



Guide to the Bernard Lafferty Papers, 1952-1999 (bulk 1993-1996)

This collection guide was produced in **2011**.

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6
Administrative Records, 1952-1999 (bulk 1993-1996)	12

Summary

Collection Title:

Bernard Lafferty papers, 1952-1999 (bulk 1993-1996)

Creator:

Lafferty, Bernard, 1945-1996

Abstract:

Bernard Lafferty was hired as Doris Duke's butler in 1987 and he remained in that position until her death in 1993. In her will Doris Duke named Bernard Lafferty as the executor of her estate and for a brief period of time he was President of the Doris Duke Foundation. After a lengthy trial disputing the provisions of the will, Bernard Lafferty surrendered his post as co-executor and membership in the Foundation. He was replaced by a Board of Trustees who took control over Doris Duke's assets. Bernard Lafferty died in 1996, where upon he willed his assets to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The collection spans the years 1952-1999, although the majority of the collection is concentrated in the years 1993-1996. The holdings in this collection are from Bernard Lafferty's personal files and include condolences after the death of Doris Duke, memoranda and correspondence regarding daily business activities of Doris Duke's estates and of the Foundation, invitations, meeting notes, lists of visitors to Duke Farms, and requests for donations.

Extent:

7 Linear Feet
1,875 Items

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00791

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1433p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Bernard Lafferty Papers, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Historical Archives, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

The Bernard Lafferty Papers (formerly MSS.004) are part of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Historical Archives which were donated to the Duke University David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The collection spans the years 1952-1999, although the majority of the collection is concentrated in the years 1993-1996. The holdings in this collection are from Bernard Lafferty's personal files and include condolences after the death of Doris Duke, memoranda and correspondence regarding daily business activities of Doris Duke's estates and of the Foundation, invitations, meeting notes, lists of visitors to Duke Farms, and requests for donations (both personal and through the Doris Duke Foundation). Also included are a variety of photographs, many of them with Doris Duke, and a few personal effects of Doris Duke including personal correspondence and address books.

Biographical/Historical

Bernard Lafferty was hired as Doris Duke's butler in 1987 and he remained in that position until her death in 1993. In her will Doris Duke named Bernard Lafferty as the executor of her estate and for a brief period of time he was President of the Doris Duke Foundation. After a lengthy trial disputing the provisions of the will, Bernard Lafferty surrendered his post as co-executor and membership in the foundation. He was replaced by a Board of Trustees who took control over Doris Duke's assets. Bernard Lafferty died in 1996, where upon he willed his assets to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive
Duke University
Durham 27708
askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Access restricted. Several folders in boxes 1 and 4 are restricted and require prior written approval from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to view. Contact Research Services with questions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Bernard Lafferty Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a donation from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in June 2009.

Processing Information

Processed by Mary Samouelian, December 2011

Encoded by Mary Samouelian, December 2011

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: UA2009-0030

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Material

Doris Duke Papers, 1798-2003
David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library
Doris Duke Foundation Records, 1934-2009 (bulk 1948-1982)
David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Duke, Doris
- Doris Duke Foundation
- Lafferty, Bernard, 1945-1996

Collection Inventory

Ann Bachman to Bernard Lafferty, 17 Apr. 1987	Box 1 > Folder 1
Letter from Peggy Lee to Bernard Lafferty, 1992 Feb 14, and thank you letter from Bernard Lafferty to Elizabeth Taylor, 1993 Nov 5	Box 1 > Folder 2
Resumes and response memoranda for a position at the Doris Duke Foundation. Includes an Annual Report for the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, 1992-1995	Box 1 > Folder 3
Access Restrictions: Access restricted	
General correspondence and messages taken for Bernard Lafferty, 1993 Oct-Nov	Box 1 > Folder 4
Correspondence sent from Bernard Lafferty regarding Miss Duke's passing, Duke Farms manager's meetings, and meetings with financial consultants. Includes photographs of the Duke Homestead in Durham, NC 1993 Nov-Dec	Box 1 > Folder 5
Memoranda sent to Bernard Lafferty from Marianne Bowles regarding correspondence/memoranda which she sent on his behalf, 1993 Nov-Dec	Box 1 > Folder 6
Correspondence sent from Bernard Lafferty thanking people for their condolences on Miss Duke's passing. Nov. 1993- Dec.1993	Box 1 > Folder 7

Condolence cards sent to Bernard Lafferty and the Doris Duke Foundation after the passing of Doris Duke, 1993 Nov	Box 1 > Folder 8
Correspondence from Carole Myers to Bernard Lafferty regarding Doris Duke's passing, 1993 Nov	Box 1 > Folder 9
Telephone messages taken for Bernard Lafferty, 1993 Dec	Box 1 > Folder 10
Correspondence to and from Bernard Lafferty regarding condolences on Miss Duke's passing, 1993 Dec (1 of 3)	Box 1 > Folder 11
Correspondence to and from Bernard Lafferty regarding condolences on Miss Duke's passing, 1993 Dec (2 of 3)	Box 1 > Folder 12
Correspondence to and from Bernard Lafferty regarding condolences on Miss Duke's passing, 1993 Dec (3 of 3)	Box 1 > Folder 13
Irwin Bloom to B. Lafferty and to Doris Duke. Letters and other materials in original folder entitled "Bernard Confidential", 1993	Box 1 > Folder 14
Access Restrictions: Access restricted	
Congratulatory card for Bernard Lafferty from Victoria Principal and Dr. Harry Glassman, 1993-1994	Box 1 > Folder 15
Correspondence from Ron Protas, Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, Inc. to Bernard Lafferty, and Bernard's reply correspondence, 1993	Box 1 > Folder 16
Correspondence with Christie's and Sotheby's regarding the oil on canvas painting, "Christ and the Adulteress", 1993-1994, 1999	Box 1 > Folder 17
Files maintained by Marianne Bowles, assistant to Bernard Lafferty, primarily concerning daily	

business activities. Includes some personnel issues, 1993-1996 Box 1 > Folder 18

Access Restrictions:

Access restricted

Correspondence sent out which accompanied gifts sent by Bernard Lafferty, 1994 Box 1 > Folder 19

Correspondence and memoranda sent to and from Bernard Lafferty, 1994 Jan-Jun (1 of 2) Box 2 > Folder 1

Correspondence and memoranda sent to and from Bernard Lafferty, 1994 Jan-Jun (2 of 2) Box 2 > Folder 2

Memoranda sent to Bernard Lafferty, mostly from Marianne Bowles, regarding policies he put into effect at Duke Farms and his daily activities, 1994 Jan-Apr Box 2 > Folder 3

Memoranda sent to Bernard Lafferty, mostly regarding phone messages for him, courses taken by Bernard's secretary, Marianne Bowles, and policies put into effect by Bernard at Duke Farms, 1994 May-Aug Box 2 > Folder 4

Correspondence regarding N.J. Governor Christine Todd Whitman visiting Duke Farms, 1994 May 25 Box 2 > Folder 5

Correspondence and memoranda sent to and from Bernard Lafferty, primarily regarding his daily business activities, 1994 Jul-Dec Box 2 > Folder 6

Memoranda sent to Bernard Lafferty. Memos pertain to the Doris Duke Foundation donations, doctors appointments, and the various residences. Includes newspaper clippings, 1994 Sep-Nov Box 2 > Folder 7

Correspondence sent to Bernard Lafferty, mostly from friends and relatives of Miss Duke, 1994 Box 2 > Folder 8

Memoranda sent to Bernard Lafferty. Memos pertain to the Doris Duke Foundation donations, personal phone messages, and U.S. Trust.

Includes newspaper clippings. May 1995-Aug. 1995	Box 3 > Folder 1
Memoranda sent to Bernard Lafferty. Primarily pertain to the Doris Duke Foundation donations, manager's reports, and appointments. Includes newspaper clippings, 1995 Jan-Apr (1 of 2)	Box 3 > Folder 2
Memoranda sent to Bernard Lafferty. Primarily pertain to the Doris Duke Foundation donations, manager's reports, and appointments. Includes newspaper clippings, 1995 Jan-Apr (2 of 2)	Box 3 > Folder 3
Phone messages for Bernard Lafferty, 1995 May-1996 May	Box 3 > Folder 4
Memorandum to Bernard Lafferty from his secretary, Marianne Bowles, regarding insurance for his dogs, 1995 Aug	Box 3 > Folder 5
Memoranda to Bernard Lafferty. Memos pertain to Doris Duke Foundation donations, pet care, and Bernard's personal requests. Includes newspaper clippings, 1995 Sep-Dec	Box 3 > Folder 6
Memoranda sent from Bernard Lafferty, mostly regarding policies put into effect at Duke Farms. Includes numerous letters sent to the Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, 1995 Sep-Dec	Box 3 > Folder 7
Memoranda and mail receipts for shipments of Bernard Lafferty's personal belongings to him in California. Includes photographs, 1995-1996	Box 3 > Folder 8
Memoranda sent to Bernard Lafferty from his secretary, Marianne Bowles, primarily concerning the Doris Duke Foundation, 1996 Jan-May (1 of 2)	Box 3 > Folder 9
Memoranda sent to Bernard Lafferty from his secretary, Marianne Bowles, primarily concerning the Doris Duke Foundation, 1996 Jan-May (2 of 2)	Box 3 > Folder 10
Christmas cards and postcards. Includes miscellaneous business cards, 1994	Box 4 > Folder 1

Mail sent to Bernard Lafferty while he was at Falcon Lair. Contains mostly newspaper clippings regarding the estate of Doris Duke, 1996 Jan-May	Box 4 > Folder 2
Bernard Lafferty's Personnel File, 1987-1996	Box 4 > Folder 3
Access Restrictions: Access restricted	
Phone messages for Bernard Lafferty, 1993-1994	Box 4 > Folder 4
Address books, circa 1993-1997	Box 4 > Folder 5
Passport applications and related forms and memoranda, 1993-1995	Box 4 > Folder 6
Agreement written by Colin Kennedy for sale of Doris Duke's 737 airplane, 1994 Apr	Box 4 > Folder 7
Mail receipts for shipments of mail to Bernard Lafferty while he was at Falcon Lair. Contains mostly memoranda regarding Duke Farms and newspaper clippings regarding the Estate of Doris Duke, 1995 May-Aug (1 of 2)	Box 4 > Folder 8
Mail receipts for shipments of mail to Bernard Lafferty while he was at Falcon Lair. Contains mostly memoranda regarding Duke Farms and newspaper clippings regarding the Estate of Doris Duke, 1995 May-Aug (2 of 2)	Box 4 > Folder 9
Correspondence and other items stored in the Solarium safe. Includes letters to Doris Duke from Gloria Swanson and Imelda Marcos, typewritten note by Doris Duke, and Doris Duke's drivers licenses (2), 1952-1993 and undated	Box 4 > Folder 10
Correspondence sent to Bernard Lafferty, mostly while he was at Duke Farms, 1994-1996	Box 4 > Folder 11
Bernard Lafferty's datebook. Includes passage about how Miss Duke is to be laid to rest, 1993	Box 5 > Folder 1
Bernard Lafferty's datebook/address book, 1995	Box 5 > Folder 2
Photo album of Bernard Lafferty's. Includes photographs of an unidentified wedding,	

photographs of Bernard Lafferty and Doris Duke, and photographs of laying Miss Duke to rest by putting her ashes in the ocean, 1994	Box 6 > Folder 1
Doris Duke's address books (3), circa 1990s and undated	Box 6 > Folder 2
Doris Duke's Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Badge, Palm Beach, FL, undated	Box 6 > Folder 3
Photographs of Bernard Lafferty at locations such as Duke Farms, Shangri La, Rough Point, and Falcon Lair, 1989-1990s	Box 7 > Folder 1
Photographs of Doris Duke, Bernard Lafferty, and others in Vietnam, 1991-1992 (1 of 2)	Box 7 > Folder 2
Photographs of Doris Duke, Bernard Lafferty, and others in Vietnam, 1991-1992 (2 of 2)	Box 7 > Folder 3
Photographs of Honolulu, presumably staff laying wreaths in memory of Doris Duke, circa 1990s	Box 7 > Folder 4
Photographs of boat trip and passengers on the trip to lay Miss Duke to rest at sea, 1994 Nov 22	Box 7 > Folder 5
Photographs of laying of wreaths at Rough Point on first and second anniversary of Doris Duke's death, 1994-1995	Box 7 > Folder 6
Photographs of Bernard Lafferty at different functions. Includes some original DDCF Trustees: J. Carter Brown, Marion "Oatsie" Charles, James Gill, and Nannerl O. Keohane, 1994-1995	Box 7 > Folder 7
Photographs of Doris Duke, undated	Box 7 > Folder 8
Photograph of Bernard Lafferty and Elizabeth Taylor, circa 1980s-early 1990s	Box 7 > Folder 9
Photographs, many of Bernard Lafferty. Includes photographs of Bernard Lafferty and Elton John. Also includes photographs of unknown house, circa 1980s-1990s	Box 7 > Folder 10
Photographs of Bernard Lafferty alone and with Elizabeth Taylor and Sophia Loren, 1990-1992	Box 7 > Folder 11

Bernard Lafferty and Elizabeth Taylor, 1994 Feb
3

Box 7 > Folder 12

Photograph of Bernard Lafferty, Victoria
Principal, Dr. Harry Glassman, and unidentified
woman, circa mid-1990s

Box 7 > Folder 13

Photographs of Bernard Lafferty's home, Villa
Palladio in Beverly Hills, CA, 1996

Box 7 > Folder 14

Administrative Records, 1952-1999 (bulk 1993-1996)

Access Restrictions:

RESTRICTED: Access to several folders in boxes 1 and 4 are restricted and require prior written approval from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to view.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)