Albert deSalvo Papers
Finding Aid

Provenience: Gift of Patricia D. Cornwell, to Lloyd Sealy Library, January 2008,
Originally purchased by Cornwall from Bauman Rare Books in 2007.

Dates: 1972-3 (Bulk) 1970s-2004 (inclusive)

Size: 4 boxes, 5 notebooks (approx. 3 linear feet)

Biographical note:
Albert deSalvo is said to have been the ‘Boston Strangler’. He confessed to the murders by the
‘Boston Stranger’ of 13 women while incarcerated after conviction as a serial rapist. The
circumstances and validity of his confession has been long disputed, and he later recanted. DeSalvo
was tried twice for these murders (represented by F. Lee Bailey) and was convicted in 1967 and
sentenced to life in prison. In 1967 he was incarcerated in Bridgewater State Hospital, from which
he escaped with other prisoners on February 24, 1967. After deSalvo was found in Lynn, MA, the
next day, he was incarcerated in Walpole prison, where he was murdered in the prison infirmary in

Description of the collection:
Correspondence, principally between Albert de Salvo and members of the Bailey family while
deSalvo was incarcerated. In addition to deSalvo, correspondents include including Barbara, Walter,
Kevin and Cheryl Bailey. Some letters are addressed to and received from with other correspondents
including deSalvo’s fellow prisoner, Richard Quillen.

Some of the Bailey family correspondence accompanied or refers to gifts of jewelry and leather work
made by de Salvo in prison. The collection included 3 boxes of jewelry, a purse and 2 wallets (Boxes
1-3), which are presumably the same items discussed in the correspondence. (Notebooks A-E)

Access:
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**Additional Resources on deSalvo and the Boston Strangler:**


_Albert deSalvo aka The Boston Strangler* FBI file (on Archive.org)

Fleisher, Richard, director. (1968) *The Boston Strangler*. film (Tony Curtis plays Albert deSalvo) [the movie trailer is available on U-Tube](#)


**Articles on the Boston Strangler** in Gale Virtual Reference Library (CUNY use only)

*The Boston Strangler* 1968 film (Tony Curtis plays Albert deSalvo) [the movie trailer is available on U-Tube](#)
Collection Inventory

Correspondence

**Notebook A:** Correspondence between Kevin Bailey -Richard Quillen, 1973, 91, 2004
Correspondence with others—related to de Salvo? (various dates); Bailey Family letters and cards 1972

**Notebook B:** 32 Love Letters to Barbara Bailey from de Salvo 1973

**Notebook C:** Bailey family letters and cards to/from de Salvo, Vivian Wyatt
Correspondence. Photos of de Salvo and others in prison and previous to incarceration.

**Notebook D:** Correspondence between de Salvo and Bailey family 1972-73.
Correspondence with Richard Quillen

**Notebook E:** Correspondence from the Bailey Family to de Salvo 1972-73

Artifacts

**Box 1-2:** Jewelry made by Albert de Salvo in prison

**Box 3:** 2 handmade leather wallets and 1 purse made by Albert de Salvo in prison.