

Guide to the Marilyn Hacker Papers

YCAL MSS 753



by Beinecke Staff, Annalise Hennessey

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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 753

CREATOR: Hacker, Marilyn, 1942-

TITLE: Marilyn Hacker papers

DATES: 1970–2012

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 23.12 linear feet (26 Boxes) + 1 broadside, 2 record album storage

LANGUAGE: English; French

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence, writings, personal papers, photographs, audiovisual material, and printed material that document the life and work of American author, editor, critic, and translator Marilyn Hacker. Hacker's writings are documented by manuscripts, typescript drafts, proofs, and associated material, including correspondence with fellow authors and publishers. Kenyon Review materials document Hacker's tenure as editor of the journal, including controversy surrounding her dismissal. The Marilyn Hacker Papers are of interest for their documentation of twentieth-century American poetry and literary life generally, as well as the gay and lesbian liberation movements of the 1970s and after.

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

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.hacker>.

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
 item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Marilyn Hacker on the Eugene G. O'Neill Memorial Fund, 2002-2003.

December 2015 acquisitions: Gift of Marilyn Hacker, 2015.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 18-22 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Preferred Citation

Marilyn Hacker Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Former call numbers: Uncat MSS 432, Uncat MSS 602.

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.

This collection received a basic level of processing in 2013. Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, titled according to month and year of acquisition.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn 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.

Marilyn Hacker (1942-)

Marilyn Hacker, American poet and editor, was born in New York City in 1942 and attended New York University, receiving a B.A. in Romance Languages in 1964. Hacker's first collection of poems, *Presentation Piece* (New York: Viking Press, 1974), was the recipient of the National Book Award. Her other collections include *Names* (W. W. Norton, 2009), *Desesperanto: Poems 1999-2002* (2005); *First Cities: Collected Early Poems 1960-1979* (2003); and *Squares and Courtyards* (2000). In addition to writing poetry, Hacker was the editor of the *Kenyon Review* from 1990 to 1994, and has translated the work of many European poets into English.

Hacker was married to science fiction writer Samuel Delany from 1961 to 1974 and has one daughter. She lives in New York City and Paris.

Biographical information from www.poets.org.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, writings, personal papers, photographs, audiovisual material, and printed material that document the life and work of American author, editor, critic, and translator Marilyn Hacker. Hacker's writings are documented by manuscripts, typescript drafts, proofs, and associated material, including correspondence with fellow authors and publishers. Kenyon Review materials document Hacker's tenure as editor of the journal, including controversy surrounding her dismissal. The Marilyn Hacker Papers are of interest for their documentation of twentieth-century American poetry and literary life generally, as well as the gay and lesbian liberation movements of the 1970s and after.

Arrangement

Organized into three groupings: I. May 2002 Acquisition. II. January 2003 Acquisition. III. December 2015 Acquisitions.

Collection Contents

May 2002 acquisition, 1970–2000

20.2 linear feet (23 Boxes) + 1 broadside, 2 record album storage

Former call number: Uncat MSS 432

Organized into five series: I. Correspondence. II. Writings. III. Personal Papers. IV. Photographs and Audiovisual Material. V. Printed Material.

Series I: Correspondence

Organized under four headings: Alphabetical, Chronological, Kenyon Review, and Unsorted.

Alphabetical

Correspondence filed under this heading consists of incoming professional and personal correspondence from publishers, editors, academics, writers, artists, family and friends, documenting Hacker's activities as a writer, teacher, editor, and critic. Correspondents include Samuel R. Delany, Hayden Carruth, Tom Disch, and Joanna Russ.

b.1	"A" General
b.1	"B" General <i>6 Folders</i>
b.1	"C" General <i>3 Folders</i>
b.1	"D" General <i>3 Folders</i>
b.1	"E" General <i>2 Folders</i>
b.2	"F" General <i>3 Folders</i>
b.2	"G" General
b.2	"H" General
b.2	"I-J" General
b.2	"K" General
b.2	"L" General <i>3 Folders</i>
b.2	"M" General <i>4 Folders</i>
b.3	"N-O" General <i>2 Folders</i>
b.3	"P-Q" General <i>2 Folders</i>

Series I: Correspondence > Alphabetical (continued)

b. 3 ["R" General](#)
 9 Folders

b. 3 "S" General
 6 Folders

b. 3 "T" General

b. 3 "U-V" General

b. 3 "W" General

b. 4 "W" General
 2 Folders

Chronological

b. 4 1970-1974

b. 4 1971-1976

b. 4 1974

b. 4 1975

b. 4 1976
 2 Folders

b. 4 1977
 2 Folders

b. 4 1978
 2 Folders

b. 4 1977-1979

b. 4 1980

b. 4 1982

b. 4 1983

b. 4 1984-1985

b. 4 1986
 2 Folders

b. 5 1987
 4 Folders

b. 5 1988
 2 Folders

b. 5 1989
 2 Folders

b. 5 1990
 2 Folders

Series I: Correspondence > Chronological (continued)

b. 5	1991 2 Folders	
b. 5	1992 2 Folders	
b. 5	1993 4 Folders	
b. 5	1994 6 Folders	
b. 5	1995 3 Folders	
b. 6	1995 3 Folders	
b. 6	1996 6 Folders	
b. 6	1997 4 Folders	
b. 6	1998 4 Folders	
b. 6	1999 2 Folders	
b. 6	2000 3 Folders	
<i>Kenyon Review</i>		
Material filed under this heading consists of correspondence and other papers related to Hacker's work at the <i>Kenyon Review</i> and Kenyon College.		
b. 6	Letters of congratulations	1990-1991
b. 6	Letters of outrage at Marilyn Hacker's dismissal	1994
b. 6	Letters of support for the <i>Kenyon Review</i> 2 Folders	1993-1994
b. 7	<i>Kenyon Review</i> materials 2 Folders	1991-1993
Unsorted		
b. 7	General 2 Folders	
b. 7	Professional 10 Folders	1970-2000

Series II: Writings

Organized under two headings: Writings of Marilyn Hacker; Writings of Others.

Writings of Marilyn Hacker

1974-2003

Writings consist of drafts (autograph manuscript and typescript, some corrected) of Hacker's poetry and essays (including translations), as well as notes and other related material. Unless otherwise noted, titles refer to poems or compilations of poems. Some files contain paste-ups, mechanicals, proofs and associated material.

Largely arranged alphabetically by title or keyword; unsorted writings are filed at the end of the listing.

b. 8	<i>Assumptions</i> , typescript 12 Folders	1985
b. 8	<i>Going back to the river</i> , typescript 3 Folders	1990
b. 8	<i>Love, death and the changing of the seasons</i> , typescript 6 Folders	1986-1987
b. 9	Paris writings, typescript 3 Folders	1992 November
b. 9	<i>Presentation Piece</i> , page proof (photocopy)	1974
	<i>Selected Poems, 1965-1990</i>	1994
b. 9	Setting copy 4 Folders	
b. 9	Paste-ups 4 Folders	
b. 9	Page proofs, master pages 2 Folders	
b. 9	Page proofs, corrected	
b. 9	Blue with corrections	1994
b. 9	Page proofs, corrected 4 Folders	
	<i>Separations</i>	1976
b. 9	"Geographer," galley proof (photocopy)	1976
b. 10	<i>Squares and courtyards</i> 6 Folders Contains drafts, typescripts, mechanicals, page proofs	2000
b. 10	<i>Taking notice</i> , printed version	
b. 10	"The Trees win every time, reading Julia Randall," typescripts and printed version (photocopy) 3 Folders	

Series II: Writings > Writings of Marilyn Hacker (continued)

b. 10	<i>Winter Numbers</i> 9 Folders Includes set copy, typescripts, paste-ups, and page proofs	1994
b. 10	Essays and poems, drafts, typescript 6 Folders	
b. 11	Essays and poems, drafts 2 Folders	undated
b. 11	Literary essays, drafts, typescript 8 Folders	
b. 11	Literary reviews 6 Folders	1980-1988
b. 11	Paris Material (translations) 2 Folders	1992
b. 11	Materials related to poetry in translation	2000
b. 11	Poetry translations, typescript 13 Folders	undated
b. 12	Poetry translations, typescript 3 Folders	
b. 12	Working Notebooks 10 Folders	undated
b. 12	Unsorted writings, drafts 6 Folders	2003, undated
	Writings of Others Writings of Others consist of manuscripts (largely typescripts) sent to Marilyn Hacker by authors. Some manuscripts include cover letters that provide evidence of Hacker's relationships with the authors, or the author's reason for sending the manuscript to Hacker for review. Arranged alphabetically by author. Works of unidentified authors are filed at the end of the subseries	1974-2001
b. 12	Adorno, Pedro Lopez	2000
b. 12	Corvino, Peter	2001
b. 12	Delany, Samuel	1995
b. 12	Dove, Rita	1989
b. 12	Ellingham, Lewis	1987
b. 12	Factor, Jenny	1999
b. 12	Finch, Annie (interview with Marilyn Hacker)	1994
b. 12	Gregor, Arthur	undated
b. 12	Jacobson, Josephine	undated

Series II: Writings > Writings of Others (continued)

b. 12	Kaddour, Hedi	undated
b. 12	Khalvati, Mimi	2001
b. 12	Peacher, Georgiana	2000
b. 12	Ponsot, Marie	undated
b. 13	Pritchard, Kenneth	1996
b. 14	Rich, Adrienne	1974
b. 14	Riley, Dennis	1987
b. 14	Schulman, Grace	1999
b. 14	Searles, Susan	1991
b. 14	Selman, Robyn <i>4 Folders</i>	1989, undated
b. 14	Slavitt, David R.	undated
b. 14	Strickland, Stephanie	1999
b. 14	Unsorted Contributors <i>2 Folders</i>	1979-1980

Series III: Personal Papers

The series contains Marilyn Hacker's, medical, financial and publishing records, address and appointment books, and a scrapbook.

b. 14	Address Books <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 14	Biographical information	undated
b. 14	Daily Appointment Books <i>16 Folders</i>	1981-2000
b. 14	Financial Records <i>2 Folders</i>	1988-1994
b. 14	Index Cards <i>6 Folders</i>	undated
b. 15	Medical Records <i>2 Folders</i> Also stored in Oversize Box 25	1992-1994
b. 15	Postcards <i>7 Folders</i>	1974-1981
b. 15	Publishing records	1988-1995
b. 15	Scrapbook	undated
b. 15	Unsorted Papers <i>3 Folders</i>	1975-1999

Series IV: Photographs and Audiovisual Material

Organized under five headings: Photographs; Reel-to-Reel Audiotapes; Sound Discs; Audio Cassettes; and Video Cassettes.

Photographs

Photographs consist of prints, negatives, and slides, of Marilyn Hacker, and her family members, friends, and associates. Most of the photographs are informal snapshots, but several formal portraits of Hacker are included.

b. 16	Photographs <i>17 Folders</i>	1975-1978
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b. 17	Photographs <i>34 Folders</i>	1979-1999
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Audiotape Reels

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 18, ■■■■ 39002109975202	Poetry Discovery 1973, copy <i>1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 7 inches 01:25:39 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975202a.u.mp3	1973
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Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 18, ■■■■ 39002109975210	Marilyn Hacker <i>1 Audiotape Reel ; 1/4 inch; diameter 7 inches 00:50:28 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program begins abruptly. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975210.u.mp3	1977 May 4
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Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Sound Discs

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 19 (Record Album Storage)	Joanna Russ, author of "The Female Man," interpreting her stories, Alternate World Recordings	
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b. 20 (Record Album Storage)	The Poetry and voice of Marilyn Hacker, Caedmon Recording	
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Audiocassettes

10 Audiocassettes (Also Included: an unwrapped, blank tape)

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Series IV: Photographs and Audiovisual Material > Audiocassettes (continued)

b. 21, [REDACTED] 39002109975103	BBC radio broadcast 'New Premises' presented by Nigel Andrews, with guest Marilyn Hacker <i>1 Audiocassette 00:45:44 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program begins and ends abruptly. There is a high amount of hiss on the tape. The right channel was recorded at a lower level. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975103.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 21, [REDACTED] 39002109975111	"Cooper, Hacker Factor" <i>1 Audiocassette 01:19:05 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975111a.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2000 January 26
b. 21, [REDACTED] 39002109975137	"Letter-Joanna" (1 of 2) <i>1 Audiocassette 00:31:20 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> A high amount of buzz can be heard. The right channel was recorded at a loer level. The program ends abruptly. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975137a.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 21, [REDACTED] 39002109975129	"Letter-Joanna" (2 of 2) <i>1 Audiocassette 00:31:09 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> A high amount of buzz can be heard on the tape. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975129a.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 21, [REDACTED] 39002109975145	"Lost and Found," "I dream the Book," preliminary mixes <i>1 Audiocassette 01:34:27 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Static can be heard. The program ends abruptly. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975145a.u.mp3 A written postcard, included with this audiocassette, reads: M- These are the preliminary mixes, but I think they're 99% what we decided to keep on the master. You said you'd like to hear the "[Fovah]" poem with music. I hope you enjoy it! Love, M. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1998 September 9
b. 21, [REDACTED] 39002109975152	Lynda Hull, "Suite for Emily" and Best American Poetry Reading <i>1 Audiocassette 00:58:36 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program begins abruptly. Static can be heard on the tape. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975152a.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 21, [REDACTED] 39002109975160	Marilyn Hacker, Modern Languages Auditorium - U of A <i>1 Audiocassette 00:37:26 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> A buzz can be heard. The program begins abruptly. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975160.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2000 March 29

Series IV: Photographs and Audiovisual Material > Audiocassettes (continued)

b. 21, ■■■■ 39002109975186	Aleida Rodriguez, Modern Languages Auditorium - U of A (2 of 2) <i>1 Audiocassette 00:52:30 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program begins and ends abruptly. There is a gap in the audio from 28:21-28:55. Static and a high amount of buzz can be heard. Audio, at times, can sound hollow or unclear. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975186a.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2000 March 29
b. 21, ■■■■ 39002109975178	Marilyn Hacker, UCSD Special Collections <i>1 Audiocassette 00:47:27 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program begins and ends abruptly. The program is distorted at times. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975178.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1993 October 25
b. 21, ■■■■ 39002109975194	"Writers and Poets Program", Marilyn Hacker poetry reading <i>1 Audiocassette 00:30:40 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program begins and ends abruptly. Audio in the right channel is at a lower level. There is a warble during the program. Static and a hum can be heard on the tape. [Aviary] ycalmss075339002109975194.u.mp3 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1977 April 4
Video Recordings Use of originals is restricted. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information		
b. 22, ■■■■ 39002102370047	Poetry readings by Maxine Chernoff, Marilyn Hacker, Greg Sarris and Melba Patrillo Beals at the SFSU Centennial Event at San Francisco Main Public Library. YCALMSS753_0001 <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 01:35:50 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> "Poor picture quality due to the low light level at the venue."	1999 October 7
b. 22, ■■■■ 39002102370054	Marilyn Hacker reads at Hudson Valley Writers Center YCALMSS753_0002 <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 02:03:13 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> "Also contains Sondra Audin Armer reading at Northern Westchester Center for the Arts, July 1, 1996, introduced by Cindy Beer-Fouhy and at Books and Things, October 25, 1996 with peer group."	1996 November 3
Series V: Printed Material Includes clippings, pamphlets, brochures, printed material, photocopies of published writings by and about Marilyn Hacker		
b. 23	Clippings <i>11 Folders</i>	1985-1995
b. 23	<i>American Poetry Review</i> <i>2 Folders</i>	1976-1996
b. 23	<i>AWP Chronicle</i>	1994, 1996

Series V: Printed Material (continued)

b. 23	<i>Bananas</i>	1977
b. 23	<i>Boston Review</i>	1991
b. 23	<i>City</i> 4 Folders	
b. 23	<i>Desire</i>	1981
b. 23	<i>La Quinzane</i>	1975
b. 23	<i>Margins</i> no.23	1975 August
b. 23	<i>The Nation</i> 2 Folders	1986-2000
b. 23	<i>The New York Times Book Review</i> Also stored in Box 25 (Oversize)	1985 May 19
b. 23	<i>New York Native</i> 2 Folders	1981, 1986
b. 23	<i>Say!</i>	1986 July/ August
b. 23	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>	1973
b. 23	<i>Women's Review of Books</i> 2 Folders	1985-1989
b. 23	<i>The Village Voice Literary Supplement</i> 2 Folders	1989, 1990
	Posters and wrappers Stored in: Box 25 (Oversize) and Box 26 (Broadside)	1976-1998
b. 24	Unsorted printed material 17 Folders	
Oversize Material		
b. 25 (Oversize)	Medical X-Ray Films (Series III)	1992
b. 25 (Oversize)	New York Times Book Review (Series V)	1980 October 12
b. 25 (Oversize)	Posters and wrappers (Series V)	1976-1998
b. 26 (Broadside)	Posters and wrappers (Series V)	

January 2003 acquisition, 1974-2001

1 linear foot (1 box)

Former call number: Uncat MSS 602

b. 27	Correspondence	1999, 2000
b. 27	Sketch notebook	undated
b. 27	"A tribute to Zenka Bartek," booklet	1977
b. 27	Printed Material <i>21 Folders</i>	1974-2001

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

Kenyon Review

Names

Hacker, Marilyn, 1942-

Subjects

American literature -- 20th Century
American literature -- 21st century
American poetry -- 20th Century
American poetry -- 21st century
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Authors, American -- 21st century -- Archives
Critics -- United States -- 20th Century -- Archives
Critics -- United States -- 21st century -- Archives
Editors -- United States -- 20th Century
Editors -- United States -- 21st century
Gay liberation movement -- United States
LGBTQ resource
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Poets, American -- 21st century -- Archives
Translators, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Translators, American -- 21st century -- Archives

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century
Authors -- United States -- 21st century
Critics -- United States -- 20th Century
Critics -- United States -- 21st century
Editors -- United States -- 20th Century
Editors -- United States -- 21st century
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century
Poets -- United States -- 21st century
Translators -- United States -- 20th Century
Translators -- United States -- 21st century

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Periodicals
Photographs