

University of California, Santa Barbara
Davidson Library
Department of Special Collections
California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives

**GUIDE TO
THE SHEILA ORTIZ-TAYLOR PAPERS
1957- 2006**

Collection Number: CEMA 13.

Size Collection: 4 linear feet, 9 boxes.

Acquisition Information: Donated by Sheila Ortiz-Taylor November 1, 1995.

Access restrictions: None.

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Location: Del Norte.

BIOGRAPHY

Sheila Ortiz-Taylor is a critically acclaimed Chicana novelist, poet and lecturer, and winner of the Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Service Award (1997). Born in Los Angeles in 1939, Ortiz-Taylor began writing poetry and plays as early as junior high school. She says of her upbringing: "Daughters of a tap dancer and a yo-yo painter, my sister and I were sitting ducks for the muses, who handed her a paint set and me three yellow pencils." Upon graduation from high school, Ortiz-Taylor enrolled at UCLA where she completed one year as an English Major with a Spanish Minor. The following year, in 1958, She was married and relocated to Iowa where she worked as a nurse's aid with handicapped children and as a secretary. She returned to Los Angeles and enrolled again as a sophomore in 1960 where she won the Mabel Wilson Richards Fellowship. In 1961, she transferred to California State University, Northridge, where she graduated with a Bachelors degree in English, (Cum Laude), and was named Outstanding Student of Language and Literature in 1963. After a summer of travel in Europe, Ortiz-Taylor returned to UCLA where she eventually received her M.A. in 1964 and her Ph.D. in 1972.

During the period from 1964 to 1972, Ortiz-Taylor also worked on her book *Emily Dickinson, a Bibliography*. This piece was heralded as one of the most complete and essential bibliographies of its kind. Ortiz-Taylor continued to contribute bibliographical pieces to *American Literary Realism* and to *Twentieth Century Literature* and it was during this time that she became the proud mother of two daughters, Andrea Bo Clendenning and Jessica Ann Clendenning. Eventually, through perseverance and hard work, Ortiz-Taylor became an important and critically acclaimed novelist. Her work includes the novels *Faultline* (Naiad, 1982,1995), *Spring Forward/Fall Back* (Naiad, 1985), *Southbound* (Naiad, 1990), and *Coachella* (University of New Mexico, 1998), as well as a volume of poetry, *Slow Dancing at Miss Polly's* (Naiad, 1989) and the memoir *Imaginary Parents* (University of New Mexico, 1996). *The Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the United States* called *Faultline* "the first Chicana lesbian novel."

Ortiz-Taylor is Professor of English at Florida State University where she also has served as Director of Women's Studies. She has received numerous awards for her work; she has been writer-in-residence at the Guadalupe Cultural Center, the Cottages at Hedgebrook, the Hambidge Center, the Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, and the Fundación Valparaíso. A former Fulbright Fellow, she has also been recipient of the Money for Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fund Grant and a Florida Individual Artist Fellowship. Her awards include but are not limited to, the Teaching Incentive Program Award (1994 and 1999), the William R. Jones Most Valuable Mentor award (1994-1995), the University Teaching Award 1995-96, (Graduate level), and the Professional Excellence Program Award, 1996-97.

SCOPE NOTE

The Sheila Ortiz-Taylor collection contains material relating primarily to her work as a writer and a teacher. The collection takes up four linear feet and is continually being added to by Ortiz-Taylor, as her work as a scholar and writer continues. Most of the material in the collection focuses specifically on her novels and includes her drafts of these novels, many of them annotated for correction. The scope of the manuscript, as well as the notes on revisions to be made, are invaluable as they illuminate her method and style during the writing process. The collection contains samples of Ortiz-Taylor's writing from her work as a university student, and later, to her recognition as a noted and critically acclaimed novelist. Because of this comprehensive sampling of her work, the collection gives valuable insight into Ortiz-Taylor's growth as an icon of Chicana writing.

Series 1- Personal and Biographical information. Series one is arranged as one series, in order of its creation where possible, and following chronological order where ever possible. The series covers the period from 1963 to 1997. It begins with Ortiz-Taylor's travel journal from a trip to Europe in 1963. Included is a journal which was periodically maintained from 1963 to 1965. This second journal contains quotes and some story ideas as well as samples of Ortiz-Taylor's early writing style. Series one contains several interviews with Ortiz-Taylor, covering such topics as, lesbian mothers and other aspects of her novels. These interviews help to describe her thought process during the writing of her novels, for example explanations on various themes she works with in her writing, and comments on writing in general. Lastly, series one contains a lecture written for a women's workshop on her experiences in becoming a published writer. This first series is contained within the first box of the collection. The material in this series is arranged from biographical information throughout the collection, which relate to this subject.

Series 2-Correspondence. The majority of the letters in series two were written to Sheila Ortiz-Taylor during the years 1992-2006. These letters were sent to her by the general public in response to her published books. Small collections of letters refer to Ortiz-Taylor's relationship with Naiad Press, publisher of *Faultline*, *Slow Dancing at Miss Polly's*, *Southbound*, and *Spring Forward/Fall Back*. The correspondence is arranged in four folders within the first box. Series two is further divided into two sub series, *Correspondence with Publishers* and *General Literary Correspondence*.

Series 3-Writings. This series, consisting of seven sub series, is by far the largest of the collection. There are seven sub series spanning six boxes. The first is, *Published works: manuscripts 1972-1996* consisting of four manuscripts/drafts of her published works arranged chronologically from *Faultline* in 1972 to *Coachella*, in 1998. The second sub series *Published works from journals and periodicals 1977-2003* contains excerpts of her work printed in various magazines and journals. Sub series three is self explanatory; titled *Miscellaneous Books*, consisting of two foreign language versions of *Faultline* and one book of poetry entitled *North of Wakulla*, annotated with comments to Ortiz-Taylor from her peers in literature. Also included in this sub series is the lesbian theme calendar, *Lesbian Muse*. Sub series four, *Unpublished works: manuscripts 1970-1999* contains manuscripts of Ortiz-Taylor's as of yet unpublished work arranged in chronological order. There are five complete draft manuscripts, as well as academic papers Ortiz-Taylor wrote while in college. These papers reveal some of Ortiz-Taylor's thought process in the writing of her unpublished dissertation *Surrealism in the Picaresque Novel*. The fifth sub series, *Unpublished academic papers and stories*, spans most of box 7 and contains 23 of Ortiz-Taylor's academic papers. Annotated by professors and spanning a variety of subjects from 1957 to 2006 (some of the papers are undated). This portion of the collection shows in detail the formation of Ortiz-Taylor's intellectual foundation in English literature. The sixth sub series, *Bibliographic Contributions* is a detailed accounting of her work in several bibliographic publications as well as correspondence relating to her bibliographic work. The seventh and final sub series, *Miscellany* contains free-writes and plot mapping giving an indication of Ortiz-Taylor's work habits.

Series 4-Reviews and Publicity. This series deals specifically with the reviews and critiques of Sheila Ortiz-Taylor's books and her relationship with Naiad press, the primary publisher of her work. It is

separated into critiques dealing specifically with Naiad press and each book in chronological order of their publishing.

Series 5-Video and Audio Recordings. Series five contains one video and one audiotape. Both tapes were made at Florida State University, and detail the contributions Ortiz-Taylor has made to that university. The videotape is excellent visual documentation of her Martin Luther King award for teaching excellence.

CONTAINER LISTING FOR THE SHEILA ORTIZ-TAYLOR PAPERS

SERIES 1: PERSONAL / BIOGRAPHICAL

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Diary (European trip), June 27 – August 4, 1963
1	2	Journal (Quotes, sketches, notes and poems) 1963 – 1965.
1	3	Interviews with Sheila Ortiz-Taylor (1986-1997). 1. a) <i>Community News</i> , January 1997 (with Peters, Jeff G.). b) <i>Community News</i> , December 1996 (with Peters, Jeff G.). 2. Topic: Lesbianism, April 18, 1990. 3. Topic: <i>Spring Forward Fall Back</i> (with Brophy, Mary T.), December 21, 1987 4. Topic: <i>Faultline</i> (with McLane, Tania), March 18, 1986.
1	4	Lecture by Taylor to Women's Workshop, Azalea Grill, January 20, 1989
10		Photographs from Friends (2 photos from friends)

SERIES 2: CORRESPONDENCE

Box	Folder	Contents
		Correspondence with Publishers
1	5	Outgoing: February - July 1985
1	6	Incoming: 1981 – 2005
		General Literary Correspondence
1	7	Grants and awards 1985-1996
1	8	Correspondence with readers, incoming: 1981 – 1998
7	11	General Correspondence 2002 – 2006

SERIES 3: WRITINGS

Box	Folder	Contents
		Published works: Books (1972-1996)
9		Ed. Joan Nestle – Naomi Holoch. <i>Women On Women 2: A New Anthology of American Lesbian Fiction</i> .
9		Ortiz Taylor, Sheila. <i>Southbound: The Sequel to Faultline</i> .
9		Ortiz Taylor, Sheila. <i>Slow Dancing at Miss Polly's</i> .
10		Ed. J.H. Blair. <i>¡Caliente! The Best Erotic Writing in Latin American Fiction</i> .
10		Ortiz Taylor, Sheila. <i>Spring Forward/Fall Back</i> .
10		Ed. Valencia, Alejandra Sánchez. <i>Tema Y Variaciones de Literatura 14: Espejos y reflejos: literature chicana</i> .
10		Ed. Stelboum, Judith P. <i>HLFQ: Harrington Lesbian Fiction Quarterly</i> . Volume 4, Number 3.
10		<i>Lesbian Voices</i> . Volume 4, Number 2.
10		<i>Apalachee Quarterly</i> . Number 28.
10		Ed. MacEnulty, Pat. <i>Sun Dog: The Southeast Review</i> . Volume 13, Number 1.

- 10 Ed. Corbett, Edward P.J. *College Composition and Communication*. Volume 29.
 10 Apalachee Quarterly. Volumes 36-37.
 10 Ed. Francisco A. Lomelí – Karin Ikas. *U.S. Latino Literatures and Cultures: Transnational Perspectives*.

Published works: manuscripts (1972-1996)

- Faultline ms.*** May 23, 1972.
 1 9 Chapters 1-9
 1 10 Chapters 10-16
 1 11 Chapters 17-21
 1 12 Bound copy (44,000 words), 1980
- Southbound ms.***
 2 1 Chapters 1-8.
 2 2 Chapters 9-12.
 2 3 Chapters 13-20.
 2 4 Chapters 21-32.
- Imaginary Parents ms.***
 2 5 First draft (originally called "Home Movies")
 Chapters 1-15.
 2 6 Chapters 16-26.
 2 7 Draft ms.
 Chapters 1-14.
 2 8 Chapters 15-29.
 2 9 Chapters 30-41.
 2 10 Chapters 42-52.
- 3 1 Bound draft for publishers titled "First Draft". February 20, 1994.
 3 2 Third Draft. (Named, Imaginary Parent: A Memoir, Working copy)
 Chapters 1-11.
 3 3 Chapters 12-23. (Chapter 24 missing.)
 3 4 Chapters 25-36.
 3 5 Chapters 37-52.
 3 6 Final publication page proofs, July 1996
 Book One.
 3 7 Book Two.
 3 8 Book Three.
- 4 1 Publisher's blue-line copy. 1996.
 4 2 Talk given by Sheila Ortiz-Taylor on *Imaginary Parent*, n.d.
- Coachella ms.***
 4 2a Two drafts of presentation "*Coachella: The Novel as Community*"
 Delivered at UNC Chapel Hill Winter 1999.
 4 3 Early drafts (2) n.d.
 Draft 7 (37,718 words), July 1996
 4 4 Pages. 1-73.
 4 5 Pages 74-120.
 4 6 Pages 121-182.
 Draft 10. 1998. Titled "First Edition"
 4 7 Pages 1-71.
 4 8 Pages 72-125.
 4 9 Pages 126-302.

Assisted Living ms.

		Early draft n.d. (36,898 words), n.d.
7	12	Pages. 1-44.
7	13	Pages 45-71.
7	14	Pages 72-106.
7	15	Pages 107-139.
7	16	Pages 140-173.
7	17	Pages 174-212.

Published works from journals and periodicals (1977-2003)

4	10	Miscellaneous contributions <i>Episodic Structure and the Picaresque Novel</i> in <i>The Journal of Narrative Technique</i> . <i>La Frontera</i> in <i>Two Worlds Walking</i> . <i>Dyke Patrol</i> in <i>Common Lives Lesbian Lives</i> . Selections from <i>Imaginary Parents: A memoir</i> in <i>The Americas Review</i> . <i>Southern exposure</i> in <i>Sinister Wisdom</i> 34. <i>A Friend of the Family</i> (A chapter from the novel, <i>Faultline</i>) in <i>Focus</i> , a journal for lesbians. <i>Rearview Mirror</i> in <i>New Visions, Fiction by Florida writers</i> . <i>Faultline</i> ; excerpt published in <i>Christopher Street Magazine</i> . <i>Esther Williams Sister</i> , published in <i>Innisfree</i> magazine.
7	18	<i>Strip</i> in <i>Harrington Lesbian Fiction Quarterly</i> . 2003

Miscellaneous Books

4	11	<i>North of Wakulla</i> . Annotated anthology of poetry. German edition of <i>Faultline</i> Spanish Edition of <i>Fautline</i> <i>Lesbian Muse</i> . Lesbian theme Calendar.
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Unpublished works: manuscripts (1970-1999)

		"Harley." 1970-1972.
5	1	Chapters 1-7.
5	2	Chapters 8-20.
		"Captain Jack and the Flying Girl."
5	3	Preliminary draft. Pages 1-14.
5	4	Draft 1. Pages 1-15.
5	5	Draft 2. Pages 1-17.
		"The Flying Girl; Ace of Hearts." (Renamed from original ms.: Captain Jack and the Flying Girl.) 3,746 words.
5	6	Pages 1-18.
		"Extranjera."
5	7	Early draft Chapter 1 and Chapter 22.
5	8	Journal. 9/5/96- 9/4/98.
		Draft Three.
5	9	Pages 1-74. Chapters 1-18 (Some chapters renumbered)
5	10	Pages 75-173. Chapters 17-39. (Some chapters renumbered)
		Draft Seven (49,166 words), 6/11/99.
5	11	Chapters 1-11.
5	12	Chapters 12-24.
5	13	Chapters 25-45.
		"Suprrealism in the Picaresque Novel." (An unpublished critical study based on Ortiz-Taylor's dissertation.
5	14	"Extranejera" Draft 8-A.

6	1	Chapters 1 & 2. Pages 1-62.
6	2	Chapters 3 & 4 plus notes for Chapters 1-6. Pages 63-164. (Pages 63-164 missing).
6	3	Notes Chapters 1-2.
6	4	Notes Chapters 3-4.
6	5	Notes Chapter 5 plus miscellaneous notes.
6	6-7	Miscellaneous notes.
		Drafts (annotated).
6	8	Chapters 2 & 3.
6	9	Chapters 4 & 5.
6	10	Academic works relating to "Suprarealism in the Picaresque Novel"
6	11	Correspondence to publishers.

Unpublished Academic Papers and Stories

7	1	Papers (1957-1961) "Pain Child." 12/13/57. "The Dramatic Function of two Minds Deceased," May 29, 1961 "Virginia Woolf's <i>Mrs Dalloway</i> ," April 18, 1961 "Carmichael and Kilman: Their Raison D'Être." 4/25/61. "Plot and Character in <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> ." 11/28/61. "Marriage in " <i>Pride and Prejudic</i> ." 12/7/61.
7	2	Papers (1962) "Time as a Structural Device in the Novels of Virginia Woolf." 1/18/62. "E. A. Robinson and the Spectrum of Tragedy." 4/30/62. "Virginia Woolf: A Heuristic Study." 1/7/62. "An Analysis of the Prose styles of Ben Jonson and John Donne," 4/9/62. "Tragedy and Sad Countenance," May 14, 1962
7	3	Papers (1963-64) "A Figure of the <i>Trotaconventos</i> in Spanish Courtly Love Literature." 5/15/63. "Courtly Love in Chaucer's <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i> and Dante's <i>Vita Nuova</i> ." May 1, 1963 "Isabel the Archer: A Study in Military Imagery." 1/17/63 "Romantic and Tragic Modes in <i>Mrs Dalloway</i> ." 5/8/64 "Reconciliation of Opposites in <i>The Bridge</i> ." 5/1/64 "Mill, Tennyson, and <i>The Philosopher-Poet</i> ." 7/6/64
7	4	Papers (1971-80) "The Story-Weaver at His Loom: Plot in <i>Our Mutual Friend</i> ." 6/11/71 "The Woman in the yellow dress." 1980
7	19	Papers (2006) "Doing Mestizaje in the Third Space."
7	5	Papers (n.d.) "Pythia Eleven." n.d. "Techniques of American Color Fiction." n.d. "Platonic Structure in Saul Bellow's, "Looking for Mr Green." n.d. (Also accompanying letter to Studies in Short Fiction, Newbury College, 1971, from Ortiz-Taylor). "That Great Sect: Marriage in the Novels of E.M. Forster."

Bibliographic Contributions

7	6	"Emily Dickinson Annual Bibliography for 1975."
7	7	Correspondence incoming, relating to Ortiz-Taylor's contribution to bibliographical works.
7	8	Citations of Ortiz-Taylor's bibliographical work (1970-1976)
7	9	Samples of Ortiz-Taylor's bibliographical Works. (1967-1972)

Miscellaneous

7	10	Collection of Ortiz-Taylor's notes, free-writes and plot-mapping.
7	20	Novel Worksheets – <i>Coachella</i> . (1995)

7	21	Novel Worksheets – <i>Extranjera/OutRageous</i> . (1996-2003)
7	22	Novel Worksheets – <i>Assisted Living</i> . (1999-2005)
7	23	Novel Worksheets – <i>Clarissa</i> . (2004)
7	24	Educational Materials – Lectures (2000-2001)
7	25	Educational Materials – Lectures (n.d.)
7	26	Educational Materials – Lectures (n.d.)
7	27	Educational Materials – Lesbians Inscribing Racial and Cultural Identity. (n.d.)

SERIES 4: REVIEWS AND PUBLICITY

Box	Folder	Contents
8	1	Published criticism Relations with publisher, Naiad Press.
8	2	(1986-1991)
8	3	(1980-1985)
		<i>Faultline</i>
8	4	Overview of <i>Faultline</i> by Ortiz-Taylor.
8	5	Copy of Ortiz-Taylor's promotional/history scrapbook of publication of <i>Faultline</i> .
8	6-7	Reviews and publicity (1982-1990).
8	8	Reviews and publicity (1981-1983, outsize)
		<i>Spring Forward Fall Back</i> (1985-1986)
8	9	Reviews and publicity
		<i>Slow Dancing at Miss Polly's</i> (1989-1990)
8	10	Reviews and publicity
		<i>Southbound</i> (1990-1991)
8	11	Reviews and publicity
		<i>Imaginary Parents</i> (1996)
8	12	Reviews and publicity
		<i>Coachella</i> (1996-1998)
8	13	Reviews and publicity
8	14	Miscellaneous, reviews and publicity.
9	1	Events Publicity (2002 – 2004)
9	2	Publicity (2003 – 2006)

SERIES 5: VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDINGS

Box	Folder	Contents
		<i>Florida State University audio tape</i> (1997)
9		FSU Headlines
9		Memoris-Finales
		<i>Florida State University television video recording</i> (1997)
9		Presentation of the Martin Luther King Award