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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the National Book Critics Circle Records

YCAL MSS 878



by Alison Clemens

2014

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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 878

**CREATOR:** National Book Critics Circle

**TITLE:** National Book Critics Circle Records

**DATES:** 1975–1999

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.42 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, meeting minutes, financial papers, membership records, and printed material relating to the National Book Critics Circle. The National Book Critics Circle Awards deliberations and programs are especially well documented.

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

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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.bookcritics>.

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The National Book Critics Circle 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.

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## Preferred Citation

National Book Critics Circle Records. 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 in 2014, including rehousing and minimal organization. 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, identified by a unique call number and 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.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the call numbers Uncat ZA MS 264, Uncat ZA MS 387, and Uncat ZA MS 392

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## Biographical / Historical

The National Book Critics Circle (NBCC), founded 1974, is the professional association of American book review editors and critics. The NBCC presents the National Book Critics Circle Awards yearly. Individuals involved in the NBCC include Herbert Leibowitz, Nina King, and Jack Miles.

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## Scope and Contents

Correspondence, meeting minutes, financial papers, membership records, and printed material relating to the National Book Critics Circle. The National Book Critics Circle Awards deliberations and programs are especially well documented.

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## Arrangement

Organized into four groupings: August 1992 Acquisition, September 1993 Acquisition, March 1994 Acquisition, and May 1994 Acquisition.

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## Collection Contents

### 1: August 1992 Acquisition, 1975–1992

2 linear feet (2 boxes)

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 264

This portion of the collection is not arranged in any particular order.

b.1	<i>National Book Critics Circle Journal</i> volumes 1-16 6 Folders	1975–1991
b.1	<i>National Book Critics Circle Journal</i> assorted volumes	1990, 1992
b.1	<i>National Book Critics Circle Journal</i> correspondence	1986–1990
b.1	Awards meeting	1987 January 12
b.1	Board meeting	1987 March 16
b.1	Meetings	1988–1989
b.1	Board meeting	1989 March 10
b.1	Board meeting	1989 September 29
b.1	Nominations meeting	1990 January 8
b.1	Awards meeting	1990 February 12
b.1	Annual meeting and awards ceremony	1990 March 8
b.1	Membership directory	1984–1990
b.1	Toni Morrison brouhaha	1988–1988
b.1	Reviewer's citation	1984–1984
b.1	Reviewer's citation	1985–1985
b.1	Citation finalists	1986–1986
b.1	Citation finalists	1987–1987
b.1	Publicity clippings	1985–1990
b.1	Treasurer's reports and assorted, Larry Swindell and Eliot Fremont-Smith	1984–1990
b.1	Conarroe and Times exchange	1989–1990
b.1	Stickers	1990–1990
b.1	Scrolls	1985–1990
b.2	Los Angeles Times issues	1991–1992
b.2	Board correspondence	1984–1986

b.2	Awards correspondence	1985-1990
b.2	Awards	1986-1987
b.2	Board meeting minutes	1984-1986
b.2	Council of Writers Organizations	1984-1986
b.2	Invitation to join the National Book Critics Circle	undated
b.2	Journal correspondence	1984-1986
b.2	Insurance for members	1985-1986
b.2	Awards ceremonies	1984-1985
b.2	New-York Historical Society	1984-1985
b.2	Presidential election	1986-1986
b.2	Ethics survey	1987-1987
b.2	Bylaws	1984-1984
b.2	Awards lists	1985-1987
b.2	Presidential letters	1990-1992
b.2	Letters to the president	1990-1992
b.2	Correspondence over incident involving Tom Disch	1991-1991
b.2	Jack Miles memos to the board	1990-1992
b.2	Board elections, candidates, and resignations	1984-1989
b.2	Nina King and presidential correspondence	1986-1990

## 2: September 1993 Acquisition, 1991–1993

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 264

This portion of the collection is arranged alphabetically by file title.

b.3	Election ballots for the board, reviewer's citation, and best books	1991–1991
b.3	Organizational history	1992–1993
b.3	Reviewer's citation	1991–1991

**3: March 1994 Acquisition, 1987–1994***1 linear foot (1 box)*

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 387

This portion of the collection is not arranged in any particular order.

b. 4	Awards	1991–1991
b. 4	Winners	1992–1992
b. 4	Board award	1988–1990
b. 4	Printing for the National Book Critics Circle Journal	1991–1991
b. 4	David Lehman	1989–1991
b. 4	Reviewer's citation	1988–1992
b. 4	Herb Leibowitz presidential columns	1992–1993
b. 4	Membership	1987–1994
b. 4	Catering and venues	1991–1994
b. 4	Awards ceremony	1993–1993
b. 4	Memos	1988–1993
b. 4	Dan Moldea affair	1992–1993
b. 4	Jack Miles	1991–1992
b. 4	Harriet Blacker	1993–1993
b. 4	Deborah Zaik charges against Jack Marshall	
b. 4	Correspondence	1991–1993
b. 4	Alan Ryan	1992–1994
b. 4	Josh Rubins	1992–1993
b. 4	Board correspondence	1992–1994
b. 4	Miscellaneous to do	undated
b. 4	Meeting agenda	1994 January 14
b. 4	Afternoon forum	1994–1994
b. 4	Nona Balakian reviewer's citation entries not chosen for finals	1993–1993
b. 4	Publicity	1993–1993



**4: May 1994 Acquisition, 1980–1999***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 392

This portion of the collection is arranged alphabetically by file title.

b. 5	Awards <i>5 Folders</i>	1986–1991
b. 5	Awards nominees	1992–1992
b. 5	Ethics survey	1988–1988
b. 5	Press releases	1980–1989
b. 5	Programs	1992–1992
b. 5	Publicity <i>2 Folders</i>	1981–1990
b. 5	“Writers of the Future” award panel discussion	1987–1999

## **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  
Critics -- United States  
Editors -- United States  
Literary prizes -- United States

### **Occupations**

Critics -- United States -- 20th Century  
Editors -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Names**

King, Nina, 1941-2010  
Leibowitz, Herbert A.  
Miles, Jack, 1942-

### **Corporate Body**

National Book Critics Circle