



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

University Libraries

**Application for the Ditsky Memorial Steinbeck Research Award
Steinbeck Research Fund Established in Honor of Dr. John M. Ditsky**

About

Thanks to a generous donation from Mrs. C. Suzette Ditsky, Steinbeck scholars are able to receive grant moneys to support research at Ball State University Libraries using the Steinbeck Collection at Ball State University Archives and Special Collections. The Steinbeck Research Fund has been established at Ball State University Libraries in honor of her late husband, Dr. John M. Ditsky.

John Ditsky, a world world-renowned Steinbeck scholar, received his Ph.D. from New York University in 1967 and enjoyed a 37-year career in academia with positions at the University of Windsor, the University of Detroit, and Wayne State University. During his career, he served as Vice President of the International Steinbeck Society, President of the New Steinbeck Society of America, and Chair of the Editorial Board of the Steinbeck Quarterly.

Purpose of Funds

Funds from the Steinbeck Research Fund will be awarded specifically to scholars who plan to visit Ball State University Archives and Special Collections to conduct meaningful and in-depth primary source research using the [Steinbeck Collection](#). Ball State University Libraries will consider applicants from multiple disciplines who have demonstrated a commitment to and interest in the study of the work and career of John Steinbeck. Ball State University Libraries is especially interested in funding the work of early-career faculty members, emerging scholars, and graduate students.

Successful applicants must demonstrate a plan to publically share their Steinbeck research through at least one of the following methods including scholarly publishing, a conference paper/presentation, a thesis or dissertation, a major creative project or endeavor, or any other significant method of sharing. Successful applicants will demonstrate a plan to use the unique holdings of the Ball State University Libraries' Steinbeck Collection beyond the texts of popular and widely available Steinbeck works.

Moneys from the Steinbeck Research Fund can be used to cover expenses including:

- Travel to Muncie, Indiana
- Lodging in Muncie, Indiana
- Per diem expenses
- Scanning and photocopying
- Open access publishing fees
- Any other reasonable related expenses to support archival research

Submitting an Application

To apply for Steinbeck Research Funds, please submit an application to Ball State University Libraries by sending an email to libarchives@bsu.edu and attaching 1) a research proposal (minimum of two pages) 2) a current CV, and 3) two letters of recommendation from colleagues, faculty members, or others who can speak to your academic qualifications.

Your research proposal should address the following:

- Your overall proposed budget with estimated line-item expenses
- A proposed travel itinerary
- A detailed description of your research project
- A detailed description of your research interests pertaining to John Steinbeck
- A description of specific materials you plan to use from Ball State University Archives and Special Collections
- A plan to disseminate and share your research

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed by the Assistant Dean for Digital Scholarship and Special Collections and the Dean of Libraries at Ball State University. Once your application has been submitted and reviewed, you will be notified of the funding decision within one month of proposal submission.

After the completion of the research visit, applicants are expected to share with Archives and Special Collections a one-page research summary.

Please direct any questions to libarchives@bsu.edu.

About the Collection

The John Steinbeck Collection at Ball State University Libraries consists of multiple collections that documents the literary career of John Steinbeck through manuscripts and publications by the author and literary criticism of his work. The collection contains first editions, foreign language editions, issues and manuscripts of the *Steinbeck Quarterly* and the Steinbeck Monograph Series, Steinbeck Society records, literary criticism, biographies, bibliographies, galley proofs, pamphlets, periodicals, correspondence, and photographs. The Steinbeck Collection consists of over 1,000 volumes and 25 cubic feet of manuscript material. Titles are available in University Libraries online catalog.

The collection was developed through the expertise, guidance, and generosity of preeminent Steinbeck scholar Dr. Tetsumaro Hayashi, Professor of English at Ball State University from 1968 to 1993. Dr. Hayashi founded and edited the *Steinbeck Quarterly* which published Steinbeck criticism and scholarship from 1968 to 1993. He founded the Steinbeck Bibliographical Society with friend and fellow Steinbeck scholar Preston Beyer in 1966. A year later, the organization was renamed the Steinbeck Society of America.