

Guide to the Ethan Mordden Papers

YCAL MSS 655



by Beinecke staff

2009-08-04

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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 655

CREATOR: Mordden, Ethan, 1947-

TITLE: Ethan Mordden papers

DATES: 1968-1991

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.92 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Collection contains correspondence, writings, and other papers documenting the life and professional activities of author Ethan Mordden from the late 1960s to 1991. Correspondence, dating from the mid 1980s and early 1990s, contains letters from writers, actors, musicians and composers, publishers, and others, including Walta Borawski, Frank Ferko, Philip Gambone, Boze Hadleigh, Ron Hussman, Joey Manley, Kit Reed, and St. Martin's Press. Writings in the collection consist of notes and drafts for two novels, a book of film criticism entitled *Medium Cool: The Movies of the 1960s* (1990), and shorter works, including plays, stories, and essays. The novels "Welcome Home, Adam" (1970) and "The Friends of Lady Butch" (circa 1973-1975) are identified as Mordden's unpublished first novel and an unfinished Hollywood novel respectively. Other papers include a small amount of printed and Yale University course material.

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

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.mordden>.

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

Gift of Ethan Mordden, 1991.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 7: Restricted until 2055. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Ethan Mordden Papers 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

Ethan Mordden Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

In 2012 this collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and in some instances minimal organization.

The finding aid for this collection is largely compiled from a preliminary list created at or around the time of receipt by the library. The preliminary list was migrated to comply with current archival descriptive standards in 2007-2008. As part of the migration, modifications were made to the formatting of the list; however, the content of the list was neither modified nor verified.

As a rule, descriptive information found in the Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. 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.

Former call number: Uncat Za MS 181.

Ethan Mordden (1947-)

Ethan Mordden, born January 27, 1947, is an American cultural critic and novelist. He was educated in Quaker schools, including the Friends Academy in Locust Valley, New York, and at the University of Pennsylvania (1969). He worked as a musical director and coach in New York (1971-1974), as an assistant editor of *Opera News* (1974-1976), and a visiting fellow at Yale University (1980). He has been a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, and *Christopher Street*, among other publications. In addition to books on music, theater, and film, he publishes fiction on gay life, especially in the "Buddies"

cycle, including *I've a Feeling We're Not in Kansas Anymore: Tales from Gay Manhattan* (1985), *Buddies* (1986), and *Everybody Loves You: Further Adventures in Gay Manhattan* (1988).

Biographical information taken from "Ethan Mordden." *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*. New York: Schirmer, 2001. *Gale Biography In Context*. Web. 25 Oct. 2012.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, writings, and other papers documenting the life and professional activities of author Ethan Mordden from the late 1960s to 1991. Correspondence, dating from the mid 1980s and early 1990s, contains letters from writers, actors, musicians and composers, publishers, and others, including Walta Borawski, Frank Ferko, Philip Gambone, Boze Hadleigh, Ron Hussman, Joey Manley, Kit Reed, and St. Martin's Press. Writings in the collection consist of notes and drafts two for novels, a book of film criticism entitled *Medium Cool: The Movies of the 1960s* (1990), and shorter works, including plays, stories, and essays. The novels, "Welcome Home, Adam" (1970) and "The Friends of Lady Butch" (circa 1973-1975), are identified as Mordden's unpublished first novel and an unfinished Hollywood novel respectively. Other papers include a small amount of printed and Yale University course material.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1983-1991. II. Writings, 1970-1991. III. Other Papers, 1968-1981.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1983-1991

2.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

b. 1	"A" general Includes letters from Robert H. Albach, Edward Albee and Algonquin Books	1985-1990
b. 1	"B" general	1985-1990
b. 1	Bach, Steven	1990-1991
b. 1	Borawski, Walta	1985-1991
b. 1	Butters, Ron	1986-1988
b. 1	"C" general	1983-1991
b. 1	Caswell, Judy Includes letters from Leith Chu and Jon Alan Conrad	1985-1991
b. 1	"D" general Includes letters from Benjamin Donovan and John T. Dreyer	1985-1990
b. 1	"E" general	1989-1990
b. 1	"F" general	1983-1990
b. 1	Feinberg, David	1986
b. 1	Ferko, Frank	1989-1991
b. 1	"G" general	1984-1990
b. 1	Gamble, Jeff	1988-1989
b. 1	Gambone, Philip	1988-1990
b. 1	Garber, Eric <i>3 Folders</i>	1984-1986
b. 1	Garman, Jack	1987
b. 2	"H" general	1984-1990
b. 2	Hadleigh, Boze	1990
b. 2	Haley, Zak	1988-1989
b. 2	Hansen, James Hans	1987-1989
b. 2	Heinberg, Allan Includes letters from Charles Hix and Michael J. Hodgson	1988-1989
b. 2	Husmann, Ron	1987

b. 2	"I" general Includes letters from Howard Israel	1986-1990
b. 2	"J" general	1985, 1990
b. 2	Jacobsson, Lars	1987-1988
b. 2	James White Review	1989-1990
b. 2	Jones, Robert L.	1986-1989
b. 2	"K" general	1988-1990
b. 2	Kempkes, John	1989-1990
b. 2	Kramer, Richard	1990-1991
b. 2	"L" general	1986-1989
b. 2	"M" general	1985-1990
b. 2	McCain, David W. Includes letters from David McClow and Robert C. Maggio	1989-1990
b. 2	Manley, Joey	1989-1990
b. 2	Marshall, Jerry L.	1991
b. 2	Morrison, Tom	1985-1986
b. 2	"N" general Includes letters from Robert H. Nielsen	1988-1991
b. 2	"O" general	1984-1990
b. 2	"P" general	1985-1990
b. 2	Peavy, Angier Includes letters from Eric G. Pindar and Steve Pollard	1986-1989
b. 2	Quealy, Robert	1986-1987
b. 2	"R" general	1988-1990
b. 2	Reed, Kit	1988-1990
b. 2	Ruman, Rick	1985-1989
b. 3	"S" general	1985-1991
b. 3	St. Martin's Press Includes letters by Robert Schoenberg and Jeff Selby	1985-1990
b. 3	Smith, Jeffrey Includes letters by Stephen Sondheim and Lynne Stuart	1988-1989
b. 3	"T" general	1987-1990

b. 3	Utas, Rikk D.	1988-1989
b. 3	"V" general Includes letters from James A. Van Sant	1987-1989
b. 3	"W" general	1983-1989
b. 3	"Y" general	1988
b. 3	Unidentified	1984-1991

Series II: Writings, 1968-1991*2 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Arranged alphabetically by title or subject.

b. 4	Amateur Theatricals: typescript carbon, corrected	undated
b. 4	The Beating Up of Timothy Hawkins: typescript, corrected	undated
b. 4	<i>Buddies</i> : invitation	1986
b. 4	The Case of the Unemployed Man: typescript carbon, corrected	[circa 1973]
b. 4	A Critic at Large: autograph manuscript, typescript, proof, and printed version	1990
b. 4	The Day After the Funeral: typescript, corrected	undated
b. 4	Dragonflies are Friends of Lady Butch: autograph manuscript	undated
b. 4	Early Plays <i>6 Folders</i> Includes: Abra Cadaver, Carnivale, The Cast Against Type, Dance of Death in the Dark Hall of the Castle, Exit Pursued by a Bear, and Maximum Leader	1968-[circa 1972]
b. 4	Fathers and Sons: autograph manuscript and typescript	1991
b. 4	The Friends of Lady Butch: autograph manuscript and typescript	1973-1975
b. 4	[The Ghost of Champ McQuest]: autograph manuscript	undated
b. 4	Grand Hotel: notes, autograph manuscript and typescript	1990
b. 4	The Hollywood Studio: notes, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 4	How to Subvert: notes, autograph manuscript	undated
b. 4	The Hunting of the Snark: autograph manuscript	undated
b. 4	Look Who's Talking: typescript and typescript carbon <i>2 Folders</i>	1989-1990
b. 4	M. J. Verlaine's book and some of the Hollywood Studios: autograph manuscript	undated
b. 5	Medium Cool: notes and outline, autograph manuscript, and Chapters 1-9, setting typescript <i>6 Folders</i>	1990, undated
b. 5	The Party of the Elite: typescript carbon	undated
b. 5	The Roslyn Town Musicians: typescript carbon	undated
b. 5	The Sleuth: typescript carbon	undated
b. 5	The Telling Tales: autograph manuscript and typescript, corrected	undated
b. 5	The Theatre of Rodgers and Hammerstein: notebook, autograph manuscript and typescript <i>2 Folders</i>	undated

b. 5	"Title TK": working proof, corrected	1988
b. 5	[Tramps for Easter?]: autograph manuscript and typescript	undated
b. 5	Welcome Home, Adam: typescript, corrected	undated
b. 5	White Heat: typescript carbon	undated
b. 5	Wicked Mantis is Coming for Grandma: typescript carbon	1989
b. 5	The Writer's Strategy: autograph manuscript and typescript Includes printed material	[circa 1984]
b. 5	Untitled notes and notebooks <i>3 Folders</i>	undated

Series III: Other Papers, 1968-1981

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Arranged alphabetically by material type or heading.

b. 5	Comic books, edited by Ethan Mordden <i>2 Folders</i>	1971-1972
b. 6	Opera After Wagner: Toward an Aesthetic for Twentieth Century Art: seminar material	1981
b. 6	Pennsylvania Review	1968-1969

Restricted Papers

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

b. 7

Restricted Papers

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

American literature -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Borawski, Walta
Ferko, Frank, 1950-
Gambone, Philip
Hadleigh, Boze, 1954-
Manley, Joey
Mordden, Ethan, 1947-
Reed, Kit, 1932-2017

Corporate Bodies

St. Martin's Press
Yale University