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<tr>
<td>Abstract:</td>
<td>Consists of files created by P.E.N. American Center as part of its regular business operations since its founding in 1922. Includes material on governance and policies, programs, awards, and financial aid granted to authors, and the center's involvement with International P.E.N. and other P.E.N. organizations worldwide. The collection is especially notable for its extensive author correspondence and occasional original manuscripts, as well as audio and video recordings of P.E.N. programs and events.</td>
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<td>Location:</td>
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Contents List ...........................................................................................................
P.E.N. American Center (PEN America) is the United States branch of International P.E.N., a worldwide non-profit organization of writers, editors, and translators that advocates for freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and "the ideal of one humanity living in peace in the world" (P.E.N. charter). Founded one year after International P.E.N. in 1922, P.E.N. American Center is one of two P.E.N. centers currently located in the U.S. (the other is in Los Angeles) and one of more than 100 centers of P.E.N. International worldwide.

P.E.N. American Center sponsors a variety of literary, literacy, and advocacy programs. Among the center's prominent activities are the advocacy program Freedom to Write, which defends censored or persecuted authors; the financial aid program Writers' Emergency Fund, which gives small emergency grants to authors who face acute financial difficulties; the Prison Writing Program, which promotes writing among prison inmates; and World in Translation, which recognizes American translators. The center also awards a number of literary prizes in the categories of fiction, nonfiction, drama, poetry, biography, children's/young adults' fiction, and translation.

P.E.N. American Center currently has a membership of over 7,000. The center counts Arthur Miller, Norman Mailer, Susan Sontag, Salman Rushdie, and Princeton professors Edmund Keeley and Kwame Anthoy Appiah among its past presidents. Its current president is Jennifer Egan. In addition, past members include James Baldwin, Willa Cather, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Thomas Mann, Marianne Moore, Paul Auster, and John Steinbeck, among others.

The P.E.N. American Center Records consist of files created by P.E.N. American Center (PEN America) as part of its regular business operations. They document the history and activities of the center since its foundation in 1922.

The collection contains files documenting the center's literary awards, grants, and financial aid given by the center, program files, and files pertaining to the center's advocacy for freedom of expression. Further included are files that document the center's decision-making processes and policies, including executive and committee files, fundraising files, and membership files. The conference files and files on other branches and centers document P.E.N. American Center's role in International P.E.N. and its interactions with organizations of P.E.N. worldwide. In addition, the collection contains audiovisual material documenting P.E.N. events and publications created by or under the auspices of P.E.N. American Center.

The collection is especially notable for its documentation of authors' and editors' creative processes and intellectual leanings, manifest in the executive correspondence files and the manuscripts and committee files that pertain to the center's literary awards. More than 1500 hours of audio and video recordings of P.E.N. programs and events, dating back to 1966, also document lively conversations between writers and artists, Nobel Prize winners in literature, economics, science, and peace, social reformers and activists, and philosophers, including Toni Morrison, Saul Bellow, Pablo Neruda, Arthur Miller, Susan Sontag, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Allen Ginsberg to name only a few.
The P.E.N. American Center Records are arranged into twelve series. Material transferred from P.E.N. subsequent to the original 1994 transfer is represented in this finding aid with the appropriate series but may be shelved physically apart.

Series 1: Executive Files, 1922-2007
Series 2: Membership, 1924-1991
Series 4: Programs, 1926-2008
  Subseries 4B: Prison Writing, 1963-1989
  Subseries 4C: Syndicated Fiction Project, 1982-1990
  Subseries 4D: Miscellaneous Programs and Events, 1926-2008
Series 5: Awards, 1930-1994
  Subseries 5A: P.E.N./Faulkner Foundation Award for Fiction, 1980-1993
  Subseries 5B: P.E.N./Nelson Algren Award for a Promising American Fiction Writer with Works in Progress, 1982-1989
  Subseries 5C: P.E.N./Roger Klein Award for Editing and P.E.N. Publisher Citation, 1972-1994
  Subseries 5D: Miscellaneous Awards and Prizes, 1930-1991
  Subseries 6B: P.E.N. Refugee Fund, 1938-1959
  Subseries 6C: P.E.N. Relief Fund, 1922-1952
  Subseries 6D: Writers' Emergency Fund, 1958-1992
  Subseries 6E: Miscellaneous Aid Programs, 1937-1984
Series 7: Committees, 1926-1998
Series 8: Conferences, 1924-1992
  Subseries 8B: An Inquiry Into the Literary and Political Climate of Latin America, 1980
  Subseries 8C: The Life of the Writer, 1976-1977
  Subseries 8D: Near Eastern Literature, 1976
  Subseries 8E: Translation Conferences, 1970-1987
Series 9: Centers and Branches, 1926-1991
  Subseries 9A: International Centers, 1926-1989
Series 10: Publications and Writings, 1940-2008
Series 12: Miscellaneous, 1924-1996

Access and Use

Access

This collection is open for research with the exception of the P.E.N. Writers' Fund files, which are closed per request of the P.E.N. American Center due to privacy concerns.
Online access to most digitized audiovisual media in the collection is available through the PEN America Digital Archive site. For the small number of media restricted by P.E.N. to onsite access due to copyright concerns, digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

This collection is stored off site. Please consult with RBSC staff about having the collection recalled to Firestone Library for your use. This process normally requires 48-72 hours notice.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Inquiries regarding publishing material from the collection should be directed to RBSC Public Services staff at rbsc@princeton.edu. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition


Appraisal

Approximately 100 linear feet of material was separated in 2010, including duplicate material, clippings, general administrative and logistical files, general membership files, general reference files, publications (transferred to Firestone Library general collections) and extraneous material.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); P.E.N. American Center Records, Box and Folder Number; Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Encoding


Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

· Böll, Heinrich.
· Calisher, Hortense.
· Canby, Henry Seidel.
· Carmer, Carl, 1893-1976.
· Farrar, John.
· Fleming, Thomas J.
· Flood, Charles Bracelen
· Galantiere, Lewis, 1895-1977.
· Galsworthy, John, 1867-1933.
· Keeley, Edmund.
· Kennerly, Karen.
· Kleeman, Rita Halle, b. 1885.
· Komroff, Manuel, 1890-1974.
· Malamud, Bernard.
· McMurtry, Larry.
· Melcher, Frederic Gershom, 1879-1963.
· Mendelssohn, Mel.
· Nathan, Robert Stuart.
· Putnam, James.
· Schoenberner, Franz, 1892-
· Scott, Catherine Amy (Catherine Amy Dawson Scott).
· Sontag, Susan, 1933-2004.
· Tiger, Lionel, 1937-
· American Center of P.E.N.
· Authors -- 20th century.
· Censorship -- 20th century.
· Congresses and conventions -- Literatures -- 20th century.
· Dramatists -- 20th century.
· Editors -- 20th century.
· Freedom of the press -- 20th century.
· Fund raising -- 20th century.
· Novelists -- 20th century.
· Poets -- 20th century.
· Prisoners' writings -- 20th century.
· Refugees -- 20th century.
· Translators -- 20th century.
· Publishers and publishing -- 20th century.
· Audio cassettes.
· Audiotapes.
· Business records.
· Correspondence.
· Printed ephemera.
· Speeches.
· Videocassettes.
· Literature
· Publishing history
Series 1: Executive Files, 1922-2007

Description: This series consists of the files of the Executive Board and Secretary. It includes the minutes of the Executive Board; annual reports and budget files, planning files, reports of the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer; and other topical files related to the management of P.E.N. American Center. The series further contains correspondence of P.E.N. American Center officers, including P.E.N. presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, and treasurers. As P.E.N. American Center is organized into a number of committees that manage its core activities, researchers are advised also to consult the Committees series.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.
Annual business meeting files are filed separately until 1964; after 1964, they are included with the general meeting files of the executive board.

Annual Business Meetings, 1941-1964  Box: 1 Folder: 1
Annual Reports, 1970-2007  
1983-1986  Box: 1 Folder: 2
1970-2007  Box: 210 Folder: 1-9
Article for Saturday Review, 1954-1969  Box: 1 Folder: 3
Budget, 1926-1997  
1926-1985  Box: 1 Folder: 4
1991-1997  Box: 208 Folder: 10-11
By-laws, 1951-1996  
1951-1966  Box: 1 Folder: 5-6
1991-1996  Box: 208 Folder: 12-17
Correspondence and Memos General, 1927-1986  Box: 1 Folder: 7-10
Correspondence and Memos General, 1927-1986  Box: 2 Folder: 1
Executive Board, 1927-1996  
Board Members, 1942-1980  Box: 2 Folder: 2
Correspondence, 1927-1993  
1927-1964  Box: 2 Folder: 3
1979-1993

Meeting Minutes, 1939-1996

1939-1971

1972-1987

1973-1976

1977-1981

1981-1984

1984-1986

1987-1988

1988-1990

1990-1992

1992-1993

1993-1996

Executives, 1922-1998

Böll, Heinrich, 1972

Brown, John Mason, 1947-1948

Calisher, Hortense, 1986

Canby, Henry Seidel, 1927-1961

Carlisle, Henry, 1976

Carmer, Carl, 1943-1947

Farrar, John, 1974-1975

Fleming, Thomas, 1970-1973

Flood, Charles Bracelen, 1969-1971

Galantière, Lewis, 1965-1977

Galsworthy, John, 1922-1965

Halsband, Robert, 1967-1969

Isaacs, Julius, 1959-1979

Keeley, Edmund, 1991-1993

Kennerly, Karen, 1979-1994
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<td>Nathan, Robert</td>
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<td>Members Council</td>
<td>1997-1999</td>
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<td>1974-1976</td>
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<td>Questionnaires</td>
<td>1971-1976</td>
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Series 2: Membership ... (Continued)

Reports, 1928-1967

Executive Secretary, 1931-1961  Box: 7 Folder: 10
Treasurer, 1928-1967  Box: 7 Folder: 11

Series 2: Membership, 1924-1991

Description: This series documents the member body of P.E.N. American Center and the center's admission procedures. It contains the files of the Admissions Committee, since 1987 known as the Membership Committee, whose meeting files document the decisions for acceptance, rejection, and holdover of candidates. The series also contains the files of the Friends of P.E.N. Foundation, which offers membership privileges to authors who do not qualify for regular membership. Researchers interested in P.E.N. American Center committees are advised also to consult the Committees series.

Arrangement: The arrangement of materials at the time of their transfer has been retained with the exception of material filed in multiple places, which has been consolidated under the most descriptive original heading. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within.

Acceptance Letters, 1927-1991  Box: 8 Folder: 1-6
Acceptance Letters, 1927-1991  Box: 10 Folder: 1
Associate Memberships, 1942-1948  Box: 10 Folder: 2
Committee Meetings, 1925-1991

1925-1929  Box: 10 Folder: 3
1930-1939  Box: 10 Folder: 4
1940-1949  Box: 10 Folder: 5
1950-1959  Box: 10 Folder: 6
1960-1969  Box: 10 Folder: 7
1970-1979  Box: 10 Folder: 8
1982  Box: 11 Folder: 1-4
1983  Box: 11 Folder: 5-9
1984  Box: 11 Folder: 10-14
1985  Box: 12 Folder: 1-6
1986  Box: 12 Folder: 7
1986  Box: 13 Folder: 1-5
### Series 3: Fundraising, 1965-1994

Description: The Fundraising series consists of P.E.N.’s general subject files on fundraising, documenting some of the major donors to P.E.N. as well as development strategies and specific fundraising events. It includes reference files pertaining to funding sources, including foundations, corporations, and private donors, and files on fundraisers and solicitations.
Series 3: Fundraising ... (Continued)

Arrangement: The arrangement of materials at the time of their transfer has been retained. Files are arranged alphabetically.

Autographed Books by P.E.N. Presidents, 1976-1983

Benefits, 1980-1992

AIDS Fund, 1987-1992

1987

Box: 230 Folder: 1-4

1988

Box: 230 Folder: 5-26

1988

Box: 231 Folder: 1-3

1989

Box: 231 Folder: 4-7

1990

Box: 231 Folder: 8-30

1990

Box: 232 Folder: 1-25

1992

Box: 232 Folder: 26

Books and Company, 1981 April 5

Box: 21 Folder: 2

Film Benefit, 1983

Box: 21 Folder: 3

Perahia Recital Honoring the Inauguration of the Friends of P.E.N. American Center, 1980

Annual Files, 1987-1991

Annual Files, 1987-1991

Box: 147 Folder: 1-9

Council on Translation, 1971-1973

Box: 21 Folder: 4

Czech Writers' Fund, 1974-1977

Box: 21 Folder: 5

Development Committee Reports, 1965-1970

Box: 21 Folder: 6

Development Director Chronological Files, 1990-1994

Box: 233 Folder: 12-16

Donor Lists, 1976-1985

Box: 21 Folder: 7

Fiscal Committee, 1972-1973

Box: 21 Folder: 8-9

Ford Foundation, 1965-1973

Box: 21 Folder: 10

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Friends of American Museum, 1974
Freedom to Write, 1974-1984
Israel Trip Fund, 1973-1974
J. M. Kaplan Fund, 1982-1993
Longview Foundation, 1974
Mailings, 1973
Merrill Trust, 1974-1978
Playboy Foundation, 1973-1974
Publishers Annual Drive, 1968-1984
Publishers Annual Drive, 1968-1984
Publishers Annual Drive, 1968-1984
Raybin Report, 1984-1988
Readers' Digest, 1973
Rockefeller Foundation, 1971-1974
Shatz House Bequest, 1977
Emma Sheafer Trust, 1985
Sotheby's Literary Auction, 1983
Strategy, 1976
Sue Kaufman Award (projected), 1978
Summer Fundraising, 1982
Vonnegut, Kurt Jr, 1976-1977

Series 4: Programs, 1926-2008

Description: The Programs series documents programs and events organized by P.E.N. American Center. It includes files on the Freedom to Write program, Writers in Prison, the Syndicated Fiction project, as well as miscellaneous programs including exhibits, panels, book fairs, readings, foreign visits, Radio P.E.N., receptions, and others.


Description: This subseries documents P.E.N. American Center's advocacy on behalf of writers censored or persecuted for their political expression. It includes the files of the Freedom to Write Committee and files pertaining to P.E.N. American Center's work with the Writers in Prison Committee of International P.E.N. Founded in 1960 at P.E.N. American Center, the Freedom to Write program advocates for freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and the release of imprisoned writers worldwide. The Writers in Prison Committee of International P.E.N. was established the same year by a group of volunteers at International P.E.N. Although distinct programs, the two program names were used synonymously at P.E.N. American Center to refer to the work of the Freedom to Write Committee. Included are general correspondence concerning the program, case files, and daily logs of Helen Graves, the coordinator of the P.E.N. American Center FTW program from 1986-1988.

Arrangement: Subdivided into the following record groups: Alphabetical Card File of Writers in Prison, Descriptions and Program Reports, Committee Meetings, Correspondence, Case Files by Country, Domestic Case Files, Helen Graves Daily Logs, and Posters and Publicity. Researchers interested in P.E.N.'s involvement in international cases are advised that the country case files were transferred by P.E.N. in four chronologically overlapping alpha runs. Material transferred from P.E.N. after the transfer of the first run is integrated in this finding aid in the first alphabetical file run but may be shelved physically apart. The domestic case files are arranged in two chronological runs, of which the first (ca. 1960-1980) is arranged alphabetically, whereas the second one (ca. 1980-1990) is not. In both cases, the order of the files at the time of their transfer has been retained.

- Alphabetical Card File of Writers in Prison, undated
  Box: 24 Folder: 1
- Descriptions and Program Reports, 1979-1998
  Box: 24 Folder: 2
- Descriptions and Program Reports, 1979-1998
  Box: 25 Folder: 1
- Committee Meetings, 1976-1986
  1976
  Box: 25 Folder: 2
  1977
  Box: 25 Folder: 3-5
  1978
  Box: 25 Folder: 6-13
  1979
  Box: 25 Folder: 14-22
  1980
  Box: 25 Folder: 23-31
  1981
  Box: 26 Folder: 1-9
### Subseries 4A: Freedom to Write ... (Continued)

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<td>1986</td>
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#### Correspondence, 1937-1991

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Case Files by Country, 1959-1998

Arrangement: The country case files were transferred by P.E.N. in four chronologically overlapping alpha runs. In the following folder inventory, additional material is represented within the first alphabetical file run but may be shelved physically apart.

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- Cases and Correspondence, 1989-1994  
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Africa Cases and Correspondence, 1989-1994  
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Albania Cases and Correspondence, 1990-1994  
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Algeria, 1989-1994
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- Cases and Correspondence, 1989-1994  
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Angola Cases and Correspondence, 1993-1994  
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Antigua Cases and Correspondence, 1983-1988  
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Australia Cases and Correspondence, 1983-1989  
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Bangladesh, 1971-1994
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Domestic Case Files, 1960-1998

Arrangement: The Domestic Case Files are arranged in two chronological runs, of which the first (ca. 1960-1980) is arranged alphabetically, whereas the second one (ca. 1980-1990) is not. In both cases, the order of the files at the time of their transfer has been retained.

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Caldwell, Earl: Contempt Charges, 1970
Box: 43 Folder: 7

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Cantonsville 9, 1971
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The Chocolate War, 1984
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CIA and publishing houses, 1978
Box: 43 Folder: 11

City studio theatre, 1979
Box: 43 Folder: 12

Cleaver, Eldridge, 1968-1975
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Coffin, Tristram, 1975-1976
Box: 43 Folder: 15

The Color Purple, Oakland, CA, 1984
Box: 43 Folder: 16

Conellan, Leo, 1979
Box: 43 Folder: 17

Richard Elman Literary Connections, 1976-1978
Box: 43 Folder: 18

Expression Repression FOIA Requests, 1965-1978
Box: 43 Folder: 19

Expression Repression Geoffrey Rips Report, 1979
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Federal rules of civil procedure, 1980
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<td>United States vs. Frank Starns Giese, 1979</td>
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<td>Island Trees vs. Steven A. Pico, 1979-1982</td>
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<td>Jaco, Roger, 1979</td>
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Wambaugh, Joseph, 1970  Box: 47 Folder: 7
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Book Banning: Letter from Kurt Vonnegut to H.S. in Ontario, 1988  Box: 187 Folder: 1
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Handschu v. Special Service Division, 1981  Box: 189 Folder: 10-11
Death of a Princess Censored Film, 1980  Box: 189 Folder: 13

Meyer / Levin: Diary of Anne Frank Copyright, 1980-1981  Box: 189 Folder: 14
Subseries 4B: Prison Writing, 1963-1989

Description: Founded in 1971, the Prison Writing Program (not to be confused with P.E.N. American Center's Writers in Prison advocacy) is based on the idea of the rehabilitative powers of writing. The program started giving annual writing awards to inmates beginning in 1973. Other activities include the correspondence program between inmates and P.E.N.

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<td>John Lennon, undated</td>
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<td>McCarran-Walter Immigration Act Cases, 1979-1990</td>
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<td>Posters and Publicity, 1973-1977</td>
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members, the Books Behind Bars program, writing workshops, and the dissemination of imprisoned writers' works through publication and readings. This subseries includes writings by inmates sponsored by the program, correspondence, and documents pertaining to the annual awards, the work of the committee, the program budget, and program events. Also present are the program's alphabetical subject files, which include further correspondence and manuscripts.

Arrangement: Subdivided into the following record groups: Correspondence, Awards, Budget, Committee Files, Events, Judges, Writings, Subject Files.

Correspondence, 1963-1988  
Awards, 1972-1988

- Submissions, 1972-1980  
- Submissions, 1972-1980
- Drama Awards, 1987-1988

Budget, 1978-1981

Committee Files, 1977-1989

Events, 1972-1987

- Panel, 1972
- Prison Arts Festival, Noho Gallery: M. Reynolds, 1977 June 17-21
- Reading, 1978 June 14
- Reception, 1979 June 13
- Symposium and Braly Memorial Evening, 1980 June 25
- Awards Ceremony, 1986-1987

Judges, 1985-1987

- Prison Writings and Publications, 1973-1979

- Prison Writings and Publications, 1973-1979

Subject Files, 1968-1988

- Adamson, D. L, 1981
- Abbott, Jack (Leavenworth), 1974
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Subseries 4C: Syndicated Fiction Project, 1982-1990

Description: The Syndicated Fiction Project places new fiction in a variety of publications including serials, anthologies, and radio programs including NPR's "The Sound of Writing." This subseries contains information on the program's budget and bylaws, correspondence, contest files, reports, grant proposals, and press material.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by subject.

General, 1982-1984
Budget, 1987
By-laws, 1988 August 24
Competitions, undated
Correspondence, 1984-1988
Grant Proposals, 1984-1990
Judges, 1983-1984
Publicity, 1982-1984
Reception, 1985 September 23
Reports, 1983-1986
Stories Selected, 1983

Subseries 4D: Miscellaneous Programs and Events, 1926-2008

Description: This subseries contains the annual event files of P.E.N. American Center as well as information on various defunct, one-time, or small-scale programs, including questionnaires, advocacy, book fairs, traveling exhibits, panels, radio programs, and readings. The annual files document all events organized by P.E.N., including program events, visits, benefits, parties, and readings. The subseries also includes files on the
1942 author questionnaire, which polled American and European writers on how P.E.N. could be useful during wartime, and 1986 P.E.N. Celebration, a series of eight Sunday evenings through the fall of 1985 at the Booth Theatre, New York held to raise money for the Congress the following January.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

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- Printed Material and Events Lists, 1968-2008
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- Böll, Heinrich, Events, 1971-1973
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- Book Fairs, 1975-1987
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  - San Francisco, 1975 July 2-4
    - Box: 64 Folder: 2
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- Brodsky, Joseph, 1973 March 14
- Canfield, Cass, 1969
- Center for Inter-American Relations Readings, 1974-1975
- Columbia University Panels, 1956-1957
- Cousins, Norman, 1970 February 18
- The Crisis in Criticism Panel, 1970
- Donnell Library Readings, Reza Baraheni, 1976
- Edel, Leon, 1969 October 23
- Editorial Censorship Survey and Panel, 1975
- Embargo on Trade with Germany, 1938
- Enzensberger, Hans Magnus, Lecture, 1974 January 30
- Ethical Culture Society Solzhenitsyn Support, 1974
- Exhibits, 1972-1994
  - History of P.E.N., 1972-1977
  - Rejection and Censorship, 1975
  - Books from Finland, 1973-1976
  - Translation Exhibit, 1974-1975
- Figueroa, J, 1969 December 8
- Foundations Panel, 1971 March 10
- Foreign Visits, 1927-1991
  - European P.E.N. in America, 1941-1949
  - Romaines, Jules, 1940
  - Russian Writers Exchange and Visits, 1928-1987
  - Russian Writers Exchange and Visits, 1928-1987
  - Russian Writers Exchange and Visits, 1928-1987
  - Russian Writers Exchange and Visits, 1928-1987
  - Miscellaneous Visitors, 1927-1991
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kitman: eliot janeway, 1971 january 21-28

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mrzok, slawomir, 1969 march 26

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new works series, 1989-1990

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nicaragua and the united states symposium, 1980

norbert prize nominations by p.e.n., 1970

novelists of distinction judges, 1973

okara poetry reading, 1969 april 9

p.e.n. at penn lecture series, 1986-1993

p.e.n. celebration, 1985-1987

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Sephama, Sipho (South Africa) Reading, 1982 January 13  
Sources of Resistance in Writing Reading, 1975 November 10  
Speaker Requests, Declined, 1958-1962  
Stout, Rex, 1969 April 23  
The American Book Award (TABA): P.E.N. Opposition, 1979-1982
Series 5: Awards, 1930-1994

Description: The Awards series contains records documenting awards and prizes given by P.E.N. American Center, including the Faulkner Foundation Award, the Nelson Algren Award, the Roger Klein Award, the Malamud Award, and the Sheaffer Eaton Award, among others. It includes administrative and financial records, files on finalists, correspondence, and occasional manuscripts. Researchers interested in the Newman's Own First Amendment Award are advised to consult the Freedom to Write program files.


Subseries 5A: P.E.N./Faulkner Foundation Award for Fiction, 1980-1993

Description: Founded in 1980 by National Book Award winner Mary Lee Settle, the P.E.N./Faulkner Foundation Award gave its first award in May 1981. It moved to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. in 1983. Shortly afterwards the P.E.N./Faulkner Foundation organized itself as an independent non-profit organization and began hosting a series of public fiction readings at the Folger. This subseries includes material on board and committee meetings, correspondence, information on the development of the prize, files on judges and nominees, and files documenting the Folger Library reading series of finalists' works.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

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Writing Biography Panel, 1969
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Yevtushenko: A Poet's Journey Premiere, 1970 January 14
Box: 73 Folder: 14
Subseries 5B: P.E.N./Nelson Algren Award for a Promising American Fiction Writer with Works in Progress, 1982-1989

Description: The P.E.N./Nelson Algren Award is given annually for a novel in progress to a writer in need of financial assistance to finish it. This subseries includes manuscripts of winning submissions and applicant correspondence, as well as guidelines and press releases.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

- Finalists and Winners, 1984-1989
- Finalists and Winners, 1984-1989
- Finalists and Winners, 1984-1989

Subseries 5C: P.E.N./Roger Klein Award for Editing and P.E.N. Publisher Citation, 1972-1994

Description: The P.E.N./Roger Klein Award is given annually to an outstanding editor in trade hardcover publishing. It is awarded in conjunction with the Publisher Citation, which honors outstanding publishers. This subseries contains files on winners and nominees, correspondence, publicity files, financial files, and jury files.


Nominees and Winners, 1972-1994

- Ashmead, Lawrence Peel, 1978
- Bernkopf, Jeanne F, 1977
- Brockway, George, 1977
- Cady, Howard, 1978
- di Capua, Michael, 1972
- Case, Russel, 1988
- Carver, Catherine, 1982
- Day, Patricia, 1984-1985
- DeAngelis, Paul, 1986
- Drew, Lisa, 1977
- Dyssegaard, Elisabeth, 1994
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Subseries 5D: Miscellaneous Awards and Prizes, 1930-1991

Description: This subseries contains information on various smaller awards and prizes, including the American Scandinavian Foundation/P.E.N. Translation Prize, the Dutch Translation Prize, the Goethe House/P.E.N. Translation Prize, and the P.E.N./Scheaffer Eaton Award, among others.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

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  Box: 78 Folder: 14
- P.E.N. Prize Novel, 1930-1933  
  Box: 78 Folder: 15
  Box: 78 Folder: 16
- Bruno Schultz Award, 1987-1989  
  Box: 238 Folder: 1-14


Description: The Grants and Financial Aid Series documents the efforts of P.E.N. American Center to give financial assistance to writers in need. Major programs represented in this series include the Fund for Intellectual Freedom, the P.E.N. Refugee Fund, the P.E.N. Relief Fund, and the Writers' Emergency Fund. In addition, the series contains files regarding the International P.E.N. Emergency Fund as well as aid programs to Chinese and Latin American writers.
Researchers interested in the P.E.N. American Center's Translation Grant are advised to consult the Translation Committee files in the Committees series.

Arrangement: Divided into the following subseries: Fund for Intellectual Freedom, P.E.N. Refugee Fund, P.E.N. Relief Fund, Writers' Emergency Fund, Miscellaneous Financial Aid Programs.


Description: The Fund for Intellectual Freedom came under International P.E.N.'s management shortly after its founding in 1950 by Graham Greene, Arthur Koestler, John Dos Passos, James Farrell and Aldous Huxley to support refugees from Communist countries. This subseries consists of correspondence, case files, reports, and financial information.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Cases, 1950-1955
Correspondence, 1955-1953
Gifts and Pledges, 1950-1951
Finances, 1950-1953
Fundraising Dinner, 1951
History, 1952-1954
International Rescue Committee, 1950-1952
Reports and Minutes, 1950-1952

Subseries 6B: P.E.N. Refugee Fund, 1938-1959

Description: The P.E.N. Refugee Fund assisted exiled writers by asking the P.E.N. membership to provide affidavits of support and sponsoring visas on an individual basis. This subseries includes affidavits, case files and correspondence, and specific files on German, Hungarian, and Spanish Refugees. The German file consists of correspondence by Erika and Thomas Mann on behalf of German authors.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Affidavits of Support, 1956-1959
Cases, 1939-1941
Correspondence, 1938-1951
German Refugees, 1939-1941
Hungarian Refugees, 1956-1959
Spanish Refugees, 1939
Subseries 6C: P.E.N. Relief Fund, 1922-1952

Description: The P.E.N. Relief Fund sent food and books to writers overseas during the postwar period. This subseries includes committee files, requests for assistance, author correspondence, and financial files.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Committee Files, 1945-1951  Box: 81 Folder: 1
Correspondence, 1945-1951  Box: 81 Folder: 2-5
Country Files, 1922-1951
  Austria, 1946-1947  Box: 81 Folder: 6
  Czechoslovakia, 1922-1946  Box: 81 Folder: 7
  England, 1948  Box: 81 Folder: 8
  France, 1945-1948  Box: 82 Folder: 1
  Germany, 1946-1951  Box: 82 Folder: 2
  Greece, 1946  Box: 82 Folder: 3
  Hungary, 1946-1947  Box: 82 Folder: 4
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Packages, 1946-1949  Box: 82 Folder: 8-9
Requests for Assistance, 1945-1952  Box: 83 Folder: 1
Tax Exemption, 1946-1950  Box: 83 Folder: 2

Subseries 6D: Writers' Emergency Fund, 1958-1992

Description: The P.E.N. Writers' Emergency Fund gives grants of up to $2,000 to professional writers in acute financial crisis. It also administers the P.E.N. Fund for Writers and Editors with HIV/AIDS, which gives grants of up to $2,000 to professional writers and editors for financial emergencies due to HIV or AIDS-related illness. This subseries contains the alphabetical files of Writer's Emergency Fund recipients as well as subject files, including bequests and contributions, inquiries by writers, rejection files, and New York State Council for the Arts (NYSCA) grant files.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically by year.

Access:
In order to protect the grant recipients' privacy, the Writers' Emergency Fund records are closed to the public as stipulated by P.E.N. American Center.
Subseries 6E: Miscellaneous Aid Programs, 1937-1984

Description: This subseries contains the files of various short-term aid programs, including programs to aid Chinese, Latin American, and Polish Writers.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Chinese Writers Fund, 1938-1948
JDR 3d Conference Travel Grant, 1964-1970
Latin American Writers Fund, 1937-1966
Polish Writers Fund, 1984
Rockefeller Foundation Grant: Jan Benes, 1973

Series 7: Committees, 1926-1998

Description: The Committees series consists of the complete file runs of various committees of P.E.N. American Center, including the Dramatic Forms Committee, the International Executive Committee, and the Translation Committee, among others. The files include correspondence, committee rosters, reports, and information about committee activities and finances. The files of the Translation Committee also include the records of the Translation Grant awarded by P.E.N. American Center.

Researchers interested in P.E.N. American Center committees are advised also to consult the Executive Secretary Files series and the Membership series.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by committee name.

General Correspondence, 1935-1965
Activities Committee, 1951-1972
Book Contracts Committee, 1978-1981
Children’s Books Authors Committee, 1987-1995
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Committee of Five / Reorganization Committee / Development Committee, 1974-1976
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Contract Committee / Author’s Right to Information Committee, 1980
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Dramatic Forms Committee, 1975
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Events Committee, 1981-1993
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Forums Committee, 1997
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Hospitality Committee, 1967-1975
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Series 8: Conferences, 1924-1992

Description: The Conferences series documents the P.E.N. International Congresses as well as conferences organized by P.E.N. American Center, including the Life of the Writer Conference, the Near Eastern Literature Conference, the World of Translation Conference, and the Latin American Conference. The files include programs and conference proceedings, registration forms, press releases, agendas and minutes, transcripts, financial information and occasional manuscripts.

The congresses organized by P.E.N. American Center in New York in 1939, 1966, and 1986 are especially well represented. They contain information on panels, speakers, and guests of honor; schedules; correspondence concerning event planning and recruitment of speakers; speeches; and files on events and receptions.


Description: This subseries consists of files documenting the annual International P.E.N. Congress. It includes programs, agendas, executive meeting minutes, and correspondence.

Of special interest are the files of the 1974 meeting in Jerusalem, which was boycotted by a number of delegations following a UNESCO decision to condemn Zionism, prompting Arthur Miller to give a personal statement.
Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

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1926 Berlin, 1926
1927 Brussels, 1927
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1929 Vienna, 1929
1930 Warsaw, 1930
1931 Amsterdam, 1931
1932 Budapest, 1932
1933 Dubrovnik, 1933
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| In Opposition, 1986                                           | 115       7             |
| Problems of National Identity, 1986                                | 115       8-9           |
| Problems of the Theater, 1986                                      | 115       10            |
| Science Fiction, 1986                                           | 115       11            |
| Statesman's View of the Imagination, 1986                           | 116       1             |
| Translating Walt Whitman, 1986                                      | 116       2             |
| Translation: National and International, 1986                     | 116       3             |
| U.S. Hispanic Literature in the Anglo-American Empire, 1986         | 116       4             |
| The Utopian Imagination, 1986                                      | 116       5             |
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| Closing Session, 1986                                             | 116       7             |
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Subseries 8B: An Inquiry Into the Literary and Political Climate of Latin America, 1980

Description: This subseries consists of the files of the Freedom to Write conference, "An Inquiry Into the Literary and Political Climate of Latin America." It contains correspondence, planning files, and typescripts of papers given at the conference.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

- Correspondence, 1980
  Box: 117 Folder: 3
- Participants and Invitations, 1980
  Box: 117 Folder: 4
- Planning Files, 1980
  Box: 117 Folder: 5
- Remarks, undated
  Box: 117 Folder: 6

Subseries 8C: The Life of the Writer, 1976-1977

Description: This subseries documents the Life of the Writer conference series, 1975-1980. The conferences offered stories from the lives of writers and were held at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C. and at the University of Houston, Texas. A further meeting, planned for San Francisco, was put on hold for lack of funding.

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically by meeting.

- Washington, D.C., 1976
  Box: 117 Folder: 7
- San Francisco (planned), 1976
  Box: 118 Folder: 1
Subseries 8D: Near Eastern Literature, 1976

Description: This subseries documents the Near Eastern Literature conference co-sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University and the P.E.N. American Center, May 18-22, 1976. It contains speaker correspondence, program descriptions, and photographs.

Arrangement: The order of the files at the time of their transfer has been maintained.

- Photographs, 1976
- Princeton, 1976
- Proceedings, 1976
- Program, 1976
- Speakers, 1976

Subseries 8E: Translation Conferences, 1970-1987

Description: This subseries contains the files of The World of Translation conference and the Latin American Translation conference. It includes manuscripts, conference proceedings, correspondence, author files, and session transcripts.

Arrangement: Subdivided into The World of Translation files and Latin American Translation Conference files.

The World of Translation, 1970-1987

- Correspondence, 1970
- The World of Translation (Proceedings), 1970, 1987

Latin American Translation Conference, 1974

- Correspondence, 1974
- Session Transcripts, 1974

Series 9: Centers and Branches, 1926-1991

Description: The Centers and Branches Series contains information about P.E.N. American Center's relationship with international P.E.N. centers as well as with regional branches in the U.S. It includes correspondence, case files, clippings, reports, trip files, publications, and files on individual writers.

Subseries 9A: International Centers, 1926-1989

Description: The International Centers subseries consists of country files documenting P.E.N. American Center's interactions with P.E.N. centers worldwide. It contains correspondence regarding joint activities and visits to and from international centers. The subseries includes files on the Yiddish Center and the Hebrew P.E.N. Club in New York.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

- African and Asian Centers, 1944-1963
  - Box: 120 Folder: 1
- Argentina, 1931-1951
  - Box: 120 Folder: 2
- Australia, 1937-1981
  - Box: 120 Folder: 3-5
- Austria, 1946-1963
  - Box: 120 Folder: 6
- Belgium, 1967-1976
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- Brazil, 1939-1965
  - Box: 120 Folder: 8
- Canada, 1941-1985
  - Box: 120 Folder: 9-10
- Chile, 1943-1958
  - Box: 120 Folder: 11
- China, undated
  - Box: 120 Folder: 12
- Colombia, 1943-1951
  - Box: 120 Folder: 13
- Cuba, 1943-1951
  - Box: 120 Folder: 14
- Czechoslovakia, 1989
  - Box: 120 Folder: 15
- England, 1926-1964
  - Box: 120 Folder: 16-18
- France, 1927-1961
  - Box: 121 Folder: 1
- Germany, 1926-1977
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- Hebrew P.E.N. Club, New York, 1942-1950
  - Box: 121 Folder: 4
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### Subseries 9B: U.S. Branches ... (Continued)

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### Subseries 9B: U.S. Branches, 1926-1991

Description: This subseries contains records of regional U.S. branches, centers, and city chapters. It includes membership files, correspondence, records documenting plans for additional centers, files on branch activities and events, publicity, minutes, committee files, and financial files.

Arrangement: Subdivided into the following record groups: General Branch Files and Branches and Centers. Branches and Centers is further subdivided as follows: Center for Writers in Exile, P.E.N. Mid-West, P.E.N. New England, P.E.N. Northwest, P.E.N. South, P.E.N. Southwest, P.E.N. West, Washington D.C. Chapter, Other Chapters.

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- Branch Committee, 1971-1989
- Coordinators, 1981-1988
- Correspondence, 1982-1986
- Event Schedules, 1983
- Meetings, 1981-1989
- Reports, 1980-1988
   - Box: 122 Folder: 3
   - Box: 122 Folder: 4
   - Box: 122 Folder: 5
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**Branches and Centers, 1926-1991**
- Center for Writers in Exile American Branch, 1948-1988
  - Correspondence, 1948-1987
  - Newsletters, 1961-1988
  - Box: 123 Folder: 2-3
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- P.E.N. Mid-West, 1931-1989
  - Activities, 1979-1985
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Series 10: Publications and Writings, 1940-2008

Description: The Publications and Writings series consists of P.E.N. and P.E.N.-related publications, among them Grants and Awards Available to American Writers, Marchette Chute's P.E.N. American Center: A History of the First Fifty Years, and Donna Demac's Liberty Denied. It also includes occasional research and production files.
Allott, Anna J., Inked Over, Ripped Out: Burmese Storytellers and the Censors, 1993  
  Box: 125 Folder: 7

The American P.E.N., 1967-1976  
  The American P.E.N., 1969-1976  
  Box: 125 Folder: 8-9

  Correspondence, 1967-1976  
  Box: 127 Folder: 1

Catalonia Today Anthology Proof, 1974  
  Box: 127 Folder: 2-3

Chute, Marchette, P.E.N. American Center: A History of the First Fifty Years, 1972  
  Box: 127 Folder: 4

Demac, Donna, Liberty Denied, 1987-1990  
  Liberty Denied, 1988  
  Box: 127 Folder: 5

  Book Cover and Flyer, undated  
  Box: 127 Folder: 6

  Agreement with P.E.N., 1987  
  Box: 155 Folder: 1

  Event, 1988  
  Box: 155 Folder: 2

  Box: 155 Folder: 3

Grants and Awards Available to American Writers, 1944-1993  
  Grants and Awards Available to American Writers, 1969-1993  
  Box: 127 Folder: 7-8

  Grants and Awards Available to American Writers, 1969-1993  
  Box: 128 Folder: 1-3

  Committee on Grants and Exchanges, 1944  
  Box: 128 Folder: 4

  Flyers, 1982-1983  
  Box: 128 Folder: 5

  Box: 155 Folder: 6

Klein, Michael (ed.), Poets for Life: 74 Poets Respond to AIDS Typescript, 1989  
  Box: 128 Folder: 6-7

Manfred, Frederick, Milk of Wolves Book Jacket Typescript, 1976  
  Box: 128 Folder: 8

  Box: 129

  Box: 130 Folder: 1-4

Onward and Upward with American P.E.N., Flyer Reprint, 1973  
  Box: 130 Folder: 5

  Box: 130 Folder: 6


Description: This series consists of audiovisual material documenting P.E.N. programs and events from the 1960s through the 1990s. Original media, which have been digitized, primarily consist of open-reel audiotapes, audio compact cassettes, and video cassettes. There are also two floppy disks.

Arrangement: Subdivided into the following groups: Awards, Conferences, Dinners and Receptions, Panels and Symposia, Press Conferences, Programs, Radio and TV Programs, and Miscellaneous.

Awards, 1977 June 21-1995 April 27

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by name of the award and chronologically within.

Faulkner Award Ceremony of The Rotunda, 1981 April 18

Description: This is the ceremony at which the first PEN/Faulkner award was given out. The winner was Walter Abish, for the novel "How German Is It". The award was initiated and administered by the branch PEN South, and specifically by Mary Lee Settle. The ceremony occurred in the famous Rotunda at the University of Virginia. The award was, in part, a response to the cancellation of the National Book Awards in 1980, and distinguished itself from other awards by being funded and judged by writers, among them Tim O'Brien and Elizabeth Hardwick.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

Translation Prize, 1979 May 2

Box: 261
Description: William Weaver announces the winner of the year's Translation Award, which was "The Storm and Other Poems" by Eugenio Montale, translated from the Italian by Charles Wright. Weaver also speaks about his own beginnings as a translator (his first translations were of Montale poems), about a recent suggestion to drop the Translation category from the National Book Awards, and the value and practice of translation in general.

Side one of 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes). Other side contains Hemingway Award.

Hemingway Award, 1979 May 21

Description: Norman Mailer presents the Hemingway Award (given for a debut novel or book of short stories) to Reuben Bercovitch, for his novel "Hasen". Mailer also speaks about Hemingway and how he approached the writing of each of his novels with the "sense of wonder, and fear, and great excitement, and awe" of a first novelist.

Side two of 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes). Other side contains Translation Prize.

Jerard Award Reception, 1987 December 04

Description: The Jerard Fund Award was established posthumously by Elise Jerard and was given to an emerging woman writer of a nonfiction work in progress. The award's first recipient was Karen Decker Dougherty, author of a biography of Reinhard Heydrich. She was introduced by Joan Didion.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

P.E.N. Literary Awards Presentations, 1989 May 23

Description: This is the ceremony for 1989 PEN Literary Awards. Awards given out include the Martha Albrand Award (given for the first time), for a first published book of general nonfiction; the Jerard Fund Award (see notes elsewhere); the Nelson Algren Award, to encourage the completion of a promising novel or short story collection by an American author; the Hemingway Award, for a distinguished first book of fiction published in the last calendar year; and two translation prizes, the Renato Poggioli Translation Prize and the PEN Book of the Month Club Translation Prize.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Prison Writing Award, 1977 June 21-1995 April 27

Prison Writing Award: Reading, 1977 June 21

Description: The winning poems, stories, and nonfiction pieces from the fourth annual PEN Prison Writing Contest are read by Ann McGovern, Piri Thomas, and other presenters. Other works produced in the course of the PEN Prison Writing Program are also read.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Prison Writing Award, 1978 February 01
Description: Reading by Piri Thomas from the 1978 Prison Writing Award
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Prison Writing Award: Prisoner's Creativity, 1978 February 01
Description: The audio includes the reading of a poem of the 1st place winner by author Piri Thomas. Audio quality is very poor.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Prison Writing Award: Ossie Davis, Dan Berrigan, 1981 June 10
Description: The winning poems, stories, and nonfiction pieces from the eighth annual PEN Prison Writing Contest are read by Ossie Davis.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Prison Writing Award, 1985 June 11
Description: The winning poems, stories, and nonfiction pieces from the annual PEN Prison Writing Contest are read by actors Barbara Feldon and Michael Tolan. David Rothenberg gives a short keynote speech at the start.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Prison Writing Award, 1986 December 24
Description: The winning poems, stories, and nonfiction pieces from the annual PEN Prison Writing Contest are read by actor Barbara Feldon. Etheridge Knight also recites his work and talks about his time in prison. The event ends with the reading of an open letter to Mario Cuomo, protesting Directive 49/11, which controlled from whom and how prisoners could get reading material.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Prison Writing Award, 1987 November 18
Description: The winning poems, stories, nonfiction pieces, and short plays from the annual PEN Prison Writing Contest are read by actor Eugene Osborne Smith and children's book author Mary Pope Osborne. This is the first year that a prize for Drama is given out. After the readings, radical lawyer William Kunstler speaks about prisoners he has represented and the prison-industrial complex. The sound is very low, but can usually be understood.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Prison Writing Award, 1988 December 6
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: These tapes were not digitized because content was inaudible.
Description: 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Prison Writing Award: Ceremony, 1994 March 6
Box: 261
Description: The winning stories, poems, essays, and articles from the annual PEN Prison Writing Contest are read by a number of authors, including Walter Mosley and Frederic Tuten. The event begins with a short keynote speech by Jean Harris.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Prison Writing Award, 1995 April 27
Description: The winning stories, poems, articles, and plays from the annual PEN Prison Writing Contest are read by a number of authors, including Joan Silber and Ed Sanders. The event begins with a short keynote speech by Richard Stratton.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Publisher Citation and Roger Klein Award, 1978 December 13-1988
December 16

Description: At this ceremony, the third annual Publishers' Citation is given to James Laughlin, publisher of New Directions. The poet Denise Levertov pays tribute to Laughlin's loyalty and generosity as a publisher and friend. Laughlin then accepts the award and gives a brief talk about the creation of New Directions, the mistakes he's made and the good luck he's had, and, particularly, the oddness of being accepted by the publishing establishment after so many years as the "bad boy" of publishing.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

PEN Translation Awards, 1981 April 08

Description: This annual event is called the "PEN Translation Awards". The first award given is not for translation, but the Lucille J. Medwick Memorial Award, presented by Ted Solotaroff to editor Henry Robbins, posthumously. Following this, notable translator Keeley gives a talk about his craft. Weaver presents both MacAfee and Venuti the Renato Poggioli Award that "encourages promising translators from the Italian." Weaver also expands upon Renato Poggioli's role in the field. Next, newly established monetary prizes of one for poetry, one for prose of are unveiled by the president of The American-Scandinavian Foundation of which cosponsored the prize with PEN. The aim of the prize is to foster translations of Scandinavian works. The prizes are presented by Harry Carlson and Swickard. The winner for poetry translation is Hollo (the award is accepted on his behalf by poet John Batki), and Brondum wins for his prose/fiction translation. After, The American-Scandinavian Foundation recognizes their honorable mention recipients. Wormuth and Fulton are given honorable mentions for their respective work in the field of poetry translation. Swaffar and Weber are given honorable mentions for their work as co-translators of a novel. Following this, the Goethe Haus/ PEN Translation prize, for works translated from German, is given to Neugroschel. Finally, the
PEN Translation Award (funded by the Book of the Month Club) for an outstanding translation from any language is presented by Galassi to Simic for his translation of "Homage of the Lame Wolf".
Side of 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Publisher Citation Award, 1981 April 8
Access:
This material is not currently available online. Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.
Description: Publisher Citation Award given to Farrar, Straus and Giroux, presented by a number of well known authors published by FSG.
Side of 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

6th Presentation of the PEN Publishers Citation & 6th Presentation of the Roger Klein Award, 1982 December 13
Description: This is the 6th presentation of the PEN Publisher Citation and the Roger Klein Award. Wallace gives a brief history of the Roger Klein Award of an award given every two years, set up to acknowledge excellence in editing. Kanon presents the award to Strachan. Carver is the recipient of the Roger Klein honorary award, which Faith Sale accepts on her behalf. Following this, Philipson is awarded the PEN Publisher Citation, also given every two years, for "distinctive and continuous service to international letters and to the freedom and dignity of writers".
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Seventh Annual Roger Klein Award and Publishers’ Citation Award, 1984 November 26
Description: Publisher Bob Gottlieb and editor Jonathan Galassi receive the seventh annual Roger Klein Award and Publishers’ Citation, respectively.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

P.E.N. Awards: Eighth annual Publishers' Citation and Roger Klein Award, 1986 December 01
Description: Publisher Harry Ford and editor Anne Freedgood receive the eighth annual Publishers' Citation and Roger Klein Award, respectively.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Roger Klein / Publisher Citation, 1988 December 16
Description: This is the 9th time, or 18th year, the Roger Klein / Publisher Citation has been awarded; this iteration is held at the Yale Club. This event is held every 2 years. The Publisher Citation is awarded to "a publisher whose career has demonstrated continuous and distinctive service to international letters, to the freedom and dignity
of writers, and to free the transmission of the printed word across barriers of poverty, ignorance, and censorship." This year the Publisher Citation is awarded to Barney Rosset, owner of Grove Press. Rembar and Seaver give speeches about working with Rosset. Wallace gives opening remarks about the Roger Klein award, which is given to Smith.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Bruno Schultz Award, 1988 September 27-1990 February 26

Bruno Schulz Prize / Zbigniew Herbert, 1988 September 27

Description: At this first awards ceremony for the Bruno Schulz Prize, Susan Sontag and Czeslaw Milosz read from the work of the winner, the poet Zbigniew Herbert. Helen Vendler and William Gass introduce the event.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Bruno Schulz Prize Presentation, 1990 February 26

Description: At the second (and last) awards ceremony for the Bruno Schulz Prize, Susan Sontag reads from the work of the winner, novelist and short story writer Danilo Kis.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Translation Awards, 1981 May 27

Description: This event is awards giving for translation in different literary genres and from languages such as Portuguese, Finnish, German, Swedish, etc. into English. This is the awards ceremony for the annual PEN Translation Awards. Alastair Reid gives a talk at the end, after the prizes are given out.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Conferences, 1966 June 13-1995 June 1

American Writer's Congress: The Book Wars of Local Censorship, 1981

Description: A panel of educators, authors, and activists on various fronts of including Kurt Vonnegut and Michael Farris, of the Moral Majority have a spirited debate over textbooks, what should be taught in schools, and who gets to decide.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

Annual Meetings, 1981 June 3-1995 June 1

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Annual Meeting, 1981 June 03

Description: Annual Meeting for the administrative year of 1980of1981. Karen Kennerly speaks on the achievements of the year, including establishing the PEN Faulkner Award, the inauguration of the Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Translation, the advent of two publications: "Writer's Right to Information", "Model Contract for Translators" and
the accompanying symposium on Book Business in the Eighties. Furthermore, the Prison Writing is noted as being in its eighth year and establishing an active library at Arthur Kill Penitentiary on Staten Island as well as a number of Freedom to Write reports including South Africa and Chile. Finally, 1980/81 establishes the founding of Friends of PEN and a report that the National Endowment of the Arts cut funding by half.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Annual Meeting, 1982 June 14

Description: Annual meeting for administrative year 1981/82. Including treasurers report, nominations and voting for new officers, and Executive Director Karen Kennerly discussing the relationship and programs of other US PEN Centers, Prison Writing Program, Freedom to Write, and ongoing protests of Free Expression issues in South Africa, Turkey, Guatemala, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, Uruguay, Salvador, Spain and South Korea.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Annual Meeting, 1983 June 22

Description: Annual Meeting for the administrative year of 1982-1983. Includes updates on book banning, syndicated fiction project, reports on US PEN Centers and Freedom to Write including formal protests against the USSR, South Korea, supporting Vietnamese and Kenyon writers and opposing the censure and closure of the Filipino Opposition newspaper. Features Dick Gilman, Karen Kennerly, Kirk Sale.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes), including one incomplete duplicate, formerly described as c1860

Annual Meeting, 1984 June 20

Description: Annual meeting, Galway Kinnell is absent and former President Richard Gilman presides over the election of Norman Mailer and welcomes Mayor Ed Koch to talk about his recently published book, Mayor, as well as some extemporaneous discussion about the government’s role in self and freedom of expression as well as personal stories of politics in NYC, nuclear proliferation, and there is a Q and A containing a number of humorous quips between the Mayor and Allen Ginsberg.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Annual Meeting (Second Session), 1984 July 11

Description: Second session of the 1983-84 Annual Meeting addressing the search for new offices for PEN America, voting of officers, President Norman Mailer reports on dinner with Mayor Koch, emphasizes future fundraising efforts and announces the 1986 International PEN Congress.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Box:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting, 1985 May 23</td>
<td>Description: Annual meeting for the year 1984-1985 reporting a new location in Downtown Manhattan and how this will effect programming. Reports on Freedom to Write and discussions of the roundtables at the impending International Congress. Interestingly, Donald Trump is thanked for donating between 150 and 200 rooms at St. Moritz to the 1986 PEN Congress participants. 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting, 1986 June 03</td>
<td>Description: Norman Mailer discusses the Woman’s Committee and slating of the Executive Board. General dispersion and conversation about slates for voting. A number of trustees speak, most not identified in record. Norman Mailer’s intense often times acerbic farewell speech addressing gender and equality issues personal to PEN America 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting, 1987 June 03</td>
<td>Description: President Hortense Calisher was absent, Patricia Bosworth fulfilled role of chair, treasurer's report, accolades to various officers and members, Sidney Offit speaks about outgoing president Hortense Calisher. Susan Sontag, incoming president, speaks about the future of PEN, especially in light of the groundbreaking and &quot;fascinating enterprise&quot; of the 1986 International PEN Congress, while also addressing the tensions and divisions exacerbated during Norman Mailer's tenure. 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting, 1988 June 07</td>
<td>Description: Annual meeting for the year 1987-1988 covering updates on Arthur Miller and William Styron's mission to Chile, Freedom to Write Awards and various programming efforts including &quot;Great American Writers&quot; and a series on North American Literary Magazines, and the Board of Trustees discuss the process and procedure for member expulsion. 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting, 1989 June 7</td>
<td>Access: This tape is restricted because it has not been digitized. Description: 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting, 1995 June 01</td>
<td>Description: Long range planning committee was formed with a report coming in October of 1995 looking into general literacy, encouragement</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of young writers, diversity in publishing and writing, and broaden
general interest in reading, foster translation, to promote deeper cultural
ties with other writers and PEN Centers, among many other initiatives.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Open Member Meetings, 1976 April 2-1988 May 18

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Open Member Meeting, 1976 April 02

Description: In this open meeting, members of PEN discuss, among
other issues, PEN's magazine and newsletter, and, more generally,
what PEN publications should contain; a perceived lack of transparency
in the PEN elections and administration; what the basis for membership
is and should be; and what the various committees do. The president
of PEN, Muriel Rukeyser, runs the meeting and answers questions,
and she is joined by PEN Trustees Donald Barthelme, Joy Chute, Sol
Yurick, and Albert Murray.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Open Member Meeting, #1, 1982 October 15

Description: In this first introductory day of events, Richard Gilman,
Karen Kennerly, and Joyce Johnson welcome PEN members and
discuss the state of PEN and the literary world in general.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Open Member Meeting, #2, 1982 October 16

Description: In this second day of events, the heads of all of PEN's
committees talk about the activity of their committees over the past
year and take questions. Extended discussions are had over how the
regional centers of PEN can be more active and more connected to the
base in New York and whether membership in PEN should be restricted
to writers, and exclude editors and publishers. There is also discussion
of the results of a recent survey of the membership.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Open Member Meeting, 1988 May 18

Description: This is a special members meeting held to discuss a
position paper that Allen Ginsberg had proposed at a board meeting,
a paper that called attention to and criticized censorship conducted
by Israel in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. Cynthia Ozick had
responded with a dissenting statement, and PEN then convened this
meeting to allow members to share their thoughts on what should be
done. In the course of the meeting, many individuals--including Vivian
Gornick, Grace Paley, First Amendment lawyer Charles Rembar, and
human rights advocate Eric Goldstein--discuss both the facts of the
situation and what they feel an appropriate response on PEN's part
should be. Allen Ginsberg also gives the background for how he came to write the paper and Cynthia Ozick reads her statement.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)


Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

1966 P.E.N. Congress in New York, 1966 June 13-17

1966 PEN International Congress - Inaugural Session, 1966 June 13

Description: The inaugural session opens by reading messages from John Lindsay (mayor of New York), Nelson Rockefeller (governor of New York) and Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (the Vice President of PEN International), to the audience. Russell Niles speaks about the New York University, which is hosting the conference, and its relation to the cultural life of the city. Roger Stevens reads a message from Lyndon Johnson, then President of the US. Arthur Miller (president of PEN) and Saul Bellow also speak at length. Bellow gives remarks on the transformations in the relation between the public and the writer in the United States.

3 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)

Reels 1-3.


Description: The Chairman of PEN, and Chancellor of NYU Russell Niles each give opening remarks. Roger Stevens, Chairman of the NEA, Saul Bellow, and Arthur Miller of President of PEN of also give opening comments. The central theme of the conference is the writer as independent spirit, with specific topics including the writer as public figure.

3 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels), 1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 5-inch reel)

Reels 1-3, plus a duplicate Reel 3, formerly described as c1877.


Description: The theme is the writer in the electronic age, a contradiction in practice but a growing reality in the 1960s. Speakers, including Buckminster Fuller, Pablo Neruda, Kathleen Nott, Adolf Hoffmeister, and Norman Podhoretz, discuss how technology affects writers, with Marshall McLuhan moderating. The panel discusses the emerging role of technology in the arts, the subversive nature of nascent data collecting, and how the writer is to serve in the age of technology.

11 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)


Reels 1-7 (Box 134), Reel 8 (Box 135); plus duplicate Reels 6-8 (Box 135), formerly described as c1879
1966 PEN International Congress - Role of the Latin American Writer, 1966 June 15

Description: Pablo Neruda, Mario Vargas Llosa, Nicanor Parra, and others discuss the role of the writer in Latin America. Most of the event is conducted in French, including the remarks given by Neruda and Vargas Llosa. At the 10:30 mark, Nicanor Parra from Chile comments in English on his personal experience publishing in Argentina and being unable to import copies of his work back into Chile. The theme of publishing and distribution in light of complex international relations among the region is touched on by several speakers throughout the course of the event.

3 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 5-7. (Incomplete set)

Box: 135

1966 PEN International Congress - Round Table II: Social Sciences (Day 1), 1966 June 15

Description: Authors coming from different cultural and political backgrounds give remarks on various themes and issues pertaining to the life of literature and writers in societies around the world. This event is mostly in French and features Ralph Ellison, Leon Edel, Cheikh Hamidou Kane, and Maurice Nadeau, among others. At the 41:12 mark, authors discuss in English the relationship between sociology and literature, arguing that art bleeds into social science when the writer ceases to believe in the autonomy of the form as a mode for exploration. They praise literature as the foremost mode for its ability to analyze the complexities of the human experience, above all else. The event is mostly in French.

8 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels), including 4 duplicates formerly described as c1885
Includes Social Sciences Roundtable. Reels 1-4. (2 copies of the same set)

Box: 136
Box: 137

1966 PEN International Congress - Round Table III: Collaborators (Day 1), 1966 June 15

Description: Authors coming from different cultural and political backgrounds give remarks on various themes and issues pertaining to the life of literature and writers around the world. This event is mostly in French. At the 1:30:00 mark, authors discuss the importance of language and prose as a means for resistance and hope in countries prone to persecution.

8 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Includes Collaborator Roundtable. Reels 1-4 (originals) and Reels 1-4 (duplicates).
Reels 1-6 (Box 137), Reels 7-8 (Box 138).

Box: 137
Box: 138

1966 PEN International Congress - Round Table IV: The Writer as Public Figure (Session II), 1966 June 17

Box: 138
Description: Authors coming from different cultural and political backgrounds give remarks on various themes and issues pertaining to the life of literature and writers around the world. The introduction to the event, and some other sections, are conducted in French. Speakers include Arthur Miller and Nicanor Parra, among many others. At the 1:13:00 mark, Arthur Miller discusses the "distortion" that comes from discussions of world literature and culture in a context as specific as New York City, or all developed, highly literate cities for that matter.

5 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 6-10. (Incomplete set)

Press Conferences, 1966 June 15-16

1966 PEN International Congress - Saul Bellow Excerpt, 1966 June 15

Description: An isolated recording of Saul Bellow speaking at the 1966 PEN International Congress addressing a number of topics and tropes. Speaking on the influence, possibilities and relationship of intellectuals towards technology - including a particularly dystopian flavor. As well as the "literary intellectual" class subverting and appropriating literature for their own uses. He explores the notion of the "mental life" and the world of ideas and information.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 5-inch reel)


Description: The press is invited to ask Arthur Miller, then President of PEN, questions regarding actions taken up by the PEN Congress; they are also given a press release from PEN. Miller not only answers their questions, but also details the challenges and progress the organization has seen.

3 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels), including one duplicate formerly described as c1891
Reels 1-2. Duplicate Reel 2.

1986 P.E.N. Congress in New York, 1986 January 12-17

48th PEN International Congress - Opening Ceremony, 1986 January 12

Description: This is the first event of the 1986 Congress, and introductory remarks are given by Per Wästberg (President of PEN International), Norman Mailer (President of U.S. PEN), John Kenneth Galbraith (President of the American Academy of Arts and Letters) and Vartan Gregorian (President of the New York Public Library). They are followed by Secretary of State George Shultz, whose invitation and speech (which ended with the words "Don't be
surprised by the fact that Ronald Reagan and I are on your side") was a major point of controversy throughout the week. The event concludes with a press conference, in which Mailer explains why and how Shultz came to be invited to address the Congress.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
One original and one copy.

48th PEN International Congress - How Does the State Imagine, 1986
January 13

Description: The fourteen writers in the two sessions that make up this event take diverse positions on its theme, from Gordimer who begins her talk by saying that "the state has no imagination" to Doctorow who outlines the many ways that states and literature are intertwined. A letter of protest against the invitation of Secretary of State Shultz is read out at the start of the second session, and individual writers also express their objections and shock over the decision; we learn that the South African delegation boycotted the opening ceremony in protest.

The event consists of two sessions. Claude Simon speaks first, in French. Kobo Abe and Günter Grass also speak in Japanese and German, respectively, but their remarks are translated as they go. Mario Vargas Llosa speaks last in the first session, and he speaks in Spanish, which is not translated. There is also a portion of a reading by J.M. Coetzee.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
Tapes 1-2 of 3. (Incomplete set)

48th PEN International Congress - Special Literary Session: Criticism I, 1986
January 13

Description: This is one part of a three-part event on criticism, with different speakers at each event. The general prompt of this conference is, "what should criticism try to do?" Other, more specific, topics addressed are whether it is inevitable that the analysis of literary text should lead to political analysis?; and to what objects other than literary text can criticism turn it's focus to in an effective way? Each speaker gives their view on the topics posed, and then there is a discussion amongst all panelists. Hardwick, Said, and Bersani offer unique perspectives on criticism.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

48th PEN International Congress - Special Literary Session: Criticism II & III, 1986
January 13

Description: This is two parts of a three-part event on criticism, with different speakers at each event. Each panelist in this event gives their view on the history of the field, as well as their take on what (if any) constitutes the crisis of modern day criticism. Panelists draw from their area of expertise of including literature, theater,
music, and poetry. Speakers then discuss amongst themselves their differing vantage points on the topics, such as the distinction between reviewers and critics.
1 reel; 1 compact cassette (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel; 1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)
Reel (Box 139), Cassette (Box 262).

48th PEN International Congress - Children's Literature and the Imagination of the Child, 1986 January 14

Description: At the beginning of this panel discussion, the moderator prompts the speakers by asking them to think about school-mandated reading, specifically pertaining to the imagination of the state versus the imagination of a child. Each speaker gives their view on the topics posed, and then there is a discussion amongst all panelists.
3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), including one duplicate formerly described as c1899


Description: Hispanic nationality, language and culture are conceived of in certain ways by government and commerce in the United States, and in quite different ways by those who are perhaps closest to it, the makers of its literature, native-born, immigrants, writers-in-exile. How do these differing views of contemporary Hispanic experience impinge upon and conflict with one another?
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

48th PEN International Congress - Alienation and the State I, 1986 January 14

Description: The panelists of this conference were given three questions to consider. "Are we, as writers, alienated from the state in ways not previously experienced? Does the writer's imagination now tend to be walled off from the historical process? Has a new internationalism lead to an obfuscation of national identity?" Morrison, Rushdie, Padilla, Grusa, Konrad and Walcott use these prompts as jumping-off points, and share their thoughts on other issues relating to alienation. Moderator Susan Sontag also shares her thoughts (starting at 25. 24 mark of file C0760_c1901_b).
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
Tape 1 of 3. (Incomplete set)

48th PEN International Congress - Utopian Imagination, 1986 January 16

Description: Is the notion of Utopia still a useful one at the end of the twentieth century? Must the state build its pyramids on the exhaustion of the creative spirit? Does the contemporary writer
believe that no fusion is possible between the individual moral imagination and the creative evolution of the state? Must these always and forever exist in conflict? Authors and poets Czeslaw Milosz, Vasko Popa, Susan Sontag, Tomas Venclova, and Predrag Matvejević reflect on the notion of utopia in literature and its political connotations.

Portions of 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

48th PEN International Congress - Prose and Poetry Reading Session, 1986 January 16

Description: Wang Meng reads six flash fiction pieces in Chinese, including "of Confirming the Faith" and William Gass follows with the English translations. Allen Ginsberg sings political and profane songs (including "Father Death Blues"), and then reads a series of poems about China, which he had written there while a guest of the Chinese Writers Union. Munro reads from "The Progress of Love". Gordimer reads a story called "Crimes of Conscience".

Portions of 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), plus one duplicate compact cassette formerly described as c1911

48th PEN International Congress - American Fiction and Poetry: Are They Transposing Themselves?, 1986 January 16

Description: Imaginative writing, usually taken as the writing of fiction and poetry, has in the last 25 years presented the spectacle of an exchange between these two massive organizations: the novel appears to have invested far beyond its initiating commitment to realize in those devices and strategies commonly associated with poetry; while American verse has become, with only a few vivid exceptions, a language of spontaneity and a kind of naturalism to the self. Raymond Carver, Allen Ginsberg, Cynthia Macdonald, Joyce Carol Oates, Kirkpatrick Sale, and Mark Strand talk about the status of prose and poetry and their influences on each other.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

48th PEN International Congress - Problems of the Theatre, 1986 January 16

Description: Drama has traditionally been seen as a potential instrument of cultural and even political criticism and renewal. Yet, it has also been the most conservative of art forms. Can drama truly alter public and private consciousness, as Brecht and Artuad preached? Authors and playwrights Kobo Abe, Judith Herzberg, Heiner Müller, Arthur Miller, Athol Fugard, and Richard Gilman discuss the problems that theater encounters in a world where it competes with other forms of entertainment, such as television and cinema.
3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), including one duplicate formerly described as c1914


Box: 263

Description: Can Translation transform national into international consciousness, or is the national untranslatable? How is the national affected by translation? Does, or should, the writer sacrifice idiosyncrasies of language and culture for the sake of global comprehension? Edmund Keeley, Breyten Breytenbach, Hans-Magnus Enzensberger, Donald Keene, John Simon, and Joao Ubaldo Ribeiro talk about various aspects of translation and the challenges that translators encounter.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)


Box: 263

Description: Arthur Schlesinger, Bruno Kreisky, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Francis FitzGerald, Kurt Vonnegut, George McGovern, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Mario Soldati talk about the interaction between the state and intellectuals. The heated Q & A section includes Breyten Breytenbach, Amos Oz, and Gunter Grass asking questions of the panelists.

Portions of 8 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), including 2 duplicates

Duplicates were formerly described as c1913 (Part 1 of 4 and a portion of Part 2 of 4).

48th PEN International Congress - Closing Session, 1986 January 17

Box: 263

Description: In the closing session of 1986 P.E.N. Congress in New York, statements are read by then President of PEN International, Per Wästberg, and his successor, Francis King.

Portions of 7 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), including one duplicate

Duplicate formerly described as c1913 (Part 4 of 4).

48th PEN International Congress - Summation, 1986 January 17

Box: 263

Description: The afternoon session starts with Norman Mailer reading the names of the authors who have signed petitions on Nicaragua and the case of Margaret Randall. Then, women take the floor to read statements and protest against the underrepresentation of women in the whole conference and in the structure of PEN American Center. Followed by that, Nadine Gordimer, György Konrád, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, and Norman Mailer continue the panel, discussing the imagination of the state.

Portions of 8 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), including two duplicates
48th PEN International Congress - Private Readings, 1986 January 13  Box: 263

Description: Various panelists read passages from their literary works. At the 6:15 mark, Canadian novelist, playwright, critic, journalist, and professor, Robertson Davies, reads from his novel "What's Bred in the Bone." He explains the theme of the novel is inspired by the British proverb, "What is bred in the bone will come out in the flesh".

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

48th PEN International Congress - Brazilian Writers, 1986 January 13  Box: 263

Description: Zelia Gattai and Jorge Amado were unable to read at the event due to sickness, so their daughter, Paloma, and her husband read their literary works in Portuguese. Then translators read the same works in English. Part of Amado's novel "Showdown" is presented. A passage from Gattai's memoir "Anarchist, Thank God" is read. Ribeiro shares a story called "Insidious Bull" from his "Book of Stories", first in Portuguese, then in English.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)


Description: The three panelists each give presentations on the international influence of Whitman: Rabassa speaks about his influence on Latin American writers, especially José Martí and Rubén Dario; Kinnell talks about Whitman's relationship to the state and reads from the poems "Sparkles from the Wheel", "Song of Myself" and "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"; and Luo Luo offers general remarks on the translation of poetry and discusses particular aspects of the Chinese translations of Whitman--for instance, how the Native American place names were treated. During the Q & A, audience members Richard Howard and Peter Glassgold discuss Whitman's influence on French poetry and on the Beats.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)


Description: Salman Rushdie, Donald Barthelme, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Claude Simon read from the their work during the 1986 PEN Congress. Vance Bourjaily introduces the reading, discussing the commonality in their unconventional, imaginative narratives despite their disparate nationalities. Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa begins the reading at the 3:15 mark, reading in Spanish for the first minute before a translator finishes the reading in English.
48th PEN International Congress - The Problem of National Identity I, 1986 January 15

Description: Certain great writers have been seen as the acme of "national expression". Is this notion intellectually viable, or is it, rather, a misconception? Does the writer sometimes seduce the reader through a tacit commitment to national vision, popular mythology, or other accouterments of the state? In other words, can the writer or would a writer be able to escape the specter of their own national identity? As a component of language, of a national language, the writer finds him or herself often in league with the identity of the geopolitical state, while trying to cross those borders in the name of Literature and the Human Spirit. Jorge Amado was unable to attend.


Description: Drawing attention to writers imprisoned around the world, this press conference highlights PENs imprisoned writers program and updates of international detainees. Notable writers speak about the state of imprisonment in their respective countries.

48th PEN International Congress - The Problem of National Identity II, 1986 January 15

Description: The minimum contract between the State and the citizen has to do with the maintenance of order. Many writers, in radically different ways, alternatives to prevailing ideas of order. On the other hand, a number of writers are though to have helped to nourish or create social order. Is such a relationship to the social order still possible? Mahmoud Darwish is unable to attend, but his statement was read by Mr. Buch. There is a petition protesting the INS decision to deny Margaret Randall permanent resident status based on the McCarran-Walter Act. Danilo Kis’ portion is cut short due to technical difficulties.

48th PEN International Congress - Reading: Gunter Grass, Amos Oz, and Kurt Vonnegut, 1986 January 15

Description: Gunter Grass, Amos Oz, and Kurt Vonnegut read from their respective works. Kurt Vonnegut begins at the 1:30 mark, discussing the necessity of a "villain" in order for a narrative to take shape and function. Vonnegut suggests that in his works, the villain is not a person, but instead culture (technology).
Portions of 8 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
Portions of Tape 4-11. (Incomplete set)

48th PEN International Congress - In Opposition, 1986 January 16

Description: Is it not the writer's program, if not the writer's role, on occasion to produce work which stands in opposition to all that the environing culture holds dear? What does it mean to accuse a writer of being divisive or destructive of state policy, of popular mythology, etc? Can writing negate the popular imagery, the state myths, which it must postulate in order to attack?
Portions of 8 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), plus three duplicate compact cassettes or poorer quality formerly described as c1902
Portions of Tape 4-11. (Incomplete set)

48th PEN International Congress - PEN Assembly, 1986 January 15

Description: This is the PEN Assembly, chaired by Per Wästberg, where members meet to discuss resolutions and other PEN matters, such as the establishment of new PEN Centers. There are a few notable developments in the course of the three-hour meeting: the Israeli PEN Center submits an "in-session resolution" urging the Soviet government to lift "restrictions on the study of Hebrew language and literature and cease the persecution of scholars, teachers, and students of Hebrew culture." Following this, Wästberg calls on Amos Oz to report on the state of censorship in the West Bank. The formation of a Jordanian PEN Center and a PEN Center for Guatemalan writers, located temporarily in Mexico City, is discussed and confirmed. Nadine Gordimer submits a "in-session resolution" condemning the US government's policy of "constructive engagement" in South Africa, with its implications for restriction of freedom of movement and freedom of expression; this resolution is discussed at length and finally passed, in an edited version. Other topics of discussion are: the rights and responsibilities of translators, the work of the Writers in Prison Committee, the relationship between PEN and UNESCO, and the planning for upcoming PEN Congresses in Hamburg, Lugano, Cambridge, and Seoul.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
48th PEN International Congress - Science Fiction, 1986 January 15
Box: 263
Description: A literary ghetto and a public library of tropes and formal resources. Freedom and restrictions of genre writing: how the audience shapes what it reads. The future subjunctive: fiction as scale-model, the novel as experiment. The dystopian vision from 1984 to 1986. How technocracy monopolizes the imagination of the future; the geopolitical and socioeconomic parochialism of science fiction.
Portions of 4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

48th PEN International Congress - Censorship in the U.S.A, 1986 January 15
Box: 263
Description: A session of American writers and publishers looking at the problems of censorship in the United States. Barbara Parker talks about textbook censorship, Kurt Vonnegut talks about library censorship, Gay Talese discusses censorship of pornography, Rose Styron and Charles Rembar talk about the US government and courts, and Margaret Atwood discusses censorship in Canada.
Portions of 4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

48th PEN International Congress - Public Reading at St. Peter's Church, 1986 January 15
Box: 263
Description: This recording comprises the third, fourth and fifth readings at St. Peter's Church during the 48th PEN International Congress. Each of the speaker's readings address some aspect of the central theme: the writer's imagination, and the imagination of the state Valenzuela reads from her book "The Lizard's Tail". Grusa reads an excerpt from "The Questionnaire"The fourth of the Midday Reading Series. Aksyonov reads the a page of his book "The Burn"; and Ozick reads the rest of the passage. Kis reads a part of his novel "A Tomb for Boris Davidovich". Konrad reads from an unidentified work of his, after which Ivan Sanders (Konrad's translator) reads from the book "The Loser". The fifth and last of the Midday Reading Series events: Atwood reads from "The Handmaid's Tale," Munro reads from her short story "The Progress of Love" and Davies reads from "What's Bred in the Bone."
3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Box: 285
Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns. Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.
Description: This is a brief highlight and informational reel about the 1988 International PEN Congress is Seoul, South Korea.
1 video cassette (VHS (T-60))

The World of Translation Conference, 1970 May 11-15


The World of Translation Conference: Afternoon Session, 1970 May 11

Description: In the afternoon session of the first day of the World of Translation Conference, Joy Chute, founder of the PEN Translation Committee, talks about the invisibility of translators and her long campaign (dating back to 1960) to get reviewers and newspapers to name the translators of the book they are reviewing. Other talks are given by the publisher Jack Macrae, who discusses a major publishing project, the translation of seven books by Jorge Luis Borges, for which the translator, Norman Thomas di Giovanni, received half of the advance and royalties, an arrangement that Macrae argues benefits the quality and ultimate success of the project; and Dale Cunningham, who gives a history of the American Translators Association.

5 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 1-5.
Reels 1-2 (Box 139), Reels 3-5 (Box 140).

The World of Translation Conference: Morning Session, 1970 May 11

Description: This is the opening session for the weeklong World of Translation Conference. Charles Bracelen Flood discusses the history of PEN's involvement with translators, and Robert Payne reads out a "Bill of Rights" for translators. The morning talks by Frances Frenaye, Theodore Purdy, and Sidney Alexander discuss matters such as publisher-translator relations, the possibility of creating a fund for translators, and the problems of translating texts from different periods.

3 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 1-3.

The World of Translation Conference, 1970 May 12

Description: The second day of the World of Translation Conference contains talks by many different translators with different experiences and concerns. Highlights include: Gregory Rabassa, who begins his talk by quoting Johnny Cash's song "I Walk the Line"; Isaac Bashevis Singer, discussing the richness of Yiddish (and proving it by giving a long, long list of all the possible ways to say "a poor man"); and Irving
Howe, who talks about the process of putting together the anthology "A Treasury of Yiddish Poetry" and the difficulties in bridging cultural differences, especially as a living Yiddish culture fades away.

9 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 1-9.
Reel 1 (Box 140), Reels 2-8 (Box 141), Reel 9 (Box 142).

The World of Translation Conference (Part I), 1970 May 13

Description: This is the first part of the third day of the World of Translation Conference. In it, Moura Budberg talks about the intellectual and personal qualities a translator needs, saying "The translator must be able to put himself in someone else's shoes and like being there"; Guy Daniel, a translator from Russian, discusses the fad for "imitations", crib translations, and other forms of translation which overshadow actual translators and actual translators; and Ivan Elagin, a translator from English (into Russian), discusses his translation of Stephen Vincent Benét's epic poem "John Brown's Body" and how he handled the issues of idioms and references familiar to English-language readers (prayers, nursery rhymes).

4 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 1-4.

The World of Translation Conference, Part II, 1970 May 13

Description: This is the second part of the third day of the World of Translation Conference. Highlights include: Frank Macshane, who talks about the creation of a translation seminar at Columbia University and the teaching of translation in general; Muriel Rukeyser, who talks about a translator's "lost languages" (in her case, German and Hebrew) and how translation can be a way of recovering them; and George Quasha, who talks about the relationship of translation to experimental writing and translation as a radical act.

5 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 5-9.
Reels 1-2 (Box 142), Reels 3-5 (Box 143).

The World of Translation Conference (Part IV), 1970 May 13

Description: In this fourth part of the third day of the World of Translation Conference, George Reavey (translator, poet and Samuel Beckett's first literary agent) talks about his translations of Boris Pasternak's poetry and prose, the change in Pasternak's style over the years, and his discussions with Pasternak about this change.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)
Reel 11.

The World of Translation Conference (Part I), 1970 May 14

Description: This is the first part of the fourth day of the World of Translation Conference. Dr. John Mish, head of the Oriental section at
the New York Public Library—and a great polyglot—lays out some of the profound differences between languages and the problems they pose for translators; and Richard Howard gives a talk on writer-translators, which encompasses Goethe, Baudelaire, Browning, Wallace Stevens, and many others. "There comes a time," Howard says, "in the life of certain great writers when they turn to the work of someone else to complete the recognition of themselves."

2 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 1-2.

The World of Translation Conference (Part II), 1970 May 14
Box: 143
Box: 286

Description: This is the second part of the fourth day of the World of Translation Conference. In it, Ivan Morris talks about his process in translating the opening lines of "The Tale of Genji" (he gives the audience members a hand-out, showing the different stages) and also discusses Arthur Waley's translation and the French and German translation of these lines; and Qiu Xiaolong discusses his translation of "The Waste Land", as well as common mistakes made in translations from Chinese into English.

2 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 4-5.
Reel 1 (Box 143), Reel 2 (Box 286).

The World of Translation Conference (Part V), 1970 May 14
Box: 286

Description: This is the fifth part of the fourth day of the World of Translation Conference: talks are given by translators of Chinese and Russian poetry. Lowell's "Imitations" and Nabokov's translation of "Eugene Onegin", with the different approaches to translation that these texts represent, are also discussed.

2 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 9-10.

The World of Translation Conference, 1970 May 15
Box: 286
Box: 287

Description: This is the last day of the World of Translation Conference. Some highlights: George Astley, who created the Translators Association in the UK, discussing how the TA has worked with, and sometimes effectively put pressure on, publishers in the UK over issues like copyright, royalties, and naming the translator in the book and publicity materials; Amiya Chakravaty, discussing the concerns that Rabindranath Tagore had about the translations of his poetry into English (Tagore said that he didn't want to be "Empire Product No. 1") and the overall lack of translation from Indian languages; Fernanda Pivano, talking about her translations of many major American writers, including Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, and the Beats, into Italian and how her friendships with the writers informed her translations; Krystyna Tarnowska (translator of "The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy" into Polish), discussing how she began translating
during the war as an act of escapism and defiance, since the Nazis had banned English books; and Mirra Ginsburg, talking about translation in Russia in the twentieth century, including how it "became a refuge for writers who could not write without violating their conscience" and the considerable amount of translation that occurs within the USSR, which, she points out, is a "multinational state". Robert Payne concludes the conference with a talk that sums up some of the major discussions of the week and proposes actions for the future.

9 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels)
Reels 1-9.
Reels 1-4 (Box 286), Reels 5-9 (Box 287).


Description: The afternoon session is dedicated to a panel called "The Politics of Torture" and the evening session is on "Habeas Corpus and Los Desaparecidos." Participants include the mother of a "desaparecido," Rosario Ybarra, the journalist Elena Poniatowska, and the former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Messages of support from Juan Carlos Onetti and Ernesto Cardenal, who could not attend, are also read out. The events are conducted bilingually; talks are given in English or Spanish and then translated or summarized in the other language. Includes recordings of Letelier, Falk, Colchie, Boal, Cooper, Powiatowska, Morena, Clark, Rosario Ibana de Piedra, Armand, Laraque, Cooperman, Harss, Solomon, Delvalle, Leenhart, Dinon, Waldman, Christ, Jeffrey, I.F. Stone, Mora, Cuadra, Franqui, Valenzuela, Navasky, Gonzales. Reels 1-9 of 21.
9 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 5-inch reels)
Reels 1-7 (Box 293), Reels 8-9 (Box 294).

An Inquiry into the Literary and Political Climate of Latin America: The Politics of Torture, circa 1979-1980

Description: This is the first day of a two day series titled "An Inquiry into the Literary and Political Climate of Latin America"- that took place sometime in 1979 or 1980. The afternoon session is dedicated to a panel called "The Politics of Torture" and the evening session is on "Habeas Corpus and Los Desaparecidos." Participants include the mother of a "desaparecido," Rosario Ybarra, the journalist Elena Poniatowska, and the former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Messages of support from Juan Carlos Onetti and Ernesto Cardenal, who could not attend, are also read out. The events are conducted bilingually; talks are given in English or Spanish and then translated or summarized in the other language. Reference is made to a letter from 1979, the murder of Orlando Letelier, to Allende's presidency, to the Chilean junta. From Falk's presentation in particular, it seems that this conference is occurring during the Carter administration. Also, material seems to be lost.

12 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 5-inch reels) and 3 duplicate compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape) formerly described as c1931.

Reels 1-5 (Box 294); Reels 6-12 (Box 295); Tapes 5, 7, and 8 (Incomplete Set, Box 264).

Dinners and Receptions, 1966 November 7-1988 September 14

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

P.E.N. Dinner: Arthur Miller, Susan Sontag, Lewis Galantière, 1966 November 07

Description: At this first dinner of the 1966 season, Arthur Miller and Susan Sontag are invited to give their thoughts about the current state of PEN and its activities. Miller is the head of PEN International, Sontag at that point has been a PEN member for eighteen months, and so they have correspondingly different perspectives on the organization. But they concur that changes are needed: Sontag argues that PEN should drop its cocktail parties and dinners, and become a "serious arena" for lectures and debates, and Miller challenges PEN to "defend literature as literature" and to pay attention not only to political repression abroad but also to the forces of the market in the US that limit and distort the voices being published.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

P.E.N. Reception, 1983 October 03

Description: At this reception for PEN members, Per Wästberg and Ian Wedde read their poetry; Carolyn Forché reports on a trip that she and Galway Kinnell made to the Asian Writers' Conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and reads work inspired by that experience; and Kinnell ends the event by reading his poem "The Fundamental Project of Technology," about the Peace Museum in Nagasaki.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

P.E.N. Reception, Guest: Paul Theroux, 1983 October 31

Description: At this PEN reception, Paul Theroux discusses travel writing, the way the English feel about foreigners, and the changes England was undergoing in the 1980s. He concludes by reading a section about the quintessential English resort town from his recently published book "The Kingdom by the Sea: A Journey Around the Coast of Great Britain."

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

New Members Reception, 1984 February 14

Box: 264
Description: At this reception, new members are welcomed and the heads of PEN committees are introduced. The event ends with a reading by Bill Matthews from Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry."
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Fall Reception: Norman Mailer Remarks, 1984 October 02
Box: 264

Description: At this reception, Norman Mailer (newly elected President of PEN American Center) discusses the upcoming PEN Congress in New York as well as the ways that he hopes PEN will foster a sense of community among writers, commenting that "even dentists treat each other with more common humanity than we writers."
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

New Members PEN Dinner: Kirkpatrick Sale and Norman Mailer, 1985
Box: 275

Description: This is a new Members event at the PEN America offices: the treasurer Kirkpatrick Sale and the president of PEN Norman Mailer make speeches about PEN's mission, fundraising, and the upcoming PEN Congress.
Portions of 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
One original and one copy.

A Reception for Hiber Conteris, 1985 June 18
Box: 264

Description: Three speakers (Kolovakos, Massing, and Neier) give opening remarks introducing Conteris, and the circumstances he was in in Uruguay while a political prisoner. They also discuss their respective organizations' roles in facilitating Conteris's release. Neier, a founder of Human Rights Watch, talks about the Reagan administration's involvement with the military government of Uruguay. Following these remarks, Conteris speaks, in Spanish in tandem with an English interpreter, about his experience as a political prisoner. At the time of this event, Conteris is the first honorary PEN member to visit the NYC space.
3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

P.E.N. Syndicated Fiction/Cynthia MacDonald Reception, 1985 September 23
Box: 264

Description: In this event, Karen Kennerly introduces Richard Harteis, the director of the PEN Syndicated Fiction project, which worked to place short stories in newspapers. There are significant sound issues with this asset.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Reception for Per Westberg, 1986 October 30
Box: 264

Description: Per Wästberg, who had recently stepped down from the presidency of International PEN, reflects on his years with the organization and comments on its current state. He tells the story of how the Polish government removed the leadership of the Polish branch of PEN and
replaced them with leaders of its own choosing (which led International PEN to withdraw their recognition of Polish PEN) and the trip he made to Poland to try and mend relations—a trip during which, among other strange occurrences, the Minister of Culture told Wästberg that he (the Minister) no longer read anything officially published, he only read samizdat. Wästberg also recounts a surreal early morning meeting with General Jaruzelski, the head of Poland at the time, and fractious and inconclusive meetings with the Polish writers expelled from PEN. In addition, Wästberg discusses the activities of PEN branches in Denmark, India, Romania (where Ceausescu refused to free a writer on behalf of whom PEN was advocating, saying that he was "not a writer, but a homosexual thief"), and the United States of America.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Reception and Reading in Honor of Central American Women Poets, 1986 November 14

Description: Female poets from Central American countries read their poems and talk shortly about their countries: Yolanda Blanco from Nicaragua, Diana Avila from Costa Rica, Semiramis Guillen Barrientos from Honduras, Mirna Martinez from El Salvador, and Bessy Reyna from Panama. Also, a poem of the Nicaraguan poet, Daisy Zamora, who is going to attend later in the evening, was read to the audience. The poets are introduced by Grace Paley.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Fall Reception: Susan Sontag, 1987 September 14

Description: At this reception, Susan Sontag (the newly elected President of PEN American Center) discusses PEN's plans and activities for the year, including its lobbying against the 1986 Tax Reform Act and a white paper in progress on censorship in the United States. She announces the creation of the PEN Jerard Award, intended to honor and support women writers early in their careers working on nonfiction projects. At the start of the event, Sontag also delivers the sad news of the recent sudden death of Joy Chute, a former President and very active member of PEN (founder, among her many other contributions to the organization, of the PEN Translation Committee).
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Holiday Reception and Book Display, 1987 December 17

Description: Harvey Shapiro, chairman of the Events Committee, welcomes members to an event which, for the first time, combines PEN's holiday party with its New Members/New Books party.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Friends of P.E.N. Party: Frances FitzGerald and Allen Ginsberg, 1987 December 20

Box: 264
Description: Frances FitzGerald (a Vice-President of PEN) gives a brief talk on PEN's new awards, upcoming events, and advocacy work to pay attention to and get involved in. She is followed by Allen Ginsberg (another Vice-President of PEN), who reads from his recently published book "White Shroud" and concludes the event by singing his poem "Europe, Who Knows?"
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Fall Reception: Lionel Tiger, 1988 September 14
Description: At this reception, Lionel Tiger, the treasurer of PEN, gives the members an update on PEN's financial situation and also announces an upcoming benefit on behalf of writers with AIDS. He then invites up the Israeli writer Yoram Kaniuk, who had recently resigned from PEN Israel because he felt it was not doing enough for Palestinian writers suffering persecution, and Kaniuk discusses the work of the Israeli and Palestinian Writers and Artists Committee (of which he was a co-chair).
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Panels and Symposia, 1970 November 19-1996 May 3
Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

William Pritchard, 1970 November 19
Description: This asset is difficult to decipher due to audio quality and the fact that it seems to begin after the event started. However, this may be an interview with William Pritchard talking about writing his biography of Robert Frost, along with another unknown individual speaking about the art of book reviewing and the state of literary criticism and letters.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

African-American Literature and Art, 1971 February 03
Description: This panel talks about the complexities of being an African-American artist/ writer in the United States, and the challenges they face. A theory proposed to the panel by the moderator is "The black experience in America is so singular, and so traumatic, that it is completely beyond the sensibility and psychological realization of any white person. And therefore no white person can truly evaluate a black work of art."
Sociological issues, like a white critic critiquing an African-American play with little cultural context, or the specific challenges faced by African-American artists in different regions of the country, are discussed.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Literature and Revolution II, 1973 January 11
Description: This is the second event in the series "Literature and Revolution". As in the first event, Anthony Burgess, Francine du Plessix Gray, Jerzy Kosinski, and Anne Fremantle consider the question of whether a writer can be uncommitted, politically. They discuss the lives
and works of many authors and how they bear upon this question, drawing comparisons between both contemporary and historical writers.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Literature and Revolution I, 1973 January 11  

Description: In what appears to be the first of a four-event series, a panel of writers--Margaret Mead, Elizabeth Hardwick, and Ivan Morris--discusses the question "Should a writer be committed to revolution?" Many topics are argued over, including whether writers know anything about politics, objectivity and subjectivity, how the meaning of the word "revolution" has changed over the years, and the various forms of commitment shown by Faulkner, Pound, Proust, and Eliot.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Literature and Revolution IV, 1973 March 08  

Description: The fourth part of the "Literature and Revolution" series. The topic under discussion is whether men and women write about, and experience, political commitment differently, but the panelists also discuss how sex is being represented in contemporary literature, what effect the sexual revolution has had on art and love, what distinguishes erotic literature from pornography, and the influence of hyper-masculine role models like Ernest Hemingway on a generation of male American writers.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

Repressed Writers, 1975 December 12  

Description: As part of PEN's ongoing prison writing advocacy, Muriel Rukeyser reads the work of prisoners at Riker's Island, of writers like Oscar Wilde and Dostoyevsky whose work was suppressed and who were imprisoned, and of the dissident poets Kim Chiofha, Natalya Gorbanevskaya, Breyten Breytenbach, and Dan Berrigan. As well as their poetry, Rukeyser also read their records of their experiences, their thoughts on prisons, on writing, and on freedom of expression.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Toward a Literary Community: The Continuing Presence of Flannery O'Connor, 1977 February 28  

Description: A discussion on the impact, literary style and criticism of Flannery O'Connor from those who knew her best, or not at all.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

With participants Sally Fitzgerald, Robert Giroux, Carol Hill, Walker Percy, Lydia Raurell.

Snepp Symposium, 1978 October 23  

Description: The event is about Frank Snepp's case, in which the CIA sued him over a memoir he published about his experience in the Vietnam War as a CIA agent.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
Writing Abroad Forum, 1978 December 27

Description: Vassilikos pays tribute to the theorist Antonio Gramsci. Gupta discusses literature as a unifying factor in India. Mr. Munene represents Ngugi wa Thiong'o, who was detained in Kenya at the time of the panel. His representative speaks in detail about Ngugi wa Thiong'o's life, both personally and professionally. Sprusinski describes the state of publishing in Poland.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Box: 264

Writing About Dance, 1978 December 06

Description: The panel discusses the specifics of writing dance criticism, and the value of the genre. The panel begins with a discussion of what each participant finds value in reading dance criticism. At the 14:30 mark, panelists discuss the journey towards having the genre only recently be taken seriously and be considered respectable by the literary community.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes) and 1 empty case

Box: 264

Women and Critics, 1979 January 15

Description: Panelists discuss the complexities of writers and the literary criticism they get, with a focus on female authors and the particular type of literary criticism they receive. Issues such as being "feminist enough", a lack of distinction between a female author and the characters she writes about, are touched on over the course of the event.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Box: 264

Civil Liberties in West Germany, 1979 February 08

Description: The impetus for the panel is a forthcoming piece of legislation in West Germany that directly impacts the freedom of expression of the citizens there. The panelists speak about the developments in government policies in the region since 1972. David Abraham acts as the moderator.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Box: 264

Telecommunications, 1979 March 19

Description: This panel is on the subject of telecommunication and creativity.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 264

Magazines and Their Influences, 1979 October 03

Description: In this event, professionals from the literary magazine field discuss "the nature of the magazine, itself, as opposed to other serious branches of publishing." Magazines that focus on art theory, as well as those dedicated to literary and poetry review, are both represented by the panelists.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 264

A Conversation with Nadine Gordimer, 1979 October 10

Box: 264
Description: The Nobel Prize winning South African writer Nadine Gordimer discusses her recently published novel "Burger's Daughter," about the daughter of an anti-apartheid activist. After its publication in June 1979, the novel was banned in South Africa, and then, three months later, unbanned. Gordimer discusses this experience, her interest in the question of political commitment, her influences as a writer, and the new publishing scene, especially for black writers, that she saw developing in South Africa. She also describes her involvement with PEN South Africa and how it changed and deepened in the 1970s. Contains static on the audio, which sometimes makes the speaking difficult to understand. 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

Translation Symposium: A Model Letter of Agreement, 1979 November 30

Description: A discussion between a panel of translators, authors, and agents about a newly proposed "letter of agreement" setting out certain standards for translation contracts.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Can Books Survive the Book Business?, 1980 January 30

Description: NYU's The Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Program provides law students an opportunity to work on issues involving civil liberties. The program is represented at this event by its directors Norman Dorsen and Sylvia Law. PEN America's Committee on the Publishing Industry (represented at this event by members Malamud, Sara Blackburn, Faith Sale, Barbara Probst Solomon, Corlies Smith, and Fran McCullough) co-organized the event. Malamud makes opening statements on the state of book publishing, the current state of flux in publishing, a fear for the trade book as more writers feel pressure to produce works on popular subject matters, and conglomerate pressures on authors that results in their self-censorship. Panelists Bosworth, Kellock (Vice President of Marketing at Walden Books), Lillienstein (general counsel to the American Booksellers Association), Snyder, Wilentz (8th Street Bookstore owner), Trillin, Alexander, and Brockway make individual statements; Kizer is the moderator. Though not on the panel, a number of respondents in the audience are also given the floor to speak. Janet Bailey (owner of Chicago bookstore Barbara's Books) gives a statement on the challenges of operating a small bookstore. Following, remarks are made by various speakers, including Peter Skolnick (literary agent), Sol Yurick, Gay Talese, and John Simon (editor of Schocken Books).

3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)


Description: In this discussion, three writers--Daniel Aaron (author of "Writers on the Left"), Caryl Rivers (a journalist with a focus on feminism and women's issues), and Tim O'Brien (Vietnam veteran and novelist)--offer widely diverging perspectives on the question of whether writers should have a social role, whether they should participate in politics or
use their work to influence public opinion. This event occurred shortly after Rivers refused to cross a picket line at Boston University, where clerical workers were striking, and Rivers discusses the impact of that decision, including the experience of finding herself on the other side of the news camera and discovering that she herself had become a publicity item wedged between, as she memorably puts it, "the Puppy of the Week and Arnold Schwarzenegger."

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

P.E.N. Book Symposium report on NPR, 1980 February 07

Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns. Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: The news is about Random House Publishing House being sold to Newhouse Publication, and the reactions of the literary community to that. Margot Adler reports on a recent symposium held by PEN addressing the question of whether books can survive the book business.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

The Book Business in the 80's: Has It Always Been This Way?, 1980 October 08

Description: This is the first in a series of events on the publishing industry, with the subtitle "Has It Always Been This Way?". The event is organized by the PEN Publishing Committee. The previous panel "Can Books Survive the Book Business?" (c1962) spurred this series. Panelists include Freedgood (Editor at Random House), Consilino (Vice President of Marketing at Simon and Schuster), Nevler (Vice President of CBS Publications), McCormick (Editor-In-Chief of Doubleday), and Asher (Editor-In-Chief at Farrar, Straus and Giroux). As the moderator notes, a main focus of the panel is to give historical perspective on the publishing industry. Panelists share their individual thoughts on issues, and then there is a group discussion.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

The Book Business in the 80's: Books in the Stores: How Do You Get Them In and How Do You Get Them Out?, 1980 October 03

Description: In opening remarks, Faith Sale (of the PEN Publishing Committee, which organized the event) notes this series of events could alternately be called: Everything Anybody Could Want to Know About Publishing but No One Wants to Tell You. It is part of a series of conversations on the publishing industry. This event is subtitled: "Books in the Stores of How Do You Get Them In and How Do You Get Them Out?". Subsequent events in the series will cover topics like Publicity, Author-Editor Relations, and Publishers' Accountability to Authors. Panel members include Ripley (owner of Second Story Bookshop in Chappaqua), Kellock (Vice President of Marketing at Walden Books), Lillienstein (general counsel to the American Booksellers Association),
Bailey (owner of Chicago bookstore Barbara's Books), Marmion (Vice President of Farrar, Straus and Giroux), and Agnifilo (Manager of Library Sales at book wholesaler Bookazine). Marmion acts as moderator.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Freedom to Write Symposium on Nicaragua, 1980 December 17

Description: As Dore Ashton says at the start of the event, this symposium is in memory of Muriel Rukeyser and her work for PEN on freedom of expression issues in Nicaragua and South Korea. In that vein, Roberto Vargas, an US-born poet and Sandinista, begins by telling how Rukeyser helped him bring the priest and poet Ernesto Cardenal to the United States for a reading in the 1970s. Vargas goes on to talk about the successful literacy campaign conducted in Nicaragua after the insurrection and the ousting of the Somoza government, and concludes by reading a few of his own poems written during the insurrection. Grace Paley then reads poems that have come out of the literacy campaign, poems by the Nicaraguan poets Cardenal and Gioconda Belli, three of Rukeyser's poems from the book "The Gates" about the imprisoned South Korean poet Kim Chiofha, and one poem of her own. She is followed by Jonathan Cohen, reading from Ernesto Cardenal's book "Zero Hour"; Allen Ginsberg, reading poems of his own about Latin America, the US media, and revolutions; and Grace Schulman, reading her co-translations of the work of the great Nicaraguan poet Pablo Antonio Cuadra.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

Includes Allen Ginsberg, Dore Ashton, Mario Vargas Llosa, Muriel Rukeyser. One original and one copy.

Biography Panel, 1981 February 11

Description: The authors Steele, Massie, Bosworth, Strouse, and MacShane talk about the specifics of biography writing, like the issues each faced when penning their books.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)


Description: This is part of the series of events on the publishing industry, including one with the subtitle "Has It Always Been This Way?". The event is organized by the PEN Publishing Committee. The name of this event is "Publicity, Advertising, and Promotion: What Sells a Book?". Stern (Director of Advertising of CBS Entertainment), Sayer (director of marketing at Viking Penguin), Shapiro (founder of Selma Shapiro Public Relations), and Merrick (president of Richard Merrick Publishers) are the panelists. To start, Merrick and Sayer discuss how the tools of publicity can be applied to a "standard model of a book". Then Stern, following the same "model of a book" exercise, discusses what the possible outcome could be for a book with no publicity, advertising, or promotion. The second phase of the event features the panel talking about issues in the
industry, such as if advertising can be improved upon, how one arrives at print figures, the looks of the books.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

The Book Business in the 80’s: Those Rights Not in Your Contract - What Are They?, 1981 May 06

Description: This is the fourth in a series of events on the book business in the 80s, organized by PEN's Author's Right to Information Committee. The moderator is Schultz, a Journalism professor at NYU, and an author. She notes that a goal of the event is to "encourage a more active working relationship between writers and publishers". First, the panel discusses issues of editing, production, promotion. The floor is then opened to the audience for any comments or questions. After, the panel discusses topics like subsidiary rights and royalty statements. Panelists include Wallace (Editor-In-Chief at Holt Rinehart and Winston), Chasen (a literary lawyer), Lescher (a literary agent), Gould (an author), and Landis (Vice President of William Morrow and Company).
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Censorship in the School, 1981 October 11

Description: Educator Herbert Kohl discusses the numerous ways that what he calls "covert censorship" functions in the schools, by which he means methods of teaching that discourage children from asking questions and making up their own minds on matters such as class, race, economic inequality, American history, and environmental issues.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Convicts and Writers: An American Romance, 1982 January 19

Description: A panel of writers with different relationships to the experience of imprisonment (some ex-convicts, some writers involved in PEN's Prison Writing Program, some writers who had gotten to know prisoners) talk about the historic connections between writers and prisoners, and their own personal experiences. Though this was unplanned, the panel was being held at the same time as Jack Abbott--a prisoner whose case Norman Mailer had taken up, who was released, and then committed a murder in New York six weeks after he was paroled--was on trial, so a great deal of the discussion centers around this case. Styron had actually had a similar experience with another prisoner, and he talks about this candidly and at length.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

The Book Business in the 80's: Will this Book Sell to Paperback?, 1982 February 24

Description: This is part of a series of events on the publishing industry, with the first being "Has It Always Been This Way?" Panelists include Mitnick (trade-paperback editor at Putnam's Perigee Books line), Wyatt (Editor-In-Chief at Avon Books), and Ginsberg (an editor at Pocket Books).
The panelists each start by discussing how they would deal with different hypothetical scenarios having to do with paperback novels, defining sector-specific terminology (such as a "floor bid") along the way. The moderator, Skolnick, works as a subsidiary rights director at Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Writing and Activism: Conflicts and Convergence, 1982 October 25

Description: Four speakers with diverse experiences and backgrounds--Lidia Falcón, Marge Piercy, Barbara Smith, and Luisa Valenzuela -- give their thoughts on the ways that writing and activism have been intertwined in their lives. Falcon talks about her work as a lawyer on behalf of women and her imprisonment in Franco-era Spain; Smith discusses black women's studies, the roots of her activism-including finding a place for her queer identity in her activism-the disinterest of the mainstream media in works by writers like her, and her creation of the Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press; Valenzuela talks about the limitations of applying her ideas as an activist to her creative work, and Piercy asks "what does it take to write well politically?"

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)


Description: Faith Sale makes opening remarks about the panel, the focus of which is trade paperbacks that are sold through bookstores. Then, Charyn briefly shares his experience of his book "Panna Maria" being published in trade paperback by Arbor House. Following this, panelists discuss how they would deal with different hypothetical scenarios having to do with paperback novels. Sifton (editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux), Bolotin (Editor of The New York Times Book Review), Whitehead (editor at E. P. Dutton publishing), and a marketing employee at Putnam make up the panel. Topics discussed include: is the trade paperback market different than the hardcover market, how many more potential trade paperback buyers are there for a particular title, what are the advantages/disadvantages of selling a trade paperback, will it have a shorter or longer life at the bookstore?

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Censorship in the Israeli Occupied Territory, 1982 December 06

Description: A symposium discussing the restrictions placed on many forms of expression in the occupied territories, from lists of banned books to the shutting down of newspapers to military laws criminalizing paintings in the "wrong colors". A defense is given for these restrictions, and a heated debate ensues.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

The Responsibilities of Translation, 1982 December 08
Description: Translators, authors, and agents discuss a paper recently drawn up by a group of translators on the "responsibilities of translation". Multiple scenarios are discussed, in particular about how translation rights are handled by the various parties involved. Libel, pirated translations, fair use, and how to control the quality of a translation also come up. 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

P.E.N. Symposium, 1983

Description: This event has very poor audio, but seems to be an event featuring Native American writers. 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

Double Identities, 1983 February 28

Description: This is a panel of writers who work both as screenwriters and in other forms (novels, short stories, plays), thus the title. The panelists discuss, among many other subjects, the different relationship a writer has to a film script (both legally and emotionally), the influence of film on their own fiction, what it's like working on set with actors and directors, and how, as Judith Rascoe puts it, "making a film is like fighting a small war". 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

The Literary Vanguard and Its International Audience, 1983 March 06

Description: Panelists including Joseph McElroy and Walter Abish discuss avant-garde literature. The event is not recorded from its beginning. So participants are not introduced. At minute 25, one of the panelists gives the names of the other two panelists, but doesn't mention her own name. 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

The Theatre of Elias Canetti, 1983 April 20

Description: Reading three plays of Elias Canetti, namely, The Wedding (1932), Comedy of Vanity (1934) and Life of Terms (1956), followed by a discussion and Q & A. 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

American Right to Read Colloquium, 1983 September 10

Description: Panelists share their views on what the current state of censorship in schools is. They address whether censorship is changing, getting worse, or staying at the same level in schools. Examples of books that were banned from certain schools in the U.S., such as Slaughterhouse-Five and Grapes of Wrath, are noted. Also discussed are educational policies and groups (like religious) that impact curriculum. The panel also talks about solutions that are possible. 4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

The Book Business in the 80's, #7: Will This Be Published or Privish, 1983 November 02
Description: This is the seventh in a series of events on the publishing industry called "The Book Business in the 80's: Will This Be Published or Privish", revolving around how and when and if to promote a book and the effects of a book that has been privished. There are a number of individuals who attend and speak at this event, but are currently unknown.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Translation for Theatre, 1984 January 02

Description: A group of directors, actors, translators, and others discuss the issues behind, and the process of, translating for the theater.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

The Book Business in the 80's, #8, 1985 February 28

Description: This is the 8th in a series of events which informs writers about the publishing process. The theme of this event is how books get out of the publishing house and into the stores, and the professionals who aid in this part of the process. The panel is comprised mainly of sales representatives. The format of the event is there are three mock sales sessions, each with one person acting as the salesperson with a list of made-up books they are pitching to the other person in the scenario of the buyer. The first session is an independent store with Kendall (sales representative at Putnam Publishing) pitching to Newman (bookstore owner of Books n' Things). The second conversation reflects the inner workings of chains, with Consolino (Sales Director at William Morrow & Co.) talking to McMahon (from Waldenbooks). The last session is between Srneč (director of merchandising services at Baker and Taylor Publishing) and Hirsch (sales manager at Como Sales), depicting a wholesale team. Speakers define sector-specific terminology (such as a "lease line displays") throughout the event.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Translations I, 1985 March 13

Description: A panel of some of the most significant publishers, agents, and translators of mid-20th century publishing--including James Laughlin, publisher of New Directions, and Gregory Rabassa, translator of "One Hundred Years of Solitude"--discuss their earliest forays into translation. This is the first of three evenings about literary translation, and gives a historical view of the field.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Writing Now Symposium, 1985 April 08

Description: The event is a symposium in which Richard Price, Emily Prager, Jay McInerney, and Bret Easton Ellis discuss the impact of the 1960s on their work. Robert Asahina, the moderator, gives an introduction and talks about the American society in the 1960s.
6 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)
Two originals and four copies.

**FTW Meeting and Panel, 1985 April 11**

Description: Kurt Vonnegut, Rose Styron, and others discuss their trip to Poland and the status of Polish authors and underground publishing there.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Includes Kurt Vonnegut and others.

**Symposium Peoples Republic of China, 1985 April 28**

Description: Chinese authors and poets, Cheng Mu (?), Tie Ning, Yang Jeng (?), Wong Homjey (?), and Ken How (?) talk about the status of Chinese literature and give their perspectives. Galway Kinnell is the moderator and Francine du Plessix Gray, Bernard Malamud, and Jane Philips (?) also participate.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
One original and one copy.

**Native American Panel, 1986 February 20**

Description: Speakers of this panel talk about oral traditions, folklore, the roles women and men take, and linguistics that surround different Indigenous groups like the Inuit and Native Americans.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

**Translations II, 1985 March 26**

Description: The second of three translation evenings, this panel focuses the business of literary translation and brings together a group of translators (including Paul Auster, who began his career as a translator), agents, and editors to discuss matters such as contracts, payment, and copyright.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

**A Case of Libel, 1986 October 08**

Description: Does the suppression of a book reflect the suppression of a people? The question, in response to lawsuits brought against Viking Press for the publication of In the Spirit of Crazy Horse, is answered by Peter Matthessien (novelist), Martin Garbus (lawyer) and Oren Lyons (Iroquois faithkeeper).

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

**New French Writers in New York, 1986 October 19**

Description: The third in a series of New French Writers in New York panelists discuss the current influence, and lack thereof, of French culture and literature on American literature and vice-versa. Why did French literature disappear? And what is the new French novel like?

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), plus one empty case

**Fiction in France Today, 1986 October 22**
Description: Tom Bishop, chairman of the French department at NYU, acts as the moderator of the event. The event is one part of a four series program titled Fiction in France Today. It is co-sponsored by La Maison Francaise of NYU and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. Each of the four French-born authors had previously been awarded top literary prizes for their novels. Topics covered include how winning literary prizes changes an author, the return to a more traditional narrative being a trend in French literature, if political engagement of the author hinders their work, and how the contemporary feminist movement in France is expressing itself in literature.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

The American Writer and American Society, 1986 October 28

Description: The moderators introduce the six writers linking their work by their explorations of social, cultural and political themes -- sometimes using techniques that are postmodernist -- to explore the larger questions of American life. The panelists begin by responding to a Philip Roth quote: "The American writer in the middle of the twentieth century has his hands full in trying to understand, and then describe, and then make credible much of American reality. It stupefies, it sickens, it infuriates, and finally it is even a kind of embarrassment to one's own meager imagination. The actuality is continually outdoing our talents." Some of the writers respond directly to the quote attempting to define what fiction writers do and their role in the culture. They also consider urgency vs time to create and to consider complexity -- one author states sometimes "it's time for everyone to get a gun and sometimes for everyone to get a pen." They also speak about the economic imperatives in publishing, the isolation of writers, realism in relation to the inner life of writers, the status of the American novel in the world and if American writers are political enough, and the pitfalls of teaching creative writing.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Czechoslovakia: A Besieged Culture, 1987 January 26

Description: This event, held to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Charter 77, begins and ends with jazz performances. In between, Susan Sontag reads from Bohumil Hrabal's novella "Too Loud a Solitude", Diane Dowling reads from "My Companions in the Bleak House", a novel by Eva Kantůková, one of the signers of Charter 77, and Josef Å kvorecký talks about the official harassment of the Jazz Section of the Czech Musicians' Union and its paradoxical results.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

What Kind of Art is the Essay?, 1987 February 05

Description: Panelists Oates, Hass, and Weinberger read their essays, following which they discuss the craft of essay writing.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Writing for Children, 1987 February 10

Box: 266
Series 11: Audiovisual Material ... (Continued)

Description: Natalie Babbitt, Robert Cormier, Paula Danzinger, Madeleine L'Engle, John Steptoe and Eden Ross Lipson discuss how writing for children is different from writing for adults, their literary impressions, etc. The panel is introduced by Steven Kroll.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

The Right to Dissent, 1987 May 03

Description: A speaker from Amnesty International gives a talk on the mission of the organization, the importance of the right to dissent, and gives examples of conflicts around the world Amnesty International is addressing. During the second half of the event, poems of Irina Ratushinskaya, involved in PEN International, are read by Amnesty International members, interspersed with their descriptions of Ratushinskaya’s personal trajectory as a dissenter. To note, the audio is very inconsistent and often borders on unlistenable.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Miklós Haraszti, 1987 October 22

Description: Authors including Susan Sontag and Andrew Arato discuss the ideas of the Hungarian author, Miklós Haraszti, on art and the status and anxieties of artists in socialist societies like Eastern Europe.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Writing About Teenagers, 1988 April 11

Description: In this panel, Paula Fox, Scott Spencer, Alice Childress, Josephine Humphreys, and Harry Mazer discuss the dynamics of writing books with youthful heroes and heroines and the mechanics of finding audience for them. Panelists are introduced by Hilma Wolitzer.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Translation Panel: Translation Works and US Markets, 1988 December 09

Description: This panel brings together two translators, an editor, a book critic, an agent, a bookstore owner, and a sales director at a publishing house to talk about how and why translations sell in the US. Audio quality is poor.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Writers in Support of Salman Rushdie, 1989 February 22

Description: The first leg of this multi-series event in support of Rushdie features many notable authors reading from his book The Satanic Verses. At the time of this reading three major book sellers - B. Dalton, Barnes and Noble, and Waldenbooks - had pulled the book from their shelves. During the first reading, it is proposed that once the event is finished all present march to a nearby B. Dalton store to picket. Some speakers read from the book (including Joan Didion, Don DeLillo, Robert Stone, and Mary Gordon), while others give speeches in support of Rushdie,
as well as the importance of freedom of expression. Claire Bloom reads from the book, and also reads a statement from Philip Roth. A statement from James Michener is also read by the moderator. Further, former PEN President Norman Mailer gives his take on the situation. Later a press conference is held with statements written by Norman Mailer and Edward Said that are circulated to the press. In addition to selected members of the American Muslim Action Committee, J. Anthony Lukas, Norman Mailer, Letty Cottin Pogrebin, and Robert Massie answer press questions. In another gathering, panelists including Carl W. Ernst and Betty Friedan read and discuss various Rushdie works including passages from The Jaguar Smile, Midnight’s Children, Shame, and The Satanic Verses. There are some cut-outs in the audio.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

The Art of the Memoir, 1989 May 04

Description: Panelists Simon, Lopate, and Gornick discuss memoir writing, Gornick and Simon read from their own work to highlight their points. The authors answer questions from the audience at the end of the panel.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Rushdie, Khomeini and Writers: An Assessment Panel Discussion, 1989 June 08

Description: The Freedom to Write Committee and PEN America organize a panel to discuss the Ayatollah Khomeini’s fatwa on Salman Rushdie for writing the book The Satanic Verses, and, in a larger context, the danger of political leaders worldwide who take on the role of literary critic and/or denounce a book. Khomeini passed away a few days before this panel convened. Audio cuts in and out.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Literature and Human Rights in China I, 1989 October 04

Description: This is the first of three events on Chinese literature and human rights in the wake of the Tiananmen Square protests—the others are cataloged in c2002a and c2228. The focus of this first event is on literature: Jeffrey Kinkley gives some contextualizing remarks at the start, and then the panel of Chinese writers—many of them "Misty Poets"—discusses such topics as the role of poets in the protests leading up to Tiananmen, the underground press, the rise of reportage in China, and the perennial question of whether literature should have a political function or be "purely literary". Most of the panelists speak in Chinese and their remarks are translated.
Portions of 4 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Literature and Human Rights in China II, 1989 October 04
Description: This night is dedicated to human rights, and the event has two parts, with different participants. In the first section, Jonathan Spence discusses the historical antecedents to the protests in Tiananmen Square and the repression that followed; Shen Tong, a leader in the student movement, talks about various influences on the movement; the critic Su Wei examines the events from a cultural perspective; and the artist Ai Weiwei comments on the lack of freedom of expression for artists and its effects. The second part of the night is dedicated to a discussion of what happened in Tiananmen Square and what the future might hold: Wu'er Kaixi, another student leader, talks about the dissatisfaction and frustrated individualism of Chinese youth; Duo Duo discusses the experience of being in Tiananmen Square on June 4th during the massacre of protesters; Robin Munro, who was also there, speaks similarly about his experience; and Perry Link ends the evening by arguing that the democratic movement is in fact a very Chinese movement, instead of an importation of Western ideas, and also that June 4th will be a turning point in terms of the divide, for Chinese citizens, between what is said publicly and what one thinks privately. Some of the panelists speak in Chinese and their remarks are translated.
 Portions of 4 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
 Two originals and two copies.

The German Convulsion: The Role of the Writer, 1989 December 05

Description: This event was held in the immediate wake of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and while discussions about whether the two Germanies would unify or form some kind of confederation were underway. This panel of East German (Kolbe), West German (Schneider, Buch), and Czech (Demetz) writers discusses pressing questions about politics and power, among them why writers didn't play a greater part in the political events, the divergent literary traditions of the two Germanies, and the economic implications of the revolution. Uwe Kolbe speaks in German and Gitta Honegger interprets for him.
 3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), including one incomplete duplicate formerly described as c2115

An Evening of Crime, 1990 February 12

Description: Mystery novels, crime fiction, and crime literature are discussed in this event, as is the increasingly popularity of these types of novels. The authors touch on how they write, why they write, and what is it about the topic that makes them want to write. Professional trajectories are also shared.
 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

The Acquisition Process in Today's Changing Publishing Climate, 1990 March 06

Description: Authors, editors, and literary agents discuss the publishing process, the relationship between authors, literary agents, and the
publishing industry, as well as other aspects of the industry. These authors are Esther Margolis, Linda Wolfe, Susan Isaacs, Russell Banks; the literary agents are Esther Newberg, William Morris, and Ginger Barber; and the editors are Susan Moldow, Thomas Dunne, and Gerry Howard. The panel was introduced by Pamela Pearce, and was moderated by Carole Baron.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

The State of American Poetry, 1990 April 02

Description: In this panel discussion, lead by Donald Hall, concepts affecting modern poets such as lack of diverse styles, segregation, poetry as a tool against conformity, the proliferation of publications, and poets desire for to reach larger audiences, were discussed.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

An Evening of Play Writing, 1990 May 21

Description: Wasserstein, Gurney, and Hwang discuss the nuances of playwriting, including the financial strains playwrights face at that time with lack of government (NEA) funding of the performing arts.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

The Literary Arts of Mexico: The Writer and the Web, 1990 October 10

Description: In an illuminating, frank, and often very funny exchange, translator Eliot Weinberger, and four Mexican writers -- Alberto Ruy Sánchez, Bárbara Jacobs, David Huerta, and Homero Aridjis -- discuss relations between writers and the Mexican state. (The "web" referred to in the title is the web of power relations, not the World Wide Web.) The panelists reflect on the close relationship between Mexican writers and their government--with many writers having, at one time or another, held government jobs, run for office, or otherwise become involved politically -- and the ramifications of this closeness. This event is part of a series called "The Literary Arts of Mexico" organized by the Friends of the Arts of Mexico.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Satire, Outrage, and Invective, 1990 November 01

Description: Satire, both topical and universal (such as the intense relationship women have with animals), is the thread that connects the writers in this all female panel. The authors discuss whether the feminist community has been supportive of the work they produce. Drexler reads from her novel "Starburn: The Story of Jenni Love". Emshwiller reads from her story "The Promise of Undying Love". Henderson-Holmes reads from her poems "Journey", "Good Housekeeping", and "For Romania's Clubbed Foot Son". Prager reads a number of her works including "The Secret Diary of Eva Braun", and "Marilyn Monroe Talks Back". Schor reads an excerpt from her work "The Horse". In the Q &A, Grace Paley shares her thoughts on feminism and satire.
Language, Society and Landscape: Diane Ackerman, Barry Lopez, David Quammen, 1990 November 13

Description: The three authors - Diane Ackerman, Barry Lopez, and David Quammen - speak about a variety of topics such as the first time they felt a connection to a place, if they ever wanted to return to a place that no longer exists, and the shortcomings of science.

Revolution in Bookselling, 1991 January 22

Description: The subject of the event, a National Book Week symposium, is "The Coming Revolution in American Bookselling." The symposium is sponsored by Association of American Publishers and PEN America, with major support from the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Fund. Panelists discuss a variety of topics such as how "computerization and new marketing techniques" will change the course of bookselling for all involved in the field of including publishers, consumers, independent bookstores, and chain bookstores. Speakers include A. David Schwartz, president of Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops (in Milwaukee), Ann E. Dilworth, president of Addison Wesley Publishing Co., Jack Hoeft, president of Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Jack McKeown, publisher of Simon & Schuster, Brenda Marsh, vice president of sales and marketing development at HarperCollins, Joyce Meskis, president of the American Booksellers Association and owner of the Tattered Cover Bookstore (in Denver), Larry McMurtry, president of PEN America, and Norman Mailer, former president of PEN America. At the beginning of the symposium, the moderator directs questions to specific speakers who work in publishing or bookselling. For example, the moderator asks Hoeft if, due to current industry issues with the re-order business, publishers will ultimately have to abandon direct order fulfillment to small bookstores. Later, the authors (Mailer and McMurtry) are asked to weigh in.

Writing Non-Fiction for Children, 1991 January 23

Description: Russell Freedman, Ruth Belov Gross, Susan Kuklin, Ellen Levine, and Miriam Schlein talk about their approaches to writing nonfiction for children. They discuss the visual aspects of nonfiction books such as photographs, the language and content, and how they include certain aspects of their subjects and topics. The panel is moderated by Eva Moore and is introduced by Steven Kroll.

Translation: The Classics, Again, 1991 April 17

Description: This is an event with translators Robert Fagles, Richard Howard, and Donald Keene, who discuss translating and translations from classical Greek, Japanese, and French into English.
Russian Translation, 1991 October 27

Description: This is a reading and panel discussion with Mary Morris, Grace Paley, and Joseph Brodsky and their translators, Nina Baht, Maria Kan, and Victor Golyshev about translating English literary works into Russian.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Why Be a Playwright?, 1991 October 28

Description: Mindi Dickstein, Suzan-Lori Parks, and Charlie Schulman read excerpts from each of their plays, and then discuss various topics in the field such as the paths they took to becoming playwrights, and why they became playwrights.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Making It In The Mainstream: Writers Who Reached a Larger Audience, and How They Did It, 1992 January 14

Description: The sixth annual PEN-AAP symposium is titled "Making It In The Mainstream: Writers Who Reached a Larger Audience, and How They Did It." Five writers and their publishers/editors discuss the elements involved in creating a successful book that is widely read. The symposium was in celebration of National Book Week. Panelists include Terry McMillan, Michael Jacobs, P.J O'Rourke, Morgan Entrekin, Mary Higgins Clark, Jack McKeown, Dominick Dunne, Betty A. Prashker, Anne River Siddons, and Lawrence Ashmead. The event is moderated by Charles E. Hayward and co-sponsored with the Association of American Publishers.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Symposium of Women Writers: Taboos, 1992 February 03

Description: This is the second of a multi-part event on feminism over the last 30 years and its influence on women writers. The series was organized to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the PEN Women Writers' Committee. The theme of this symposium is taboos and, as the moderator notes, striking them down and striking back. A writer's relationship to taboos, the divisions of feminists, and living inside taboos are discussed by the various speakers. Sharon Olds reads two of her poems of "When It Comes" and "Once". Jewelle Gomez, Lisa Alther, and Meredith Tax participate.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Children's Committee Event, 1992 February 06

Description: Speakers share challenges they faced in their jobs, their professional trajectories, and any controversial elements of their work.
These panelists include a book publisher Philip Lee, a children's book author Robie Harris, and illustrator Susan Kulkin.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

World of Translation I, 1992 February 25

Box: 268

Description: Ammiel Alcalay, Sarah Arvio, Janine Beichman, Mirra Ginsburg, and Gregory Rabassa read from their translations in progress. These translations were from Spanish, Russian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Hebrew into English.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Freedom to Write: First Amendment, 1992 March 06

Box: 268

Description: The event explores First Amendment issues that have been fractious in the past year. Moderator Kathleen Sullivan starts the discussion by proposing to panelists a hypothetical utopian society in which First Amendment rights are being tested in a fraught college setting. Panel members, including Arthur Miller and Morely Safer, share their views on free expression by discussing decisions they would make in the hypothetical society. A main theme throughout the talk is how government funding of the arts can color free expression.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Writing in a Racialized Society, 1992 March 14

Box: 268

Description: PEN America hosts a seminal panel discussion with Hazel Carby, Paula Giddings, Toni Morrison, Cornel West, and John Edgar Wideman on the challenges, exaltations, perspectives and narratives of writing in a society where race has been ideologized, culturally polarized, and historically examined, as well as the influences of technology. Moderated by Arnold Rampersad.
7 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), including 5 copies formerly described as c2023

Nationalism in Eastern Central Europe: The Writer's Dilemma, 1992 April 12

Box: 268

Description: The motivation for the panel "Nationalism in Eastern Central Europe: The Writer's Dilemma" is largely due to "the new political situation in Eastern Europe and Russia", as the moderator notes. Cultural identity is a central theme of the discussion. Also, the different sense of responsibility writers in this part of the world have toward their country and society is discussed. Additionally, if a writer's search for identity parallels a nation's search for identity is debated. A further point explored by panelists is whether the recent fall of communism has left a vacuum, and what is going to occupy that vacuum. György Konrád, Adam Zagajewski, Czeslaw Milosz, Slavenka Drakulic, and Tatyana Tolstaya participate.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Women's Writing and the Future, 1992 April 20

Box: 268
Description: The central theme of the event is women's writing in the future. Each panelist, including Marina Budhos, Katha Pollitt, Kate Rushin, and Grace Paley, discusses her view on the subject. In the opening comments, a distinction is made that women's writing is not a separate genre.

4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Are Creative Writing Programs Good for AM Fiction?, 1992 September 23

Description: Virginia Barber, Barbara Grossman, Daniel Halpern, Ted Solotaroff, and James Wolcott discuss creative writing programs across the country, and how they affect writing and writers. The panel is moderated by Gerald Howard.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Visions of the City in Fiction, 1992 October 19

Description: The central theme of the event is visions of the city in fiction through the lens of the four panelists: Jonathan Franzen, Richard Price, Maureen Howard, and Doris Jean Austen. Topics addressed by the panel include what can a novel tell us about a city, and what, in turn, can a city do to writers of novels. Does writing about a city force a writer to be more concerned about larger ideas regarding society? What is the literary tradition for an American author writing about place? Howard observes that in her novels the city is equal to the characters. Price discusses approaching writing about the city in various ways as metaphor, or with nostalgia. Franzen notes his interest in what makes a city function. Austen touches on the discomfort of leaving the city to visit a rural or suburban area.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes); and 2 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 10-inch reels; 90 minutes)
Cassettes (Box 268), Reels (Box 278)
Cassettes contain copies of content on reels.

Children's Authors, 1992 December 30

Description: Pam Conrad, Virginia Hamilton, Johanna Hurwitz, Jon Scieszka, Vera Williams, and Laurence Yep talk about the values they have been brought up with, and those that they write about or leave out in their writings for children. Elizabeth Levy is the moderator and the panel is introduced by Steven Kroll.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

World of Translation II, 1992 December 08

Description: Peter Glassgold, Talât Sait Halman, Ritva Poom, and Robert Fagles read from their translations in progress from Latin, Turkish, Estonian, Finnish, and Greek into English.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
State of the First Amendment 1992-1993: Mean Speech and Other Freedoms, 1993 March 04

Description: This annual event explores First Amendment issues that have been fractious in the past year. The theme of last year's talk (titled Freedom to Write) was how government funding of the arts can color free expression. Issues pertaining to political correctness and hate speech are addressed in this event. Kathleen Sullivan returns as the moderator, a role she undertook in the Freedom to Write panel. Framing the dialogue like last year's, Sullivan starts by proposing to panelists a hypothetical utopian society in which First Amendment rights are being tested, this time with a new textbook that supports all races/genders/religions/sexual lifestyles. Panelists share their views on free expression by discussing decisions they would make in either supporting or opposing the book, and why they would do so. Calvin Butts, Frances FitzGerald, Kendall Thomas, Morely Safer, Nadine Strossen, Nat Hentoff and Peggy Noonan participate.

4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Box: 268

Sexual Harassment, 1993 April 12

Description: This event is the first in a new series in which writers are invited to talk about major issues of the day. Mary Gordon and Robert Stone take on sexual harassment in the wake of the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas hearings. While the two authors fundamentally agree on the toxic nature of sexual harassment, they disagree quite sharply on how it should be handled—which makes for a often-heated debate. Gordon and Stone both recount instances of sexual harassment in their own lives and discuss such matters as the culture of entitlement, whether the idea of a "common civility" can help, and the long history, in literature and life, of women not being listened to and believed, from Cassandra all the way up to Hill.

8 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and six copies.

Box: 283

Where Do You Get Your Ideas?, 1993 December 04

Description: Children's book authors and translators Fran Manushkin, Emily Arnold McCully, James Giblin, Walter Dean Myers, and Paula Fox talk about their inspirations and where they get their ideas from.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Cassette 1 (Box 268), Cassette 2 (Box 269).

Estate Planning, 1993 December 22

Description: A panel on estate planning, in which George Robert Minkoff explains the functions of archives versus libraries; David Groff, who is also the moderator, introduces Safe House, an organization that preserves works of writers facing life-threatening illnesses; Daniel Y. Mayer talks about project and planning that helps preserve art. Another speaker talks
about health care plans. Joan Nestle talks about the Lesbian Herstory Archives.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 100 minutes)

The Book Business Today, 1994 February 28  

Description: Gerald Howard introduces two panels on the topic of the book business. On the first panel, Gerald Howard, Maureen Howard, Virginia Barber, Harold Evans, Michael Jacobs, Phillip Lopate, and Marian Wood discuss the book business and how big and small publishing houses deal with the works of various authors. Maureen Howard is the moderator. On the second panel, with Gay Talese as the moderator, three publishers, namely, Anne Messitte, Robert B. Wyatt, and Wendy Strothman, share their own perspectives and respond to the issues that were mentioned on the first panel.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Is Writing Enough?, 1994 April 12  

Description: This panel discussion about whether writers have a political responsibility outside of writing brings together a group of authors with distinctly different life experiences and opinions on the subject, from the South African poet Breyten Breytenbach, who had been imprisoned for a number of years in South Africa on trumped-up treason and terrorism charges, to Tatyana Tolstoyna, the novelist, short story writer, and acerbic critic of contemporary Russian life, to Stanley Crouch, the American jazz critic, novelist, and essayist. But because the event is being held in the spring of 1994, a great deal of the focus of the evening is on the Bosnian war and the siege of Sarajevo, which David Rieff (another panel member) had experienced directly and had been writing about for a number of years. Rieff expresses profound pessimism about the ability of writing to affect world affairs, saying that at the start of the conflict, he and other journalists believed that if the truth of what was going on there was effectively conveyed to the outside world, it would be stopped—which wasn’t the case. Other matters raised include the history of writers and artists who have served terrible causes, the relation of writing to reality, and the racial politics of reporting on Bosnia versus other conflicts like the civil wars underway in Somalia or Afghanistan.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

State of the First Amendment 1993-1994, 1994 April 21  

Description: This annual event explores First Amendment issues that have been fractious in the past year. The format of the talk is one in which the moderator proposes hypothetical scenarios to the panelists based on real life cases. Panelists share their views on free speech by discussing decisions they would make in the proposed scenarios. As the moderator Nadine Strossen notes, the focus of this panel is free speech topics on "crime and violence", with particular leanings in the topics that pertain to
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Gender Based Censorship International PEN Womens Writer's Committee, 1994 December 14

Description: During this panel, writers and activists Annie Cohen-Solal and Aicha Lemsine discuss human rights issues in Algeria during wartime (particularly toward women), religious tensions there, censorship that takes place in the country, and their differing personal backgrounds. Cohen-Solal lived in France from a young age as she was part of the Jewish diaspora that left Algeria. She reads an excerpt from one of her pieces during the talk. Lemsine lived in Algeria for the better part of her life as a Muslim. In addition, she is vice president of Women's World Organization for Rights Literature and Development.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

The Power of Fear in Books for Children and Young Adults, 1995 January 31

Description: This event, organized by PEN's Children's Book Authors Committee, is titled "The Power of Fear in Books for Children and Young Adults." Eden Ross Lipson acts as the moderator. Authors in this event discuss types of fear that they have featured in their books. John Peel refers to "safe fear", such as monsters and vampires, found in his books. Erica Tamar and Robert Cormier each talk about their books, and a more real world fear that is present of breaking of basic social contracts, physical harm, and betrayals. David Wiesner discusses the challenge of showing fear visually in his illustrations in his books. Ellen Loreto, a head librarian from Queens, explains why young adult and children books that depict fear are important. The panelists are also asked about when they recall feeling fear as a child, and how they mastered it.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Latino Literature Festival: Latino Writers, Part 1, 1996 May 03

Description: This festival of Latin American literature starts with a reading session in which Ana Castillo reads a short story from her book, Loverboys, and Martin Espada reads some of his poems. The event is followed by a panel discussion on Latino writers in the publishing community, in which Francisco Goldman, Demetria Martinez, Jack Agüeros, Sandra Maria Esteves, and Dagoberto Gilb discuss the obstacles of Latino writings in the mainstream publishing and small press publishing and the challengers that Latino writers encounter.
7 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), including 2 duplicate cassettes formerly described as c2037

Latino Literature Festival: Latino Writers, Part 2, 1996 May 03
Description: Francisco Goldman reads excerpts from his novel The Ordinary Seaman and Dagoberto Gilb reads a story from his collection, The Magic of Blood. Then a panel discussion follows with Latino writers, Francisco Goldman, Dagoberto Gilb, Ana Castillo, Victor Hernández Cruz, Dolores Prida, Rubén Martínez, Loida Maritza Pérez, and Junot Díaz, discussing the history of three decades of Latin American literature and journalism in the U.S., their experience with the publishing industry, the Latino identity, language, and community. Portions of 5 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes) Two originals and three copies.

June 8 Panel: Political Censorship and New McCarthyism, undated

Description: The main issues panelists discuss are freedom of expression, McCarthyism, and domestic/international terrorism. Tying into these topics, and also widely debated, is the Senate Commission on Terrorism and Security—specifically whether it should be reconstituted, and if this Commission is a threat to freedom of speech and thought. During the Q&A (34.24 mark in c2039_1of2_a) radical lawyer and civil rights activist William Kunstler gives his take on matters. Allen C. Brownfield, Arthur Miller, Marcus Raskin, Midge Dextor, Nat Hentoff, and Victor Navasky participate.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Black History Month - Wesley Brown, David Bradley, Gloria Foster, Michael Harper, undated

Description: In this event, three panelists read from various works that pertain to Black History Month. David Bradley reads excerpts from the works of W.E.B. Du Bois, James Baldwin, Vincent Harding, and Frederick Douglass, to name a few. Gloria Foster reads part of Ralph Ellison's novel Invisible Man. Michael Harper reads from the poems of Robert Hayden. Wesley Brown is the moderator.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Violence: Imagination and Myth in America, 1995 September 14

Description: William H. Gass, Jayne Anne Phillips, Brent Staples, and Robert Stone discuss violence in reality and the American imagination, and how history, culture, language, and literature shape and represent violence and make it banal. Sean Wilentz is the moderator and Robert B. Silvers introduces the panelists.
3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 100 minutes)
1 compact cassette contains a partial copy of content on the other 2 (copy formerly described as c2036)

Federal Control of Information and the National Security State, undated

Description: This event is focused on government efforts to stop the flow of information sensitive to national security. Judith Miller asks each panelist to discuss one issue: Blanche Cook discusses the Freedom
of Information Act; Cord Myer, Jr. talks about the cases of CIA agents Philip Agee and Frank Snepp and about the recent prosecutions intended to stop former agents from publishing information; Charles Renfrew talks about legislation to protect the identity of intelligence agents; Robert Borosage talks about a new executive order from the Reagan Administration which governs intelligence activities, and Miller herself discusses polygraph tests and other efforts to stop the leaks of sensitive information. A spirited debate then ensues.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

[Unidentified]: Book Publishing, undated  
Description: This is a currently unidentified Q & A portion of an event that revolves around book publishing and agents.
Portions of 4 compact cassettes

[Unidentified]: Dance Critics, undated  
Description: This is a panel of notable dance critics talking about the role, function, and craft of writing about and observing dance.
Portions of 4 compact cassettes

Latino Writers, undated  
Description: Latino writers share their experiences with the publishing industry.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), including one blank tape


Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Press Conference: P.E.N. Celebration, 1985 September 12  
Description: This press conference was held to publicize and entertain questions about the upcoming PEN Congress (the 1986 Congress). Norman Mailer discusses his aims for the Congress, and both he and Karen Kennerly answer questions about financing, programming, and most especially about which invited foreign writers, including Gabriel Garcia Marquez, might not be able to attend because of the McCarran-Walter Act, which barred individuals suspected of "subversive activities" from visiting the country.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Hungary Press Conference, 1986 April 29  
Description: A panel of Hungarian writers and activists discuss the current situation in Hungary, including the implications of a new press law and recent crackdowns on samizdat publications and public demonstrations. Karen Kennerly and E. L. Doctorow also deliver brief remarks, with Doctorow talking particularly about his trip to Budapest the previous year. Ferenc Kősik, György Krassó, and László Rajk Jr. participate.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Press Conference: Soviet Writers, 1987 December 07

Description: On the first day of a ten-day visit, a group of Soviet writers meets with American journalists and answers questions about, among other topics, Joseph Brodsky's Nobel Prize, the Soviet Writers Union, the economic conditions for writers and translators in the US versus the USSR, and how the policy of glasnost was affecting writing and publishing in their country. This is the first trip to the United States for Victor Golishev, the translator of many major American writers, including William Faulkner, Truman Capote, and J.D. Salinger, and Golishev gives his first impression. The writers speak in Russian, and Harris Coulter interprets for them. Audio is low but clear.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)


Description: In this recording, Arthur Miller reports on a trip that he and William Styron made in early June 1988 to Chile and takes questions from the press. Miller discusses, among other topics, the enthusiastic reception they received from students and young people, the upcoming election (which removed Pinochet from the presidency) after seventeen years of dictatorship, and his and Styron's meetings with journalists, writers, students, and the families of the "disappeared." The audio is low but clear, with some buzzing.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Press Conference: Susan Sontag on Korea, 1988 September 22

Description: In a press conference at the International Congress of PEN in Korea, Susan Sontag calls public attention to the fact that although there has been progress in Korea in terms of author's rights and freedom of expression, there is a lot more work to be done.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Baraka Press Conference, 1981 June-December

Description: This press conference was held the evening before Amiri Baraka was to go to jail for "resisting arrest" in an encounter with police in June 1979. Writers and artists give statements in support of Baraka, and finally Baraka himself speaks, discussing his case as part of a history of harassment of black artists and as part of a move to the right capped off by the election of Ronald Reagan. "There's never been democracy or justice for African-Americans in this country," he says. The conference concludes with questions from the press corps.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

Programs, 1973 February 8-1999
Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by name of the program and chronologically within.

Afro-American Autobiography, 1990 May 17

Description: The panel is comprised of two autobiographers, a novelist, and a biographer, with Gates, Jr. as the moderator and contributor to the talks. The focus of the program, as Gates, Jr. says in his opening remarks, is to, "explore the wonders and ironies of the black tradition in autobiography." Claude Brown, Itabari Njeri, and Sarah E. Wright read excerpts of their work and/or the works of other authors who have influenced them. Arnold Rampersad contributes.

4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.
Cassettes 1-3 (Box 269), Cassette 4 (Box 270).

Box: 269
Box: 270

PEN Conversation with Distinguished Foreign Writers: Ama Ata Aidoo and Gloria Naylor, 1993 March 26

Description: Gloria Naylor and Ama Ata Aidoo talk to each other about topics varying from being female authors, language constraints, and how their education impacted their work. Aidoo also reads excerpts from her work.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 270

American Avant Garde Poetry, 1986 December 05

Description: The event, as titled, revolves around the state of American avant-garde poetry-how the movement of avant-garde poetry slides into the tradition of formalism, or, more specifically, why avant-garde poetry is given up for formalism. What is the relation of the individual to the social, and how does this relationship develop within English language writing and the field of poetics? There is a discussion on the nature of "American" poetry and the use of the English language as a cultural identity of a geographic entity and the falsity of such an assumption. Charles Bernstein, Hugh Kenner, and Susan Howe participate.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 270
Description: Elizabeth Miles introduces the panel. Steven Kroll, Carol Snyder, Bruce Degen, Richard Egielski, Dorothy Briley, and Eva Weiss discuss the relationship between text and illustration in children's books. Carol Snyder is the moderator.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Bank St. Censorship and Children, 1991 November 14

Description: For this event, a group of 7th and 8th graders from three New York City schools form a "school board" debating a theoretical challenge to a real book, Naomi Klein's Naomi in the Middle, that contains material about sexuality. They hear presentations from six adults--a teacher, a parent, a librarian, an editor, a writer, and a professional advocate--on the issue, present questions to them, and come to a decision. Robert Lipsyte moderates, and Betty Miles reads some of the offending passages. Frances Foster, George Burns, Geraldine Clark, Judy Blume, Lauri Johnson, Leanne Katz, and Steven Kroll participate.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Wolf Biermann, 1983 December 15

Description: Wolf Biermann sings and plays some of his songs, including "Deutschland im Herbst", "Und als Wir ans Ufer kamen", "Die hab Ich satt", "Das HölderlinofLied", and "Ich leb mein Leben, sagt Eva-Marie".
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Bilingual Reading and Discussion with Polish Poets, 1986 November 25

Description: Polish poets Julia Hartwig and Artur Miedzyrecki read their poems to the audience. The poets are introduced by Allen Ginsberg. The event overall is introduced by Bob Rosenthal, from The Committee of International Poetry.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Sally Bingham, 1991 October 18

Description: Sally Bingham discusses being a writer of nonfiction as a woman, the respect given to different literary genres, women of privilege versus those of other classes, and the perception of women in society.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Roy Blount, Jackson MS, 1982 October 13

Description: This event is in conjunction with a program where PEN America sends authors to areas of the U.S. where First Amendment questions are cropping up, and/or where conservative groups are trying to ban books. Roy Blount Jr. shares his view on the importance of the First Amendment, specifically in regards to the issue of book banning.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Book / Movie Connection, 1994 January 18

Series 11: Audiovisual Material ... (Continued)

Description: This gathering is part of week-long, nation-wide events celebrating writers, books, and reading. It is supported by the Association of American Publishers, PEN America, and the National Book Foundation. The AAP Director of Trade Divisions, Roberta Plutzik, gives opening remarks. The event features panelists giving remarks on different aspects of book-to-movie adaptations, with screenings of the movie clips each speaker is discussing. Later, there is a panel discussion. Maslin is the moderator. The panel is comprised of A.E. Hotchner, Susan Isaacs, Barbara Maltby, Ronald Maxwell, Richard Price, Paul Schrader, Joan Micklin Silver, Paul Theroux, and Rafael Yglesias.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Book Reviewing: The Good, the Bad and the Overlooked, 1989 January 11
Box: 270

Description: Panelists Nina King, Rebecca Sinkler, James Wolcott, and Sven Birkerts talk about the "purposes, process, and principles of book reviewing." The event is co-sponsored by the Association of American Publishers.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Brazilian Writers, 1983 December 01
Box: 270

Description: Notable Brazilian writers Ignácio de Loyola Brandão, Hortense Calisher, Evan Angelo, and Lygia Fagundes Telles read from their work. Following the reading, there is a brief performance of Brazilian music.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

British Poetry, 1983 May 1-9
Box: 270

British Perspectives: A Discussion of English Poetry Today, 1983 May 09

Description: This event was organized by NYU's Poetics Institute and PEN America; Eileen Ward and Richard Howard are moderators. Four of the leading poets from England, Wales, and Scotland read their own work and the works of other U.K. poets. They also participate in discussion with one another on topics such as if there is a British prejudice against American poetry, as well as the genre of feminist poetry. Participants include Craig Raine, Dannie Abse, Gavin Ewart, and Patricia Beer.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

British Poets Gavin Ewart and Craig Raine Reading, 1983 May 01
Box: 270

Description: British poets Gavin Ewart and Craig Raine read from their works, including "The Animals in the Adelaide Zoo" and "Listen with Mother", respectively.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

British Poetry Reading, 1983 May 09
Box: 270

Description: During this reading, British poets Dannie Abse, Patricia Beer, Gavin Ewart, and Craig Raine read from other notable U.K.
poets such as Philip Larkin ("The Old Fools"), John Ormond, Vernon Scannell (Walking Wounded), and D.J. Enright (Paradise Illustrated).

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Gwendolyn Brooks, 1990 April 30

Description: Held in St. Peter's Church in NYC, Gwendolyn Brooks reads from a selection of her poems, and gives background on the inspiration for many of her works. "To the Young Who Want to Die", "The Lovers of the Poor", and "We Real Cool" are featured.

4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Box: 270

Literature and Revolution III, 1973 February 08

Description: This is the third event in the series "Literature and Revolution." As in the first event, Anthony Burgess, Francine du Plessix Gray, Jerzy Kosinski, and Anne Fremantle consider the question of whether a writer can be uncommitted, politically. They discuss the lives and works of many authors and how they bear upon this question, drawing comparisons between both contemporary and historical writers.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Box: 270

Canon, 1991 February 25

Description: What is a canonical work of art and who decides this? How are canons read today, and what works are excluded from canons and by whom? Whose canon is it anyway? Edward Said, David Bromwich, Catharine R. Stimpson, Arnold Rampersad, and Camille Paglia discuss the notion of canon in literature and culture. Morris Dickstein is the moderator.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 270

Hortense Calisher, 1986 September 18

Description: In welcoming members to the 1986 season of PEN America, Hortense Calisher gives general statements and touches on the aim of the PEN America.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 270

Ernesto Cardenal, 1985 May 03

Description: In this short statement, Ernesto Cardenal -- who was, at the time, the Nicaraguan minister of culture -- discusses the Reagan administration's embargo against Nicaragua, and, despite this, the enduring cultural and literary ties between the United States and Nicaragua, describing particularly how widely American poetry is known and taught throughout the country. Cardenal speaks in Spanish, and his remarks are translated.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Box: 270

Nina Cassian in Conversation with Stanley Kunitz, 1986 April 29

Box: 271
Description: As a part of PEN America's ongoing series of conversations with distinguished foreign authors, Nina Cassian and Stanley Kunitz cover many topics such as differences between Romanian and American poetry and cultures, as well as a poet's shifting poetry styles. Cassian also reads her some of her poems.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Celebration of Black Writers, 1985 February 25

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: This tape was not digitized because the tape was blank.

Description: 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Child Within Us, 1991 December 04

Description: Prompts the four panelists of this event are given include: What book had the greatest impact on you as a child? How did you become an avid reader? Authors share their personal stories from childhood, and specific tales that shaped them as authors. Panelists hail from Brooklyn, Poland, North Carolina, and Vienna, Austria. Audience members are encouraged to write down their questions, and panelists answer them at the end of the event.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), including one blank tape

Children's Book Editors, 1989 December 06

Description: Authors and their editors are panelists in this event. They share how they started working together, how they paced their meetings with each other, and the expectations one has of the other in the professional dynamic. The program is co-sponsored by the Association of American Publishers. David Reuther, Ellen Kragar, Lillian Hoban, Norma Fox Mazar, Olga Litowsky, Sally Doherty and Todd Strasser are the participants.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Children's Reading, 1987 April 26

Description: During this event, authors take turns reading books, many illustrated, to an audience of children and adults. Judy Blume reads a chapter from Just As Long As We're Together. Myron Levoy reads a chapter from Witch of Fourth Street. Paula Danziger reads from The Cat Ate My Gymsuit. Walter Dean Myers reads from Motown and Didi.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Children's Reading, 1987 December 13

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: These tapes were not digitized because they were blank.
Description: 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Contemporary Voices in American Fiction, 1987 October 14

Description: The moderator, book critic Carlin Romano, engages a panel of writers on questions like whether there is a New York school of fiction writing with certain common features like a minimalist style and a tendency to emphasize everyday detail over traditional fictional apparatus like elaborate plots and moral conflicts; what influence so-called "nightclub fiction", like the novels of Bret Easton Ellis and Tama Janowitz, has on their work; and whether the publishing house you're published by matters (all the writers on the panel are published by Knopf). Amy Hempel, David Leavitt, Mona Simpson, and Deborah Eisenberg emphasize their deliberate, willed independence from and indifference to schools, commercial forces, and famous colophons, and discuss instead their individual choices, particularly regarding questions of language and style.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Conversation with Distinguished Writers: Shu Ting, Sharon Olds, 1986 April 22

Description: In a conversation with Sharon Olds, the Chinese poet Shu Ting talks about her poetry. Allen Ginsberg introduces the event.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Conversation with Les Murray, 1985 October 23

Description: Joseph Brodsky, Les Murray, Richard Howard, and Derek Walcott discuss the poetry of the Australian poet Les Murray and its linguistic context.

3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and one copy.

A Conversation with Oriana Fallaci, 1980 December 05

Description: Journalist Oriana Fallaci discusses her book, A Man, about Greek politician Alexandros Panagoulis, who was imprisoned and tortured--and finally, after being released, died in mysterious circumstances--for attempting to assassinate the dictator Georgios Papadopoulos. Panagoulis was also her lover, and Fallaci discusses how she used real events from their lives in the book and why she nevertheless calls it a novel. She also describes in compelling terms Panagoulis's heroism and its costs, saying at one point "I saw in him the solitude of all those who refuse to bend to society." The first five minutes of the audio is poor.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Cops and Writers: Crime and Punishment in Literature and Real Life, 1994 April 18
Description: This panel brings together for the first time authors who write about crime and officials in the criminal justice system and law enforcement. The primary questions they address are how the writers who focus on crime view actual crime and issues of law and order. Conversely, how do judges, prosecutors and police officials view the way they are depicted in novels, television and movies? As a writer of novels, Judge Edwin Torres links both sides of the panel. He speaks about the "complexity of the criminal mind" and cautions against our fascination with criminals. Richard Condon describes the criminal justice system as "unstructured" where the lowest level of the structure--police officers--do the primary decision making. Joyce Carol Oates talks about her immersion in serial killer books and how much she identifies with victims of violence. Michael Sheehan, also a reporter, is captivated by detective work and says that readers are "fascinated with the underbelly of the city". Evan Hunter and Ed McBain began careers in pulp magazines. Their interest is in how a crime story opens with a murder, a change, that we hope will be righted. He speaks of our fears of being a victim. Linda Wolfe describes some of the unbelievable stories she hears as a true crime writer and the charm of some of the murderers. Walter Mosley reads a text about justice for criminals and as well for the larger society. He also speaks of social crime, poverty, and lack of jobs while the focus of the panel has been on homicide. Kempton concurs and speaks about the "ghettoizing of violence." Mosley references Rodney King, the advent of video evidence, and African American fears of police. McBain disagrees about whether fear of police is felt more by blacks claiming all are afraid of a police state. The Q&A includes questions about bad crime writing and the interrelationship between criminal and police.

3 video cassettes (U-matic (KSP-60)), including one blank tape

Copyright Event, 1997 March 12

Description: Michael Keplinger, Jane Ginsburg, and Monroe Price discuss the legal details of the WIPO Copyright Treaty, its impact on writers' works, and the context in which this treaty was negotiated. James Gould is the moderator.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Gallatin Malcolm Cowley, 1984 April 25

Description: Robert Cowley, son of Malcolm Cowley, talks about himself in relation with his father's autobiographical writings; Malcolm Cowley then speaks about memoir as a genre, his own memoir as an example of such, and writing the personal narrative.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Creating Picture Books, 1987 April 25

Description: Margery Cuyler (editor in chief of Holiday House Books) acts as the moderator of the event which features authors and illustrators of children's picture books. Panelists discuss their process to making
work, how they collaborate with other people in their field, and what their professional trajectories are.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Criticism of the Arts, undated

Criticism of the Arts: Dance (Alan Hughes), undated

Description: The panelists individually share their opinions on dance journalism/criticism, and then engage in a group discussion on the topic.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Criticism of the Arts: Film, undated

Description: The talk, co-sponsored by Columbia University, features film critics and filmmakers discussing the field of film criticism.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Bandé Dessinée, 1991 April 08

Description: This panel on Bandé Dessinée (or comics, in French) is co-sponsored by the French PhD Program at the CUNY Graduate Center, PEN America, and the French Cultural Services (of the French Embassy). The panelists discuss the genre of the graphic novel, and the work of being cartoonists. At the end of their talk, panelists answer questions from the audience. One audience member to speak is famed cartoonist Jules Feiffer.
The last tape includes some audio from a different event of a panel on French Writers in New York. Jerome Charyn is the moderator. It is organized by CUNY’s the French PhD Program in conjunction with PEN America, and the French Cultural Services (of the French Embassy).
3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Tribute to Manuel De Dios Unanue, 1993 March 04

Description: This evening is to protest the killings of journalists and in particular the murder of Manuel de Dios Unanue, the editor-in-chief of El Diario La Prensa, the Spanish language newspaper of New York City. Discussants of the panel include Magda Bogin, Mary Gordon, Warren Hoge, Michael Massing, Walter Mosley, Rossana Rosado, Vicky Sanchez, José Torres, and Edgardo Vega Yunqué. They pay tribute to Manuel de Dios Unanue and discuss the current status of journalism and journalists. The event is hosted by Pete Hamill.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Distinguished Foreign Writers: George Conrad, 1982 October 18

Description: Hungarian novelist György Konrád discusses the status of East European literature and authors from the 19th century to the communist era.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)
Robert Duncan, 1988 May 09  
Description: To commemorate Duncan's passing (which happened the same year as this event), four poets including Mac Low, Creeley, Howe, and another read from selections of Duncan's poetry. Robert J. Bertholf, Duncan's literary executor, and Peter Glassgold, Duncan's editor at New Directions publishing, also read the poet's works.  
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)  
Box: 271

Dutch Literature, Part 1, 1993 February 23  
Description: Jan Honout, Gerrit Kouwenaar, Gerardjan Rijnders, Suzanne van Lohuizen, Monika van Paemel, and Hans van de Waarsenburg talk about their works, and their attitude toward American, Dutch, and Flemish literature. Henk Bernlef moderates the panel and Johanna Reiss introduces.  
Portions of 4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)  
Two originals and two copies.  
Box: 272

Dutch Literature, Part 2, 1993 February 23  
Description: Scenes of Suzanne van Lohuizen's play, The Whizz Kid, are performed by Allen Davis III and Daniel Meltzer. Gerrit Kouwenaar reads some of his poems in Dutch, and their translations are read by Lynne Lawner. Monika van Paemel reads from her novel, The Stone. J. Bernlef reads his poem, "The Juggler" in Dutch, and then Lynne Lawner reads the translation in English. J. Bernlef then reads an excerpt of his novel, Out of Mind. Hans van de Waarsenburg reads his poem "South Wall" in Dutch and then Laurence Joseph reads the translation. Hans van de Waarsenburg reads more poems after that. Mary Morris and Jan Honout read excerpts from Rudolf Geel's novel, "The Beloved Venom." Dave Shelley, Jeff Webster, and Carla Molder perform parts of Gerardjan Rijnders's play.  
Portions of 4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)  
Two originals and two copies.  
Box: 272

Conversations with Distinguished Authors: Umberto Eco and Susan Sontag, 1984 October 24  
Description: In a conversation that occurred just a year after The Name of the Rose was published in English -- and in the midst of its international bestsellerdom -- Susan Sontag and Umberto Eco discuss Eco's turn to fiction and other topics. They begin with their mutual interest in Roland Barthes and his works and move on to such subjects as interpretation, post-modernism, popular culture, Parsifal, Sherlock Holmes, the power of badly written novels, and much else, as one might expect from a discussion between two famed intellectual polymaths.  
5 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), including one incomplete duplicate (Tape 1 of 2) formerly described as c2080  
Box: 271
Box: 272
Two originals and three copies.

An Evening for Sarajevo, 1993 December 30

Description: This is an evening of performances and readings in response to the siege of Sarajevo. The proceeds from this event were sent to Bosnia, to purchase food and supplies for the winter for Bosnian writers and their families. The evening begins with a performance by Wynton Marsalis and Eric Reed, and is followed by readings and statements of many kinds. Some highlights include Susan Sontag reading an essay on nationalism by Danilo Kis; David Rieff reading his own reporting from his time in Sarajevo (he had just returned from the city eight days earlier); Paul Berman reading a statement from Salman Rushdie, who was in hiding at this time; Tony Kushner reading from his play about the rise of fascism, "A Bright Room Called Day"; and Arthur Miller reading a piece of his own about a trip he made to Yugoslavia in the 1960s for a PEN Congress.

4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 100 minutes)

Two originals and two copies.

An Evening of Forbidden Books, 1982 May 19-1983 April 11

An Evening of Forbidden Books, 1982 May 19

Description: This is a recording by PBS (WNET/THIRTEEN) that documents 18 writers and actors reading selections from banned books over the course of 3 hours. They are protesting book banning in the US that increased 500% in 1981. The event takes place at The Public Theater in New York City on April 5th, 1982. The program intersperses comments from authors like Toni Morrison and Grace Paley with speakers reading from the onstage podium. Studs Terkel was not able to be present but is represented by Thomas Patrick Gates, a police officer and firefighter, a subject of Terkel's Working, reading a passage from the book. Other books featured in the program include Malumud's The Fixer, Fahrenheit 451, The Wizard of Oz, Swift's A Modest Proposal, and Mary Poppins. Dispersed throughout the program are lower third titles listing the dates and locations of recent bannings.

1 reel (1-inch videotape on 7-inch reel)

An Evening of Forbidden Books (Unedited Interviews I), 1982 May 19

Description: This reel contains unedited interviews with Erica Jong and John Simon. Please see "An Evening of Forbidden Books" for the aired and edited version.

1 video cassette (U-matic (KCS-20))

An Evening of Forbidden Books, 1983 April 11

Description: Authors including William Phillips and Anthony Burgess read excerpts from four banned books, namely, Bernard Malamud's
The Fixer, Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man, John Steinbeck’s East of Eden, and Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

An Evening of Gay Men’s Literature, 1993 April 20

Heroes Looking Back, Panel II, 1993 April 20

Description: "Heroes Looking Back" is the title of the first panel from a series of two, in which Samuel R. Delany, Sanford Friedman, Allen Ginsberg, Edmund White, and Michael Warner talk about gay writings and representations in their literature and others. They discuss homosexual identity, and touch upon some topics of gay literature, such as coming out and AIDS.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Now and Tomorrow, Panel II, 1993 April 20

Description: Robert Reid-Pharr, Christopher Bram, Dennis Cooper, Michael Cunningham, Dale Peck, and Assotto Saint talk about the generational shifts among gay writers, racial identity of gays, and writing about sex.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

An Evening of Lesbian Literature, 1993 February 19

An Evening of Lesbian Literature, Panel I, 1993 February 19

Description: McCrary Bond feels that lesbian writing should address lesbianism as subject and she writes about "independent female sexuality and women independent from men." Kantrowitz notes that "When I came out as a lesbian and stopped caring what men thought of me I was able to write...something about that claiming of my own power made me also able to write about everything else in the world." Dorothy Allison says "Like most of the working class writers I know I juggle my life to survive. I'm doing a helluva lot better than at it than I've ever done. I intend to continue." And that she "write(s) for people who get the joke." Finally, Breedlove comments that she cannot separate the personal from the political, and that she writes for African American lesbian women and for the people that are difficult to reach. She then sings and reads a poem "The New Miss Praise The Lord" from her book.
1 video cassette (VHS (T-120))

An Evening of Lesbian Literature, Panel II: Present and Future, 1993 February 19

Description: This panel, the second of the day, is entitled "Present and Future." The panel is co-sponsored by CLAGS and PEN America and the moderator notes that it is a rare lesbian focused event (not Gay and, Feminist and etc.). Each panelist speaks briefly about how they position themselves in terms of lesbian literature and also how
their lesbian identity influences their work. They speak about who they address as audience and note the scarcity of but importance of lesbian publishers and agents. Everyone talks about what they read and what literature inspires them. Nicole Breedlove, the youngest participant, comments on the whiteness of both the panel and the room but she insists that is not representative of the community of African American poets.

1 video cassette (VHS (T-120))

Heroes Looking Back, Panel I, 1993 February 19

Description: Maria Irene Fornés, Bertha Harris, Jill Johnston, Barbara Smith, and Lisa Kennedy discuss their experiences as lesbian writers and the legacy of Audre Lorde.

6 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and four copies.

Now and Tomorrow, Panel I, 1993 February 19

Description: Blanche McCrary Boyd, Dorothy Allison, Nicole Breedlove, Melanie Kaye Kantrowitz, and B. Ruby Rich discuss lesbian literature, how lesbian authors write about themselves, and how they deal with their gender and queer identity.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

The Book Business in the 80's, #1: Investment Strategy for the Literati, 1985 October 17

Description: This is the first event of its kind organized by PEN, and is called "Investment Strategy for the Literati." Tim Stone, a financial consultant at Merrill Lynch, discusses investment strategy, in the general sense, before going into more detail on the subject. He delves into what a financial consultant is, the difference between accountants, stockbrokers, and lawyers, how one should use who and when, the likelihood of making money on investments, how to read financial charts properly, the opulence of retirement plans, issues of insurance, and how to make taxes work to one's advantage.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

An Evening of Forbidden Writing, 1986 December 17

Description: This is a reading of imprisoned, banned, or exiled writers, in which Joseph Brodsky, Hiber Conteris, Toni Morrison, Sigourney Weaver, Edward Said and others read from works of Miklós Radnóti, Isaac Babel, Reza Baraheni, Breyten Breytenbach, Osip Mandelstam, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Ghassan Kanafani, Taw菲q Ziad, Mahmoud Darwish, César Vallejo, Václav Havel, Euripides, Irina Ratushinskaya, Eduardo Galeano, Mila D. Aguilar, Adam Michnik, Nâzım Hikmet, Primo Levi, Pablo Antonio Cuadra, Nguyên Chí Thiền, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, and Kim Chiofha.

4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.
An Evening of Forbidden Books & Forbidden Writers, 1984 April 30-May 1

Description: The event was held to raise awareness on the ideological exclusion of intellectuals, performed by the United States under the McCarran Internal Security Act. Activist Patricia Derian explains how this Act is performed and authors including John Irving, Arthur Miller, William Styron, and Susan Sontag read from works of authors who were barred from entering the United States: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Julio Cortázar, Carlos Fuentes, Pablo Neruda, and others.

5 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), including 3 copies, formerly described as c2280

Francophone Literature, 1995 May 24

Description: A central talking point is how to interpret and translate from French writers who are not themselves French. Coverdale reads from the book Creole Tales by Martinique author Chamoiseau. de Jager reads from the book Le Petit Prince de Belleville by Cameroonian author Calixthe Beyala. Volk reads from the book Corruption by Moroccan author Ben Jelloun. Cohen-Solal discusses why the featured authors are of importance, and the complexities these authors face writing in the language of a dominant culture "that colonized [them]."

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

French Fiction Week, 1985 November 7-December 6

French Fiction Week, 1985 December 06

Description: Pascal Bruckner reads from his novel, Bittermoon; Francine du Plessix Gray reads from Régine Deforges's The Blue Bicycle. Frédérick Tristan reads a few passages from his novel in French, and his translator then reads them in English. Emmanuel Hocquard reads a passage from his book, and then his translator reads some translated parts in English. Régine Deforges then reads some of her text in French. Elvire Murail reads from her novel, Stairway. C. Jean Echenoz reads from his novel, Cherokee.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

French Fiction Week [Incomplete], 1985 November 07

Description: This is only an incomplete, short, 3-minute file for this event.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Opening the Golden Notebook, 1991 December 25


4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Gombrowicz, 1988 April 24
Description: Czeslaw Milosz, Susan Sontag, Janusz Glowacki, and John Simon pay tribute to the Polish writer Witold Gombrowicz with talks and readings, including Milosz's reminiscences of their friendship and Sontag's analysis of why the scurrilousness and black humor of Gombrowicz initially didn't appeal to her. Simon also gives a memorable reading of a passage from Gombrowicz's Diaries (often considered his masterpiece), about a meeting of PEN members in Buenos Aires to which he was not invited because of "certain remarks on Argentine literature I recently published in Cuadernos."
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Gutenberg Plugged In Electronic Publishing, 1994 October 08

Description: The questions that the moderator Pamela McCorduck poses to open this event are the following: "What is electronic publishing, and what is hypertext? What creative opportunities do they open up? What happens to storytelling? Do readers want to interact? What is intellectual property and how we assign value to it? How do we protect it?" These questions and others are discussed by a panel that includes Maryam Mohit, a producer at the CD-ROM publisher The Voyager Company; Stuart Moulthrop, a pioneering author and theorist of hypertext fiction; Thomas Lipscomb, a former publishing executive who had created a software firm, Infosafe Systems, to protect digital material; and Mike Godwin, chief counsel for the Electronic Frontier Foundation. The event begins with a demonstration by Mohit and another publisher, Mark Bernstein, of electronic publishing products that their firms had recently developed, and then moves on to a detailed discussion of issues that continue to be contentious, including the role of copying (and its implications) in online interactions, how much downloaded material should cost and how its value should protected, the way that the internet changes political activism and censorship, and the struggles that the publishing industry is undergoing in adapting to a new model.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

The Writer's Canon, 1995 December 09

Description: Hardwick reads excerpts of prose written by poets. Selection include William Carlos Williams' 'Voyage of the Mayflower' from In the American Grain, Coleridge's "Lectures on Shakespeare", T.S. Eliot's essay "Byron", 'Notes on Baudelaire' from the book Selected Writings by Jules Laforgue, and Boris Pasternak's "The Death of Mayakovsky."
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Images of War, 1991 May 09

Description: This event begins with a reading by each of the panelists and continues to a wide-ranging discussion of, among other topics, Hemingway's influence on writing about war, the role of journalists and the media during wartime, and how the experience of war has changed each of the writers speaking here.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Imprisoned Writers, Free Voices, 1988 December 07

Description: This is a reading from letters and notebooks of writers in prison around the world, including Václav Havel, Jack Mapanje, Dashiell Hammett, Nâzım Hikmet, Nguyễn Chí Thiện, Czesław Miłosz, Andrei Sinyavsky, Roberto Coronel, Ali Taygun, Irina Ratushinskaya, Wole Soyinka, Jorge Valls, Kim Namofjo, Adam Michnik, and Breyten Breytenbach. Authors and presenters are Judy Blume, Allen Ginsberg, David Henry Hwang, Larry McMurtry, Cynthia Macdonald, Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Toni Morrison, Bharati Mukherjee, Grace Paley, Susan Sontag, and Luisa Valenzuela.

5 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Three originals and two copies.

Box: 273

Interview/Oral History of Erica Jong and Henry Miller, undated

Description: In this recording, Erica Jong interviews Henry Miller at his home. The two novelists discuss, among other topics, how to work through writer's block, how each of them feel about their public image (Fear of Flying had just recently been published), and, of course, about sex, pornography, eroticism, the famous "zipless fuck", and the differences between men's and women's experience of (and writing about) sex. There are a couple of moments during the recording where you hear other voices saying "Take one", "Master track", "Is it rolling," indicating that this seems to have been a recording made for TV or the radio. It also cuts off mid-conversation.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Box: 273

PEN Conversations with Distinguished Foreign Writers John Irving and Michael Ondaatje, 1992 December 15

Description: John Irving talks with Michael Ondaatje about historical novels, the writing of The English Patient, and his other works.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Box: 273

Henry James, 1987 November 08

Description: This is the first in a series of events dedicated to great American writers (to be followed by events on Emerson and on Poe). The panelists Sontag, Hardwick, and Gass individually discuss the author's writing. Gass reads a section of The Golden Bowl, then talks about James's stylistic approach to this novel, including diction and tone. Hardwick reads from The Awkward Age. She touches on the "peculiarity of his dialogue" in the book. Lastly, Sontag speaks about the garrulousness of James's writing, though not in a negative way. She talks about his late work (also citing The Golden Bowl), and James's interest in consciousness found therein. In the latter portion of the event the panelists discuss James and his works amongst themselves.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
Ryszard Kapuscinski, 1988 March 31  
Box: 273  
Description: In this event, Polish journalist Ryszard Kapuscinski discusses his book The Emperor, about the fall of Haile Selassie, with historian Frances FitzGerald. Kapuscinski also addresses many other topics, including his childhood in war-torn Europe and how this lead him to journalism, the importance of form—and the perpetual reinvention of form—to his work, and the three major developments underway that he believes were transforming the world: the growth of independence movements, the move to cities, and the migration from developing countries to the developed world. Sontag introduces the event by reading a passage from The Emperor.  
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)  
Two originals and two copies.

Ibrahim Kara-een and Amnon Zichroni, 1988 July 19  
Box: 273  
Description: In an interview with Ibrahim Kara-een, the owner of Palestine press services, which was ordered to be closed by the Israeli authorities, and Amnon Zichroni explain the status of the Palestinian press under Israeli censorship.  
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Bilge Karasu, 1994 April 05  
Box: 273  
Description: This event is co-sponsored by Mobil Corporation and NYU. Bilge Karasu was a 1991 winner of the Pegasus Prize for his book Night. Mobil Corporation established this award for writers based in countries that rarely translate works into English. The author reads from his work in Turkish, and then the translator of the book, Gun, reads passages in English. Following the reading, Karasu discusses his place in literature. Settle speaks on Turkish literature. To start the event, Halman makes an in-depth introduction of Karasu, and later he acts as moderator for the second part of the event, a panel on Turkish literature. The panelists Settle, Simpson, Karasu, and Gun discuss a variety of topics such as other notable Turkish authors, challenges of translating into English, and Karasu's impetus for Night.  
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Kgositsile, 1987 October 06  
Box: 273  
Description: Keorapetse Kgositsile, the South African poet, discusses the misinformation people outside of South Africa receive on the political issues of his country, and working as an author in exile in the United States, as well as in exile in his native country. He reads a selection of his poems, including "Logistics" and "Ivory Masks in Orbit". Following the reading, Cartey, Patterson, Brown, and Cortez ask Kgositsile questions of their own.  
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
The Art of Literary Biography: Lives of Women as Told by Women, 1989
May 24

Description: This panel on "The Art of Literary Biography: Lives of Women
as Told by Women" is a discussion with Carolyn Heilbrun, Elinor Langer,
Phyllis Rose, and Judith Thurman moderated by Lynne Sharon Schwartz,
in which panelists take part in discussing biography writing of women.
Betty Friedan is in the audience and comments during the Q & A.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 273

Literary Gossip, 1994 June 22-1995 October 5

Literary Gossip and Romance, 1994 June 22

Description: For this event, writers were asked to bring and read, as
Ira Silverberg (the moderator) puts it, "literature, letters, and lore" by
and about lesbians and gay men writing prior to the Stonewall uprising.
This invitation elicits a tremendous variety of materials, particularly
letters, from some of the greatest writers of the twentieth century.
Highlights include Wayne Kostenbaum reading an unpublished letter
from Frank O'Hara to James Schuyler about biker gangs, indolence,
and Proust; Jacqueline Woodson reading James Baldwin's letters to
his brother David and his friend Dan Frank, including a letter in which
Baldwin seems to come out to Frank; Carole Maso reading Gertrude
Stein's erotic writing (in which the word "cow" stood in for "orgasm");
and Edward Albee, who-- briefly, fondly, periously--does an imitation
of Tennessee Williams and then reads a letter from Williams about his
public persona, "that stranger who bears my professional name".
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 273

Literary Gossip and Romance 2, 1995 October 05

Description: For the second evening on the theme of "Literary Gossip
and Romance", writers were again asked to bring work by lesbian and
gay authors from the pre-Stonewall era. Highlight include an elderly
Allen Ginsberg reading early poems by Walt Whitman; Gary Indiana
reading a letter from William Burroughs about Tangier, self-pity, and
the relationship between innocence and depravity (it includes the
memorable line "Fuck your neighbor. He may like it."); Jaime Manrique
reading from his memoir about Manuel Puig, who gave movie-star
nicknames to all the writers of the Latin American Boom (Borges
was "Norma Shearer"); and Catherine McKinley reading Lorraine
Hansberry's letters (signed with an acronym) to the pioneering lesbian
magazine The Ladder.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 273

Literati 211 and 302, undated

Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns.
Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Box: 284
Description: "Literati 211" features Toni Morrison interviewing John Edgar Wideman. Morrison initiates the conversation expressing discomfort about a review that, while positive, calls him the Black Faulkner. Wideman agrees that any author should have command of the language and speaks about the historical habit of "authenticating" the works of black writers to make them acceptable and the infantilizing of black expression. Further, they discuss Wideman's and Faulkner's relationship to black vernacular dialect, and Wideman's mixing of literary and metaphoric language with "street" language. He expresses caution about the difficulties of writing in a "racialized society" and he asks "Who owns the language?" Lastly, they talk about the carnivalesque spectacle of the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas hearings and how the participants manipulate language. Wideman concludes it is all "a tower of Babel".

"Literati 302" is hosted by Maya Angelou who speaks with Bharati Mukherjee about her experience as a American writer of Bengali descent confronting issues of immigration and dislocation. After reading a passage from her novel, Jasmine, Angelou compliments Mukherjee on the musicality of her language and they speak about the poet Tagore. Mukherjee talks about initially learning to mimic standard British English but how she grew as a writer and began feeling free to play with the alphabet. She states: "...my creative imagination has always expressed itself in English and I feel that because I am not a native English speaker -- the first 3 years of my life I was exclusively Bengali speaking -- that I have a kind of freedom to do with the English alphabet what I want and that I'm inventing my own American English.

1 video cassette (VHS (T-120))

Living Lives, 1991 December 11

Description: This is a panel of biographers, in which Deirdre Bair shares her experiences of writing biographies of Samuel Beckett and Simone De Beauvoir; Edmund Morris talks about writing lives of Theodore Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan, and how a biographer extracts information from senior people; John Richardson speaks of writing Pablo Picasso’s personality and life; and Sally Bedell Smith talks about the challenges of writing biographies of living subjects. Panelists are introduced by Elizabeth Dickey, then Dean of the New School.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Cassette 1 (Box 273), Cassette 2 (Box 274).

Lost Women Writers, 1988 April 22-1989 November 29

Description: In this event, Toni Morrison, Cynthia Macdonald, and Maureen Howard read from the work of three early 20th-century women writers, Margery Latimer, Antonia White, and Storm Jameson, whose books had been recently reprinted by the Feminist Press and Virago. Vivian Gornick introduces the event and the three "lost" writers, whose work encompasses Catholic girls' schools, a childhood spent in the
north of England, and the power a strong, unconventional older woman
has over a younger one in a small Midwestern town. This is the first of a
series of events on lost women writers.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Lost Women Writers: Women Far From Home, 1989 November 29

Description: This is the second in the series organized by the Women's
Committee on lost women writers. The American writers Phyllis
Raphael, Glenda Adams, Naomi Replansky, and Margo Jefferson read
stories of displacement and disruption, international in scope, by Ivy
Litvinov, Eve Langley, Helen Adam, and Bessie Head.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Manuscript to Bound Book, 1985 April 03

Description: As part of the Translation Series, Peter Glassgold moderates
a panel discussion on the gray areas of translation and publishing.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Meeting: Diversity in Publishing Industry Networking / Recruitment, undated

Description: This is a networking event with publishing houses concerning
diversity in publishing.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Arthur Miller: Report on Turkey, 1985 March 21

Description: Miller, recently back from a trip with Harold Pinter to Turkey
for International PEN, speaks of his findings abroad. This short radio
interview airs a few days before the Prime Minister of Turkey, Turgut
Ozalof, is to visit the United States to ask for aid for his country. Miller
describes human rights violations, censorship of the press, and the
lingering effects of the former military state in Turkey.
Side of 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Kate Millett: Women in Iran, undated

Description: The talk is about the political and legal status of women in
Iran.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

Censorship of No Place to Run, 1983 January 27

Description: Barbara Beasley Murphy at Jacksonville State University talks
about the censorship of her book, No Place to Run, and also discusses
how children's books should reflect the culture in which kids are growing
up.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

PEN Conversations with Distinguished Foreign Writers: Haruki Murakami,
1991 December 03
Description: This is Haruki Murakami's first speaking engagement ever, and his conversation with Jay McInerney covers many of the topics that have obsessed Murakami's fans since he first began to publish, from the influence of American culture and literature on his work to the genesis of the typical Murakami protagonist to the development of his style. Murakami and McInerney also discuss Japanese culture, hardboiled crime novels, Raymond Carver, and why each turn up so often in Murakami's books.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Muted Voices, undated
Description: 2 computer diskettes (5 1/4-inch floppy)

Box: 292

My Life in Books/Books in My Life, 1993 January 19
Description: This is part of the annual PEN/Association of American Publishers National Book Week Symposium. Panelists discuss the influence of books on their lives. The panelists are: Jill Dunbar, Cornelius Eady, Paula Fox (who talks about William Faulkner's Light in August), Samuel G. Freedman, Cristina Garcia (who talks about writing her book, Dreaming in Cuban), Liz Gordon, Chip Kidd (who shares some book proposals that over years he has collected from working at Alfred A. Knopf), Donald S. Lamm, Susan Magrino, Faith Sale, and Joe Spieler. The event is hosted by Robert Lipsyte.

3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Native American Voices of A Dialogue Across the Generations Public Reading, 1994 December 06
Description: On the first night of this Native American panel, the moderator notes in his opening statement that through their work the five panelists are accomplished in "preserving the necessary artifacts of the past and giving the proper context and meaning to them in the present." As the subtitle of the event suggests, contemporary Native American writing has been a significant part of the literary field for generations. The event took place over the course of two evenings, held in the second evening at Quality Paperback Book Club, who also co-organized the event. On the first night, at the Tischman Auditorium, panelists read from writers who first influenced them, and then from their own work. As a part of Harjo's reading that night she sings a Lakota woman love song. Harjo is the moderator on the second evening, and there is an emphasis on discussion between the panelists; there are no readings this evening. Both nights feature the same panelists.

4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.


Box: 274
Description: Bill McKibbin and Gary Snyder discuss the declining status of nature, global warming, endangered natural habitats and other environmentalist concerns.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Libel: The Subtle Censorship, 1985 March 21

Description: This panel examines the special concerns when talking about the laws, in general, of libel and how they might act as censors by regulating content during publication. Other topics are how these subtle legislative acts impact such issues as divulging classified information, limits of reporting under the notion of national security, and investigating high-level officials for litigation.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Panel on Libel, 1985 March 21

Description: An event about censorship and chilling effects in publishing, journalism, and the media generally, from the government and corporate interests. Two of the participants are Herbert Mitgang and John F. Baker of Publishers Weekly.
Side of 1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

New Directions and James Laughlin, 1992 November 10

Description: This evening is a tribute to James Laughlin, the founder and publisher of New Directions. Laughlin starts things off by reading his own poems about a few of the writers he had published, including Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams, Kenneth Rexroth, Dylan Thomas, and Tennessee Williams. He is followed by writers and editors who each pay tribute to Laughlin and New Directions, talking about their first encounters with the press's books and the profound influence New Directions, and Laughlin personally, have had on their lives. Highlights include Hayden Carruth reading the poem "Purana, Meaning Once Upon a Time" which he had written while living in a cabin on Laughlin's Connecticut property, and talking about Laughlin's generosity to him and to many other writers; Robert Creeley reading the poem "Hello" from the first book of his that New Directions published; and Eliot Weinberger declaring himself a "fundamentalist New Directionist".
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

New Urban Voices, 1987 October 26

Description: In opening remarks, the speaker notes that the title of the event does not mean the featured poets are new on the scene, but bring new perspectives with their writing. Each poet then reads one poem, followed by a group discussion. There is also an improvisation between the poets in which they narrate their works, simultaneously, to demonstrate polyphonics. Lynch is the moderator.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Worlds, New Words, 1989 April 10</strong></td>
<td>274</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: To start, Segal and Mukherjee give general statements on the</td>
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<td>immigrant experience. Then all the panelists discuss talking points offered</td>
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<td>by Keeley, who is the moderator. Topics discussed include what makes immigrant</td>
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<td>writing a distinguishable category, the difference between refugee, expatriate,</td>
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<td>or emigré authors, and what are the benefits or disadvantages of writing in an</td>
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<td>adopted language.</td>
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<td>1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Writers Evening, 1982 November 8-1990 September 27</strong></td>
<td>274</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: This event featured four emerging writers - Eve Ottenberg, Alan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown, Ellen Currie, and Zach Rogowof - who were introduced by different PEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>America staff members. Each of the four emerging writers read excerpts from</td>
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<td>their work, a way of familiarizing the public with their writing. This &quot;New</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writers Evening&quot; event was held at Endicott Bookstore in NYC. The event also</td>
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<td>took place on later dates in Boston and Houston.</td>
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<td>3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Writers Evening, 1983 October 12</strong></td>
<td>275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: This event introduces four emerging writers - Fae Myenne Ng, Janet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kronstadt, playwright Margaret Gilbert, and poet Katie Colesof - to the public</td>
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<td>by the authors reading excerpts from their works. It was the 7th event of this</td>
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<td>kind organized by PEN America. The reading was located in the Endicott Bookstore</td>
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<td>in NYC. There are duplicate audios.</td>
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<td>4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)</td>
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<td>Two originals and two copies.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Writers Evening, 1984 February 02</strong></td>
<td>275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: This event introduces four emerging writers -- Wesley Brown, Fred</td>
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<td>Hudson, and two others who are not identified in the recording -- to the public</td>
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<td>by the authors reading excerpts from their works. This reading was located at</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln Center in NYC on February 6th. Brown and Hudson promote the event in</td>
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<td>this audio by speaking on air at a radio station.</td>
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<td>2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Writers Evening, 1984 February 06</strong></td>
<td>275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: This event introduces emerging writers -- Frederick Hudson,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Sheehe Stark, Jack Flynn, Craig Raine, and Sylvia Mossof -- to the public</td>
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<td>by the authors reading excerpts from their works.</td>
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<td>2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Writers Evening, 1985 October 28</strong></td>
<td>275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: This event introduces emerging writers --</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Description: This event featured four emerging writers--Nicholas Samaras, Adrienne Macdonald, Alexander Lobrano, and Mitch Bermanof--who were introduced by more established writers. Each of the four emerging writers then read excerpts from their work. Portions of 2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
One original and one copy.

New Writers Evening, 1986 September 16
Description: This event featured four emerging writers--Glyn Vincent, Eamon Grennan, Marjorie Sandor, and Kathleen Collins--who were introduced by more established writers. The emerging writers then read excerpts from their work, including a staged reading from a play.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

New Writers Evening, #1, 1987 February 19
Description: Four emerging writers--Betsy Lerner, Eugene Richie, Susan Pliner, and Donald Pizzarello--read from their work.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

New Writers Evening, #2, 1987 September 17
Description: This event featured six emerging writers--Ellen Currie, Bonnie Friedman, Kathy Elaine Anderson, Phyllis Moore, Matthew Cariello, and Wendy Hesford--who were introduced by more established writers, among them Gloria Naylor and Louis Simpson. Each of the six emerging writers then read excerpts from their work.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

New Writers Evening, #1, 1988 February 29
Description: This event introduces four emerging writers - Ralph Savarese, Barbara Jones, Amy Ehrlich, and Anna Shapiro - to the public by the authors reading excerpts from their works. It was the 15th event of this kind organized by PEN America. The reading was located in the Endicott Bookstore in NYC.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

New Writers Evening, #2, 1988 October 18
Description: This event introduces four emerging writers -- Vincent Katz, Martha Bear, Jean Air, and Barbara Selfridge -- to the public by the authors reading excerpts from their works. It was the 16th event of this kind organized by PEN America. The reading was located in the Endicott Bookstore in NYC.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

New Writers Evening, #1, 1989 January 31
Description: This event introduces four emerging writers - Jessica Greenbaum, David Hinton, Keith Adams, and Paula Redick - to the
public by the authors reading excerpts from their works. Adams, due to an illness, was absent. It was the 17th event of this kind organized by PEN America. The reading was located in the Endicott Bookstore in NYC.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

New Writers Evening, #2, 1989 October 17

Description: Four emerging writers-Ana Maria Simo, Nancy Sales, Suzanne Rhodenbaugh, and Michelle Owens-read their work.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

New Writers Evening, #1, 1990 March 15

Description: Four emerging writers-Mark Coovelis, Jeanne McCullough, Aurelie Sheehan, and Siriya Bland-read their work. This is the nineteenth New Writers Evening. At the start, Pamela Pearce makes an announcement about PEN's newly established fund to help writers and editors with AIDS.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

New Writers Evening, #2, 1990 September 27

Description: Four emerging writers -- Catherine Bowman, Elizabeth Egloff, Mel Shapiro, and Stuart Klawans -- read their work.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

New York Writers, 1987 May 3-1990 April 17

New York Writers on New York City, 1987 May 03


2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), including one blank tape

New York Writers on New York, 1988 December 28


2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

New York Writers: Writing Through One's Cultural Background, 1990 April 17
Description: The six panelists discuss how (or if) their cultural backgrounds impacted the material they produce, and in what way. Initially Ozick opposes the use of the phrase "ethnic subculture", which was included as part of the description of the theme of the panel. She gives an opening statement to explain her stance on the phrase, stating that it perpetuates the marginality of groups, and reinforces the division of groups.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)
One original and one copy.

Panel on the Nuclear Threat, 1984 April 15

Description: The guiding questions for this event are: Is there or should there be a cultural response to the threat of the nuclear end? If so, how might one respond to that threat as a writer? And does the nature of that threat alter the writer's task? The panel of writers provides different perspectives on these questions, with Kinnell, for instance, discussing the way he thinks the knowledge of Hiroshima will affect poetry in the future and Paley talking about learning to listen to the participants in the anti-nuclear movement.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
One original and one copy.

Open Book Publishing Day-New York City, 1996 May 15

Description: Walter Mosley is the moderator and introduces the panelists, who include Neeti Madan, Dawn Davis, Paola Fernandez Rana, Juanita T. James, and others. Panelists, who are in the publishing industry with different kinds of expertise, share their experiences on diversity in the industry as well as other relevant issues.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 110 minutes)

Open Book Program, 1995 October 25

Description: This event is hosted by PEN's Open Book Committee. Mosley, who oversees PEN's Open Book Committee, gives opening remarks. He talks about the committee and what its purposes are, namely to broaden the range of the publishing world and deepen its reserves. As Mosley says, "We want to come into this world, this world of publishing, which is so awfully white, and change it. And make it so that it reaches a bigger audience, and so that it has a greater sensibility about itself and its work, which effects both white and non-white publishers." Baker (editorial director of Publishers Weekly) is the moderator. Panelists discuss issues pertaining to the need for multiculturalism in publishing. Speakers include Howard (editor in the trade department of W. W. Norton & Co.), Barron (the African American specialist at Random House and the only sales representative regularly selling to African American bookstores), Sherrod (editor at Henry Holt & Co.), and Yamaguchi (editor at Harcourt Brace Jovanovich).
Open Book Program, circa 1995

Description: This event is hosted by PEN's Open Book Committee, held at the central library of the Los Angeles Library system. Also represented at the event is Los Angeles based independent bookstore Eso Won Books, who has a table set up at the event selling some of their books. The moderator makes opening statements, including reading the manifesto of PEN's Open Book Committee. In part it states: "The one and only purpose of the PEN Open Book Committee is to open the world of publishing to the richness and diversity of the cultures that make up America." Panelists make individual comments about challenges in the publishing industry, specifically regarding the topic of diversity. The panel is made up of Campbell, Quintana, Brown, Diane D'Andrade (senior children's books editor at Harcourt Brace, San Diego), Liz Williams (marketing director at Valentine Publishing), and Paul Yamazaki (head book buyer of City Lights Bookstore).

Portions of 3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Open Reading, 1987 April 12

Description: In this event, speakers have 10 minutes each to read excerpts of their work. The first segment of the event features Talese, Duncan, Gioseffi, Manrique, Manushkin, and Leitner; Howard acts as moderator. In addition to reading her own poems, Gioseffi also reads the poem "On a Japanese beach" by Nina Cassian. In the second segment of the event, Paley begins by reading from her own work, and then introduces the next speakers. Marzollo, Lifson, Schwerner, Gilbert, and Duberstein are the featured writers. After this, Kinnell reads from his own work, and then introduces the speakers who read in the third segment of the event. Dufault, Harter, Higginson, Menashe and Detra are the speakers in this segment. In the final group, Cortez begins by reading her work, and then introduces readers Replansky, Harlow, and Silbert.

3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Orhan Pamuk, 1991 April 21

Description: The White Castle, Pamuk's first novel to be translated into English -- which had just been published and received an enthusiastic reception -- is the subject of this discussion between the future Nobel Prize winner and critic Paul Berman. Pamuk and Berman discuss, among much else, the political expectations Turkish readers bring to fiction and how Pamuk was attempting to disarm or play with them, Pamuk's great love of bookstores and libraries, and the fatwa against Salman Rushdie and how it was received in Turkey.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Our Bodies, Our Books: Women Write to Choose, 1990 May 20

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Description: This is a very short excerpt from this event surrounding the rights of women over their own individual and collective bodies.
3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), including 2 blank tapes

American Literary Magazines: An Evening With Parnassus, Poetry In Review, 1989 February 16

Description: The editor of Parnassus Magazine, Herb Leibowitz, is a key speaker and moderator of this event in which panelists discuss magazines that review poetry, and poetry criticism in publications. Further, the challenges that smaller types of magazines face are also discussed.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Octavio Paz/Joseph Brodsky, 1988 October 04

Description: Octavio Paz reads his poems "Nocturno de San Ildefonso" and "Brotherhood" in Spanish, and Eliot Weinberger reads his translations of both works. Brodsky and Paz also discuss such topics as the nature and place of history (riffing off of Paz's line "History is an error"), whether democracy and metaphysics can be reconciled, and what each of them is trying to do with their poetry.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)


International Writer's for Peace Day, 1985 March 03

Description: This is a marathon reading given in honor of the first international Writers for Peace Day. After an introduction in which Kirkpatrick Sales describes how the day came to be and what is being done in other countries to celebrate, twelve writers give readings of their own works and those of others on the subjects of war and peace. Highlights include Native American poet Maurice Kenny reading his poetry about the Wounded Knee Massacre and the Native American experience; Oscar Hijuelos reading from Homer, Ovid, Sophocles, and other classical sources; and Norman Mailer ending the day by reading from his book Armies of the Night.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

International Writer's for Peace Day, 1986 March 03

Description: For the second International Writers for Peace Day, PEN America convenes a panel on the topic of the "hereditary enemy." The writers invited to speak critique this topic, turning the conversation instead to subjects like the history of racism and the formation of identity. Highlights include Anne Nelson's discussion of the United States's treatment of Puerto Rico over the course of its history and the double standard applied in general by the United States in Latin America vs. at home, and Gregory Kolovakos's eloquent account of how coming out as a gay man politicized him.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)
The Plains Across: American Writing from The Great Plains, 1990 September 24
Description: Gretel Ehrlich reads from "This Autumn Morning", Richard Ford reads from Wildlife, Joy Harjo reads her poems "Deer Dancer" and "Northern Lights", Frederick Manfred reads from Of Lizards and Angels and a poem, James Welch reads from The Indian Lawyer, and Larry Woiwode reads from Indian Affairs and some other pieces. The participants are introduced by Larry McMurtry.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Playwrights, 1991 October 28
Description: In a reading session at the Performing Arts Library, three new playwrights are introduced and they read excerpts of their plays.
1 reel (1/4-inch audio tape on 10-inch reel)

Poets Canon, Kunitz, 1994 December 29
Description: As a part of PEN America's series on a poet and their canon, this event features Kunitz discussing and reading his work. The majority of the event is Kunitz reading from the writings of those who inspired him during his career, like John Keats and Walt Whitman.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Reading: Robert Polito and Cori Jones, 1986 April 16
Description: Robert Polito reads some of his poems, and Cori Jones, introduced by Bobbie Ann Mason, reads from her work. John Guare introduces Ellen McLaughlin, who reads from a play called A Narrow Bed, with a partner. Anne Bernays introduces Marjorie Waters, who reads from her work Still Life.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Post office: Reading and Presentation of Award Winning Novelists by American Colleagues, 1986 October 19
Description: The event is one part of a four series program, co-sponsored by La Maison Francaise of NYU and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. Throughout the event authors read excerpts in French of their novels, and other presenters also read from the author's books in English. An excerpt from Besson's Dara is read by Jay McInerney, following which Besson reads from the novel. Polizzotti reads a section of Sans la Misericorde du Christ, written by Bianciotti. (The author himself is not able to attend the event for personal reasons). An excerpt of Queffelec's Les Noces Barbares is read by Coverdale, following which the novelist reads from his work. A section of Braudeau's work Naissance d'une Passion is read by Carver, then by the author himself. A passage of Billetdoux's Mes Nuits Sont Plus Belles que vos Jours is read by Davis, and then by the author herself.
Richard Price, 1994 June 07

Description: Richard Price reads from two of his novels, Ladies' Man and Clockers, and answers questions in this event from the series "Sounds at Sunset," held in Hudson River Park. Price discusses at length the process of writing Clockers -- the research he did obsessively for two years in Jersey City, the cops and criminals and ordinary citizens he got to know -- and his feelings about the upcoming film of the book, which was directed by Spike Lee.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 276

Chinese Literature on New and Native Shores: Jack and Yuan-Tsun Chen, undated

Description: Yuan-Tsung Chen and her husband, Jack Chen, talk about their writing and publishing paths.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 276

Margaret Randall, 1986 December 08

Description: The event is held to honor the U.S. born writer and photographer Margaret Randall and to assist her in her struggle to win her immigration case, in which under the ideological exclusion clause of 1952 McCarran-Walter Act the government was trying to deport her. Margaret Randall reads some of her poems. Her attorney, David D. Cole, explains her case and comments on it. Ariel Nair (?), the vice chairman of the Helsinki Watch and America's Watch talks about the McCarran-Walter Act, and then Randall discusses her case. Frances FitzGerald talks about other implications of this case for the American writer.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 276

Readings and Conversations with Foreign Writers: Bella Akhmadulina and William Smith, 1987 April 09

Description: Presented by PEN America's Freedom to Write Committee, Bella Akhmadulina reads her work in Russian, and Robert Smith reads then in English. "The Christmas Tree in the Hospital Corridor" and "The Resort" are a few of the poems read at this event.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 276

Readings from Andrei Voznesensky, 1985 May 20

Description: Andrei Voznesensky reads some of his poems to the audience.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Box: 276

A Tribute to Robert Benchley on the 100th Anniversary of His Birth, 1989 March 01
Description: This is a reading event as a tribute to Robert Benchley on the 100th anniversary of his birth, in which several American humorists read excerpts of their works.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Red, White and Censored, 1989 October 26
Description: Blume, Tan, Ginsberg, and Troupe each discuss how their own work has been subject to varying types of censorship. To further their point, each reads from their work or other literature that has influenced them. Blume reads from her book Deenie. Troupe reads from a book he co-authored titled Miles: The Autobiography of Miles Davis with Quincy Troupe. Tan reads from writings that influenced her which include passages from the Bible, The Catcher in the Rye, and Psychopathia Sexualis. Ginsberg reads a non-smoking anti-commercial, a passage from Howl, and an excerpt of William Burroughs' Naked Lunch. Other topics that are widely talked about include obscenity, Jesse Helms, Jr., NEA grants, and language used in the arts.
3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Cassette 1 (Box 276), Cassette 2-3 (Box 277).

Romanian Writers, 1990 February 05
Description: Romanian writers reply to the question, "Is the word a weapon?" Poet Nina Cassian discusses her literary path in Romania and its ups and downs; literary critic Matei Călinescu talks about censorship of literature and its history in Romania after WWII; and author Norman Manea talks about his relationship with word and literature.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Russian Poetry Reading - CUNY, 1987 December 08
Description: In opening comments Kushner speaks in Russian, in tandem with an English interpreter. Then Ashbery reads selections of Kushner's poems in English, followed by Kushner reading them in Russian. Following this, Morits gives opening remarks in Russian, in tandem with an English interpreter. Forche then reads her poetry in English, followed by a reading in Russian by Morits.
3 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), including one blank tape

"The Coca Crystal Show: If I Can't Dance, You Can Keep Your Revolution"
Demo Tape, circa 1980s-1990s
Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns. Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.
Description: Tape is labeled "Jill Seiden." Content consists of a demo tape for Coca Crystal and Jill Seiden's television show "The Coca Crystal Show: If I Can't Dance, You Can Keep Your Revolution," including clips
of sample content intended to be circulated to television producers and advertisers.
1 video cassette (VHS (T-120))

Mr. Sipho Sepamla, 1984 April 20
Box: 277

Description: Via a telephone call from PEN America, Sidney Sepamla reads from his poems, including "This Man" and "Clean up the Mess".
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Dr. Shabaan, 1991 March 21
Box: 277

Description: Dr. Shaabaan, a Syrian author and translator, speaks about the role of women and their representation in Arab literature.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Anton Shammas, 1988 April 25
Box: 277

Description: Anton Shammas and the moderator discuss Shammas's creative practice, touching on points such as writing in an "adversarial language", if language can carry in it religion (specifically addressed by the moderator is the "Jewishness of Hebrew"), and whether Israel should have been made a Jewish state. Also highlighted in the event is the author's recently published novel Arabesques.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Sam Shepard: New York School Reading, 1996 April 29
Box: 277

Description: Sam Shepard is introduced by Robert Polito and Joseph Chaikin at the New School. The playwright then reads from his work
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Silenced Voices: American Writers, 1988 January 27
Box: 277

Description: Manuel Ramos Otero, June Jordan, E.L. Doctorow, Jamake Highwater, and Dolores Prida discuss the status of American writers silenced for various reasons including their ethnicity, race, sexuality, and their political views.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), including one blank tape

Silenced Voices, 1984 March 5-1993 September 23

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

Silenced Voices: Irina Ratushinskaya, 1984 March 05
Box: 277

Description: The event celebrates the voice of the Russian poet in prison, Irina Ratushinskaya, by reading her poems. This is part of the Silenced Voices series.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Silenced Voices: Filipino Poets, 1985 April 15
Box: 277
Description: This event honors three Filipino poets, José Sison, Mila Aguilar, and Jose Lacaba, whose work is read by American poets and writers (some of the reading occurs in Tagalog). It begins with a discussion by Ninotchka Rosca of the repression of the Marcos regime and its particular actions against writers, and the United States's support of Marcos. Rosca then introduces each reading with reminiscences and biographical information about the poets. The event ends with the singing of a protest poem set to music, in Tagalog.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Silenced Voices: South Africa, 1984 April 23

Description: Dennis Brutus, June Jordan, and Philip Levine read from the works of authors and poets from South Africa who were silenced by the apartheid regime, including Govan Mbeki, Bessie Head, Ingoapele Madingoane, Breyten Breytenbach, and Oswald Mbuyiseni Mtshali. Sipho Sepamla reads from his work via phone to the audience.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Silenced Voices: Korea, 1988 February 04

Description: The theme of the event, organized by the Freedom to Write Committee, is the current situation in South Korea for authors, editors, and journalists. Chi-ha's "The Story of a Sound" was read. Sarandon reads from pre-20th century poetry including "Dumping House" and "Virtuous Women". Two South Korean speakers share their experiences regarding human rights issues, and on the state of affairs for writers in their country. One of the speakers details his time as a prisoner in South Korea.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Silenced Voices: Burma, 1993 September 23

Description: In opening remarks, this event is described as showcasing "literature from and about a land that is being terribly tortured." The Freedom to Write Committee co-organized the event. Bernstein acts as moderator. Anna Allott, the author of PEN's new report on censorship in Burma at the time of this event, "Inked Over, Ripped Out: Burmese Storytellers and the Censors", discusses her findings. Aris reads a statement from his mother, Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under detention for four years. A short story by San San Nweh called "The Children Who Play in the Back Alleyways" is read by Wiggins. U Win Pe's story "The Day the Weather Broke" is read by Eugenides. Law-Yone reads from her book The Coffin Tree. Rush reads an excerpt from Nyi Pu Lay's "The Python". Styron reads Moe's poems, including "Picking Crickets" and "Open the Door." Swenson reads her poems "Cold Blood", "The Garden Again", and "Hatching". Nu Nu Yi's story "He's Not My Father" is presented.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Conversation: Susan Sontag and Chinua Achebe, 1989 April 05  
Box: 277

Description: The Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe and Susan Sontag discuss, among other topics, Achebe's 1975 lecture about the racism in Joseph Conrad's novel Heart of Darkness, the questions that using the language of a colonizer raises for the writer of a formerly colonized land or people, and the relationship between literature and morality.  
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Regional Writers: South, 1991 September 24  
Box: 277  
Box: 288

Description: Tina McElroy Ansa reads the chapter "Night" from her novel, Baby of the Family. Madison Smartt Bell reads his story "Hammerhead", Percival Everett reads his story "How the West was Won", and Cathryn Hankla reads an excerpt from her novel. Jill McCorkle reads part of her story "Carnival Lights". The panel and panelists are introduced by William Matthews.  
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)  
2 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reels), formerly c2196 and c2197  
Compact cassette (Box 277), Reels (Box 288)

Soviet Writers, 1987 December 9-1989 April 27  
Box: 277

Soviet Writers at CUNY, 1987 December 09  
Box: 277

Description: Golyshev, Granin, Iskander, and Urnov touch on their specific paths in the literary field such as translating works, writing prose, or writing poetry. Granin reads from his recently published controversial article "On Mercifulness" in Russian, then an English reading by Styron. Styron also gives an introduction of the author, particularly about his time as a soldier during WWII in Russia. Iskander reads an excerpt from his book Sandro of Chegum in Russian, and then it is read by Stone in English. Urnov reads his works in English. Toni Morrison is the moderator.  
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Soviet Writers, 1989 April 27  
Box: 281

Description: The event starts off with a discussion about The Human Experience, an anthology of Russian-English writing (poetry and prose), a unique publication in that when printed it was, "the first of its kind: an anthology published simultaneously in the United States and the Soviet Union that brought together 40 brilliant writers half of them American, half of them Russian...". Seidman reads Chukhontsev's poems "When the Village Daylight Dimmed" and "And in the Dark" in English, and then Chukhontsev reads in Russian. Morris gives introductory remarks on and reads from Kim's story "Roadstop in August" - before Kim reads the piece in Russian, he gives a few remarks on his trajectory as a writer. During the second half of the event, Russian panelists talk about varied
topics like where they think literary development in their country will go in the future after recent government restrictions on publishing have been lifted. Reeve, also a contributor to the anthology, is the moderator. Grace Paley poses a question during the Q & A.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

George Steiner, 1988 May 02

Description: In this recording, theorist and critic George Steiner gives a talk in which he analyzes a single passage from Book 24 of The Iliad in numerous translations, from Chapman, Pope, and Fitzgerald's translations all the way up to Christopher Logue's, for what they tell us about the translation between the body and the mind. "What," he asks, "is the channel whereby the body's ache becomes grammatical, becomes metaphorical, becomes a simile?" A deeply erudite and provocative discussion of translation, ranging from Borges and Beckett's acts of self-translation to the untranslatability of divine speech to the way that a great translation "gives you the impression of being the realization and unfolding of one of the potentialities that the original did not have time to fulfill."

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Threepenny Review, 1987 September 28

Description: This event presents the workings of "literary magazines from the inside out" by focusing on the Threepenny Review magazine. Wendy Lesser, founding editor of the magazine, is a key speaker and moderator of this event. Panelists read excerpts from their work that have been published in the magazine and discuss writing for a non-profit literary press.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Translation Event, 1997 May 12

Description: This is a panel discussion of what, why and how translations are published by large commercial, small independent, and university presses. Editors, translators and publishers share their experiences of publishing translations.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)


Description: This is a panel that discusses the second edition of The Handbook for the Literary Translators, prepared by the translation committee of the PEN American center. Panelists discuss the current status of literary translation, working conditions of translators, and their rights in the publishing industry.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Mark Twain, 1989 March 19

Description: In this event, Maureen Howard, Robert Stone, and Tobias Wolff give short talks about different aspects of Mark Twain, and then the
panelists discuss matters such as Twain's Americanness, the ambivalence of his public role (Stone calls him "a truly subversive writer who had to live out his life as a tame gadfly"), and his influence on ensuing generations of writers.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

**Twentieth-Century German Classics, 1994 May 24**

Description: Breon Mitchell, Burton Pike, and John E. Woods read and comment on their translations of Franz Kafka, Robert Musil, and Thomas Mann. Mitchell reads the final chapter of The Trial, Pike reads three passages of Musil's writings that he did not include in the novel, Man Without Qualities, and Woods reads from The Magic Mountain.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

**Two European Poets: Dorin Rudoran and Tomas Venclova, 1987 March 19**

Description: This event is co-sponsored by PEN and PEN's Exiled Writer Center (that works with both domestic and international writers). Tudoran, Venclova, and George read from their works, and discuss their experiences as writers in exile.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

**Ukranian Writers, 1990 March 28**

Description: This event, co-sponsored by Writers in Exile, is partly to celebrate the new Ukranian Centre of PEN International, located in Kiev, Ukraine. The event is also a tribute to Ukrainian literature. All featured writers whose works are read were born in Ukraine, with the exception of two; all are Ukrainian exiles living in the United States. Works of Ukranian writers who passed away as the result of the regime they lived under are also presented, such as Vasyl Stus. Lorette reads an excerpt of Rudenko's poem "The Cross" in English, followed by a reading of the work by Rudenko. "Exit to Doom" is read by its author Tarnawsky in Ukrainian, followed by an English reading by Lorette. In English a selection of poems from both Vasyl Stus and Vasyl Symonenko are presented.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

**UN Writers, undated**

Description: Notable authors and free expression advocates meet to discuss the role of writers and activists in regards to imprisoned writers. Reading from 11 writers who have been imprisoned or are in prison, the statements and solidarity from the international stage reflect the necessity to keep an ardent eye on countries that suffer from censorship and human rights violations.

1 video cassette (VHS (T-120))

**United Methodist Church - AIDS in the Press, 1989 May 11**

Description: The theme of the panel is the representation of AIDS in the press. Specific topics that are discussed include how the press covers
medical issues surrounding AIDS (in particular the reporting of alternative theories of AIDS transmission/ the assumption that HIV is the cause of AIDS), homophobia and AIDS coverage, how the press has handled AIDS among women, and how the press has handled AIDS coverage of Black and Hispanic communities versus the way they handle the coverage of the gay community. There is a very involved Q & A portion of this event.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Vietnam Voices: The War in American Literature, 1982 March 30
Description: This is a conference hosted by PEN America with a panel of authors who have all written about the Vietnam War (books covering both during and after). And the question is presented as "What is the central question when an author writes about Vietnam?" Panelists discuss the different ways that the Vietnam War has been written about (the span of different focuses and types of writing is well-represented in their own work) and the effects of the war on American literature and life. There is a Q&A after.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Literature and Human Rights in China III: Voices from China, 1989 October 05
Description: This poetry reading is the last part of a three-part program focusing on Chinese literature and human rights (the other files are c2002 and c2002a). Three poets, originally from Beijing but currently living in exile, are featured in the event. There are three sets of readings; poems are read in Chinese and then in English. Duo's poems are read by Cortez. Then, Huang Beiling's work is read by Weinberger. Poet Bei Dao addresses the pressure of perceived political tones in his writing; Koch then reads selections from Dao's collection of poems The August Sleepwalker. Professor Rosenthal gives opening comments.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Voinovich, 1981 April 22
Description: In opening remarks, Voinovich describes his life as an author under the Russian government, prior to being exiled (with his family) from the Soviet Union, the persecutions he endured including an episode where the KGB poisoned him. He speaks in Russian with an English translator. Solotaroff then details the government's 7 year "total campaign aimed against his [Voinovich] identity, as well as his vocation as a writer". This reprisal came in response to Voinovich's work satirizing the Red Army. One of his books discussed is The Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin. The author also discusses the difficulties of adjusting to his new environment as an exile, and Soviet literary bureaucrats vs. true Soviet authors. Throughout the event, both Lourie and Solotaroff pose questions to Voinovich.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape)

War and Peace: Male and Female Perspectives, 1988 March 06
Box: 281
Description: The full title of this event, which was organized by the PEN Women's Committee, is "War and Peace: Male and Female Perspectives." It begins with a reading from Quaker activist Lady Borton from her book about the Vietnamese "boat people"; this is followed by a discussion between the panelists of Christa Wolf's novel Cassandra and what light it sheds on male and female perspectives about war and peace. The event ends with an open reading, in which panelists and audience members are encouraged to read, as Paley puts it, "something from literature that they love or that really makes them mad." The sound is faint at times and occasionally cuts out.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Where Rolls the Mighty Oregon: Pacific NW Writers, 1989 October 23

Description: Katherine Dunn reads excerpts from her novel Geek Love, Lawson Fusao Inada reads some of his poems, Andrew Hoppe (needs clarification) reads some of his poems, Ken Kesey reads his introduction to Caverns by O. U. Levon, and Barry Lopez reads from his writings.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Christa Wolf, 1983 May 26

Description: The East German writer Christa Wolf and Grace Paley discuss literature, politics, and activism in the age of the nuclear arms race. In this wide-ranging conversation, Wolf talks about how her books examine the conflicts between individuals and the societies they live in, about inner censorship, about the classical figure Cassandra (subject of her recent novel), and the obligation she feels, when in the West, to counteract the simplistic, demonized image of socialist countries she encounters there. Wolf speaks in German, and Friedlander translates her responses.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Women's Event, 1987 May 14

Description: In the second event organized by the Women's Committee, twelve writers discuss mentorships, friendships, and other relationships between women writers past and present. Mary Gordon introduces the event. The writers discussed range widely, from Bettina von Arnim and Karoline von Günderrode, friends and fellow radicals in Frankfurt at the height of German Romanticism, to journalist Mary Heaton Vorse who covered the strikes and labor movements in Michigan in the early years of the twentieth century, to Alice Childress's tribute to her grandmother, who taught her to write by encouraging her to tell stories about the people they saw on the streets of Harlem.
4 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)
Two originals and two copies.

Women's Reading, 1986 April 13
Description: This is, as the moderator Erica Jong describes it, an "afternoon of women reading from their favorite colleagues in different languages." Six American writers read work from around the world: some highlights are Jane Lazarre's reading from Christa Wolf's novel Cassandra, readings of the work of the Mexican writer Elena Poniatowska by both Magda Bogin and Jessica Hagedorn, and Jewelle Gomez's simultaneously sharp and funny criticism, in her introduction of the work of the Chilean poet Myriam Díaz-Diocaretz, of the barriers queer female writers of color face in the publishing industry and the literary establishment.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Challenging the Politics of Despair, 1991 December 10

Description: The event, at The New School, is titled "Challenging the Politics of Despair" and features writers from seven different African countries speaking on what a writer's role is during periods of political unrest. Talking points include Pan-Africanism, what authors can contribute, what penalties have they had to already face for speaking out on issues, and how free African writers are to write. Appiah acts as the moderator.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Writers' Censorship Project, Prelude to International P.E.N. Writers in Prison Day, 1984 October 19

Description: This is a reading in honor of PEN Writers in Prison Day (October 19th), during which contemporary writers read work by imprisoned or exiled writers from the past: Richard Howard reads from Oscar Wilde's "De Profundis"; Elizabeth Hardwick reads a letter Sir Walter Raleigh wrote on the eve of his execution; Susan Sontag speaks about Marina Tsvetaeva and reads from a 1932 essay, "Art and the Light of Conscience"; and a last unidentified participant reads medieval Hebrew poetry and a section from Dante's "Inferno."
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes), including one duplicate formerly described as c2237

Writers in Exile, 1988 March 24-1993 December 1

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

PEN America: Writer's in Exile, 1988 March 24

Description: In this event, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Polish, and Spanish poets (and Landisbergis, a playwright) who live in exile read their work.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Bilingual Hungarian Poetry Reading, 1989 April 19

Description: Hungarian poets Laszlo Baranszky and András Sándor read from their works. This is the third in a series of events co-organized by PEN America and Writers in Exile. In opening statements,
the moderator notes that the event was originally planned to feature all of the main contributors of an avant-garde magazine called Arcano (?). Due to challenges in coordinating the contributors, who live in various parts of the world, and a program appropriate for them, only 2 of them are present at the event. Baranszky, who wrote "Gift season tales and documents", uses war dispatch tapes (that are translated into English) throughout parts of his event. He reads in both English and Hungarian. Andras Sandor reads a selection of his works, including the poem "Nemo" and "Growing Pains", in English and Hungarian.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

PEN America: Writer's in Exile Reading, 1991 April 06

Description: In this event, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Polish, and Russian writers who live in exile read their poetry, short stories, and novels, both in the original languages and in translation. It is co-presented with the PEN Writers in Exile USA group.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

PEN America: Writer's in Exile Reading, 1993 December 01

Description: In this reading organized in collaboration with the PEN Writers in Exile group, Hungarian, Iranian, Ukrainian, and Chinese writers read from their work. Currently, only Clara Györgyey has been identified as a participant.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 100 minutes)

Readings from Authors from Different Nations, 1992 November 05

Description: The event was co-organized by PEN's Writers in Exile Center. During the event, poems are read in many languages including Spanish, English, Russian, and Lithuanian. Participants include Manilo Argueta, Joseph Brodsky, Hwang Sok-Yong, Ninotchka Rosca, and Tomas Venclova.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Writers Under 30, 1993 September 20

Description: This event is the second in a series of readings and talks in September. All of the panelists are fiction writers near the age of 30. The main talking point of the event is "why write?". Also explored is if writers of today have the same impetus to write as authors from previous generations, whether writing is a commercial endeavor, and what panelists thought they could accomplish as writers. Beller, McPhee, Eisenstadt, Kirn, and Hyneman are the featured panelists; and Passaro is the moderator.

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Adam Zagajewski at NYU, 1984 March 12

Description: Mark Strand reads Adam Zagajewski's poems in English, and is followed by Adam Zagajewski reading the same pieces in Polish.
Series 11: Audiovisual Material ... (Continued)

2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Tribute: Louis Zukofsky, 1979 April 18

Description: This event is a tribute to the poet Louis Zukofsky, who had recently passed away. Allen Ginsberg talks about what he learned from Zukofsky's work about sound, line, and language, and how he has tried to apply it; Hugh Seidman, who was Zukofsky's student at Brooklyn Polytechnic, reads from Zukofsky's major work "A" and talks about the influence Zukofsky had on him, in life and poetry; Robert Creeley also reads from A and discusses his friendship with Zukofsky; and Celia Zukofsky, the poet's widow, ends the event by discussing on her collaborations with her husband on a translation of Catullus and on setting Zukofsky's poetry to music.

1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

Radio and TV Programs, 1970 March 30-1994 August 9

Arrangement: Arranged chronologically.

The Writer Talks: Muriel Rukeyser, 1970 March 30

Description: Poet Muriel Rukeyser talks about her love for New York City and reads some of her poems.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Speaks: James Marshall, 1970 April 23

Description: Attorney James Marshall speaks about social issues, particularly law and justice.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: John Oliver Killens, 1970 August 19

Description: John Oliver Killens talks about the racial injustice suffered by African-Americans.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: B. Kaufman, 1970 September 27

Description: In this radio spot, Kaufman interviews herself, mainly discussing her book Up the Down Staircase.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: Frank Hercules, 1970 October 29

Description: Hercules speaks about racial issues in the United States between the African-American and white populations, as well as class conflict.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: Barry Beckham, 1970 November 08

Description: Beckham touches on ideas of autobiography vs. fiction in novels, not heeding critics, and shedding light on the creative process of
writing through describing his own experience writing his first novel My Main Mother. He also reads excerpts from the book.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: John Brooks, 1970 November 08
Box: 289

Description: John Brooks gives a talk on the lack of novels that depict Americans and their relationship to money; Brooks argues against what he describes as the American notion of an antithesis between the literary and financial. To highlight his points, he reads excerpts from his book Once in Golconda: A True Drama of Wall Street 1920-1938.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: Leon Edel, 1970 November 08
Box: 289

Description: Leon Edel discusses the components of a strong biography, including literary biography (his field), drawing on workshops he has run. Edel touches on writing stages that include: choosing a subject, criticism, the quest for material, the question of the use of psychoanalysis, and how to depict the passing of time in a biography.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: Charles Flood, 1970 November 08
Box: 289

Description: In a series Flood calls "The Writer Himself", the author focuses on a writer's relationship to professional organizations in their field.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Writer as Activist: Lenore Marshall, 1970 November 08
Box: 289

Description: In a series Lenore Marshall calls "The Writer As Activist," she discusses the divided life of a writer, which she also references as the writer's double life. She speaks of the dual role of the writer to not only produce work, but to effect social change, a role she herself took on.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: Frederic Morton, 1970 October 11
Box: 290

Description: Frederic Morton discusses the struggles of being a writer facing issues like, to use his phrase, "literary paranoia.” Morton further details the challenges in the process of publishing a book.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: Sidney Offit, 1970 November 08
Box: 290

Description: The children's book author Sidney Offit tells stories about his childhood and his beginnings as a writer.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

The Writer Talks: Ned Rorem, 1970 November 08
Box: 290

Description: Composer Ned Rorem reads his essay "Ladies' Music," on the subject of women and music, especially female composers.
The Writer Talks: John R. Tunis, 1970 November 08

Description: Sportswriter John Tunis gives advice to young writers and discusses what he would have done differently in his career, including not getting friendly with editors and not accepting advances.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Box: 290

The Writer Talks: Jerome Weidman, 1970 November 08

Description: Playwright and author Jerome Weidman gives his opinions on the problems with reviews and reviewers.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Box: 290

The Writer Talks: Jerzy Kosinski, 1970 May 24

Description: Kosinski discusses his two novels The Painted Bird and Steps. The author talks about whether The Painted Bird was autobiographical, and if that should be of importance to a reader, as well as about the metaphors found throughout the book. Kosinski then discusses being a teacher, and the differences he sees in European and American students.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Box: 290

The Writer Talks: Madeleine L'Engle, 1970 November 08

Description: Madeleine L'Engle discusses the connections between art and fear, the power of myths, science and faith, and her career as a writer of A Wrinkle in Time, among many other books.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Box: 290

The Writer Talks: Roger Dooley, 1971 February 06

Description: Roger Dooley talks about mystery novels and his own writings.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Box: 291

The Writer Talks: Thomas Fleming, 1971 February 06

Description: Thomas Fleming talks about his experience of growing up in the Irish-American community in New Jersey and about his intellectual development in history and literature.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Box: 291

The Writer Talks: Irene Kampen, 1971 February 06

Description: Irene Kampen discusses her professional path, first as a journalist for weekly papers, then as an author of humor books. She also describes, in detail, her travels through the Soviet Union.

1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Box: 291

Anne Fremantle Interviews Muriel Rukeyser on Literary Censorship in Iran, Korea, and Ghana, 1976 March 14
Description: Muriel Rukeyser, former president of PEN America, speaks on the state of free expression in Korea and the imprisonment of Kim Chi Ha, as well as the topic of the writer as activist.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Anne Fremantle Interviews Penelope Gilliatt, 1976 March 29

Description: Interviewed by Anne Fremantle, Penelope Gilliatt speaks about the writing process, working for The New Yorker, and being a film critic.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Anne Fremantle Interviews P. L. Travers, 1976 April 02

Description: This is part of a series on death with Anne Fremantle. P.L Travers, interviewed by Anne Fremantle, speaks about archetypes in mythology concerning death, sleep, and the nature of living and dying as it relates to contemporary literature.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Anne Fremantle Interviews Dr. Mead on How Pre-Literate People Face Death, 1976 April 10

Description: This is part of a series on death with Anne Fremantle. The anthropologist Dr. Margaret Mead talks about the way death is experienced, understood, and responded to in different societies throughout the world.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Anne Fremantle Interviews Bishop Paul Moore & Arthur Coben on the Religious Approach to Death, 1976 April 18

Description: This is part of a series on death with Anne Fremantle. Catholic bishop Paul Moore and Arthur Cohen, a scholar of Judaism, discuss the approaches the two different faiths take towards death, and how these are reflected in their respective liturgies and sacred texts.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Anne Fremantle Speaks to Dr. Lewis Thomas on Death, 1976 April 26

Description: This is part of a series on death with Anne Fremantle. The physician Lewis Thomas discusses death from a physiological standpoint.
1 reel (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

Who Should Control the Book?, 1976 May 31

Description: Are there better ways to conduct the relationships between authors and publishing houses? Is the transference of power equal and equitable? What areas of the publishing process are in need of reconsideration, reevaluation and repair? These questions and many more are addressed by notable figures in the world of publishing.
2 reels (1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 7-inch reel)

WBAI Interview of Robert Karl Manoff and Kirkpatrick Sale, 1980 March 13

Box: 291

Box: 291

Box: 291

Box: 291

Box: 292

Box: 292

Box: 292

Box: 282
Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns.
Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: Tapes are labeled "Sale / Manoff Conglomerates WBAI."
Content consists of a WBAI interview of Robert Karl Manoff and Kirkpatrick Sale.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

CBS Book Censorship Sunday Morning, 1981 May 23

Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns.
Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: This recording contains part of an episode of CBS News Sunday Morning with Charles Kurault titled "To Tax, Value, Judge: Censorship in America", about the censorship of books, particularly by school boards and other educational institutions. Interspersed throughout it are excerpts from a reading organized by PEN called "An Evening of Forbidden Books" that happened on April 5, 1982. Writers--including Donald Barthelme, John Irving, Erica Jong, June Jordan, Toni Morrison, Grace Paley, Gay Talese, and Calvin Trillin--read from banned books, including The Grapes of Wrath, The Scarlet Letter, The Merchant of Venice, The Great Gatsby, and Mary Poppins. Notably, June Jordan reads her own poem "Getting Down to Get Over." The recording cuts off midway through the event. Alternately, view the original programming "An Evening of Forbidden Books."
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Karen Kennerly on the Casper Citron Show / McCarran-Walter, 1984

Description: Karen Kennerly and Arthur Helton discuss the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 a.k.a. McCarran-Walter Act. Cases of authors and poets affected by it, including Ángel Rama, Mahmoud Darwish, Dennis Brutus, and Pablo Neruda, are mentioned.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

CNN / ABC: Forbidden Writers, 1984 April 30

Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns.
Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: In the spirit of PEN America’s An Evening of Forbidden Books/Forbidden Writers, this CNN/ABC program discusses the ramifications of the McCarran-Walter Act on the cultural and global standing of the United States. Alternately, view the original programming "An Evening of Forbidden Books."
1 video cassette (VHS (T-120))

Writers' Protest: Mediawatch, 1984 May 4

Box: 285
Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns.
Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: Consists of a TV station's edited video clips of the event "An Evening of Forbidden Books & Forbidden Writers." For some of the video clips, the sound is inaudible. PEN's audio recordings of this event are available online.
1 video cassette (U-matic (KCS-20))

NBC: After 8 / Immigration Law, 1984 May 16
Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns.
Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: Bryant Gumbel discusses the impact of the McCarran-Walter Act with Barney Frank, Juliana Pilon and PEN America's John Irving.
1 video cassette (U-matic (KCS20))

Karen Kennerly talks about the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, a.k.a. McCarran-Walter Act, and its effect on the authors who intend to visit the U.S., 1984 July 13
Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns.
Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: Karen Kennerly talks about the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, aka the McCarran-Walter Act, and its effect on authors who intend to visit the United States.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Karen Kennerly and Kirkpatrick Sale on WLIR, 1985 January 21

Description: Karen Kennerly and Kirkpatrick Sale talk about PEN and its activities.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 120 minutes)

WBAI-FM Arts Extra: Student Reaction to Didion-Wolfe event, 1985 November 11

Description: This radio program covers students' reactions to a PEN event with Joan Didion and Tom Wolfe.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

WGMS: Dialogue Richard Harteis, 1986 May 02

Description: Richard Harteis answers questions on the activities role of PEN America in reassessing and realizing the golden age of the short story.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Casper Citron Show: Edmund Keeley, 1991 June 11
Description: Edmund Keeley, the new president of the PEN America, talks about PEN America as well as his own works and literary efforts.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Fresh Air, 1993 December 01

Description: In the first part of the show, Zlatko Dizdarevic, one of the editors of Oslobodenje newspaper, the only newspaper which continued to publish during the Bosnian war in Sarajevo, talks about the war in Sarajevo with Terry Gross. The second part is the news of PEN's event, which had taken place the night before when a group of writers gathered for a special reading to benefit writers in Bosnia. It is followed by readings at the event, starting with Arthur Miller, followed by Wendy Wasserstein and Don DeLillo.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

WHYY-FM Fresh Air, Panel on Crime and Punishment, 1994 August 9

Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns. Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: Consists of an WHYY rebroadcast of parts of the event "Cops and Writers: Crime and Punishment in Literature and Real Life," broken up by narration and other pieces of news.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 60 minutes)

Charlie Rose Show, undated

Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns. Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: This is a Charlie Rose program concerning the war in Bosnia/Herzegovina and Serbia with notable PEN America members. There is also quite a bit of other disparate cultural programming.
1 video cassette (VHS (T-120))

Miscellaneous, 1972-1995 October 30

Arrangement: Mostly chronological.

Telephone Conversations: George Kiss & Igor O. Gerashenko, 1986 April 26

Access:
This material is not currently available online due to copyright concerns. Digital access copies are available in the RBSC reading room.

Description: This is a telephone conversation between George Kiss & Igor O. Gerashenko.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Memorial Service of Beatrice Joy Chute, 1987 October 08
Description: PEN America memorializes Beatrice Joy Chute with tender sentiments from Susan Sontag, Karen Kennerly, Norman Mailer, Gay Talese and Allen Ginsberg, among others.
2 compact cassettes (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes), including 1 blank tape

American Literary Magazines: Bomb, 1988 March 10

Description: This event focuses on the literary magazine Bomb, a publication in which conversations between artists, in the form of interviews, are widely featured. One of Bomb's editors, Betsy Sussler, is the key speaker and moderator of the event. Panelists read excerpts from their work that have been published in the magazine.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

American Literary Magazines: Sulfur, 1988 October 06

Description: This event focuses on Sulfur, a poetry magazine. The founder, Clayton Eshleman, gives an introduction and reads a piece, though barely audible. (See Poor Audio tab for additional information). Contributors to the magazine read their works and discuss writing for a non-profit literary publication. Some of the audio quality is poor.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

AIDS Fund Benefit for Writers and Editors with AIDS, 1990 December 05

Description: This is the second PEN Benefit for Writers and Editors with AIDS. Special mention is made of Gregory Kolovakos, one of the founders of the event, who passed away. Years prior he suggested that PEN set up an emergency grant fund for writers and editors with AIDS. Various acts perform throughout the event such as Thought Music and Garrison Keillor reads. Ned Rorem and Robert Osborne perform eight songs, written by Rorem, based on poems by Walt Whitman. Allen Ginsberg and Philip Glass perform a portion of Hydrogen Jukebox.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 110 minutes)

PEN Presidential Matters - Anne Hollander, Richard Howard, 1995 May 01

Description: What does it mean to be president of PEN America? How do writing and reading inform the intellectual and cultural value of a person, interaction, and an institution? Former President Richard Howard and incoming president Anne Holander discuss the history and mission of the organization.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Town Hall: A Tribute to Arthur Miller, 1995 October 30

Description: A tribute to Arthur Miller on his 80th birthday. Anne Hollander opens the event by reading six letters from Miller's friends who could not make it to the event, including Vaclav Havel, Jane Alexander, Harold Pinter, Nadine Gordimer, and John Tillinger. Carlos Fuentes and Edward Albee pay tribute to Miller. Dianne Wiest and Sam Waterston read a scene
from act four of "The Crucible". Margo Jefferson has a conversation with Miller about the writing and the first production of "The Crucible". John Guare talks about Miller's legacy for the American theater and shares his memory of watching "Death of a Salesman" with his father. David Mamet reads an excerpt from Roughing It by Mark Twain. Zoe Caldwell speaks about Miller, and then introduces him as guest of honor--Miller himself is the last speaker of the event.

2 compact cassettes; 1 D.A.T (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 100 minutes)

Memorial Service for Don Barthelme, 1989 June 23

Description: In this memorial service for Don Barthelme, his friends and colleagues, including Susan Sontag and Grace Paley, pay tribute to him.
1 compact cassette (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 90 minutes)

Dictation Based on Annual Meeting, 1972-1973

Description: This is a dictation based on the Annual Meeting of 1971-1972, charting the general highlights and specific initiatives that will take place for the next five years.
1 reel (1/8-inch magnetic audio tape; 1/4-inch magnetic audio tape on 3 5/16-inch reel)

Readings and Conversations with Foreign Writers: Bella Ahkmadulina and William Smith, 1987 April 09

Description: Presented by PEN America's Freedom to Write Committee, Bella Ahkmadulina reads her work in Russian and William Smith reads in English. "The Christmas Tree in the Hospital Corridor" and "The Resort" are a few of the poems read in this event. The event was organized by The Freedom to Write Committee.
2 video cassettes (VHS (T-120)), including one blank tape

Series 12: Miscellaneous, 1924-1996

Description: Includes a 1924 cartoon by Wyncie King, a set of three unidentified daily logs, and the 1987 Peace Messenger Award diploma awarded to P.E.N. American Center by the United Nations. Also includes a number of author autographs.

Arrangement: Not arranged according to any arrangement scheme.

King, Wyncie, P.E.N. Men and P.E.N. Women at the P.E.N. Club Cartoon, 1924

Box: 131 Folder: 4

Unidentified Daily Logs, 1986 June 5-1988 June 8

Description: (3 notebooks)

Box: 131 Folder: 5-7

United Nations Peace Messenger Award, 1987

Box: 132 Folder: 4

Miscellaneous Autographs, 1965-1996

Box: 260 Folder: 1-4