Application Form

Donor/Founder: Mrs. C. Suzette Ditsky, Detroit, Michigan

Executor: Mr. John B. Straw, Director of the Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie, Indiana, 47306, U.S.A.

Senior Consultant: Dr. Tetsumaro Hayashi, Professor Emeritus of English and Director Emeritus of the Steinbeck Research Institute, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

Name: (Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr./etc.) __________________________________________

Birth date/location (city, state, country): __________________________________

Addresses:

Home address: __________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Professional address: _________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Present professional title: _____________________________________________

Contact Information:

Phone number: ________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________

Fax number: __________________________________________________________
References:

(1) A senior Steinbeck scholar, or an academic or graduate advisor or a
dissertation director;
(2) Two others references from your university or college or employers

Submit:

(1) Submit two (2) copies of a one or two-page Steinbeck-related research
proposal, double-spaced
(2) Submit a curriculum vitae
(3) Completed application form to Mr. John B. Straw, Executor.
The Steinbeck Research Award in Honor of Dr. John M. Ditsky
The Ditsky Fund Award
A Grant in Aid

Requirements/Commitments for the Application

(1) Project research must be done at the Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie, Indiana, at least for a week. The minimum requirement is to do one’s intensive research for five days (your arrival day and your departing day are separate from the five-research days), using the Archives and Special Collection’s Steinbeck collection, other appropriate archival material and additional research facilities in the Libraries. Research must be done during a regular semester or a semester break between two semesters; for instance, one of the best times might be a week between the end of the academic year and the beginning of the summer session.

(2) Propose a Steinbeck-related research project for publication in a professional, scholarly Steinbeck-related journal; or a scholarly paper to be presented at one of the Steinbeck conferences, congresses, conventions, or lectures to be given at a university.

(3) Write a one or two page report on your funded research conducted at Ball State University Libraries within six months after receiving The Steinbeck Research Award. A check is usually given on the first day you begin your approved Steinbeck research.

Other matters of importance:

(1) Because this is a grant-in-aid to Steinbeck research, either for a dissertation, publication or scholarly work to be presented, one may have another grant from another university or foundation. In such a case, you are expected to do your intensive research reasonably longer than five days at Ball State University Libraries.

(2) Once published, you will be asked to acknowledge the Steinbeck Research Award in honor of Dr. John M. Ditsky specifically in your article or essay, etc., and to send two (2) autographed copies of the published article or essay to Mr. John B. Straw, at the Archives and Special Collections at Ball State University Libraries.
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Announcement, Publicity

Mr. Straw, Executor, in consultation with Dr. Hayashi, Senior Consultant, will be in charge of any announcements, public information services in collaboration with the Office of University Marketing and Communications, Ball State University.

The first announcements, etc., will be sent to Mrs. Ditsky, the donor and founder of this fund.

Examples:

(1) The Library Insider: Mr. Straw

(2) The Office of University Marketing and Communications, Ball State University: Mr. Straw

(3) The Steinbeck Review, eds. Barbara A. Heavilin, (Taylor University, Upland, Indiana) and Paul Douglass (San Jose State University, San Jose, California): Dr. Hayashi and Mr. Straw.

(4) Other: The Star Press (Muncie, Indiana) and additional media: Mr. Straw
Notes/Ideas

- Dr. Hayashi, Mr. Straw and Mrs. Jane Gastineau will review submissions, as well as input from Mrs. Ditsky (and others if needed).

- Request from Jane to help as editor.

- Have John show Mrs. Ditsky a final draft of application, bio and other forms.

- Complete Dr. Ditsky one-page biography based on the funeral program (was originally prepared by Mrs. Ditsky) and then send bio to applicants, along with application and instruction forms. Make sure to send a draft to Mrs. Ditsky as she wishes to see it before we finalize it, especially the biography.
Ditsky Biography

Dr. John Michael Ditsky
March 9, 1938-May 15, 2006

Dr. John Ditsky was a professor Emeritus of English, at the University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada; and received his Ph.D. in English, at New York University in 1967.

He also taught at the University of Detroit and Wayne State University before he started a distinguished career at the University of Windsor. A multi-talented man, Dr. Ditsky, an American literature scholar, was also an active poet, music critic and poetry editor.

John was first and foremost a passionate and dedicated scholar, teacher and mentor. He taught courses in American literature, drama, and creative writing. He was always a poet and served as poetry editor of the University of Windsor Review for many years.

He published four collections of poems, five critical volumes, as well as over 100 critical articles, essays, and book chapters on a variety of literary subjects. He served as president of the New Steinbeck Society of America, was former vice president of the International Steinbeck Society, and chairman of the Editorial Board of the Steinbeck Quarterly and more recently that of the Steinbeck Review.

He was a world renowned senior Steinbeck scholar and was honored with both the Burkhardt Award for the Outstanding Steinbeck Scholar (1999-2000) and the Pruis Award for the Outstanding Steinbeck Teacher/Educator awards (1979-1980 and 1984-1985) from the Ball State University Foundation.

In his memory, the Steinbeck Research Award Fund was established by Mrs. C. Suzette Ditsky in 2006 to honor his long-established legacy of extending a helping hand to emerging Steinbeck scholars as our scholarly conscience and inspiration.