UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

JOHN ELLIS COLLECTION Accession No. 94/167

HISTORICAL NOTE:

John Ellis was born and raised in Port Melbourne. He began his compositing apprenticeship in 1945, and worked as a compositor and typesetter, pioneering phototypesetting, for Herald Gravure Printers, a subsidiary of the Herald and Weekly Times, (later Giganticolor) from 1955 until his retirement in May 1990. An interest he has pursued since childhood is music, and particularly jazz and later classical music. He attributes his politicization to his association with black American soldiers, who he met in jazz haunts during WWII. Later he went to America and was appalled at the overt apartheid system there. As a teenager he also recognized the irony of celebrating a war won with Russia as our ally, and a few years later seeing that country as Australia's greatest threat ever.

For many years he has initiated and been active in left-wing political and cultural events. In particular, he has been involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement, and with the international peace and disarmament movement. He has many links with prominent Melbourne based activists and intellectuals. His other major interest has been photography, which he has pursued since 1973. He has become one of the major photographers of left-wing events in Melbourne, and in many instances has been the only person to record the event in photographs.

NOTE ON THE COLLECTION:

This collections consists of documents of the peace movement acquired by John Ellis. In particular they record his involvement with a number of peace organisations and events arranged among musicians, poets, and other artists in Arts Action for Peace and related organisations. This collection was listed by John Ellis himself and contains his commentary on events and people in the text. Direct comments by Mr. Ellis have been indicated by the initials [JE].

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

John Ellis Collections, Accession No. 92 29 for his involvement with Moorabbin Peace Action, an affiliate of CICD;

Accession No. 95 1 for his involvement with the Herald and Weekly Times, especially his letters re editorial policy on peace, the Vietnam War etc.; his photograph collection forthcoming;

CICD Collection and especially the photographs in it.

SIZE: 5 archives boxes and one oversize box.

ACCESS: Open, but copyright must be respected, particularly for photographs taken by Mr. Ellis and others as indicated.

DATE RANGE: 1960s - 1980s.

DATE TRANSFERRED: November 1994

LISTED BY: John Ellis; typed Liz Agastino; edited Sue Fairbanks.

Box and File No.

File Titles and Descriptions

BOX 1 - FILE 1

CONSCRIPTION AND DRAFT RESISTERS UNION

This file contains material re:

The war in Vietnam - 12 pp. booklet, published by Save our Sons movement, written by Jenny Teichmann. (1966?)

Vietnam Moratorium Campaign - papers delivered at the National Anti-War Conference (Sydney, February 17-21, 1971).

Posters, leaflets, *Tribune* articles, newspaper cuttings.

Background to the National Services Act - the Zarb case.

National Services Act - Instructions for Medical Examination (September 1971).

Article in The Fabian Newsletter - Jim Cairns and Devilliers in Vietnam. Professor Devilliers: Professor of the Institute for Political Studies, Sorbonne, Paris.

War Resisters International booklet (24 pages) U.K. - Don Milanis' "Self Defence".

Federal Pacifist Council of Australia (Australian section of the War Resisters International, U.K.) 16 page booklet "We Resist Because...".

Draft Resisters' Union (DRU) occupation of Melbourne University (actually Monash University occupation) - 15 photographs donated by Kay Bolwell; City Square demonstration (19 January, 1973), John Ellis (right hand side of banner); one photograph of Tony Dalton, donated by George Coote.

Assorted Pictures in Box 1, File 1

- 1. Tony Dalton holding tear-gas canister.
- 2. Vietnam conscripts entering Army induction centre.
- 3. Conscripts.
- 4. Reverend David Pope.

Box and File No.

File Titles and Descriptions

- 5. Not known.
- 6. Brian Curry demonstration 5 pictures, 5 negatives. (Pictures by Kay Bolwell).
- 7. "Release O'Donnell" demonstration National Mobilisation at Holsworthy Army camp, NSW. (Pictures by Kay Bolwell).
- 8. LBJ Demonstration, December 1966. (Negatives only by Kay Bolwell).
- 9. Melbourne demonstration 13 pictures.
- 10. Street march.

BOX 1 - FILE 2

BROCHURES, LEAFLETS, ETC.

This file contains:

American radical magazine, *Ramparts*, 1967 (supplement) - "The Children of Vietnam."

North Vietnam by Malcolm Salmon (16 pages)

Jane Fonda picture.

CICD - Moorabbin Peace Action (MPA) invitation to a fund-raising concert at Betty Toumbourou's. Typeset and printed by John Ellis with grateful assistance provided by The Herald and Weekly Times Ltd. (as were countless other jobs for the left movement over a period of 35 years)! [JE]

Vietnam Moratorium Campaign - Agenda for the public meeting held at the Richmond Town Hall, 30th June, 1971.

WWF - five pictures of May Day anti-Vietnam war banners (pics by Tony Ferreira).

<u>Facts about the anti-LBJ Demonstration</u>, 12 pages, 21st October, 1966.

My Lai Massacre - <u>Sunday Observer Supplement</u>, 14th December, 1969.

Documents of Australian and New Zealand Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament, November 7th - 14th, 1959 (28 pages).

Box and File Titles and Descriptions File No.

Vietnam magazine, August 1969.

Conference Report - Vietnam Co-ordinating Committee - 1968.

Conference program notes.

Leaflet - "BOONAROO" and "JEPARIT" - Seamen say no to Vietnam war.

BOX 1 - CLERGY FILE 3

This file contains:

The Spectator - 16th June, 1965.

The Catholic Worker June 1966, September 1967, December 1972.

The Beacon - June 1972, Jan. 1970.

Farrago reprint - The Philosophy of Pacifism (leaflet), 20 July 1949.

News cuttings - 1965 - 1970

BOX 1 - VIETNAM - CHINA RELATIONS

This file contains:

The Truth About Vietnam-China Relations over the past thirty years (1979).

War Crimes of the Pol Pot and Chinese Troops in Vietnam (1979).

Those Who Leave - (1979)

Chinese War Crimes in Vietnam (1979).

Vietnam '80 (1980).

Peking's Crazy Ambitions (1979).

Women of Vietnam (1979).

Box and File Titles and Descriptions File No.

BOX 1 - DELEGATION OF TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES FILE 5 FROM NORTH VIETNAM 1973

This file contains photographs numbered 1 - 43 as described below:

- 1. Dr. Crunden welcomes delegates at Tullamarine, 2 February, 1973.
- 2-4. Eddie Ryan was a student activist who was severely disabled in an accident. While taking a detonator away from two children it exploded in his hands. He never gave up his commitment to end the war in Vietnam. John Halfpenny (right).
- 5. Harry Van Moorst, Bert Fagen, John Ellis and delegates.
- 6. Dr. Crunden and delegates.
- 7. John Halfpenny, John Lloyd and Sam Goldbloom, and delegates.
- 8-11. Halfpenny, Jim Roulston and delegates.
- 9. George Crawford and delegates.
- 10. Sandy Thomas (right).
- 12-15. General shots.

BOX 1 - RECEPTION GIVEN BY AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNIONS FOR NORTH VIETNAMESE UNIONISTS

- 16. Bernie Taft, Laurie Carmichael.
- 17. Sam Goldbloom, Gwen Goedecke, Taft.
- 18. Jean McLean.
- 19. Eric and Jean McLean, Bruce McPhee, Goldbloom.
- 20. Mischa Frydman, Goldbloom, Carmichael.
- 21-22. General.

Box and	File Titles and Descriptions
<u>File No.</u>	23. Marie Salisbury.
	24. General.
	25. Sue McCulloch.
	26. General.
	27. Les Dalton.
	28. Tony Dalton.
	29. Eddie Ryan, Carmichael.
	30. General.
	31. General.
	32. Noel Willis? (left).
	33. John Ellis.
	34. Dorothy Gibson (third from left) Rebecca McLean (child), Joan Coxsedge.
BOX 1 - FILE 5	PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATES FROM VIETNAM
	Delegates Le Duy Van, Prof. Vu Quang Chuyen, Nguyen Van Chi:
	35. At Dallas Brookes Hall.
	36. Goldbloom, McLean.
	37. Goldbloom, McLean.
	38. Meeting at Wesley Church, Lonsdale Street.
	39. Students meeting: John Ellis, Di Crunden.
	40- Students meeting. 41.

Box and File Titles and Descriptions File No.

42. Students meeting.

Visitors' Itinerary (May 5-10)?

43. Rev. Alf Dickie at a World Peace Council (WPC) reception at the John Curtin Hotel, Lygon Street, 3 October, 1974. Picture John Ellis.

BOX 2 - VIETNAM WAR PICTURES

Nine Australian Army Public Relations pictures.

BOX 2 - CHARGES AGAINST CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT HICKEY FILE 2

This file contains information relating to charges laid against Chief Superintendent Hickey by Harry Van Moorst on behalf of the Victorian Moratorium Campaign.

This was the first time, and still is to my knowledge, that a senior police officer had been charged with creating a riot. Hickey had been itching to smash our demonstration at the American Consulate earlier in the day (see author's account, May 14, 1972). It was one of the worst cases of police violence I had seen. Immediately after the march had ended, a few of us went to Russell Street police headquarters and took out a summons on Hickey. He appeared in court in his best blue uniform, flanked by at least four legal advisers who proceeded to tell the magistrate about Hickey's brilliant and unblemished career (he was to retire some months later).

My evidence and that of two or three other witnesses was dutifully listened to but it soon became evident that Hickey wasn't going to retire with his career stained. However, we felt it was necessary to show that in many cases police create violent situations were citizens protest against injustice. [Commentary: John Ellis]

BOX 2 - ARTICLES ON WAR AND MILITARY POLICY IN PLAYBOY, PENTHOUSE ETC., 1970's

This file contains articles from the 1970's. They were taken from the following U.S. magazines: *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, *Oui* and *Gallery*. The

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File Titles and Descriptions

articles cover the following subjects: the CIA and KGB, Vietnam veterans, nuclear issues, Iran, Pine Gap. Interview with: Salvador Allende Gossens and his wife Hortensia Allende; CIA operatives Philip Agee, Victor Marchetti; Christopher Boyce; Henry Kissinger; Fidel Castro; Edward Teller; Donald Woods; Rear Admiral Eugene La Rocque; Colonel Fletcher Prouty.

Collecting and using these articles in our anti-war propaganda presented a dilemma for me. For instance, while the articles were well documented and gave information not generally known to people outside the left movement, they appeared in magazines which reflected the worst attitudes towards women. They were regarded as soft porn and sexist and as such were treated with great suspicion and revulsion by the left.

While they could be criticized for saying nothing new by those who did know, these articles appeared in mass circulation magazines. However dubious these magazines might have been, the establishment press offered no such coverage of these contentious issues, both here and in America. [Commentary: John Ellis].

BOX 2 - AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND CONGRESS FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND DISARMAMENT (ANZCICD)

File contains:

Australian Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament (two posters).

Brochure - "Education Conference".

Brochure (four page) - ANZCICD, "The Congress". Linus Pauling and J.B. Priestley welcomed. (November 1959).

Brochure - "Citizens Conference".

Brochure - "Festival of the Arts" - (November 7 -14, 1959).

Document outlining need for an international conference on peace issues, later held at South Melbourne Town Hall (November 9-11, 1959).

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Leaflet - official opening of the 1959 conference.

Newsletter - Victorian Peace Council. (11 February, 1959).

Ringwood Mail - peace issue (17 September, 1959).

Vietnam Information Bulletin (9 April, 1965).

BOX 2 - FILE 5

<u>VIETNAM - 1980</u>

File includes:

Vietnam Today - Bulletin of the Australia-Vietnam Society. (April-June?)

Tribune article on Alvie Booth (5 March, 1980).

Tenth anniversary of Vietnam Moratorium (8 May, 1970) - a dinner in St. Matthews Hall, 145 High Street, Prahran. Copy of the speech given by Dr. Jim Cairns.*

*Some background information to this Tenth Anniversary event: My involvement in the celebration was to collect and display a huge collection of memorabilia. We had anticipated trouble from rightwing Vietnamese so we stationed "minders" in the foyer of the hall. A large contingent of police kept the Vietnamese demonstrators away from the entrance - our "minders" were the last line of defence. It turned out that we needed that last line of defence. The Vietnamese swarmed over the police, attacking them with milk crates and chairs and were finally stopped by our guards at the doors to the hall. My greatest fear was that if they had got through our defences they would have destroyed the banners, photographs and hundreds of other pieces loaned to me for the occasion.

The violence was so bad that several police were hospitalized - a rare occasion in our experience. Police finally formed a cordon in High Street so that people could get through to the hall. High Street was like a disaster area with police cars racing back and forth to Prahran police station and ambulances taking injured to the Alfred Hospital.

Once inside the hall, everything went as planned and old campaigners swapped yarns and toasted our many victories. [John Ellis].

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File Titles and Descriptions

Invitation card.

Extract from a taped interview with Ken Riley about his involvement in movement against conscription and the Vietnam war in the Northcote area. Recorded 2 April, 1980 by Val Noone.

Invite from Val Noone to join a discussion on the history of the Melbourne movement during the 1960's and 1970's.

Issue of "Moratorium Commemorative Edition" (incorporating *Lot's Wife*).

Letter from Peter Close offering material for display.

Copy of *Truth* with beat-up story on conscription.

BOX 2 - FILE 6

MAGAZINES

This file contains:

Life Magazine - Communism (20 October, 1961).

Life Magazine - Vietnam: American wounded (8 June, 1970)

Newsweek: Special Issue (10 July, 1967)

BOX 2 - <u>VIETNAM - 1990</u>

FILE 7

File includes:

Vietnam Moratorium 20th Anniversary Dinner - Melbourne Town Hall (11 May, 1990): publicity letter, program, picture of Val Noone by J. Ellis.

Anti-Vietnam War Movement and Earlier Peace Campaigns - Curriculum Materials Development Project. Publicity/questionnaire letters; minutes of meeting 5 June, 1990. Source: Frances Newell and Harry Van Moorst.

Publicity leaflet for Val Noone's book: *Disturbing the War*, *Melbourne Catholics and the Vietnam War*. Book launched 24

Box and File Titles and Descriptions

File No.

October, 1993.

Australia-Vietnam Society leaflet: *End Vietnam's Isolation - Australia Must Help* (May 1990).

BOX 3 - VIETNAM WAR FILES 1-7

Press cuttings - 1965-1969.

Press cuttings - 1970.

Press cuttings - 1971-1972.

Press cuttings - 1973-1974.

Press cuttings - No date.

Press cuttings - 1975.

Alternative press cuttings - 1962-1975.

BOX 4 - NUCLEAR INDUSTRY FILE 1

This file contains information relating to the nuclear industry:

France: The Nuclear Renegade by Senator Norm Sanders and Richard Bolt (30 pages, December 1987).

Future of Australian Uranium Exports, prepared for Greenpeace by John Hallem and Melanie Thiedeman (24 pages, 11 November, 1987).

"RADON Revisited," *Popular Science* (September 1987).

"Radon, Asbestos," Popular Mechanics (August, 1987).

Uranium Mining: Market Projects and Environmental Consequences (ALP National Conference 1988, by Chas. Collison and Peter Milton, MP).

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Anti-Uranium leaflets.

Civil Defence Organisation leaflet amended to show the impact of a nuclear bomb falling on the U.S. Navy's navigation base near Yarram, Vic.

Movement Against Uranium Mining (MAUM) - information sheets for schools and community: Series 2, No. 1, 1992.

Age cutting (27 June 1992)

Roxby Downs blockade leaflet and information.

People for Nuclear Disarmament (PND) leaflet.

Nuclear Free Zones Secretariat - "Keep Victoria Nuclear Free Kit. 1992"; folder.

MAUM Newsletters - No. 73, May 1993; No. 71, November 1992.

Reply from Deputy Prime Minister Howe's senior adviser to a letter I wrote regarding ALP uranium policy (11 October, 1994). Need not have wasted my time. [JE]

BOX 4 - FILE 2

PEACE POETS OF AUSTRALIA

Michael Sharkey's book of poems, *Peace Poets of Australia* was one of the activities organised for the United Nations International Year of Peace 1986. John Ellis typeset and had printed Michael's book: *Anything Goes*.

The File contains:

Letters from Michael Sharkey. Entry form from *Peace Poets of Australia*. Page proofs and dummy.

BOX 4 · FILE 3

MAIL ART EXHIBITION

Dr. Michael Sharkey initiated the "Signs of Peace" mail art exhibition after seeing a similar event overseas. The idea being that artists send

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their artwork by mail to be exhibited at various peace functions around the world. Arts Action for Peace (AAP) held a two-day festival at Melbourne College of Advanced Education in 1986 as part of the U.N. International Year of Peace. The "Signs of Peace" mail art exhibition was part of that festival. John Ellis collected, prepared and exhibited the artwork at the festival.

This file contains only the envelopes that brought the artwork from many countries around the world. Ellis is still trying to track down the original artwork (20 January, 1995).

Also includes ten photographs of just some of the panels exhibited.

BOX 4 - FILE 4

MUSICIANS FOR WORLD PEACE

Musicians for World Peace concert, Sydney Opera House. (19 August, 1984).

Musicians for World Peace (MWP) was part of the Peace Program of the United Nations Association of Australia. Nigel Parry, a musician in the Elizabethan Sydney Orchestra, was the prime mover in organising this extraordinary concert. Artists included Joan Sutherland, Richard Bonynge, Paul and Maude Tortelier, Sydney Symphony and Elizabethan Orchestras; the program was later simulcast on ABCTV and FM.

Arts Action for Peace had a meeting with Nigel Parry to investigate the possibility of presenting a similar concert in Melbourne. This didn't eventuate. [JE]

The file contains the concert program, a letter and information sheet from MWP (27 September, 1984).

BOX 4 - FILE 5

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE, 1986

The Peace Arts Foundation - an International Year of Peace (IYP) initiative by Arts Action for Peace (AAP) 1986.

This file contains:

Leaflets for Peace Arts 1986, Festival and Conference; programs.

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Peace Train press release; Parents for Music leaflet; posters.

Some of the above are duplicated in AAP blue-covered plastic binder in Box 5 File 3 below.

Peace Calendar, 1986.

City of Melbourne Peace Vigil leaflets, includes St. Paul's Cathedral Jazz Concert, 1986.

"Peace Child" leaflets.

Peace Arts Foundation for Victoria - draft prepared by Graeme Dunstan (December, 1985).

Upper Yarra "Arts for peace" Festival, Warburton Arts Centre program (22-23 November 1986).

BOX 4 - FILE 6

Arts Action for Peace [AAP] (1)

This file contains working documents for:

Actors for Nuclear Disarmament, (AND).
Concerned Concert Artists Against Uranium Mining (1978)
Musicians United for Sane Energy (MUSE), U.S.A.
Musicians Against Nuclear Energy (MANE)
Musicians for Safe Energy Options (MUSEO)
Arts Action for Peace (AAP).

List of Artists for a Nuclear-Free Australia exhibition (3 August, 1981).

The above organisations came into being through the initial efforts of Friends of the Earth (FOE) - Pat Jessen (then Lowther), Chris Hattersley, John Ellis and others. After a number of successful concerts with MUSEO it was realized that other artists, such as writers, poets, film makers, dancers, etc., should be included in the organisation.

About this time (1980?) Wendy Lowenstein, Marie Goonan, Gloria McMahon, and Rolf Heimann became involved and a new group was

Box and File No.

File Titles and Descriptions

formed: Arts Action for Peace (AAP).

We held many Sunday afternoon concerts at the Greenman Coffee Lounge in High Street, Armadale as the owner, Mavis (?) gave us the place at reduced rates. AAP also supported the theatre production of "Peace Child" an international play performed here for the United Nations Association of Victoria in 1986. Contacts were Lois and Geoffrey Loftus-Hills.

AAP's biggest effort was a two day Arts Festival held in conjunction with the United Nations International Year of Peace. This involved dance, theatre, poetry, folk, reading, music and a Mail Art Exhibition.

One of AAP's last functions was when Bob Bossin came to Melbourne from Canada with his "Home Remedy for Nuclear War" show. We produced two shows: one in Elsternwick and the other at Northcote Town Hall. Six concerts were advertised but only two were held. (See leaflets in blue folder.) By this time our resources in human power had become exhausted: AAP had run its course. [JE]

BOX 5 - FILE 1

AAP (2)

This file contains leaflets, etc., re <u>AAP</u>, <u>MUSEO</u>, <u>MUSE</u>, <u>MAUM</u>, <u>CICD</u>, <u>FOE</u>. Some of these appear in the blue-covered folder [Box 5. File 3].

BOX 5 - ASSORTED LEAFLETS FILE 2

This file contains leaflets re: Actors for Survival, The Boite, HSV 7 Strike Fund, PND/Palm Sunday Rally, PND Newsletters (December, 1986 - May 1987) National Action Against War Toys, Pax Christi, Uranium Collective Friends of the Earth, Resources Group MAUM, CICD, Don't Celebrate 1988, Australian Coalition for Disarmament and Peace (ACDP), Coalition Opposing Identity Numbers (COIN), Ease Gippsland Coalition, Anti-Bases Campaign (ABC), Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM), Regent for All Campaign (RAC), Boycott Aerosols, Picket Against Bruce RUXTON, Campaign for Nuclear Free Food, (CNFF), Nicaraguan Women's Tour, Film: Friends and Enemies, "Public Agenda" (Oct. 1987), Darebin Parklands Association, Latin American groups, Sisters of Perpetual

Box and File No.

File Titles and Descriptions

Indulgence, Mary Hammond Art Exhibition invite, Ailsa O'Connor and Mary Hammond Art Exhibition invite, MUSEO invites, Prostitutes for Peace, ACTU Opposes Atmospheric Tests (June 1973).

Leaflets (cont.): MUSEO (Yellowcake Review), Labor Day Concert (Trades Hall, 11 March, 1974); Guitar Workshop; ALP(Isaacs branch) fund-raiser concert; Alice in Blunderland (Reflections of A Nuclear Age, Northcote Christian Drama Group); Eureka Ensemble; Ruth Berman invite; Street Poetry (1983); Nicaraguan Women's Tour (The Boite).

<u>Pencils for Peace</u> (July, 1986). I initiated this campaign after I visited Nepal in 1982. Children in the villages most often asked for a pencil and/or a piece of plain paper. I later mentioned this to Bert King who was collecting materials to send to Nicaragua (I had given him a considerable amount of art materials "collected" from Herald Gravure Printers).

I set about advertising - per leaflet - around friends and movements and collected many hundreds of pencils, pens, crayons, etc. These were sent to Nicaragua via Australian Council of Churches. The response was so good I repeated the collection 12 months later. [Commentary, JE.]

BOX 5 - FILE 3

MISCELLANEOUS (AAP)

This file contains a blue folder labeled Arts Action for Peace, with leaflets for:

Actors for Nuclear Disarmament (AND)

Concerned Concert Artists Against Uranium Mining (CCAAUM).

Musicians United for Sane Energy (MUSE).

Musicians Against Nuclear Energy (MANE).

Musicians For Safe Energy Options (MUSEO).

Arts Action for Peace (AAP).

File also contains:

A contact book compiled by John Ellis listing artists in the Classical, Folk, Miscellaneous (dancers, poets, writers, singers, actors, photographers, artists), Jazz, Rock, Technicians areas.

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A discussion paper: Culture and Ideology, by Ailsa O'Connor, sponsored by the CPA (7 pages).

Catholic Peacemaker, No. 3, August, 1983.

"Bushwahzee" Bush Band press release (1986).

3CR Peace Activists' workshop leaflet.

Letter from young country person, Laura Dolgov, asking for information on Peace organisations.

Five Moorabbin Peace Action (MPA) concert invitations.

BOX 6 -OVER -SIZE

YELLOWCAKE REVIEW

Original Score of Peter Maxwell Davies' Yellowcake Review: one original (A3), one copy (A4), one copy (A2); copy of libretto for audiences.

ELLIS.DOC, 20 August, 1997