

# Guide to the James Rorty Papers

YCAL MSS 835



by Alison Clemens

2014

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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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 835

**CREATOR:** Rorty, James, 1890-1973

**TITLE:** James Rorty papers

**DATES:** 1941-1970

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.91 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Manuscripts, printed works, correspondence, and professional papers of the writer James Rorty. The Writings series includes Rorty's typescript and manuscript essays on social issues, civil rights, and political activism, two of his poems, and printed works. The Correspondence series includes three typed letters between Rorty's wife Winifred Rorty and Matthew Josephson; letters between Rorty and Jerré E. Tanner regarding Tanner's setting of Rorty's poem "A Spring Garland" for voice and piano, with autograph manuscript score; and one typed letter from Rorty to Ruth Aley and one typed letter from Rorty to Tom Sloane. The Professional Papers include Rorty's curriculum vitae.

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

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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.rorty>.

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 James Rorty.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The James Rorty 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.

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## Preferred Citation

James Rorty Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## 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.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization in 2014. 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.

This collection includes materials previously identified by multiple call numbers: Uncat Za MS Rorty and Uncat Za File.

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## James Rorty (1890-1973)

James Rorty (1890-1973), writer, journalist, poet, and father of philosopher Richard Rorty.

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## Scope and Contents

Manuscripts, printed works, correspondence, and professional papers of the writer James Rorty. The Writings series includes Rorty's typescript and manuscript essays on social issues, civil rights, and political activism, two of his poems, and printed works. The Correspondence series includes three typed letters between Rorty's wife Winifred Rorty and Matthew Josephson; letters between Rorty and Jerré E. Tanner regarding Tanner's setting of Rorty's poem "A Spring Garland" to music, as well as the original sheet music; and one typed letter from Rorty to Ruth Aley and one typed letter from Rorty to Tom Sloane. The Professional Papers include Rorty's curriculum vitae.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Writings, 1941-1965. II. Correspondence, 1965-1969. III. Professional Papers, 1970, undated.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings, 1941-1965

0.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

Series I is organized into two subseries: Manuscripts and Printed Material.

#### Manuscripts

b. 1, f. 1	<i>It Happened Here</i> , manuscript and typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 2	<i>The Final Conquest</i> , typescripts	undated
b. 1, f. 3	<i>The End of the Line</i> , typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 4	<i>We Open the Gates: Labor's Fight for Equality</i> , typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 5	<i>At the Court of Love</i> , typescript	undated
b. 1, f. 6	<i>A Suburb in Purgatory</i> , typescripts	undated
b. 1, f. 7	<i>The Gift of Henry Vann</i> , typescripts	undated
b. 2, f. 1-2	<i>The Wound and the Arrow</i> , typescripts	undated
b. 2, f. 3	<i>The Communications Crisis</i> , typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 3	<i>The Metaphysics of Birth Control</i> , typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 3	<i>The Criminal Society</i> , typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 3	<i>Roadway to the Future</i> , typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 3	<i>Time and Western Man</i> , typescripts, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 3	<i>The Reluctant Philosopher-King</i> , typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 4	<i>TVA and the Common Mooring</i> , typescript fragments, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 4	<i>California in the Twenties</i> , typescript	undated
b. 2, f. 4	<i>Viking's Apprentice</i> , typescripts, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 4	<i>Reluctant Patriarch</i> , typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 4	<i>The Epoch of Man's Becoming</i> , typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 4	<i>The South Jamaica Story</i> , typescript, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 5	<i>A Novel about Anti-Gentilism</i> , typescript book review, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 5	Unidentified essay on advertising, typescript fragment, corrected	undated
b. 2, f. 5	<i>Prayer</i> , typescript poem, signed	1965
b. 2, f. 5	<i>The Revolution Absolute</i> Typescript poem, with typescript essay on ecology	undated

## Printed Material

b. 2, f. 6	<i>América Indígena</i> Spanish; Castilian Contains Rorty's article "¿Hay Discriminación en México?"	1960 July
b. 2, f. 6	<i>Brother Jim Crow</i> by Rorty	1943
b. 2, f. 6	<i>Commentary</i> Two issues containing Rorty's "Desegregation Along the Mason-Dixon Line".	1954, undated
b. 2, f. 6	<i>Common Sense</i> Contains Rorty's "Food for Freedom"	1941
b. 2, f. 7	<i>The Commonweal</i> Three issues, containing the Rorty writings "A Study in Cultural Elephantiasis" (12 May 1944); "Did They Know It Was Loaded" (3 June 1949); and "Independence, Like It or Not" (8 September 1961).	1944-1961
b. 2, f. 8	"How St. Louis Broke the Race Barrier" by Rorty	1957 April 20
b. 2, f. 8	"March of the Machine" by Rorty	1964
b. 2, f. 8	<i>The New Leader</i> Three issues, containing the Rorty writings "VOGT: Soil and the Future", reviewed by Rorty (11 September 1948); "John T. Flynn on the China Story" (14 January 1952); a letter to the editor (28 January 1952); and "Is McCarthy Subversive" (16 August 1954);	1948-1954
b. 2, f. 9	<i>Toward the Integration of Our Schools: Final Report of the Commission on Integration</i>	circa 1958
b. 2, f. 9	<i>Unfitting the Unborn</i> by Rorty and N. Philip Norman	1946
b. 2, f. 9	<i>We Open the Gates: Labor's Fight for Equality</i> by Rorty and Harry Fleischman	1958

**Series II: Correspondence, 1965-1969**

*2 Folders*

Series II is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

b. 2, f. 10	Aley, Ruth	1965
b. 2, f. 10	Josephson, Matthew	1968
b. 2, f. 10	Sloane, Tom	1965
b. 3, f. 1	Tanner, Jerré Includes letters between Tanner and Rorty regarding the creation of sheet music by Tanner based on Rorty's poem cycle "A Spring Garland", as well as the original sheet music.	1967-1969



### **Series III: Professional Papers, 1970, undated**

Series III is arranged chronologically.

b. 2, f. 11

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## 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  
American poetry -- 20th Century  
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Civil Rights movements -- United States  
Journalists -- United States  
Poets, American -- 20th Century -- Archives  
Political activists -- United States  
Social movements -- United States

### Geographic Names

United States -- Social conditions -- 1960-1980

### Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Journalists -- United States -- 20th Century  
Poets -- United States -- 20th Century  
Political activists -- United States -- 20th Century

### Names

Aley, Ruth  
Josephson, Matthew, 1899-1978  
Rorty, James, 1890-1973  
Tanner, Jerré E.