



Appendix A: Catalogue Raisonné of the Writings of Henry Darger

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MacGregor John. *Henry Darger: In the Realms of the Unreal*. New York, NY: Delano Greenridge Editions, 2002

In February 2001, all of the writings of Henry Darger were moved permanently from his room in Chicago to the Henry Darger Research Archive of the Contemporary Center of the American Folk Art Museum, New York. This new home for Darger's writings, which guarantees the safety of the priceless original manuscripts, fulfilled a long-held dream of Nathan and Kiyoko Lerner. The generous gift came about as a result of the determined efforts of the President of the American Folk Art Museum, Gerard Wertkin, the trustees of the museum, headed by trustee Sam Farber, the trustees of the Nathan Lerner Living Trust, and Mrs. Kiyoko Lerner. The gift included Darger's three major written works, *In the Realms of the Unreal*, *Further Adventures in Chicago: Crazy House*, and *The History of My Life*, as well as a large number of subsidiary manuscripts and personal papers.

Each of Darger's huge manuscripts are preserved now in the somewhat confusing form in which he left them. This is especially true of *The Realms*, in that the final sequence of volumes and chapters was left unsettled by Darger, with several volumes lacking either a title page or a volume number. Darger often moved huge sections of his manuscripts about within a work, and large fragments were left out, perhaps to be fitted in later. The various numbering systems encountered on many pages provide evidence of evolutionary developments in the writing history of *The Realms*. Three volumes (nine, twelve, and thirteen, the final volume) were identified after careful reading of all of the unbound manuscripts. The identification of these volumes is still uncertain, and later studies may yet relocate them in the sequence. Two additional large fragments, volume A (typewritten) and the huge handwritten manuscript entitled "Amazing Phenomena Connected with the Enormous Battle of Dolorine Costellio," have not been fitted into the sequence. Also forming part of *The Realms* are large sections of handwritten manuscript, which Darger later typed into the finished volumes, as well as other handwritten fragments which he did not include. There is also a large "planning journal" which Darger used to keep track of the thousands of characters, battles, deaths, and events occurring in the various volumes of *The Realms*.

Darger's two other major written works, *Further Adventures in Chicago: Crazy House*, and *The History of My Life*, are in better order and present fewer problems to the reader. Nevertheless, each of these is accompanied by associated fragments, which were not included by Darger in the numbered volumes, Darger's "Weather Books" also form part of the archive. They are not narrative writings, but simply his personal records of Chicago weather, written out day by day, and occasionally accompanied by humorous comments. Darger's diaries, and personal documents which he saved over the years, are also preserved, and along with all of the original manuscripts are available for research or consultation at the museum,

The catalogue of Darger's writings which follows has been arranged by the museum in more or less chronological fashion in a set of forty-one numbered boxes, and the lists of writings below locate the individual manuscripts according to the box numbers.

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SECTION A: *In the Realms of the Unreal* bound volumes I-VII**Box 1: volume one (bound) includes Darger pp. 1-unnumbered**

The total page count: 644. Perfect continuity can be established with volume two.

Box 2: volume two (bound) includes Darger pp.1-955

The total page count: 915. Perfect continuity can be established with volume one and with volume three.

Box 3: volume three (bound) includes Darger pp.1-1012

The total page count: 1162. There is clear continuity with volume two.

Box 4: volume four (bound) includes Darger pp.1-1689

The total page count: 1577. This is the largest bound volume. There is no obvious continuity with volume three.

Box 5: volume five (bound) includes Darger pp.1-858 + 1

The total page count: 862. Continuity is clear with volume four and there is perfect continuity with volume six.

Box 6: volume six (bound) includes Darger pp.1-850

The total page count: 933. There is perfect continuity with volume five and with bound volume seven.

Box 7: volume seven (bound) includes Darger pp.1-1187

The total page count: 1176. This is the final bound volume. There is clear continuity with volume six and perfect continuity with volume eight [unbound].

SECTION B: *In the Realms of the Unreal* unbound volumes VIII-XIII**Box 8: volume eight (unbound) includes Darger pp. 1-unnumbered**

The total page count: 836. MacGregor page numbers: 8-1/8-418. There is clear continuity with volume seven [bound].

Box 9: volume nine (?) (unbound) includes Darger pp. 1-unnumbered

The total page count: 2164. MacGregor page numbers: 9-1/9-1082. In the absence of a title page or identifying volume number, identification of this volume by Dr. MacGregor as volume nine must remain tentative [as of February 2001]. This volume was formerly known as volume C.

Box 10: volume ten, part one (unbound) includes Darger pp. 1-855

The total page count: 862. MacGregor page numbers: 10-1/10-431. Darger himself identified this as volume ten, identifying the next volume as volume ten, part two. There are, accordingly, two volumes ten, part one, and part two, and two boxes containing them.

Box 11: volume ten, part two [unbound] includes Darger pp. 2007-850

The total page count: 944. MacGregor page numbers: 10-1/10-475. Continuity with volume ten, part one is arrived at using the old page numbering system (p. 2006, inside of part one) and the fact that this volume begins with p. 2007. Clear continuity is evident with volume eleven.

Box 12: volume eleven [unbound] includes Darger pp. 1-870

The total page count: 908. MacGregor page numbers: 11-1/11-453. Continuity from volume ten, part two, to volume eleven is clear. This was the last volume numbered by Darger.

Box 13: volume twelve (?) (unbound) includes Darger pp. 2254-2914

The total page count: 1210. MacGregor page numbers: 7-1/7-601. In the absence of a title page or identifying volume number the identification of this volume by Dr. MacGregor as volume twelve must remain tentative [as of February 2001]. At some point in the evolution of *The Realms*, Darger entitled this manuscript "Volume Seven," despite the fact that there is also a bound volume seven, with continuity between that and volume eight. Careful study of the text of this volume suggests that it is in fact the second to last volume of *The Realms*. This volume was previously known as volume seven [unbound].

Box 14: volume thirteen (?) (unbound) Includes Darger pp. 2916-3545

The total page count: 652. MacGregor page numbers 13-1/13-314. In the absence of a title page or an identifying volume number, the identification of this volume by Dr. MacGregor as volume thirteen must remain tentative (as of February 2001). This is clearly the final volume of *The Realms*, with the story brought to a firm conclusion. This volume was previously known as volume B.

Box 15: Unidentified typed volume of *The Realms*, presently known as A.

It includes Darger page numbers [most pp. unnumbered], but including pp. 2155-2943 and 4003-4008. Pages A-175/ A-82a seem to represent a fragmentary chapter (not evident where it might fit). The volume ends with an unconnected group of songs. The total page count: 364 + songs, MacGregor page numbers A-1/A-199. The pp. in this "volume" are seriously out of sequence, and no effort has ever been made to establish page continuity. This will have to be done before this material can be fitted into the sequence of the thirteen volumes of *The Realms*.

SECTION C: Handwritten manuscript later typed into *The Realms*

Box 16: Contains the following five documents:

1. An unbound Register Book [cover missing]. Pages with printed numbers: A-Z, and 1-382. Title: "In a Child Slave Plantation," Dated by Darger, October 27, 1926. (Handwritten text on pp. A-Z and 1-276.) The total page count: 328. This sequence of handwritten chapters later appears, with little change, in volume nine of *The Realms*, starting on p. 598 and continuing.
2. Bound, gray cloth-covered Register Book (12 1/2 inches x 8 inches) with printed label, "National 892" inside of front cover. Pages with printed numbers 1, A-Z, and 1-84. Title: "Strange Incidents in St. Claires Plantation," Dated by Darger, January 22, 1927. [Handwritten text on pp. 1, A-Z, and 1-84]. Exact continuity has been established with #1 above. The total page count: 138. This sequence of handwritten chapters later appears, with little change, in volume nine of *The Realms*, starting with "Strange Incidents in St. Claires Plantation."
3. Bound, gray cloth-covered Register Book (12 1/2 inches x 8 inches) with printed label, "National 892" inside of front cover. Pages with printed numbers 1, A-Z, and 1-84 [Identical to #2 above]. Titled by Darger, "Did Jannie find out who her master was?" Dated by Darger, March 1, 1927, with additional dates running to April 1, 1927. The total page count: 136. This sequence of handwritten chapters later appears, with little change, in volume nine of *The Realms*, starting on p. 9-641. Continuity with #2 above can be established with certainty. [This volume is presently not in the AFAM Darger Archives. As of February 2001 it was being offered for sale on the art market in New York.]
4. Unbound Register Book [cover missing]. Darger identified it as "Book 4." Pages with printed numbers, E-Z, and 1-384. Entitled by Darger "The Plantation is Abandoned." Dated by Darger, April 5, 1927. [Handwritten text appears on pp. 1, E-Z, and 1-272, followed by blank pp. 273-384.] Exact continuity with #3 above can be established. Total page count: 320. This sequence of handwritten chapters later appears, with little change, in volume nine of *The Realms*, starting on p. 728, "The Plantation is Abandoned."
5. A huge, very heavy, bound Register Book (14 1/4 inches x 9 1/2 inches), labeled "National 893 W" on the inside front cover. Pages with printed numbers 1-800. Entitled by Darger, "Mullencat State Calverinia. Explosion, flood, and fire, 700,000 lives lost." Dated by Darger,

November 23, 1927. [Handwritten text appears on pp. 1-474 followed by blank pages, 475-800.) [This manuscript does not follow upon #4 above.] The total page count: 474. This huge Register actually contains three distinct sections of manuscript belonging to different parts of the typewritten Realms.

- i. The section entitled "Mullencat State Calverinia", pp. 1-95, was later typed, with little change, into volume nine of *The Realms*, starting on p. 785, "Mullencat State Calverinia, Explosion, flood, and fire." See volume nine, pp. 785, 795, 802, 805, 808, 811, 814, and 816.
- ii. The second section of this manuscript, beginning on p. 98, is entitled, "Chapter 1, Introducing an Attempt of Violet and her Sisters to find out who is Responsible for the Flood Disasters." This section runs through pp. 98-439, and contains a very long sequence of chapters from *The Realms*, volume seven (bound], chapter 22 to chapter 32, part two.
- iii. The third section of this manuscript, beginning on p. 441, is entitled "Chapter One, Further Adventures in Chicago," and probably forms part of the Darger book, *Further Adventures in Chicago: Crazy House*.

SECTION D: Unidentified, handwritten fragments of *The Realms*

Box 17: Contains the following four manuscripts:

1. Manuscript entitled, "Amazing Phenomena Connected with the Enormous Battle of Dolorine Costellio." This consists of a set of ring-binder pages tied together with string, and numbered by Darger, pp. 1-839. Although the Battle of Dolorine Costellio does occur in volume two of *The Realms*, chapter 8, there is no obvious connection between the short account of that battle typed into *The Realms*, and this colossal handwritten manuscript, which is essentially an entire volume in itself.
2. Small blue-black "Keystone" ring-binder: (8 5/16 inches x 11 inches) with pages numbered by Darger, 840-957, thus establishing exact continuity with the previous volume. The end of this binder contains blank pages.
3. Bound Register Book, with handwritten indication of previous ownership inside of front cover, H. E. Nilsson (8 5/8 inches x 14 inches)- Titled by Darger, "No. One." This fragment on pp. 11-46, clearly belongs to *The Realms*, although it is not clear where it might fit, or whether it was ever used. A second fragment entitled by Darger, "No. Two," on pp. 47-143, probably belongs to *Further Adventures in Chicago: Crazy House*.
4. Tiny "Compositions" book, entitled by Darger on the outside front cover, *Battle of Eva Sainte Claire* 18 1/2 inches x 7 inches-

SECTION E: Darger's "planning journal" for *The Realms*

Box 18: Contains one large Register Book (binding badly broken) (12 1/2 inches x 7 5/8 inches)

Entitled by Darger on outside front cover, "Please Return this Book to Its Proper Place. This Means you Henry D." The first part of the book, pp. 181-273, consists of Darger copying the questions and answers of the Catechism of Christian Doctrine.

Pages 274-275 contain a letter written by Gertrude Angeline, after which various sections enable Darger to keep track of the characters, battles, deaths, and other events, occurring throughout *The Realms*.

SECTION F: *Further Adventures in Chicago: Crazy House*

[A handwritten manuscript by Henry J. Darger, in 16 volumes.] This book, *Further Adventures in Chicago: Crazy House*, was previously identified as "The Vivian Girls in Chicago." However, newly discovered manuscript material has provided two distinct names for this book, both invented by Darger, and they are accordingly both being used.

Box 19: volume one (bound)

(Title page missing.) Darger pp. 1-5643 [page 1, chapter 1]

Box 20: volume two

Darger pp. 5644-8213

Box 21: volume three

Darger pp. 8214-8498

Box 22: volume four

Darger pp. 8499-9531

Box 23: volumes five through fifteen

volume five, Darger pp. 9524-9900

volume six, Darger pp. 9901-9944

volume seven, Darger pp. 9945-10036

volume eight, "Devil House," Darger pp. 10037-10089

volume nine, "Crazy House," Darger pp. 10090-10138

volume ten, "Crazy House," Darger pp. 10139-10186

volume eleven, Darger pp. 10187-10283

volume twelve, Darger pp. 10284-10374

volume thirteen, Darger pp. 10375-10414

volume fourteen, Darger pp. 10415-10453

volume fifteen, Darger pp. 10454-10461

Box 24: volume sixteen

Darger pp. 10462-10531. This is the final volume.

No part of the book is missing.

SECTION G: Handwritten manuscript fragments seemingly associated in some way with the book *Further Adventures in Chicago: Crazy House*

No box: For this material, see the following:

1. Box 16, Manuscript 5, Section 3, pp. 441-474, for a possible fragment.
2. Box 17, Manuscript 3, Section 2, pp. 47-143, which may also form part of *Further Adventures in Chicago: Crazy House*.

SECTION H: *The History of My Life*

[Handwritten manuscript in eight volumes, by Henry J. Darger]

Box 25: volume one

This volume begins with "Descriptions from the Holy Bible, pp. 1-37. Then a new set of pages, 1-206, actually deals with Darger's account of the details of his life. The following pages, 206-1183, begins the vast story of a tornado which eventually comes to be known as "Sweetie Pie." The story of this tornado hitting cities (some real, some imaginary) then fills all of the remaining volumes of this book.

Box 26: volume two

Darger pp. 1184-2631

Box 27: volume three
Darger pp. 2631-3120

Box 28: volume four
Darger pp. 3121-4275

Box 29: contains volumes five through seven
volume five, Darger pp. 4276-4309
volume six, Darger pp. 4309-4368
volume seven, Darger pp. 4369-4912

Box 30: volume eight
Darger pp. 4913-5084. This completes the account of the Tornado "Sweetie Pie."

SECTION I: Loose manuscript (handwritten pages) associated in some way (unclear) with the book *The History of My Life*

[Additional pages dealing with the tornado Sweetie Pie.]

Box 31: This box contains an enormous pile of numbered handwritten pages, numbered by Darger, but untitled. [5'12 inches x 8'12 inches] These pages when found were entirely out of order, with numbers reaching into the 4000's. Page numbering is wildly erratic, with the same numbers used again and again. Anyone seeking to work with this manuscript will need to study the page sequences, and attempt to get the manuscript in order - a massive task.

Box 32: A fragment of *The History of My Life*
This fragment consists of a smaller pile of newsprint manuscript with the pages accidentally glued together. Darger page numbers run from 19489 to 19625 or 1-136, plus several loose but associated pages.

SECTION J: Diaries

Box 33: Contains the following five handwritten manuscripts

1. A small brown book, with the printed title on the front cover, "Time Book Monthly" [H 8 inches, W 5 inches, Spine 1/2 inch]. Extremely important: It contains "Predictions" dated June 1911-December 1917.
2. Bound, olive-green, "Desk Diary," dated by Darger, March 24, 1968-February 21, 1969 [H 6 inches, W 4 1/2 inches, spine 1 inch]. This diary, of unique importance, was stolen from Darger's room in 2000. It is therefore presently unavailable for study in the Darger Research Archive at the American Folk Art Museum.
3. De Paul Ring-Binder Blue [H 11 inches, W 8 inches, Spine 2 inches]. Entitled by Darger, "Continuation of my Diary." Dated by Darger, Saturday February 22, 1969, to January 1, 1972. This diary is a continuation of the stolen volume #2 above. Pages numbered by Darger 1-28.
4. Penworthy Composition Book [W 8 3/4 inches x H 11 inches]. "Property of Henry Jos. Dargarius [Hendro]" This book contains lists of Darger's favorite songs, plus Abbieanian song titles, followed by copied religious texts.
5. Darger's personal copy of the Holy Bible, containing his penciled notations on the Family Record Page. This Bible, with its important record, is not, at present, in the Archive.

SECTION K: Darger's private documents

Box 34: Contains individual documents of extreme importance and rarity. Most are composed, typed, or handwritten by Darger himself.

Box 35: Less personal private documents: pay forms, letters, tax information, etc.

SECTION L: The "Weather Books"

Box 36: volume one

Dated by Darger, December 31, 1957-December 27, 1960.

Box 37: volume two

Dated by Darger, May 31, 1962-November 15, 1963. Darger writes: "Continued from Book One preceded from stolen book." [This may explain the break between volumes one and two.]

Box 38: volume three

Dated by Darger, November 16, 1963-October 31, 1964.

Box 39: volume four

Dated by Darger: November 1, 1964-December 31, 1965.

Box 40: volume five

Dated by Darger, January 1, 1966-December 31, 1966.

Box 41: volume six

Dated by Darger: January 1, 1967-December 31, 1967. Final page marked by Darger, "Finish."

This completes the list of all known surviving books and manuscripts originally found in Henry Darger's room, and preserved for posterity by Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Lerner.