



Special Collections
Lloyd Sealy Library

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Ellen Belcher, Special Collections Librarian

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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 Strangler' 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 1973.

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:

This collection is available to researchers by appointment in the Special Collections Room.

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Additional Resources on deSalvo and the Boston Strangler:

deSalvo vs. Commonwealth of Massachusetts 353 Mass. 476; 232 N.E.2d 921; 1968 Mass. LEXIS 670.

[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](#)

Frank, Gerold (1966) *The Boston Strangler*. New York: New American Library. Stacks - HV6534 .B6 F7

Junger, Sebastian. (2006) *A Death in Belmont*. Norton, W. W. & Company. Stacks - HV6534 .B43 J86 2006

Kelly, Susan. (1995) *The Boston Stranglers: The Public Conviction of Albert Desalvo and the True Story of Eleven Shocking Murders*. Stacks - HV6534 .B6 K45 1995

Landay, William. (2007) *The Strangler*. Dell Publishing. Stacks - PS3612 .A5477 S77 2008

Rogers, Alan. (2006) *New England Remembers: The Boston Strangler*. Boston: Commonwealth Editions. Special Collections Room - HV6534 .B6 R64 2006

Sherman, Casey and Dick Lehr. (2003) *A Rose for Mary: The Hunt for the Boston Strangler*. Northeastern University Press. Stacks - HV6534 .B6 S54 2003

Sherman, Casey and Dick Lehr. (2005) *Search for the Strangler: My Hunt for Boston's Most Notorious Killer*. Grand Central Publishing. Stacks - HV6534 .B6 S54 2005

["DNA doubts over Boston Strangler"](#). BBC News. December 6, 2001.

[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.