

Guide to the Difficulties Records

YCAL MSS 382



by Molly Wheeler

May 15, 2007

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Collection Overview

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

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 382

CREATOR: Difficulties

TITLE: The Difficulties Records

DATES: 1977-1997

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7.52 linear feet (11 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Difficulties Records contain correspondence, production files, drafts of writings, and printed material relating to the production and publication of journal issues.

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

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.difficulties>.

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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Thomas L. Beckett on the Ezra Pound Archive Fund, 1997.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Difficulties Records 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

The Difficulties Records. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: Uncat ZA MS 549.

Collection 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.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing. This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

The Difficulties

The Difficulties was an arts journal started by poet and editor Tom Beckett in 1980. The journal's name was derived from a Charles Olson quote and the journal was published by Viscerally Press in Kent, Ohio. Between 1980 and 1990, six issues were produced, each focusing on process-oriented and language-centered work. The first issue was comprised of responses to a questionnaire about "language environment;" the second was an issue of poetry; and the final four issues were critical considerations of the writers Charles Bernstein, Ron Silliman, David Bromige and Susan Howe.

Scope and Contents

The Difficulties Records contain correspondence, production files, drafts of writings, and printed material relating to the production and publication of journal issues.

Collection Contents

Production files, 1977-1997

7.52 linear feet (11 boxes)

Arranged alphabetically by writer and project name.

b.1	<i>Abacus</i> poetry journals	1985-1992
b.1	Abbot, Steve. Correspondence, newsletters	1980-1981
b.1	Alexander, Charles. Correspondence, newsletters, brochures	1991-1994, undated
b.1	Amnasan, Michael. Correspondence, two scripts of "An Unimportant Man"	1996-1997
b.1	"Anabasis/Thomas Taylor" correspondence about "The Love Project"	1993
b.1	"And/Xexoxial" correspondence	1993 May 8
b.1	Andrews, Bruce. Correspondence, articles, transcripts of speeches	1981-1996
b.1	Angeline, Mary. Correspondence	1989
b.1	Antin, David. Correspondence	1981 Jun 24
b.1	Applefield, David. Correspondence Regards <i>Frank Magazine</i>	1985, undated
b.1	Armantrout, Rae. Correspondence and article "See Armantrout for an Alternate View" by Michael Leddy	1981, 1994
b.1	"(Ohio) Arts Council--Bob Fox" correspondence	1989-1990
b.1	Baron, Todd. Correspondence	undated
b.1	Barone, Dennis. Correspondence	1980-1987
b.1	"Bayfront NATO--Martin Luther King Ctr" correspondence, brochure	1987, undated
b.1	Benedetti, David. Correspondence	1981
b.1	Benson, Steve. Correspondence	1981-1994
b.1	Berglard, Brita. Correspondence	1984-1986
b.1	Bernstein, Charles. Correspondence, transcript of an interview with Abigail Child, writings, poetry, "The Sophist" <i>4 Folders</i>	1980-1994, undated
b.1	Berry, Jake. Correspondence, article "Hyperotics: Towards a Theory of Experimental Poetry" by Harry Polkinhorn, responses to "Brambu Drezi"	1995-1996, undated
b.1	"Bertholf" correspondence	1980-1985
b.1	<i>Black Mountain 2 Review</i> . Correspondence	1985-1986
b.1	"Magazine blurb file" correspondence	1986

b. 1	Boone, Bruce. Correspondence	1986-1987
b. 1	Borneman, Bill. Correspondence, poetry journals	1981-1983
b. 1	Bromige, David. Correspondence, writings, newsletters, poetry, assorted proofs of <i>The Difficulties</i> 4 Folders	1981-1996, undated
b. 1	Buck, Paul. Correspondence, poetry	1980-1982
b. 1	"Burning Press/L.B. Drake" correspondence, poetry journals, brochures	1989-1992, undated
b. 1	Burns, Avery. Correspondence	1996 March 12
b. 1	"Butterick" correspondence	1979-1987
b. 1	Byrd, Don. Correspondence, article "Getting Ready to Read 'A'"	1980-1987, undated
b. 2	Byrum, John. Correspondence, poetry journals, writings, newsletters 4 Folders	1986-1996, undated
b. 2	"Byrum--Temporary City"	undated
b. 2	Callahan, Bob. Correspondence, brochure	1979
b. 2	Chadwick, Cydney. Correspondence	1989-1990
b. 2	Chamberlin, Lori. Correspondence	1987 January 19
b. 2	Chester, Laura. Correspondence, writing	1981, undated
b. 2	<i>Chicago Review</i> , correspondence, writings	1981-1985, undated
b. 3	Chriof, David. Correspondence, writings, poetry, photocopies of articles 2 Folders	1996, undated
b. 3	"Cincinnati Small Press Fair" certificate	1988 Oct 15
b. 3	Coffey, Michael. "Small Press" correspondence, descriptions of books	1986, undated
b. 3	"Contraflow" correspondence	1986 July 5
b. 3	Coolidge, Clark. Correspondence	1985
b. 3	Corman, Cid. Correspondence	1979-1981
b. 3	"Cory, et. al" correspondence	undated
b. 3	Creeley, Robert. Correspondence	1981-1988
b. 3	Dahlen, Bev. Correspondence	1985-1987
b. 3	<i>Dark Ages Clasp the Daisy Root</i> poetry journals	1990-1991
b. 3	Davenport, Guy. Correspondence	1979 November 18

b. 3	David, Gary. Correspondence, writings	1980-1995, undated
b. 3	Davidson, Michael. Correspondence, writings	1980-1981, undated
b. 3	Davies, Alan. Correspondence, writings, poetry	1980-1994
b. 3	Davis, Kathe. Correspondence	1994
b. 3	Dawson, Fielding. Correspondence, poetry, draft of <i>The Yellow Cab</i> , and <i>Way #1</i> journal 3 Folders	1981-1996, undated
b. 3	de Gruttola, Raffael. Correspondence, brochure	1995, undated
b. 3	DiMichele, William. Correspondence, and draft of "Burnhole"	undated
b. 3	DiPalma, Ray. Correspondence, poetry, artwork	1991-1996, undated
b. 3	"Disturbed Guillotine" correspondence	1996
b. 3	DuPlessis, Rachel. Correspondence	1987-1993, undated
b. 3	Dydo, Ulla. Correspondence, photocopies of pages from <i>The Times Literary Supplement</i>	1994
b. 3	"Earwitness" papers pertaining to "EARWITNESS Public Poetry Reading Series"	1993-1994
b. 3	Edwards, Ken. Reality Studios correspondence	1984 May 5
b. 3	Eigder, Larry. Correspondence	1980-1986
b. 3	Ellis, Stephen. Correspondence, poetry, photocopies of articles and poetry	1992-1994
b. 3	Fitterman, Rob. Correspondence	1994-1995
b. 3	Foster, Ed. "Talisman" correspondence	1989-1991
b. 3	Fraser, Kathleen. Correspondence	1988 November 14
b. 3	Fredner, Stephen. Correspondence	1985 May 25
b. 3	Friedlander, Ben. Correspondence	1990, undated
b. 3	"The Fund for Poetry" correspondence	1989-1990
b. 3	"Furnitures" poetry journals	1990-1991
b. 3	Gavick, Pete. Correspondence, poetry journals, writings	1981-1996
b. 3	Gansz, David C.D. Correspondence	1989, undated
b. 3	Glazier, Loss. Correspondence	1995 May 24
b. 3	Golding, Alan, Correspondence, photocopies of articles	1989, undated

b. 3	Gottlieb, Michael. Correspondence, writings	1993, undated
b. 3	Green, Paul. Correspondence	1982-1994
b. 3	Green, Tony. Correspondence, poetry, writings	1983-1991, undated
b. 3	Gregory, Bob. Correspondence	undated
b. 4	"Grenier" correspondence, poetry journals, photocopies of articles and interview	1985-1994, undated
b. 4	Grim, Jessica. Correspondence, "Locale" and "It/Ohio" poetry collections	1991-1997
b. 4	Gross, Mimi. Postcard	undated
b. 4	"Grossinger" correspondence, photocopy of an article	1979-1983, undated
b. 4	Hanson, Jeff. Correspondence	1992-1994, undated
b. 4	Harnik, J.G. Correspondence	1982
b. 4	Harrison, Bob. Correspondence, poetry	1995, undated
b. 4	Harryman, Carla. Correspondence	1982, 1987
b. 4	"Hausmann/Disturbed Guillotine" correspondence	1996
b. 4	Hejinian, Lyn. Correspondence	1980-1996
b. 4	Higgins, Dick. Correspondence	1979-1980
b. 4	Hill, Craig. "Score" correspondence, "American Standard" poetry collection	1984-1989
b. 4	Hocquard, Emmanuel. Correspondence	1990 January 24
b. 4	Holland, Peter. Correspondence	1982-1983
b. 4	Hollander, Gadi. Correspondence	1986 July 28
b. 5	Horvath, Brooks. Correspondence, poetry, photocopies of articles	1991-1992, undated
b. 5	"House Organ" poetry journals	1993-1997
b. 5	Howe, Susan. Correspondence, photocopies of articles, writings, poetry, photographs, issue of <i>The Difficulties</i> <i>2 Folders</i>	1979-1989, undated
b. 5	<i>HOW(ever)</i> poetry journals	1984-1986
b. 5	Huth, Geoff. Poetry journals and papers pertaining to them	1992-1996
b. 5	Hydock, Jim. "Brief" correspondence	1989
b. 5	<i>Intent</i> literary journals	1989-1991

b. 5	<i>Interruptions 1</i> literary journal	1996
b. 5	<i>Interruptions 2</i> literary journal 3 Folders	1994
b. 5	<i>Interruptions 3</i> literary journal	1995
b. 5	Irby, Jim. Correspondence	1979-1985
b. 5	Johnson, Ronald. Correspondence	undated
b. 5	Kaplan, Ed. Correspondence	1983
b. 5	Killian, Kevin. Correspondence	1986-1993
b. 5	Lansing, Gerrit. Correspondence	1980
b. 5	"Leave Books." Juliana Spahr correspondence	1991-1995, undated
b. 5	Levi Strauss, David. Correspondence, photocopies of articles, copy of <i>Poetry Flash</i>	1984-1989, undated
b. 5	Levy, Andrew. Correspondence, poem "Song from My Family"	1988-1996
b. 5	Lewis, Harry. # <i>Magazine</i> correspondence	1981
b. 5	Lorenzo, Rafael. Correspondence, photocopies of essay "Fragments of Refusal"	1981-1982, undated
b. 5	Lowell, Douglas. Correspondence, poems	1985
b. 5	"Lower Limit Speech" poetry journals/newsletters	1977-1996, undated
b. 6	Mac Low, Jackson. Correspondence, essay "Charles Bernstein & his Shade"	1981-1982
b. 6	"Mandala" poems, "the MANDALA book"	1978-80
b. 6	"Mandala--Earl" correspondence	undated
b. 6	Mark, Ezra. Correspondence	1994 May 13
b. 6	Marron, John. Correspondence, poems	1981-1986, undated
b. 6	"S-P Martin" correspondence	1987-1989
b. 6	Martone, John. Correspondence	1989 August 31
b. 6	McPherson, Bruce. Correspondence	1983 May 6
b. 6	"Messerli" correspondence, essay "The Rhythms of the 'Language' Poets: A Defense"	1979-1986, undated
b. 6	"Metcalf" correspondence, essays "Incorporation: The Next Frontier" and "Language Environment"	1979-1989, undated
b. 6	Michaelsen, Scott. Correspondence	1987 Oct 4

b. 6	Minkoff, George. Correspondence	1986
b. 6	"Misc. Proj. Newsletter" poetry journals/ newsletters	1996-1997
b. 6	"Mirage Periodical" correspondence, poetry journals <i>2 Folders</i>	1993-1994
b. 6	Miltner, Robert. Correspondence	1994 April 27
b. 6	<i>Motel</i> poetry journals	1989-1991
b. 7	Murphy, Sheila E. Correspondence	1996
b. 7	Nash, S.S. Correspondence, poetry journal	1993-1994
b. 7	Neilson, Melanie. Correspondence, poems	1990-1996, undated
b. 7	Nelson-Raney, Steve. Correspondence, poems	1980, undated
b. 7	"B.P. Nichol--Tribute" memorial program	1988 Dec 2
b. 7	Nielsen, A.L. Correspondence, poetry collection "Evacuation Routes: A User's Guide," essays	1981-1990, undated
b. 7	"Ohio Writer" writing newsletters	1988-1989
b. 7	"100 Posters Mag" poetry journals	1977-1981
b. 7	Ott, Gil. Correspondence, poetry collection "Traffic, Book III," poems	1980-1991, undated
b. 7	"Ottotole" correspondence	1986-1989
b. 7	Owen, Maureen. Correspondence	1989
b. 7	Ozment, Kurt. Correspondence	1987 October 8
b. 7	"PLGC Newsletter" poetry newsletters	1990
b. 7	Padgett, Ron. Correspondence	1979 November 24
b. 7	Palmer, Michael. Correspondence	1980-1989
b. 7	"Paradigm Press" correspondence	1990-1991
b. 7	Paul, Sherman. Correspondence	1989 Aug 26
b. 7	Pearson, Ted. Correspondence	1981
b. 7	Perelman, Bob. Correspondence, book reviews, essays, poem	1981-1986, undated
b. 7	Perlman, John. Correspondence, poem	1980-1991
b. 7	"Philly Talks" poetry newsletters	1997

b. 7	Piombino, Nick. Correspondence, essay	1981-1994, undated
b. 7	Piper, Paul. Correspondence, poems	undated
b. 7	"Platz" correspondence, poem	1980 July 16
b. 8	"Poetic Briefs" poetry criticism, correspondence	1991-1996, undated
b. 8	"Poetry Center--SF State" correspondence, newsletter, contract	1986-1987
b. 8	Pressler, Charlotte. Correspondence, essays	1991-1994, undated
b. 8	Price, Larry. Correspondence	1986 January 30
b. 8	"Primary Writing" poetry journals	1984-1988
b. 8	"Qu Magazine" literary journals	1980-1981
b. 8	Quartermain, Peter. Correspondence	1989 August 28
b. 8	Quasha, George. Correspondence	1980 February 24
b. 8	"Raddle Moon/Susan Clark" correspondence, information about "Raddle Moon"	1988-1989, undated
b. 8	Rasula, Jed. "Prospectus for Sulfur's NCR, #20-22"	1987 April 6
b. 8	Ratcliffe, Stephen. Correspondence, poetry collection "New York Notes"	1983-1993
b. 8	"Raworth file" correspondence	1980
b. 8	Reese, Marshall. Correspondence	1981 July 16
b. 8	Reinfeld, Linda. Correspondence, draft of dissertation "Writing as Rescue: Language/Lyric/Poetry"	1987-1989
b. 8	Retallack, Joan. Correspondence	1983-1989
b. 8	Roberts, Steven. Essays	1982
b. 8	Robinson, Kit. Correspondence, poems, poetry journal <i>Abacus</i>	1981-1989
b. 8	Rodefer, Steve. Correspondence	1982-1986
b. 8	Royet-Journoud, C. Correspondence, poetry journal <i>Zuk</i>	1989
b. 8	"Samperi" correspondence, poems	1979, undated
b. 8	Scalapino, Leslie. Correspondence	1990-1995
b. 8	Schelling, Andrew. Correspondence, photocopies of letters and articles	1985-1987, undated
b. 8	Sher, Gaile. Correspondence, "La"	1991

b. 8	Seaton, Peter. Correspondence, essay	undated
b. 8	"Spencer Selby/Sink" correspondence, list of experimental poetry/art magazines, poems	1986-1994, undated
b. 8	Selland, Eric. Correspondence, poetry collection "Seven Changes"	1986-1987, undated
b. 8	Sherry, James. Review of "apex of the M, #1," correspondence, essay	1980-1995, undated
b. 8	Shurin, Aaron. Correspondence	1983
b. 8	"Returned Proofs for Silliman" corrected proofs, correspondence	1983-1984, undated
b. 8	Silliman, Ron. Correspondence, various poetry journals, newspaper, essays, photocopy of poetry collection "Crow", book review, bibliography, "Lit" 4 Folders	1977-1987, undated
b. 8	Simas, Joey. Correspondence, poetry journal <i>Lamb</i> , poetry journals "Moving Letters," poems	1980-1987, undated
b. 8	" <i>Situation</i> " poetry journals	1992, undated
b. 8	" <i>6ix</i> " poetry journals	1991-1995
b. 8	"Smith/Aerial" correspondence, poetry journals, essays, poems	1985-1993, undated
b. 8	Somerville, Jane. Correspondence	1984-1985
b. 8	Stickney, John. Correspondence, poems	1988, undated
b. 8	Tabor, Richard. "Lobby Press" correspondence	1984-1986
b. 8	" <i>TapRoot Review File</i> " correspondence, literature, review journals, reviews	1992-1996, undated
b. 9	" <i>TapRoot Review File</i> " correspondence, literature, review journals, reviews	1992-1996, undated
b. 9	Taggart, John. Correspondence	1980-1981
b. 9	Tarachow, M. Correspondence	1981
b. 9	Templeton, Fiona. Correspondence, essay	1989, undated
b. 9	Tills, Stephen E. Correspondence, poem	1987, undated
b. 9	<i>Tottles Tottle's</i> poetry journals	1982, undated
b. 9	Townsley, Tom. Correspondence, poems	1980, undated
b. 9	"Tsunami Editions" correspondence	1990 September 8
b. 9	"Tyuonyi/Phillip Foss, Ed." correspondence	1989

b. 9	Vartnaw, Bill. Correspondence, poem	1987
b. 9	"Versus Project" correspondence, poems	1988, undated
b. 9	Waldrop, Rosemarie. Correspondence	1979-1989
b. 9	Ward, Diane. Correspondence, essay	1981-1986, undated
b. 9	"Walker/Columbus St. Press" correspondence, poems	1986
b. 9	Watson, Craig. Correspondence, poems, essays, "Fear of Performance" <i>2 Folders</i>	1980-1990, undated
b. 9	Watten, Barrett. Correspondence	1981-1985, undated
b. 9	Weinberger, Eliot. "Montemora" correspondence	1981
b. 9	Wellman, Don. Correspondence, bylaws and articles of organization of "O.ARS, Inc."	1981-1987, undated
b. 9	Wellman, John. Correspondence, essay	1980-1981
b. 10	"Way #1" poetry collection "Potpourri" by Fielding Dawson	1995
b. 10	"Way #2" poetry collection "Three Works" by Sheila E. Murphy	1996
b. 10	"Way" poetry collections "Three Works" by Sheila E. Murphy and "'wide streets in double attitude' (1-347)" by Peter Ganick	1996
b. 10	"Ganick Way 3" poetry collection "'wide streets in double attitude' (1-347)" by Peter Ganick	1996
b. 10	"Amnasan Way 4" play "An Unimportant Man" by Mike Amnasa	1997
b. 10	Weiner, Hannah. Correspondence	1981-1983, undated
b. 10	Westbrook, Brad. Correspondence, photocopies of a children's book, poems	1990-1991, undated
b. 10	Whelen, Christopher. Correspondence	1992
b. 10	Withers, Kenney. "(SI Univ. Press)"	1985-1987
b. 10	Woolf, Douglas. Correspondence	1980 January 2
b. 10	"Wray" correspondence, photocopies of articles	1992-1994, undated
b. 10	"Writing Magazine" correspondence	1986
b. 10	Young, Geoffrey. Correspondence	1980-1988
b. 10	Zavatsky, Bill. Correspondence	1979-1980

b. 10	"Abandoned Interview Anthology Project:" correspondence, notes, interviews, photocopies of articles and interviews <i>4 Folders</i>	1986-1988, undated
b. 10	Unidentified anthology, opening with a piece entitled "Bart"	Undated
b. 10	"Name" by Alan ____	1985
b. 11	Six issues of <i>The Difficulties</i> and Fielding Dawson chapbook	1980-1990

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.

Preferred Titles

Difficulties

Subjects

American literature -- 20th Century --

Periodicals

American poetry -- 20th Century -- History and
criticism -- Periodicals

American poetry -- 20th Century -- Periodicals

Genres / Formats

Little magazines -- United States

Names

Beckett, Thomas, (Accountant)