

## Finding Aid to the Allen Hammack Dungeons & Dragons Collection, 1975-2016

### Summary Information

**Title:** Allen Hammack Dungeons & Dragons collection

**Creator:** Allen Hammack (primary)

**ID:** 116.9098

**Date:** 1975-2016 (inclusive); 1975-1978 (bulk)

**Extent:** 3.5 linear feet

**Language:** The materials in this collection are in English.

**Abstract:** The Allen Hammack Dungeons & Dragons collection is a compilation of original role-playing game campaign materials, notes, hand-drawn and printed maps, manuscript modules, and other related documentation to Dungeons & Dragons campaigns created or co-created by Hammack. The bulk of the materials are undated but most likely from 1976-1978.

**Repository:**

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong  
One Manhattan Square  
Rochester, New York 14607  
585.263.2700  
library@museumofplay.org

### Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Use:** This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and by users of its library and archives. Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein), The Strong has permission to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

**Custodial History:** The Allen Hammack Dungeons & Dragons collection was acquired by The Strong in December 2016 from The Collector's Trove. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under Object ID 116.9098 and were received in two boxes.

**Preferred citation for publication:** Allen Hammack Dungeons & Dragons collection, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

**Processed by:** Julia Novakovic, October 2017

### Controlled Access Terms

**Personal Names**

- Hammack, Allen
- Miller, Howard ("Howie")

**Corporate Names**

- TSR, Inc.
- TSR Hobbies, Inc.

## Subjects

- Dungeons and Dragons (Game)
- Fantasy gamers
- Fantasy games
- Role playing
- Role playing games
- Role playing--Handbooks, manuals, etc.
- Simulation games

## Biographical Note

Allen Hammack is an American game designer and editor, best known for his work on several classic TSR Dungeons & Dragons modules.

Hammack grew up as a wargaming enthusiast in Alabama. He became involved with Dungeons & Dragons during the 1970s, where he often played the role of a Dungeon Master, crafting the worlds and events of his home campaigns. While attending Gen Con XI, Hammack met TSR founder Gary Gygax, who hired him as a games editor. Hammack went on to develop and edit multiple TSR role-playing products, including many books, guides, and peripherals. Hammack was the primary designer on several published D&D modules, including A3 Assault on the Aerie of the Slave Lords and C2 Ghost Tower of Inverness. Hammack worked for TSR until 1983, when he left to open a gaming store in his home state.

## Collection Scope and Content Note

The Allen Hammack Dungeons & Dragons collection contains original role-playing game campaign materials, notes, hand-drawn and printed maps, manuscript modules, and other related documentation to Dungeons & Dragons campaigns created or co-created by Hammack. The modules featured here include local Inverness campaigns, including the basis for The Ghost Tower of Inverness, as well as the Gormenghast Megadungeon. Also within this collection are a newspaper article and handouts for a class taught by Hammack to parents interested in Dungeons & Dragons.

The Allen Hammack Dungeons & Dragons collection is arranged into two series, one of which has been further divided into subseries. The collection is housed in two archival document boxes and two oversized flat folders.

## System of Arrangement

Series I: Inverness campaign design documentation, 1975-2016

Subseries A: Ghost Tower of Inverness design documentation, 1976-1987, 2016

Subseries B: Gormenghast game design documentation, 1975-1976, 2015-2016

Series II: D&D class for parents, 1985, 2016

## Contents List

### Series I: Inverness campaign design documentation, 1975-2016

**Scope and Content Note:** This series holds original and reproduction Dungeons & Dragons-related materials created or used by Allen Hammack.

#### Subseries A: Ghost Tower of Inverness design documentation, 1976-1987, 2016

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries houses Dungeons & Dragons-related materials used or created by Allen Hammack for the Ghost Tower of Inverness campaign, eventually published in 1979. Materials within this series include notes, manuscripts, lists, character sheets and cards, maps, plot sketches, and published reference.

#### Box 1

- Folder 1 Inverness campaign - notes, manuscripts, and reference; n.d. [c. 1976-1978]
- Folder 2 Inverness campaign - "Holy Horyx Temple District Map," n.d. [c. 1976]
- Folder 3 Inverness campaign - "Wandering Monster Hex Map," n.d. [c. 1978]
- Folder 4 Inverness campaign - handwritten and printed character sheets and index cards, n.d. [c. 1976-1978]
- Folder 5 Inverness campaign - supplements and published hex maps, 1977
- Folder 6 Inverness campaign - City of Abergathy reference and notes, n.d. [c. 1976-1978]
- Folder 7 Inverness campaign - "Allen's World" - "Triumph of the Red Queen" plot sketch, dungeon designs, and notes; n.d. [c. 1986-1987]
- Folder 8 Inverness campaign - City of Abergathy/ "Allen's World" computer-generated map, n.d. [c. 1986-1987?]
- Folder 9 Inverness campaign - certificate of authenticity, 2016

#### Box 2

- Folder 1 Inverness campaign - notes, manuscripts, and maps; n.d. [c. 1976-1978]
- Folder 2 Inverness campaign - hand-drawn map, n.d. [c. 1976]

#### Oversized

- Folder 1 Inverness campaign - City of Abergathy maps, n.d. [c. 1976-1978]

#### Subseries B: Gormenghast Megadungeon documentation, 1975-1976, 2015-2016

**Scope and Content Note:** This subseries contains Dungeons & Dragons-related materials co-created by Allen Hammack, along with Howard ("Howie") Miller. The Gormenghast Megadungeon, a local area campaign, was primarily designed by Miller with secondary design by Hammack. These materials include a key folio with written encounters, charts, standard-sized maps, and oversized level maps.

Many of the pages from the Charts and Maps folio were artificially aged with paint, wax, and burning of the paper, resulting in brittle, fragile originals. These

have been scanned and photocopied, and access copies are provided for researchers in Folder 11 in place of the originals. (Folder 12 contents should only be accessed if the original is deemed necessary, though hi-res color digital surrogates also exist.)

**Box 1**

- Folder 10 "Gormenghast," Howie Miller and Allen Hammack - key folio, level information, notes; c. 1975-1976
- Folder 11 "Gormenghast," Howie Miller and Allen Hammack - Charts and Maps, Artifacts by Level; c. 1975-1976 [Access copies of maps]
- Folder 12 "Gormenghast" Charts and Maps (original), c. 1975-1976 [Preservation copies of maps]
- Folder 13 "Gormenghast" annotations and certificate of authenticity, 2015-2016

**Oversized**

- Folder 2 "Gormenghast" level maps, n.d. [c. 1975-1976]

**Series II: D&D class for parents, 1985, 2016**

**Scope and Content Note:** This series houses a newspaper article and class handouts created by Allen Hammack for a "D&D for Parents" class at the Southside Community School in Birmingham, Alabama. The materials for the class are from 1985.

**Box 1**

- Folder 14 D&D for Parents Class - article [interview with Allen Hammack], "Dungeon Master opens door to parents," Tabby Slawson, *Birmingham Post-Herald*, September 27, 1985
- Folder 15 D&D for Parents Class - handouts, n.d. [1985]
- Folder 16 D&D for Parents Class handouts certificate of authenticity, 2016