



CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC
Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

STEVE ENG COLLECTION

96-040, 97-001

Creator:

Eng, Stephen Richard (October 31, 1940 – April 2, 2014)

Type of Material:

Book, Newspaper articles (photocopied), original poetry

Physical Description:

.2 linear foot of manuscript materials housed in 2 folders

Languages:

English

Dates:

1973-1996

Access/Restrictions:

The collection is open for research use. All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

Preferred Citation: (Folder Number/Name), Steve Eng Collection 96-040, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

The Center for Popular Music received this collection from Steve Eng in November 1996 (96-040) and March 1998 (97-001). The Center of Popular Music received the collection directly from the author.

Arrangement:

There was no original arrangement, other than separation by time of donation. The processing archivist created an organization for Accession 96-040 by content.

Subject/Index Terms:

Porter Wagoner
Country Music
Music history
Nashville history
Jimmy Buffett
Poetry
Creative Writing
Speculative Fiction
Horror

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

As a music writer and biographer, Eng authored several books about musicians as well as a significant amount of book reviews and articles for *BookPage*, *Country Music People*, as well as *The Nashville Banner* in the 1980s and 1990s. Further country music writing also appears in the newsletter *Hard Country Beat* out of Nashville in the mid-1990s.

His music books include an authorized biography of Porter Wagoner, *A Satisfied Mind: The Country Music Life of Porter Wagoner*, as well as unauthorized biography of Jimmy Buffett, *Jimmy Buffett: The Man from Margaritaville Revealed*. Notably in the biography of Buffett the preface begins with a letter from Buffett to the author dissuading him from the publication. Regarding music history in Nashville, Eng provided research for Ruth White who wrote the biography of Ted Jarrett from the Country Music Hall of Fame's *Night Train to Nashville* exhibit as well as advocacy to encourage the induction of DeFord Bailey. -In terms of creative writing, his poetry retrospective, *The Defrauding of the Worms*, compiled 30 years of output, alongside a chapbook *Yellow Rider and Other Fantasy Poems*. His posthumously released e-book, *Arkham House: A History: August Derleth's Connection with H. P. Lovecraft*, detailed the publishing firm that helped gain acceptance for science fiction and horror writing.

His obituary reads: "He was born in San Diego, California on October 31, 1940 to Ransom and Helen Stephens Eng. The family lived in Fairfax, VA and then London, UK where Steve attended high school. He studied with the American School in Munich, Germany and finished his degree in English Literature at George Washington University in Washington D.C. He later earned a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling at Portland State University. Working as a social worker in Vancouver, WA, he met and married Anne Kangas in 1969. The couple moved to Nashville, TN in 1977 where Steve went on to author multiple biographies and historical essays. In addition, he was a well-respected poet and scholar in the fields of science fiction/fantasy literature and Tennessee history. He served as an editor for various literary journals. Additionally, he was a publisher and a lecturer. He had a great impact on the many other writers he guided and encouraged over the years."

Source: <https://kangaseng.blogspot.com/2014/04/stephen-richard-eng-obituary.html>

As a noted fiction and creative writer, Eng appears in the Internet Speculative Fiction Database: "Author, songwriter, poet, biographer, editor and book reviewer who wrote frequently about country music. He was based in Nashville, Tennessee after 1977, but moved to Portland, Oregon before his death."

Source: <https://isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?20508>

Scope and Content:

From the original finding aid: "Materials in this collection date primarily from the late 1980s through 1996. Most are photocopies of writings by and about Steve Eng which appeared in a wide variety of publications."

Collection Contents:

The folder for Accession 96-040 contains three subfolders:

- (I) Book Reviews by Steve Eng, 1988 – 1996
- (II) Reviews and articles related to *A Satisfied Mind*
- (III) Articles by and about Steve Eng

The folder for Accession 97-001 contains material related to Eng's creative writing, as well as photocopies of several book and record reviews. A book, *Toreros: Poems by John Gawsworth*, (Centaur Press, 1990) was edited with an afterword by Eng. The creative writing, mostly poetry, by Eng spans from 1973-1997. Publications of reviews include *The Nashville Banner*, *Country Music People*, *BookPage*, and *Bookworld*. Numerous photocopies include reviews by others about the books authored by Eng on Jimmy Buffett and Porter Wagoner.

Materials Cataloged Separately:

The Acquisition Log for accession record #96-040 indicates the manuscript collection came with several commercial recordings (2 audio tape cassettes, 1 33rpm vinyl record, and 1 compact disc), and numerous publications. The serial publications reflect 7 issues of *Hard Country Beat*, a country music fan newsletter, being scattered issues of Vols. 1 and 2 from 1994-95. The commercial recordings donated include two albums by Lonnie Lynne La Cour, both of which feature songs written by Eng, as well as an album by Mabelle Seiger, donated on CD and cassette tape.

The Acquisition Log for accession record #97-001 is included in the report for "Small Acquisitions 1997-1998" and reflects "misc papers," all in manuscripts.

Location:

Manuscript materials are located in the special collections storage area filed by accession number. Serial publications are located in general periodicals. The commercial recordings donated are located in sound recordings.

Related Materials:

The newsletter *Hard Country Beat* in publications includes several issues featuring articles by Steve Eng as well as advertisements for *A Satisfied Mind*.

Finding aid written by Jon Sewell, June 2026, using notes from the original unattributed finding aid. The Acquisitions Log for accession #96-040 comments section states "Accession and allocation completed by Mayo Taylor except for acknowledgement and valuation," as noted by David Jellema, archivist for CPM