



Special Collections & University Archives
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Creator: Robert DeMott
Collection title: Jim Harrison research collection
Volume: 3 cu. ft. [7 boxes and 1 flat box]
Collection number: RHC-42
Inclusive dates: 1970s-present

Biographical note:

Robert DeMott is the Edwin and Ruth Kennedy Distinguished Professor of English at Ohio University, where he's taught since the start of his career in 1969. He is a former director of the Center for Steinbeck Studies at San Jose State University (1984 and 1985), and served for over three decades on the editorial boards of Steinbeck Quarterly, Steinbeck Newsletter, and Steinbeck Studies. He is chief editor of the Library of America's four volume edition of John Steinbeck's writings. He has received multiple awards for his teaching, his writing, and for his outstanding contributions to Steinbeck studies.

His books include three poetry collections--*News of Loss* (1995), *The Weather in Athens* (2001), and *Brief and Glorious Transit* (2007)-- as well as *Dave Smith: A Literary Archive* (2000), a bio-bibliography and memoir, and *Conversations with Jim Harrison* (2002), a book of interviews with the contemporary novelist/poet. A lifelong fly fisherman and a certified fly casting instructor, DeMott is co-editor with Dave Smith of *Afield: Writers on Bird Dogs* (2010), which includes essays by Jim Harrison, Tom McGuane, Richard Ford, Tom Brokaw, Howell Raines and others; and he is currently working on a collection of personal essays on outdoor sports, *The Far Field*, and a book on fly fishing literature called *Fish(ing) Plots*. DeMott wrote the Introduction to Orr and Torrey's *Jim Harrison : A Comprehensive Bibliography* (2009). Jim Harrison's collection of novellas, *The Farmer's Daughter* (2010), is dedicated to DeMott.

Collection description summary:

The collection of research, interviews, and writing by Robert DeMott; and the collection of published writings by and writings about Michigan writer Jim Harrison were compiled by Robert DeMott while writing *Conversations with Jim Harrison*. The collection contains a notebook compiled by DeMott, interviews conducted and edited by DeMott and Patrick Smith, a chronology of interviews, and other materials collected by DeMott. The collection of published poetry, articles, and reviews by Harrison, and taped and published interviews and articles about Harrison supplement the Jim Harrison papers in the Grand Valley State University Special Collections & University Archives (RHC-16), and the Mary Harrison Dumsch papers (RHC-33).

Arranged in 2 series: 1) DeMott research and writing; 2) Reference materials

Container List

Series 1: DeMott research, interviews and writing conducted during the process of compiling *Conversations with Jim Harrison* (see also audiotaped interviews)

Box 1

- 1-2 Interview by Patrick Smith and Robert DeMott, annotated, Aug. 28, 1997
- 3 Draft edited interview, Feb. 1998
- 4 Interview by Patrick Smith and Robert DeMott, annotated, July 30-31, 1998
- 5 Jim Harrison notebook compiled by Robert DeMott, 2000-2001
- 6 "Jim Harrison Interviews: an annotated chronology, 1971-2000" by Robert DeMott for the Inaugural meeting of the Jim Harrison Society, 2001 (2)
- 7 Draft introduction to *Conversations*, 2001
- 8 Invitations, programs, and flyers

Box 2

- Correspondence with Jim Harrison, 1996-2008

Series 2: Reference materials. Magazines, journals and other publications containing writing by and about Jim Harrison. Audiotapes of readings and interviews with Harrison.

Box 3

- Published writings by Jim Harrison
- 1 *Smart*, Sporting Food column, Fall 1988 and May-June 1989 (2)
 - 2 *Who's Writing This?* "Squaw Gulch" ed. by Daniel Halpern, 1994
 - 3 *Big Sky Journal*, "Gathering April" [poem] from *The Shape of the Journey*, Spring 1999
 - 4 *Men's Journal*, "Eating French," Nov. 1999 and "The Beast God Forgot to Invent," June 2000
 - 5 Kermit Lynch wine catalog, "Wine," July 2000
 - 6 *Red Cedar Review*, "Sergei Yesenin 1895-1925," Winter/ Spring 2000 (2)
 - 7 *Heron Dance*, "Cabin Poem" [poem] Issue 30, April 2001
 - 8 *Brick*, "Meatballs" Spring 2001
 - 9 *Men's Journal*, "Soul Food," March 2001 (2); "Life on the Border," July 2001; "A Man's Guide to Drinking," October 2001; and "Naked Women Dancing," December 2001
 - 10 *Orvis*, review of smoker, Fall 2002
 - 11 *Seule la Terre est Éternelle*, French translation of Nature and Natives chapter of *Off to the Side*, 2002

Box 4

- 1 *Field and Stream*, "Field Days", February 2003
- 2 *Brick*, "Eat or Die," Summer 2003
- 3 *Poets Against the War*, "Poem of War, [poem] 2003
- 4 Copper Canyon Press catalog, [poem] from *Braided Creek*, Spring 2004

- 5 *Men's Journal*, introduction to "Hideouts", May 2004
- 6 *Orvis*, review of fishing rod, v. 2 and 3 Fly Fishing 2004
- 7 *An Upper Great Lakes Archaeological Odyssey: Essays in Honor of Charles E. Cleland*, [dedication], 2004
- 8 *TriQuarterly*, "Memorial Day," [poem], issue 121, 2005
- 9 Kermit Lynch wine catalog, "Resuming the Pleasure," September 2005; "Vin Blanc," August 2006; and "The Spirit of Wine," March 2007
- 10 *Martha Stewart Living*, "Close to the Bone", October 2008
- 11 *Orion*, "New World," [poem] Nov/Dec 2008
- 12 *Field and Stream*, "Misadventure Journals", December 2008

Box 5

- 1 *The Paris Review*, interview with Jim Fergus, "The Art of Fiction CIV," Summer 1988
- 2 *Silverfish Review*, interview "On Becoming a Tree," No. 20 Spring 1991
- 3 *Grand Rapids Magazine*, "Lord Jim Jim Harrison: A Sense of Place" by Terry Phipps, May 1998
- 4 *Les Inrockuptibles*, "Wild at Heart" interview by Colum McCann, 1998
- 5 *Book Magazine*, review of *Road Home*, Oct/Nov 1998
- 6 *Independent Publisher*, "An Interview with Jim Harrison.." March/April 1999
- 7 *Brick*, "An Interview with Jim Harrison" by Eleanor Wachtel, No. 63, 1999
- 8 *American Writers supplement VIII*, "Jim Harrison, 1937—" by Patrick A. Smith, 2001
- 9 *magazine littéraire*, "Jim Harrison arpenteru de l'Améique, Sept. 2004
- 10 *Bliss*, "Jim Harrison, Just a Writer," interview, 2006

Box 6

- 1-17 Photocopied articles about and interviews with Jim Harrison, ca. 1970s - 2001

Box 7 [flat newspaper box]

- Wild Duck Review*, interview "What I'm Thinking..." with Casey Walker, April 1997
- Bloomsbury Review*, Defined and Refined review by James Grinnell, Jan/Feb 1999
- Ruminator Review*, review of *The Beast God Forgot to Invent*, Lone Wolves by Ross Feld, Winter 2000-2001
- New York Times Book Review*, ad for *The English Major*, Nov. 1, 2009
- Ruminator Review*, "The Political Scene", Fall 2000.
- New York Times Book Review*, "The Old Days" [poem], January 21, 2001
- New York Times Book Review*, contribution to The Poetry Symposium, Nov. 21, 2004
- The New York Times Book Review*, contribution to *Save These Books!*, May 28, 2006
- New York Times Book Review*, essay Don't Feed the Poets, Jan. 28, 2007

Box 8 Audiotapes of interviews with and readings by Jim Harrison

- Harrison reads and discusses his poetry at Library of Congress, March 3, 1975 (1 cassette)

- Unpublished interview at Academy of American Poets (January 1978). Moderated by Elizabeth Kray, questions from the audience, edited by Robert DeMott. (3 cassettes)
- American Audio Prose Library, interview (May 1981) and readings of *Wolf, Legend of the Fall, Farmer, Sundog* (May 1984) (2 cassettes)
- All Things Considered interview for NPR, March 29, 1988 (1 cassette)
- *Fresh Air* interview with Sledge Thompson for National Public Radio, August 23, 1990. (1 cassette)
- City Arts & Lecture Series—San Francisco, reading with Terry Tempest Williams, 1995. (1 cassette)
- Key West Literary Seminar: The Spirit of Place in American Literature; and Thoreau and the American Tradition, Jan 12, 1996 (4 cassettes)
- Seattle/Portland Arts & Lecture Series, n.d. [c. 1997] (3 cassettes)
- Interview by Patrick Smith and Bob DeMott at Lake Leelanau, Michigan, August 28, 1997 (3 cassettes)
- Interview by Patrick Smith and Bob DeMott at Lake Leelanau, Michigan, July 1998 (3 cassettes)
- Unidentified interview, July 1998 (3 cassettes)
- CBCs Writer's & Company interview, Nov. 15, 1998 (1 cassette)
- Oregon Public Broadcasting JH Interview with Mel Waggoner, Nov 18, 1998. (1 cassette)
- Harrison reading, Peter Lewis and Russell Chatham introductions, Seattle WA Nov. 19, 1998 (2 cassettes)
- "An Interview with Joseph Bednarik: Jim Harrison," in *Five Points: A Journal of Literature and Art* unedited October 2000 interview in Seattle for "Writing on Air," 2000. (1 cassette)
- Interview with Bob DeMott at Lake Leelanau, Labor Day 2000 (2 cassettes)
- Labor Day 2000 interview (2 cassettes)
- Interview on France Radio, August 4, 2004 (1 cassette)
- New Letters interview at University of Missouri, 2005. (1 cassette)
- Ruminations by Bob DeMott on the Jim Harrison final interview trip, ca. Labor Day 2000 (1 cassette)