

# Guide to the Leon Fradley Whitney Papers

YCAL MSS 21



by Heather L. Holeman

September 1986

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 21

**CREATOR:** Whitney, Leon F. (Leon Fradley), 1894-1973

**TITLE:** Leon Fradley Whitney papers

**DATES:** 1931, 1950

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers contain the typescript of Pigeon City (1931) and the manuscript and typescript for That Useless Hound (1950).

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

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## 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.whitney>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Leon F. Whitney.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Leon Fradley Whitney Papers are 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Leon Fradley Whitney Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## LEON FRADLEY WHITNEY, 1894-1973

Leon F. Whitney, biologist and veterinarian, was born on March 29, 1894 in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of Leon and Geneva Fradley Whitney. He received a B.S. from the University of Massachusetts in 1916 and a D.V.M. from Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1940. From 1940 until 1964 he was a clinical instructor in pathology at the Yale School of Medicine.

He was the author of many works on animals, including *The Basis of Breeding* (1928), *How to Breed Dogs* (1937), *All About Guppies* (1952), and *Keep Your Pigeons Flying* (1960). He was a proponent of eugenics and published scientific papers on human genetics, population problems, and the genetic characteristics and mental aptitudes of dogs. He also wrote at least three juvenile books on pets, the manuscripts for two of which are found in the collection.

Whitney married Katharine Carroll Sackett in 1916 and was the father of two children. He died in 1973.

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## Scope and Contents

The Leon Fradley Whitney Papers contain, in one box, the typescript of *Pigeon City* (1931) and the original manuscript and typescript of *That Useless Hound* (1950). The typescript of *Pigeon City* was donated to Yale University by the author in 1948. The manuscript and typescript of *That Useless Hound* were also donated by the author. Both works are juvenile fiction concerning young boys training animals.

*Pigeon City*, a 1932 Junior Literary Guild Selection, describes how three boys breed, train, and race homing pigeons. *That Useless Hound*, written in sixty hours while the author recuperated from a double hernia operation, chronicles the experiences of a young boy training a bloodhound to track missing persons.

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## Collection Contents

|                |  |      |
|----------------|--|------|
| b. 1, f. 1-5   | <i>Pigeon City</i> : typescript        | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 6-10  | <i>That Useless Hound</i> : manuscript | n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 11-18 | <i>That Useless Hound</i> : typescript | n.d. |

## **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.

### **Subjects**

Children's literature  
Dogs -- Juvenile literature  
Homing pigeons -- Juvenile literature  
Pets -- Juvenile literature

### **Occupations**

Authors  
Veterinarians -- United States

### **Names**

Whitney, Leon F. (Leon Fradley), 1894-1973