Finding Aid to the Louis Cuneo Papers, 1973-2003

Finding Aid written by Guadalupe Lugo; revised by Linda Jordan and Holly Fox
The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/
© 2007
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.
Finding Aid to the Louis Cuneo Papers, 1973-2003

Collection Number: BANC MSS 88/183 c

The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Finding Aid Written By:
Guadalupe Lugo; revised by Linda Jordan and Holly Fox

Date Completed:
January 2007

© 2007 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Collection Summary
Collection Title: Louis Cuneo papers,
Date (inclusive): 1973-2003
Collection Number: BANC MSS 88/183 c
Creator: Cuneo, Louis
Extent: Number of containers: 3 cartons, 4 oversize foldersLinear feet: 3.75
Repository: The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-6000
Phone: (510) 642-6481
Fax: (510) 642-7589
Email: bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/

Abstract: The Louis Cuneo Papers examine the life and interests of a San Francisco Bay Area poet. Cuneo's writings include poetry and prose collections, short stories, a novel, and two plays. The collection includes materials from the first four Berkeley Poetry Festivals as well as items documenting Cuneo's experience as an honorary member of the Creative Writer's Workshop of Folsom Prison.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
All requests to reproduce, publish, quote from or otherwise use collection materials must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, 94270-6000. Consent is given on behalf of The Bancroft Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission from the copyright owner. Such permission must be obtained from the copyright owner. See: http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/reference/permissions.html.

Restrictions also apply to digital representations of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Louis Cuneo Papers, BANC MSS 88/183 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Separated Material
Printed materials have been transferred to the book collection of The Bancroft Library.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Cuneo, Louis
Folsom Prison. Creative Writer's Workshop
Poets, American--20th century
Haiku, American
American poetry--20th century
Poems.
Posters.
Manuscripts for publication.

Acquisition Information

Accruals
Future additions are expected.

Processing Information
Processed by Linda Jordan and Holly Fox in 2000 and 2005.

Biographical Information
After growing up in New York City, Louis Cuneo moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in his early twenties to work as poet, teacher, and playwright. In 1971, he founded Mother's Hen to promote spoken word poetry in the Bay Area. With Mother's Hen he has coordinated several reading series including the Berkeley Poetry Festival, the Muchos Somos series, and the Touch of a Poet series. He has also published ten of his own books including Haiku Revisited, Godzilla Attacks a Truck, Passing Moments, and Splash! He is a Haiku expert and has recently turned his attention toward haiga, the visual aspect of haiku. He now spends much of his time working as a photographer.

System of Arrangement
Arranged to the folder level.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Louis Cuneo Papers is a detailed examination of the life and interests of a San Francisco Bay Area poet. Cuneo's writings include poetry and prose collections, short stories, a novel, and two plays. The collection includes materials from the first four Berkeley Poetry Festivals as well as items documenting Cuneo's experience as an honorary member of the Creative Writer's Workshop of Folsom.

Series 1 Writings and Photography 1973-2002
Physical Description: Carton 1; Carton 2, folders 1-10; Oversize folder 1
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically. Divided into six sub-series: Books, Short Stories, Poems, Plays, Miscellaneous Writings, and Photography
Scope and Content Note
The series may include any of all of the following: revised typescripts with corrections, drafts, proofs, mock-ups, correspondence, publicity, and printed copies of specific works. Cuneo's writings include prose and poetry collections, short stories, a novel, and two plays. Though he writes in a variety of mediums, his work is stylistically linked in that it displays a simplicity reflective of his passion for the Haiku.
Subseries 1.1 Books 1973-2002, undated

- Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 1-30; Oversize folder 1
- Arrangement
  Arranged chronologically.
- Scope and Content Note
  Contains books authored by Cuneo.

Carton 1, Folder 1-2
  Haiku Revisited 1973-1978

Carton 1, Folder 3
  Traditional Chinese Poetry 1979, undated

Oversize Drawer A, Folder 1
  Cover mock-up undated

Carton 1, Folder 4-5
  The Long Weekend: A Novella 1986-1988

Carton 1, Folder 6-7
  Voices and People Forgotten 1988-1991, undated

Carton 1, Folder 8-11
  Passing Moments 1989-1992

Carton 1, Folder 12-19
  Splash! 1990-2000

Carton 1, Folder 20-23

Carton 1, Folder 24-27
  Open Mike 1999, undated

Carton 1, Folder 28-30

Subseries 1.2 Short Stories 1987, undated

- Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 31-34
- Arrangement
  Arranged chronologically.
- Scope and Content Note
  Contains two short stories authored by Cuneo.

Carton 1, Folder 31
  The Sensation Shop: The Store Clerk’s Views and Insights 1987

Carton 1, Folder 32-34
  Saga of Gloria Grace undated

Subseries 1.3 Poems 1987-1998, undated

- Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 35-45
- Arrangement
  Arranged hierarchically and chronologically.
- Scope and Content Note
  Includes published and untitled works, as well as Cuneo’s poetry notebooks.

Carton 1, Folder 35
  Down the Block, Love Story 1987

Carton 1, Folder 36
  Journey into Self undated

Carton 1, Folder 37
  On Cutting Edge undated

Carton 1, Folder 38-39
  Poems (A-Z) 1998, undated
Subseries 1.3 Poems 1987-1998, undated

Carton 1, Folder 40
Untitled Poems 1996-1997, undated

Carton 1, Folder 41-45
Poetry notebooks 1994-1998, undated

Subseries 1.4 Plays 1997, undated

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 46-49; Carton 2, folders 1-3
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Content Note
Contains three plays authored by Cuneo.

Carton 1, Folder 46-49
Eureka! A Play 1997

Carton 2, Folder 1
Passing Moments undated

Carton 2, Folder 2-3
Untitled play undated

Subseries 1.5 Miscellaneous Writings 1973-1998, undated

Physical Description: Carton 2, folders 4-7
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.
Scope and Content Note
Includes bibliographies, readings, reviews, and clippings.

Carton 2, Folder 4
Miscellaneous: Bibliographies 1981, undated

Carton 2, Folder 5

Carton 2, Folder 6
Miscellaneous: Reviews of poetry 1973-1988, undated

Carton 2, Folder 7
Miscellaneous: Clippings 1981

Subseries 1.6 Photography 2001-2002, undated

Physical Description: Carton 2, folders 8-10
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Content Note
Includes photographs as well as exhibition materials.

Carton 2, Folder 8
Exhibition materials 2001-2002, undated

Carton 2, Folder 9-10
Photographs undated

Series 2 Poetry Festivals and Seminars 1973-1999

Physical Description: Carton 2, folders 11-40; Carton 3, folders 1-20; Oversize folder 2
Arrangement
Scope and Content Note
This series focuses on Cuneo's role in the Bay Area poetry scene as a festival coordinator and creative writing instructor. Each file may consist of some or all of the following: correspondence, poetry, programs of readings, poet contact information, publicity, and reviews.
Subseries 2.1 Berkeley Poetry Festival 1981-2002, undated

Physical Description: Carton 2, folders 11-34; Oversize folder 2

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by each festival.

Scope and Content Note
Includes correspondence, programs, publicity and photographs for each of the first four Berkeley Poetry Festivals.

2.1.1 1st Berkeley Poetry Festival

Correspondence re: proposal 1998

Program drafts and mock-up 1998

Publicity 1981-1998, undated

Poster 1998

Poems inspired by Festival 1998

2.1.2 2nd Berkeley Poetry Festival

Correspondence 1999

Publicity 1999

Poster 1999

Photographs 1999

2.1.3 3rd Berkeley Poetry Festival

Correspondence 1991-2001

Program 2000

Publicity 2000

Poster 2000

Budget 2000

Open mic sign-up sheets 2000

Signed release forms 2000

Photos 2000

2.1.4 4th Berkeley Poetry Festival

Correspondence 2001-2002, undated

Publicity 2002

Budget and funding agreements 2001-2002, undated

Open mic sign-up sheets 2002

Signed release forms 2002
Subseries 2.1 Berkeley Poetry Festival 1981-2002, undated

Carton 2, Folder 33
Photographs 2002

Carton 2, Folder 34
Open Mike Directory 2002

Subseries 2.2 Touch of a Poet [1980s]-1998
Physical Description: Carton 2, folders 35-40; Carton 3, folders 1-9
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.
Scope and Content Note
Includes correspondence, programs, and publicity materials.

Carton 2, Folder 35
Correspondence 1993-1998

Carton 2, Folder 36-37
Reading Programs 1991-1998

Carton 2, Folder 38
Publicity 1991-1998

Carton 2, Folder 39
Open mic sign-up sheets and reading schedules 1997-1998, undated

Carton 2, Folder 40
Poet biographies 1993-1994, undated

Carton 3, Folder 1-5
Poets' contact info 1992-1998, undated

Carton 3, Folder 6
Photographs at Spasso's [1980s]

Carton 3, Folder 7
Photographs 1990-1996

Carton 3, Folder 8
Endorsements 1996-1998

Carton 3, Folder 9
Notes on Bay Area open mics 1998

Subseries 2.3 Rhyme and Reason Poetry Festival 1999-2000
Physical Description: Carton 3, folders 10-11
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.
Scope and Content Note
Includes correspondence and announcements regarding the Festival.

Carton 3, Folder 10
Correspondence 2000

Carton 3, Folder 11
Announcements 1999

Subseries 2.4 Folsom Prison Seminar 1973-1975
Physical Description: Carton 3, folders 12-20
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.
Scope and Content Note
Includes correspondence, programs, publicity, and reviews.

Carton 3, Folder 12-14
Correspondence 1973-1975

Carton 3, Folder 15
Programs for readings 1974

Carton 3, Folder 16
Poems by Folsom prisoners 1975, undated
### Series 2: Poetry Festivals and Seminars 1973-1999

Subseries 2.4: Folsom Prison Seminar 1973-1975

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 3, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>&quot;Folsom Journal&quot; by Louis Cuneo 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Certificate of honorary membership, Creative Writer’s Workshop of Folsom 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Publicity for Poets and Writers from Folsom 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Reviews of Poets and Writers from Folsom 1974, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Physical Description:** Carton 3, folders 21-34

**Arrangement**

Arranged hierarchically. Divided into three sub-series: Mother’s Hen, Lean Frog, and Miscellaneous

**Scope and Content Note**

Each file may include some or all of the following: broadsheets, Haiku workshops, publication announcements, poetry newsletters, publicity, and reviews. Though known primarily for being a writer, Cuneo is deeply involved in the world of small press publishing in the Bay Area, having worked with two small presses: Mother's Hen and Lean Frog.

#### Subseries 3.1: Mother’s Hen 1973-2000, undated

**Physical Description:** Carton 3, folders 21-27

**Arrangement**

Arranged hierarchically.

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes correspondence, contracts, and publicity as well as broadsheets of Cuneo poetry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 3, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Correspondence 1977-1999, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Contracts 1974-2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-24</td>
<td>Publicity 1973-2000, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Broadsheets with Cuneo’s poems 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>&quot;I See America Daily&quot; by Harold Norse 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Reviews of work published by Mother’s Hen 1973-1975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Subseries 3.2: Lean Frog 1975-1981

**Physical Description:** Carton 3, folders 28-31

**Arrangement**

Arranged hierarchically.

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes information on haiku writing workshops, publicity, and poetry broadsides.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 3, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Broadsheets with miscellaneous poems Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Haiku writing workshops 1978, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Publication announcements 1980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Subseries 3.2 Lean Frog 1975-1981

Publicity for readings 1975-1981

Subseries 3.3 Miscellaneous 1973-1998

Physical Description: Carton 3, folders 32-34
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.
Scope and Content Note
Includes poetry newsletters and information on the 1975 San Francisco Book Fair.

Series 4 Personal Papers 1978-1986

Physical Description: Carton 3, folders 35-59; Oversize folders 3 and 4
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically. Divided into four sub-series: Correspondence; Personal Records; Pablo Cuneo; and Marcia Pool.
Scope and Content Note
This series consists of personal papers of Cuneo and his family.

Subseries 4.1 Correspondence 1958-2003, undated

Physical Description: Carton 3, folders 35-48
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.
Scope and Content Note
Includes general correspondence arranged by correspondent and requests/recommendations for grants.

Chaiet, Bruce 1995-2000
Cuneo, Grace and L. 1958
Cuneo, Maria Hoyos undated
Cuneo, Pablo 1983-2000
Durang, Poppy 1994-2000
Fay, John 2000
Mackey, Mary 1999-2000
Poole, Luther and Miriam 1999-2000
Poole, Marcia 1993-2003, undated
Smith, Grace 1991-1998
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries 4.1 Correspondence 1958-2003, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 3, Folder 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 3, Folder 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 3, Folder 48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries 4.2 Personal Records 1964-2000, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 3, Folder 49-53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize Drawer A, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize Drawer A, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries 4.3 Pablo Cuneo 2001-2002, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 3, Folder 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 3, Folder 55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries 4.4 Marcia Poole 1998-2001, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carton 3, Folder 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 3, Folder 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carton 3, Folder 58-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>