

# Bridgewater State University

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**New England Theatre Conference Records,  
1950 - 2011  
(MSS-010)**

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Administrative History**

Founded in 1946 by acclaimed drama critic Elliot Norton, the New England Theatre Conference (NETC) is a “non-profit Corporation, composed of individuals and organizations in the Six-State Region of New England, who are active or interested in the performing arts.” Norton began this organization with the purpose of displaying the benefit of networking and collaboration within the performing arts community. The organization focuses on providing opportunities for its members through its various different subdivisions and committees in an effort to meet the needs of its members through its various events, including its annual conference and auditions. The organization, within its extensive history, is divided into various divisions, including the Children’s Theatre Division, Professional Theatre Division, Community Theatre Division, College Division, and Secondary School Division. As well as functioning as its own separate entity, the organization works with other organizations such as the American Association for Community Theatre and the USITT or United States Institute for Technical Theatre. With its current residence in Connecticut, the organization aims to continue to provide a voice for all theater practitioners in New England and to expand its support and encouragement of theater. The NETC recognizes excellence in local live theater through its annual awards, including the historic Gassner, Moss Hart, Harris, and Phillips Awards.

**New England Theatre Conference  
Scope and Content Note**

The archive covers a broad span of the organization’s history. The most prominent aspect of this collection is its vast and methodical record keeping in regards to the organization’s annual convention. It also features many of NETC’s publications, including the regularly circulating *NETC News*, a monthly volume newsletter, as well as more focused publications. The collection contains dated programs and flyers from each individual event put on by the organization. It also

features a great deal on the inner workings of the group, documenting its history of memberships and correspondence. In addition, there is a detailed log of membership and administrative history, as well as financial reports.

## **New England Theatre Conference Series Descriptions**

### **Series 1: Annual Conventions, 1952-2008**

10 boxes

This is a collection of the yearly conferences held by the organization. It consists of all their program participants, location sites, planning, and publicity. Published programs for each year can be found at the beginning of the series.

### **Series 2: Divisions and Events, 1953-2000**

5 boxes

Due to the diverse needs of the theatre community, the organization was broken down into various sub-divisions responsible for handling the needs of those in its jurisdiction. This series also contains material on events outside of the annual convention. These events include a regional drama festival as well as a few others.

### **Series 3: Publications, 1953-2011**

3 boxes

This series consists of the major publications produced by the organization, including their regular seasonal newsletters, *NETC News*, as well as their older pieces of publications such as the Conference Bulletins and the *NETC Journal* (which was revived in 1990). In addition to the physical publications themselves, there are also various pieces of correspondence and planning leading up to the publication and distribution. Organizational resource directories are in this series as well.

### **Series 4: Awards, 1957-2002**

3 boxes

After the organization's first major conference, and the death of various important members, the organization began honoring significant contributions in the theater community. This series consists of the information obtained on the history of the awards themselves, and a record of previous winners.

### **Series 5: Committees, 1950-2004**

3 boxes

The bulk of this series represents Executive Committee material pertaining to the Board of Directors. Over the years numerous other committees have been created to help with both short-

term and long-term issues. Information on these special projects committees and other can be found in this series. Other committee material may be found mixed in with series 1, Annual Conventions, series 2, Divisions and Events, and series 7, Administrative.

**Series 6: Financials, 1952-2008**

2 boxes

This series contains the financial records and book keeping done by the organization. It consists of budget summaries, fiscal reports, audit summaries and various other pieces of financial information.

**Series 7: Administrative, 1950-2008**

5 boxes

This series is broken down into seven subseries: membership, auditions, by-laws and constitutions, board of directors, information pertaining to publications, histories and other related news, and more. Much of the material, such as board of director's documents, has related material in other parts of the collection.

**Series 8: NETC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Oral History Project, 1994-2002**

2 boxes

In 2001 the NETC published a transcribed oral history to celebrate the organization's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This series contains transcripts of the interviews in both original and edited form, as well as recordings of the interviews and digital files of the interviews.

**Series 9: Photographs and Audio/Visual, 1964-2000**

1 box

This series contains photos from the organization from their annual conventions. It also contains audio recordings of speeches and other various recordings kept by the organization.

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#### **Folder**

(All transcriptions include edited and unedited versions)

1. Letter from Sherwood Collins to Elaine Perry about editing transcribed interviews, 2000
2. Transcribed interview of Barbara Horrigan and Marie Philips, undated
3. Transcribed interview of Joe Juliano (NETC President, 1982-1985), 1994
4. Transcribed interview of Jim Barnhill, a founder of the organization, undated
5. Transcribed interview of Kitty Carlisle Hart, 1999
6. Transcribed interview of Sherwood (Jerry) Collins (NETC President, 1973-1974; 1979-1980), 1999
7. Transcribed interview of Barbara Horrigan, 2000
8. Transcribed interview of Barbara Horrigan and Marie Philips, 2000
9. Transcribed interview of Elliot Norton, (founding president, 1952-1953), 1997
10. Transcribed interview with edits of Elliot Norton, (founding president, 1952-1953), 1997
11. Transcribed interview of Don Babbitt, 2001
12. Transcribed interview of Paul Barston (NETC President, 1957-1960), 2000
13. Transcribed interview of Eugene Blackman (NETC President, 1960-1963; 1967-1968), 2000
14. Transcribed interview of Charles Combs, 2000
15. Transcribed interview of Joyce Devlin (NETC President, 1985-1987), 2001
16. Transcribed interview of David Allen George (NETC President, 1993-1997), 2001
17. Transcribed interview of William Hutchinson, 1999
18. Transcribed interview of Joe Juliano (NETC President, 1982-1985), 2000
19. Transcribed interview of Mort Kaplan (NETC President, 1969-1970), 2000
20. Transcribed interview of Carol Korty, 1999
21. Transcribed interview of William Lacey, 1995
22. Transcribed interview of Steve Mendelson and Norm Leger, 1999
23. Transcribed interview of Bob McDonald (NETC President, 1989-1993), 2000
24. Transcribed interview of Linda Murphy, 1999
25. Transcribed interview of Leo Nickole (NETC President, 1970-1971), 2000

26. Transcribed interview of Elaine Perry, 2001
27. Transcribed interview of Ed Rondeau (NETC President, 1981-1982), 2001
28. Transcribed interview of Pat Sankus, 2000
29. Transcribed interview of Tom Scharff (NETC President, 1980-1981), 2000
30. Transcribed interview of Steve Thorson (NETC President, 1987-1989), 2001
31. Transcribed interview of Richard Warye, 1999
32. Transcribed interview of John Welch, 1999
33. Transcribed interview of John (Jack) Woodruff (NETC President, 1953-1955), 1995
34. Transcribed interview of Hank Zappala, 2000
35. Rough draft interviews and notes from Hank Zappala, 2002
36. Photographs used in the publication, "NETC, 50 Years: A Commemorative History,"
37. Publication, NETC, 50 Years: A Commemorative History (An Oral History of the New England Theatre Conference), 2001

## **Box 2**

-Box 2 is filled with audio cassettes of interviews done for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project, as well as floppy disks and cds that have transcriptions of the interviews.

## **Series 9: Photographs and Audio/Video, 1964-2000**

### **Subseries 1: Photographs**

#### **Box 1**

##### **Folder**

1. Convention photographs-includes images of playwright Arthur Miller, 1969
2. Convention photographs, 1971
3. Convention photographs, 1974
4. Convention photographs, 1975
5. Convention photographs, 1976
6. Convention photographs, 1978
7. Convention photographs, c. 1980
8. Convention photographs, 1982
9. Convention photographs, 1983
10. Convention photographs, 1986
11. Convention photographs, 1987
12. Convention photographs, 1988
13. Convention photographs, 1989
14. Convention photographs, 1993
15. Convention photographs, 1994
16. Convention photographs, 1995
17. Convention photographs, 1996
18. Convention photographs, 1997
19. Convention photographs, 1998
20. Convention photographs, 1999
21. Convention photographs, undated
22. Convention photographs, undated
23. Photograph of Kitty Carlisle Hart and Elliot Norton with Moss Hart Award winner, 1974



24. Negatives of Kitty Carlisle Hart, 1994
25. Photographs for the New England Theatre Journal, volume 10, 1999
26. Photographs for the New England Theatre Journal, volume 11, 2000
27. Photographs of Ellsworth Hall Theatre, Pine Manor College, 2000
28. Photographs of Walpole Footlighters Playhouse, c. 2000
29. Unidentified photo, undated
30. Unidentified photo and negatives, undated

**Subseries 2: Audio/Video**

(Box 1 continued)

-Series of audio recordings, mostly all on reels, from the 1960s – 1980s from annual conventions. More detail will be added after future digitization.

**Oversized Items**

-Commonwealth of Massachusetts framed document indicating the New England Theatre Conference has gained corporation status, 1974

-Framed document proclaiming New England Theatre Conference Week in New Haven, CT, Nov. 2, 1987