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# Guide to the William I. Elliott Papers 1940-2008



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## **Descriptive Summary**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Identifier</b> | ICU.SPCL.ELLIOTTWI  |
| <b>Title</b>      | Elliott, William I. Papers  |
| <b>Date</b>       | 1940-2008   |
| <b>Size</b>       | 14.25 linear feet (24 boxes)  |
| <b>Repository</b> | Special Collections Research Center<br>University of Chicago Library<br>1100 East 57th Street<br>Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A. |

**Abstract** William I. Elliott, poet, author, translator, professor, and missionary. The William I. Elliott papers include manuscripts, Japanese translations, correspondence, teaching material, artwork, audio, articles, reviews, and photographs. The papers document the missionary, literary, and teaching career of Elliott, with a focus on his translations of contemporary Japanese poetry, particularly Shuntarō Tanikawa.

## **Acknowledgments**

The William I. Elliott Papers was processed and preserved as part of the "Uncovering New Chicago Archives Project," funded with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

## **Information on Use**

### **Access**

Series IV, Audio, does not include access copies for part or all of the material in this series. Researchers will need to consult with staff before requesting material from this series.

The remainder of the collection is open for research.

### **Citation**

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Elliott, William I. Papers, [Box#, Folder#], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

### **Biographical Note**

William I. Elliott received his D.B. from University of Chicago in 1957. He holds degrees in English literature from Ottawa University and the University of California at Berkeley, and attended the Institute of Far Eastern Languages at Yale.

Through the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Elliott began teaching at Kanto Gakuin University in Yokohama, Japan in 1960, and started the Kanto Poetry Center in 1967. From 1968-1983 Elliott was a professor of English at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, after which he returned to Kanto Gakuin University. Elliott founded the journal *Poetry Kanto*, published annually since 1984. He received grants from the National Endowments for the Humanities and Oregon Arts Foundation to travel to Japan for translation purposes.

Elliott writes essays, articles, poems, and books, and also serves as an editor of various journals and books. Some of his publications include *Call Me Legion: Thoughts About Our Response to People and the World* (1964), *Modern American Literature: An Introduction* (1965), *Empty Shoes* (1968), *After the Mallard Sinks: Poems* (1977), *An Essay on Criticism and the Art of Poetry* (1989), *A Packet of Christmas Poems* (1998), *A Book of Shadows* (2003), *A Plain Squall* (2003), *A Suite of Angels: Poems* (2003), *Borrowed Breath: Lyrics and Longpoems*, (2004), and *An Encore of Angels: Poems* (2004). Elliott is known for his translations of contemporary Japanese poetry, particularly Shuntarō Tanikawa. His translations include *Festive Wine: Ancient Japanese Poems from the Kinkafu* (1969), *Elegy and Benediction: Selected Poems, 1947-1989* (1991), *62 Sonnets and Definitions: Poems and Prosepoems* (1992), *Songs They Sang in Ancient Japan: Isles of the Dragonfly* (1995), *Last Rays of Light: 100 Tanka* (2001), *The Singing Heart: An Anthology of Japanese Poems (1900-1960)* (2001), and *Giving People Poems* (2005).

### **Scope Note**

The William I. Elliott Papers are organized into five series: Series I, Personal and Professional; Series II, Correspondence; Series III, Manuscripts, Publications, and Translations; Series IV, Audio material; and Series V, Scrapbooks and Oversize. The William I. Elliott papers include manuscripts, Japanese translations, correspondence, teaching material, artwork, audio, articles, reviews, and photographs. The papers document the missionary, literary, and teaching career of Elliott, with a focus on his translations of contemporary Japanese poetry, particularly Shuntarō Tanikawa.

Series I, Personal and Professional, contains diplomas, awards, photographs, and information about Elliott's family. There is material from Elliott's professional career, including fliers and brochures from poetry competitions and theater performances, as well as seminar information from the Kanto Poetry Center. There are lecture notes and lesson plans from Linfield College and Kanto Gakuin University. The photographs are of Elliott's friends and family, seminars, and classes. See Series V for additional personal and professional material.

Series II, Correspondence, contains letters with family, universities, journals, and colleagues, and is arranged in chronological order. Much of the correspondence is personal from friends, family, and students. There is professional correspondence with poets, colleagues, artists, and students about publishing poems, articles, and reviews as well as soliciting advice and feedback about manuscripts. Correspondence from publishers and journals is about Elliott's articles, reviews, poems, and publications. There are letters with universities and institutions about faculty positions, sabbatical leave and travel, congratulatory letters, and letters of appreciation.

Some correspondence includes drawings, paintings, and photographs for specific poems and publications, and some is in Japanese. See Series V for additional correspondence.

Correspondents include Wendy Barker, Arthur O. F. Baur, Thomas Docherty, Donald Ellegood, Virginia Haseltine, Vi Gale, Serge Gavronsky, Harry Guest, Ken Hanson, Peter Hero, Kazuo Kawamura, Robert Kusch, C.S. Lewis, Wayne Mell, Les Murray, Kate Pool, Tatsuya Senuma, Hiroshi Shionozaki, Carroll Simcox, Ralph Slotten, W.D. Snodgrass, Paul Sohar, William Stafford, Junichiro Takachi, Benjamin Takada, Shuntarō Tanikawa, Ronald Tobias, Naoyuki Yagyū, and Ken Yasui. There is also correspondence from the Japan Poets' Association, Japanese Baptist Church, Kanto Gakuin University, Linfield College, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Committee for the Humanities, Prescott Street Press, The Portland Review, Rutgers University, Society of Authors, Translation Review, University of Chicago, University of Dublin, University of Washington Press, and the Yokohama Shakespeare Group.

Series III, Manuscripts, Publications, and Translations, contains poems, articles, journals, reviews, newspaper clippings, translations, and manuscripts. Articles and reviews are written by Elliott or are about Elliott's work. The poems and manuscripts are by Elliott and other American and Japanese poets. There are Elliott's translations of Japanese poetry, mainly of Shuntarō Tanikawa, as well as translations by Elliott and Kazuo Kawamura. The journals contain Elliott's poems, translations, articles, and essays. Also included is artwork and calligraphy for some of the poems. Some of the publication material is in Japanese. See Series V for additional publication material.

Series IV, Audio, contains cassettes of poetry readings and a compact disc of Japanese poetry set to music. Series V, Scrapbooks and Oversize, contains a scrapbook, artwork, articles, manuscripts, correspondence, newspapers, and other ephemera about Elliott's professional career. The scrapbook contains mostly artwork, correspondence from Elliott's family and friends, and newspaper clippings. See Series I for additional personal and professional material. See Series II for additional correspondence. See Series III for additional material on translations and publications.

## **Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html> Lowitz, Leza. Papers

Stroud, Drew (Ryu Makoto). Papers

## **Subject Headings**

- Elliott, William
- Tanikawa, Shuntarō, 1931- -- Translations into English
- American literature -- 20th century
- American poetry -- 20th century

- Baptists -- Missions -- Japan
- English language -- Japan
- English poetry -- Translations from Japanese
- Japanese poetry -- 20th century
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