

Joyce Sweeney Papers

MS – 242

Wright State University
Department of Special Collections and Archives

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Introduction

Writer Joyce Sweeney donated her papers to the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in May 1992.

The papers in this collection date from 1974 through 2011 and fill 1 media box, 12 Hollinger boxes, one oversized box, and one oversized folder. The collection is arranged into 5 series as follows:

- Series 1: School Papers
- Series 2: Manuscripts
- Series 3: Published Short Stories and Poetry
- Series 4: Scrapbooks
- Series 5: Miscellaneous Information

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Biographical Sketch

Joyce Sweeney was born Joyce Hegenbarth in Dayton, Ohio. She graduated from Wright State University, summa cum laude, and earned graduate credits at Ohio University in English and Creative Writing.

Since she was eight years old, Joyce had dreamed of becoming a writer. Determined and driven to be a writer, Joyce spent years developing her own writing style. Growing up as an only child with one parent, she adjourned to her fantasies about family life. Despite the limitations of widowhood and family finance, Joyce's mother provided two trips to Europe, enhancing her daughter's imagination and broadening her scope of the world.

At seventeen, Joyce earned twenty-five dollars with the publication of her first short story, "Where Do You Belong in the Jungle?" in *New Writers Magazine*. She continued to write fiction and became an accomplished writer of short stories. Joyce took first place in the Annual College Scholarship Internship Contest sponsored by *Playgirl* magazine. Her college literary magazine, *Nexus*, published her short story "Grass". "Shattered Suns" appeared in *Green's Literary Magazine*. In 1983, *Co-Ed* magazine published "Spanish Horses".

Also in 1983, Joyce won the Delacorte Press Books for Young Readers First Young Adult Novel Contest for *Center Line*. Since winning this competition, she has published 13 novels, including *Face the Dragon*, *The Dream Collector*, *Shadow*, *Waiting for June*, *Players*, *Headlock*, and *The Guardian*. In fact, *Shadow* won such an acclaim that in 1995, the Young Adult Library Association (YALSA) of the American Library Association recommended *Shadow* as one of its Books for Reluctant Young Adult Readers.

Since her auspicious beginning she has continued to publish appealing novels for teens on a variety of topics, among them friendships, family relationships, and self-discovery. Four of those novels have been named Best Books for Young Adults, four have been Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, and *Booklist* included *Players* among its Top Ten Sports Books in 2002.

Mrs. Sweeney lives and works in Coral Springs, Florida, where she consistently participates in book signings, visits schools, and attends special events pertaining to writing and young adult literature.

Scope and Content

The Joyce Sweeney Papers fall into five series: (1) School Papers; (2) Manuscripts; (3) Published Short Stories and Poetry; (4) Scrapbooks; and (5) Miscellaneous Information.

Series I contains Joyce Sweeney's school papers. These papers were written for classes she took at Wright State University and Ohio University. The papers date from approximately 1973 to 1979. Many of these school papers are undated, so educated guesses, often going by class numbers, were used to fit them in as close to chronological order as possible.

Series 2 holds Joyce Sweeney's manuscripts. Those manuscripts which are dated, and many were not, were written between 1978 and 2006. Sweeney handwrites all of her first drafts on spiral-bound notebooks, most of which are included here, as well as some original handwritten short stories. In addition, typewritten manuscripts and notes about these novels are filed in the manuscript series, from her first published novel, *Center Line*, to her most recently published, *The Guardian*. In this section, there are multiple copies of some of her novels, showing the progress from handwritten first draft through copyediting and proofing. Publisher's typesetting printouts and correspondence from them is also included for several novels. Some of the typed manuscripts have been divided into two parts for archival storage purposes because they are too voluminous to fit into a single file folder; Sweeney herself did not assign these divisions. Because many of the manuscripts are undated, it was difficult to arrange them chronologically. Therefore, the undated manuscripts are arranged in approximate chronological order based on the publication dates of the novels. All manuscripts are included in this series except for the typewritten short story "Where Do You Belong in the Jungle?" This work is filed with Scrapbook #1 inbox number 5, file number 2. It is filed with this scrapbook in accordance with respect for original order since that is where Mrs. Sweeney placed it.

Here is a list of Joyce Sweeney's current publications, with the year each work was published:

Center Line, 1985
Right Behind the Rain, 1987
The Dream Collector, 1989
Face the Dragon, 1990
Tiger Orchard, 1993
Piano Man, 1994
Shadow, 1994
Free Fall, 1996
The Spirit Window, 1998
Players, 2000
Takedown, 2004
Waiting for June, 2006
Headlock, 2006
The Guardian, 2009

Series 3 consists of copies of Mrs. Sweeney's short stories published in *New Writers*, *Nexus*, *Playgirl*, *Green's*, and *Co-Ed* Magazines. They were published from 1974 to 1983. The

series also includes an issue of the periodical *Blue Violin*, in which Sweeney's poem "Meditation" appears.

Series 4 includes the contents of seven scrapbooks. Many of the papers in these scrapbooks were being discolored and deteriorated by the adhesive which held them in place. To prevent further decay, these papers were separated from their scrapbooks and placed in acid-free file folders. The scrapbooks are arranged approximately in chronological order. They date from 1974 through 1990.

The subject matter of these scrapbooks varies. Some papers relate to legal matters involved with publishing; others are mail from adoring fans. The correspondence between the young Joyce Sweeney and her agent is interesting. Mrs. Sweeney's enthusiasm and delight at getting her work published is evident in her letters. Contents also include birthday cards, letters, notes and newspaper articles about Mrs. Sweeney and her books.

Series 5 is labeled "Miscellaneous Scrapbook Information." The materials contained in this series are similar to many of the materials found in the scrapbooks in Series 4. However, because Mrs. Sweeney had not arranged or labeled them as scrapbooks, they could not be filed with the scrapbook materials. Series 5 contains materials and correspondence from the conferences and workshops in which Mrs. Sweeney participated. Correspondence from students, fans, and publishers are also included here. It appears that Mrs. Sweeney visits public schools in her area with regularity to discuss her career. There are many touching letters exchanged between Mrs. Sweeney and these children, as well as an oversized thank you letter from 1995. This Series also includes varied information such as advertisements, articles, and press releases concerning Mrs. Sweeney and her published works. Some of these items are oversized and stored as such. These items are listed at the end of the workshop/conference materials in this series. There are some A/V materials located at the end of this series. These are VHS tapes and 2 mini cassettes.

Container Listing

Series 1: School Papers

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	“The Fortune Teller” and “The Flea Market”
	2	“Landlocked” and “The War is Lasting Forever”
	3	“As I Lay Dying and the Mission of the Twelve” and “The Fall of Eve”
	4	“Glittering Evil” and “The Blithedale Romance: Emerson v. Hawthorne”
	5	“The Franklin’s Tale and the Triumph of Pragmatism” and “Katherine Mansfield”
	6	“Great Wits and Madness: The Role of the Astronomer in Rasselas”
	7	“Introduction and Teaching Guide to Flannery O’Connor”
	8	“Lisa”

Series 2: Manuscripts

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	9	Book cover mock-ups	Undated
	10	<i>Center Line</i> – Handwritten (completed novel published in 1985)	Sep 1980
	11	<i>Center Line</i> – Copyedited Transcript	Aug 4, 1983
	12	<i>Center Line</i> – Uncorrected Proof	Apr 1984
	13	<i>Center Line</i> – copyedited transcript, with letter, (Part 1)	1984, 1986
	14	<i>Center Line</i> – copyedited transcript, (Part 2)	1984
2	1	<i>Center Line</i> – Screenplay, with original copyright and letter	1987, 1999
	2	<i>Right Behind the Rain</i> – Handwritten (completed novel published in 1987)	May 1978
	3	<i>One-Handed Catch</i> – Handwritten, later renamed <i>Dream Collector</i> (completed novel published in 1989)	Undated
	4	<i>Face the Dragon</i> – Handwritten (completed novel published in 1990)	Undated
	5	<i>The Tiger Orchard</i> – Handwritten (completed novel published in 1993)	Undated
	6	<i>The Tiger Orchard</i> – First Pass, Author’s Set, (Part 1)	May 14, 1992
	7	<i>The Tiger Orchard</i> – First Pass, Author’s Set, (Part 2)	May 14, 1992
3	1	<i>Piano Man</i> – Handwritten (completed novel published in 1994)	Undated
	2	<i>Piano Man</i> – Typescript	Undated
	3	<i>Where Water Sleeps</i> – Handwritten, later renamed <i>Free Fall</i> (completed novel published in 1996)	Undated
	4	<i>Where Water Sleeps</i> – Copyedited Transcript, later renamed <i>Free Fall</i> , (Part 1)	Undated
	5	<i>Where Water Sleeps</i> – Copyedited Transcript, later renamed <i>Free Fall</i> , (Part 2)	Undated
	6	<i>Free Fall</i> – Final Copyedited Transcript, (Part 1)	Mar 22, 1995
	7	<i>Free Fall</i> – Final Copyedited Transcript, (Part 2)	Mar 22, 1995

4	1	<i>Free Fall</i> – Final Pass, Author’s Set, (Part 1)	Oct 3, 1995
	2	<i>Free Fall</i> – Final Pass, Author’s Set, (Part 2)	Oct 3, 1995
	3	<i>Free Fall</i> – First Pass, Reader’s Set, (Part 1)	Nov 1995
	4	<i>Free Fall</i> – First Pass, Reader’s Set, (Part 2)	Nov 1995
	5	<i>Free Fall</i> – Copyedited Typescript, (Part 1)	Sep 1996
	6	<i>Free Fall</i> – Copyedited Typescript, (Part 2)	Sep 1996
	7	<i>That’s Where You’ll Find Me</i> – Handwritten, later renamed <i>The Spirit Window</i> (completed novel published in 1998)	Undated
5	1	<i>The Spirit Window</i> – First Pass, Reader’s Set, with letter, (Part 1)	Jun 1997, Apr 1998
	2	<i>The Spirit Window</i> – First Pass, Reader’s Set, (Part 2)	Jun 1997
	3	<i>The Spirit Window</i> – Copyedited Typescript, (Part 1)	Undated
	4	<i>The Spirit Window</i> – Copyedited Typescript, (Part 2)	Undated
	5	<i>The Spirit Window</i> – Final Copy, (Part 1)	Jun 1997
	6	<i>The Spirit Window</i> – Final Copy, (Part 2)	Jun 1997
	7	<i>The Spirit Window</i> – Origin, First Pass, with letter (Part 1)	Feb 17 and Jun 25, 1999
6	1	<i>The Spirit Window</i> – Origin, First Pass, (Part 2)	Feb 17, 1999
	2	Research for <i>Players</i>	1998
	3	<i>Players</i> – Handwritten (completed novel published in 2000)	Undated
	4	<i>Players</i> – Copyedited Typescript	Undated
	5	<i>Surfacing</i> – Handwritten, later renamed <i>Waiting for June</i> (completed novel published in 2006)	Undated
	6	<i>Waiting for June</i> – typed, Advance Reading Copy	Mar 31, 2003
7	1	<i>Waiting for June</i> – Copyedited Typescript, with letter	Jun 5, 2003
14	OS	<i>Waiting for June</i> – Final edition Typescript, with cover	2003
7	2	<i>Some Kid</i> – Handwritten, later renamed <i>Headlock</i> (completed novel published in 2006)	Undated
	3	<i>Headlock</i> – Advance Reading Copy	2002
	4	<i>Headlock</i> – First Pass, Author’s Set, Master Proof	Feb 23, 2006
	5	<i>The Guardian</i> – Handwritten (completed novel published in 2009)	undated

Series 3: Published Short Stories and Poetry

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8	1	“Where Do You Belong in the Jungle?”, in <i>New Writers Magazine</i> , Vol. II, No. 1	1974
	2	“Female Perceptions,” Interviews, published in <i>Nexus</i> (Wright State University Literary Magazine)	1975
	3	“Grass,” published in <i>Nexus</i>	1976
	4	“Raintance,” published in <i>Playgirl</i> magazine	Sep 1976
	5	“Shattered Suns,” published in <i>Green’s Magazine</i>	Spring 1978
	6	“Spanish Horses,” published in <i>Co-Ed</i> magazine	Apr 1983
	7	“Meditation,” <i>Blue Violin: Book I</i> , 2 copies	Jan 1996

8	“Some People Call me Maurice,” formatted	Mar 21, 2005
9	“Something Old, Something New,” writing group edits	Undated

Series 4: Scrapbooks

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8	10	Scrapbook #1	1974-1980
	11	Scrapbook #2	1981-1983
	12	Scrapbook #3	1982-1983
	13	Scrapbook #4	Dec 1983 – Apr 1984
	14	Scrapbook #5	1984
	15	Scrapbook #6, (Part 1)	1985-1988
9	1	Scrapbook #6, (Part 2)	1985-1988
	2	Scrapbook #7, (Part 1)	1988-1990
	3	Scrapbook #7, (Part 2)	1988-1990
	4	Loose Scrapbook Materials	1990-1992

Series 5: Miscellaneous Information

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
9	5	Articles About Sweeney	1997-1996, 2007, Undated
	6	A.R.T.S. Teacher Recognition Award	2004
	7	Correspondence: Cards and Notes	Undated
	8	Correspondence: Complaints on <i>Free Fall</i>	1999-2000
	9	Correspondence: Fan Mail	1993-2000
	10	Correspondence: Fan Mail	2002-2008
	11	Correspondence: letters from Joyce Sweeney	1995-2008
	12	Correspondence: Publishers	1993-1996
10	1	Correspondence: Publishers	1997-1999
	2	Correspondence: Publishers	2000-2008, Undated
	3	Correspondence: Student Mail from class visitations, (see also OS, location 100, file 1)	1995-1998
	4	Correspondence: Student Mail from class visitations	2000
	5	Correspondence: Student Mail from class visitations	2001, 2002, 2006
	6	Correspondence: Workshops and Conferences	1993-1999
11	1	Correspondence: Workshops and Conferences	2000-2007, Undated
	2	Correspondence: Writing Group	1997-2002, Undated
	3	News Clippings	1976, 1983-4, 1989

4	News Clippings	1990-2, 1994-2000
5	News Clippings	2001-2011, Undated
6	Publisher's Catalogs and Reviews	1984-2011
7	Website Biography Interview: authors4teens.com	2002
8	WSU, "Outstanding Alumni Award," information	1991-1992
9	Workshop/Conference Materials: ALA – 103 rd Annual Conference Program, (see also OS, location 100, file 1)	Jun 23-28, 1984
10	Workshop/Conference Materials: Exemplary Writer's Recognition Workshop	Apr 22, 1988
12	1 Workshop/Conference Materials: General	1991-1994
	2 Workshop/Conference Materials: General	1995-1996
	3 Workshop/Conference Materials: General	1997-1999
	4 Workshop/Conference Materials: General	2000-2007
	5 Workshop/Conference Materials: General, (see also OS Box 14, and location 100, file 1)	2008-2010, Undated
	<u>Audio/Visual Materials</u>	
13	1 "DVB News 5/14/93" – VHS ordered by Joyce Sweeney	May 14, 1993
	2 "Joyce" – VHS	Undated
	"JKS on WLRN FM" -- (2) Mini Cassette tapes	Apr 16, 1991
	3 "Library Edition," Joyce Sweeney – VHS	Undated
	4 Nova Southeastern University – GEM Program, ENG 635 Interview with Joyce Sweeney: Young Adult Author	Undated
	5 Writer's Workshop #105, Joyce Sweeney, Young Adult Writing – VHS	Undated
	<u>Oversized Materials</u>	
14	1 <i>Waiting for June</i> – Final edition Typescript, with cover, (see also Manuscripts, Box 7)	2003
	2 Workshop/Conference Materials: General, (see also Box 12, File 5, and oversize location 100, file 1)	undated