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Guide to Gustaf Sobin Correspondence and Writings

YCAL MSS 1620



by Gladys García

March 2024

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1620

CREATOR: Sobin, Gustaf

TITLE: Gustaf Sobin Correspondence and Writings

DATES: 1974–2000

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Predominantly in English, some material in French.

SUMMARY: Collection consists of handwritten correspondence from Gustaf Sobin to James Clifford, poetry typescripts, Sobin's annotated manuscripts, poetry chapter books, and printed ephemera. Topics covered in the collection include the lifelong friendship between Sobin and Clifford, mental health, masculinity, marriage, family life, the creative process, finances, publishing industry, editorial feedback, life in France, and travel between France and the US.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sobincorrwrit>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sobincorrwrit>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of James Clifford, 2022.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Gustaf Sobin Correspondence and Writings collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Gustaf Sobin Correspondence and Writings. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Related Materials

Gustaf Sobin papers (YCAL MSS 647).

Biographical / Historical

Gustaf Sobin was born November 15, 1935, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was educated at Brown University (A.B., 1958). Sobin was an American poet who made his home in Provence, France, for more than four decades up until his death. Sobin was heavily influenced by the work of his poetic peer and friend René Char. His body of work includes nearly thirty books of poetry, prose, and fiction, almost all of it reflecting his deep connection to the Provençal landscape, nature, history of the area and its geography. He married English painter Susannah Bott in 1968, with whom he had two children. Sobin died of pancreatic cancer, July 7, 2005, in Cavaillon, Vaucluse, France.

"Gustaf Sobin." In *Gale Literature: Contemporary Authors*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2005. *Gale Literature: Contemporary Authors* (accessed March 1, 2024).

Christopher Hawtree, "Gustaf Sobin: Four decades in Provence," *The Guardian*. September 26, 2005. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2005/sep/26/guardianobituaries.booksobituaries>.

Scope and Contents

Collection consists of handwritten correspondence from Gustaf Sobin to James Clifford, poetry typescripts, Sobin's annotated manuscripts, poetry chapter books, and printed ephemera. Topics covered in the collection include the lifelong friendship between Sobin and Clifford, mental health, masculinity, marriage, family life, the creative process, finances, publishing industry, editorial feedback, life in France, and travel between France and the US.

Arrangement

Collection organized into two groupings of correspondence and writings, and chronologically therein.

Collection Contents

Outgoing correspondence to James Clifford

b. 1, f. 1	1974	1974
b. 1, f. 2	1975	1975
b. 1, f. 3	circa 1975-1979, undated	circa 1975-1979, undated
b. 1, f. 4	1976	1976
b. 1, f. 5	1977	1977
b. 1, f. 6	1978	1978
b. 1, f. 7	1979	1979
b. 1, f. 8	1980	1980
b. 1, f. 9	1981	1981
b. 1, f. 10	1982	1982
b. 1, f. 11	1983-1984	1983-1984
b. 1, f. 12	1987-1988	1987-1988
b. 1, f. 13	1996-2000	1996-2000

Writings

b. 2, f. 1	<i>Mirrorhead</i>	1976 February
b. 2, f. 2-3	<i>Ways Without: Poems</i>	1976-1977
b. 2, f. 4	<i>Splicing Light: Poems From the Poetry Seminar</i>	1977 September-1977 December
b. 2, f. 5	Miscellaneous writings and ephemera	1977-1980, undated
b. 2, f. 6	<i>Caesurae: Midsummer</i>	1981
b. 2, f. 7	<i>Celebration of the Sound Through</i>	circa 1982
b. 2, f. 8	<i>Ten Sham Haikus: For my Friend Brad Morrow</i>	1983
b. 2, f. 9	<i>Carnets: 1979 - 1982</i>	circa 1984
b. 2, f. 10	<i>The Earth as Air</i>	circa 1984

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

Provence (France)

Subjects

American literature -- 20th Century
American poetry -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Authors -- 20th Century
Male friendship
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Poets -- 20th Century

Names

Clifford, James
Sobin, Gustaf

Acquired From

Clifford, James