



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Henry Darger Papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
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<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Henry Darger Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1966-1971
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.darghenr
<b>Creator:</b>	Darger, Henry, 1892-1972
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Item (linear foot (on 2 microfilm reels))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Darger lived for forty years in a rented room in a building owned by Nathan Lerner. Lerner became Darger's friend, and by default, his caretaker. Darger gave Lerner the contents of his room when he moved in 1971.

### Location of Originals

Originals returned to the lender, Nathan Lerner, after microfilming.

### Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels [4181-4182] available at all Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

### Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains an exhibition catalog entitled REALMS OF THE UNREAL - THE WORK OF HENRY DARGER (1977), two volumes of Darger's "My Life History," and two diaries. Diaries describe his reclusive life, March 1968-January 1971 (348 p.), including such activities as attending mass several times a day, going to confession and communion, tying cords together, and making balls. He also writes about his leg pain, walks, and his temper tantrums.

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## Arrangement

I.Exhibition Catalog, 1977. II.Autobiography. III.Diaries, 1968-1971.

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Art -- Illinois -- Chicago