Mellon Cataloging Project

Huntington Library and the USC Institute on California and the West

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Huntington Library
Cataloging This Way
Origin of Project

- Huntington-University of Southern California Institute for California and the West (ICW)
- Association of Research Libraries’ national agenda “Hidden Collections”
- Statewide initiative to coordinate the acquisition, cataloging, and future collection development of California historical archives
- Huntington Library Manuscripts Department Backlog
Purpose

Provide doctoral students with access to primary resources – “Better Readers,” USC, UC Irvine, San Jose State University and UCLA

Provide a strategic response to ARL’s “Hidden Collections” agenda

Start working on Huntington Manuscripts Department backlog

Incorporation of processing center into Manuscripts Department organizational structure
Planning

Student cataloging guide

Find space for students

Supplies, etc.
Office Space
Training/Processing

- Throw them in the deep end
- Library of Congress
- Finding Aids
Happy Interns
More Happy Interns
In Many Forms
Finding Aid/Record Creation

- Creation of finding aid from examples
- Review of their finding aid
- MARC record/OPAC record
The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

Limited to MATERIAL type "MANUSCRIPTS"

Call #  mssSIL 1-1882
Author  Silverberg, Robert

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CALL #</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manuscripts</td>
<td>mssSIL 1-1882</td>
<td>PAGE MSS</td>
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Description  1,882 pieces, plus ephemera
89 boxes

Organization  The papers of Robert Silverberg are arranged in the following series: 1. Manuscripts (Boxes 1-52); 2. Correspondence (Boxes 53-78); 3. Ephemera (Box 79); 4. Oversize (Boxes 80-89).

Biog note  Robert Silverberg was born in Brooklyn, New York on January 15, 1935 to Michael and Helen Silverberg. He was an only child. At an early age Silverberg began writing and by the time he entered his teenage years he was submitting stories to science fiction magazines. His first published novel Revolt on Alpha C was released in 1955. In 1956, he won the Hugo Award for "Most Promising New Author." He was the youngest person ever to receive this award. Simultaneously, Silverberg attended Columbia University where he earned a degree in Comparative Literature in 1956. Upon graduation, Silverberg became a full-time writer. For a brief period of time, Silverberg took a break from writing science fiction and dabbled in other genres including nonfiction in the area of pre-history, archeology, and exploration for both adults and the young adult audience. In addition to writing nonfiction, he wrote a number of soft-core pornography novels under the pseudonym Don Elliot and Elliot.

By the mid-1960's, Silverberg returned to the science fiction scene when Frederik Pohl, the editor of Galaxy, convinced him that the science fiction audience had changed and a new more literate kind of story would sell. His major works released during this time include Nightwings, Dying Inside, Tower of Glass, Thems, Downward to the Earth, The book of skulls, and Shadrach in the furnace. He also wrote a number of short stories which received much acclaim including Sundance, Born with the dead, Caliban, and In Entropy's jaws. During Silverberg's career, he wrote over 50 novels, 10 books in the Majipoor series, 22 short story collections, 52 nonfiction works, and 16 anthologies. He has written under various pseudonyms: Walker Chapman; Irar Jorgenson, Cabin M. Knox, David Osborne, Robert Randall, and Lee Sebastian. Silverberg has served as the President for the Science Fiction Writers of America and was the American Guest of Honor at the 28th World Science Fiction Convention in Heidelberg, Germany in 1970. He has won the Hugo award three times, the Nebula award five times, the Locus award nine times, the Prix Apollo, and the Jupiter award. Silverberg has written for various magazines and Ace Doubles. Since 2007, he has served as President of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association.
Outcome

Better readers, use of their strengths, knowledge

Over 100 collections off of backlog – 97 as of 9/22/10

Review of cataloging workflows, guidelines, reader feedback

Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it
Collections Completed
Future Challenges

- Encoding finding aids
- Continue work on backlog
- Finding money to continue project