: Gerald R. Ford	Box 17	Folder 28
Boxed Material: Judge William Brown	Box 17	Folder 29
Boxed Material: Spencer Tracy & Pat O'Brien	Box 17	Folder 30
Boxed Material: Arthur Vandenberg	Box 17	Folder 31
Boxed Material: Wesley Ramey	Box 17	Folder 32
Baker's Acres	Box 17	Folder 33
Baker's Acres (Notes)	Box 17	Folder 34
Baker's Acres (Photos)	Box 17	Folder 35
Community College Newspaper Competition	Box 17	Folder 36
Kent County Welfare Relief Commission News Bulletin, 1935	Box 17	Folder 37
Book Reviews	Box 17	Folder 38
"Lilith" Opera	Box 17	Folder 39
Nu Pied Dance Theatre (Promo Poster), 1978	Box 17	Folder 40
"Ten Nights in a Bar Room"	Box 17	Folder 41
"Together, Wherever": A Musical Review for the Dunker's Club, 1964	Box 17	Folder 42
"The Creatures of Prometheus": Program Notes	Box 17	Folder 43

## Poetry

## Photos



Title/Description	Instances	
Jane Augustine (1931-)	Box 6	Folder 1
Allen DeLoach (1939-2002)	Box 6	Folder 2
Edward Dorn (1929-1999)	Box 6	Folder 3
Robert Duncan (1919-1988)	Box 6	Folder 4
George Economou (1934-2019)	Box 6	Folder 5
Theodore Enslin (1925-2011)	Box 6	Folder 6
Allen Ginsberg (1926-1997)	Box 6	Folder 7
David Meltzer (1937-2016)	Box 6	Folder 8
Victor Hernández Cruz (1949-)	Box 6	Folder 9
Carl Rakosi (1903-2004)	Box 6	Folder 10
Rochelle Owens (1936-), Judith Minty (1933-2017), George Oppen (1908-1984)	Box 6	Folder 11
Robert Duncan (1919-1988), Basil King (1935-), Theodore Enslin (1925-2011), Cal Rakosi (1903-2004)	Box 6	Folder 12
George Oppen (1908-1984)	Box 6	Folder 13
Kenneth Rexroth (1905-1982)	Box 6	Folder 14
Charles Reznikoff (1894-1976)	Box 6	Folder 15
Robert Vas Dias (1931-)	Box 6	Folder 16
various, in television studio	Box 6	Folder 17
unidentified	Box 6	Folder 18
Poetry (c. 1937)	Box 5	Folder 1
Poetry Festival: Notes & Observations (1973)	Box 5	Folder 2
Interview: Gerry Porter	Box 5	Folder 3
Poet Biographies	Box 5	Folder 4
A pride of poets (1973) [Grand Rapids Press article & draft]	Box 5	Folder 5
[Draft Article] (1987)	Box 5	Folder 6

## Profiles

### Biographies

Title/Description	Instances	
Ayer, Perley (1900-1967)	Box 13	Folder 1
Bikel, Theodore (1924-2015)	Box 13	Folder 2

Bulman, Orville (1904-1978)	Box 13	Folder 3
DeYoung, Chris A. (1898-1971)	Box 13	Folder 4
Deiss, Lucien (1921-2007)	Box 13	Folder 5
Fleming, Robben Wright (1916-2010)	Box 13	Folder 6
Fiedler, Arthur (1894-1979)	Box 13	Folder 7
Goebel, Paul G. (1901-1988)	Box 13	Folder 8
Haeck, Dr. William (1938-2008), 1966	Box 13	Folder 9
Hoyer, Rev. Leland (1924-1986), 1966	Box 13	Folder 10
Pigorsh, Arnold (1929-2007) & Linn, Harold (1901-1989), 1966	Box 13	Folder 11
Maddy, Joseph "Joe" E. (1892-1966)	Box 13	Folder 12
Mitchell, James E. (1915-1967), 1967	Box 13	Folder 13
Sonneveldt, Christian "Chris" H. (1911-2003)	Box 13	Folder 14
Streit, Clarence K. (1896-1986)	Box 13	Folder 15
Traver, Robert (aka Voelker, John D.) (1903-1991)	Box 13	Folder 16
Wakefield, Dan (1932-2024)	Box 13	Folder 17
Waalkes, Wallace (1911-1966)	Box 13	Folder 18
Wyeth, Andrew (1917-2009)	Box 13	Folder 19
Wharton, Dr. Clifton R., Jr. (1926-)	Box 13	Folder 20
Wustman, John (1930-)	Box 13	Folder 21

## "With Us Today"

### General

After his 1972 retirement from the *Grand Rapids Press* as chief editorial writer and music critic, Elliott continued to contribute as a staff writer. In August 1977, the *Press* began publishing the first of a weekly biography series written by Elliott, "With Us Today," to celebrate the "elder achievers whose accomplishments and leadership have contributed substantially to society." Collected here are his research notes and article drafts.

Title/Description	Instances	
"With Us Today": Partial List	Box 7	Folder 1
Albert, Silas "Cy" F.	Box 7	Folder 2
Alt, Edward N.	Box 7	Folder 3
Armstrong, Donald D.	Box 7	Folder 4
Bagby, Scott	Box 7	Folder 5
Baldwin, Ralph B.		

	Box 7	Folder 6
Baloyan, Mary	Box 7	Folder 7
Balyeat	Box 7	Folder 8
Bankston, John	Box 7	Folder 9
Barnard, Stephen H.	Box 7	Folder 10
Barton, Horace J.	Box 7	Folder 11
Bates, Ernest L.	Box 7	Folder 12
Baughman, Fred A.	Box 7	Folder 13
Baura, Joseph J.	Box 7	Folder 14
Baxter, Ernest R.	Box 7	Folder 15
Becker, Harold	Box 7	Folder 16
Beets, Clarence	Box 7	Folder 17
Belknap-Baldwin, Julie	Box 7	Folder 18
Bender, Josephine	Box 7	Folder 19
Bergman, Walter G.	Box 7	Folder 20
Bernetta, Sister Mary	Box 7	Folder 21
Beukema, Lawrence D.	Box 7	Folder 22
Beute, Herman	Box 7	Folder 23
Bierce, John & Grace	Box 7	Folder 24
Bilski, Sally	Box 7	Folder 25
Bjork, Arnold R.	Box 7	Folder 26
Black, Noel K.	Box 7	Folder 27
Block, Clem H.	Box 7	Folder 28
Blocksma, Douglas D.	Box 7	Folder 29
Blocksma, Ralph	Box 7	Folder 30
Blocksma-Boelkins, Jean	Box 7	Folder 31
Blodgett, Edith	Box 7	Folder 32
Booth, Esther	Box 7	Folder 33
Boshoven, Herbert R.	Box 7	Folder 34
Bouma, Donald H.	Box 7	Folder 35
Brace, Fred C.	Box 7	Folder 36
Brandt, James C.	Box 7	Folder 37

Brown, Bill G.	Box 7	Folder 38
Brown, Milo M.	Box 7	Folder 39
Brunnette, Edward J.	Box 7	Folder 40
Bukowski, Arthur F.	Box 7	Folder 41
Burgess, Eleanor	Box 7	Folder 42
Burr, James & Elizabeth	Box 7	Folder 43
Buzzitta, Giacomo J.	Box 7	Folder 44
Bylan, Hyman J.	Box 7	Folder 45
Cady, Marie Jay	Box 7	Folder 46
Carey, Donald V.	Box 7	Folder 47
Cary, Ara C.	Box 7	Folder 48
Carson, Gordon L.	Box 7	Folder 49
Cayce, William	Box 8	Folder 1
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Michigan Week and Ypsilanti	Box 12	Folder 54
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Music	Box 12	Folder 56
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## Historical Commission

Title/Description	Instances	
Agendas and Minutes	Box 14	Folder 1
"Culture and The Arts" Section (drafts)	Box 14	Folder 2
Biography of James Lyman	Box 14	Folder 3
Civic Theater	Box 14	Folder 4
Correspondence	Box 14	Folder 5
Draft	Box 14	Folder 6
Editorial Board Operating Procedure	Box 14	Folder 7
Ephemera	Box 14	Folder 8
History of Grand Rapids Art Gallery	Box 14	Folder 9
Outline and Layout	Box 14	Folder 10
Statement of Purpose	Box 14	Folder 11

## Notebooks

### General

Consists of 23 notebooks written by Elliott between the 1920s and 1990s, though most are undated. Their content spans financial record keeping, sketches of poetry and short stories, and musical compositions.

Title/Description	Instances
Notebook #1	Box 1
Notebook #2	Box 1
Notebook #3, c. 1991	Box 1

Notebook #4	Box 1
Notebook #5, c. 1990	Box 1
Notebook #6	Box 1
Notebook #7	Box 1
Notebook #8	Box 1
Notebook #9	Box 1
Notebook #10	Box 1
Notebook #11, c. 1924	Box 2
Notebook #12, c. 1923	Box 2
Notebook #13	Box 2
Notebook #14	Box 2
Notebook #15	Box 2
Notebook #16	Box 3
Notebook #17	Box 3
Notebook #18, c. 1991	Box 3
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Notebook #23, c. 1990	Box 3

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## Sheet Music/Music Scores

Title/Description	Instances	
Handwritten Musical Score: "American Legion Mark" by James Frieling, arranged by Gerald Elliott	Box 26	Folder 1
Handwritten Musical Score: "#12 Dixie Melody"	Box 26	Folder 2
Music Score: "I Enjoy Being a Girl" by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II	Box 26	Folder 3
Handwritten Musical Score: "Imagination" by Fud Livingston, arranged by Gerald Elliott	Box 26	Folder 4
Handwritten Musical Score: "Macbeth" by Gerald Elliott, 1946	Box 26	Folder 5

Handwritten Musical Score: "Soliloquy" by Rube Bloom, arranged by Gerald Elliott	Box 26	Folder 6
Handwritten Musical Score: "Soliloquy" by Rube Bloom, arranged by Gerald Elliott	Box 26	Folder 7
Handwritten Musical Score: "Ramona" by Mabel Wayne, arranged by Gerald Elliott	Box 26	Folder 8
Handwritten Musical Score: "St. Louis Blues" arranged by Gerald Elliott	Box 26	Folder 9
Handwritten Musical Score: "Two Part Invention on a Jazz Theme" by Gerald Elliott, 1936	Box 26	Folder 10
Unfinished music scores written by Gerald Elliott	Box 26	Folder 11
Various song lyrics	Box 26	Folder 12

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## Miscellaneous

### Index Card Notes

#### General

Consists of notes written on index cards by Elliott for speeches he gave to various area groups. They span the 1960s-1980s, though most are undated. The topics are varied and while some mention the name of the group, most are unlabeled.

Title/Description	Instances	
Accountants	Box 27	Folder 1
Area Agency on Aging	Box 27	Folder 2
Arts in America	Box 27	Folder 3
Arts in Grand Rapids	Box 27	Folder 4
Can there be a Fixed, Stable Foreign Policy?	Box 27	Folder 5
Intro to Dr. Leroy G. Augenstein	Box 27	Folder 6
Don Kuney	Box 27	Folder 7
Drug War	Box 27	Folder 8
Edgar May, 1964-03-12	Box 27	Folder 9
Elusive Peace	Box 27	Folder 10
Europe, 1961-12-11	Box 27	Folder 11
Far East	Box 27	Folder 61
Grand Rapids Council on World Affairs, 1963-01-16	Box 27	Folder 12



Grand Rapids Women's Club, 1960-11-29	Box 27	Folder 13
Housing	Box 27	Folder 14
Latin America, 1961-11-27	Box 27	Folder 15
Mental Health, 1961-06-15	Box 27	Folder 16
Music	Box 27	Folder 17
Myth and Vietnam	Box 27	Folder 18
The News	Box 27	Folder 19
The News Behind the News, 1961-12-18	Box 27	Folder 20
Nicaragua, 1981-01-12	Box 27	Folder 21
Niles Rotary	Box 27	Folder 22
Opera Jokes	Box 27	Folder 23
Public Library	Box 27	Folder 24
The Role of the Music Critic, 1961-05-08	Box 27	Folder 25
City Department Heads, 1964-03-19	Box 27	Folder 26
Sparta Lions Club, 1981-01-13	Box 27	Folder 27
State Association of County Social Welfare Boards, 1964-01-08	Box 27	Folder 28
Water Over the Dam, 1973-06-05	Box 27	Folder 29
Water Over the Dam -- and Under the Gate	Box 27	Folder 30
Why Is an Orchestra?	Box 27	Folder 31
West of the Hudson	Box 27	Folder 32
To California by Sea	Box 27	Folder 33
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Art in Grand Rapids	Box 27	Folder 35
Africa, 1961-12-04	Box 27	Folder 36
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Crime/Mystery Writing	Box 27	Folder 38
Money Equals Greed	Box 27	Folder 39
Untitled speech at Torch Club; politics, 1974-09-17	Box 27	Folder 40
Untitled speech at Piano Teacher's Forum; piano teaching, 1964-12-18	Box 27	Folder 41
Untitled speech at Women's Committee; classical music, 1962-03-06	Box 27	Folder 42

Mental Health, 1961-05-25	Box 27	Folder 43
Untitled speech; language	Box 27	Folder 44
Untitled speech; 1980 election	Box 27	Folder 45
Untitled speech; Pantlind Hotel	Box 27	Folder 46
Untitled speech; teachers	Box 27	Folder 47
Untitled speech	Box 27	Folder 48
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Untitled speech; classical music, symphonies	Box 27	Folder 50
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Untitled speech; Wyoming library	Box 27	Folder 52
Untitled speech at Women's City Club; Cold War, 1961-11-16	Box 27	Folder 53
Untitled speech; upcoming art events, 1974	Box 27	Folder 54
Untitled speech; writing	Box 27	Folder 55
Untitled speech; music criticism	Box 27	Folder 56
Untitled speech; senior citizen appreciation	Box 27	Folder 57
Untitled speech; Report of the Governor's Special Commission on Local Government, 1972	Box 27	Folder 58
What Grand Rapids Needs	Box 27	Folder 59
Miscellaneous Index Cards	Box 27	Folder 60

## Untitled Writing, Drafts

Box 28

### General

Contains drafts of two untitled writings: a loosely-formed article c.late-1970s about poet Dan Gerber (1940-) and novelist Robert F. Jones (1934-2002); and a work of fiction totaling nearly 250 pages.

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